



Saturday, September 13, 2025

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Pakistan slams Israel for mentioning Osama Bin Laden's arrest

Detailed News On Page-07

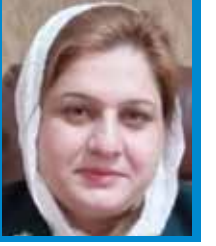
UK govt stands with Pakistan, says Briths HC

Detailed News On Page-08



Shabana new director Coord at Sports Board

Detailed News On Page-06



Big defeat for Israel

UN overwhelmingly endorses declaration on two-state solution

The seven-page declaration is the result of an international conference at the UN in July — hosted by Saudi Arabia and France — on the decades-long conflict. The United States and Israel boycotted the event

CENTRELINE REPORT

NEW YORK: The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) overwhelmingly voted to endorse a declaration outlining “tangible, timebound, and irreversible steps” towards a two-state solution between Israel and the Palestinians ahead of a meeting of world leaders. The seven-page declaration is the result of an international conference at the UN in July — hosted by Saudi Arabia and France — on the decades-long conflict. The United States and Israel boycotted the event. A resolution endorsing the declaration received 142 votes in favour and 10 against, while 12 countries abstained. Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump's top diplomat, Marco Rubio, will fly to Israel this weekend amid tensions with fellow US allies in the Middle East over Israel's strike on Hamas leaders in Qatar and expansion of settlements in the occupied West Bank. State Department deputy spokesperson Tommy Pigott said on Friday that Rubio would depart on Saturday to visit Israel before joining up with Trump's planned visit to Britain next week. Rubio in Israel will emphasise Washington and Israel's shared goals. Pigott said in a statement, citing the need to ensure Hamas never rules Gaza again and the return of hostages of October 7, 2023. Rubio's visit comes ahead of high-level meetings at the United Nations in New York later this month, where countries including France and Britain are expected to recognize Palestinian statehood.

UN Security Council stresses support, solidarity for Qatar

NEW YORK: UN Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs Rosemary DiCarlo said that the Israeli attack on Doha had shocked the world and warned that it could open a new and dangerous chapter in the ongoing conflict, posing a serious threat to regional peace and stability. In her remarks at the emergency UN Security Council meeting on the Middle East convened to discuss the strike on Doha, she described the attack as a troubling escalation, noting that it targeted individuals gathered to discuss the latest US proposal for a ceasefire and the release of hostages in Gaza. She stressed that any action undermining mediation and dialogue efforts weakens confidence in the very mechanisms relied upon to resolve conflicts. DiCarlo emphasised the need to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states, including Qatar, which she described as a valuable partner in advancing peace and conflict resolution. She reminded the Council that the war in Gaza has already claimed tens of thousands of lives, most of them civilians, and left the Strip almost completely destroyed, while conditions in the West Bank continue to deteriorate and the region has seen dangerous escalations in Iran, Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen. She underlined that lasting and just solutions to crises in the Middle East will not come from more violence, urging all stakeholders to exercise maximum restraint at this critical moment and to recommit to diplomacy. She stressed that the need for a ceasefire and the release of hostages in Gaza is now more urgent than ever. — Agencies



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses the ground breaking ceremony of T-Chowk Flyover. — DNA

PM says Pakistan to host next SCO summit

Prime minister orders commencement of preparations for the international summit

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has announced that Pakistan will host the next Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit to be held in 2027 and ordered to immediately begin preparations for the key summit. The announcement was made after PM Shehbaz performed the groundbreaking of T-Chowk Flyover Project at Islamabad Expressway, terming it a milestone initiative for the residents of the twin cities, Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

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MDCAT admission test postponed amidst floods

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) has postponed the upcoming Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) due to the ongoing floods in the country, the Ministry of Health said on Friday. The decision comes as the country is facing catastrophic floods, which have inundated thousands of villages and displaced millions in Punjab, with flood water now expected to move downstream towards Sindh.

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In Mastung

Four terrorists belonging to Indian proxy neutralised

Weapons, ammunition and explosives also recovered from terrorists, says ISPR

DNA

QUETTA: Security forces on Friday eliminated four terrorists belonging to the Indian proxy, Fitna al Hindustan, during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Balochistan's Mastung. During the conduct of the operation, the security personnel effectively engaged the terrorists' location, and after an intense fire exchange, four Indian-sponsored terrorists were neutralised, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement. Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area. The security forces were conducting a sanitisation operation to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area, it added. The security forces “are determined to wipe out the menace of

