



Islamabad POST

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Pakistan supports an intendent Palestine State, says Ishaq Dar

Detailed News On Page-08

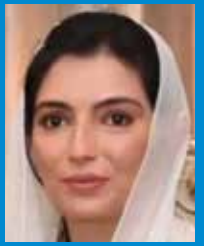
Trump to rename Dept of Defence to Dept of war

Detailed News On Page-08



Aseefa Bhutto visits BIUT with minister

Detailed News On Page-02



Pakistan mulls withdrawal from TAPI project

The recommendation, by international energy consultancy Wood Mackenzie, comes as Pakistan is already facing a surplus of imported LNG, due to a dramatic decline in domestic gas consumption

DNA NEWS AGENCY

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is considering withdrawing from the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project, a move driven by two primary factors: a significant domestic surplus of imported Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and the economic unviability of the project without India's participation. This decision is based on a recommendation from the international energy consultancy, Wood Mackenzie, which advised Pakistan to delay any commitment until at least 2031. The TAPI pipeline has been plagued by problems since its inception decades ago. Conceived as a grand vision to transport natural gas from Turkmenistan's massive Galkynysh field to energy-hungry markets in South Asia, the project has always faced serious geopolitical and security challenges. The most significant of these was its reliance on the stability of Afghanistan, which the pipeline would traverse, and the complex relationship between the four participating countries. From the very start, observers had pointed out that the project was a non-starter, particularly because of India's involvement. The relationship between Pakistan and India has been a constant source of tension, and the idea of a shared pipeline, which would make India reliant on Pakistan for its energy supply, was always a major point of contention. Turkmenistan's government, for its part, was not ready to exclude India from the project. The current deliberations in Pakistan's Petroleum Division highlight the financial risks of continuing with TAPI. The recent advisory from Wood Mackenzie points to a dramatic decline in Pakistan's domestic gas consumption, creating an oversupply of imported LNG. This surplus has strained the country's existing LNG contracts and infrastructure, making the prospect of committing

to another major gas import project untenable. The core of the issue, however, lies in India's ongoing indecision. Senior officials in Islamabad have publicly stated that if India formally withdraws, the pipeline would effectively become the TAP (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan) pipeline. This model is considered economically unviable for Pakistan. Instead of earning revenue, Pakistan would be forced to pay a hefty \$500 million per year to Afghanistan for gas transit. When this fee is added to the base gas price of \$7.5 per MMBTU, the total cost would exceed the price of even expensive RLNG (Re-gasified Liquefied Natural Gas) imports. This financial equation makes the TAPI project financially unsustainable for Pakistan and explains why the government is now seriously considering a full withdrawal. The writing has been on the wall for some time. The persistent security risks in Afghanistan, coupled with the geopolitical friction between the participating countries, have ensured that the project has never seen the light of day. While Turkmenistan has pushed for the project and even started construction on its end, the lack of commitment and financial viability from the end-users has been the ultimate stumbling block. For Pakistan, the decision to pull out of the project is a pragmatic response to both its immediate economic challenges and the long-standing, unresolvable issues surrounding TAPI. The country is grappling with a surplus of imported gas and cannot afford to lock itself into a new, expensive contract for gas it doesn't immediately need, especially one that would turn a potential transit revenue stream into a significant financial burden. The move to pull out is a stark acknowledgment that the ambitious TAPI pipeline, a dream for regional energy cooperation, has become a geopolitical and economic non-starter.



ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Palestinian President on Religious Affairs and Chief Justice of the Shariat Court of Palestine, H.E Mahmoud Siddiqui Alhabash calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on 5 September 2025. — DNA

Advisor to the President of Palestine calls on PM

DNA

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Siddiqui Alhabash, Advisor to the President of Palestine on Religious Affairs and Chief Justice of the Shariat Court, called on the Prime Minister this afternoon. He is leading the Palestinian delegation to attend the Seerat Conference in Islamabad. Imam of Al Aqsa Mosque and Palestinian Ambassador to Pakistan were also present. During the meeting, the Prime Minister conveyed his warm regards to Dr. Mahmoud Abbass, President of Palestine. He reaffirmed the unwavering support of the people of Pakistan to the Palestinian

Continued on Page 06

British Dy PM resigns for underpaying property tax

NEWS DESK

BIRMINGHAM: British Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner resigned on Friday after saying she deeply regretted her mistake of underpaying property tax on a new home, in a damaging blow for her boss, Prime Minister Keir Starmer. After Britain's independent adviser ruled that she had breached the ministerial code by failing to pay the correct tax, there was little Starmer could do to protect his deputy, saying he was "very sad to be losing you from the government", describing her

Continued on Page 06

Deadly floods

Pak slams India for not sharing detailed data

Islamabad urges New Delhi to fully comply with all provisions of Indus Waters Treaty, says FO

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday expressed concerns over the limited flood-related data shared by India, saying the information provided this year through diplomatic channels was not as detailed as in the past. This statement came amid one of disastrous floods in the country's history after India opened all gates of major dams following warnings issued to Pakistan via diplomatic channel, including one given today, instead of the relevant forum of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) last month. Under the treaty, New Delhi is bound to issue alerts for flooding on three rivers which flow into Pakistan from India. In a weekly briefing, Foreign Office Spokesperson Shafqat Ali Khan said that India did not utilise the Indus Water Commissioner's channel to share the information.

Continued on Page 06

Heavy rains in Sindh likely from Sunday

Torrential rains may cause urban flooding in low-lying areas of Mirpurkhas, Shaheed Benazirabad, Tharparkar, Khairpur, Sukkur, Larkana, Thatta, Badin, Sajawal, Hyderabad and Karachi from Sept 7 to 9

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has predicted torrential rains in Sindh, besides eastern Punjab, from Sept 7 to 9 with occasional gaps. According to it, a low-pressure system currently exists over the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh and is likely to move towards west and northwest.

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Bilawal assails India for 'failing' to share flood data

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: PPP chief Bilawal Bhutto has said that Indian government had unlawfully refused to accept the Indus Water Treaty and this time had failed to share water data under the accord. Addressing a press conference during his visit to flood-hit Kasur, the PPP chairman said that India must either abide by the treaty or return Pakistan's rivers, accusing New Delhi of violating international law. India, he added, had informed at the last moment that water was being released but did not disclose how much.

India's new false flag drama exposed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Following humiliation in "Operation Sander," the Indian government has once again resorted to leveling baseless allegations against Pakistan through fabricated stories and false flag operations. After the global embarrassment over the Pahalgam false flag incident, another drama has now surfaced in Indian media. This time, reports claimed that the Mumbai traffic control room received hoax calls warning about bombs allegedly planted at different locations in the city.

Holiday Notice

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday. — Editor

Despite Imran Khan orders

25 PTI, SIC MNAs yet to resign from NA committees

Govt has requested NA speaker not to accept resignations of certain members, say sources

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: At least 25 members of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) have yet to resign from National Assembly standing committees despite party instructions to do so. So far, 52 PTI/SIC lawmakers have stepped down from their committee posts, with five more resignations submitted recently. However, parliamentary sources said several MNAs, including Sohail Sultan, Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Muhammad Atif, Sher Ali Arbab, Osama Ahmed Mela, Ghulam Muhammad, Muhammad Saadullah, Umar Farooq, Muhammad Mehboob Sultan, Khawaja Sheeraz, Ayesha Nazir, Mian Ghaus Muhammad, and Fayyaz Hussain, continue to serve on various committees. Founding chairman of PTI Imran Khan had issued clear instructions for all PTI National Assembly members to resign from parliamentary committees.

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Eggs thrown at Aleema Khan stir chaos outside Adiala jail

"We don't care if anyone attacks us as we knew this would happen," says Aleema Khan

DNA

RAWALPINDI: An untoward incident took place outside Adiala jail on Friday, when eggs were hurled at Aleema Khan, the sister of former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan. Aleema, who was there to attend a hearing of the Toshakhana case, was speaking to

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Putin warns Western troops in Ukraine to be legitimate targets

Deployment of western forces in Ukraine not conducive to long-term peace, says Russian president

NEWS DESK

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin warned on Friday that any Western forces deployed to Ukraine would be a "legitimate" target for Moscow's army, a day after Kyiv's allies said they had committed to a troop presence in the event of a peace deal. Two dozen countries, led by France and Britain, pledged Thursday to join a "reassurance" force on land, at sea and in the air to patrol any deal. "If some troops appear there, especially now during the fighting, we proceed from the premise that they will be legitimate targets," Putin said at an economic forum in the far eastern city of Vladivostok. He added that the deployment of such a force was not conducive to long-term peace and said Ukraine's closer military ties with the West were one of what he calls the "root causes" of the conflict. Ukraine's allies have not revealed any specific details of the plan, including how many troops it would involve and how specific countries would contribute. Kyiv says security guarantees, backed by Western troops, are crucial to any peace deal to ensure Russia does not re-launch its offensive in the future. Tens of thousands have been killed since

Continued on Page 06

EU official calls Israel's Gaza war a genocide

DNA

BRUSSELS: A senior European Union official has declared Israel's war on Gaza a genocide, marking the first time a member of the European Commission has publicly used the term, Al Jazeera reported. Speaking at the opening of the academic year at Sciences Po university in Paris, European Commission Vice President Teresa Ribera said, "The genocide in Gaza exposes Europe's failure to act and speak with one voice, even as protests spread across European cities and 14 UN Security Council members call for an immediate ceasefire." Ribera, the Commission's second-most senior official, had previously suggested in August that Israel's actions "look very much like genocide," but had stopped short of making a formal declaration.

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KP to launch 2 IT Parks unlocking tech opportunities

PESHAWAR: Two Information Technology (IT) Parks are scheduled to become operational next week in Peshawar and Dera Ismail Khan, marking a significant stride in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's digital transformation agenda. "This initiative by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Technology Board (KPITB), aims to create vibrant technology hubs that will foster innovation, attract investment, and generate high-value employment opportunities for local talent," Dr. Akif Khan, Managing Director KPITB shared with APP here Friday. These parks are designed to provide state-of-the-art infrastructure, reliable high-speed

internet and a conducive environment for startups, freelancers and established IT companies to thrive, Dr. Akif told. Both the parks will provide accommodation to IT companies, 30 in Peshawar and 13 in D.I.Khan, for setting up of offices. Similarly, freelancers, 200 in Peshawar and 80 in D.I.Khan, will get their seats reserved in these parks for performing professional work at a nominal monthly rent of Rs. 5000, MD KPITB continued. He said 17 companies have approached KPITB for starting operation in IT park of Peshawar which would be established at Chamkani area. The KPITB would provide free electricity, high

speed internet to these IT companies and freelancers who would avail services at the parks. The intending IT companies would also be facilitated in registration by KPITB besides giving mentoring to the officials for starting of operations. He said KPITB would also provide 25 percent subsidy to IT companies under the head of monthly rent to provincial government. Dr. Akif Khan expressed the hope that both the IT Parks will start functioning in the upcoming week and provide a source of learning and livelihood to the IT degree holders and skilled based IT workers in the province.—APP

First Lady, Sindh Health Minister visit BIUT

SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD :First Lady Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, accompanied by Sindh Health Minister Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, visited the Benazir Institute of Urology and Transplantation (BIUT), Shaheed Benazirabad here Friday. During the visit, a comprehensive six-month performance report of BIUT was presented, showcasing the institute's remarkable achievements, a Presidency's news release said. During the briefing, it was informed that thousands of patients have received treatment, including non-invasive options for stone disease such as Extra corporeal Shock Wave Lithotripsy (ESWL), Ureterorenoscopy (URS), and Percutaneous Nephrolithotomy (PCNL). Notably, BIUT has successfully introduced robotic surgery for renal cancer and congenital anomalies, providing minimally invasive treatment for complex urological diseases, it said. It added that due to the visionary leadership of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, BIUT provides completely free healthcare services to all patients. From blood transfusions to diagnostic tests, medicines to advanced imaging scans, and comprehensive surgical procedures, every aspect of medical care is provided free of cost to patients, ensuring that quality healthcare remains accessible to all regardless of economic status, it said. The delegation visited various departments of BIUT, including the dialysis centre, outpatient clinic, intensive care unit, radiology department, laboratory, and children's ward. First Lady Aseefa Bhutto Zardari also inaugurated the newly established Central Sterilization Service Department (CSSD) at BIUT, further enhancing the institute's ability to deliver high-quality healthcare services. "I am impressed by the outstanding work being done at BIUT," said Bibi Aseefa Bhutto, Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, Sindh Health Minister, echoed the First Lady's sentiments, highlighting the importance of such institutions in providing specialized healthcare services to the people of Sindh. The visit underscored the government's commitment to improving healthcare infrastructure and services in the region. The visit was conducted as part of First Lady Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari's flood preparedness tour, aimed at assessing healthcare infrastructure readiness and ensuring continuance of critical care services during potential flooding scenarios in the area.—APP

KP cabinet dispatches aid for Afghan quake victims

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government has dispatched a major convoy of relief goods and announced a fresh package of aid for the victims of the recent devastating earthquake in Afghanistan. The decision was finalized during the 38th provincial cabinet meeting held here on Friday under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur. Expressing deep sympathy with the Afghan people, the chief minister stated, "It is our humanitarian and moral duty to assist our Afghan brothers and sisters in this difficult time." He informed the cabinet that the provincial government has already sent 35 trucks loaded with essential supplies to the affected regions.

