



Islamabad POST

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Pakistan greatly values relations with Ethiopia, says Chairman Senate

Detailed News On Page-08

Pak, Kazkh relations excellent: Dar

Detailed News On Page-07



Sinner plans changes after US Open

Detailed News On Page-06



Ban on social media; corruption

Nepali PM resigns; house set on fire

Key ministers also step down; the resignations came just hours after the government rolled back its controversial ban on major social media platforms, which had triggered unprecedented demonstrations killing over 25 killed

NEWS DESK/DNA

KATHMANDU: Nepal plunged deeper into political turmoil on Tuesday as Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli resigned following nationwide protests that left at least 25 people dead and hundreds injured. The resignation came just hours after the government rolled back its controversial ban on major social media platforms, which had triggered unprecedented demonstrations. Oli, 73, stepped down late Tuesday evening after an emergency cabinet meeting, during which Interior Minister Ramesh Lekhak had already tendered his resignation. In a statement, Oli said he was "deeply saddened" by the deaths and acknowledged that the government had mishandled the crisis. The protests erupted after the government blocked Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and X on Friday, claiming the platforms were operating without proper registration. The move out-

raged the public—particularly Nepal's younger generation—who rely heavily on social media for communication, business and activism. On Monday, thousands poured onto the streets of Kathmandu and other cities, chanting slogans against corruption and government censorship. Clashes broke out when protesters attempted to breach barricades near parliament. Police opened fire, with rights groups accusing security forces of using live ammunition. Amnesty International condemned the crackdown, while the United Nations called for a swift and transparent investigation. According to police, 17 protesters were killed in the capital alone, and two more in Sunsari district. Nearly 400 people were injured, including more than 100 policemen. Witnesses described scenes of chaos, with hospitals overwhelmed and tear gas even seeping into emergency wards. The social media blackout had intensified anger over longstanding

grievances, including unemployment, corruption, and inequality. Viral TikTok videos contrasting the lavish lifestyles of politicians' children with the hardships of ordinary citizens further fueled resentment. "The ban was the final spark," said one protester in Kathmandu. "This isn't only about Facebook or Instagram. It's about a corrupt system that refuses to listen." By Tuesday morning, the Ministry of Communication confirmed that the ban had been lifted. But Oli's resignation later in the day signaled the depth of the political crisis in the Himalayan nation of 30 million. The Kathmandu Post wrote in an editorial: "For Gen Z, digital freedom is personal freedom. Silencing social media meant silencing an entire generation—and they refused to accept it." Nepal has seen repeated restrictions on online platforms in recent years, including a nine-month ban on TikTok lifted only last year.

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ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan, Mr. Murat Nurtleu calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif (9 September, 2025). Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan greatly valued its ties with Kazakhstan. – DNA

Fire destroys garment factory in Karachi

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: At least four firemen and one cameraman of a private TV channel were injured on Tuesday when a huge fire destroyed a garment factory in New Karachi Industrial Area, according to police and rescue services officials. Central District Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqi told Dawn.com that the factory building that originally caught fire collapsed, and four firemen were injured as a result. Rescue 1122 spokesperson Hassaanul Haseeb Khan, in a statement, said, "Besides the four firefighters, a cameraman of a private TV channel was also injured due to the building collapse."

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Pakistan condemns attack

Israel targets Hamas leadership in attack on Qatar's Doha

Qatar says Israeli action a direct attack on our sovereignty; member of Qatari inland security killed

NEWS DESK / DNA

DOHA: The Israeli army has claimed responsibility for an assassination attempt on top Hamas leaders in Qatar's capital, Doha, where multiple explosions were reported late Monday night. According to Israeli military sources, the operation targeted senior Hamas figures believed to be involved in directing the group's operations in Gaza. However, no official confirmation has been issued regarding casualties or the extent of the damage. A Hamas source said the attack occurred while a negotiating team was in session discussing a Gaza ceasefire proposal recently put forward by the United States. "This was a direct attempt to derail the talks and eliminate our leadership," the source alleged. The reported strikes have sent shockwaves

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Palestine recognition will destabilise region: Israel

NEWS DESK

RECOGNISING Palestinian statehood will destabilise the Middle East, Israel's foreign minister warned Tuesday with several nations announcing their intention to make the move.

Editorial on Page 5

President Emmanuel Macron said in July that France would recognise a Palestinian state at the UN General Assembly meeting later this month.

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Karachi witnesses day-long showers

BUREAU REPROT

KARACHI: Karachi experienced showers throughout Tuesday as the Met Office warned that "torrential rains" could cause urban flooding and waterlogging in the city's low-lying areas. Meanwhile, three people lost their lives in rain-related incidents, which included two teenagers, who lost their lives due to electrocution during the downpour. The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) said that a deep depression system that was to cause rain in

Continued on Page 06

Indian release more water PDMA warns 'high flood' in Sutlej

Sindh govt on high-alert as flood water enters its territories

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: The Punjab PDMA, citing the Pakistan Commission for Indus Waters, has warned that high flood levels at Sutlej, Harike and Ferozepur will affect the downstream respective districts, after India issued an alert of the high levels. Guddu barrage remains in a medium flood situation as

of Tuesday morning, though the expected peak flow from Panjnad has yet to arrive. Chief engineer at Guddu barrage Syed Sardar Shah said the flood peak, which passed Panjnad downstream on September 7, should have reached Guddu by now. "It looks like the floodwater is spreading in Punjab. It has lost its velocity," he noted. At 8am Tuesday, river flows at Guddu recorded 443,494 cusecs upstream and 434,294 cusecs downstream. Meanwhile, figures from Sukkur Barrage showed a discharge of 374,800 cusecs upstream and 359,050 cusecs downstream at the same time, according to control room in charge Azad Soomro. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has arrived at the Guddu Barrage as the peak of floodwaters generated in the eastern rivers in Punjab is to reach there after passing downstream through Panjnad. Sindh Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro, Secretary Irrigation Zarif Khro received the chief minister.

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Briefs

PML-N's Rana Sanaullah wins Senate by-election

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Rana Sanaullah was declared successful in the Senate by-election on Tuesday, according to unofficial and unconfirmed results. Sources told that the PM's adviser on political and public affairs secured 250 votes. Out of the 251 votes cast, one vote was declared invalid. The by-election was held for the Punjab seat that fell vacant following the disqualification of PTI's Senator Ejaz Chaudhry.

Imran calls for nation to unite

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PTI founder and former prime minister Imran Khan has called on the nation to unite in the face of the ongoing flood crisis. A post shared on Imran's official X account, which he does not have direct access to, said: "At this moment, the entire country is submerged in floods. People have suffered immense losses because of these floods in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Court sentences Dr Yasmin, Ejaz Ch.

NEWS DESK

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore on Tuesday acquitted PTI leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi while sentencing Yasmin Rashid, Ejaz Chaudhry, and others to 10 years in prison over a May 9 riots case related to violence at Rahat Bakery Chowk.

Terror threat looms

Over 8,000 TTP terrorists present in KP: officials

Militants crossed into Pakistan from Afghanistan via lesser-known routs, say govt officials

MONITORING DESK

PESHAWAR: In an alarming disclosure, government officials have said that there are more than 8,000 Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), declared "Fitna al-Khawarij", terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The terrorists, the officials added, have crossed into the country from neighbouring Afghanistan via lesser-known routes through the porous border and are present in Peshawar, Tank, Dera Ismail Khan, Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Swat, Shangla and merged districts. Saying that the militants set up checkpoints on the CPEC Road, DI Khan-Bannu Road and in Tank, the officials said that the terrorists take refuge in the general population and attack security forces. The worrying revelation comes as KP, which borders neighbouring Afghanistan, has been facing the brunt of terror incidents along with Balochistan. KP, as per a police report, has witnessed more than 600 terrorism incidents in the first eight months of 2025.

There were 605 terror incidents in the province till August, which resulted in the martyrdom of 138 civilians, while 352 others were left wounded. Whereas 79 police personnel were martyred and 130 were injured, the report added. In last month alone, 17 civilians were martyred and 51 were wounded, along with 13 police personnel martyrdom and 46 injuries in a total of 129 terror incidents. Meanwhile, 351 suspects were named in terrorism incidents, 32 were gunned down and five were arrested in August. Bannu reported the highest number of terror incidents, 42, in the previous month. In North Waziristan, 15 terror incidents were reported, 14 in South Waziristan and 11 in Dir. Expanding on the situation in the province, the government officials said that the security forces face difficulties in retaliating against terrorist attacks and have suffered casualties because of it. Also, in jirgas chaired by Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, the tribal elders have expressed dismay over

Continued on Page 06

Pak-ASEAN ties poised for growth, says Philippine envoy

EXCLUSIVE

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: In an exclusive conversation with Daily Islamabad Post, CENTRELINE magazine, and the Diplomatic News Agency, H.E. Dr. Emmanuel R. Fernandez, Ambassador of the Philippines to Pakistan, outlined a comprehensive roadmap for strengthening Pakistan's engagement with the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN). Dr. Fernandez highlighted that ASEAN-Pakistan relations are evolving from aspirational dialogue to practical cooperation, covering areas from trade and economics to education and cultural exchange. He noted that the timing is crucial, given ASEAN's 58th anniversary and growing momentum in regional partnerships. "The Philippines, as a founding ASEAN member and as an active partner in Pakistan, sees real potential in deepening ties," he said. "This partnership is about shared values and the recognition that regional cooperation is vital to meeting global challenges." The Ambassador underlined the importance of ASEAN centrality in regional frameworks such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). Pakistan, he stressed, has been a consistent con-



tributor since joining ARF in 2004. At the 32nd ARF Ministerial Meeting in Kuala Lumpur in July 2025, Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister reaffirmed the country's commitment to preventive diplomacy, rule of law, and addressing emerging non-traditional security threats including climate change, cyber risks, pandemics, and maritime challenges. "Pakistan's active engagement at the ARF signals its readiness to shift from dialogue to deeper, action-oriented cooperation," Dr. Fernandez observed. On concrete steps Pakistan can take



to enhance its ASEAN partnerships, the Ambassador pointed to a multi-dimensional strategy. This includes sector-specific agreements under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), particularly in digital trade, renewable energy, halal food, and logistics. He cited the Vietnam-India model as an example of starting with small but focused cooperation agreements and then expanding into larger sectors like defense and joint ventures. He also underscored economic complementarities: "Pakistan's textile and halal-certified products align strongly with



ASEAN's import needs. There is scope to integrate Pakistani textiles into the Philippine garment export chain, and a halal trade agreement could open up new markets through aligned standards and joint trade missions." Education and human capital exchanges remain another priority. Expanding opportunities in medicine, engineering, and IT for ASEAN students in Pakistan, he said, would build long-term goodwill and strengthen people-to-people ties. The Ambassador suggested institutional mechanisms such as establishing an ASEAN-focused center in Islamabad

and launching a Pakistan-ASEAN Business Forum, modeled on successful ASEAN+ dialogues with countries like Japan. Similarly, engaging private sector players—from established chambers of commerce to emerging business alliances—would ensure a broad-based and sustainable approach to integration. Turning to bilateral relations between the Philippines and Pakistan, Dr. Fernandez described them as historically friendly, dating back to 1949. "We have a solid foundation in diplomacy and multilateral collaboration. Recent momentum, including active ambassadorial exchanges and regular policy consultations, shows a shared intent to move forward," he said. While acknowledging that bilateral trade is modest and tilted in Pakistan's favor, he pointed to promising sectors such as textiles, agribusiness, pharmaceuticals, and IT. Real progress, he suggested, would come from initiatives like improving logistics, aligning regulations, and promoting targeted trade facilitation. "Relations between our two countries are on a stable footing," he concluded. "The task now is to translate goodwill into concrete economic and development partnerships. The Philippines stands ready to work with Pakistan and ASEAN partners to build a cooperative, prosperous, and peaceful Indo-Pacific region."

NA Speaker, Bahraini Shura Council for enhancing parliamentary ties

He also acknowledged the constructive role of the Pakistani community in Bahrain, noting their valuable contribution to the Kingdom's socio-economic development. He stressed the importance of further enhancing mutual cooperation between the two countries

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq met Dr Adel Abdulrahman Almuawda, Member of Bahrain's Shura Council and Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Legislative and Legal Affairs to discuss strengthening bilateral relations enhancing parliamentary cooperation and matters of mutual interest between Pakistan and Bahrain. NA Speaker, Bahraini Shura Council member discuss strengthening parliamentary ties

During the discussions, the Speaker underlined that Pakistan and Bahrain share fraternal, friendly, and historic relations, which Pakistan greatly values. Stressing the need to further promote inter-parliamentary linkages, he

stated that closer contacts at the parliamentary level could play a vital role in bringing the peoples of both nations even closer.

Speaker highlighted that Pakistan offers vast opportunities for investment in diverse sectors, including energy, agriculture, industry, and infrastructure, which Bahraini investors can benefit from extensively. He further noted that the Pakistan-Bahrain Parliamentary Friendship Group in the National Assembly is playing an active role in expanding parliamentary ties and further strengthening bilateral relations.

Speaker also expressed gratitude to the Government of Bahrain for extending excellent facilities and support to the Pakistani community residing there.

He remarked that Pakistanis living in Bahrain are contributing significantly to the promotion of friendly relations between the two brotherly countries.

Dr. Adel Abdulrahman Al-Moawda appreciated Speaker NA's positive sentiments regarding Bahrain and emphasized that Bahrain attaches great importance to its longstanding friendly and brotherly relations with Pakistan. He reaffirmed Bahrain's desire to further consolidate these ties. He also acknowledged the constructive role of the Pakistani community in Bahrain, noting their valuable contribution to the Kingdom's socio-economic development. He stressed the importance of further enhancing mutual cooperation between the two countries.—APP



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari in a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan Murat Nurtleu, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President for boosting Pak- Kyrgyz coop in diverse sectors

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to the Kyrgyz Republic Altamash Wazir Khan called on President Asif Ali Zardari in Islamabad here on Tuesday..

