



# Islamabad POST

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## Corruption, social media ban

# At least 25 killed in Nepal

Protesters force their way into parliament complex, hurling objects at lines of riot police; Many people in Nepal think corruption is rampant

NEWS DESK / DNA

KATHMANDU: Unrest killed at least 25 people in Nepal on Monday, authorities said, as police in the capital fired tear gas and rubber bullets at protesters trying to storm parliament in anger at a social media shutdown and corruption. Some of the main youth protesters forced their way into the parliament complex in Kathmandu by breaking through a barricade, a local official said, setting fire to an ambulance and hurling objects at lines of riot police guarding the legislature. "The police have been firing indiscriminately," one protester told the ANI news agency. "(They) fired bullets which missed me but hit a friend who was standing behind me. He was hit in the hand." More than 100 people, including 28 police personnel, were receiving medical treatment for their injuries, police officer Shekhar Khanal told Reuters. Protesters were ferrying the injured to the hospital on motorcycles. Another two people were killed when protesters in the eastern city of Itahari turned violent, police said. Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli called an emergency cabinet meeting to discuss the unrest, which erupted after thousands of young people, including many wearing their school or college uniforms, took to the streets earlier on Monday. Many carried flags and placards with slogans such as "Shut down corruption and not social media", "Unban social media", and "Youths against corruption", as they marched through Kathmandu. Organisers of the protests, which spread to other cities in the Himalayan country, have called them "demonstrations by Gen Z". They say the protests reflect young people's widespread frustration

with government action to tackle corruption and boost economic opportunities.

"This is the protest by the new generation in Nepal," another protester told ANI.

A government decision to block access to several social media platforms, including Facebook, last week has fuelled anger among the young. About 90% of Nepal's 30 million people use the internet.

Officials said they imposed the ban because platforms had failed to register with authorities in a crackdown on misuse, including false social media accounts used to spread hate speech and fake news, and commit fraud. Police had orders to use water cannons, batons and rubber bullets to control the crowd and the army was deployed in the parliament area to bolster law enforcement officers, Mukti Ram Rijal, a spokesperson for the Kathmandu district office, told Reuters.

He said the curfew, which will remain in force until 10 p.m. local time, had been extended to Kathmandu's Singha Durbar area, which includes the prime minister's office and other government buildings.

Violence abated later in the evening although protesters remained in the area outside parliament.

Police said similar protests were also held in Biratnagar and Bharatpur in the southern plains and in Pokhara in western Nepal. Many people in Nepal think corruption is rampant, and the Oli government has been criticised by opponents for failing to deliver on its promises to tackle graft or make progress to address longstanding economic issues. Thousands of young Nepalis go abroad every year for work and education.

Rameshwar Khanal, a former finance secretary, said although job creation is not up to expectations, popular anger appears to stem more from unhappiness with government appointments and its inability to stamp out corruption.

## PTI internal rifts deepen

# Scuffle erupts during Aleema Khan's media talk outside Adiala Jail

Journalists boycott Aleema Khan's media talk after facing abuse, violence

FAISAL SHEIKH

RAWALPINDI: A scuffle broke out outside Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi during a media talk of Aleema Khan, sister of incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, on Monday. PTI workers engaged in a physical altercation with journalists, which also involved verbal abuse. One journalist was subjected to violence, while others were manhandled by PTI workers. Following the incident, journalists announced a boycott of Aleema's media talk, saying it was in response to the manhandling and mistreatment they faced at the hands of PTI workers. The altercation came days after Aleema was pelted with eggs during a media interaction outside the Adiala jail. Aleema was addressing journalists after attending a Toshakhana case hearing when two women hurled eggs at her, leaving her briefly startled. Quickly regaining

composure, she remarked, "We don't care if anyone attacks us, as we knew this would happen," before retreating to her car to avoid further confrontation.

According to Rawalpindi police, the women involved in the incident were affiliated with the PTI and had travelled from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as part of protests staged by the All Government Employees Grand Alliance and APCA against Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur over delayed salaries and administrative issues. Police said the egg-throwing occurred after Aleema declined to respond to their questions. The women were taken into custody at the scene and shifted to the Adiala police post for questioning. The situation became tense as PTI workers, including former MPA Seemabia Tahir, strongly protested against the women's actions. Party supporters accused the detainees of deliberately attempting to create chaos and undermine the PTI leadership.

## ETHIOPIAN NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Defence Minister Khawja Muhammad Asif, Federal Minister for Culture Aurangzeb Khichi, Ambassador of Ethiopia Jemel Beker Abdula and others cutting cake to celebrate the Ethiopian New Year 2018 EC, at Islamabad Serena Hotel. – DNA

## Tarar says Pakistan displayed exemplary diplomacy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attallah Tarar has said that Pakistan has consistently raised its voice against the oppression faced by the indigenous and innocent people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing the launching ceremony of Former Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry's book, "Pakistan-India Relations – Fractured Past, Uncertain Future", in Islamabad on Monday, he stated that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will present

Continued on Page 06

## UAE forces commander meets CJCSC

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Major General Humaid Mohammed Abdulla Alremeithi, Commander of United Arab Emirates Naval Forces, while on an official visit to Pakistan, called on General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, NI, NI (M),

More news on Back Page

Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS) at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi. The two dignitaries held in-depth discussions on professional matters,

Continued on Page 06

## Floods playing havoc

# PM Shehbaz orders NDMA to intensify relief operations

Heavy to moderate rains lashed parts of Karachi on Monday evening amid predictions of "very heavy downpours"

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to expedite ongoing relief efforts in flood-affected areas. Chairing a meeting, the premier reviewed the flood situation and the ongoing rescue and relief operations, and instructed NDMA to ensure full preparedness in view of potential deluge and rising river levels. The prime minister emphasised the timely evacuation of communities residing near rivers and in high-risk areas. He ordered NDMA to maintain close coordination with provincial governments and their respective

Continued on Page 06

## Over 2,000 safely evacuated from Jalapur Pirwala

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: More than 2,000 safely evacuated from Jalapur Pirwala: district administration The Multan district administration and police have safely evacuated over 2,000 people from Jalapur Pirwala and relocated them to safe zones, according to a statement. "Commissioner Aamir Karim Khan and

Continued on Page 06

## Briefs

### Speakers moot to be held in Nov: Ishaq Dar

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, addressed the Curtain Raiser Ceremony for the upcoming Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC), reaffirming Pakistan's dedication to multilateralism, parliamentary diplomacy, and the peaceful resolution of disputes in line with UN Charter principles. The conference, slated for November, is seen as a crucial platform for dialogue, trust-building, and cooperation between the executive and legislative branches, reflecting bipartisan support. Senator Dar highlighted Pakistan's election to the United Nations Security Council for the 2025-2026 term, underscoring the nation's leadership in championing climate justice and advocating for reforms in the global financial architecture.

### France plunged into political turmoil

DNA

PARIS: France has been thrown into fresh political turmoil after Prime Minister François Bayrou was ousted in a dramatic vote of confidence on Monday, triggered by fierce opposition to his proposed budget reforms. Bayrou, who had called the surprise vote himself, described the moment as a "test of truth" and appealed to lawmakers to rally behind his debt-cutting measures. However, the outcome was never in doubt, with a broad coalition of opposition parties uniting against him. The defeat marks a major setback for President Macron, who must now move swiftly to appoint a new prime minister.

# 4 judges term SC full court meeting 'stamp of approval'



NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: In yet another letter highlighting the rift within the judiciary, four Supreme Court (SC) judges expressed their reservations on Monday regarding the process being adopted for the review and approval of Supreme Court Rules 2025. They dubbed the full court meeting, called for this purpose today, a mere "stamp of approval" for the rules, which they said were already decided and unilaterally approved. The letter addressed to Chief Justice of Pakistan

## SC plans to use AI to categorise cases: CJP

COURT REPORTER / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi on Monday said the Supreme Court had plans to use artificial intelligence for categorising cases for fixation but the judiciary was "not ready" for the technology yet. The CJP's address comes ahead of a full court meeting later today – in which all SC judges are expected to participate – to review and approve the Supreme Court Rules 2025, as cracks in the judiciary become starker. Recently, senior puisne judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah wrote a letter to CJP Afridi, asking him to answer six questions he raised about judicial independence, the court's rules and policies, and the appeals against the 26th Amendment. The chief justice addressed a judicial conference at the apex court today, marking the commencement of the new judicial year. "We all talk about technology, we all talk about AI to be utilised for enhancing the justice delivery system," Justice Afridi said, adding that 61,000 files will be digitally screened under a project that will be completed within six months.

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# Bilawal appeals to PM Shehbaz to reconstruct houses

DNA  
KARACHI: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has appealed to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to rebuild houses destroyed or damaged due to floods in south Punjab.

"The immediate help we're asking for on an emergency basis right now from the federal government, and I've talked to the prime minister himself, we request the premier to immediately provide financial aid to those areas which have been affected by the floods through the Benazir Income Support Programme." Sindh Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro said that a flow of 800,000 cusecs of water was moving towards Guddu Barrage from Chachran, but assured that all preparations to deal with a possible super flood had been completed. Speaking to journalists, the minister said around 200,000 people in the katcha areas could be affected, while 70 relief camps and 40 boats had been arranged for the operation. He added that 30 schools and one health centre between Gud-

du and Sukkur had already been impacted.

Shoro said the first priority was to shift women and children to safe locations, while water released from Sukkur Barrage was being diverted towards Kotri and onwards to the sea. "InshaAllah, the flood surge will safely pass into the sea," he remarked. The minister clarified there was no option of breaching embankments in Sindh, adding that canal flows had not been stopped, and standard operating procedures were being followed to open gates when water levels rose. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) forecasted more rains in several districts of Punjab, including Gujranwala, Sialkot, Lahore, and Hafizabad, during 12 to 24 hours. In a statement, it said Faisalabad, Chiniot, Sargodha, Multan, Layyah, Khanewal, and Dera Ghanzi Khan are also expected to receive more rain, while downpours have been predicted for Liaquatpur, Zahir Pir, and Rahim Yar Khan. The NDMA also forecasted rain in Sindh for

24 hours. The authority said rains may cause landslides and overflow of drains in low-lying areas. Punjab Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat has said that the recent floods have severely affected the education sector of Punjab, stating that over 2,000 schools in the province have been completely or partially damaged. Hayat said that the Punjab government is trying to ensure that children's education in flooded districts is not affected or interrupted. The minister said that the restoration of educational institutions has been ensured by setting up tent schools in flood relief camps on the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

"I have seen determination, courage and faith in the eyes of innocent children in tent schools set up in flood-affected areas," Hayat was quoted as saying. "The confidence of these children has also increased our morale. If this confidence remains in the children, no one's dream of education will remain unfulfilled."