Recognizing the urgent needs on the ground, the chief minister announced a further escalation of support. "Taking into account the urgent need for tents and medical supplies, we will dispatch an additional 1,000 tents and necessary medical equipment," he said. The aid package also includes food supplies and a commitment to provide complete medical treatment facilities for the injured. The cabinet meeting began with a prayer (Fatihah) for the souls of those who lost their lives in the Afghan earthquake, as well as for Pakistani security personnel martyred in recent terrorist attacks across the province. While addressing other agenda items, Chief Minister also praised the timely rescue and relief operations in the flood-affected areas of the province, highlighting that financial aid was distributed to victims in record time.—APP

Weekly inflation goes up by 1.29pc

ISLAMABAD: The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 1.29 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on September 2, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 335.41 points as compared to 331.14 points during the past week, according to the PBS data. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 5.07 percent. The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centres

and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732 also increased of 2.01 per cent by going up to 327.73 from last week's 321.82 points. The SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,733 to 22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175 increased by 1.90 percent, 1.61 percent, 1.48 percent and 0.99 percent respectively. During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 23 (45.10%) items increased, 04 (07.84%) items decreased and 24 (47.06%) items remained stable. The items, which recorded major increase in their average prices on a week-on-week basis included tomatoes (46.03%), wheat flour (25.41%), onions

(8.57%), rice basmati broken (2.62%), garlic (2.04%), potatoes (1.38%), pulse moong (1.29%), bread (1.19%), LPG (0.88%), shirting (0.27%), long cloth (0.17%) and lawn printed (0.07%). The commodities which recorded major decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week basis included bananas (3.86%), diesel (0.91%), sugar (0.13%) and mustard oil (0.10%). On year-on-year basis, the commodities that witnessed increase in prices included tomatoes (83.45%), ladies sandal (55.62%), wheat flour (30.27%), gas charges for q1 (29.85%), sugar (27.43%), gur (13.21%), beef (13.15%), pulse moong (12.99%), firewood (11.47%), vegetable ghee 2.5 kg (11.36%), chicken (10.89%).—APP

Call for strengthening local govts to combat climate challenges

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Syed Mustafa Kamal, on Friday emphasized the urgent need to reform Pakistan's disaster management system in light of increasing climate-related challenges such as floods and heavy rainfall. Speaking in the National Assembly, the minister highlighted that approximately 20 percent annual damage is caused by natural disasters linked to climate change, with rainfall increasing even in previously dry areas. He warned that current discussions often focus on responding to disasters after they occur rather than proactively preventing them.

The minister criticized the highly centralized management system under which disaster response and governance currently operate. He noted that the concentration of power and resources limits effective local response, as representatives often cannot physically manage their large constituencies. For example, he mentioned that in Balochistan, it can take several days for lawmakers to travel across their own constituencies. He said that the solution lies in empowering local governments by decentralizing authority and resources. He stressed that strong local governance is essential for timely disaster management, as local officials like union council chairmen and councilors are best positioned to oversee and address issues in their communities. This approach, he said, has been successfully implemented worldwide for centuries. Using the polio eradication campaign as an example, Mustafa Kamal explained that misinformation and resistance persist in many communities. However, local leaders from within the community running awareness campaigns could significantly improve acceptance and reach. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Misbah Khar, Advisor to the Chairman Senate, along with Tariq Bin Waheed, Director General (Protocol), Senate of Pakistan, meeting with Türkiye Director İrfan Neziroğlu, Ambassador of Türkiye to Pakistan.

Hurriyat leaders pay glowing tributes to Pak's armed forces

ISLAMABAD: Kashmiri Hurriyat leaders Friday paid glowing tributes to Pakistan's armed forces and martyrs of the nation, terming September 06 as a historic day of courage, unity, and sacrifice when the entire nation stood shoulder to shoulder with its military to defend the motherland. Hurriyat leader, Abdul Hameed Lone, in his special message, said that September 06 marks a historic day when the Armed Forces of Pakistan gave a befitting response to the enemy.

He said the day is celebrated with the spirit that the Armed Forces stand as the true guardians of the state, while the nation and the military remain united like a fortified wall. Referring to May 10 as a continuation of that valor, he added that the sacrifices of the martyrs and the services of the Army will always be remembered with great pride. Meanwhile, Secretary General of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Advocate Parvez Shah paid rich tributes on behalf of APHC and the Kashmiri people to the armed forces of Pakistan. He said it is a day to remember the martyrs who laid down their lives for the motherland, adding that the core reason behind all wars between India and Pakistan has been Kashmir. He reaffirmed that the people and the armed forces of Pakistan have always sent a clear message to the world that they are ready to go to any length for the cause of Kashmir.—APP

NDMA warns of urban flooding risk in Sindh

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Friday has issued a cautionary advisory to the public, institutions and relevant authorities regarding the potential for urban flooding in several districts of Sindh due to intermittent rain spells forecast from September 6 to 9. Authorities are urged to remain vigilant and take necessary precautionary measures to minimize risk and ensure public safety. According to the advisory, low-lying urban areas in Mirpurkhas, Shaheed

Benazirabad, Tharparkar, Khairpur, Sukkur, Larkana, Thatta, Badin, Sujawal, Hyderabad, and Karachi may experience significant water accumulation and possible submersion due to the anticipated downpour. In addition, flash floods are feared in hilly streams of Tharparkar, including Mithi, Islamkot, Nagar-parkar, Chachro, Dhali, Diplo, and Kaloi, as well as adjoining regions such as Umerkot, Sanghar, Thatta, Badin, Sujawal, Jamshoro, Dadu, Ghotki, and Kashmir. The alert also highlights the

risk of submersion in low-lying urban zones of Karachi, Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Sukkur, Larkana, Khairpur, Shaheed Benazirabad, Jacobabad, and Shikarpur. Residents in vulnerable areas are advised to remain vigilant, avoid unnecessary travel, and follow instructions issued by local authorities. Emergency services have been placed on high alert to respond to any incidents arising from the expected weather conditions. On NDMA's directives, provincial departments and rescue agencies have been put on alert. — APP

Employment generation linked to business-friendly policies

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Nasir Mansoor Qureshi Friday emphasized that the business community is the real mover and shaker of the economy, and therefore, it must be actively involved in policy making to boost trade and industry, generate employment and broaden the tax base. He expressed these views while talking to a visiting delegation of business leaders at ICCI. Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui and Vice President Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry were also present on the occasion, said a press release. Nasir Mansoor highlighted that while the government has taken some steps

towards ease of doing business, more concrete reforms are needed. He called for removing bureaucratic hurdles, introducing effective one-window operations for regulatory compliance and putting an end to irrational tax collection practices that create difficulties for businesses. Speaking on the occasion, Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, Senior Vice President ICCI, said that Pakistan's economy can only grow sustainably if the government develops policies in partnership with the private sector. He added that the business community is ready to work hand in hand with the government to attract investment, promote exports, and create new jobs.

Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry, Vice President ICCI, said that arbitrary taxation and complex procedures discourage entrepreneurship and hamper economic activity. He urged the government to introduce consistent, business-friendly policies to enable industries and SMEs to flourish. The ICCI leadership reiterated that meaningful consultation with the private sector is key to devising pragmatic economic policies. They assured the delegation that ICCI would continue to play its role as a bridge between the government and the business community to create a more conducive environment for investment and entrepreneurship in Pakistan. — APP



وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

اور ہم نے آپ کو تمام جہانوں کیلئے
رحمت بنا کر بھیجا ہے۔

(سورۃ النبیاء: 107)

وزارت اطلاعات و نشریات
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Chairman CDA reviews preparations for Eid-e-Milad

ISLAMABAD: An important meeting was held at the Capital Development Authority (CDA) Headquarters under the chairmanship of Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa. The meeting was attended by the Member Administration and Estate,

Member Planning and Design, Deputy Commissioner ICT, senior officers of the district administration, and senior officers of CDA. The meeting reviewed in detail the preparations and arrangements for the celebration of Eid Milad-un-Nabi and the law and order situation

in the city. The meeting was informed that, on the instructions of the Chairman CDA, compliance with the code of conduct for the holding of processions and gatherings on the 12th of Rabi-ul-Awwal will be ensured and a code of conduct has also been devised for all mosques during the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal. The meeting was informed that all security arrangements regarding the celebration of Eid Milad-un-Nabi have been completed. The meeting was informed that the routes of the central procession for Eid Milad-un-Nabi will be monitored with the help of safe city cameras. The meeting was also informed that senior officers of the district administration and Islamabad Police are in contact with religious scholars of all schools of thought regarding Eid Milad-un-Nabi and consultations and preparations for all matters, including monitoring of the procession routes and gatherings have been completed.—DNA



National Days and Armed Forces Days

- SEPTEMBER
- Sept01/Libya Revolution Day

Sept01/Tanzania Defence day

Sept01/Uzbekistan Independence Day

Sept07/Brazil Independence Day

Sept09/DPR Korea National Day

Sept09/Tajikistan Independence Day

Sept16/Malaysia Armed Forces Day

Sept16/Mexico National Day

Sept16/Papua New Guinea Independence Day

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Sept21/Malta Independence Day

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RGH.....9290301-7

Holy Family.....9290322-7

PIMS.....9261170-79

Polyclinic.....9218300-09

Shifa International 4603666



Departments

CDA.....9221334-43


CDA.....9208301-04

Met Office.....9250360-6

RDA.....5555864

TMA.....5770886

Cantonment Board 9270151-3



Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224

Potohar Town.....9209224

Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani, Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Korea Choe Chang Man, Ambassadors of the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Rwanda and others posing for a picture on the occasion of 77th Founding Anniversary of the Democratic Republic of Korea. DNA

Serena Hotels extends support to flood-affected communities

The food distribution drive is part of Serena Hotels' ongoing efforts to demonstrate its commitment to social responsibility and community service

ISLAMABAD: In response to the recent floods, Serena Hotels has launched a relief effort to provide essential food supplies to affected communities. Under its corporate social responsibility initiative, Jazba-e-Khidmat, the hotel is working tirelessly to support those in need. Through this initiative, Serena Hotels aims to alleviate the suffering of flood-affected families by distributing food and other essential items. The hotel's team has been collaborating closely with Faisalabad's local administration to identify areas of greatest need and ensure effective aid delivery. "We are committed to supporting our communities in times of crisis," said Mr. Rashid Uddin, General Manager of Faisalabad Serena Hotel. "Through Jazba-e-Khidmat, we are proud to be making a positive impact in the lives of those affected by the floods." The food distribution drive is part of Serena Hotels' ongoing efforts to demonstrate its commitment to social responsibility and community service.—DNA

ITP issues diversion plan for 12 Rabi-ul-Awwal

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police on Friday announced a special traffic diversion plan for the 12 Rabi-ul-Awwal procession in the federal capital, deploying over 400 officers and personnel to ensure smooth traffic flow and public convenience. An ITP official told that the central procession will commence from Jamia Masjid Al-Raza in G-7 and conclude at Darbar Sakhi Mahmood after passing through its designated routes. He said that several diversions will remain in place during the course of the procession. He said traffic from Sitara Market to Iqbal Hall will be diverted, while motorists have been advised to use the service road via Dak Khana, Fire Brigade, Suharwardy

Road and Faisal Avenue. He said a diversion will also be in place from Iqbal Hall to Razia Sharif Plaza through Service Road G-7/3. Citizens have been advised to use Seventh Avenue instead. He said traffic on Fazal-e-Haq Road, from China Chowk to Kulsom Plaza, will be diverted, with Jinnah Avenue available as an alternative route He said traffic from Shaheed Chowk to GPO Chowk and Aabpara Chowk will face diversions. Citizens have been asked to use GPO Chowk and Shaheed-e-Millat Road. He said traffic from Aabpara Chowk to Suharwardy Road, Seventh Avenue Chowk, will be diverted. Vehicles coming from Zero Point and Rawalpindi are directed to use Seventh Avenue, Faisal Avenue and Srinagar Highway.—APP

Pak, Bangladesh vow closer coop on religious affairs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Bangladesh on Friday reaffirmed their resolve to strengthen cooperation in the field of religious affairs and interfaith harmony dur-

desh, noting that relations between the two countries are rooted in centuries of shared traditions, Islamic heritage, social values, and literary expression. He emphasized that improved ties between Pakistan and Bangladesh

Joint Working Group on Interfaith Harmony and explore opportunities for regular exchanges of scholars and students from religious seminaries in both countries. Minister Yousaf proposed initiating struc-



ing a meeting between Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, and A.F.M. Khalid Hussain, Advisor to the President of Bangladesh on Religious Affairs. The high-level Bangladeshi delegation, led by Hussain, expressed sorrow over the human and material losses caused by recent floods in Pakistan and conveyed solidarity with the Pakistani people. Minister Yousaf underscored the brotherly sentiments of the Pakistani nation toward Bangla-

would play an important role in ensuring regional peace and prosperity. The Bangladeshi advisor thanked the government and people of Pakistan for their warm welcome, adding that Dhaka is committed to enhancing bilateral cooperation in religious affairs. Both sides agreed to strengthen collaboration between their respective ministries of religious affairs, with special focus on promoting interfaith harmony. As part of this commitment, the two sides agreed to establish a

tured scholar and student exchange programs to deepen mutual understanding and foster closer people-to-people contacts. The Bangladeshi delegation is also scheduled to participate in the 50th International Seerat-un-Nabi Conference, a two-day event in Islamabad that brings together scholars and leaders from across the Muslim world to discuss the teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) and their relevance to contemporary challenges.