The President congratulated Altamash Wazir Khan on his new assignment and wished him success in further strengthening Pakistan's fraternal ties with Kyrgyzstan.

He said Pakistan values its close relations with the Kyrgyz Republic, rooted in shared faith, history, and culture.

The President underscored the importance of enhancing cooperation in trade, energy, connectivity, and education, and expressed confidence that the new Ambassador would make dedicated efforts to further deepen the bilateral partnership.—APP

Stern action urged against profiteers exploiting flood crisis

ISLAMABAD, Sep 08 (APP): Vice President of Pakistan Peoples Party, Senator Sherry Rehman, has strongly condemned the profiteers and hoarders exploiting the flood crisis by artificially inflating the prices of flour and vegetables.

"Thousands of people have already lost everything in the devastating floods, and now profiteers are adding to their suffering by making essential food items like flour and vegetables unaffordable. This is sheer cruelty and must be stopped," said Senator Rehman. She emphasized that the recent surge in flour prices is artificial and orchestrated by mafias. "The flour price hike is not natural; it is manufactured by mafia. The government must expose these mafias and hold them accountable," she said. Senator Rehman demanded immediate and strict action against profiteers and hoarders: "Those taking advantage of public misery must face the law without delay." "The unchecked rise in flour prices could trigger a food crisis in already devastated areas. People are struggling to access basic staples, and the government must act now to ensure affordable flour reaches the victims," Senator Rehman asserted.—APP

Dengue situation under control in KP

PESHAWAR: The dengue outbreak in Charsadda and Haripur has been brought under control following special directives of Advisor to Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ihtisham Ali, officials said on Tuesday.

According to the latest report of the Integrated Diseases Surveillance & Response System (IDRS), the province has so far recorded 1,274 laboratory-confirmed dengue cases, of which 1,207 patients have recovered.

At present, there are 67 active cases across KP, with 33 patients admitted to hospitals. No dengue-related deaths have been reported. Speaking about the situation in Charsadda, Ihtisham Ali said the district had re-

ported a total of 742 cases, with 719 recoveries.

"Only 23 active patients remain under treatment at DHQ Hospital Charsadda, which shows that the outbreak has been effectively contained," he added.

The health advisor also highlighted the situation in other districts. In Peshawar, 68 confirmed cases have been reported, of which 48 have recovered, while 20 patients remain active cases.

In Haripur, the total case count stands at 93, with 91 recoveries and just two active cases.

Health Advisor said the Health Department had ensured provision of medical supplies, isolation wards, and vector control

measures in all high-risk areas. He added that rapid response teams had been deployed for continuous surveillance and public awareness campaigns.

"Protecting citizens from dengue and other vector-borne diseases remains our top priority. Through swift action, effective monitoring, and community engagement, we have successfully contained the outbreak in Charsadda, and similar efforts are ongoing in other districts," he said.

Officials urged the public to continue precautionary measures, including eliminating stagnant water, using mosquito repellents, and immediately reporting suspected symptoms to nearby health facilities.—APP

Body formed to boost WASA Pindi's efficiency

RAWALPINDI: The first meeting of the Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Rawalpindi's Governing Body Authority was held at the DC office on Tuesday, with Deputy Commissioner Dr Hassan Waqar Cheema in the chair. The meeting focused on improving the Agency's performance and transparency.

During the session, several key decisions were made, including the approval of various sub-committees and the appointment of their members. The committees

are tasked with implementing administrative reforms and overseeing future projects. The meeting also included a detailed review of WASA's financial and administrative operations. The officials discussed proposals to enhance organizational performance and improve public facilities.

The DC emphasized the importance of modernizing the Agency. "Making WASA fully functional according to modern requirements is our priority," he stated. "Effective

implementation of the sub-committee decisions will further improve the organization's performance and provide more facilities to the public." The meeting was attended by key officials, including the Additional Secretary of Housing, Urban Development & Public Health (HUD & PHE), Additional Deputy Commissioner (Finance & Planning) Ramsha Javed, and WASA Rawalpindi Managing Director Muhammad Saleem Ashraf along with all Agency's directors.—APP

Crackdown on illegal wheat hoarding

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has ordered a province-wide crackdown against illegal wheat hoarding, warning that no leniency will be shown to profiteers exploiting the flood crisis.

Chairing a special meeting here on Tuesday, the CM granted a three-day grace period for stockpilers to voluntarily declare their wheat holdings. She directed that strict legal action be taken against those who fail to comply with after the deadline. However, she approved the proposal that no punitive measures would be taken against those who truthfully disclose their stocks. The chief minister underscored the importance of accurate reporting and identification of wheat stocks, saying that elements attempting to create artificial shortages would be dealt with firmly. "The writ of the government must be established to protect public interests and ensure stability in the wheat and flour markets," she said. She directed the Punjab Enforcement and Regulatory Authority (PERA) to conduct continuous inspections across the province and to ensure government price lists are prominently displayed at all retail outlets. Stern action, she warned, would be taken against violators. In response to the loss of wheat stockpiles in Khanewal due to flooding, Maryam Nawaz Sharif expressed strong indignation. She ordered immediate disciplinary action against responsible officials. The Director General of the Food Department was removed from office, while the District Food Controller (DFC) of Khanewal and the entire local food staff were suspended for failing to secure wheat stocks in time. The CM said that all resources must be mobilized to detect hoarders and ensure timely action against them. She stressed that the government is committed to maintaining stable wheat and flour prices across Punjab despite the challenges posed by the ongoing floods.—APP

RDA provides aid to Gujrat flood victims

RAWALPINDI: On the special directions of Secretary Housing, Capt. (R) Noor-ul-Amin Mengal, and under the supervision of Director General Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA), Kinza Murtaza, the RDA continues to send relief consignments to flood-affected areas of District Gujrat.

In today's dispatch, the RDA has sent multiple vehicles loaded with essential relief items to provide immediate assistance to the flood victims. The consignment includes: 3,800 bottles of clean drinking water, 4,400 packets of fresh milk and dry milk, one fully loaded vehicle of essential medicines, including: 8,650 antibiotic tablets, 2,400 cough and antihistamine syrups, 500 Skabe lotions, and 200 Fist gels. During her visit, Additional Secretary for Housing, Madiha Tahir Shah, appreciated the tireless efforts of the RDA team. "I commend the dedication and swift action taken by RDA under the leadership of DG Kinza Murtaza. RDA work is a true reflection of public service and compassion in action. The timely response to this disaster is commendable." The Director General of RDA, Kinza Murtaza, thanked the Additional Secretary of Housing and stated that, under the direction of the Chief Minister of Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif, and with the guidance of the Secretary of Housing, the RDA is committed to supporting its fellow citizens during this difficult time. The RDA is closely coordinating with local authorities in Gujrat to assess emerging needs.—APP

7,000 people evacuated in Rahim Yar Khan

LAHORE: On the special directions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the district administration of Rahim Yar Khan successfully evacuated 7,000 residents from flood-prone areas to protect them from potential danger.

The large-scale operation was supervised by Commissioner Bahawalpur and

Deputy Commissioner Rahim Yar Khan.

Authorities briefed the Chief Minister that the evacuation was completed with the help of 24 boats, ensuring the safe relocation of all affected families. They further informed the CM that 12 flood relief camps have been set up in the district

to accommodate the victims. The administration has also taken measures to ensure proper sanitation and fumigation in the camps to prevent the outbreak of infectious diseases. Additionally, Clinic-on-Wheels units have been stationed near the relief camps to provide medical care and treatment facilities to the flood-affected people.

CM Maryam Nawaz appreciated the timely efforts of the administration and reiterated her government's commitment to safeguard the lives and well-being of citizens during the ongoing flood crisis.—APP

PFA discards 465,000 litres Milk, 60,000kg meat

LAHORE: Punjab Food Authority (PFA) has dismantled major networks of the adulterated milk and meat mafia, discarding over 465,000 litres of fake milk and 60,000 kilograms of substandard meat in just five weeks. Since August 1, PFA enforcement teams have registered 313 FIRs across the province, confiscating dozens of vehicles and exposing gangs supplying adulterated products to major cities, including Islamabad and Rawalpindi. PFA Director General Muhammad Asim Javaid told media on Tuesday that during enforcement operations, more than 50 vehicles used for adulteration and forgery were confiscated. He added that 10 major fake milk networks have been dismantled in Lahore, Kasur, Bahawalnagar, Faisalabad, and other cities. A gang supplying 100,000 litres of fake milk daily to Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and Chakwal has also been apprehended. He revealed that in Bahawalnagar, the Rauf Bhatti and Maqsood Bhatti groups were exposed for supplying fake milk to Lahore, while mafias in Pakpattan, Chiniot, and Sahiwal were caught channeling adulterated milk to Faisalabad and Rawalpindi. Division-wise, 85 FIRs were registered in Lahore, 78 in Faisalabad, 36 in Gujranwala, 23 in Rawalpindi, 19 in Sahiwal, 24 in Sargodha, 24 in Bahawalpur, 21 in Multan, and 22 in DG Khan, with dozens more in other districts. The DG said PFA's enforcement actions have increased by 141 percent compared to previous years. So far in 2025, food safety teams have inspected 897,241 food points, sealed 2,475 outlets, registered 1,324 FIRs, and imposed fines exceeding Rs1.14 billion on 85,940 violators. He noted that PFA checked 225.5 million litres of milk, discarding 1.18 million litres and registering 361 FIRs, reflecting a 357 percent increase in enforcement. In the meat sector, 15.3 million kilograms were inspected, 700,000 kilograms discarded, 204 shops sealed, and 261 FIRs registered, a 335 percent increase from last year. The DG said that during recent floods, mafias tried to exploit temporary livestock migration to expand the fake milk supply chain, but PFA's strict enforcement thwarted their efforts and ensured public protection. He also announced the launch of Phase II of the School Nutrition Program, under which 40 government schools will receive free health screenings and distribution of nutritious lunch boxes for students. DG Asim Javaid reaffirmed that, under the vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the Punjab Food Authority is committed to adopting international standards to ensure the supply of safe and quality food to the people of Punjab.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: A view of a massive traffic jam at the Faizabad interchange. The traffic jam has become a routine thus causing troubles to the commuters. —DNA

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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
- Sept18/Chile National Day
- Sept21/Malta Independence Day
- Sept23/Saudi Arabia National Day

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- Motorway Police...9266044
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- MH.....561116
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- DHQ.....5556311-4
- RGH.....9290301-7
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- PIMS.....9261170-79
- Polyclinic.....9218300-09
- Shifa International 4603666



- Departments
- CDA.....9221334-43
- CDA.....9208301-04
- Met Office.....9250360-6
- RDA.....5555864
- TMA.....5770886
- Cantonment Board 9270151-3



- Islamabad Metropolitan
- Corporation.....9209224
- Potohar Town.....9209224
- Rawal Town.....5773343
- Water Tank
- Islamabad.....0321-5744480



RAWALPINDI: Funeral prayers of Major Adnan Aslam Shaheed (age: 31 years, resident of Rawalpindi) who embraced martyrdom while undergoing treatment at Combined Military Hospital were held at Chaklala, Rawalpindi. Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Defence Minister, Information Minister, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir NI (M), HJ, (COAS), serving Military and Civil Officers and relatives of Shaheed attended the funeral.—DNA

Funeral prayers of Major Adnan Shaheed held

The nation is indebted to the eternal sacrifices of its martyrs and will always remain so,” Naqvi stated. He reaffirmed the government’s resolve to root out the menace of terrorism from the country and repay the debt owed to the martyrs

RAWALPINDI: Funeral prayers of Major Adnan Aslam Shaheed (age: 31 years, resident of Rawalpindi) who embraced martyrdom while undergoing treatment at Combined Military Hospital were held at Chaklala, Rawalpindi. The officer gallantly fought the Indian proxy Fitna al Khawarij during their cowardly attack in Bannu on 2 September 2025, said an ISPR news release. Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Defence Minister, Information Minister,

Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir NI (M), HJ, (COAS), serving Military and Civil Officers and relatives of Shaheed attended the funeral. Major Adnan Aslam embraced shahadat with unflinching bravery, leading his men from the front. The Prime Minister honoring the bravery of the officer said that today, we have lost a valiant son of the soil whose courage and sacrifice will forever remain etched in the nation’s heart. He represents the best of Pakistan: un-

wavering resolve, love for the homeland, and an unbreakable spirit of sacrifice. Major Adnan’s martyrdom is a testimony that Armed Forces of Pakistan remain resolute in our mission to root out terrorism in all its forms. Officer will be laid to rest in his hometown with full military honours. Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid glowing tribute to Major Adnan Aslam, who embraced martyrdom while courageously fighting India-sponsored terrorists. “Major Adnan Aslam’s

supreme sacrifice will always be remembered,” Naqvi said, adding that the entire nation takes pride in such brave sons of the soil.He emphasized that martyrs never die, and Major Adnan Aslam will continue to live in the hearts of the people.“The nation is indebted to the eternal sacrifices of its martyrs and will always remain so,” Naqvi stated. He reaffirmed the government’s resolve to root out the menace of terrorism from the country and repay the debt owed to the martyrs.