Indian sponsored terrorism from the country, and reaffirm the nation's unwavering resolve to bring the perpetrators of terrorism to justice”, it concluded. Pakistan has witnessed a surge in cross-border terror incidents since Taliban rulers returned to Afghanistan in 2021, particularly in the bordering provinces of KP and Balochistan. The country witnessed a sharp escalation in militant attacks in August, with incidents surging by 74% compared to July, according to a report by the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS). The Islamabad-based think tank recorded 194 fatalities from militant attacks during the month. Meanwhile, in an alarming disclosure, government officials have disclosed that there are more than 8,000 Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), declared “Fitna al-Khawarij”, terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

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PDMA issue new figures

Over 100 killed in deadly Punjab floods

United States has reaffirmed its solidarity with Pakistan as devastating floods continue to wreak havoc across the country, displacing millions and causing widespread destruction

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) released nationwide data on losses caused by heavy rains and floods. According to the NDMA, 946 people have died and 1,062 others have been injured across the country. Punjab recorded the highest death toll with 260

fatalities and 660 injuries. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 504 people were killed and 218 were injured. Sindh reported 68 deaths and 87 injuries, while Balochistan recorded 26 deaths and 5 injuries. Gilgit-Baltistan reported 41 deaths, Azad Kashmir 38, and Islamabad 9 fatalities. NDMA also dispatched relief items for flood-hit Punjab. Meanwhile, the United States has reaffirmed its solidarity with Pakistan as devastating floods continue to wreak havoc across the country, displacing millions and causing widespread destruction. In a statement, the US Department of State expressed

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Briefs

President Zardari arrives in China

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: President Asif Ali Zardari arrived in Chengdu on Friday to begin his 10-day official visit to China, where he will hold discussions with the Chinese leadership on matters related to bilateral ties, including China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). On arrival at Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport, he was warmly received by Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong and Vice Governor of Sichuan Province Huang Ruixue, said a statement issued by the President's Secretariat. Pakistan's Ambassador to China Khalid Hashmi, as well as the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong, were also present on the occasion.

Charlie 'killer' in custody: Trump

DNA

WASHINGTON: A suspect in the fatal shooting of conservative activist Charlie Kirk at a Utah university has been taken into custody, US President Donald Trump said on Friday, ending an intense manhunt that followed what Trump described as a “heinous assassination.” Kirk's killer has eluded police and federal agents for more than 24 hours after Wednesday's shooting, in which a sniper fired a single gunshot that killed Kirk during an appearance at Utah Valley University in Orem.

Holiday Notice

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

Russia and GCC states condemn Israeli aggression

The joint statement underscored that the strike was not only a blatant breach of international law and norms but also a direct assault on Qatar's sovereignty and a deliberate attempt to undermine ongoing diplomatic efforts for peace and stability in the region

DNA

DOHA: Russia and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries (Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait and Oman) issued a joint declaration strongly condemning Israel's recent attack in Qatar, following the 8th round of the Russia-GCC Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue. The ministers denounced the September 9 airstrike by Israeli occupying forces on a residential building in Doha, where several members of Hamas' Political Bureau were residing. The attack claimed the life of a member of Qatar's Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) and several Hamas officials, while also endangering civilian lives. The incident was described as a grave violation of international humanitarian law. The joint statement underscored that the strike was not only a blatant breach of international law and

Continued on Page 06

Marcon: France deploys three Rafale fighter jets

Poland said it had scrambled aircraft alongside allies to shoot down “hostile objects” violating its airspace

NEWS DESK

PARIS: France will deploy three Rafale fighter jets to help Poland protect its airspace after this week's drone incursions into its airspace, French President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday on X. “The security of the European continent is our top priority. We will not give in to Russia's increasing intimidation,” he said.

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Rs25.5bn package laid-off Utility Stores employees

Compensation to be paid to 5,229 regular, 3,323 contract, and 2,854 daily wage workers

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The government laid off all 11,406 employees of the Utility Stores Corporation effective September 1, offering over Rs25 billion severance package as part of a sweeping restructuring plan, official documents show. The package covers the country's largest state-run retail chain's 5,229 regular employees (Rs13.18 billion set aside), 3,323 contract employees (Rs3.6 billion) and 2,854 daily wage workers (Rs2.71 billion). An additional Rs5.75 billion has been earmarked for organisational closure costs and support for widows of deceased employees. Under the circular, permanent staff with two years or less remaining in service will receive gross pay for the remaining months. Employees with more than 20 years of service will receive two times their current basic pay for each completed year. Those with fewer than 20 years may receive three current basic pay for each completed year or 1.25 times their running basic pay for remaining months of service — capped at 50 months — whichever is higher. Contract employees will be paid as follows: running basic pay for each remaining month for staff with two or fewer years left; 30 running basic pay for employees with up to 16 years' service;