Long queues for vehicle environmental clearance ended after Ombudsman's action

ISLAMABAD: The intervention of Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi has resolved the issue of long queues for vehicle environmental clearance at Islamabad's D-Chowk. Taking notice of numerous public complaints, the Federal Ombudsman directed that citizens should not be subjected to unnecessary inconvenience due to non-coordinated policies. He instructed the district administration to adopt a structured awareness program and coordinate with the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for future exercises, said in a Press Release issued here on Friday.—DNA

Ayaz calls support for Palestine moral, religious duty

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, on Friday emphasised that advocating for the resolution of the Palestine issue is not only a religious obligation but also a profound human and moral responsibility. During a meeting at Parliament House on Friday with the Palestinian delegation led by Dr. Mahmoud Siddiqi Al-Habash, Advisor on Religious Affairs to the President of Palestine, the Speaker extended a warm welcome and expressed particular joy at hosting the Imam of Al-Aqsa Mosque. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that he looks forward to the day when Muslims across the world would be able to offer Friday prayers at Al-Aqsa Mosque free from Israeli aggression. He termed Israel's decades-long campaign of violence against unarmed Palestinians a grave human tragedy and a blatant violation of basic human rights. He recalled that Pakistan has always maintained a clear and consistent stance on Palestine, with numerous resolutions on the issue passed by the National Assembly. "There is hardly a day when the House has not debated Israeli atrocities," he remarked. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq expressed his views on the growing protests across Europe against Israel's aggression and added that he had also raised the matter with the Chairman of the Saudi Shura Council and various diplomats. He described the massacre of women and children in Gaza as a test of the global conscience. He condemned Israel for weaponising food aid and obstructing humanitarian relief.—DNA

Defence Day symbolizes national unity

ISLAMABAD: Managing Director Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Senator Capt (R) Shaheen Khalid Butt, has said that September 06, Defence Day of Pakistan, stands as a symbol of sacrifice, bravery, unity and national pride in the country's history. In an exclusive talk with APP, he said the day provides an opportunity to renew the pledge that the entire nation will always remain united and resolute in safeguarding the freedom and sovereignty of the motherland. He said the unforgettable sacrifices of martyrs can never be erased from memory as they laid down their lives to defend Pakistan. The MD PBM added that Defence Day is not only a remembrance of the past but also a message for present and future generations to value independence and always remain ready to protect the country's stability and security. He emphasized that this occasion reminds the nation to foster unity in ranks, foil the designs of adversaries, and work with dedication for the progress and prosperity of Pakistan.—APP

NLPD hosts Naat recitation ceremony

ISLAMABAD: National Language Promotion Department (NLPD) hosted a Naat recitation ceremony on Friday to commemorate Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH), the holy anniversary of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAWW). The solemn and spiritually uplifting gathering featured renowned Naat reciters and was attended by NLPD staff, scholars, and invited guests. The event began with heartfelt recitations by well-known Naat Khawans Muhammad Sibghatullah Qadri and Hafiz Inaam-ul-Haq, who captivated the audience with their soulful expressions of devotion and love for the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Their performances were met with enthusiastic applause and appreciation.—APP

GHC

JAMSHORO POWER COMPANY LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (EPADS)

New construction of Boundary Wall between E-Type Quarters Residential Colony and Coal Yard at CFPP Jamshoro

TNCB-19/CIVIL/CFPP/JPCL/2025

1.	Title of Procurement	Construction of New Boundary Wall between E-Type Quarters Residential Colony and Coal Yard at Coal Fired Power Plant- a project of Jamshoro Power Company Limited (JPCL), a Government Owned Entity, under GENCO Holding Company Limited (GHCL), Ministry of Energy (Power Division) Islamabad.			
2.	Eligibility of Bidders	Bidding is open to all firms or contractors, as the sole entity who are. (a) Registered on PPRA EPADS (b) Licensed by the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in the appropriate category for value of works (c) Financially & technically sound & capable of executing the contract (d) Registered & renewed by FBR for FY 2024-25/25-26 and are on active taxpayer list/SRB (e) Have no conflict of interest and is not blacklisted or debarred by any Govt/Private organization (f) Satisfy key eligibility and qualification criteria as set out in Tender Document			
	Tender Document Fee	Scope of work	Bid Security	Bid Validity	Completion Period
3.	Free of Cost	Construction of New Boundary Wall between E-Type Quarters Residential Colony and Coal Yard at Coal Fired Power Plant, Jamshoro	Estimated Price x 5% in the form of CDR/Pay Order/ Bank Guarantee	80 days after the date of opening of the bid	120 days from issuance of Notice to Commence after Work Order
4.	Method of Procurement	The bidding shall be conducted in line with the "single stage-one envelope" (One Envelope Contain Technical & Financial) procedure under Rule 36 (a) of the Public Procurement Rules, 2004 and the evaluation of bidding documents and award of contract shall be conducted on "Least cost-based selection" basis.			
5.	Date & Time for issuance & Submission of Tender Document	Tender Documents containing detailed terms & conditions, etc. shall be available electronically from Wednesday, 10 September 2025 to Thursday, 25 September 2025 up to 1630Hrs. (Office closing time) and can be downloaded from EPADS and JPCL website but must be submitted by uploading on EPADS up to 1130Hrs. on Friday, 26 September 2025 along with the scanned copy of Bid Security.			
6.	Last Date, Time & Place for Submission of Bid Security	The bid security must be delivered by hand or through courier to reach "On or before 11300 Hours" on Friday, 26 September 2025 at Director Procurement, 2 nd Floor, Main Admin Building TPS Jamshoro, before the online submission deadline of bids without which the respective bids will not be accepted and opened.			
7.	Date, Time & Place of Opening of Bids	The Electronic Bids received through EPADS will be opened on Friday, 26 September 2025 at 1200 hours at JPCL Conference Room 1 st Floor, Main Admin Building, TPS Jamshoro in presence of bidders who choose to attend/join through Zoom Link			
8.	Tender Document Can be obtained from	1) EPADS-PPRA Website: www.eprocure.gov.pk 2) Can be downloaded from JPCL website www.jpcl.com.pk			
9.	Pre-Bid Meeting	Monday, 15 September 2025 at 1130 Hrs. at JPCL Conference Room 1 st Floor, Main Admin Building, TPS Jamshoro and can be joined through Zoom, the link of which shall be shared through JPCL website.			
	Any Addendum or Corrigendum	JPCL shall notify the bidders of any Addendum or Corrigendum through JPCL website www.jpcl.com.pk under "Tender & Quotation" Tab/ EPADS-PPRA Website The bidders are advised to pay attention and keep checking the JPCL website/ EPADS-PPRA Website			
10.	Contact Details for inquiries	For any query/information/difficulty in using EPADS, contact Director MIS Phone:051-111-137-237 and Phone: (+92-22) 9213744, (+92-22) 9213742, Email: pdpiu@jpcl.com.pk			

Note:

1) In case of any Govt. Holiday or unforeseen situation or incident, the bids shall be issued, submitted & opened on the next working day as per schedule.
2) PA reserves the right to reject any or all bids subject to relevant provisions of PPRA Rules, 2004 and may cancel the bidding process at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid under Rule-33(1) of said Rules, without assigning any reason.

URBAN PAKISTAN

DIRECTOR PROCUREMENT (PIU)

660MW, Coal Fired Power Project,
Mohra Jabal, Dadu Road, Jamshoro

PID (I) 1947/25

Briefs

Govt committed to safeguarding interests G-13 sector allottees: Pirzada

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Housing and Works Riaz Hussain Pirzada on Friday assured the National Assembly of the government's commitment to safeguarding the interests of thousands of allottees who had invested their savings over the past decade in flats at Islamabad's G-13 sector. Responding to a calling attention notice regarding delays in handing over possession of flats reserved for constitutional bodies, the minister said the Lifestyle Residency Apartments Scheme was launched in 2010 through a joint venture between the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) and a private firm. Under the agreement, 15 acres of land were allocated in two phases, while the private partner was to invest Rs600 million for the construction of 373 apartments. "Work on 10 acres began in 2016, of which 70 percent has been completed, and all units already sold," he informed the House. However, the project stalled due to the private partner's financial constraints, internal disputes, the contractor's illness and death, and the economic fallout of COVID-19. The joint venture agreement was ultimately terminated in December 2022. To revive the scheme, FGEHA prepared a revised plan, dividing the remaining land into two parts. Three plots measuring 13 kanals were auctioned in 2024, with one successfully sold. A revised PC-1 had been approved by the Development Working Party (DWP), and expressions of interest will soon be invited from new developers, Pirzada said.—APP

Haidri calls for APC to resolve Balochistan's issues

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) senior leader Senator Abdul Ghafoor Haidri on Friday suggested that the government convene an all-parties conference (APC) to address Balochistan's issues. Speaking in the National Assembly, he said that while floods and natural disasters were beyond human control, it was the joint responsibility of the federal and provincial governments to ensure relief and rehabilitation for the affected people. He said that international aid had reached Afghanistan and urged Pakistan to extend assistance to the Afghan people as well. The House, he added, should also express solidarity with the victims of recent terrorist incidents in Balochistan and with the people of Afghanistan affected by the recent earthquake.—APP

OGRA endorsement team, district admin conduct joint operation

During the operation, action was taken against individuals involved in LPG decanting and filling in public service vehicles (PSVs), illegal dabba stations, and unauthorized LPG auto-refueling setups

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) Enforcement Team, Peshawar, in collaboration with the District Administration, carried out a joint operation against illegal LPG activities in the city. During the operation, action was taken against individuals involved in LPG decanting and filling in public service vehicles (PSVs), illegal dabba stations, and unauthorized LPG auto-refueling setups. As a result, six LPG shops, one illegal LPG auto-refueling station, and one illegal dabba station were sealed on the spot. The enforcement team also confiscated LPG decanting equipment. In addition, joint inspections of LPG storage plants, retail outlets, and CNG stations were conducted to assess their compliance with safety standards. Both OGRA and the District Administration agreed to strengthen future collaboration and continue strict action against violators in the interest of public safety.



Defence Day, a symbol of national pride, courage

RAWALPINDI: Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Barrister Danyal Chaudhry said that Pakistan Defence Day is a golden chapter in history that revives the memory of the courage and bravery of the nation and its armed forces. He said that September 6 is a shining symbol of unwavering resolve, patriotism, and great sacrifice, marking the day when the nation and Pakistan's armed forces thwarted the sinister designs of the enemy. Talking to media, Danyal said that 'Operation Bunyanum Marsoos' proved to the world that the Pakistan Army is an invincible wall on every front. This success is the result of the Pakistan Army's coordinated strategy and in particular, the exceptional leadership of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, which has infused new energy and courage in the entire nation. He added that Pakistani soldiers established a glorious tradition of bravery against Indian aggression, forcing the enemy to retreat within hours. "This battle was not only a military triumph but also an ideological affirmation of the two-nation theory, which is the foundation of Pakistan's creation", he said. The parliamentarian said that the Pakistan Army has always achieved success on every front and continues to steadfastly defend the country against all challenges, including terrorism. He described the unity of the people and the armed forces on September 6, 1965, as the true strength of Pakistan's defense and paid glowing tribute to the military and civilian martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the homeland. "The sacrifices of the martyrs are a matter of national pride and a sacred trust", he added. Danyal Chaudhry also commended the services of the Pakistan Armed Forces and other institutions during the recent flood situation, noting that they fulfilled their national duty by saving thousands of precious lives.—DNA

Free Cervical Cancer vaccination drive

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Medical experts on Friday called for unified efforts to raise awareness as the free cervical cancer vaccination campaign kicks off from September 15 to 27, urging people to take advantage of this vital opportunity to protect themselves and future generations. In an exclusive conversation, Dr. Saima Khursheed Zubair shed light on the alarming rise in cervical cancer cases across various age groups, adding, the importance of the upcoming vaccination drive, which will kick off in Islamabad schools, targeting approximately 146,000 girls in first phase. She added that girls aged 9 to 14 will receive a single-dose jab as part of the cervical cancer vaccination campaign, adding, With vaccinating our girls today, we are securing a healthier, cancer-free future for generations to come. She pointed out that Pakistan has set a bold target to vaccinate 18 million girls in the coming three years, stressing that this can only be accomplished through strong cooperation from civil society and healthcare providers. This initiative is a part of the ongoing efforts to combat cervical cancer through vaccination, with plans to expand to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and other provinces in other phases. Dr. Zubair stressed that this drive is crucial to curb the rising incidence of this preventable disease, especially among younger girls. Responding a query, she explained that Cervical cancer, often linked to the

human papillomavirus (HPV), is one of the leading causes of cancer-related deaths among women, adding, however, the disease is preventable through vaccination, which is why awareness and early intervention are key. Dr. Zubair pointed out that while cervical cancer is more commonly diagnosed in women over 30, there has been a concerning rise in cases among younger age groups, likely due to limited awareness and lack of preventive measures. She urged that these vaccination drives play an essential role in protecting young girls before they are exposed to the virus, preventing the disease from developing later in life. Symptoms of cervical cancer can be subtle and often go unnoticed in the early stages, she said, adding, common signs include abnormal vaginal bleeding, pelvic pain and unusual discharge. These symptoms are often overlooked or mistaken for other conditions, which makes early detection crucial, she added. Expert highlighted that many women do not seek medical advice until the disease has progressed significantly, making prevention through vaccination all the more important. Dr. Zubair further emphasized the need for widespread awareness about cervical cancer and its symptoms. She stressed that educating both parents and schoolchildren about the importance of early vaccination and regular screening can help reduce the impact of this preventable disease. The vaccination campaign is not just a medical intervention; it is an opportunity to build long-term awareness and a culture of prevention in schools, which can lead to healthier futures for young girls across the country.