First national gender parity report in 2026

Officials described the initiative as a historic step towards institutionalising credible, standardised gender reporting in Pakistan, aimed at ensuring long-term accountability and evidence-based policymaking

ISLAMABAD: The National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), in collaboration with UNFPA, UN Women, Group Development Pakistan and the Embassy of the Netherlands, has concluded a two-day national consultation to finalise a unified framework for Pakistan’s first-ever National Gender Parity Report, scheduled for launch on International Women’s Day, March 8, 2026. For the first time, Pakistan’s gender-related data will be synchronised at the national level in line with international standards. Officials said the initiative is expected to strengthen national policies on women’s empowerment and improve the country’s standing in the World Economic Forum’s Global Gender Gap Report. Speaking at the consultation, Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar described gender discrimination as the greatest obstacle to national progress. “Development cannot be achieved by excluding half of the population,” he remarked, adding that women’s rights must extend beyond rhetoric to practical measures. He assured that the government

would provide full support in integrating the new framework into laws, policies, and institutions. NCSW Chairperson Ume Laila Azhar underscored the importance of credible and timely data, saying it was essential to present the right image of Pakistan to the world. She urged both federal and provincial governments to act as responsive partners by providing internationally compliant data. “Without reliable information, gaps in education, health, political participation, and economic empowerment cannot be effectively addressed,” she noted. The consultation concluded with consensus on a lean, sustainable, and comparable reporting framework. In her closing remarks, NCSW Secretary Humaira Zia Mufti thanked all partners for their collaboration and praised Minister Tarar’s commitment to advancing gender equality reforms. Officials described the initiative as a historic step towards institutionalising credible, standardised gender reporting in Pakistan, aimed at ensuring long-term accountability and evidence-based policymaking.—APP

120m relief package for flood-affected students

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), keeping in view the hardships and losses of flood-affected students approved a special relief package worth of 120 million rupees for currently enrolled students residing in those areas. This special relief package was announced by the university’s Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, while upholding the university’s tradition of standing with the nation in times of trials and challenges, said a press release on Tuesday The Vice Chancellor stated that the university’s objective was to support students in difficult circumstances so they may continue their education despite financial hardships.= He reaffirmed the commitment that AIOU would keep taking every possible step for the promotion of education and the welfare of its students. According to Director Students’ Affairs, Syed Ghulam Kazim Ali, the university has fully waived the current semester.—APP

Monal, Rizq Foundation serve meals in flood zones

DNA

ISLAMABAD:In a swift response to the devastating recent floods, the Monal Foundation has announced a critical collaboration with the Rizq Foundation to provide immediate food relief to displaced and affected communities across Punjab. The joint initiative, “Donate a Meal,” has established operational mobile kitchens in severely impacted areas, including Head Mohammad Wala (Khanewal), Hafizabad, Sialkot, Gujranwala, and Jalalpur. These kitchens are working tirelessly to prepare and distribute nutritious meals daily to thousands of individuals and families who have lost their homes and livelihoods. “The scale of this disaster requires a unified response,” said a spokesperson for the Monal Foundation. “Our partnership with Rizq Foundation, with their proven on-ground expertise, allows us to efficiently channel resources directly to those in desperate need. A single meal can provide not just sustenance, but also hope.” The pub-

lic is urgently appealed to support this life-saving mission. A contribution of just Rs. 100 can provide one meal to a person in need.Donation Details; Account Title: Monal Foundation and Account Number: 07020010032981570018, IBAN: PK-

55ABPA0010032981570018, Bank: Allied Bank Limited, Blue Area Branch, IslamabadAll donations will be used exclusively for the procurement, preparation, and distribution of meals through the established mobile kitchen network.



Mukalma with Uxi Mufti to be held

ISLAMABAD: National Language Promotion Department (NLPD) will hold the 10th session of Mukalma with distinguished scholar, academic, broadcaster,author, intellectual, and former head of Lok Virsa Uxi Mufti here on Tuesday. The session will include welcoming remarks by Dr. Rashid Hameed, while the vote of thanks will be delivered by Professor Dr. Muhammad Saleem Mazhar, Director General of the National Language Promotion Department (NLPD). Mukalma is NLPD’s platform for thought-provoking discourse, celebrating Pakistan’s intellectual and cultural heritage. A large number of participants is expected to attend the event.—APP

Report seek on eradication of drugs at educational institutions

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday instructed the Interior Ministry, and capital police to submit progress report from January to September of current year, regarding eradication of drugs from educational institutions The court remarked that children’s lunch boxes will have to be checked to see if anything is coming from outside. Justice Raja Inaam Ameen Minhas heard the case of a private organization, Lucky Foundation against drugs use at educational institutions. The police presented a report from January to April 22, 2025 in the court, according to which 255 kilograms of heroin and 126 kilograms of hashish were recovered from different areas of Islamabad. It also registered 689 cases and 709 accused were arrested. Interior Ministry officials said that an awareness campaign had also been launched in schools following the court order.—APP

CDA assures UAE investors full support

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation of investors from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) met with Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa to explore investment opportunities in the federal capital. During the discussions, CDA officials briefed the UAE delegation on potential projects across key sectors, including hotels and hospitality, commercial real estate, and tourism. Officials underscored that Islamabad’s growing demand in the hospitality and real estate industries offers “excellent investment opportunities.” Feasibility studies for major tourism projects, including a proposed theme park and a cable car system, have already been completed, officials informed the delegation. They also assured that “robust financial and operational models” have been developed to secure investor capital in commercial ventures. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa emphasized that the authority is committed to facilitating foreign investment. “CDA is creating uniform and excellent opportunities for investors,” Randhawa said. “We are taking comprehensive measures to provide maximum incentives and facilitation. Gaining the confidence of investors in Islamabad is our top priority.” He further noted that renowned consultancy firms have conducted studies to ensure the financial viability of the proposed projects. The UAE investors expressed strong interest in Islamabad’s real estate, hotel, and tourism sectors. According to CDA, the primary aim of the meeting was to promote foreign investment and attract international-standard projects to boost the city’s development. The meeting, held at CDA Headquarters, was attended by senior CDA officials, including Member Administration and Estate Talat Mahmood, Member Engineering Syed Nafasat Raza, and Member Planning and Design Dr. Khalid Hafiz.—DNA

Wajiha launches plantation campaign at schools

Ms. Wajiha Qamar said the plantation campaign carried a special symbolic value. “One tree for every daughter, one tree for every mother, and one tree for every martyr. This message is close to the hearts of Pakistanis, and it is our goal to take this campaign to every corner of Islamabad and eventually across the country,” she said,

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, Wajiha Qamar, on Tuesday visited ten government schools located in the remote Union Council Pind Begwal of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) to launch the tree plantation campaign titled “Aik Beti Aik Shajar.” The initiative is part of the vision of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to promote environmental sustainability and public participation in combating climate change, said a press release. As part of the drive, saplings were planted in various schools, including Islamabad Model Colleges and Islamabad Model Schools for boys and girls across Pind Begwal, Dana, Athal, Sohali, Jandala, Bain Nala, Palali, and Meera Begwal. The campaign, according to the Minister of State, aimed not only to raise environmental awareness but also to engage students, teachers, and local communities in a movement for a greener and cleaner Pakistan. Ms. Wajiha Qamar said the plantation campaign carried a special symbolic value. “One tree for every daughter, one tree for every mother, and one tree for every martyr. This message is close to the hearts of Pakistanis, and it is our goal to take this campaign to every corner of Islamabad and eventually across the country,” she said, adding, “That is why we deliberately started this initiative from a distant and underprivileged area.” Highlighting the challenges of climate change, the Minister of State underlined that Pakistan was among the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, and tree plantation was one of the most effective ways to protect communities from rising temperatures, floods, and other environmental risks. “Planting trees is not just a symbolic gesture; it is a national responsibility. Every citizen should contribute by planting at least one sapling. This will not only help mitigate the harmful effects of climate change but also ensure a healthier and safer environment for our children,” she emphasized. The Minister of State praised the role of schools and students in leading community change, stating that involving young people in such initiatives would nurture a sense of ownership, responsibility, and climate consciousness from an early age. The plantation drive is being expanded under the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training’s “Education for Sustainable Development” approach, which integrates environmental stewardship with education. Future phases of the campaign would be reached schools across Islamabad and later other parts of Pakistan. The event concluded with active participation from school children, teachers and local community representatives, who pledged their support to the cause and committed to nurturing the planted trees.—APP

Briefs

ITP issues route plan for foreign guest movement

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) on Tuesday issued a special traffic plan to ensure smooth flow during the movement of a foreign guest, advising citizens to use alternate routes between 03:30 p.m. and 05:30 p.m. An ITP official told APP that traffic on Expressway and Srinagar Highway may face delays during the specified hours. Citizens have been advised to use the following alternate routes: Service roads connected to Expressway and Srinagar Highway. H-8 underpass for those traveling towards Blue Area, Sector F-6 and F-7, Margalla Road, Jinnah Avenue, Ayub Chowk and Nadra Chowk for traffic heading to Red Zone and Serena Hotel. Nadra Chowk for commuters going to Bari Imam. Rawalpindi Peshawar Road and IJP Road (via service roads) for those traveling towards sectors I and H. Traffic from Murree Road towards Serena and Faizabad via Rawal Dam will remain closed during the movement. Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Captain (ret'd) Hamzah Humayun said that ITP officers will remain deployed at various points to guide citizens. He urged commuters to keep a margin of at least 20 minutes in their travel plans to avoid inconvenience. He further advised citizens to contact IJP Helpline 1915 or follow official social media platforms for real-time traffic updates and guidance.APP

Rana pledges kisan relief

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, reiterated the government's strong resolve to provide electricity bill relief and upon completing a comprehensive survey, will announce a 'Kisan Package' to support all flood-affected regions.

While an exclusive interview with a media channel, Rana Tanveer Hussain outlined the government's plan to address excessive electricity bills in flood-affected regions, adding, immediate action will be taken to provide relief to affected communities, with a focus on reducing the financial burden during these difficult times.

The federal government, in collaboration with provincial authorities, will implement electricity bill relief, he said, adding, this joint effort is designed to provide essential support to both farmers and residents in flood-affected areas. Responding to a query, he clarified that the bills in question have already been printed and are ready for distribution. He further stated that the government is committed to removing the additional tax from the bills, aiming to provide immediate relief to the affected communities, adding, this measure is part of the broader effort to ease the financial burden on residents in flood-hit areas, ensuring that they are not burdened by excessive charges during these challenging times. In response to another query, he assured that the government will do everything possible to support flood-affected communities. He mentioned that a survey of the flood-hit regions has already been launched and is expected to be completed by the middle of the current month.—APP

Pakistan, Kazakhstan eye maritime coop, regional connectivity

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A Kazakh delegation led by Transport Minister Nurlan Sauranbayev held talks with Ministry of Maritime Affairs on Tuesday to strengthen cooperation in sea-ports and regional connectivity. The delegation, received by Federal Secretary Syed Zafar Ali Shah, discussed opportunities for collaboration on Pakistani ports and multimodal transport corridors linking Central Asia with the Arabian Sea through road, rail and sea routes, said a press release. Shah underlined the strategic position of Pakistan's ports, offering access to South Asia, Central Asia, Gulf countries, and beyond. He said Kazakhstan could benefit from container handling, logistics, off-dock terminals, free trade zones, and other port facilities under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), noting that Pakistan's tariffs were relatively competitive. Officials from Karachi Port Trust (KPT) and Port Qasim Authority (PQA) highlighted spare capacity to handle Central Asian cargo, while stressing that a dedicated multipurpose terminal at Gwadar was crucial for long-term trade growth.

Presentations on business opportunities and incentives at Karachi, Port Qasim, and Gwadar were given to the visiting delegation. KPT Acting Chairman, Rear Admiral

Ateeq-ur-Rehman, briefed the Kazakh side on port facilities and a planned maritime business district spanning 140 acres of urban land. PQA Chairman Rear Admiral (Ret'd) Syed Moazzam Ilyas emphasized Pakistan's role as an energy hub and proposed cooperation in off-dock terminals linked with rail networks for Central Asian trade.— Additional Secretary, Umer Zaffar Shaikh, outlined Gwadar's potential, including full exemptions on duties and sales tax, its off-dock terminals, and its shortest land-sea route for Central Asian countries via the coastal highway. Kazakh Transport Minister, Sauranbayev expressed a strong interest in expanding maritime cooperation and building long-term collaboration with Pakistan. Pakistan and Kazakhstan on Tuesday, recognizing vast potential and opportunities, vowed to strengthen their strategic partnership, aiming to elevate bilateral relations to new heights across multiple domains. In their opening remarks ahead of delegation-level talks, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar and his Kazakh counterpart Murat Nurtleu unanimously reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the time-tested and deep-rooted bilateral ties in trade, economy, and other key areas. In his remarks, Deputy Prime Minister Dar said that there existed a great scope for both countries to take relations to a higher level.

Serena Hotels extends flood relief support to Baltistan division

Serena Hotels continues to collaborate with local authorities and stakeholders to ensure aid reaches the most affected areas promptly and efficiently

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Continuing its unwavering commitment to community service and disaster relief at first phase, Serena Hotels has dispatched two truckloads of essential food supplies under its Jazba-e-Khidmat initiative to support flood-affected areas of Baltistan Region, this relief effort will directly assist 175 households across three districts; 72 households in Skardu District, 44 households in Shigar District, 59 households in Ghanche District. Each family will receive food rations bag and basic hygiene kit to help them recover from the hardships caused by recent flooding. This initiative is part of Serena Hotels' broader Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts, focused on uplifting vulnerable communities in times of need. "Jazba-e-Khidmat is more than a relief program, it reflects our deep-rooted values of compassion and service," said a spokesperson for Serena Hotels. "We are committed to standing with our communities during challenging times and doing our part



to rebuild lives with dignity and hope mention in the press release by General Manager North."

Serena Hotels continues to col-

laborate with local authorities and stakeholders to ensure aid reaches the most affected areas promptly and efficiently.



Serena Hotels is renowned not only for its excellence in hospitality but also for its dedication to community development and

sustainability. Through various CSR initiatives, Serena strives to create a lasting positive impact in the regions where it operates.