## Faisalabad receives 175 mm rain

FAISALABAD: The city on Monday afternoon received 175 millimeters (mm) rain which inundated low-lying areas and created problems for residents. A spokesman for the WASA said the Sanitation Agency was ensuring round the clock drainage operation mitigate sufferings of people. He said that Allama Iqbal Colony received 131 millimeters rainfall on Sunday night followed by Jail Road with 128 mm, Ghulam Muhammad Abad 123 mm, Ghulistan Colony 121 mm, Dogar Basti 110 mm and Madina Town along with adjoining areas 109 mm. However, by Monday morning up to 2 p.m., the intensity of downpour further increased and Ghulam Muhammad Abad recorded highest amount of 175 mm while Ghulistan Colony and Allama Iqbal Colony received with 166 mm showers each. Similarly, Jail Road recorded 163 mm rain whereas Dogar Basti and Madina Town witnessed 154 mm each. He said that WASA Managing Director Sohail Qadir Cheema immediately mobilized WASA teams and directed the field staff to remain on high alert throughout the rain spells. He said that de-watering sets and other machinery were also activated at water stagnation points as soon as the downpour began. De-watering sets, suction pumps and heavy machinery were deployed to accelerate the disposal of rainwater from low-lying and sensitive areas, he added.—APP

## RCCI President meets Pakistan envoy to Switzerland

The President of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), Usman Shaukat, called on Dr. Marghoob Saleem Butt, Ambassador of Pakistan to Switzerland, at the Pakistani House in Berne. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the Global SME Summit, held in Davos from September 3-5, 2025. During the interaction, President RCCI appreciated the continuous support and assistance provided by the Embassy of Pakistan, particularly in facilitating engagements with local chambers of commerce and business leaders in Switzerland. He also briefed the Ambassador on RCCI's current initiatives and shared updates on upcoming trade promotion activities, business forums, and international outreach programs. Ambassador Dr. Marghoob Saleem Butt lauded RCCI's dynamic role in promoting trade, industry, and entrepreneurship in the region. He highlighted RCCI's efforts to maintain close liaison with key stakeholders across the globe, which is essential for fostering new partnerships and opportunities. The Ambassador further emphasized the importance of proactive engagement by the business community in enhancing bilateral ties. He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to strengthening economic and commercial relations with Switzerland and other European countries.—APP

## PRCS appeals to support flood-hit communities

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has formally launched a nationwide humanitarian appeal to support communities devastated by the 2025 monsoon floods. The initiative, titled Emergency Flood Response 2025, was unveiled at PRCS National Headquarters on Monday, drawing the participation of ambassadors, international aid organizations, senior government officials, and humanitarian partners. The launch event brought together representatives of the International Federation

of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Norwegian Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and German Red Cross, alongside delegates from civil society and the diplomatic community. Their presence underscored the urgent need for coordinated efforts as Pakistan grapples with one of the most destructive flood seasons in recent memory.

According to official figures, more than 907 people have been killed and 1,044 injured since the onset of the

monsoon rains. Thousands of families have been displaced, and livelihoods have been washed away across multiple provinces. Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir remain the hardest hit, with entire villages submerged, agricultural land destroyed, and vital infrastructure severely damaged. PRCS Secretary General, Muhammad Abaid Ullah Khan, told participants that the Society had mobilized its operational resources immediately after the floods struck.—APP



Islamabad: President Asif Ali Zardari confers the Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) on Commander of the UAE Naval Forces, Staff Major General Humaid Abdulla Alremeithi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.DNA

# ISSI inks MoU with China's leading think-tank SIIS

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted the importance of enhanced academic and intellectual engagement between Pakistan and China, particularly in the context of far-reaching geopolitical and geo-economic shifts

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) has concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS) to institutionalise and deepen academic collaboration.

The MoU was signed on September 2 in Shanghai, on the sidelines of the "High-level Seminar on Development and Cooperation between China and South Asian Countries" that brought together scholars, experts, and policymakers to deliberate on contemporary global and regional challenges, said a press release issued on Monday. The signing ceremony was attended by senior officials and scholars from

both institutions.

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI, and Professor Chen Dongxiao, President of SIIS, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective sides. The MoU establishes a framework for long-term cooperation in areas such as joint research, policy dialogue, academic exchanges, co-publications, and participation in seminars and conferences on issues of mutual interest at regional and global levels. In his remarks on the occasion, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted the importance of enhanced academic and intellectual engagement between Pakistan and China, particularly in the context of far-reaching geopolitical and geo-economic shifts. He underscored that this MoU would serve as a

sound foundation for sustained collaboration and knowledge-sharing between ISSI and SIIS. Professor Chen Dongxiao welcomed the partnership and reaffirmed SIIS's commitment to deepening research collaboration with ISSI on a wide spectrum of themes, noting that closer academic linkages would further enrich China-Pakistan relations. The ISSI-SIIS partnership represents a significant step in strengthening scholarly and policy-oriented exchanges between Pakistan and China. It is expected to contribute meaningfully to bilateral understanding and regional dialogue through joint research, publications, and academic cooperation. It is pertinent to mention that SIIS is one of China's leading think-tanks with a strong global reputation for policy-oriented research.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan Murat Nurtleu arrived in Islamabad for a two day official visit. He was received at the airport by Additional Secretary West Asia Syed Ali Asad Gillani, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan and other senior officials of the government. DNA

## NDMA issues torrential rain alert

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued an urgent weather advisory warning of heavy rainfall across parts of Punjab, Sindh, and Balochistan over the next 12 to 24 hours.

According to an alert from the National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC), intermittent rainfall is forecast in the northeastern and southern districts of Punjab, including Gujranwala, Sialkot, Lahore, Hafizabad, Faisalabad, Chiniot, and Sargodha. Meanwhile, heavy and thunderous downpours are expected in Multan, Layyah, Khanewal, Vehari, Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, Muzaffargarh, Dera Ghazi Khan, Khanpur, Rajanpur, Liaquatpur, Zahir Pir, Sadiqabad, and Rahim Yar Khan. The NEOC has warned of urban flooding, overflowing streams, and landslides in hilly areas due to the intensity of the rainfall.

In Sindh, southern districts are likely to experience heavy rainfall accompanied by strong winds, affecting Thatta, Badin, Tharparkar, Mithi, Umerkot, Mirpurkhas, Tando Muhammad Khan, Tando Adam, Hyderabad, Karachi, and surrounding areas. Light, intermittent showers are forecast for upper and central Sindh, including Sukkur, Larkana, Shaheed Benazirabad, Khairpur, Dadu, Jacobabad, Kashmore, Jamshoro, and nearby localities. In Balochistan.—APP

## Sahiwal plant marks 3000 days of safe production milestone

ISLAMABAD: The 1320MW Sahiwal coal-fired power plant has achieved a remarkable milestone by completing 3000 days of safe production, an accomplishment that highlights the plant's unwavering commitment to safety, operational excellence and employee welfare. The celebration of this milestone was not merely ceremonial. In recognition of the efforts and commitment demonstrated by its workforce, the management of the Sahiwal power plant organized a special event to honor the achievement. Employees across all departments were rewarded with performance bonuses, reflecting

management's appreciation for their role in maintaining a safe working environment. These rewards were more than financial incentives; they served as powerful symbols of acknowledgment, boosting morale and encouraging continued vigilance, said a press release on Monday. This significant achievement not only showcases the plant's dedication to maintaining the highest safety standards but also reinforces the importance of a safety-first culture in large-scale industrial operations. As one of Pakistan's most prominent power generation facilities, the Sahiwal power plant continues to play a crucial role in meeting the coun-

try's energy demands while ensuring the well-being of its workforce. Located in the Sahiwal district of Punjab, the power plant began operations with the goal of bolstering Pakistan's electricity supply through efficient and reliable coal-fired generation. Over the years, the plant has stood as a symbol of Pakistan's industrial progress and energy resilience. However, what truly sets the Sahiwal power plant apart is its relentless focus on maintaining a safe and secure working environment. Reaching 3000 days without a single lost-time incident (LTI) is a testament to the robust safety management systems, strict operational protocols.—APP

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Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, Muzaffargarh, Dera Ghazi Khan, Khanpur, Rajanpur, Liaquatpur, Zahir Pir, Sadiqabad, and Rahim Yar Khan. The NEOC has warned of urban flooding, overflowing streams, and landslides in hilly areas due to the intensity of the rainfall. In Sindh, southern districts are likely to experience heavy rainfall accompanied by strong winds, affecting Thatta, Badin, Tharparkar, Mithi, Umerkot, Mirpurkhas, Tando Muhammad Khan, Tando Adam, Hyderabad, Karachi, and surrounding areas. Light, intermittent showers are forecast for upper and central Sindh, including Sukkur, Larka-

na, Shaheed Benazirabad, Khairpur, Dadu, Jacobabad, Kashmore, Jamshoro, and nearby localities. In Balochistan, several districts are expected to receive intermittent showers with thunderstorms, particularly in Zhob, Loralai, Sibi, Dera Bugti, Sui, Khuzdar, Awaran, Barkhan, and Lasbela. The alert also notes the possibility of gusty winds and storms, which may lead to landslides, overflowing streams, and falling trees, potentially causing power outages. Authorities have advised the public, especially travelers, to remain cautious and stay updated on weather conditions.—APP

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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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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding the situation of floods and the progress of relief and rescue operations. DNA

## ICCI President vows to work with policymakers for eco growth

The ICCI President emphasized that genuine structural reforms, including tariff discipline, are crucial, otherwise the circular debt crisis is bound to resurface

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, has stressed the need for immediate and meaningful reforms to overcome deep-rooted economic challenges and unlock the true potential of Pakistan's economy. He said that infrastructural deficiencies,

regulatory hurdles, and high energy costs continue to limit the manufacturing sector's potential, thereby weakening Pakistan's competitiveness both regionally and globally. He pointed out that the export basket remains undiversified and dominated by low-value goods, which is hampering efforts to achieve higher export growth and attract much-needed foreign investment. The ICCI President emphasized that genuine structural reforms, including tariff disci-

pline, are crucial, otherwise the circular debt crisis is bound to resurface. He added that weak infrastructure remains one of the most significant obstacles to sustainable economic growth. Highlighting the importance of consensus-building, he said the most critical challenge is the lack of an inclusive political environment. He urged that all stakeholders, particularly the business community, must be on board in the reform process to ensure sustainability and long-term economic stability.

Nasir Qureshi reiterated that ICCI has always played its due role in promoting the country's economic development through its effective advocacy and by submitting genuine policy recommendations aimed at national economic well-being. He assured that ICCI will continue to work closely with policymakers to advocate for pro-business reforms, improve the investment climate, and enhance Pakistan's presence in international markets.

## Nation rejects politics of chaos: Abbasi

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi on Monday stated that the people of Pakistan have once again decisively rejected the protest call given by the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), signaling a clear shift away from divisive and confrontational politics. In a statement, Abbasi emphasized that the public's response reflects a growing endorsement of stability, unity, and progress, firmly rejecting the politics of chaos and disruption. He noted that the nation has sent an unmistakable message; there is no room for hatred and disorder in Pakistan's political landscape.

Highlighting the absence of youth participation, once considered a strong support base for PTI, Abbasi remarked that "even with a telescope, the 'youthiyas' were nowhere to be found," describing the protest call as a complete failure. The minister further stated that Pakistan is now recognized globally as a dignified and forward-moving nation, with a confident economic trajectory. He asserted that no one would dare challenge the country's sovereignty again. Concluding his remarks, Abbasi said the nation has permanently rejected the politics associated with the PTI founder, affirming that Pakistan's future lies in development, unity, and long-term stability.