Rawal Dam spillways opened after attaining maximum storage capacity

ISLAMABAD: The district administration on Friday opened the spillways of Rawal Dam after water levels reached the prescribed limit of 1,752 feet. Authorities said the decision was taken to ensure safe water outflow and prevent any risk of flooding in surrounding areas. According to spokesman of district administration, once the water level recedes to the safe mark, the spillways will be closed again. At present, the process of water discharge from the dam is ongoing. The administration has also issued precautionary guidelines for residents, advising them to stay away from rivers, streams, and low-lying areas. In this regard, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Nilore, along with relevant teams, remained on-site to monitor the situation when the spillways were opened. The teams are coordinating with local authorities to keep the discharge under control and to respond quickly in case of any emergency. The administration has stressed that the measure is a routine safety step taken whenever water in the dam reaches its maximum storage capacity. Officials highlighted that the spillways help regulate water flow, especially during the rainy season, when heavy inflows into the dam raise water levels. The timely release of water reduces pressure on the dam structure and maintains a balanced supply downstream. Residents living near natural drains have been asked to remain alert and avoid visiting water channels until the discharge process is completed. The administration has also directed rescue teams and local police to stay on high alert in case support is needed in vulnerable areas. The administration further appealed to the public to cooperate by avoiding unnecessary movement near rivers and streams. It reminded citizens that precautionary measures help minimize risks during such situations and that compliance with safety advisories is essential for public welfare.—DNA

IRSA releases 396,900 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 396,900 cusecs of water from various rim stations with inflow of 433,500 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1549.90 feet, which was 147.90 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 187,600 cusecs and 186,300 cusecs, respectively. The water level in the River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1229.50 feet, which was 179.50 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 43,300 cusecs and 8,000 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 205,700, 236,500, 327,500, and 277,400 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 29,800 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 171,000 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

First tower completed for Dasu project

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PowerChina has completed the erection of the first tower for the Lot-1 section of the Dasu 765kV Transmission Line Project, marking the start of full-scale construction on one of Pakistan's key power infrastructure projects. The transmission line is designed to evacuate electricity from the Dasu Hydropower Project, delivering clean hydropower to Islamabad and surrounding regions, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Friday. Once completed, it will form part of Pakistan's largest high-voltage transmission network, aimed at strengthening the national grid and supporting future energy demand. According to the project team, construction has faced difficult terrain and natural conditions. To address these challenges, the management model combines local workforce participation with technological support from Chinese experts, who provide real-time video supervision to ensure quality and safety standards. Officials said the milestone sets a strong foundation for timely progress on the project, which is expected to play a significant role in Pakistan's socio-economic development by reducing reliance on imported fuels and expanding renewable energy use.—APP

Pink buses are a step - not the finish line for women's safety on Pakistan's streets

SABINA ADNAN

WHEN I was a child in Lahore, a simple bus ride could feel like a small act of bravery. My mother would stand at a doorway and wait until she knew I had boarded safely; when I travelled alone for the first time as a teenager, the relief at returning home was as noticeable as the exhaustion from constant watchfulness. For millions of Pakistani women and girls, mobility is not only about distance or cost — it is about dignity, safety, and the daily calculation of risk. This is why the arrival of women-only "pink buses" across cities such as Lahore, Islamabad, and Karachi has felt like a visible, urgent answer to a real problem. Provincial and municipal authorities have rightly framed these services as a way to improve access to education and work for women and to offer an immediate, tangible sense of security for female commuters. In Punjab, the Pink Bus rollout in Lahore covered multiple routes intended to reach students and working women. Similar services have been announced or piloted in Islamabad and Karachi. But if the pink bus is to become more than a photo op, we need an honest assessment: women-only

buses help those who can already reach boarding points and who know the service exists. They do not, by themselves, dismantle the structural barriers that limit women's full participation in public life. Research and on-the-ground accounts show that fear of harassment—and actual harassment—remains a pervasive reason women change their travel plans, avoid jobs or forgo higher education. Systematic reviews and recent studies on women's safety in low- and middle-income public transport systems find troubling prevalence of harassment and a clear link between unsafe transport and reduced mobility for women. A second, practical critique is distribution and scale. Existing women-only routes often cover only a handful of corridors and operate at limited hours — meaning they help a fraction of those who need a safe commute. Past evaluations in Lahore and elsewhere found that while women who used designated services appreciated them, limited availability and route coverage left most women reliant on irregular or unsafe alternatives. So how should policymakers, civil society, and transport authorities respond? First, treat the pink bus not as a final answer but as part of a broader policy package. That package should include expanded,

well-publicized routes and schedules so that services reach suburban and peri-urban areas where many working and studying women live. Expanding coverage requires both political will and budgetary planning — and evidence-based route selection grounded in where women actually travel, not simply where it is easiest to operate. Second, we must make ALL public transport safer. Physical measures — better lighting at stops, CCTV, and clearly marked help points — help, but only if backed by enforcement and accountability. Drivers and conductors should receive mandatory gender-sensitivity training; harassment reporting mechanisms must be clear, fast, and followed by meaningful action. Municipalities should work with women's groups and student networks to co-design these systems; a top-down approach will never fully capture how women experience space. Third, safety must be tied to economic opportunity. Studies show a direct relationship between women's mobility and their labour force participation; when transport is safe and affordable, women are more likely to seek work and to sustain it. Investing in safe, reliable transit is thus not only a rights issue — it is smart economic policy. Subsidised fares

for low-income women, flexible timetables for shift workers, and targeted routes to employment clusters should be part of provincial transport planning. Finally, the pink bus should be the beginning of a campaign to shift social attitudes. Public awareness campaigns that challenge victim-blaming, educate men and boys about consent and respect, and celebrate women's presence in public spaces are essential complements to any infrastructure investment. When communities see women travelling freely — to schools, hospitals and workplaces — the normalisation can reshape expectations and, slowly, behaviour. The pink bus was a statement of intent: that women's safety matters and that public policy can, and must, respond. But statements only matter if followed by scale, systems and cultural change. We should celebrate the buses, learn from their limitations, and then move quickly on to the work that will actually make a Pakistan where a child's bus ride feels ordinary rather than brave. If we do that — invest in routes, accountability, economics, and attitude — we can ensure our streets and buses become spaces of freedom rather than constraint. That future would be the truest measure of progress.

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The transformative potential of Uzbekistan-Pakistan rail links

THE commitment by Pakistan and Uzbekistan to enhance connectivity through a proposed rail link via Afghanistan marks a monumental step toward regional economic integration. This ambitious infrastructure project holds the potential to unlock vast trade opportunities, spur economic growth, and foster deeper people-to-people ties between Central and South Asia. With both nations already taking concrete steps, such as initiating direct flights, this rail corridor could be a true game-changer, transforming not just bilateral relations but also the broader regional economic landscape. Central Asia, a region rich in natural resources and energy, has long sought efficient and reliable trade routes to access global markets. Pakistan, with its strategic location and the deep-sea Gwadar Port, offers a viable and crucial gateway. A direct rail link connecting Uzbekistan to Pakistan through Afghanistan would drastically reduce transportation costs and transit times, making regional trade far more competitive and attractive. Uzbekistan's economy, with its significant exports of cotton, textiles, and minerals, could gain unprecedented access to the Arabian Sea. Conversely, Pakistan could supply a wide array of goods, including agricultural products, pharmaceuticals, and manufactured goods, to a new and expansive market. This enhanced connectivity would allow both nations to diversify their trade portfolios and integrate more deeply into larger, more efficient supply chains, benefiting industries and consumers on both sides. Moreover, this rail link would serve as a powerful complement to the existing China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). By linking major Central Asian hubs like Tashkent directly to key Pakistani ports like Karachi via Peshawar, the corridor could become a vital artery for broader Eurasian trade. This would not only attract significant foreign investment but also boost economic activity and create new jobs across the entire region. The project essentially extends CPEC's reach, creating a seamless network that could redefine logistics and trade from China to Central Asia and down to the Indian Ocean. The benefits of improved rail connectivity extend far beyond mere commerce. This project would also facilitate significant cultural, educational, and social exchanges. Central Asia and Pakistan share deep historical and civilizational ties, rooted in the ancient Silk Road and centuries of shared Islamic scholarship. Easier and more affordable travel would encourage a new era of tourism, academic collaboration, and cultural interactions, fostering mutual understanding and building bridges between people. Pilgrims, students, and entrepreneurs would all benefit from seamless movement, helping to forge lasting relationships that go far beyond government-level agreements. This human element is critical for building enduring regional stability and cooperation. The biggest obstacle to this visionary project remains the persistent issue of Afghanistan's stability.

Beijing's Parade Proves China Is in Full Control

Qamar Bashir



India's defiance of Washington perfectly captures this new reality. When the U.S. demanded New Delhi stop importing discounted Russian oil, India firmly rejected the ultimatum, declaring that no foreign power had the authority to dictate its survival strategy. Through partnerships with Russia, Iran, and China under SCO frameworks, India secured energy stability, modernized its infrastructure, and strengthened its role in regional connectivity projects. Russia, for its part, proved remarkably resilient against US and EU sanctions. Instead of buckling under Western economic isolation, Moscow deepened its energy and defense ties with Beijing and New Delhi...

ON September 3, 2025, Beijing staged one of the most consequential parades in modern history — a stunning display of military power, technological mastery, and economic confidence. While commemorating the end of World War II, the underlying message was unmistakable: China, backed by its allies, is reshaping the global order, and the United States is no longer in control. The symbolism was striking. Standing alongside Xi Jinping were Russia's Vladimir Putin, India's Narendra Modi, Pakistan's Anwaar-ul-Haq, and leaders from across the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). What was once an informal alliance has now transformed into a strategic political and economic bloc. These nations, once victims of Donald Trump's tariffs, sanctions, and unilateral dictates, have now coalesced into a united front, openly rejecting Washington's domination and charting an independent path forward. The parade showcased China's breathtaking technological advances and unprecedented military preparedness. Rolling past the gathered leaders were the DF-5C intercontinental ballistic missile with a staggering range of 20,000 kilometers, the road-mobile DF-61 ICBM designed for rapid deployment, and hypersonic YJ-series missiles capable of penetrating U.S. carrier strike groups at Mach speeds. Among the most discussed revelations were the LY-1 laser systems capable of disabling drones, satellites, and ballistic projectiles within seconds; autonomous submarine drones like the AJAX-002 designed for stealth nuclear delivery; swarm-capable torpedo-shaped sea drones; AI-powered "robot wolves" engineered for reconnaissance and battlefield dominance; and the Type-100 intelligent battle tank — a next-generation armored platform integrating real-time data with precision strike capabilities. China's fully operational nuclear triad of land-based missiles, submarine-launched warheads, and air-deployed systems was on full display, demonstrating its complete strategic deterrence readiness. For decades, the Pentagon believed U.S. technological superiority was untouchable. But Beijing's show of force shattered that illusion. Analysts in Washington, Brussels, and Tokyo were forced to confront an undeniable reality: China can now match or exceed U.S. capabilities in precision strike, strategic range, and integrated defense. The balance of power has shifted irreversibly, forcing even America's closest allies to reconsider where true leadership lies. Yet China's dominance is not based on weapons alone; it rests on a deeper foundation of economic strength. Trump's tariffs, designed to cripple Beijing's industrial power, instead exposed America's own vulnerabilities. China today controls over 90 percent of global rare-earth magnet production and nearly 85 percent of semiconductor-grade mineral processing — the very materials required for smartphones, electric vehicles, AI chips, advanced computing, fighter jets, precision missiles, and hypersonic weapons. When Beijing announced export restrictions on seven critical rare-earth elements in early 2025, requiring special licenses for buyers, the shockwaves reverberated across the United States. Tesla halted electric vehicle production. Apple suspended multiple iPhone lines. Lockheed Martin delayed its F-35