Tariff cuts set to reshape Pakistan's auto industry

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has released its latest Policy Viewpoint titled "Impact of Tariff Reduction on Automobile Industry", authored by Mr. Mohammad Shaaf Najib and Dr. Usman Qadir. The report provides a holistic assessment of the impact of the government's five-year tariff reform plan on Pakistan's automobile industry. The reform plan, announced in the Federal Budget 2025-26, seeks to move Pakistan's economy from import substitution towards an export-led growth model. The reform will streamline the customs duty structure, reduce tariff slabs, and lower the average tariff rate from 19% to 9.5% by FY2030. Specifically, for the automobile sector, tariffs on Completely Built Units (CBUs) will fall from 20% to 15% over five years, while surcharges on used vehicles will be gradually removed by 2030. According to PIDE's analysis, these reforms will reshape the automobile industry in several ways. On the domestic front, increased competition from imports will push local manufacturers to enhance quality and efficiency. While smaller or weaker brands may struggle, established and globally integrated firms are expected to adapt and compete. Reduced tariffs on both CBUs and CKD imports will lower production costs, improve affordability, and potentially expand car ownership in Pakistan. While some jobs at OEMs may be at risk in the short run, new opportunities for businesses and employment are expected to emerge in import services, dealerships, after-sales, and parts markets. The net effect though will depend significantly on how the existing automobile firms react and adapt to the policy change. At the macroeconomic level, increased imports could raise Pakistan's import bill, creating pressure on foreign exchange reserves and the exchange rate unless export growth keeps pace. Considering this, PIDE recommends that the government must ensure availability of the required foreign exchange to finance the increased import bill. PIDE also stresses on the need to stick to the policy change and not roll back after initial challenges that may arise as that would prove much more detrimental for the automobile industry and consumers both. For consumers, however, the reforms promise significant benefits, including increased and improved choice and availability of the vehicles along with competitive pricing. Further, PIDE also recommends a new import framework particularly for the import of used cars in the country instead of the current mechanism where imports are done under three different schemes. PIDE notes that the loopholes within these schemes are being used to import used vehicles in the country, and suggests a vehicle quality based mechanism for commercial import of vehicles in the country to uphold safety standards while ensuring fair competition and promoting consumer welfare. It has also been stressed to facilitate the development of a robust after-sales networks and stronger incentives for electric vehicles to ensure a smooth transition to an environmentally friendly future. The view point concludes by noting that tariff rationalization is not just an industrial reform but also a vital step towards consumer protection, modernization of the auto sector, and Pakistan's integration into global value chains.—DNA

China, Pak firms ink deal of \$12M JV for fishmeal plant

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China, Pakistan firms have inked a deal of \$12M JV for fishmeal plant, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday. According to the report, China's MAYCOM Group and Pakistan's TECNO Group have formalized a joint venture to establish a fishmeal processing plant in Gwadar Port, with an estimated total investment of \$12 million. The agreement, signed at the 2nd China-Pakistan B2B Investment Conference in Beijing, also includes bilateral trade initiatives, such as an initial procurement deal for 10,000 tons of Pakistani sesame. Under the partnership, TECNO will hold a controlling stake in the joint venture—which also includes the third-party company CYCLON—and will oversee local resource procurement and production in Pakistan. MAYCOM will contribute technology and manage sales operations. The fishmeal project will source sardines and other fresh fish from the Arabian Sea near Gwadar to produce feed-grade fishmeal and fish oil for aquaculture markets in southeastern China. The project is planned in two phases, with Phase I targeting an annu-

al output of 15,000 tons and requiring a \$4 million investment. In addition to the fishmeal collaboration, the two groups agreed to expand bilateral trade by exporting Pakistani agricultural products such as sesame, peanuts, and cottonseed, along with mineral products, to China. They will also supply solar panels, energy storage systems, and other new energy products from China to Pakistan. MAYCOM Group, a Xinjiang-based import-export corporation operating across Central Asia and Russia, was represented at the summit by its President, Gao Zhigang. The company primarily engages in the import, processing, and trade of agricultural products, mineral resources, and energy products. TECNO Group, a major Pakistani conglomerate with interests spanning mobile phones, solar energy, auto glass, and agriculture, was represented by CEO Aamir Allawala. Both parties had conducted prior site inspections and expressed alignment on long-term trade mechanisms. Prior to the summit, MAYCOM and TECNO had already established preliminary intentions for project cooperation and had jointly conducted the necessary on-site inspections and studies, according to MAYCOM, the report added.

Govt backs fast connectivity, free expression on social media: Shaza

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Tuesday stressed that ensuring fast connectivity is crucial, as Pakistan cannot achieve quality internet or 5G unless spectrum-related legal issues and infrastructure investments are addressed, with plans in place to resolve these challenges soon.

While speaking to a local media channel, Shaza Fatima Khawaja highlighted that Pakistan is making significant strides in providing internet access to its citizens, especially compared to other countries that impose strict restrictions on social media platforms. Shaza emphasized that ensuring fast connectivity and protecting freedom of expression on social media are among the government's top priorities. Pakistan is committed to providing its citizens with an open digital space where they can freely express their opinions and access information, she said, adding, the government is focused on enhancing internet speed and infrastructure to improve connectivity, while simultaneously safeguarding the rights of users to communicate without undue restrictions.

She emphasized that the government is committed to ensuring internet freedom, allowing people to express themselves without unnecessary limitations. Khawaja further pointed out that Pakistan's efforts aim to create a more open and accessible digital environment, where citizens can freely access information and communicate.—APP

Innovation key to sustainable uplift: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said innovation was essential for achieving sustainable development, describing knowledge and research as the driving forces behind transformation in any society. Addressing the inaugural session of the 30th International Summit titled "Redefining Digital Manufacturing: Concept-to-Product," he said Pakistan has the potential to become a global leader in technology, citing the country's successful development of nuclear capabilities and the JF-17 fighter jet despite limited resources. "A country that could develop nuclear weapons and fighter aircraft in the face of adversity can also lead in industrial production and innovation," he said. Ahsan Iqbal stressed that politics was not a social media game, lamenting that political discourse in Pakistan has been reduced to viral trends and sensationalism. "Unfortunately, we turned politics into a game of social media. But social media cannot decide the fate of a nation—it is only a tool for entertainment," he added. Commenting on Pakistan's development journey, he recalled the launch of Vision 2010 in 1998 by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government, which he said had anticipated many of the current challenges. However, he regretted that a political shift two years later disrupted the momentum. In 2013, he said the PML-N government introduced Vision 2025, formulated through nationwide consultations with over 1,000 experts aimed at positioning Pakistan among the top 20 global economies by 2025. He highlighted that by 2017, Pakistan's global brand was the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). However, he said, a subsequent political experiment derailed progress. "A nuclear-armed country's steering wheel was handed to someone who lacked the experience to even run a union council. When you give the keys of a complex vehicle to an untrained driver, you end up with a crash." The minister said on April 1, 2022, for the first time in Pakistan's history, the Ministry of Finance refused to release the final quarter of the development budget, saying it had "not a single rupee. That day, Pakistan internally defaulted," he said. This year, Ahsan Iqbal said, the government would establish National Center for Nanotechnology, National Center for Quantum Computing and National Center for Neo-Manufacturing to prepare Pakistan's industries for the next industrial revolution.—DNA

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Uzbekistan to host 2nd forum on religious tolerance

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The cities of Tashkent and Samarkand will host the 2nd International Forum 'Dialogue of Declarations' from September 10 to 13, 2025, bringing together global experts, scholars, and policymakers to promote religious tolerance and interfaith harmony. According to the Uzbekistan Embassy in Islamabad, the event is being organized by the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of Uzbekistan in partnership with the U.S.-based NGO Love Your Neighbor Community (LYNC). It is supported by Uzbekistan's Committee on Religious Affairs, the Center of Islamic Civilization, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Samarkand Regional Administration. The forum builds on the success of the 2022 gathering in Tashkent, Samarkand, and Bukhara, which culminated in the Bukhara Declaration - later recognized as an official document of the 76th UN General Assembly. Similar forums since 2016 have been held in Marrakech, Makkah, Jakarta, Potomac, and Punta del Este, each resulting in landmark declarations on education, religious freedom, and tolerance. Uzbekistan first hosted the forum in 2019 in Tashkent, elevating it into a leading international platform. The event offers an opportunity for the global community to engage with Uzbekistan's cultural, historical, and spiritual heritage, as well as its efforts in promoting interfaith harmony and mutual respect.—APP

Police held notorious drug peddler

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police's Khanna police station team arrested a notorious drug peddler named Shayan during a successful operation.

An official told APP on Tuesday that the operation was carried out under the supervision of SHO Amir Hayat, who led his team in the arrest. He said that 413 grams of ice were recovered from the suspect's possession.

He added that a case has been registered against the accused, and further investigation is underway.

Police officials said that residents appreciated the bold action of SHO Amir Hayat and his team, noting that such operations strengthen community trust in ICT Police.APP

Calls grow to shift UN HQs to Geneva

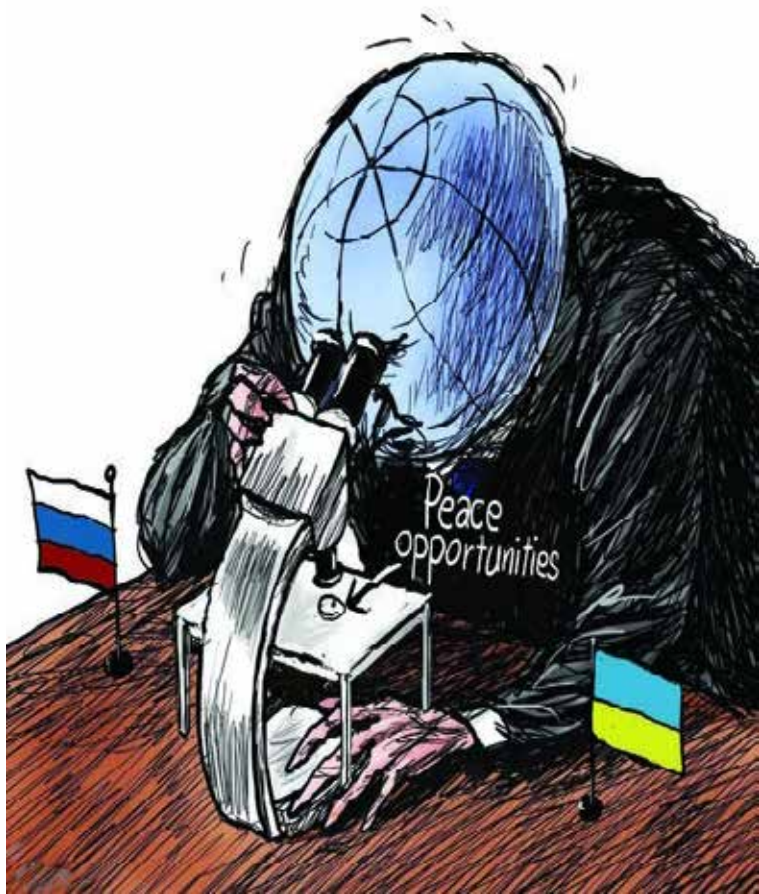
THE United States' refusal to grant visas to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and around 80 members of his delegation has triggered a global debate over whether the United Nations (UN) can function effectively while its headquarters remain in New York. The move has sparked mounting calls for relocating future sessions of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) to a more neutral venue, such as Geneva, Switzerland, to ensure impartiality and accessibility for all member states.

The controversy erupted just weeks before the high-level annual debate at the UNGA, scheduled from September 23 to 27, with the session concluding on September 29. This year's debates were expected to feature historic discussions and decisions regarding the recognition of Palestine as an independent state. A one-day special conference on the two-state solution, hosted by Saudi Arabia and France, was also planned for September 22 in New York. President Abbas had been due to attend, along with senior Palestinian officials, but the US decision has derailed those plans.

The Trump administration's blanket refusal to grant visas marks a significant escalation in Washington's opposition to Palestinian participation at the UN. Reports suggest the US denied visas to about 80 officials linked to the Palestinian Authority (PA). Observers have noted parallels with 1988, when the US blocked late Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat from travelling to New York. Then, the UNGA convened an emergency session in Geneva to ensure Arafat could deliver his address. However, this is the first time in UN history that such a comprehensive ban has been imposed on an entire delegation.

Analysts argue the decision is aimed at preventing Palestinian leaders from influencing what could be one of the most consequential UN gatherings since the Oslo Accords of the 1990s. The upcoming debates could see states such as Britain, France, Australia, and Canada move towards recognising Palestine. Critics say Washington's move contravenes the 1947 UN Headquarters Agreement, which obliges the host country to permit access to foreign diplomats attending UN sessions. While the agreement allows the US to deny entry for security or foreign policy reasons, applying it to exclude a whole delegation is seen as a violation of the UN's founding principles of inclusivity and equality among nations. "America is exploiting its role as host country to manipulate the UN process," said one Middle East analyst. "This undermines the credibility of the UN as an independent institution and calls into question whether New York is the right location for its headquarters."

The latest episode has reignited a long-standing debate over whether the UN should remain headquartered in New York. Advocates of relocation argue



that the UN, as a body meant to represent all nations impartially, should not be subject to the policies or domestic politics of a single country. Switzerland, long recognised for its neutrality and already home to numerous UN agencies in Geneva, is increasingly seen as the logical alternative. Moving the General Assembly, or even the entire headquarters, to Geneva would not only symbolise independence but also remove the risk of member states being denied participation due to bilateral disputes with Washington. The UN has to be out of the control of the United States if it is to function smoothly. The refusal of visas has not only provoked outrage in the Arab and Muslim world but also unsettled many Western capitals. France, a co-sponsor of the two-state conference, expressed "deep concern" at the situation. Rights organisations, including Human Rights Watch, have urged the UN Secretary-General to take a firm stance to ensure equal treatment of member states. Amnesty International issued a statement describing the US action as "a deliberate attempt to silence Palestinian representation at a critical juncture," warning that it could set a dangerous precedent.

For Palestinians, the timing could not be more critical. The General Assembly session was seen as an opportunity to secure broader international recognition, potentially shifting the dynamics of the decades-long conflict with Israel. The US decision, critics argue, reflects Washington's entrenched bias towards Israel and undermines global consensus-building efforts.