## ISC launched with curtain-raiser

ISLAMABAD: The upcoming Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC), scheduled to be hosted by the Senate of Pakistan in November, was officially launched on Monday with a curtain-raiser ceremony attended by parliamentary leaders, diplomats, and senior officials. A total of 38 ambassadors, along with representatives from international organisations, participated in the event, underscoring broad diplomatic support and global interest in the initiative. In her welcoming remarks, Misbah Khar, advisor to the Chairman Senate and Ambassador ISC, underscored the significance of this initiative, noting that Pakistan's foreign policy objectives are closely aligned with its parliamentary outreach. She emphasised that the ISC offers a platform to resolve conflicts through dialogue

and promote global peace, especially at a time when humanity faces shared crises such as poverty and climate change. In his keynote address, Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, welcomed Deputy Prime Minister Senator Ishaq Dar, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Secretary General of Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference Ek Nath Dhakal, Heads of Parliamentary parties, Diplomats, and distinguished guests, terming their presence a reaffirmation of Pakistan's commitment to promoting peace, cooperation, and global solidarity. Highlighting the inspiration behind the ISC, the Chairman Senate reflected on his tenure as Prime Minister in 2008. He shared that during that time, he observed summits where world leaders set ambitious

agendas for peace, development, and cooperation. However, the very institutions entrusted with translating those ambitions into laws – parliaments, the true custodians of legislation and public ownership – were missing from the table. This realisation, he noted, became the driving force behind his vision to establish a dedicated platform for Speakers of Parliaments. Underscoring climate change as a defining challenge, the Chairman Senate shared his recent visit to flood-hit areas in Multan, noting that displaced families' stories of loss and resilience underscored the urgency of global solidarity. "Climate change respects no border. No single government can respond alone. Governments need parliaments, and parliaments need each other," he stated. – APP

## Meeting held on security, administrative affairs

ISLAMABAD: ICT Police held a high-level meeting under the chairmanship of DIG Headquarters Muhammad Haroon Joiya to review key administrative, security, and training matters. An official told APP on Monday that the meeting was attended by DIG Islamabad, DIG Law and Order & Training, SSP Security, Chief Traffic Officer, AIG Establishment, and Director Special Initiatives. – APP

## ISSI commemorates Defence Day

ISLAMABAD: The Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a ceremony to commemorate the Pakistan Defence Day 2025. The event's thematic focus was "Marka-a-Haq and the Future of Warfare in South Asia." Members of the ISSI Research Faculty, Interns, and students participated. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI, in his remarks on the occasion, paid rich tributes to the valiant Armed Forces and to the martyrs who made the ultimate sacrifice in the defence of Pakistan. He noted that since its inception, Pakistan had faced an existential threat from India, and the Indian involvement in the dismemberment of Pakistan in 1971 yet again proved her animus. After India's nuclear test of 1974, Pakistan was forced on the path of acquiring nuclear capabilities. Pakistan's nuclear tests of 1998 in response to Indian nuclear explosions removed the existential threat and made the country's defence impregnable. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood added that Pakistan was now seeking to disabuse India of its false notion that there was space for limited conventional war under the nuclear threshold. Pakistan had always supported constructive engagement and result-oriented dialogue. The Hindutva-inspired BJP regime in India, however, believed in confrontation and conflict rather than dialogue and diplomacy. – DNA

## Book on Pakistan-India relations released

Minister Ata Tarar commends the book to scholars, researchers, and observers of Pakistan-India relations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A new book titled 'Pakistan-India Relations – Fractured Past, Uncertain Future' was launched. Authored by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, this book deals with key aspects of the relationship between Pakistan and India, which has been defined more by mistrust than by meaningful engagement. The book launch event was organized jointly by Institute of Regional Studies Islamabad and Sanober Institute Islamabad. Introducing the book, Ambassador Chaudhry informed the audience that this book raises a fundamental question and then seeks to answer it: Is the failure to establish good neighbourliness because of the unresolved disputes or is there a larger dynamic in play? The book examines the reasons behind India's refusal to resolve the Kashmir dispute, its politicization of the issue of terrorism, and quest for regional assertiveness. It

also examines the missteps of the past and explores whether a different and more hopeful future might yet be possible for South Asia. The highlight of the launch event was an address by the chief guest, Information Minister, Mr. Ata Tarar, who regretted that despite Pakistan's best efforts for peace, the relationship has remained mired in deep-rooted mistrust mainly because of India's hegemonic designs in the region. He recalled how in May 2025, India's military aggression was countered by Pakistan effectively. His message was that peace in South Asia can only be obtained if all neighbours abide by the principle of mutual respect for each other's sovereignty. The Minister commended the author for writing this book at a time when it was important for the world to understand the dynamics underpinning tensions in South Asia and Pakistan's role for regional peace. Earlier, welcoming

the guests, Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President of Institute of Regional Studies, called upon the present Indian leadership to shift away from zero-sum thinking and move toward a framework based on mutual respect with opportunities for peaceful coexistence. Engineer Khurram Dastgir recalled how since its independence Pakistan has countenanced Indian hostility and bellicosity. He observed that under the leadership of the Modi-led BJP, India has pursued its Hindutva-based narratives much more intensely than in the past. Mr. Murtaza Solangi, Spokesman of the President of Pakistan, spoke about the recent military aggression by India that was effectively and robustly countered by Pakistan. Mr. Solangi referred to the chapter of the book on May 2025 confrontation that explains in detail how India's quest for dominance will remain a major source of regional instability.

آئل اینڈ گیس ریگولیٹری اتھارٹی ریگولیٹری اتھارٹی حکومت پاکستان



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 Natural Gas Supply Company (Pvt.) Limited, (NGSC) Islamabad (the applicant) applied under NGRA (Licensing) Rules, 2002 on 18-11-2024 for grant of license to undertake regulated activity for Sale of Natural Gas. The applicant submitted that they are natural gas entity in Pakistan, with a focus on safe, reliable and efficient sale of natural gas to wholesale and retail consumers. In their operations, the applicant will purchase natural gas from established gas fields and utilize the existing Sui Pipeline Distribution Network i.e SSGCL and SNGPL.

After submission of the requisite data / information by the applicant the Authority admitted the instant application for Public Comments / Hearing. 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 by the grant of this licence 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 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	:	19-09-2025 (Friday)
Time	:	10:30 a.m
Venue	:	OGRA Head Office, Islamabad

For any information required from the applicant please contact:

Syed Anwar Advisor Process, 20, Main Margalla Road, Sector F-8/3, Islamabad

Tel: 051-2287270-4

Fax: 051-2287154-5

Dr. Abdul Basit Qureshi Senior Registrar Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA)

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

Public Service Message:

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

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## European leaders in Washington to re-engage on Ukraine

THE high-stakes diplomatic ballet surrounding the war in Ukraine has once again brought European leaders to Washington, D.C., for crucial talks with U.S. President Donald Trump. Their visit on September 8 and 9 follows a period of intense, yet ultimately fruitless, mediation efforts, and comes as the conflict on the ground intensifies. The central goal of the European delegation is to reassert a unified front and find a path forward, a task made immensely difficult by the divergent agendas of Washington and Moscow. This is not the first time European leaders have made the pilgrimage to the White House to discuss the war. Just weeks prior, many of the same officials, along with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, were in Washington to meet with Trump. That meeting came in the wake of the much-hyped but unproductive Alaska summit between Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin. While the initial talks were described as “friendly” and yielded a vague U.S. commitment to support European-led security guarantees for Ukraine, they failed to produce any tangible breakthroughs. The core issue remained—Putin’s unyielding demand that any peace settlement must recognize Russia’s annexation of Ukrainian territory. The Alaska summit, far from bringing a resolution, seems to have only hardened Russia’s position. Putin has shown no willingness to compromise, instead using the diplomatic opening to project an image of global strength and defiance. His steadfastness is a source of visible frustration for Trump, who has invested considerable political capital in trying to broker a peace deal. The pursuit of a Nobel Peace Prize is widely seen as a motivating factor for Trump’s mediation efforts, but Putin’s intransigence is giving him a “tough time.” Trump’s past successes as a mediator in other conflicts—such as between India and Pakistan, and Azerbaijan and Armenia—have instilled in him a belief in his ability to “get it done” in Ukraine. However, the dynamics of this conflict are profoundly different. In Ukraine, he is not mediating between two regional powers, but is confronted with another superpower in Russia, spearheaded by the formidable figure of Vladimir Putin. Unlike previous disputes, the Ukraine conflict has become a test of wills and a direct challenge to the post-Cold War European security order. For the European leaders, the September talks represent a critical opportunity to get a firm read on the U.S. position and ensure continued support for Ukraine. They are particularly concerned by Trump’s recent statements that have appeared to distance the U.S. from a direct role in the fighting, and his seemingly wavering commitment to a ceasefire. While Trump has threatened “severe consequences” for Russia, Moscow’s recent escalations, including a major drone assault on Kyiv, suggest a lack of concern over these warnings. A lasting peace in Ukraine will depend on Russia’s mood. While diplomatic pressure from the United States and Europe is essential, Putin’s current stance suggests he is in no hurry to end the war on terms that would be acceptable to Ukraine and its allies. The road to a resolution remains fraught with challenges, and the outcome hangs precariously on the will of a single man in the Kremlin. The European leaders’ latest mission to Washington is a desperate attempt to move the needle, but history has shown that when it comes to Ukraine, the dial is firmly in Moscow’s control.

# IslamabadPOST

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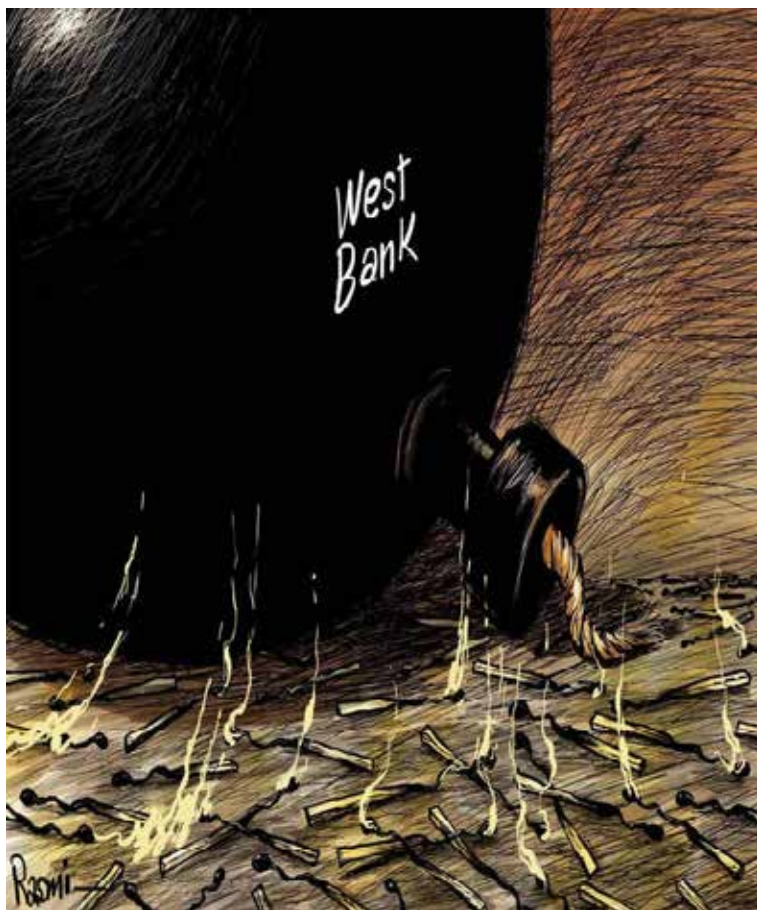
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Phone: 051-8488394 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