fighter jet deliveries. Silicon Valley startups braced for mass layoffs. Defense contractors scrambled to secure emergency stockpiles of materials essential to sustain their production pipelines. For the first time, the United States found itself dependent on Beijing's will to maintain the heartbeat of its technological infrastructure. Washington responded by pouring billions into domestic rare-earth mining projects under the Defense Production Act, hoping to reduce reliance on China. But without Beijing's decades-long refining infrastructure, recovery will take at least a decade, if not longer. Even as Trump threatened harsher tariffs to force China's compliance, Xi Jinping did not flinch. The world saw, perhaps for the first time, that America's economic lifeline had shifted decisively eastward. While Washington reacted defensively, Beijing quietly built an entirely new architecture of global trade and influence. Through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China has connected more than 150 countries via roads, railways, ports, energy pipelines, industrial zones, and digital corridors. Unlike the West's traditional dependency model, Beijing offered investment, infrastructure, and market access on terms many developing nations found more equitable. Across Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Europe, countries that once relied on U.S. aid and NATO trade structures are now participating in Beijing's economic ecosystem. By empowering local economies through financing and infrastructure, China created an alternative model of prosperity — one based on cooperation rather than coercion. India's defiance of Washington perfectly captures this new reality. When the U.S. demanded New Delhi stop importing discounted Russian oil, India firmly rejected the ultimatum, declaring that no foreign power had the authority to dictate its survival strategy. Through partnerships with Russia, Iran, and China under SCO frameworks, India secured energy stability, modernized its infrastructure, and strengthened its role in regional connectivity projects. Russia, for its part, proved remarkably resilient against U.S. and EU sanctions. Instead of buckling under Western economic isolation, Moscow deepened its energy and defense ties with Beijing and New Delhi, shifted trade settlements into yuan and rupees, and bypassed dollar-dominated systems. This acceleration of de-dollarization weakened Washington's financial leverage and strengthened the SCO bloc's independence. This alliance of Trump's intended economic "targets" has evolved into an integrated powerhouse. The SCO bloc now represents nearly half the world's population, accounts for 30 percent of global GDP, and controls over 40 percent of global oil and gas reserves. By aligning supply chains, financial systems, and technological ecosystems, these nations have built collective resilience capable of resisting U.S. pressure. Where Trump's tariffs once aimed to divide and weaken, they have instead unified and empowered an alternative leadership. At the same time, the Western bloc is fracturing. The once-cohesive alliance of the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the European Union is splintering under the weight of Trump's unilateral poli-

cies. European nations, increasingly frustrated with Washington's dictates on trade, defense, immigration, and foreign policy, are asserting their independence. This shift became unmistakable when Trump offered unconditional U.S. support for Israel during the Gaza conflict. The move alienated much of Europe, which faced growing public pressure over mounting civilian casualties. In a historic development, several European nations — including Germany, France, Spain, Ireland, and multiple Nordic countries — have declared their intent to recognize the State of Palestine at the upcoming United Nations General Assembly session, directly defying U.S. policy. This unprecedented divergence highlights the erosion of Washington's influence over its closest allies and demonstrates the widening cracks within NATO's traditional sphere. Two competing global models are now emerging. The U.S.-led Western approach remains rooted in military interventions, sanctions, and economic dominance, using pressure to force compliance while destabilizing regions and fueling refugee crises. In contrast, the China-led model prioritizes economic inclusion, infrastructure investment, fair trade, and mutual respect for sovereignty. Developing nations across Africa, Latin America, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East increasingly see tangible benefits from Beijing's partnerships — schools, hospitals, roads, digital connectivity — while associating Washington's interventions with bombing campaigns, regime changes, and social collapse. In his parade address, Xi Jinping underscored this vision of inclusive leadership, declaring that no force on Earth can stop China's rise but emphasizing that the world is vast enough for every nation to prosper together. His message of fairness, dignity, and mutual respect resonated far beyond Beijing's immediate circle. The SCO bloc and Belt and Road partnerships now symbolize an aspirational alternative for hundreds of millions seeking growth without subjugation, stability without domination, and prosperity without conditional dependency. For Washington, this moment represents an existential challenge. Trump's tariffs, sanctions, and coercive diplomacy — once feared — now appear hollow against an integrated multipolar order. U.S. dominance is eroding not on the battlefield but in boardrooms, investment platforms, and supply chains. America now faces a stark choice: adapt to this transformed reality, cooperate within a new framework of equality, and rebuild global trust — or cling to outdated tools of force and economic manipulation until its influence fades into irrelevance. On September 3, 2025, Beijing delivered a message that echoed across continents. China is no longer rising — it is leading. And it leads not through conquest but through trade, technology, investment, and inclusion. The world is reorganizing around this reality, and for the first time in a century, Washington is no longer writing the script.

— Press Secretary to the President (Rtd)
Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France
Former Press Attache to Malaysia
Former MD, SRBC
Macomb, Michigan, USA

The Spirit of 1965 War Resonates in Zarb-e-Karar

Dr Air Commodore Naveed Khaliq Ansaree (Retd)



The "Spirit of 1965" did not end with war; it became a bedrock, a light-house and the driver of professional excellence as witnessed in the aerial encounters of 1971 and several other military stand-offs till today. The zenith of 1965-spirit and the hall-mark of professional excellence that PAF demonstrated in "Operation Zarb-e-Karar" in May 2025...

ON 7 September each year, Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Day is observed not just to commemorate the splendid victory in the 1965 war over a three-times larger Indian Air Force (IAF) but to pay homage to the PAF warriors who flew those war-missions, made death-defying decisions under fire, and shaped the course of air warfare in South Asia. Amongst the heroic moments of the 1965 aerial war what remains most enduring is the human capital of the PAF; the exceptionally trained team of air warriors, inspired squadron culture, and mission-oriented leadership that enabled PAF to etch a local air superiority right at the onset of the aerial war. The famed downing of five Indian aircraft in less than a minute by Squadron Leader M.M. Alam was not only a feat of exceptional combat skill, but a reflection of a deeper PAF ecosystem; one that valued centralised command, decentralised execution, excellent realistic training, professional culture and exceptionally high morale amongst the air warriors. At the heart of this ecosystem lay an elite professional regime rooted in three key principles. First, Leadership and Command: From Air Marshal Asghar Khan who laid the foundation of a premier PAF, and Air Marshal Nur Khan who commanded the PAF during war, down to flight commanders; they displayed a brand of wartime leadership that was agile, intuitive, and decisive. Nur Khan's strategic foresight, dynamic leadership, and sustenance of high-temp combat operations remain a text-book in the study of leadership in war. The leadership structure allowed junior officers to exercise discretion once in combat. Warriors like MM Alam, Sarfraz Rafique, Midlecoat, Cecil Choudary and many more demonstrated autonomy in combat execution. Second, Excellence in Training: Training in the 1960s emphasised real combat scenarios, high-tempo operations, simulation of enemy aerial tactics and speedy decision-making under pres-

sure—a linchpin trait in air combat where an error by a second could make one perish or extend the lease of life for another day. Third, Morale and Squadron Culture: PAF's squadron milieu cultivated durable interpersonal bonds, solidarity, comradeship and ethos of excellence. Morale not simply sky-rocketed, it was weaponised; turning motivation into spirit de corps (camaraderie) and combat effectiveness. Faith amongst peers and leaders shaped an environment that cultivated risk-taking, innovation, and audacity in death-defying moments, plenty in a war. Leaders flew missions with their junior wingmen, equally sharing the risk and earning trust and credibility. The "Spirit of 1965" did not end with war; it became a bedrock, a light-house and the driver of professional excellence as witnessed in the aerial encounters of 1971 and several other military stand-offs till today. The zenith of 1965-spirit and the hall-mark of professional excellence that PAF demonstrated in "Operation Zarb-e-Karar" in May 2025 had taken aback many in the comity of modern air forces. On the night of 7th May 2025, the PAF under the dynamic war-time leadership of the current Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber, Sidhu etched a new text-book of the "Decisive Electromagnetic and Air Dominance," and a notion of an invisible "Distributed Kill Chain" for the IAF; thus earning the PAF fame as an "Undisputed King of the Skies" and an "Air Force Second to None" as envisioned by the Quaid e-Azam in 1948. Resonating the "Spirit of 1965," Zarb-e-Karar validated once again that the leadership is not hierarchical-authority, but a functional-trust under combat conditions. In a data-proven beyond visual range air combat, PAF downed three or four Rafales, one Su-30, one Mirage-2000, one Mig-29 and a multimillion-dollar drone "Heron" within a span of an hour, all without losing any of its own. Such a splendid aerial victory is unrecorded in the annals of Defensive Coun-

ter Air Operations. The Rafale which Indian Prime Minister Modi had inducted as a technological overmatch and a game-changer in the arsenal of the IAF, instead added insult to IAF's injury. Continuing with its proportionate punitive/ retaliatory strikes on 10 May, PAF destroyed with precision 34 high-value Indian military targets including a brigade headquarters, ammo depot for Brahmos and at least one world-renowned S-400 system thus shattering the aura of invincibility of Indian air defence system. The failed Indian military intimidation of Pakistan ended in a US-brokered uncomfortable ceasefire at India's request, undoing the new normal that IAF was desperately attempting to set. The PAF's march towards 2025, especially during the last four years or so, stand testimony to the unprecedented rapid induction of lethal weapon systems, force-modernisation and the doctrinal shift towards Multi Domain Operations. With the superiority of air doctrine, quality of training, real-time sensor-shooter fusion and skilful integration of electronic and cyber warfare, PAF had buried the pride of the IAF beneath the weight of its tactical geometry of brilliant game-plans and full-spectrum fusion of technology, along with PAF's kinetic and non-kinetic applications into Multi Domain Operations as commanded by the current Chief of the Air Staff in real time from the war-room. The splendid PAF victory caused a monumental surge in the strategic capital of the Pakistan Air Force, restoring the conventional deterrence and inflicting a deadly blow to the notions of "Shining-India, Net-Security-Provider and Counterweight to China" in the skies of South Asia. The "Spirit of 1965" had resonated in "Zarb-e-Karar" once again.

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Briefs

Putin warns Western troops in Ukraine to...

FROM PAGE 01
Moscow launched its offensive in February 2022, forcing millions from their homes and destroying much of eastern and southern Ukraine. Putin said if a deal could be struck, there was no need for the troops. "If decisions are reached that will lead to peace, to long-term peace, then I simply don't see the point in their presence on the territory of Ukraine. "Because if deals are reached, let no one doubt that Russia will comply with them in full," he said. Ukraine and the West point to a long list of times Russia has broken agreements, including between 2014 and 2022, when Moscow-backed separatists were fighting Kyiv's army in the east of the country.

25 PTI, SIC MNAs yet to resign...

FROM PAGE 01
Sources stated that Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, has not yet taken any formal action on the resignations submitted so far. Reportedly, the government has requested the Speaker not to accept the resignations of certain members. "As long as their resignations are not formally accepted, they continue to remain members of their respective House standing committees," the sources maintained. Amid this ongoing wave of resignations, PTI has announced a boycott of the National Assembly proceedings. The list of 25 lawmakers is wrong, as 8 to 10 members are out of the country, some have gone for Umrah, a few are unwell and there is also information that around eight more tendered resignations today," said PTI Information Secretary Sheikh Waqas Akram, when contacted for his comment on the matter.

Eggs thrown at Aleema Khan stir...

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The journalists outside the prison, when two women threw the eggs at her. Visibly baffled at first, Aleema quickly gathered herself back and said she was alright. "We don't care if anyone attacks us as we knew this would happen," she said while reacting to the incident. Aleema briefly spoke to the media before quickly getting into her car and whisked away to avoid further interaction after facing uncomfortable questions. The situation turned tense as PTI workers, including Seemabia Tahir, loudly protested against the women involved in the incident. The police immediately intervened, detaining two girls who had purportedly thrown the eggs, and shifted them to the Adiala police post for questioning. They said the detained women were among PTI government employees who had come from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to protest against Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur over delayed salaries and other irregularities.

Pak slams India for not sharing..

FROM PAGE 01
For the second time in three years, catastrophic monsoon floods have carved a path of destruction across Pakistan's north and central regions, particularly in its Punjab province, submerging villages, drowning farmland, displacing millions and killing hundreds. Pakistan recorded 905 deaths since late June, when the monsoon season began, as per the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) latest statistics. Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson Ambassador Shafqat Ali Khan has said that Pakistan alone has the authority to decide who can stay in the country, stressing that undocumented individuals will be repatriated. "Any people with no documentation should leave.

Pakistan book T20I tri-series final berth after beating UAE

Green Shirts to take on Afghanistan in tournament final; secure 32-run win over UAE

SHARJAH: Pakistan reached T20I tri-nation series final after grabbing a 32-run victory over the United Arab Emirates (UAE) following Fakhar Zaman's half-century fifty and spinner Abrar Ahmed's four-wicket haul in today's match at Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Thursday. Pakistan finished with six points in four matches, while UAE remained at the bottom with zero points in as many games and thus were knocked out of the final contention. As a result, Afghanistan, placed second on the points table with two points in three matches also booked their spot in the summit clash, scheduled to be played at the same venue on Sunday. Chasing a daunting 172-run target, the hosts could only accumulate 140/7 in 20 overs despite opening batter Alishan Sharafu's half-century. UAE got off to a decent start to the pursuit as their opening pair of Sharafu and skipper Muhammad Waseem took the total to 41/0 in six overs. Mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed gave Pakistan a much-needed breakthrough on the first delivery of the seventh over when he got rid of UAE captain Waseem, who scored a run-a-ball 19. His dismissal sparked a collapse which saw the hosts lose wickets at an alarming rate and consequently slipped to 102/5 in 15 overs.