The 1988 Geneva session, convened after Arafat was barred, serves as an important precedent. Then, the international community swiftly adapted to uphold the principles of equal representation. Many diplomats are now urging the UN to consider a similar move, either by relocating this year's debates or by making a long-term shift of the headquarters.

"History is repeating itself, but this time the stakes are even higher," said a former UN official. "The refusal of visas to an entire delegation challenges the very legitimacy of the United Nations as a platform for diplomacy."

UN Secretary-General António Guterres faces a difficult balancing act. While the UN is bound by its headquarters agreement with the US, it also has a responsibility to ensure inclusivity. Some member states have already suggested an emergency resolution demanding that the venue for the 2024 General Assembly be moved to Geneva if the US does not reverse its decision. Behind closed doors, diplomats acknowledge that relocating the UN headquarters would be an enormous logistical and political undertaking. However, a compromise—such as holding critical debates in Geneva while keeping the administrative base in New York—could emerge as a practical solution.

For many analysts, the crisis reflects deeper questions about the UN's credibility. If one of its founding members can prevent another recognised observer state from participating, critics argue, the institution risks becoming irrelevant. As the session approaches, pressure is mounting on both Washington and the UN leadership. The fate of Palestine's participation—and perhaps the UN's global standing—hangs in the balance.

When China Becomes #1

Qamar Bashir

Political polarization compounds these challenges. While China moves forward with a unified vision, the United States struggles to reconcile deep divisions between Democrats and Republicans, preventing the creation of long-term strategies needed to sustain global leadership. Powerful lobbying networks and foreign influence groups, such as AIPAC, steer U.S. policy to serve external interests rather than the nation's strategic priorities. Meanwhile, traditional allies in Europe and Canada, as well as partners in Latin America, are pursuing greater independence from Washington, no longer willing to follow policies...

THE United States is without question a great country. Its people are hardworking, intelligent, innovative, creative, and generous. From breakthroughs in medicine to technological revolutions in Silicon Valley, America has shaped the modern world in ways unmatched by any other nation. It remains a land where people from every nationality, race, and background are welcomed with open arms and provided with the opportunity to realize their dreams. Millions of immigrants, including myself, have experienced this spirit of hospitality and freedom, and this openness has helped make America a beacon of hope and aspiration for the entire world. Yet today, the global balance of power is shifting rapidly, and the next two decades may define humanity's political, economic, and technological future. At the heart of this transformation lies China, a country whose breathtaking rise over the last thirty years is unmatched in modern history and whose trajectory now threatens to challenge America's position as the world's leading power. It is within this context that economists, think tanks, and policy experts around the world have debated when—and whether—China will overtake the United States as the dominant global power. The Council on Foreign Relations and Citigroup estimate that China could surpass the United States by 2035, driven by rapid technological advances, growing influence in international trade, and the vast economic ecosystem built around its Belt and Road Initiative. A report by the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) places the crossing point around 2036 and predicts China may hold the top position for roughly two decades before the U.S. potentially regains its lead by 2057, underscoring that American decline is not inevitable if the right policies are adopted. Analysts at the RAND Corporation are more cautious, projecting that the tipping point may arrive only in the 2040s due to China's aging population, rising debt, and slowing growth rates, but they warn that America's relative decline accelerates if Washington fails to take decisive corrective measures. Meanwhile, The Guardian introduced the concept of "Peak China" in its 2025 economic report, suggesting that while China's pace of expansion may eventually plateau, its technological leadership, military modernization, and deep integration with 154 countries give it an edge the United States cannot ignore. Despite differences in timelines, most credible institutions converge on one conclusion: the world is approaching a historic turning point where China could match or surpass American power, potentially redefining global leadership as early as the mid-2030s. China's leadership has spent decades investing heavily in its people, its industries, and its future. Millions of students were sent abroad with state support to acquire cutting-edge education and technical expertise, returning home to apply their skills to the country's rapid technological advancement. Research centers

and laboratories across the country are producing breakthroughs in artificial intelligence, quantum computing, electric vehicles, semiconductors, biotechnology, and space exploration. With consistent policy, centralized planning, and the ability to execute at extraordinary speed, China has achieved what no other country has attempted in modern times: it has built a knowledge-driven, innovation-focused economy at a scale the world has never seen before. Today, it competes directly with the United States in nearly every strategic sector, from energy to digital technology to defense.

This progress is matched by China's deep global outreach through the Belt and Road Initiative, which now connects more than 154 nations through infrastructure, trade, and investment partnerships. By building ports, highways, railways, energy grids, and digital corridors across Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Europe, China has positioned itself at the center of emerging economic systems and established influence across continents. In doing so, it offers developing countries access to resources and opportunities while simultaneously expanding its own markets and soft power. Unlike coercive alliances built on dependence, Beijing presents this as a model of shared prosperity—one where growth is mutual and partnerships create new possibilities for all. This resonates deeply with many nations, especially those historically marginalized in the global economic order.

In contrast, the United States stands at a crossroads. For decades, America has been the center of global power, but over time, its overreliance on financial dominance rather than industrial capability has weakened its foundations. Much of its manufacturing base has been outsourced to China, India, Taiwan, Vietnam, Bangladesh, and other nations, leaving the U.S. dependent on foreign supply chains for critical products, including advanced electronics, pharmaceuticals, and energy systems. America's global influence has long relied on the dominance of the U.S. dollar as the world's reserve currency, allowing it to print trillions without economic backing and finance its consumption and global strategy. Yet this advantage is eroding rapidly as BRICS nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and other blocs create new frameworks for trade that bypass the dollar entirely. As countries increasingly settle energy, technology, and agricultural trades in local currencies or the Chinese yuan, Washington's ability to shape the world economy through financial leverage diminishes year after year.

Political polarization compounds these challenges. While China moves forward with a unified vision, the United States struggles to reconcile deep divisions between Democrats and Republicans, preventing the creation of long-term strategies needed to sustain global leadership. Powerful lobbying networks and foreign influence groups, such as AIPAC, steer U.S. policy to serve external interests rather than the nation's strategic priorities. Meanwhile, traditional allies in Europe and Canada, as well as partners in Latin America, are pursuing greater

independence from Washington, no longer willing to follow policies they increasingly view as contrary to their own interests. For many across the globe, America is still admired for its innovation, opportunity, and generosity, but there is growing frustration with its history of military interventions and regime-change policies that have destabilized nations from Iraq to Syria, from Libya to Afghanistan. If the United States wants to sustain its role as a respected leader, it must abandon strategies rooted in coercion and start building partnerships grounded in trust, friendship, and mutual respect.

Yet the United States is not destined to fall behind. It still holds immense strengths—from its culture of innovation and world-class universities to its entrepreneurial spirit and unparalleled capacity to attract global talent. America's scientific leadership, vibrant democracy, and openness to diversity remain unmatched assets. But sustaining these advantages requires decisive action and renewed purpose. To match China's pace and reclaim long-term competitiveness, the U.S. must invest heavily in rebuilding its domestic manufacturing base, revitalizing its infrastructure, and restoring leadership in research and development. It must reform its education system to empower a new generation of engineers, scientists, and innovators, and it must foster unity in policymaking, setting aside partisanship for strategic national goals. Most critically, America must shift from a foreign policy based on dominance to one built on equal partnerships, cooperation, and mutual growth.

China's rise represents a once-in-a-century transformation of the global order, and whether the coming decades lead to confrontation or collaboration will depend on choices made today. If Beijing sustains its momentum and continues integrating 154 nations into its economic vision, it could emerge as the defining power of the 21st century. But China also presents itself as a nation seeking harmony, offering development opportunities rather than pursuing domination, knowing that shared prosperity fuels its own progress. Meanwhile, the United States has the ability to remain a global leader, but only if it adapts to a rapidly changing world, invests in its people, strengthens its alliances, and treats all nations with dignity, fairness, and respect.

The world stands at the threshold of a profound transformation. America's greatness lies in its creativity, diversity, and openness, qualities that have long inspired humanity. If it can harness these strengths, end destructive foreign interventions, and focus on building lasting partnerships based on trust and care, it can chart a new path where leadership is not imposed but earned. This is the moment for the United States to rediscover its founding ideals and become not just a superpower but a partner to the world. If it fails to do so, China's relentless rise will reshape the global balance irreversibly, and the 21st century may well belong to Beijing. But if America chooses wisely, there is room for both nations to thrive, for a multipolar world rooted in cooperation rather than conflict, and for humanity to achieve shared prosperity.

How to tackle drug addiction menace

Saifullah Ansar

Strict regulation and monitoring of prescription drugs are also necessary to prevent their misuse. Overcoming addiction is not easy, but it is possible with professional help. Rehabilitation centers play a crucial role in detoxification, therapy, and medical treatment, while counseling, support groups such as Narcotics Anonymous (NA), and skill-development programs help recovering addicts rebuild their lives. Family and community support remain vital throughout the recovery process, as acceptance and encouragement strengthen...

DRUG addiction rarely begins in a single way; rather, it emerges from multiple entry points that gradually pull individuals into dependency. One of the most common starting points is peer pressure, where friends or social groups introduce drugs during social gatherings, often under the pretense of enjoyment or bonding. This exposure is particularly dangerous for young people, who are more susceptible to experimenting under the influence of their peers. Curiosity is another strong factor, as many individuals, especially teenagers and young adults, are tempted to "try just once" in order to experience something new or thrilling, without fully understanding the long-term consequences.

At the same time, drugs often become a means of coping with stress, depression, and unresolved emotional or family issues. In societies struggling with economic hardship, unemployment, and lack of social support, drugs can appear as an easy escape from daily struggles, providing temporary relief from pain and anxiety. A family background where substance use is present also significantly increases the risk, as children exposed to such environments may grow up considering drugs a normal or acceptable part of life. Furthermore, the media plays a powerful role in shaping perceptions, with movies, music videos, and social media often glamorizing drug use, presenting it as a symbol of confidence, rebellion, or even success. Such portrayals can make drugs appear attractive, especially to vulnerable and impressionable minds. Initially, the effects of drugs may seem pleasurable. Users often report feelings of euphoria, relaxation, confidence, increased energy, and even heightened creativity. These short-term sensations give a false impression of control and satisfaction, which traps individuals into repeated use. However, the reality quickly shifts as the negative consequences begin to outweigh the temporary highs. Common side effects include drowsiness, confusion, paranoia, anxiety, hallucinations, aggression, mood swings, and loss of rational judgment. With prolonged use, the body develops tolerance, forcing users to con-

sume higher doses to achieve the same effect, eventually leading to full-blown addiction. Globally, the most commonly abused substances include cannabis, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines, and prescription drugs such as opioids, sedatives, and stimulants. In Pakistan, heroin, crystal meth (commonly known as ice), hashish, opium, and the misuse of prescription medicines like painkillers and sleeping pills are particularly widespread. Easy availability, weak enforcement of drug laws, and cross-border trafficking make these substances accessible even to young people and students.

The disadvantages of drug use are devastating, both physically and socially. On the health front, drug addiction can cause irreversible damage to vital organs, including lung failure, liver cirrhosis, kidney malfunction, and heart disease. Brain damage is another severe consequence, as prolonged drug use alters brain chemistry, impairing memory, concentration, and decision-making abilities. Injecting drugs with shared needles exposes users to life-threatening infections such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis B and C, further straining healthcare systems. Mental health also deteriorates drastically, with many addicts suffering from anxiety, chronic depression, schizophrenia, suicidal thoughts, and violent behavior.

On a social level, drug addiction is one of the leading causes of broken families, domestic violence, unemployment, crime, and social isolation. Addicts often lose the trust of their loved ones, face difficulties in maintaining relationships, and eventually disconnect from society. Legal repercussions add another layer of hardship, as arrests, imprisonment, and criminal records restrict future opportunities and lock addicts in a cycle of poverty and despair. Preventing drug addiction requires a multi-dimensional approach involving families, educational institutions, communities, and governments. Awareness campaigns in schools, colleges, and workplaces are essential to educate young people about the dangers of drugs and equip them with the confidence to resist peer pressure. Parents must maintain open communi-

cation with their children, provide emotional support, and encourage healthy activities such as sports, arts, and community engagement.

Strict regulation and monitoring of prescription drugs are also necessary to prevent their misuse. Overcoming addiction is not easy, but it is possible with professional help. Rehabilitation centers play a crucial role in detoxification, therapy, and medical treatment, while counseling, support groups such as Narcotics Anonymous (NA), and skill-development programs help recovering addicts rebuild their lives. Family and community support remain vital throughout the recovery process, as acceptance and encouragement strengthen the will to stay drug-free.

According to estimates by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Health Organization (WHO), nearly 300 million people worldwide are using drugs annually in 2025, with around 40 million suffering from severe drug-use disorders that require treatment. In Pakistan alone, 7–9 million people are estimated to be drug users, with the youth between 15 and 35 years being the most vulnerable group. This alarming situation calls for urgent government action.

Authorities must strengthen border controls to curb smuggling, dismantle drug mafias, and implement strict punishments for traffickers. At the same time, expanding rehabilitation facilities, improving access to mental health services, creating job opportunities for youth, and using digital monitoring to track drug-related crimes are crucial steps. Community policing, neighborhood watch programs, and collaboration with religious and social organizations can also help in raising awareness and discouraging drug culture. Ultimately, fighting drug addiction is not the responsibility of one sector alone; it requires a collective effort from governments, families, schools, media, and society at large. Only through unity, education, and compassion can future generations be protected from the destructive grip of drugs.

— The writer is a staff member

Briefs

Nepali PM resigns; house set on fire

FROM PAGE 01
Analysts say the latest unrest could push the country toward new elections or another coalition reshuffle. For now, the streets of Kathmandu remain tense, with protesters vowing to continue their demonstrations until accountability is ensured for the deaths.