## Urgent Need to Boost Exports to Stabilize Rupee

Pakistan’s economic woes continue to deepen, with one of the most pressing challenges being the widening disparity between the US dollar and the Pakistani rupee. As of recent reports, the dollar is fast approaching an alarming rate of Rs. 350, threatening further economic instability and severely impacting sectors reliant on imported goods. This exchange rate crisis has not only hit the business community hard but has also fueled inflation, making life increasingly difficult for the common man. At the heart of this crisis lies Pakistan’s chronically low export base. Despite having a sizable population, abundant natural resources, and strategic geographic location, Pakistan’s export performance remains dismal. For a country of over 240 million people, a consistent annual export volume hovering around \$30 billion is far from adequate. This limited inflow of foreign exchange, combined with large import bills, continues to exert pressure on the rupee. The depreciation of the rupee has a cascading effect. Businesses that rely on imported raw materials are now being forced to increase prices or shut down operations altogether. Essential goods, including pharmaceuticals, machinery, and fuel, become costlier, thus feeding into the inflation cycle. The burden eventually falls on the end consumer, who is already grappling with high food prices, unemployment, and low purchasing power. Perhaps most concerning is the government’s seeming helplessness in managing the rupee’s slide. Despite the tall claims of economic revival, ground realities suggest otherwise. Structural issues remain unresolved: energy shortages, political instability, inconsistent policies, and bureaucratic hurdles continue to scare away investors and stifle industrial growth. A glaring contrast can be seen in the performance of the Afghan currency. Despite Afghanistan having virtually no formal export economy and being politically isolated, its currency has performed more steadily than Pakistan’s. This is largely due to strict currency controls and tight government regulation—something Pakistan has failed to enforce effectively. The comparison is a national embarrassment and should act as a wake-up call for policymakers. What Pakistan needs is an aggressive and coherent export policy. The government must move beyond short-term fixes and adopt structural reforms to boost export industries such as textiles, agriculture, IT, and pharmaceuticals. There must be focused incentives for exporters, reduced bureaucratic red tape, and guaranteed energy supply at competitive rates. Diversifying export markets and promoting value-added goods rather than raw materials is essential for long-term sustainability. Moreover, encouraging local manufacturing and import substitution can help reduce dependency on foreign goods. Effective monetary and fiscal policies, coupled with stability and investor confidence, are the only ways forward. The rupee-dollar disparity is more than just an economic figure—it is a symbol of national performance. If not addressed urgently, it threatens to unravel the economic fabric of the country. Pakistan must act now to break this cycle and chart a path toward financial sovereignty. The time to boost exports is not tomorrow—it is today.

# From rules to reform

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



The dedication of these two guardians of procedure was extraordinary. During House proceedings, their alertness in advising the Speaker and their unwavering reliance on the Constitution and Rules were both unmatched and inspirational. Their example taught a vital lesson; that in parliamentary life, knowledge of the guiding framework is not a luxury but an absolute necessity. Without it, one risks stumbling in the dark. This truth became all the more

In 2003, when I first assumed my responsibilities as a Research Officer in the National Assembly, I quickly realized that the foundation of my work rested upon the Constitution of Pakistan and the Rules of Procedure. Every assignment, every reference, and every note prepared for the proceedings of the House demanded a careful reading of these guiding documents. In that pursuit, one of my constant companions was the celebrated work Practice and Procedure of Parliament by M. N. Kaul, a book that served as both compass and lighthouse in the vast sea of parliamentary practices. Yet books alone could not always capture the subtle nuances of real-time parliamentary affairs. In such moments, I would seek guidance from the Worthy Secretary, Mr. Karamat Hussain Niazi, whose deep understanding and calm advice helped untangle complexities. Alongside him stood Mr. Muhammad Mushtaq, the living encyclopedia of Parliamentary Affairs, whose remarkable memory and clarity of thought turned even the most intricate legislative riddles into comprehensible solutions. My intellectual bond with him, forged in those early years, has endured till this day.

The dedication of these two guardians of procedure was extraordinary. During House proceedings, their alertness in advising the Speaker and their unwavering reliance on the Constitution and Rules were both unmatched and inspirational. Their example taught a vital lesson; that in parliamentary life, knowledge of the guiding framework is not a luxury but an absolute necessity. Without it, one risks stumbling in the dark. This truth became all the more apparent in the words of Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. He himself candidly admitted that when he first entered the Assembly as a Member in 2002, he was not very much familiar with the Constitution and Rules. Soon, however, he realized that he could never perform his duties effectively without understanding them. On his journeys from Lahore to Islamabad, he immersed himself in these texts, turning travel hours into sessions of serious study. His reflection was apt; to step into parliamentary life without knowing the Constitution

and Rules was like attempting to ride a horse without a bridle—directionless, vulnerable, and unsafe.

When fate entrusted Sardar Ayaz Sadiq with the Speakership in 2013, his reverence for constitutional knowledge translated into action. His tenure became notable for decisions that were bold, unusual, and forward-looking. One of his earliest reforms was to transfer the authority of recruitment in the National Assembly to the Federal Public Service Commission, a move that brought transparency and merit to the process. He also sought to address the Assembly’s energy needs through renewable means, successfully introducing solar energy to meet its requirements—a step far ahead of its time. Among his forward-looking contributions was also the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Secretariat in the National Assembly, a pioneering initiative that aligned Pakistan’s parliamentary work with the global development agenda. This was not only the first of its kind in the region but also a model later admired and replicated internationally, reflecting the foresight of a Speaker who understood that parliaments must lead in achieving inclusive growth, social justice, and environmental sustainability.

Yet perhaps his most lasting contribution was in the realm of education. In 2015, recognizing the profound necessity of nurturing a citizenry educated in parliamentary principles, he pioneered the inclusion of Parliamentary Studies as a subject in academic curricula. For this, he convened Vice Chancellors, teachers, and education experts from across the country, and together they laid the foundation of an initiative that aimed not merely at academic enrichment but at shaping the very character of future citizens.

The importance of this step cannot be overstated. A democracy thrives only when its citizens understand the framework within which it functions. The Constitution is not merely a legal document—it is the soul of the state, the collective will of the people, and the safeguard of their rights and liberties. Similarly, the Rules of Procedure are not just technicalities for parliamentari-

ans but guiding principles that ensure order, fairness, and respect within the legislative process. If citizens remain ignorant of these, they are left unaware of both their duties and entitlements. Such ignorance weakens the very foundations of democracy. On the other hand, when citizens are informed, they become guardians of their own rights, participants in governance, and partners in nation-building. An educated citizen who knows his Constitution is less likely to be misled, more likely to demand accountability, and better equipped to contribute to the creation of a civilized, just society.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq’s vision did not stop with the initial introduction of Parliamentary Studies. A decade later, he revived the project with renewed vigor, once again inviting Vice Chancellors, professors, and experts to evaluate its progress and extend its scope further. The consensus was resounding; parliamentary studies must not only continue but expand, so that each new generation of Pakistanis grows with a sense of civic duty, awareness of rights, and respect for democratic norms. From these seeds, it was hoped, would emerge members of society who were not only law-abiding citizens but also future parliamentarians of substance and integrity.

Thus, from the quiet study of books and rules in 2003, to the visionary reforms in 2013 and beyond, this journey reflects a larger truth: the health of a democracy depends not only upon its leaders but equally upon its citizens. Every man and woman of Pakistan has a duty to acquaint themselves with their Constitution and the parliamentary framework it upholds. For without knowledge, freedom is fragile, and without understanding, democracy is hollow. If Pakistan is to move forward as a strong, progressive nation, it must ensure that its people are not merely subjects of governance but enlightened participants in it. Through such awareness lies the promise of a stronger Assembly, a more responsible citizenry, and a nation that stands secure upon the twin pillars of rights and duties.

# In the path of water: how Pakistan is losing ground to climate change

Rehan Ali



Water is swallowing lives in Pakistan again. Villages vanish overnight, families carry their children through waist-deep floods, and crops lie buried under mud. Flash floods, cloudbursts, and glacial surges strike with growing intensity, exposing how vulnerable we have become in the face of climate change

Pakistan’s rivers are rising higher and faster than ever, turning monsoons into recurring disasters. As floods devastate Punjab and beyond, the country faces a hard truth: rescue alone is not enough, resilience must take center stage.

Water is swallowing lives in Pakistan again. Villages vanish overnight, families carry their children through waist-deep floods, and crops lie buried under mud. Flash floods, cloudbursts, and glacial surges strike with growing intensity, exposing how vulnerable we have become in the face of climate change. What was once an occasional disaster has become a yearly crisis, and the costs are staggering. Relentless monsoon rains this season, compounded by glacial floods, have devastated large parts of the country. Over 800 people have lost their lives. Tens of thousands more have been displaced as homes, roads, and bridges collapsed under the force of the water. Crops over vast swathes of Punjab have been submerged, while more than 6,000 livestock perished and nearly half a million had to be evacuated. Entire communities now face acute shortages of safe drinking water, food, shelter, and healthcare. Outbreaks of waterborne diseases are beginning to spread, adding another layer of hardship. Encroachments on riverbeds and construction along riverbanks have made the situation worse. The water that once had natural outlets is now blocked by unplanned development. What could have been manageable floods are becoming disasters. A World Bank report on South Asia’s water security published last year cautioned that Pakistan’s river systems are especially vulnerable because of poor land use and outdated infrastructure. The latest devastation is a stark confirmation of that warning. It is important to recognize what has worked.

Government agencies, humanitarian organizations, and community volunteers have saved countless lives. Flood alerts from the Pakistan Meteorological Department and rapid mobilization of boats and shelters by provincial authorities gave people precious time to evacuate. International and local NGOs have worked for years on disaster preparedness, training volunteers, installing early warning systems, and building resilience at the community level. These investments have reduced casualties compared to what they might have been without them. The work deserves genuine appreciation.

But the recent floods also show how much more needs to be done. The IPCC’s Sixth Assessment Report makes it clear that South Asia will see more frequent and intense floods as global warming accelerates. Pakistan cannot continue to rely mainly on rescue and relief. The scale of the crisis has outgrown our current capacity.

The way forward demands both short and long term strategies. In the short term, Pakistan needs practical measures that communities can adopt quickly. Strengthening the early warning system, improving evacuation routes, and building raised shelters in flood-prone districts can save lives. Local governments can also revive the traditional system of flood embankments and protective tree plantations along riverbanks, which in the past acted as natural buffers. These low-cost, locally driven solutions can reduce the immediate risks while bigger infrastructure reforms are planned.