Sharafu, who ticked the scoreboard singlehandedly during the collapse, eventually fell victim to Shaheen Shah Afridi in the 17th over. He remained the top scorer with a 51-ball 68 with the help of four sixes and as many fours. Besides the opening pair, only Dhruv Parashar (18 not out) and Haider Ali (12) could amass

double figures, while the rest struggled against Abrar-led Pakistan bowling attack. Abrar Ahmed was the standout bowler for Pakistan, taking four wickets for just nine runs in his four overs, while Afridi chipped in with one. Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha's decision to bat first proved beneficial as his team's batting unit yielded

171/5 in their allotted 20 overs. The Green Shirts got off to a brief flying start to their innings as their opening pair of Sahibzada Farhan and Saim Ayub added 28 runs for the first wicket inside three overs. The opening start culminated on the penultimate delivery of the fourth over when Dhruv Parashar got Farhan caught at deep square leg. The right-handed opener walked back after scoring 16 off 11. Following his dismissal, Pakistan lost four more wickets in quick succession and had consequently slipped to 80/5 in 11.3 overs before Fakhar and Muhammad Nawaz launched an astounding recovery. The duo launched a counterattack on the home side's bowlers and added a quickfire 97-run stand, which lifted Pakistan to a fighting total. Fakhar top-scored for Pakistan with an unbeaten 77 off 44 deliveries, studded with a dozen boundaries, including two sixes, while Nawaz made a 27-ball 37, featuring three fours and two sixes. For the UAE, Haider Ali led the charge with two wickets, while Junaid Siddique, Muhammad Rohid and Muhammad Jawadullah made one scalp apiece. It is pertinent to mention that Pakistan are at the top of the T20I Tri-series standings with four points in two matches, while UAE are at the bottom as the hosts are yet to win a game.

Sabalenka returns to US Open final as Anisimova sinks Osaka

NEW YORK: Reigning champion and world number one Aryna Sabalenka will play Amanda Anisimova in the US Open final after the American ended the run of Japanese star Naomi Osaka on Thursday. Sabalenka overcame Pegula 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in a re-run of last year's final and is seeking to become the first player to successfully defend the title in New York since Serena Williams in 2014. The 27-year-old from Belarus is through to her third successive US Open final. "It was a really tough match - she (Pegula) played incredible tennis as always and I had to work really hard to get this win," said Sabalenka. "Just super happy to be

back in the final and hopefully I can go all the way again." Sabalenka has now made the final at four of the last five Grand Slams but has not added to her haul of three majors since winning the 2024 US Open. She finished runner-up at the Australian Open and Roland Garros earlier this year. "I badly wanted to give myself another opportunity, another final, and I want to prove to myself that I learned those tough lessons and I can do better in the finals," added Sabalenka. She landed the first blow in the sixth game against Pegula, who saved a pair of break points before the Belarusian's persistence paid off as she surged into a 4-2 lead.

A sloppy service game from Sabalenka allowed Pegula to respond immediately. The American then held to level at 4-4 and put the pressure right back on the top seed. An error from Sabalenka gave Pegula another break for a 5-4 advantage and she served out to love to take the first set, to the delight of the Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd. Sabalenka reset though and roared back to reel off the first three games of the second set, an early break the difference as she sent the match to a deciding set. A break to open the third set saw Sabalenka edge 2-0 ahead. She scrambled to save three break points and stay in control at 4-2 in and fought off another

in the eighth game to close in on victory. Pegula held and forced Sabalenka to get over the line on her own serve. She eventually converted a third match point with a crunching forehand winner to her palpable relief. "It was too good from her today at some points," said Pegula. Sabalenka will try to avenge her Wimbledon semi-final loss to Anisimova on Saturday. The eighth-seeded Anisimova reached her second major final in a row after rallying to overcome Osaka 6-7 (4/7), 7-6 (7/3), 6-3 in a match that stretched well past midnight in New York. "I wasn't sure I would make it past the finish line. I tried to dig deep. - Agencies

Messi hits brace in his last home qualifier for Argentina

Messi struck in 39th and 80th minutes in 3-0 home win over Venezuela

MONTEVIDEO: Lionel Messi scored twice for Argentina in emotional scenes in Buenos Aires on Thursday while Uruguay, Colombia and Paraguay joined the reigning champions at next year's World Cup. With Argentina having already long booked their place at the tournament in North America, Messi struck in the 39th and 80th minutes in a 3-0 home win over Venezuela. Messi, who has won the Balon d'Or eight times, sparked in front of an adoring crowd of 80,000 at the Mas Monumental stadium in his last home qualifier for his country. The Argentine legend will turn 39 during next year's World Cup, but despite his advanced years, he looks set to play another pivotal role as Lionel Scaloni's side defend their crown. Messi had his three sons with him before kickoff and his father, Jorge, was also in attendance to mark the occasion. Uruguay sealed their berth in the United States, Canada and Mexico by beating Peru 3-0 at home while Colombia saw off Bolivia by the same scoreline. Paraguay also reached the 2026 finals after a 0-0 home draw against already qualified Ecuador. Brazil have also already qualified from South America. - Agencies

Heavy rains in Sindh likely from Sunday

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It may travel to Rajasthan and its adjoining parts of Sindh on Sept 6. Due to this weather system, strong monsoon currents are likely to penetrate Sindh and eastern Punjab from Sept 6 onwards. The Met department has predicted that under the influence of these meteorological conditions, widespread rain and windstorm / thunder-showers, coupled with scattered heavy to very heavy falls, are expected to hit Tharparkar, Islamabad, Nagarparkar, Chachro, Dhali, Diplo, Kaloi, Umerkot, Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, Khairpur, Shaheed Benazirabad, Matari, Tando Allayar, Tando Mohammad Khan, Hyderabad, Karachi, Thatta, Badin, Sajawal, Jamshoro, Dadu, Kashmore, Sukkur, Larkana, Jacobabad, Shikarpur and Ghotki from Sept 6 (evening / night) to Sept 9 with occasional gaps. Torrential rains may cause urban flooding in low-lying areas of Mirpurkhas, Shaheed Benazirabad, Tharparkar, Khairpur, Sukkur, Larkana, Thatta, Badin, Sajawal, Hyderabad and Karachi from Sept 7 to 9, it said.

Advisor to the President of Palestine...

FROM PAGE 01
cause and assured the Palestinian side that Pakistan would continue to lend its full support for the brotherly people of Palestine, who have rendered enormous sacrifices and bravely faced Israeli brutal aggression. The Prime Minister further assured that he would continue to raise his voice with full force for the rights of the Palestinian people at every diplomatic forum. On the humanitarian situation in Gaza, the Prime Minister reassured the Palestinian delegation that Pakistan would continue to dispatch humanitarian assistance for the people of Gaza, who had been subjected to a man-made famine by Israeli occupation forces. The Advisor to the Palestinian President conveyed the deepest gratitude of the Palestinian people to the people and Government of Pakistan for their consistent and unflinching support. Recalling the longstanding and historic bonds between the people of Pakistan and Palestine, they said that Pakistan was a source of strength for them in this difficult time. The Palestinian side also offered their condolences over the recent floods in Pakistan. At the end of the meeting, a letter from President Mahmoud Abbas was also handed over to the Prime Minister. Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister Sen. Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Information Minister Mr. Attullah Tarar, Minister for Religious Affairs Sardar Mohammad Yousof, SADM Tariq Fatemi, Chairman Islamic Council, Foreign Secretary and Secretary Religious Affairs assisted the Prime Minister during the meeting.

British Dy PM resigns...

FROM PAGE 01
as a "trusted colleague and a true friend". Rayner, 45, is the eighth, and the most senior, ministerial departure from Starmer's team, and the most damaging yet after the British leader offered her his full support when she was first accused of avoiding 40,000 pounds (\$54,000) in tax on the transaction. Starmer has now suffered the most ministerial resignations, outside government reshuffles, of any prime minister at the beginning of their tenure in almost 50 years - more even than Boris Johnson in his chaotic period in office. "I deeply regret my decision to not seek additional specialist tax advice ... I take full responsibility for this error," she said in her letter to Starmer. "Given the findings, and the impact on my family, I have therefore decided to resign," said Rayner, who also stepped down as a minister and deputy leader of the Labour Party. In a particularly emotional letter, Starmer said he believed she had made the right decision but understood it was one "which I know is very painful for you".

Powerhouse Australia 'up for challenge' of defending Women's World Cup

SYDNEY: Powerhouse Australia said it was "up for the challenge" Friday of winning an unprecedented eighth Women's Cricket World Cup, naming a star-studded squad to defend their title in India and Sri Lanka. Led by Alyssa Healy, the 15-strong line-up features fellow seasoned campaigners Ellyse Perry, Beth Mooney, Annabel Sutherland, Tahlia McGrath and Ashleigh Gardner. Sophie Molineux makes her return from knee surgery in January, while Darcie Brown (quad) and Georgia Wareham (groin) both brushed off recent niggles to take their places. Molineux is among five Australians who will feature in a 50-over World Cup for the first time, alongside opener Phoebe Litchfield who was recently player-of-the-tournament at English cricket's Hundred.

Australia Unveils Strong Squad to Defend Women's Cricket WC Title in India and SL



Leg-spinner Wareham, quick Kim Garth and batter Georgia Voll will also taste World Cup cricket for the first time. The remaining quad members were all part of Australia's 2022 triumph at the last tournament in New Zealand, where they thumped England by 71 runs in the final. "A World Cup in India is one of cricket's biggest assignments, but we believe this group is up for the challenge," said national selector Shawn Flegler. "The valuable experience the squad has gained from several sub-continent tours in recent years, as well as exposure through the Women's Premier League will be beneficial in tackling the unique demands of Indian conditions. "The extended nature of an ODI World Cup can be a challenge, and we believe this group has the depth and versatility to meet those demands," he added. - DNA

Climate awareness in Pakistan's vulnerable communities: a matter of lives

ATIF ALI

PAKISTAN, a nuclear-armed country, faces greater threats from massive climate change-induced disasters than from external nuclear attacks when it comes to long-term survival. Undoubtedly, the country is simultaneously dealing with numerous challenges: an unresolved escalation with India, rising terrorism, political and economic instability, and recurring natural disasters such as floods and cloudbursts—a phenomenon unfamiliar to many people until recently. Surprisingly, the most dangerous challenge of all—climate change, which threatens the survival of future generations—is treated as the least urgent by the Pakistani governments, making it one of the most underrated issues in the national policy agenda. Across the world, climate change as a human security issue has become an important subject in international relations, defense strategies, and domestic policy debates. While governments in developed countries actively promote awareness, the majority of people in Pakistan remain uninterested in understanding basic questions such as: What causes climate change, cloudbursts, and floods? Why is it important to be informed? Why must deforestation be stopped? Instead, many still see these disasters as acts of divine will—"Allah ka Kaam" (God's will) or "Azab-e-Elahi" (divine punishment)—rather than recognizing them as human-driven crises. In reality, these disasters are a direct result of human actions since the Industrial Revolution, when rapid industrialization challenged nature without implementing safety or precautionary measures. These practices have particularly harmed underdeveloped nations,

with Pakistan now ranking among the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world. Pakistan has been facing climate-related threats from decades. The devastating floods of 2010, 2014 and the unprecedented destruction of 2022, and the recent floods all expose the government's lack of seriousness in tackling this threat. Authorities have failed to educate people preparedness in monsoon seasons or what individuals can do to reduce the impacts of climate change. A columnist in Dawn recently criticized the political blame game, where three different provincial governments—PML-N in Punjab, PTI in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and PPP in Sindh—accuse one another instead of working together to formulate strong, coordinated climate policies. Pakistan needs comprehensive policy planning and cooperation to prepare for increasingly severe climate disasters in the years ahead. Along with policy reforms, public awareness is essential, especially in the flood-affected areas. The government, in collaboration with NGOs, should organize campaigns to educate communities about the causes and consequences of climate change. People need to understand that these disasters are not purely natural phenomena but are intensified by human activities such as deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions from industrialized nations, including Western countries and China, which have collectively increased global temperatures. Local weather departments often claim such events are unpredictable, but climate experts argue that better planning and infrastructure could have mitigated the damages. Pakistan also lacks strong infrastructure and resources within its National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). According

to dawn report there is significant public dissatisfaction with the performance of the NDMA in terms of its awareness campaigns, preparedness, and relief efforts. Therefore, the government must run awareness campaigns and equip the NDMA with modern tools and training to improve its efficiency. As a model, Bangladesh has established emergency shelters in safe locations to protect people in flood-prone regions—an approach Pakistan should adopt to reduce casualties during disasters. Ineffective laws, lack of awareness, and the poor implementation of regulations by the local administration have allowed the timber mafia to freely cut down trees that are essential for the region's ecological balance. In my opinion, this illegal practice could be controlled immediately if the District Administration enforced a strict ban on timber smuggling, as had been done by the Deputy Commissioner two years ago. In the long run, however, locals must also be made aware of the consequences of selling timber for the sake of a few thousand rupees. As a native of northern Chakwal, I have been an eyewitness to the harm of lack of awareness about the importance of trees in mitigating climate change has led many to sell hundreds of trees for minimal profit. This northern region of Chakwal is home to 'phulai' trees, which are mostly used as firewood for cooking. Around 10 to 15 years ago, timber was rarely sold for commercial purposes; instead, it was used almost exclusively for domestic needs. However, as more households started relying on LPG for cooking, locals began selling timber to earn extra income. Residents of northern Chakwal also acknowledged a rise in temperatures in recent years

but failed to link it to deforestation. Another local problem is the unchecked construction of mini dams. These are often built without government approval, mostly for fishing rather than agricultural use. During heavy monsoon rains, these poorly built dams often collapse, causing severe flooding. Unfortunately, there is no official survey data on climate change awareness among local communities. The government should conduct surveys to assess this awareness and create policies to implement climate education, especially for religious groups and underprivileged communities. Such awareness would help people better understand these disasters and improve their readiness during emergencies. Another important step is for provincial governments to enable and fund local governments, so they can carry out awareness campaigns more effectively. Experts believe that trained local unions can be highly effective in spreading awareness and taking timely actions based on early flood warnings. The media also has a critical role to play in spreading climate awareness. Unfortunately, most media outlets remain fixated on political crises because they attract higher ratings. Media organizations should make climate coverage a consistent part of their programming to engage and educate the public. In the absence of a long-term, state-led policy for climate justice, resilience, and adaptability, climate awareness at the community level can still help minimize risks and damages. Informed communities are less likely to engage in environmentally harmful activities and more likely to support sustainable practices. Awareness is not a complete solution—but it is a vital first step toward building a climate-resilient Pakistan.