Over 8,000 TTP terrorists present in...

FROM PAGE 01
The infiltration of terrorists from Afghanistan, the officials added. The tribal leaders have demanded the CM to raise the issue of infiltration with the Afghan government. With 800 terrorists in Bajaur and Khyber districts alone, the security forces have gunned down as many as 80 militants — attempting to infiltrate from Afghanistan — in Bajaur and North Waziristan in recent weeks. Expressing his views on the issue, KP government's spokesperson Muhammad Ali Saif said that the terrorists make videos on the road and then escape. "If terrorists have courage, they should come in the morning instead of at night," Saif said. The spokesperson further reaffirmed the government resolve to eradicate the menace of terrorism and stressed that intelligence-based operations (IBOs) were being carried out in the province. Noting that militants had been eliminated in DI Khan, Lakki Marwat, Bajaur, Khyber, Bannu and Dir, IGP Hameed said that 39 terrorists were killed in August in 190 operations whereas 110 were arrested. "We have taken strict notice of the Fitna al-Khawarij setting up roadblocks," the police official remarked, adding that day-night patrols have been commenced on the CPEC Road in cooperation with he Motorway Police.

Israel targets Hamas leadership in attack...

FROM PAGE 01
through diplomatic circles, as Qatar has played a pivotal role as mediator in ongoing efforts to secure a truce between Israel and Hamas. Doha has not yet issued an official response. Regional analysts warn that targeting Hamas leaders on Qatari soil could escalate tensions beyond Gaza, dragging key mediators into the conflict and complicating Washington's ceasefire initiative. As of now, both the Qatari government and U.S. officials have remained tight-lipped, while international observers closely watch the unfolding situation in Doha. Meanwhile, the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif has strongly condemned the attack. In his X message the prime minister termed the attack a serious breach. He expressed solidarity with the people and govt of Qatar. Turkiye condemned Israel's attack against Hamas members in Qatar's capital Doha, its foreign ministry said on Tuesday, adding this showed Israel had adopted "expansionist politics in the region and terrorism" as state policies.

Karachi witnesses day-long...

FROM PAGE 01
the city had weakened into a depression that was now lying over central Sindh. It would continue to move nearly west/ southwestward and gradually further weaken into a well-marked low pressure area during next 12 hours, the PMD added. "Due to this system strong monsoon currents are continually penetrating in the province. Under its influence, widespread rain-wind/ thunderstorm with strong gusty winds along with scattered heavy to very heavy/ isolated exceptional heavy falls are expected in ... Karachi division till tomorrow with occasional gaps."

Asia Cup 2025 trophy unveiled as teams all set for UAE showdown

ACC President Mohsin Naqvi reveals Asia Cup trophy in Dubai ceremony

DNA

ABU DHABI: The trophy of the ACC Men's Asia Cup 2025 has been unveiled, adding to the anticipation surrounding the eight-nation tournament set to kick off in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) today (Tuesday). Asian Cricket Council (ACC) President Mohsin Naqvi, who is also the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief, performed the unveiling ceremony. The event saw the representation of the captains of all the teams participating in the tournament. Cricket fans across Asia are abuzz with excitement as final squads are confirmed and preparations near completion, setting the stage for three weeks of top-flight cricket. Asia Cup 2025 will kick off with Afghanistan taking on minnows Hong Kong at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi. The tournament will be played across two venues — Dubai International Cricket Stadium and Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium — with Abu Dhabi hosting eight matches, including a Super Four clash on September 23, and Dubai staging the majority of games, including both high-profile Pakistan-India encounters, should the arch-rivals qualify beyond the group stage. Pakistan, fresh from their tri-nation series victory, have been placed in Group A alongside India, Oman, and hosts UAE. The Green Shirts will open their campaign on September 12 against Oman in Dubai, followed by the much-awaited clash with



India on September 14, before concluding their group stage on September 17 against the UAE. Indian skipper Suryakumar Yadav said during the trophy unveiling ceremony that his side was "equally excited" for the Asia Cup, describing the Twenty20 format as highly challenging, where "any team can

deliver an extraordinary performance". Group B features Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Hong Kong. The top two sides from each group will advance to the Super Four stage, with the final scheduled for September 28 in Dubai. All matches will start at 6pm Gulf Standard

Time (7 PST), except for the September 15 fixture between the UAE and Oman. Former Pakistan fast-bowling great Wasim Akram has urged players and fans from both sides to remain disciplined and not cross the line during the high-voltage Pakistan-India matches.

Sinner Plans 'Unpredictable' Changes After US Open Loss to Alcaraz

Jannik Sinner explained how he will change his game to become more unpredictable against Carlos Alcaraz

NEW YORK: The 2025 US Open reached its thrilling conclusion on Sunday with another epic chapter in the rivalry between Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner. Alcaraz defeated Sinner in four sets to clinch his sixth career Grand Slam title. In addition to winning his second Major of the year, Alcaraz finally leaped over Sinner in the ATP Rankings to claim the World No. 1 spot. It should come as no surprise that Sinner was displeased after yesterday's match. During his post-match press conference, Sinner received a softball question about the future of the rivalry and turned it into a surprisingly honest admission about his self-perceived weak spots and a bold declaration to change moving forward. "I was very predictable today, on court. He did many things; he changed up the game. That's also his style of how he plays. Now it's gonna be on me if I want to



make changes or not. We're definitely gonna work on that," said Sinner. "I'm trying to be more prepared for the next match I will play against him. Also, I feel like how it arrives to play against Carlos. One thing is when the scoreline matches before are comfortable, but you always do the same things, like I did,

for example, in this tournament. I didn't make one serve and volley. I didn't use a lot of drop shots. Then you arrive to a point where you have to play Carlos, where you have to go out of the comfort zone. I'm going to aim to maybe even losing some matches from now on, but trying to do some changes. Trying to

be a bit more unpredictable as a player. Because I think that's what I have to do, trying to become a better tennis player. At the end of the day that's my main goal," concluded Sinner. Naturally, the media asked Alcaraz about Sinner's comments in his post-match press conference. Alcaraz denied the idea that he could predict Sinner's game. "I wouldn't say I read his game; that he was predictable. But I know him. It's been so many matches against him. He said as well he watch a lot of my matches just to study my game. I do the same. I watch a lot of his matches. First of all, because I love watching him play. I think it is unbelievable what he's doing," explained Alcaraz. He added, "Secondly, I love to study him, how he plays, how he feel on the tournaments. If I played him in that tournament, just to have a feedback how he's been playing in the tournament. — APP

Carlos Alcaraz Defeats Sinner at US Open for 6th Slam, Reclaims No. 1 Ranking

Sunday's showdown represented the first time in tennis history that the same two men played each other in three consecutive Slam finals within a single season

NEW YORK: Carlos Alcaraz reasserted his superiority over Jannik Sinner with a 6-2, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 victory Sunday in the US Open final — the third Grand Slam tournament in a row where these elite, young rivals met to decide the champion — for his second trophy at Flushing Meadows and sixth overall at a major. President Donald Trump sat in a sponsor's suite in Arthur Ashe Stadium and received a mix of cheers and boos when he offered a wave beforehand and again when he was shown on videoboards after the first set. The match's start was delayed by about a half-hour because thousands of fans were still outside in line, trying to get through the extra security measures in place because of the presence of a sitting president at the tournament for the first time since Bill Clinton in 2000. Perhaps the extra wait got the No. 1-seeded Sinner, who was the defending champion. Right from the beginning under a closed roof because of rain earlier in the day, No. 2 Alcaraz was better as he sought to reverse the result from when they met at the All England Club less than two months ago. He did just that, putting his leads over Sinner at 10-5 in their head-to-head series, 6-4 in major trophies, and 2-1 in US Open championships. Plus, this win allowed Alcaraz, a 22-year-old from Spain, to take away the No. 1 ranking from Sinner, a 24-year-old from Italy. These two guys are so, so much better than the rest of men's tennis at the moment. Carlos Alcaraz, of Spain, kisses the championship trophy after defeating Jannik Sinner, of Italy, in the men's singles final of the US Open tennis championships, Sunday, Sept. 7, 2025, in New York. — APP

Pak ready for Asia Cup 2025 after winning tri-nation series

Green Shirts will play their first match of the tournament on Sept 12

DNA

DUBAI: After clinching victory in the tri-nation series, Pakistan are ready to head to the Asia Cup Men's T20 cricket tournament, set to begin on September 9, in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Green Shirts will play their first match of the tournament on September 12 against Oman in Dubai, followed by a clash with rival India on September 14, and the group stage will conclude on September 17 against the UAE. Pakistan have been placed in Group A alongside India, Oman, and the host UAE. While Group B features Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Hong Kong. The top two teams from each group will advance to the Super Four stage, with the final scheduled for September 28 in Dubai. Pakistan, in total, played 19 matches in the T20I format, including 11 wins and eight matches lost. The team displayed impressive form in the tri-nation series, defeating Afghanistan and the UAE, and had earlier secured T20 series wins against Bangladesh and the West Indies. So far, Pakistan have featured in the continental tournament on 15 occasions, winning it twice, under Moin Khan's captaincy in 2000 and in Mishab-ul-Haq's leadership in 2012.



Tonali saves Italy from World Cup disaster against Israel

Tonali's Late Strike Saves Italy in 9-Goal Thriller Against Israel in World Cup Qualifier

DEBRECEEN: Sandro Tonali earned Italy a thrilling 5-4 win against Israel on Monday with the decisive late strike in the 2026 World Cup qualifier just as it looked like the Azzurri were plunging into another crisis. Newcastle United midfielder Tonali wheeled off in celebration in stoppage time when his speculative effort went through a sea of legs and into the net to win a rollercoaster of a match in Debrecen, Hungary, which Italy looked to have thrown away. The Azzurri, who have missed the last two World Cups, were leading 4-2 in the 81st minute when substitute Giacomo Raspadori rolled home almost immediately after replacing the impressive Moise Kean, who netted Italy's first two goals. However, a clumsy Alessandro Bastoni own-goal and Dor Peretz's header drew Israel level before Tonali's fortunate effort moved Italy up to second in Group I — level on nine points with Israel who have played a game more — and in the play-off spot. "We'll take the win which was crucial for us, but we're completely nuts, nuts because we conceded some absurd goals," said Gennaro Gattuso. "We need to work on that because we're too fragile, we concede goals too easily. The boys know that, but this is my problem to fix. "You have to give credit to the boys because every time they took a slap they had the courage to react and fight back." Italy trail leaders Norway by three points and still have a chance of taking first place and the group's sole direct qualifying spot. But new coach Gattuso has a lot to think about ahead of October's return fixtures with Estonia and Israel, whose players donned black armbands in honour of

the victims of Monday morning's deadly shooting at a bus stop in east Jerusalem carried out Palestinian gunmen. Nominal home team Israel would have been good value for the draw, as Kean had previously twice pulled Italy out of the mire following Manuel Locatelli's early own-goal and a fabulous Dor Peretz strike in the 52nd minute in a largely empty Nagyerdei Stadium. Monday's match had cast a political cloud over Gattuso's first fixtures in charge of Italy due to Israel's offensive in the Gaza Strip. The small group of Italian fans present turned their backs to the pitch during the Israeli national anthem, while boos also rang out from sections of the stadium, before then holding up banners which read "stop". And the Italians on the pitch looked equally uninterested in the match come kick-off, with Israel snapper and more aggressive than the four-time world champions. The nominal home had already had a goal disallowed by the time Locatelli bundled Dan Biton's cross into his own net. Locatelli almost made up for his own-goal when he struck the bar with an acrobatic volley in the 31st minute, seconds before Kean wasted a great opportunity from a Gianluca Mancini cut-back. But 10 minutes later Kean thumped a low drive past Daniel Peretz after collecting a knockdown from strike partner Mateo Retegui. And Kean came to the rescue again nine minutes after the break, levelling with another powerful low shot just seconds after Peretz put Israel ahead for the second time with a brilliant first-time effort. Politano finally put Italy ahead with a great volley after more fine work from Retegui, and when Raspadori rolled home the fourth it seemed the away team looked out of the woods. But it took Tonali's unusual winner to finally secure the three points after uncharacteristically bad defending nearly left Italy's hopes of qualification hanging by a thread. — Agencies

PDMA warns 'high flood' in Sutlej

FROM PAGE 01

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is also set to visit the barrage. Bilawal was arriving at Guddu from Punjab after visiting flood-hit areas there. He said a briefing would be given to him at the deck of the barrage. Meanwhile, Heavy rains have broken a 30-year-old record in Faisalabad. The highest rainfall of 184mm was witnessed in Ghulam Muhammadabad locality, while 175mm was recorded in Allama Iqbal Colony and 170mm in Gulistan Colony, 167mm on Jail Road and adjacent areas and 154mm of rain was recorded in Dogar Basti and Madina Town localities. Low-lying localities were submerged with rainwater, and in some localities, rainwater was flowing through the houses, forcing the inmates to stay on the roofs or to shift to safer places.

Fire destroys garment factory in Karachi

FROM PAGE 01

New Karachi Industrial Area Station House Officer (SHO) Rizwan Qureshi told Dawn.com that the fire erupted at around 6:30am and factory building collapsed around noon. According to SSP Siddiqi, the presence of diesel drums compounded the fire, which spread rapidly, engulfing two more industrial units in its vicinity. The injured firefighters were taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, while further checks were being carried out at the Civil Hospital Karachi and the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for any additional casualties. The police officer identified the four injured persons as 50-year-old Ismail, 35-year-old Owais, 30-year-old Buland, and Aslam, also aged 30 years. "They are in a stable condition," he added.

Palestine recognition will destabilise...