In the long term Pakistan must rethink how it manages its rivers. The example of the Netherlands offers valuable lessons. Despite being a low lying country with constant flood risks, the Dutch transformed their

vulnerability into resilience by modernizing canals and barrages, creating controlled floodplains, and designing ways to live with water rather than trying only to block it. Pakistan shares a similar challenge with the Indus basin but has not kept pace with innovation. The debate over dams returns every time floods strike. It is true that if reservoirs had been built earlier, the damage might have been smaller. But dams alone are not the answer to climate change. Without modern canals, upgraded barrages, cleared riverbeds, and community based resilience programs, Pakistan will remain exposed. Dams may store water but they cannot on their own control the violence of shifting monsoons.

This crisis demands synergy. Isolated efforts by government, NGOs, or communities will never be enough. The need of the hour is coordination, shared resources, and joint planning. Humanitarian actors, civil society, and the state must work together, not in silos. Building cohesion is the only way to cope with the scale of what lies ahead.

Floods are no longer seasonal inconveniences. They are national emergencies that strike with growing force each year. The human cost is too high to ignore. Rescue and relief will always matter, but prevention and preparedness must be the national priority. If Pakistan fails to adapt, the rivers will keep rising and lives will continue to be washed away. If it succeeds in building collective resilience, the floods can be managed rather than feared. The choice is ours, but the window for action is closing.

—The writer is a communications and media professional based in Islamabad .  
Email: [rehanali.capital@gmail.com](mailto:rehanali.capital@gmail.com)



## Briefs

## 4 judges term SC full court meeting 'stamp of...'

FROM PAGE 01

Yahya Afridi, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com, was sent by senior puisne judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Ayesha Malik, and Justice Athar Minallah. They pointed out that "if the full court was not deemed necessary for the adoption of the rules themselves, how can it now be summoned to deliberate upon their amendment?" The judges said the working paper for the meeting's agenda stated that under Rule 1(4) of the Supreme Court Rules 2025, the CJP may "remove any difficulty in giving effect to the said rules" on the recommendations of a committee that was constituted by him and had already been formed. Moreover, "the chief justice, through a letter dated August 12, 2025, informed the judges that the rules had already been approved through circulation and duly notified in the Gazette on August 9, 2025," the judges highlighted. Yet, they further stated, the CJP had sought suggestions "for further amendments" to the rules. Calling into question the legality of the rules themselves, the judges noted that the "present Supreme Court rules were never placed before, nor approved by, the full court." Citing Article 191 of the Constitution, they said the SC had the "power to make rules regulating its practice and procedure, but this power is exercised collectively by the court as an institution". The judges concluded that any rules established "without deliberation and approval of the full court" lacked its approval and could not acquire "binding legal status".

## SC plans to use AI to categorise...

FROM PAGE 01

"It is only when you have them digitally scanned that you can utilise the tools of AI for categorisation. It will be easy to categorise cases and to fix before one bench one issue," he said. The chief justice emphasised, "Yes, technology is necessary. Yes, AI has to be utilised. But no, not now. We are not ready for it. We have to prepare ourselves for that." Justice Shah, Munib Akhtar, Aminuddin Khan, Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Ayesha A. Malik, Athar Minallah, Shahid Waheed, Musarrat Hilali, Naeem Akhtar Afghan, Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui and Malik Shahzad Ahmad were among the fellow SC judges seen attending the event. Judges of the high courts were also present. SC judges (from L to R) Ayesha A. Malik, Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Athar Minallah, Mansoor Ali Shah, Musarrat Hilali and Munib Akhtar attend an event at SC, on Sept 8, 2025. — Dawn-NewsTV 'No issue on judges' leaves during holidays'

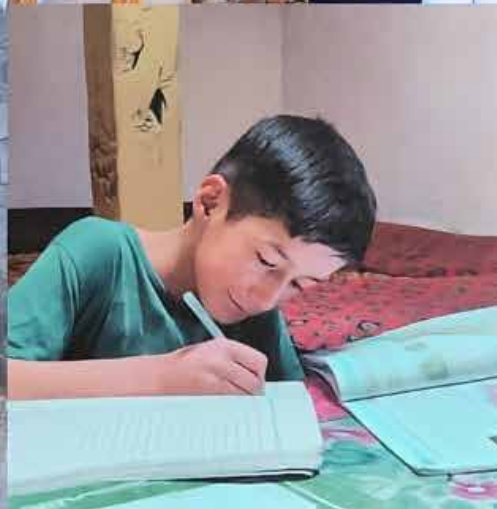
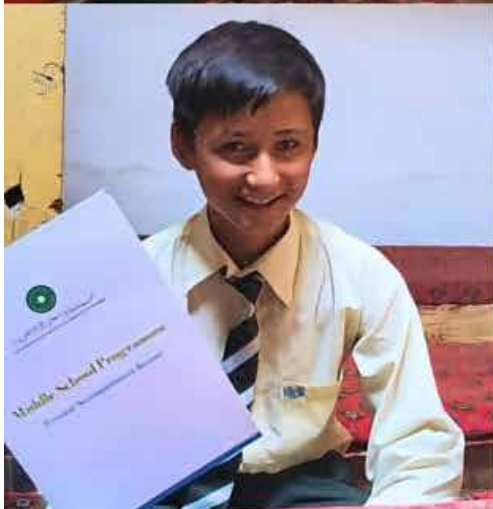
## Pakistan displayed exemplary...

FROM PAGE 01

Pakistan's case at the upcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly later this month. He emphasized that Jammu and Kashmir remains the biggest dispute between Pakistan and India. The Information Minister reiterated that while Pakistan continues to pursue the path of peace, it has made it clear that any attempt by the enemy to establish military dominance will end in failure, as the nation stands united in its defense. He said in the recent conflict, Pakistan not only established its military might with a befitting response but we also displayed an exemplary and superior diplomacy. Attaullah Tarar said Pakistan has never been the aggressor but always defended its frontiers. He said armed forces of Pakistan have always played a great role in defending the motherland. Attaullah Tarar also highlighted that the rise of the Hindutva ideology in India has made life increasingly difficult for minorities.

## Niaz Support to educate children of parents with disabilities

Together with Subah Sehar Foundation USA, Niaz Support expands its impact by ensuring that the children of PWDs - often overlooked - have the opportunity to pursue education and a brighter future



## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Building on the success of its groundbreaking customized wheelchair initiative, Niaz Support, in partnership with Subah Sehar Foundation USA, has become the first organization in the world dedicated exclusively to educating the non-disabled children of parents with disabilities (PWDs). For years, Niaz Support has been recognized for transforming mobility and dignity through customized wheelchairs. That initiative mobilised thousands of in-

dividuals across Pakistan. Today, together with Subah Sehar Foundation USA, Niaz Support expands its impact by ensuring that the children of PWDs - often overlooked - have the opportunity to pursue education and a brighter future. "Our customized wheelchair initiative gave parents dignity and independence. Now, through education, we are investing in the futures of their children," said Hussain Odhwani, Founder of Niaz Support. Niaz Support's new education initiative introduces scholarship gift cards, but unlike traditional vouchers, these are fully managed by Niaz Support. This

ensures transparency, accountability, and the assurance that funds are spent directly on children's educational needs. In addition to covering tuition, uniforms, books, and stationery, the initiative also provides dedicated mentors and guardians to guide children throughout their educational journey, comprehensive health insurance to safeguard their wellbeing, and occasional celebrations and community events to build confidence and belonging. "These children deserve not just financial aid but also encouragement, guidance, and care," said Fatima Mudassir, Director of External

Relations at Niaz Support. "Through managed scholarship gift cards, mentorship, and health support, we are giving them the tools to succeed and thrive in every aspect of life." Niaz Support's initiative is universal within Pakistan - dedicated solely to the children of parents with disabilities, regardless of region, religion, caste, or type of disability. With this initiative, Niaz Support - a leading disability-focused social enterprise - continues to pioneer solutions that break cycles of disadvantage. They believe that no child should be left behind simply because their parent lives with a disability.

## Racing betting tax hike will bring 'communities to their knees': Gosden

PARIS: British racing is holding a one-day strike next week for the first time in its history in a tax dispute with the government. All four race meetings on September 10 are cancelled in protest at the government's proposal to raise on-line racing betting tax from 15% to the same level as casino and gaming at 21%. The Labour government is desperately seeking to raise revenues to bolster Britain's parlous finances. The sport's governing body the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) claim "one single rate would have devastating consequences ...on an industry which is worth £4.1 billion (\$5.5 billion) to the UK economy". The BHA will learn how effective their lobbying has been when British Finance Minister Rachel Reeves announces her budget on November 26. The government's plan has angered all sectors of the racing industry and AFP Sports offers a sample of the bitterness felt: The British training great told AFP the measure would hit rural areas especially hard as there will be less demand at the sales and result in less horses being bred. The 74-year-old three-time Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winning handler explained: "The breeding industry is based in rural areas. "Having less horses causes unemployment (the BHA claim 2,800 jobs across the industry would be lost in the first year) and waste. A lot of communities will be brought to their knees." Gosden added: "If the tax goes up what will happen is it will encourage punters to bet where there is no protection whatsoever and is not regulated and the government get no tax returns. — Agencies

## UAE wins 18 medals in AJP Tour Asia

ABU DHABI: On the closing day of the 7th edition of the AJP Tour Asia Continental Jiu-Jitsu Championship, the UAE athletes from various clubs and academies shone, successfully climbing onto the podium, winning 18 medals including 6 gold, 7 silver and 5 bronze, an achievement that adds to the ongoing successes of Emirati jiu-jitsu at the regional and international levels. The Abu Dhabi Jiu Jitsu Pro (AJP) organised the championship from September 5 to 7 at Mubadala Arena - Abu Dhabi. The championship reaffirms its position as one of the most important continental tournaments on the global jiu-jitsu calendar. — DNA

## Controversy stalks sparkling sprint talent Richardson

PARIS: Sha'Carri Richardson's talent is not in doubt as her stunning 100 metres world title in 2023 proved, but the American star is also like a moth to a flame when it comes to controversy. The 25-year-old just cannot escape sparking headlines off the track. Richardson was controversially barred from the delayed Tokyo Olympics in 2021 after testing positive for marijuana following her victory at the US trials. She arrives in Tokyo for the defence of the world crown on the back of another headline-making incident. She spent a night in jail after being arrested for domestic violence when she had an altercation with her boyfriend, fellow sprinter Christian Coleman, at an airport before this year's US trials in August. She scratched from the 100m at the trials and failed to reach the final in the 200m, but her place in the team for Tokyo was assured as a defending champion, although her best 100m time this season of 11.05sec leaves her way outside the favourites. Coleman, who will be in Japan too as a member of the men's sprint relay team, refused to press charges and defended her. "She has things that she needs to work on for herself of course. So do I, so do you, so does everybody," he told AFP. Richardson later apologised to Coleman and admitted she was seeking help. "I'm taking this time to not only see myself

but get myself a certain level of help that overall is going to reflect who I truly am in my heart and my spirit," she said. Richardson could not cut a more contrasting figure to that of her compatriot, Olympic 200m champion Gabby Thomas, although both hail from disadvantaged backgrounds. The clean-cut Thomas is a Harvard graduate, brought up by a single mother, who was then a teacher and is now a professor. Richardson, who has cultivated a striking image with long multi-coloured nails and tattooed arms, was brought up by her grandmother Betty Harp and an aunt. "My family has kept me grounded," she has said. However, while Thomas - who will sit out these championships due to injury - had a loving mother, Richardson yearned for that maternal love. In her apology to Coleman she revealed "due to my past trauma and pain, I was blind and blocked off to not only receive it (unconditional love), but give it." In a video posting in 2023, she explained: "Not having that bond of my biological mother during the transition of me getting older... I think that's what really got me. "She was supposed to be my world and now that she wasn't there I usually asked myself 'Why I'm I here?' "It really took me to a very dark place. When I was a junior in high school, I tried to commit suicide." — Agencies