Briefs

PSX continues with bullish trend, gains 1,611 more points

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index continued with bullish trend on Friday, gaining 1,611.47 more points, a positive change of 1.06 percent, closing at 154,277.19 points against 152,665.72 points last trading day. A total of 1,078,410,471 shares were traded during the day as compared to 954,327,333 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 59.949 billion against Rs 46.053 billion on the last trading day. As many as 479 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 239 of them recorded gains and 210 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 30 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Bank of Punjab with 146,093,956 shares at Rs 19.69 per share, F. Nat. Equities with 55,753,605 shares at Rs7.74 per share and Fauji Foods Limited with 50,935,429 shares at Rs18.72 per share. Sitara Chemical Industries Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 79.77 per share price, closing at Rs 877.47, whereas the runner-up was Siemens (Pakistan) Engineering with Rs50.17 rise in its per share price to Rs1,603.17. PIA Holding Company LimitedB witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 834.67 per share closing at Rs 25,506.00 followed by Hoechst Pakistan Limited with Rs 96.79 decline in its share price to close at Rs 4,004.48. Meanwhile, in the future market, as many as 316 companies traded shares in the market out of which 181 witnessed gain, 133 loss whereas the prices of 2 companies remained unchanged.—APP

Rupee gains 01 paisa against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Friday appreciated by 01 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 281.65 against the previous day's closing Rs 281.66. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 282.3 and Rs 283.1, respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 58 paisa to close at Rs 328.87 against the last day's closing of Rs 328.29, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen went up by 01 paisa to close at Rs 1.90, whereas an increase of 74 paisa was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 379.24 compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 378.50. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal remained unchanged and closed at Rs76.68 and Rs75.06, respectively.—APP

Gold price up by Rs.1,200 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The per tola price of 24-karat gold surged by Rs. 1,200 on Friday and was traded at Rs.377,900 against its sale at Rs.376,700 on the previous day, according to data released by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association. Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold rose by Rs.1,029 to settle at Rs. 323,988 up from Rs.322,959 whereas that of 22-karat gold also witnessed an increase of Rs943 to Rs.296,999 from Rs.296,056. The local silver market reported no change. The price of 24-karat silver per tola was recorded at Rs. 4,315, and 10 grams of silver remained unchanged at Rs. 3,699. The international silver rate stood at US\$40.82 per ounce. In the international market, gold prices rose \$12 to reach \$3,552 per ounce, compared to \$3,540 in the previous session.—APP



Beijing: Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, witnessed the signing of multiple landmark MoUs during the 2nd Pakistan-China B2B Conference in China.

Alibaba.Com, IT Ministry & Telecom Pak partners to accelerate digital trade

Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Minister of IT & Telecom, Pakistan, said: "Pakistan is standing at the cusp of global e-commerce opportunity, where the passion and entrepreneurial acumen of our youth will enable them to showcase their abilities and products and at global level

DNA

BEIJING: Alibaba.com, a leading global B2B e-commerce platform, has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ignite - National Technology Fund, under Pakistan's Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication (MoITT), to strengthen Pakistan's digital economy and expand global opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and startups. The MoU was signed in Beijing during 2nd Pakistan-China B2B Investment Conference by Ms.Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Minister of IT & Telecom Pakistan, and Mr. Roger Luo, Head of South & Southeast Asia at Alibaba.com, in the presence of senior officials from both sides. Speaking at the occasion, Ms. Shaza Fatima

Khawaja, Minister of IT & Telecom, Pakistan, said: "Pakistan is standing at the cusp of global e-commerce opportunity, where the passion and entrepreneurial acumen of our youth will enable them to showcase their abilities and products and at global level. This partnership with Alibaba.com is an important step for Pakistan's digital economy. By equipping our SMEs and startups with advanced e-commerce tools and access to global markets, and by aligning our institutions with international best practices, we aim to foster innovation, support export growth, and strengthen Pakistan's participation in global digital trade." Mr. Roger Luo, Head of South & Southeast Asia at Alibaba.com added: "We are pleased to partner with MoITT and Ignite to open new channels for Pakistani businesses. By combining Alibaba.com's platform capabilities,

AI-driven tools and targeted training with government support, we can help SMEs scale, improve export competitiveness and build sustainable digital trade pathways." Under the MoU, Alibaba.com will organize and facilitate online or offline promotional activities, including Pakistan trade shows and online national pavilion, deliver targeted B2B e-commerce training and provide AI powered tools to selected SMEs and startups. Ignite will support implementation by identifying potential exporters, coordinating seminars in key cities, and promoting Alibaba.com-led initiatives across Pakistan.

Following the signing, a high-level Pakistani delegation visited the Alibaba Campus in Beijing, hosted by Wee Choo Hua, Executive Vice President at Daraz and Lazada and Berry Ma, Head of Pakistan Business,

Alibaba.com. The Pakistan delegation included Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Minister of IT & Telecom and Zarar Hasham Khan, Secretary of IT & Telecom. Discussions focused on expanding Pakistan's role in global supply chains, enhancing e-commerce training for SMEs, and exploring further cooperation in AI and digital trade facilitation. Alibaba.com has actively supported Pakistani businesses, rolling out its Trade Assurance service in Pakistan and achieving an 85% activation rate within months of launch. At the same time, the platform has helped sellers adopt its AI-powered Smart Assistant, which is now used by 80% of Pakistani sellers, improving trust and operational efficiency. In the second quarter of 2025, Pakistan recorded a 60% year-on-year increase in new suppliers on Alibaba.com, led by apparel, sports and entertainment, and surgical instruments.

UN Security Council calls for Libyan-led, Libyan-owned political process

NEW YORK: The members of the UN Security Council called on Libyan institutional stakeholders to engage fully, transparently and in good faith, without preconditions, and make the compromises necessary to progress a Libyan-led and Libyan-owned process, facilitated by the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). They reiterated their call upon the international community to support this process. The members of the Security Council welcomed the briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG), Hanna Tetteh, in which the SRSG outlined the road map to advance a Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political process.

China to provide nearly \$7m in aid to Kabul for earthquake

ISTANBUL: China said Thursday it will provide nearly \$7 million in relief after a strong earthquake caused severe devastation in Afghanistan, according to the Global Times. Li Ming, spokesman for the China International Development Cooperation Agency, said Beijing will provide 50 million yuan (\$6.9 million) in emergency humanitarian aid, mainly including tents, blankets and food, which are urgently needed in disaster-hit areas. His remarks came as the death toll from Sunday's powerful earthquake in eastern Afghanistan surpassed 2,200, along with heavy property losses. Australia also announced to provide 1 million Australian dollars (\$650,000) to support people of Afghanistan after the deadly earthquake. In a statement, Foreign Minister Penny Wong said Australia's assistance will be directed through the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF), led by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). — APP

Defence Day: message of Chief of Naval Staff

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf NI(M) TBt has issued special message on the occasion of defence day of Pakistan. Here is the text of the message. 'In the chronicles of our national history, certain days stand as luminous milestones, evoking glorious moments of the past. Such days rekindle the fervour of patriotism and reaffirm our solemn resolve to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our beloved homeland at any cost. Among these, 6th September holds an exalted place, commemorating an era of unparalleled valour and sacrifices by the gallant Armed Forces of Pakistan in defence of the motherland. It is a day that embodies strong resilience, unyielding determination and exceptional courage displayed by the men-in-arms, shoulder to shoulder with their countrymen, in discharge of the sacred duty



of national defence. As the decades go by, this historic day continues to inspire national pride, reminding all that Pakistan's defence remains impervious to any transgression, and if challenged, will be met with a decisive response. Above all, it is an occasion to honour our heroes who have sacrificed their lives to render the nation's defence impregnable. The indomitable spirit to defend the homeland was reaffirmed during 'Marka-e-Haq' when the adversary attempted a reckless mis-

adventure on a fabricated pretext. The world witnessed resolute response of our valiant Armed Forces, which stood as an impenetrable wall of steel in defence of its sacred soil. Through an exemplary display of deterrence and maritime vigilance, Pakistan Navy ensured the inviolability of national waters and kept the Indian fleet at bay, thus frustrating its naval ambitions. This day, reminiscent of the bravery, unity and patriotic fervour of the nation reinforces in us the spirit to serve with utmost integrity, conviction and commitment. The Officers, CPOs, Sailors and Civilians of Pakistan Navy salute our Shuhada and Ghazis and renew their pledge to defend country's maritime frontiers to ensure robust national security and economic sustainability. As we mark this occasion, let us sincerely offer our gratification to Allah SWT for endowing us with an independent and abundantly resourceful homeland.

China's rescue team enhances Pak's flood response capabilities

ISLAMABAD: At the invitation of Pakistan's Capital Development Authority (CDA), a seven-member Blue Sky Rescue (BSR) team visited Pakistan to deliver specialized rapid water rescue training for 26 emergency responders from the Capital Emergency Services. ed by Zhang Yong, the chief commander of the volunteer-based humanitarian organization, the delegation included senior trainers and equipment specialists from China, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. The training program, which came at a time when Pakistan is grappling with severe flooding in multiple regions, aimed to enhance the operational skills of emergency responders in water rescue scenarios.

Theoretical lessons were conducted at the training center of the Capital Emergency Services, covering essential principles of water safety and rescue protocols. From August 28 to 29, practical sessions were conducted, featuring hands-on exercises such as safe water entry, three rescue swimming techniques, rubber boat operation and steering, rope throwing, and live water rescue drills. The Chinese team worked closely with key officials from the Pakistani side, including Dr. Abdul Rehman, Director General of the Capital Emergency Services. Through systematic instruction and simulation training, Pakistani rescuers mastered critical aquatic emergency skills. Upon completion of the

program, Chief Commander Zhang Yong presented certificates of qualification to all participants. The Capital Emergency Services also awarded honorary certificates to each member of the BSR team in recognition of their contribution. As a gesture of support, Blue Sky Rescue also donated a batch of professional water rescue gear, including life vests and helmets, to the Pakistani agency. Given the ongoing flood situation in Pakistan, the training was highly valued by both parties. Following fruitful discussions, the two sides agreed to jointly establish the "Blue Sky Rescue Foundation Pakistan Office" at the headquarter of Capital Emergency Services. —DNA

**Oil & Gas
Regulatory Authority**
Government of Pakistan

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS / HEARING

APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF LICENSE TO UNDERTAKE REGULATED ACTIVITY FOR SALE OF NATURAL GAS

M/s Wellhead Energy Solution (Pvt.) Limited, (WHES) Islamabad (the applicant) applied under Rule 4 of the Natural Gas Regulatory Authority (Licensing) Rules, 2002 on 30-04-2025 for grant of license to undertake the regulated activity of Sale of Natural Gas. The applicant submitted that the Wellhead Energy Solution is an entity incorporated under the Pakistan Company's Ordinance 1984, which is mandated by its Board of Directors to carry out the business of sale of Natural Gas. The applicant further stated that the transmission networks of SNGPL will be utilized by the applicant for efficient transportation of gas to the end users/its prospective customers.

After submission of the requisite data / information by the applicant, the Authority admitted the instant application for Public Comments / Hearing under Rule 5 of the Ibid Rule . Therefore, all persons and parties who are likely to be affected by the grant of this license are hereby informed to file objections, written comments / intervention requests addressed to Senior Registrar OGRA, describing the manner in which such persons/parties may be affected and may also appear on below mentioned Public Hearing.

The intervention request shall be filed alongwith fee of Rs. 500/- (bank draft) and affidavit verifying the contents of the communication before the date of Public Hearing. Copies of the documentation submitted by the applicant can be obtained on payment of prescribed charges of Rs. 2/- per page from the office of Senior Registrar or can be downloaded from OGRA's official website.