FROM PAGE 01

The British government said it would take the step if Israel fails to agree to a ceasefire in Gaza. "The current initiative to recognise a so-called Palestinian state... rewards Hamas for the October 7 massacre," Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar said in the Croatian capital, referring to the October 2023 attack on Israel that triggered the war. "This initiative will not bring us closer to peace or security, the opposite, it will only destabilise the region," he added. Sa'ar spoke at a joint press conference with his Croatian counterpart Gordan Grljic Radman, who emphasised his belief in the two-state solution that Israel rejects. Meanwhile, six more Palestinians died from Israeli-induced starvation over the past 24 hours, raising the total famine-related death toll in the enclave to 399 people, including 140 children, Al Jazeera reported, citing Gaza's Health Ministry. According to the ministry, at least 121 people, among them 25 children, have died since late August when the UN-backed Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) formally declared famine across major parts of Gaza.

Punjab's Cricketing Spirit Shines at PMYP-Qalandars Trials

"The passion and energy we witnessed in Sialkot and Jhelum exceeded all expectations. I especially thank the youth of these cities for turning out in such large numbers and making these trials truly memorable. This platform proves that with the right opportunities, dreams can indeed come true," said Atif Rana

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister Youth Program (PMYP) cricket talent hunt trials, spearheaded by Lahore Qalandars, continued their remarkable journey with back-to-back events in Sialkot and Jhelum, drawing thousands of passionate boys and girls eager to showcase their cricketing talent. Designed to provide aspiring cricketers with a pathway to professional opportunities, the trials received an overwhelming response. Both venues witnessed an electrifying atmosphere, as young participants displayed determination and excitement in pursuit of their cricketing dreams. Adding distinction to the Jhelum trials, Federal Minister Bilal Kiyani hosted the proceedings, while the presence of US Chargé d'Affaires Natalie A. Baker on the opening day brought international recognition and underscored the global significance of the initiative. Their



participation not only inspired the youth but also highlighted the importance of investing in sports as a driver of youth development. Lahore Qalandars CEO Atif Rana expressed deep gratitude to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, PMYP Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, and the Higher Education Commission (HEC) for their unwavering support in making the program a nationwide success. He also lauded the people of Sialkot and Jhelum for their remarkable response. "The passion and energy we witnessed in Sialkot and Jhelum exceeded all expectations. I especially thank the youth of these cities for turning out in such large numbers and making these trials truly memorable. This platform proves that with the right opportunities, dreams can indeed come true," said Atif Rana. Young participants expressed their appreciation to the Prime Minister, the PMYP team, and Lahore Qalandars, calling the trials a "dream come true" and acknowledging the exposure and professional guidance they received.

Briefs

SAPM,
President
MCCI discuss
industrial
policy

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan on Tuesday held a meeting with the President of the Mirpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) and discussed the country's new industrial policy.

During the meeting, they also discussed opportunities for joint ventures with China, investment in the textile sector, as well as in solar systems and battery manufacturing capacity, said a news release.

The SAPM said that under the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan is moving on the path of progress. He highlighted that the recent visit to China proved to be extremely productive and will open the doors for new joint ventures.

"Due to the tireless efforts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, investment from China is continuously flowing into Pakistan", he added.

Haroon emphasized that value addition is essential to enhance Pakistan's exports. He announced a new Technical Assistance Center will be established in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), which will equip the youth with modern skills.

"AJK offers vast opportunities for investment and industrial development", he remarked. The MCCI President congratulated SAPM Haroon on the formulation of the new industrial policy. He also announced that a delegation from AJK will soon depart for China to explore investment and joint venture opportunities.

Meanwhile, in a separate meeting, a delegation of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) also called on the SAPM. The delegation discussed key issues being faced by chambers across the country.

Haroon Akhtar assured the delegation that the government is fully committed to addressing and resolving all such issues on priority. APP

Gold price up
by Rs 4,100
per tola

ISLAMABAD: The per tola price of 24-karat gold surged by Rs. 4,100 on Tuesday and was traded at Rs.388,100 against its sale at Rs. 384,000 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.3,514 to settle at Rs. 332,733 up from Rs.329,219 whereas that of 22-karat gold also witnessed an increase of Rs.3,222 to Rs.305,016 from Rs. 301,794.

The price of 24-karat silver per tola increased by Rs.20 to Rs.4,358 whereas that of ten gram silver went up by Rs.17 to Rs.3,736. The international silver rate also went up by \$0.20 to \$41.25 from US\$41.05 per ounce. In the international market, gold prices rose \$41 to reach \$3,654 per ounce, compared to \$3,613 in the previous session.—APP

PSX gains 476
more points

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index continued with bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 476.22 points, a positive change of 0.31 percent, closing at 156,563.53 points against 156,087.31 points last trading day. A total of 1,068,521,605 shares were traded during the day as compared to 1,126,267,973 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 55.190 billion against Rs 62.295 billion on the last trading day. As many as 478 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 154 of them recorded gains and 291 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 33 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were K-Electric Limited with 169,615,422 shares at Rs 5.75 per share, Bank of Punjab with 83,886,261 shares at Rs19.66 per share and WorldCall Telecom with 74,056,866 shares at Rs1.52 per share.)_APP

Pakistan, Kazakhstan hold talks to boost bilateral ties

Pakistan, Kazakhstan advance strategic ties, finalize Presidential visit, sign bilateral cooperation action plan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Kazakhstan held high-level delegation talks today in Islamabad, co-chaired by H.E. Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan, and H.E. Mr. Murat Nurtleu, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan. The discussions focused on reviewing the full spectrum of bilateral cooperation and advancing mutual goals across multiple sectors. The two sides reaffirmed their shared commitment to strengthening ties and explored avenues to boost trade and investment. Both delegations emphasized the potential for deeper collaboration in key sectors including agriculture, information technology, education, culture, tourism, and security. Particular focus was placed on enhancing regional connectivity and logistics infrastructure to support economic integration and facilitate smoother trade routes between the two countries.

The talks also finalized the roadmap for the upcoming official visit of the President of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, scheduled for November 2025. The visit is expected to open new opportunities for economic and political engagement. Follow-



ing the formal discussions, Senator Ishaq Dar and Foreign Minister Murat Nurtleu signed the Action Plan of Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan and the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan. The agreement outlines concrete steps to institutionalize bilateral consultations, promote cultural and academic exchanges, and enhance diplomatic coordination at regional

and multilateral fora. Both leaders expressed satisfaction over the growing momentum in bilateral relations and reiterated their resolve to work closely for the prosperity and stability of the region. The

delegation-level talks mark a significant milestone in the evolving partnership between Pakistan and Kazakhstan, grounded in shared values, economic interests, and a vision for regional connectivity.

Digital Pak initiative empowering youth, entrepreneurs

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain on Tuesday said that Digital Pakistan Initiative was empowering youth, entrepreneurs and industry in order to revolutionize the manufacturing sector of the country. Addressing the International Summit on Redefining Digital Manufacturing, the minister commending Octave Technology Solutions (OTS) for organizing a timely and impactful event. The event brought together national and international experts, industry leaders, and practitioners under one roof, said a press release. The minister emphasized that manufacturing has historically been the backbone of national economies, yet in today's interconnected world, competitiveness no longer rests on production capacity alone. He stated that nations must embrace digital technologies, automation, and advanced engineering solutions in order to keep pace with global innovation. He observed that cutting-edge tools such as 3D scanning, reverse engineering, additive manufacturing, and precision metrology are redefining industries worldwide, and Pakistan must adapt swiftly if it is to secure its place in the global supply chain. Rana Tanveer Hussain underlined that the Government of Pakistan has placed industrial modernization and digital transformation at the heart of its economic strategy. He noted that the establishment of the Pakistan Digital Authority (PDA) under the Digital Nation Pakistan Act 2025 is a major milestone, providing an apex platform to lead the national digital transformation, frame the National Digital Masterplan, enforce governance standards, and enable Industry 4.0 adoption. He further highlighted that through the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA), high-tech hubs such as Islamabad Technopolis are being developed to promote research, digital manufacturing, and global partnerships. He added that the Engineering Development Board (EDB) is working rigorously to upgrade the industrial sector, particularly in automotive, machinery, and engineering value chains, while the National Aerospace Science & Technology Park (NASTP), inaugurated in 2023, is positioning Pakistan as a center for aerospace, cyber, and frontier technologies. At the same time, the Digital Pakistan Initiative is rapidly expanding connectivity, enhancing innovation, and creating opportunities for entrepreneurship and youth development. The minister lauded the contributions of Octave Technology Solutions (OTS), describing it as a homegrown pioneer of digital manufacturing. He acknowledged that by introducing advanced services in 3D scanning, reverse engineering, and digital prototyping, OTS is filling a critical gap in Pakistan's industrial innovation ecosystem. —DNA

Qatar sets up field hospital, shelters for Afghan earthquakes victims

LONDON: The Qatar International Search and Rescue Group, a specialist unit within the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya), has established a temporary field hospital in eastern Afghanistan to provide medical assistance to people affected by three major earthquakes in the area over the past week. The group said on Monday that some of the injured were treated at the field hospital, while critical cases were transferred to major medical facilities in nearby governorates. It has also provided tents as temporary shelters for families left homeless by earthquakes, the Qatar News Agency reported. At least 2,205 people were killed and 3,640 injured when eastern regions of Afghanistan were shaken by a magnitude 6 earthquake last Sunday, Aug. 31, followed by two major quakes on Tuesday and Thursday last week, according to the Taliban administration. It is estimated that about 6,700 homes were destroyed in the provinces of Nangarhar and Kunar, close to the border with Pakistan. In addition to the people left without a home, many other families have chosen to remain outdoors out of fear that their dwellings, built mainly from dry masonry, stone and timber, are vulnerable to the continuing aftershocks. In addition to natural disasters, Afghanistan, which has a population of 42.6 million, has suffered since the 1980s as a result of political turmoil, civil wars, a weak economy.—APP

Arab foreign ministers denounce Israeli threat to displace Palestinians

RIYADH: The Foreign Ministers of the Arab Organization of Islamic Cooperation Committee on Gaza on Monday rejected all statements made by Israeli authorities about displacement, under any pretext, of the Palestinian people from their territories, which have been occupied since 1967. The ministers condemned Israel's policy of uprooting Palestinians through military operations in Gaza, the use of siege and starvation as methods of war, and the deliberate targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure. They warned that such practices risk prolonging and widening the conflict, thereby posing "a direct threat to regional and international peace and security."

The ministers also denounced Israeli actions in the occupied West Bank, including settlement expansions, settler violence, home demolitions and land confiscations, describing them as flagrant violations of international humanitarian law. They said those responsible for such actions should be held accountable for crimes that could amount to ethnic cleansing and genocide.—APP

Sharjah to host over 150 global experts on disability inclusion

SHARJAH: The World Congress 2025 "We Are Inclusion" will make its debut in the MENA region with its upcoming edition in Sharjah from 15th to 17th September.

The three-day event will bring together 152 speakers from 72 countries, including presidents of international organisations, UN representatives, government ministers, senior policymakers, academics, self-advocates, and youth leaders.

Hosted at the Expo Centre Sharjah, the congress will be the largest global gathering dedicated to inclusion and the empowerment of people with intellectual disabilities. It will provide a platform for innovative perspectives that can shape more inclusive and equitable policies at both regional and international levels.

The programme will also feature leading voices whose work has advanced inclusion across sectors and regions.

Bringing decades of leadership in rights-based and social initiatives, Sheikhha Jameela bint Mohammed Al Qasimi, President of Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services, will highlight her experience in establishing regional and international initiatives to empower people with disabilities. Her achievements have earned her several honorary doctorates and prestigious humanitarian awards.

As President of the Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities in Jordan, Prince Mired bin Ra'ad will share his expertise in advancing rights and shaping inclusive policy. He will also draw on his international role as Special Envoy for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and his efforts in supporting injured military veterans.—APP

Lebanon to disarm Hezbollah near Israel border within 3 months

BEIRUT: Lebanon's army is set to fully disarm Hezbollah near the border with Israel within three months, Foreign Minister Youssef Raggi told AFP on Tuesday. In August, the Lebanese government ordered the military to draw up plans to disarm the once-dominant militant group by the end of the year, having come under pressure from the United States and Israeli strikes. The cabinet said last week that the army would begin implementing the plan, without disclosing details. Raggi said army chief Rodolphe Haykal had presented the government with a five-stage plan last week to ensure all weapons are held by the Lebanese state. The first stage should take "three months... during which the removal of weapons will be completed south of the Litani River," around 30 kilometers (20 miles) from Israel, by the end of November. "There will be no warehouses, no weapons, no weapons transfers, no fighters, and no display of arms" in the area, Raggi said, describing the army's plan. In parallel with the first phase, the army's plan stipulates that "security measures" will be implemented across the country. The army will "tighten and increase the number of checkpoints, prevent the movement and carrying of weapons... but without conducting raids, arresting individuals, or confiscating weapons from warehouses," Raggi added. "At the very least, the movement of weapons from one area to another will be prohibited." Raggi said the next four phases of the plan will see disarmament in other regions, including Beirut and the eastern Bekaa, "but without timelines.—APP

Pakistan, Türkiye for expansions of 'PTGTA' for market access

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Türkiye on Tuesday emphasized on accelerating expansion and implementation of "Pakistan-Türkiye Trade in Goods Agreement", ensuring that it delivers genuine and balanced market access.