COLOGNE: A stunning free-kick from Florian Wirtz helped Germany overcome a sluggish performance to beat Northern Ireland 3-1 in World Cup qualifying in Cologne on Sunday. Germany came into the match under pressure after a shock 2-0 loss to Slovakia in their opening qualifier on Thursday, with coach Julian Nagelsmann making five changes to his starting XI. Serge Gnabry got the hosts off to a strong start seven minutes in, but the Germans were pegged back midway through the first half when Isaac Price hammered home from a corner. Germany lacked pace, fluidity and ideas in opening period, leaving the field at half-time to isolated boos and whistles. Nagelsmann was swiftly rewarded for bringing on the energetic Maximilian Beier and Nadiem Amiri early in second half. The duo combined for Germany's second, as Beier's run for a David Raum long ball confused Northern Irish goalkeeper Bailey Peacock-Parrell, allowing Amiri to score. Three minutes later, Wirtz stepped up to take a free-kick after Amiri was fouled and unleashed a perfect shot which sailed over the wall and in off the crossbar. "We knew it was a catastrophe last game and we wanted to do things better," Wirtz told Germany's RTL network. "It was a good performance we can definitely build on." Nagelsmann said he "understood" the

## Wirtz stunner helps Germany bounce back

reaction of the fans at half-time, saying: "They're expecting something better and a ticket isn't cheap." Flat nature of the victory is unlikely to quieten too many of Germany's detractors, particularly coming against a side fielding just four players from top-flight European clubs in their starting XI. Fresh off a first ever away loss in a World Cup qualifier, Nagelsmann called on his team to show emotion before Sunday's match, saying the four-time world champions were "miles away" from where they needed to be. Gnabry helped Germany briefly cut through the nervous energy when he gave them an early lead. Northern Ireland failed to deal with a long ball, which was intercepted by Nick Woltemade, who found Gnabry running through on goal. The Bayern Munich forward controlled the pass and chipped Peacock-Parrell. — Agencies

## Super Spain hit six as Germany get first win

Georgia and Turkey come next on three points each, with former beating Bulgaria 3-0 in Tbilisi thanks to goals by captain Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, Nika Gagnidze and Georges Mikautadze

PARIS: Mikel Merino scored a hat-trick as a majestic Spain thumped Turkey 6-0 away in World Cup qualifying on Sunday, while a brilliant Florian Wirtz free-kick helped Germany beat Northern Ireland 3-1 to get their bid up and running. European champions Spain were in unstoppable form in the central Turkish city of Konya, claiming their second biggest-ever away win in World Cup qualifying as Arsenal midfielder Merino scored his first professional hat-trick. Barcelona scorer Pedri Gonzalez opened the scoring inside six minutes and later completed the scoring, with Ferran Torres netting the visitors' other goal. The quality of Merino's strikes was remarkable, with his first coming at the end of a superb team move and his second a controlled finish from a Pedri assist. He completed his triple with a curling shot into the top corner. The one blemish on the night's work for Spain was the withdrawal of Nico Williams due to an apparent thigh injury, but Luis de la Fuente's team are already clear at the top of qualifying Group E with six points from two games.

"I'm very happy for winning, to pick up six points, for doing it in this way, and for scoring three goals, which is not normal - the first hat-trick of my career," said Merino. The group winners will qualify directly for the finals, with the runners-up progressing to a play-off phase. Georgia and Turkey come next on three points each, with the former beating Bulgaria 3-0 in Tbilisi thanks to goals by captain Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, Nika Gagnidze and Georges Mikautadze. Germany were under pressure after losing their opening qualifier 2-0 in Slovakia on Thursday, and it took them until the final quarter of their home meeting with Northern Ireland in Cologne before they could secure the victory. Serge Gnabry gave the hosts an early lead only for Isaac Price of West Bromwich Albion to equalise before half-time. The home fans were unhappy with Julian Nagelsmann's team, but they eventually retook the lead on 69 minutes when substitute Nadiem Amiri turned in David Raum's cross. Liverpool star Wirtz, playing in his home city, then took centre stage by converting a free-kick in style to seal Germa-

ny's first win in Group A. "We knew it was a catastrophe (in the) last game and we wanted to do things better," Wirtz told Germany's RTL network. "It was a good performance (which) we can definitely build on." They and Northern Ireland both have three points, while Slovakia lead the way on six points after Tomas Rigo's late goal clinched a 1-0 victory in Luxembourg. Memphis Depay became the Netherlands' all-time top goalscorer with a brace in their 3-2 win in Lithuania in Group G. Depay, who now plays in Brazil for Corinthians, scored his 51st and 52nd international goals to move clear of Robin van Persie, with whom he had been tied in first place on half a century of strikes for the Oranje. The 31-year-old turned in Cody Gakpo's cutback for the opener before Quinten Timber netted the second goal for the Netherlands in Kaunas. They appeared to be on easy street, but Torino midfielder Gvidas Gineitis headed one back and Edvinas Girdvainis pulled in the equaliser before the break for the team ranked 143rd in the world.

Depay, though, rescued the Netherlands by heading in a Denzel Dumfries cross just after the hour mark. Ronald Koeman's side have 10 points after four matches and are ahead of Poland on goal difference with a game in hand. Poland won 3-1 at home to Finland in Chorzow with Matty Cash, captain Robert Lewandowski and Jakub Kaminski netting before Benjamin Kaellman pulled one back for Finland, who are three points behind the leading duo in third. Belgium recorded a second 6-0 win in as many matches in Group J as they swept aside Kazakhstan at Anderlecht's stadium in Brussels. Kevin De Bruyne scored twice and is now his country's second-top goal-scorer of all time behind Romelu Lukaku. Jeremy Doku of Manchester City also bagged a brace, with Nicolas Raskin and Thomas Meunier netting the other goals. North Macedonia beat Liechtenstein 5-0 in the same group, and they are top with 11 points from five matches, one ahead of Belgium - who have a game in hand - and Wales. — Agencies

## PM Shehbaz orders NDMA to...

FROM PAGE 01

disaster management authorities to ensure a unified response, and also to intensify the search for missing persons in flood-affected regions. NDMA chairman, Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik, briefed the prime minister on the current status of river flooding and flood streams across the country. The PM was also briefed on the severe flood conditions at Trimmu Barrage, Panjnad Barrage, Head Balloki, Head Sidhnai, Ganda Singh Wala, Head Sulaimanki, and Head Islam on the Chenab, Ravi, and Sutlej rivers. He was also informed that relief convoys carrying essential aid supplies are being dispatched continuously to the flood-affected areas.

## Over 2,000 safely evacuated...

FROM PAGE 01

Deputy Commissioner Waaseem Hamid Jindhu personally led the Jalalpur Peerwala rescue operation," the statement read. "DC Sindhu was quoted as saying that dry rations are being provided to people on higher ground through helicopters and that Pakistan Army Aviation and Air Force helicopters are being used to carry out relief missions. "Thermal drone technology is being used to reach the flood victims," the DC was quoted as saying. "On the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, 1,000 more life jackets and life rings have been delivered to Jalalpur Pirwala."

## UAE forces commander..

FROM PAGE 01

reviewing the evolving global and regional geo-strategic environment. Both sides emphasized the vital role of bilateral defence and security cooperation, including in the maritime domain for regional peace and stability. The visiting dignitary remained appreciative of professional standards of Pakistan Armed Forces, their achievements and sacrifices in fight against terrorism and continued efforts towards regional peace and stability. Earlier, upon arrival at Joint Staff Headquarters, a smartly turned-out tri-services contingent presented Guard of Honour to the visiting dignitary.



## Briefs

## Rupee gains 03 paise against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Monday appreciated by 03 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 281.62 against the previous day's closing Rs 281.6. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 282.2 and Rs 283, respectively. The price of the Euro increased by Rs 1.78 to close at Rs 330.65 against the last day's closing of Rs 328.87, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen remained unchanged to close at Rs 1.90, whereas an increase of Rs 1.54 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 380.78 compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 379.24. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal came down by 01 paise each and closed at Rs76.67 and Rs75.05, respectively.—APP

## Gold price up by Rs 6,100 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The per tola price of 24-karat gold surged by Rs. 6,100 on Monday and was traded at Rs.384,000 against its sale at Rs. 377,900 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.5,230 to settle at Rs. 329,219 up from Rs. 323,988 whereas that of 22-karat gold also witnessed an increase of Rs4,795 to Rs.301,794 from Rs.296,999. The price of 24-karat silver per tola increased by Rs.23 to Rs.4,338 whereas that of ten gram silver went up by Rs.20 to Rs.3,719. The international silver rate also went up by \$0.23 to \$41.05 from US\$40.82 per ounce. In the international market, gold prices rose \$61 to reach \$3,613 per ounce, compared to \$3,552 in the previous session.—APP

## Total lunar eclipse observed across Japan

TOKYO: A total lunar eclipse was observed across Japan early Monday for the first time in about three years, delighting people with a rare celestial show. A partial eclipse began around 1:30 a.m., followed by a total eclipse showing a dark red full moon that was visible from about 2:30 a.m. to 4:00 a.m. It was seen higher up in the sky in western Japan. In front of Hiroshima's Atomic Bomb Dome, people recorded the spectacle with cameras and smartphones. Cheers broke out and camera shutters clicked when the blood moon, known for its deep red hue, appeared through a break in the clouds. "It was cloudy but I was able to capture some nice photos so it was all worth it," said a man from nearby Higashihiroshima, though he had to go to work later in the morning. A total lunar eclipse occurs when the Earth comes between the Sun and the Moon, blocking the Sun's rays from directly reaching the natural satellite. The next such event visible in Japan will be on March 3, 2026, according to the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan.

## Spain PM unveils nine measures for stopping 'Gaza genocide'

MADRID: Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Monday announced nine measures aimed at stopping "the genocide in Gaza," including an arms embargo on Israel and a ban on vessels carrying fuel for the Israeli army from using Spanish ports. The measures aim to "stop the genocide in Gaza, pursue its perpetrators and support the Palestinian population," Sanchez said in a televised address.—APP

## Shahid Afridi and FPCCI join forces for flood relief

Afridi concluded by outlining the joint initiative with FPCCI. "We have come forward to serve these flood victims. We will work with the Chamber to build new villages for the people," he announced, signaling a long-term commitment to rebuilding the lives of those affected by the floods

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Renowned cricketer Shahid Afridi, known for his on-field heroics, is now leading a charge for humanitarian aid. He recently visited the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) to announce a new fundraising campaign for flood victims. Alongside FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh, Afridi addressed a press conference, highlighting the urgent need for action. FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh praised Afridi's philanthropic efforts, stating, "Shahid Afridi continues to play a remarkable role in welfare work after his cricket career." Sheikh underscored the devastation caused by floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and other parts of the country, expressing solidarity with the affected population. "In this difficult time, we stand with our people. All our help and energies are dedicated to assisting the flood victims," he affirmed.