In sequel to all above, OGRA has decided to hold Public Hearing in the instant matter according to date, time and venue mentioned below:

Date	:	18-09-2025 (Thursday)
Time	:	12:15 p.m
Venue	:	OGRA Head Office, Islamabad

For any information required from the applicant please contact:

Mr. Hamza Qamar Kaira
Chief Executive Officer,
Flat No. 702, 7th Floor, Park Tower, F-10 Markaz, **Islamabad**
Hamza.qamar630@wellheadpk.com

Dr. Abdul Basit Qureshi
SENIOR REGISTRAR
Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority
37- Mauve Area, Service Road South, G-10/4, Islamabad.
Phone: 051-9108889, 051-9108890-98 (Ext-123)
Fax: 051-9108810, Email: registrar@ogra.org.pk, Website: www.ogra.org.pk

PID (U) No. 1984/25

Public Service Message:

گیس کی بیچ جان لیوا حادثات کا سبب بن سکتی ہے احتیاطی تدابیر یقینی بنائیں اور حادثات سے بچیں

Briefs

Tremors felt in Bajaur, North Waziristan, and Abbottabad

Jolts cause panic among sleeping residents, forcing them to rush out of their homes

MILD-TO-MODERATE earthquake tremors were felt in the wee hours of Friday in Bajaur, North Waziristan and Abbottabad, causing panic among the sleeping residents who rushed out of their homes. This is the second quake to hit northern Pakistan in under 12 hours. A 5.9-magnitude earthquake jolted Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and several parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Thursday night, the National Seismic and Tsunami Monitoring Centre of the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) said. According to the seismological centre, the quake's epicentre was located in Afghanistan's Hindu Kush region at a depth of 111 kilometres. Tremors were reported in Peshawar, Lower Dir, Upper Dir, Malakand, Bajaur, Mohmand, Shabqadar, Charsadda and Parachinar, as well as Nowshera, Hangu and Kohat. Shocks were also felt in Mansehra, Abbottabad, Swat and Attock. In Punjab, jolts were experienced in Mianwali, Chakwal, Talagang, Kallar Kahar and adjoining areas, while Multan also reported tremors. In Islamabad and Rawalpindi, strong shocks prompted residents to rush outdoors. In Azad Jammu and Kashmir, people in Neelum Valley and Dhirkot felt tremors. No immediate reports of casualties or damage have been received. Several quakes have hit the Afghanistan-Pakistan region, which lies at the intersection of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates. In neighbouring Afghanistan, the death toll from a powerful earthquake that struck the country's eastern part at the weekend rose sharply to more than 2,200, according to a new toll, making it the deadliest in decades to hit the country. The vast majority of those killed in the magnitude-6.0 earthquake that jolted the mountainous region bordering Pakistan late on Sunday were in Kunar province, where 2,205 people died and 3,640 were injured, according to a Taliban government toll.

Pakistan reaffirms strong support for Palestine

Senator Ishaq Dar strongly reaffirmed Pakistan's principled stance in support of the establishment of an independent, sovereign, viable and contiguous State of Palestine, based on pre-June 1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday received a high-level Palestinian delegation led by Advisor to the President and Supreme Judge, H.E. Mahmoud Alhabash, and reiterated Pakistan's unwavering solidarity with the people of Palestine in their just struggle for freedom, dignity and statehood. During the meeting, Senator Ishaq Dar strongly reaffirmed Pakistan's principled stance in support of the establishment of an independent, sovereign, viable and contiguous State of Palestine, based on pre-June 1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. He emphasized that Pakistan's position on the issue has always been consistent and deeply rooted in the aspirations of its people, who have always stood shoulder to shoulder with their Palestinian brothers and sisters. Condemning the ongoing Israeli aggression in the strongest terms, the Deputy Prime Minister denounced war crimes including genocide, mass killings, starvation, man-made famine, forced displacement, illegal settlements and annexation of Palestinian land. He stressed that such grave violations of international law and human rights demand urgent accountability. Senator Dar called for an immediate, permanent and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza and other occupied Palestinian territories, along with unhindered humanitarian assistance to millions of suffering civilians. He noted that the world community cannot remain silent in the face of such atrocities and urged global powers to take meaningful steps toward ending the violence and ensuring justice for the Palestinian people. The Deputy Prime Minister pledged that Pakistan will continue extending moral, political and diplomatic support to the Palestinian cause at all international fora. He assured the visiting delegation that Pakistan remains committed to standing by the people of Palestine until the realization of their inalienable right to an independent state.



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Punjab CM under fire for using two-year-old image

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz came under fire from social media users on Thursday for sharing a two-year old image and claiming that it showed measures taken for the rehabilitation of flood victims. "Innovated portable washrooms constructed and placed at relief camps in Chinioi," she wrote on X, uploading a photo of a portable washroom. But the image attached to the post – while showing a port-a-loo – also carries the date it was taken, which shows that it was taken in 2023. Eagle-eyed social media users soon spotted that the photo did not appear to be recent, and was taken from the website of an online marketplace. "Maryam should seriously consider sacking her PR & media team," a journalist suggested on X (formerly Twitter). Following the brouhaha over the outdated image, X accounts linked to PML-N began uploading images and videos from Chinioi, showing the actual portable washrooms that had been provided for those hit by the flood. The account claimed that the Chinioi administration had shared the fresh video, adding that portable bathrooms are available in the field for flood victims to ensure their dignity was protected. "The photo shared by the CM was shown as an example on a trial basis," the account @EPropoganda1 wrote – which usually offers alternative views to posts that appear sympathetic to the PTI's cause on social media. – Agencies

Three children run over by dumper

ABBOTTABAD: Three children lost their lives and five were injured as a dumper truck ran them over in Abbottabad on Friday at around 8am, police said. Abbottabad police spokesperson Azam Mir Afzal told Dawn.com, "The accident took place as the school children were crossing the road near the Lady Garden public park." Afzal said a first information report was registered against the driver who fled the scene. The dumper had also been seized, he added. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Rescue 1122 spokesperson Bilal Ahmad Faizi said, "A rescue team was immediately dispatched to the accident site after receiving information about the incident. The bodies of the deceased, as well as the injured children, were taken to the district headquarters hospital." Following the incident, family members of the children and local residents staged a protest and blocked the Old Karakoram Highway, police spokesperson Afzal said. They were demanding the arrest of the dumper truck's driver, Afzal said, adding that the protest ended after negotiations and assurance by the police that the driver would be arrested. Accidents involving dumpers are common in Pakistan, often linked to reckless driving, overloading, and poor vehicle maintenance, combined with weak enforcement of traffic laws. – Agencies

TRNC representative pays courtesy call on Turkish



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Buket Kop, the newly appointed Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) to Islamabad, paid her first official visit to the Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye, Dr. İrfan Neziroğlu, on Friday. During the meeting, the two diplomats discussed matters of mutual interest and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening relations between TRNC and Türkiye. They underlined the importance of continued collaboration in areas such as education, culture, trade,

and people-to-people exchanges. The visit also reflected the historic ties and brotherly relations between Türkiye and TRNC, which have consistently supported each other on international platforms. Ambassador Neziroğlu welcomed Buket Kop to Islamabad and expressed confidence that her tenure would help advance TRNC's outreach and enhance bilateral cooperation. Pakistan also maintains close and cordial ties with TRNC. Over the years, many Pakistani students have chosen TRNC as a higher education destination, particularly in fields like medicine, engineering, and social sciences. This educational link has emerged as a strong bridge between the people of Pakistan and TRNC, fostering greater understanding and goodwill. Diplomatic sources noted that TRNC values its friendship with Pakistan and looks forward to further expanding academic, cultural, and economic engagements in the coming years. Both sides also emphasized the significance of promoting youth and student exchanges, highlighting that education remains a key driver of stronger future cooperation. The courtesy call marked an important step in Buket Kop's diplomatic engagement in Islamabad, laying the foundation for deeper collaboration not only between TRNC and Türkiye but also with Pakistan, which continues to show support and solidarity for the people of Northern Cyprus.

Trump to rename Department of Defence the 'Department of War'

Renaming aims to reflect 'warrior ethos,' says Defence Secretary Hegseth

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump plans to sign an executive order on Friday to rename the Department of Defence the "Department of War," a White House official said on Thursday, a move that would put Trump's stamp on the government's biggest organisation. The order would authorise Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, the Defence Department and subordinate officials to use secondary titles such as "Secretary of War," "Department of War," and "Deputy Secretary of War" in official correspondence and public communications, according to a White House fact sheet. The move would instruct Hegseth to recommend legislative and executive actions required to make the renaming permanent. Since taking office in January, Trump has set out to rename a range of places and institutions, including the Gulf of Mexico, and to restore the original names of military bases that were changed after racial justice protests. Department name changes are rare and require congressional approval, but Trump's fellow Republicans hold slim majorities in both the Senate and House of Representatives, and the party's congressional leaders have shown little appetite for opposing any of Trump's initiatives. The US Department of Defence was called the War Department until 1949, when Congress consolidated the Army, Navy and Air Force in the wake of World War Two. The name was chosen in part

to signal that in the nuclear age, the US was focused on preventing wars, according to historians. Changing the name again will be costly and require updating signs and letterheads used not only by officials at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., but also military installations around the world. An effort by former President Joe Biden to rename nine bases that honored the Confederacy and Confederate leaders was set to cost the Army \$39 million. That effort was reversed by Hegseth earlier this year. The Trump administration's government downsizing team, known as the Department of Government Efficiency, has sought to carry out cuts at the Pentagon in a bid to save money. "Why not put this money toward supporting military families or toward employing diplomats that help prevent conflicts from starting in the first place?" said Democratic Senator Tammy Duckworth, a military veteran and member of the Senate's Armed Services Committee. – Agencies



China's Xi shows he's 'totally in charge'

Chinese President Xi Jinping enhances global standing with spate of high-profile events

DNA

BEIJING: When Chinese leader Xi Jinping organised his first parade to mark the anniversary of the end of World War Two, in 2015, he placed his two predecessors by his side in a show of respect and continuity of leadership. Ten years on and having eliminated domestic opposition as he serves an unprecedented third term as president, Xi was flanked on Wednesday at the 80th anniversary parade by Russia's Vladimir Putin and North Korea's Kim Jong Un. Chinese Communist Party leaders were interspersed among overseas guests. The parade followed Xi's high-profile summit with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a weekend meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Tianjin, and the

Chinese leader's rare visit to Tibet last month. This display of diplomatic clout, stamina and geopolitical ambition has helped quell concerns among some China observers about the 72-year-old president's vitality, linked to sporadic absences and – so far unknown – succession plans. It has also helped divert domestic attention from slowing growth, experts say. Longevity was on the leaders' minds as they walked up to the rostrum at Beijing's Tiananmen Square – Xi and Putin were caught in a hot mic moment discussing organ transplants and the possibility that humans could live to 150 years old. "This week of triumphant diplomacy for Xi shows that he remains totally in charge of the elite politics of the Communist Party," said Neil Thomas of the Asia Society, a New York-based think tank. Unable to get the same legitimacy from economic growth as his predecessors, Xi has turned toward nationalism "to try and make up for it", Thomas said. "It's a way to divert attention from economic challenges and to make his citizens proud to be Chinese, even if it's harder to feel that from the day-to-day experiences of unemployment, falling house prices and stagnant wages."

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Justice Shah asks CJP Afridi to publicly answer 6 questions

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court Justice Mansoor Ali Shah has written a letter to Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi asking him to publicly answer six questions regarding "pressing institutional concerns", it emerged on Friday.

In a letter dated Thursday, seen by Dawn.com, Justice Shah said he was reluctantly writing it in "discharge of an unavoidable institutional duty", adding that what compelled him was "your (CJP's) persistent and complete indifference". The judge wrote that his "repeated letters and written communications to you (CJP) on the undermentioned issues have gone unanswered and undiscussed; not once have I received a reply-neither in writing nor verbally", adding that such silence from the chief justice to the senior puisne judge was "not merely discourteous; it undermines the collegial traditions of this court and violates the institutional courtesy without which a constitutional court cannot function".

Justice Shah said that with the new judicial year commencing from Monday, CJP Afridi had convened a judicial conference to review the reforms undertaken under his leadership and to lay down priority areas for the coming year. "It is therefore both timely and opportune that the institutional concerns I raise in this letter be addressed squarely by you in that forum. By doing so, you will not only respond to the questions that remain unanswered but also reassure the judges of this court, the bar and the public we serve that your vision of reform is grounded in collegiality, transparency, and fidelity to the Constitution." The questions the judge asked the CJP to answer were: Why has the Practice and Procedure Act Committee never been convened to carry out its statutory responsibilities? Why was the revision of the Supreme Court Rules 1980 approved by circulation rather than after discussion and deliberation in a Full Court meeting? Why was the policy on releasing dissenting opinions adopted by soliciting individual opinions of the judges – saying it was a process "unheard of" – rather than an open deliberation in a Full Court meeting?

Why was a General Standing Order (GSO) on leave issued that subjects judges to controls inconsistent with judicial independence and the Presidential Order of 1997? Why have the petitions challenging the 26th Amendment not been fixed before the original Full Court? If CJP Afridi was nurturing independence among judges or "enforcing compliance to turn this court into a regimented force rather than a constitutional court of free and equal judges?"