"We have also recognized the importance of expanding the "Pakistan-Türkiye Trade in Goods Agreement" from the current phase of Commodities to Services and E-commerce and bilateral business-to-business linkages through trade exhibitions, investment forums, and joint ventures. These views were expressed by Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal and Minister along with Minister, National Defence of the Republic of Türkiye, Yasar Güler said while addressing the 16th Session of the Pakistan-Türkiye Joint Ministerial Commission in a local hotel. On the occasion, Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan said that Pakistan, through its Special Investment Facilitation Council, was ready to extend every possible support to Turkish investors in Special Economic Zones and priority sectors, and together, "we can unlock new avenues of trade, investment, and industrial cooperation. "Our discussions today have reaffirmed the centrality of economic cooperation in our relationship." Jam Kamal said "the Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) stands as one of the most important institutional mechanisms to convert this deep goodwill into concrete results, and it provides us the framework to review past progress, set ambitious goals, and agree on practical measures that will transform into one of the most dynamic and result-oriented partnerships in the region." He said that "Pakistan and Türkiye are natural trade and investment partners; yet, our current bilateral trade volume does not reflect the true potential of our economies." "Agriculture, food security, and health have also emerged as priority areas for collaboration and joint ventures in value-added agriculture, seed technology, food processing, livestock management, and fisheries will not only enhance our trade but also ensure affordable food supplies for our citizens," he said. He said that in health, cooperation in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, medical devices, and hospital management will help address pressing public health challenges, and Türkiye's "Heal in Türkiye" initiative can become a bridge of health tourism between the nations, bringing both expertise and affordability to the peoples. The establishment of the Pakistan-Türkiye Textile Technology Centre at the National Textile University in Faisalabad was a landmark step forward. Expanding research collaborations, student exchanges, and vocational training programs will enable us to prepare the youth, the true custodians of the future, for tomorrow's opportunities, he said. The Commerce Minister said that "equally important is our partnership in the fields of information technology, digital economy, and connectivity. Pakistan's vibrant IT sector, powered by a dynamic youth, complements Türkiye's impressive strides in digital innovation. Cooperation in software development, fintech, e-commerce, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity can open entirely new dimensions of growth." —DNA

Pakistan, Azerbaijan agree to promote bilateral trade

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari stated that Pakistan is an attractive market for Azerbaijani products, particularly food and cosmetics, while fertilizers can be imported from Azerbaijan to Pakistan

DNA

BAKU: Pakistan and Azerbaijan have agreed to promote bilateral trade, enhance investment, establish long-term business relations, set up permanent product display centers in Baku and Islamabad, and organize joint business-to-business (B2B) sessions.

This commitment was expressed during a high-level meeting between the Azerbaijan Export and Investment Promotion Agency (AZPRO-MO) and the Azerbaijan-Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (APJCICI) held in Baku. The Pakistani delegation was led by APJCICI Patron-in-Chief Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, while AZPRO-MO's Deputy Executive Director Tural Hajili welcomed the guests.

Tural Hajili emphasized that promoting exports and attracting investment are the core objectives

of his organization, and the establishment of APJCICI is a milestone in structured cooperation between the private sectors of both countries. He underlined that the current trade volume is below its real potential, but closer collaboration and B2B linkages can unlock vast

opportunities. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari stated that Pakistan is an attractive market for Azerbaijani products, particularly food and cosmetics, while fertilizers can be imported from Azerbaijan to Pakistan. He announced that APJCICI will organize an Azerbaijan-Pakistan Business Forum, hold

single-country exhibitions, and work towards establishing permanent product display centers in both Baku and Islamabad.

He further noted that both governments have set a target of USD 2 billion in bilateral trade, and it is the responsibility of the private sector

to play its role in achieving this goal through sector-specific partnerships. It was also agreed during the meeting that a business delegation from Azerbaijan will visit Pakistan early next year to inject new momentum into bilateral trade and investment initiatives.



Kazakhstan to attract over 5t tenge in investments

ASTANA : Kazakh Government plans to attract over 5 trillion tenge in investments, Deputy Prime Minister – National Economy Minister Serik Zhumangarin told a Government meeting, Kazinform News Agency reports.

He stressed the main emphasis is placed on the new investment cycle, the development of Alatau city, inflation control, reduction of dependence on imports and economic liberalization.

He noted it is expected to step up economic growth rates to double GDP by 2029 through the Government's direct role in stimulating high investment activity.—APP

Briefs

Call for
shifting UN
GA session
from NY to
Geneva

Trump administration has refused visas to about 80 Palestinian officials

DNA

NEW YORK: Calls are mounting to relocate the United Nations General Assembly session from New York to Geneva after the United States refused visas to the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and his delegation, media reports said. Important decisions regarding the recognition of Palestine are expected at the session. High-level debates at the General Assembly are scheduled from September 23 to 27, and the session will conclude on September 29, according to media reports. The Trump administration has refused visas to about 80 Palestinian officials. In 1988, the US also barred PLO leader Yasser Arafat from travelling to New York. This is the first time in UN history that such a blanket ban has been attempted. The aim is to prevent participation in one of the most significant events in Palestinian history since the Oslo Accords.

Under a 1947 UN "headquarters agreement", the US is generally required to allow access for foreign diplomats to the UN in New York. However, Washington has said it can deny visas for security, extremism and foreign policy reasons.

A one-day General Assembly conference on the two-state solution will be held on September 22 in New York. Abbas was to attend the conference led by Saudi Arabia and France. The session may see Britain, France, Australia, Canada and other countries recognise Palestine as a state. Danish Member of the European Parliament Per Clausen has proposed moving the UN session to Geneva, saying Europe should propose holding it there. He said Palestinians' rights should be recognised, and President Trump sent a clear message. Israel and the US are upset with several Western allies who have pledged to recognise a Palestinian state at the UN. At least 147 of the 193 UN member states already recognise a Palestinian state.

Ethiopian Embassy 'Enkutatash' and GERD inauguration in style

Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Chairman of the Senate was the chief guest while H.E. Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Federal Minister for Defence and Aviation attended as the guest of honor



SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan has hosted a grand reception in the Federal Capital Islamabad to celebrate the Ethiopian New Year (Enkutatash) 2018, inauguration of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), and Unity Day. A large presence from Pakistan close to 500 including higher officials in the commemoration ceremony was a true reflection of the growing bilateral relations between the two countries. H.E. Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Chairman of the Senate was the chief guest while H.E. Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Federal Minister for Defence and Aviation attended as the guest of honor.

Among the distinguished guests were H.E. Musadik Masood Malik, Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, H.E. Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Federal Minister for IT & Telecommunication, H.E. Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, Federal Minister for Culture and Heritage, H.E. Hamid Asghar Khan, Additional Secretary (Africa), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, and H.E. Murtaza Solangi, Spokesperson for President. Ambassadors, diplomatic corps members,

government officials, Parliamentarians, media, think tanks' heads and members of the Ethiopian diaspora were also in attendance. In his address, H.E. Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, Ethiopia's Special Envoy and Ambassador to Pakistan, extended New Year greetings, explaining about Ethiopia's unique calendar system, with 13 months. "By attending today gathering, all of us in this room got seven years younger... because Ethiopia is celebrating the start of 2018 today," he added. The Ambassador emphasized that Enkutatash symbolizes hope and optimism. He also spoke on Ethiopia's rich heritage as the origin of humankind and coffee, highlighting its history of religious harmony,

diverse culture and tourism. He also noted Ethiopia's role in pan-Africanism and regional integration. He further detailed the Medemer philosophy of Prime Minister H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed which stressed on synergizing all resources. "This philosophy is the driving force behind Ethiopia's political, economic, social and legal reforms since 2018, which have contributed to its economic growth," he said while describing the inauguration of Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam as a powerful manifestation of Medemer. The GERD is entirely financed by Ethiopians, he said, adding the dam would not significantly harm any downstream countries, underscoring Ethiopia's dedication to equitable and reasonable water utilization for regional energy connectivity. He reaffirmed the friendly relations between Ethiopia and Pakistan and noted growing cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, education, and cultural exchange, climate change, peace and security. The Honorable Chairman Senate said that Pakistan and Ethiopia share centuries-old trade and cultural linkages, which are being reinvigorated under Pakistan's Look Africa Policy. He further stated that both Pakistan and Ethiopia share the same objectives: ensuring peace, prosperity, and dignity for every citizen. Looking ahead, he expressed hope for closer partnerships in renewable energy, agricultural innovation, and parliamentary exchanges. He paid tribute to Ethiopia's remarkable achievements and stressed that both countries can pave the way for prosperity by wisely utilizing their shared resources. "The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam is not merely a structure of concrete and steel — it is a symbol of Ethiopia's determination, collective vision, and progress," he said while felicitating the Ethiopia on the GERD inauguration.

Amnesty: Pakistan authorities spying on millions

MONITORING DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani authorities have allegedly been surveilling over four million of its citizens, via tools of mass surveillance, acquired from private foreign companies, further clamping down on the country's cyber landscape, an Amnesty International report revealed on Tuesday. The report, titled "Shadows of Control: Censorship and Mass Surveillance in Pakistan" alleged that "Pakistani authorities have continued to unlawfully surveil the country's citizens, including regular citizens, journalists, as well as prominent politicians." The rights watchdog stated that Pakistani authorities allegedly "use the Lawful Intercept Management System (LIMS) to surveil a significant portion of the population's digital activity through Pakistani telecommunications providers." The number of phones under surveillance could be higher as all four major mobile operators have been ordered to connect to LIMS. Amnesty technologist Jurre van Berge told Reuters. The report, citing the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), said that telecommunications providers were "under an obligation to ensure that up to two per cent of their entire consumer base can be surveilled."

Fin Minister meets acumen Pakistan leadership



Acumen team briefed the Minister on progress on its \$90 million Agriculture Resilience Fund for Pakistan, designed as a blended finance facility to climate adaptation in the agriculture sector

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Ayesha Khan, CEO and Country Head of Acumen Pakistan, along with her team called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, for a meeting at the Finance Division today. During the meeting, Acumen team briefed the Minister on progress on its \$90 million Agriculture Resilience Fund for Pakistan, designed as a blended finance facility to climate adaptation in the agriculture sector. The Finance Minister appreciated this initiative, noting that Pakistan—ranked among the most climate-vulnerable countries—faces serious challenges to its agriculture-dependent economy.

He underlined the importance of innovative financing models that can build adaptive capacity, improve food security, and support rural livelihoods. The Finance Minister welcomed Acumen's continued commitment to Pakistan and acknowledged the organization's efforts to strengthen food systems, promote smart farming, and enhance farmer resilience through targeted investments in agribusinesses. The Minister assured Acumen of the Government's support for investment initiatives that align with Pakistan's sustainable development and climate resilience agenda. It was also shared that a high-level Acumen delegation of Acumen Board members and global investors will be visiting Pakistan next month to engage with key stakeholders in Islamabad, Lahore, and Karachi, in light of the country's improving macroeconomic indicators and forward-looking trajectory. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening collaboration for the development of a resilient and sustainable agriculture sector in Pakistan.

Govt moves to ease electricity bills for flood-hit citizens

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to provide relief in electricity bills for the people in flood-affected areas, with multiple tax waivers under consideration. Federal Minister for Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain, speaking to Geo News, said that taxes on the electricity bills of flood-hit households would be waived immediately.

He added that while the federal government would provide relief on electricity charges, the provincial governments would take steps to waive land revenue. He noted that the authorities would also take notice of inflated bills issued in flood-affected areas, explaining that many bills had already been printed before the devastation. The minister emphasised that every possible step would be taken to ease the burden on affected citizens.

Rana Tanveer said that once surveys of flood-affected regions are completed, the government will announce a farmers' package. He explained that the survey is expected to be finished by the middle of this month and that preliminary data on crop losses has already been compiled. According to the minister, between 1% and 3% of every crop has been damaged by the floods, with the Gujranwala division suffering the most severe

Minister says all taxes on electricity bills will be waived for those affected by floods

blow, up to 18% of crops destroyed. He added that rice fields had taken the heaviest damage overall. Sources said the proposals include abolition of the general sales tax, the Financing Cost (FC) surcharge and fixed charges on electricity bills. The government is also weighing the removal of sales tax and excise duty on fuel price adjustment.

Government Releases Rs155.6bn under PSDP 2025-26

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has authorized the utilization of development funds amounting to Rs155.564 billion, out of the total allocation of Rs1,000 billion, for various ongoing and new social sector uplift projects of federal ministries, divisions and corporations during the first two months (July-August) of the fiscal year 2025-26 under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP). According to the latest data released by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, the total expenditure incurred on development projects during the same period stood at Rs 5.305 billion. Out of the total authorized amount, Rs 107.983 billion was released for federal ministries and divisions, while Rs 47.581 billion was authorized for corporations, including the NHA and the Power Division (NTDC/PEPCO). The data showed that Rs 165.81 million was authorized for Board of Investment, Rs 10.558 billion for the Cabinet Division, Rs 417.55 million for the Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Division, Rs 7.50 million for the Commerce Division, Rs 22.37 million for the Communications Division (other than NHA), Rs 1.733 billion for the Defence Division, Rs 267.90 million for the Defence Production Division, and Rs74.30 million for the Establishment Division.

UK PM meets Palestine President

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer met with Palestinian Authority president Mahmud Abbas Monday in London, as the UK government edges towards recognising a Palestinian state. The leaders discussed "the need for an urgent solution to end the horrific suffering and famine" in Gaza and the release of hostages held by Hamas, a spokesperson for Starmer's Downing Street office said in a statement. Abbas welcomed the UK's "pledge to recognising a Palestinian state ahead of the UN General Assembly meeting later this month, unless Israel changes its course", the spokesperson added. Several countries, including Britain and France have announced they intend to recognise a Palestinian state at the United Nations later this month. Starmer's government said it will take the step if Israel fails to agree to a ceasefire in the devastating Gaza war, triggered by Palestinian group Hamas's October 2023 attack.



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Iran, Pakistan launch direct flight

ISLAMABAD: Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Reza Amiri Moghadam on Tuesday announced the launch of a direct flight between Tehran and Islamabad, marking a new milestone in bilateral cooperation in the field of air transportation. He said the agreement was finalized with the government of Pakistan following the recent visit of Iranian President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian. "With the valued support and follow-up of stakeholders from both sides, a comprehensive agreement was successfully reached in the field of air transportation," the envoy added. Operated by Iran Air-Tour, the new direct flight is expected to enhance tourism, promote people-to-people contacts, and boost business exchanges between the two countries. — APP

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