Taking the podium, Shahid Afridi emphasized his belief in action over words. "I talk less and prove more with my actions," he said. He added that those who are committed to a cause don't make excuses;



they get the job done. Afridi also shared his observations on the country's governance, noting, "I have not seen anywhere in the world where the government is doing business." Afridi's passion for serving his country was evident as he spoke. "I belong to this soil, and I have to serve it. This entire Pakistan

is mine," he said. He lamented the lack of basic facilities for the public, stating, "The facilities that the public should get in Pakistan are not available." He recounted a deeply moving experience, saying, "I have seen mothers giving birth to babies on the streets, which is very painful." He also highlighted the critical issue of

clean water scarcity. "Clean water is not available to the citizens. In some areas, animals and humans drink water from the same place," he revealed. He stressed that the flood victims are their own people, their own brothers and sisters. "We here don't value water, but there, people are walking 10 kilometers for a single pot of

water," he said, drawing a stark contrast. Afridi concluded by outlining the joint initiative with FPCCI. "We have come forward to serve these flood victims. We will work with the Chamber to build new villages for the people," he announced, signaling a long-term commitment to rebuilding the lives of those affected by the floods.

## Teen held after 2 police shot dead near Turkey's Izmir

ISTANBUL: Two policemen were killed and two others wounded in a shooting attack on a police station near the Turkish city of Izmir on Monday and a 16-year-old suspect was arrested, a minister said. Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said the "heinous" attack on the police station in Balçova, a district just west of the resort city, left two officers dead and a third "seriously injured". "The suspect in the incident, 16-year-old E.B., has been arrested and an investigation has been opened," he wrote on X. Speaking to Turkish media at the scene, Izmir governor Suleyman Elban said the suspect lived on the same road as the police station and was injured during his arrest. "The murder suspect is a 16-year-old who lives on this street. He has no criminal record or previous arrests for any crime," he told the private NTV television, saying the teenager was "apprehended with injuries". It was not immediately clear why the station was attacked but footage posted by the Gercek Gundem news website showed mobile phone footage of a person in a balaclava, a black top and pale trousers jogging along the pavement carrying a rifle and then entering a building. Another clip widely published showed the alleged attacker lying on the pavement being attended by paramedics. He appeared to be conscious but the back of his trousers were covered with blood and multiple bullet cases were lying the ground. A third clip showed a group of civilians helping to manhandle the suspect into a police van. The DHA news agency said the assailant had used "a long-barrelled gun", while NTV described the weapon as a "pump-action shotgun". Police immediately fanned out across the area, imposing tight security measures, media reports said. Izmir Mayor Cemil Tugay denounced a "treacherous" attack and sent his condolences to the families of the dead in a post on X.—DNA

## U.S. strategic metals signs MoU on critical minerals in Pak

ISLAMABAD: Embassy Islamabad Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Zach Harkenrider accompanied a delegation led by U.S. Strategic Metals (USSM) to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Pakistan's Frontier Works Organization (FWO) at Prime Minister House today. Speaking about the MOU signing, Chargé d'Affaires (CDA) Natalie Baker said, "This signing is yet another example of the strength of the U.S.-Pakistan bilateral relationship that will benefit both countries." USSM, based in the U.S. state of Missouri, is focused on producing and recycling critical minerals, which the U.S. Department of Energy has defined as essential in a variety of technologies.—APP

## Spectrum advisory committee meets key stakeholders

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Spectrum Advisory Committee was held at the Finance Division under the chairmanship of the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb. The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Information Technology & Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, Mr. Julian Gorman, Head of Asia Pacific, GSMA, senior officials from relevant ministries and regulators, and representatives of leading mobile operators. Participants from the telecom industry and GSMA shared perspectives on advancing Pakistan's digital transformation through an effective spectrum policy. Discussions underscored the importance of spectrum in enabling growth of IT and telecom services, supporting exports, jobs, and wider digital adoption. Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb welcomed the insights of the industry and GSMA, appreciating the value of global best practices for Pakistan's spectrum roadmap. The Minister also emphasized timely progress on the spectrum process to capture emerging opportunities for Pakistan's economy and society. Federal Ministers Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja and Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar reaffirmed the government's focus on enabling a digitally connected Pakistan with inclusive, affordable, and high-quality connectivity.—APP

## Qatar PM reaffirms support for Palestinian statehood

LONDON: Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman AlThani met with Palestine's Vice President Hussein Al-Sheikh in Doha on Sunday to discuss developments in the Occupied Territories. "The meeting discussed the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including the escalation of aggression, forced displacement, and (Israeli) colonial expansion plans," according to the Wafa news agency. Sheikh Mohammed also said that Tel Aviv must allow aid to flow unhindered into the Gaza Strip. He reiterated Qatar's support for the two-state solution and the establishment of an independent Palestinian nation with East Jerusalem as its capital. Meanwhile, Sidra Medicine and other Qatari organizations delivered the aid shipment as part of Doha's Syria Abshiri humanitarian initiative, which aims to enhance the capacity of Syrian hospitals. The shipment included ventilators, portable incubators for newborns, dialysis machines, anesthesia and imaging equipment, cardiac and oxygen monitoring systems, as well as advanced radiology and laboratory analysis devices.—APP

## Tears and pain' after deadly Sudan landslide

CAIRO: In the remote mountain village of Tarasin in Sudan's western Darfur, three successive landslides struck without warning last week. "The people lost everything," Francesco Lanino, operations director at Save the Children, said after a team from the charity arrived in the devastated village in Sudan's Jebel Marra region. Torrential rains had saturated the mountains above and when the hillside finally gave way, it collapsed in seconds — burying homes, livestock and entire families under a tide of mud. "When our team arrived in the village, of course it was hard for them to imagine that under the mud there was an entire village and there were hundreds of bodies," said Lanino. The latest figures from local authorities and Save the Children put the death toll at 373 confirmed bodies recovered, many of them children. But the true figure is believed to be far higher, with more than 1,000 people feared dead. Only 150 survivors, including 40 children, have been found from Tarasin and surrounding villages so far, according to Save the Children. "There's a lot of pain and tears," said Lanino. "They've lost many of their relatives, many children. And of course they don't know ... how to rescue them or try to recover the bodies." With no tools or machinery available, survivors were forced to dig through the mud with their bare hands, desperately searching for lost loved ones, Lanino said. "The survivors were left with no home, no food, no livestock, nothing," he said. "They don't know where to go because all the areas are somehow impacted by the heavy rains. They don't really know which is a safe place to go." Over the course of three days, Tarasin and neighboring communities were struck by three separate landslides. The first, on Sunday, swept through Tarasin in seconds, engulfing the entire village at the base of the mountain. Two more followed on Monday and Tuesday, with one hitting a nearby valley and the other crashing down on residents who were trying to recover bodies from the initial disaster. "There are a lot of people that are still scared that a new landslide might come ... They heard some cracks coming from the mountains." As well as experiencing heavy rain, Jebel Marra is one of Sudan's most geologically active regions, sitting atop a major tectonic fault line. The General Authority for Geological Research has warned that continued landslides could lead to "catastrophic" humanitarian and environmental consequences.—APP

## Baku Hovsan Sea Port Management, APJCCI sign MoU

DNA

BAKU: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Baku Hovsan Sea Port Management and the Azerbaijan Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (APJCCI) to promote mutual cooperation. Under this agreement, both sides agreed to explore new opportunities in trade, investment, and industrial collaboration. On the occasion, the port administration also offered warehouse space for Pakistani products and the establishment of a permanent display center. On the proposal of APJCCI Patron-in-Chief Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, both parties also agreed to jointly explore the possibility of setting up a small industrial zone near the port to facilitate Pakistani industries. Addressing the ceremony, Bakhtawari said that the modern infrastructure and facilities of Baku Hovsan Sea Port provide excellent opportunities for warehousing Pakistani products and their re-export to other markets through Azerbaijan. He termed the port "an excellent facility" that would help the Pakistani business community gain access to new markets. On behalf of the port, Director General Irshad Dashdamirov warmly welcomed the delegation and informed them that the port operates 24 hours a day and is currently handling nearly 500 containers per month. He further said that the port is connected to the railway network, with four railway lines in operation, while further expansion projects are also underway. Naima Ansari, Senior Vice President of APJCCI, in her remarks, emphasized the need for digitalization of port operations

for real-time shipment tracking, adding that this step would serve as a gateway for Pakistani businesses. Rizwana Asif, former President of the Islamabad Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that Pakistani businesswomen are keenly interested in collaborating with Azerbaijani companies and that vast opportunities

exist for cooperation between women entrepreneurs of both countries. Similarly, Nadeem Akhtar, former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Industry, said that efforts would be made to widely introduce and promote the facilities of Baku Hovsan Port among Pakistani traders so that maximum business representatives could benefit.



## Shooting attack at Jerusalem bus stop kills 5

JERUSALEM: Paramedics said at least five people were killed in a shooting attack in Jerusalem after two attackers opened fire at a bus stop at a busy intersection in north Jerusalem. Paramedics said an additional 15 people were injured, including six in serious condition. Police said the attackers shot people waiting at a bus stop, while Israeli media reported the attackers also boarded a bus and opened fire inside. Police a security officer and a civilian shot the attackers soon after the incident began halted the attack. Police did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the status of the attackers or their identity. The shooting took place at a major intersection at the northern entrance to Jerusalem, on a road that leads to Jewish settlements located in east Jerusalem. Footage of the attack showed dozens of people fleeing from a bus stop at the busy intersection during the morning rush hour. Paramedics who responded to the scene said the area was chaotic and covered in broken glass, with people wounded and lying unconscious on the road and a sidewalk near the bus stop. There was no immediate comment on the attack from Palestinian militant groups. The war in Gaza has sparked a surge of violence in both the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Israel. Palestinian militants have attacked and killed Israelis in Israel and the West Bank, while there has also been a rise in settler violence against Palestinians. While there have been scattered attacks over the past months in Israel, the last deadly mass shooting attack was in October 2024, when two Palestinians from the West Bank opened fire on a major boulevard and light rail station in the Tel Aviv area, killing seven people and leaving many others wounded. Hamas' military wing claimed responsibility for the attack. According to police, the two men opened fire in the Jaffa neighborhood of Tel Aviv, including shooting directly into a light rail carriage crowded with passengers that was stopped at a station. Data from the UN's humanitarian office says at least 49 Israelis were killed by Palestinians in Israel or the West Bank between the start of the war and July 2025. In that time, Israeli forces and civilians killed at least 968 Palestinians in Israel and the West Bank.—APP

## Turkiye's main opposition calls for rallies

ISTANBUL: Türkiye's main opposition CHP called on citizens and residents of Istanbul to gather on Sunday, after police set up barricades in areas around its Istanbul headquarters in what the party leader called a "siege." The Republican People's Party (CHP) has been the target of a months-long legal crackdown, which has swept up hundreds of its members — including Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, President Tayyip Erdogan's main political rival — whose March arrest set off Türkiye's largest street protests in a decade. The CHP has denied all accusations against it and said the legal measures are politicized attempts at eliminating electoral threats against Erdogan and weakening the opposition. The latest moves against the CHP began on Tuesday when a court ordered the removal of the party's Istanbul provincial head over alleged irregularities in a 2023 congress. Speaking at a CHP event in Istanbul, party chairman Ozgur Ozel called on Turks to gather and demonstrate against the court decision and the crackdown against his party, as well as the police measures to set up barricades around the headquarters and restrict public access to it. "From here, I invite all democrats and CHP members whom my words and voice reach to, to protect the home of Ataturk in Istanbul," he said, referring to Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, modern Türkiye's founder.—APP



## Briefs

Pakistan  
HC-designate  
to Australia  
calls on the  
President

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Irfan Shaukat, Pakistan's High Commissioner-designate to Australia, called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr today. The President felicitated him on his new assignment and asked him to prioritise expanding trade, investment and economic cooperation with Australia, including by fostering business-to-business linkages and promoting Pakistani exports. He emphasised highlighting Pakistan's investment potential and exploring partnerships in information technology, agriculture, minerals and energy. The President underscored the importance of facilitating the Pakistani community and students in Australia through efficient consular services and outreach, as well as strengthening people-to-people and educational linkages. The President wished Mr. Shaukat success in his duties.

Survivors tell  
of terrifying  
escape from  
Sudan's  
besieged  
El-Fasher

TAWILA: Nazer Muhana Ali drank rainwater to stay alive. For four days, the 20-year-old trudged through the scrubland west of Sudan's El-Fasher, his family at his side, beaten and robbed along the way. "It was extremely tough because of hunger and thirst," he said. "We had nothing but ombaz to eat." Ombaz, a bitter peanut husk meant for animals, was all that kept them going as they fled Sudan's last army-held city in Darfur. El-Fasher has been under siege since May 2024, encircled by paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). Now, the fighters have launched their deadliest assault yet, trapping 260,000 people inside. The only escape is a 70-kilometre (43-mile) trail west to Tawila, a path littered with the bodies of those who didn't make it. AFP spoke to three survivors - Ali, Ahmed and Siddig - who made it out alive. Originally from Al-Salam neighbourhood, Ali and his family had been displaced within the city and were sheltering at a school a few kilometres west in Awlad al-Reef district. Besides hunger, Ali said, "the bombing was so intense". "One day, my father and brother went out for work. On their way, they were hit by an RSF drone strike. - Agencies

US firms to invest \$500mn  
in Pakistan's minerals: PM

This collaboration further strengthens the enduring bilateral relationship between Pakistan and the US, while unlocking new opportunities for sustainable growth, technology transfer, and job creation



SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: A high-level US delegation including USSM (United States Strategic Metals) and Mota-Engil, renowned global companies in the mining and infrastructure sector met with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister's House today. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and Federal Ministers were also present in the meeting. The delegation is visiting Pakistan to explore opportunities

for expansion of mining operations in Pakistan and assess potential for value addition in mineral resources and development of supporting infrastructure. Delegation held high-level meetings with Prime Minister of Pakistan, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Minister of Petroleum and Minister of Commerce and were briefed on Pakistan's vast mineral reserves, including copper, gold, and rare earth elements. The visiting companies expressed readiness to invest in establishing value-addition facilities within the country, enhancing mineral processing capacity, and developing large-scale infrastructure projects

linked to the mining sector. In this context, two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) focusing in development and processing of critical minerals, including rare earth elements (REEs), and logistics services were signed between the two governments. The Frontier Works Organization (FWO) - Pakistan's largest miner of critical minerals - signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with United States Strategic Metals (USSM), a leading processor, recycler, and miner based in St. Louis, Missouri. The agreement establishes a framework for collaboration across a range of critical minerals essential for the defense,

aerospace, and technology industries. The partnership will begin immediately with the export of readily available minerals from Pakistan, including antimony, copper, gold, tungsten, and rare earth elements. This cooperation lays the foundation for scaling up towards the establishment of a USSM proprietary, highly flexible poly-metallic refinery in Pakistan. The refinery will produce intermediate and finished products dedicated to meeting the rapidly growing demand of the U.S. market. The first phase of this deal is envisaged at approximately \$500 million of investments into Pakistan's critical minerals sector. This collaboration further strengthens the enduring bilateral relationship between Pakistan and the United States, while unlocking new opportunities for sustainable growth, technology transfer, and job creation. The next steps for the MoU include forming dedicated teams to explore the full potential of Pakistan's vast resource base, identifying critical minerals for immediate export, and building an anchor position for a long-term partnership in exploration, extraction, and processing. Importantly, the cooperation will prioritize sustainability, profitability, and environmental responsibility to ensure benefits for the people of both nations. In addition, both parties will also explore innovative financing and digital solutions such as tokenisation of critical minerals, enabling global investors to participate in Pakistan's mineral wealth and further accelerating transparency, liquidity, and value creation across the sector.

President,  
PM praise  
Pakistan  
Navy's  
bravery

Leaders recall historic feats and unwavering naval resolve as nation marks Navy Day

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday paid rich tributes to the Pakistan Navy, lauding its courage, professionalism and historic feats from Operation Somnath in 1965 to its modern multi-dimensional role in safeguarding maritime borders, promoting regional peace and strengthening the country's maritime sector.

In his message on the occasion of Navy Day, being observed on September 8 (today), the president said that the Pakistan Navy would continue to guard the country's maritime frontiers and contribute to regional peace and stability with the same spirit of service, courage and excellence that had always defined it.

He conveyed his profound gratitude and admiration to the men and women of the Pakistan Navy who, he said, stood as the nation's first line of defence at sea. "This day is an opportunity to recall with pride the daring feats of our naval warriors and to recognise the vital role the Navy continues to play in safeguarding Pakistan's maritime frontiers," the President Secretariat Press Wing quoted him as saying.

SIM data  
leak: Naqvi  
forms body

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has taken immediate notice of the news regarding leakage of mobile phone SIMs data and formed a special team to investigate the matter within two weeks. "Following the interior minister's directives, the National Cyber Crimes Investigation Agency has constituted a special investigation team to probe into the matter and submit its report within 14 days," says an official press release issued by the Interior Ministry here on Sunday. It said the team will thoroughly examine the circumstances and those involved in the data leakage will be identified and brought to justice through legal action. Media reports say that data of all SIM holders, including Interior Minister Naqvi, was sold at Google.

They further said that information regarding mobile location was being sold for Rs500, mobile data record for Rs2,000 and details of foreign trips for Rs5,000. A couple of months ago, the National Cyber Emergency Response Team of Pakistan (PKCERT) issued an advisory warning that the login credentials and passwords of more than 180 million internet users in Pakistan have been stolen in a global data breach, urging people to take immediate protective measures. Media reports said PKCERT had identified the global breach involving a publicly accessible, unencrypted file containing more than 184 million unique account credentials.

IT minister confirms  
submarine cable damage

Shaza Fatima admits slow internet is affecting businesses; says she is in contact with PTCL officials

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja has confirmed that internet disruptions across Pakistan are caused by a submarine cable cut near Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. In a statement on Monday, the minister said that she was in contact with officials of the Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) over the situation. "It is correct that slow internet is affecting businesses," the minister acknowledged, adding that assessments were underway to determine the extent of damage. Her statement comes days after PTCL had said the cuts to submarine internet cables in Saudi waters may impact internet services in the country during peak hours. The company said that disruption affected partial bandwidth capacity on two major un-

dersea cable systems, SMW4 and IMEWE that connect Pakistan to global networks. It further added that international partners were working on a priority to restore the damaged links, while local teams had arranged alternative bandwidth to mitigate the impact. However, the IT minister said that international repair agencies had not yet given a time frame for the restoration of services. "The nature of the cable damage is being reviewed," she added. It must be noted here that the outage was also felt across the Middle East, with users in the UAE and Gulf countries reporting slow connections following a cut in the Red Sea. Experts say that ship anchors are responsible for almost 70% of such incidents. The Red Sea is considered a critical global telecommunications corridor where repairs are technically complex and often prolonged. In March 2024, three cables were damaged in the same region, causing widespread disruption to internet and cloud services.

WHO ask Taliban to lift  
curbs on female aid workers

FOREIGN DESK

NEW YORK: The World Health Organisation (WHO) has asked Taliban authorities to lift restrictions on Afghan female aid workers, allowing them to travel without male guardians and help women struggling to access care after a powerful earthquake killed 2,200 people in eastern Afghanistan. "A very big issue now is the increasing paucity of female staff in these places," Dr Mukta Sharma, the deputy representative of WHO's Afghanistan office, told Reuters. She estimated around 90 per cent of medical staff in the area were male, and the remaining 10pc were often midwives and nurses, rather than doctors, who could treat severe wounds. This was hampering care as women were uncomfortable or afraid to interact with male staff and travel alone to receive care. The September 1 magnitude-6 quake and its aftershocks injured more than 3,600 people and left thousands homeless in a country already dealing with severe aid cuts and a slew

of humanitarian crises since the Taliban took over in 2021 as foreign forces left. The Afghan health ministry and a spokesperson for the Taliban administration did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Taliban say they respect women's rights in line with their interpretation of Islamic law and have previously said they would ensure women could receive aid. Its administration in 2022 ordered Afghan female NGO staff to stop working outside the home. Humanitarian officials say there have been exemptions, particularly in the health and education sectors, but many said these were patchwork and not sufficient to allow a surge of female staff, particularly in an emergency situation that required travel. That meant aid organisations and female staff faced uncertainty, Sharma said, and in some cases were not able to take the risk. "The restrictions are huge, the mahram (male guardian requirements) issue continues and no formal exemption has been provided by the de facto authorities," she said, adding her team had raised the issue with authorities last week.

UAE Naval Forces commander  
meets PAF, Naval chiefs

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Major General Humaid Mohammed Abdullah Alremeithi, Commander of the UAE Naval Forces, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer

Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force at Air Headquarters, Islamabad. The meeting focused on evolving regional security dynamics, with both sides exploring fresh avenues of engagement through joint training initiatives and deeper

military-to-military cooperation. During the meeting, Chief of the Air Staff expounded his vision to transform PAF into a modern, agile and technology-driven Air Force through state-of-the-art upgradation programmes in cyber, space, Artificial Intelligence, electronic warfare and aerospace domains. He highlighted the deep-rooted religious and historical ties between the two nations emphasizing Pakistan's unwavering commitment to expanding military-to-military cooperation with the UAE, particularly in the areas of training and joint operational exercises. Commander of the UAE Naval Forces expressed sincere gratitude to the Air Chief for the warm reception and gracious hospitality extended by Pakistan Air Force. He lauded PAF's indigenization drive, appreciating its robust framework, homegrown capabilities and focus on technological advancement making it an operationally prepared and technologically advanced Air Force of the region. Meanwhile, Commander UAE Naval Forces, Major General Staff Humaid Mohammed Abdullah Alremeithi visited Naval Headquarters, Islamabad and called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf. Upon arrival at the Naval Headquarters, Commander UAE Naval Forces was received by Chief of the Naval Staff. A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Navy presented him Guard of Honour. The visiting dignitary was then introduced to the Principal Staff Officers at NHQ.



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11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,  
G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan  
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-8488394