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SEPTEMBER 2025

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A Historic Milestone for Pakistan's Industrial Future

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan witnessed a landmark development with the official launch of GEIS Pakistan (IMS Electric Pvt. Limited) at the Sindh Industrial Trading Estate (S.I.T.E), Karachi on Wednesday. The inauguration ceremony was attended by leading corporate executives, industrialists, government officials, and members of the business community, marking a new era for the country's electrical and energy infrastructure sector. GEIS Pakistan has recently been acquired by Findtech T&D Limited, a company established in 2018 as an OEM-1 panel builder of GE. Under the dynamic leadership and financial strength of the Elahi Group, Findtech expanded its portfolio by acquiring Libra Engineering in 2023, thereby broadening its offerings in transmission and distribution equipment such as LV/MV panels, dry-type transformers, and busways. Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Danish Ghous, CEO of IMS Electric Pvt. Limited (GEIS Pakistan), said: "This launch not only opens an exciting new chapter for GEIS in Pakistan but also reinforces our commitment to driving industrial growth through innovation, quality, and sustainability. Our focus is to revive operations to full capacity and expand production, with a vision to position Pakistan as a leading exporter of busways and dry-type transformers, particularly to GCC and Levant markets." The Elahi Group of Companies ("EGC"), has evolved into a diversified business group with significant investments in warehousing, logistics, supply chain, manufacturing of aluminum conductor wire ropes amongst other investments.

Over 200 deserving families receive ration

SIALKOT: President of Social Welfare Society Kamanwala, Muhammad Ashraf Bhatti, and President of Rose Welfare Organisation, Muhammad Ashfaq Nazar Ghuman, have said that the efforts of members of non-governmental welfare organizations to alleviate public suffering are commendable, as they are rendering valuable services across all walks of life. They said such individuals are a valuable asset to the country and the nation, and must be encouraged at every level so they may continue to serve with even greater dedication.

They expressed these views during the distribution of cash assistance for ration (flour) to more than 200 deserving individuals and flood victims. The event was organized by the Social Welfare Society in collaboration with Haji Muhammad Latif, Chaudhry Shabbir Sultan, and others.

Haji Muhammad Akbar, Haji Muhammad Sarwar, and Ashiq Hussain were also present on the occasion. Muhammad Ashfaq Nazar Ghuman stated that serving God's creation and sharing in the pain and suffering of others was among the best of deeds and the highest form of worship, greatly beloved by Allah Almighty and the Holy Prophet (PBUH).—APP

Historic move: Balochistan Cabinet bans hate speech

The Balochistan Cabinet has also approved a comprehensive plan to modernize air travel infrastructure, alongside praise for the Aviation Directorate's swift rescue operation in Turbat, which saved three lives through an emergency airlift to Karachi

DNA

QUETTA: In a historic move toward inclusive governance and social progress, the Balochistan cabinet, led by Chief Minister (CM) Mir Sarfraz Bugti, has approved a series of transformative policies aimed at promoting tolerance, protecting marginalized communities and advancing sustainable development across the province. Presiding over the 19th cabinet meeting, CM Sarfraz Bugti described the decisions as a "guarantee for the public interest and sustainable development of Balochistan," reaffirming his administration's commitment to practical reforms that uplift minorities, women, and the transgender community. The cabinet approved the formulation of a dedicated fund to enhance facilities and ensure equal opportunities for minority communities. A province-wide ban on the publication of hate speech was enacted to foster societal harmony and curb divisive rhetoric. In a groundbreaking step, the cabinet endorsed Balochistan's inaugural policy for transgender individuals, aimed at securing their rights and promoting social and economic inclusion. The Balochistan Cabinet has also approved a comprehensive plan to modernize air travel infrastructure, alongside praise for the Aviation Directorate's swift rescue operation in Turbat, which saved three lives through an emergency airlift to Karachi. The provincial government has designated Sakran and Karbala as new tehsils to bring essential services

closer to underserved populations. The meeting also approved the construction of a state-of-the-art healthcare facility to improve medical access in the region. The cabinet endorsed the reinstatement of historical district names Khaliqabad and Shaheed Sikandarabad, in line with a Supreme Court ruling. The government emphasized that new regulations should be adopted to ensure safe and effective disposal of medical waste across healthcare institutions. Development charges were waived for World Food Programme shipments destined for Afghanistan, reinforcing Balochistan's role in regional humanitarian efforts. The cabinet backed the bill introduced by MNAs Shazia Marri and Qadir Patel, supporting legal reforms at the provincial level, and also ratified the Constitutional Amendment Bill 2024 presented by MNA Riaz Fatyana. On the recommendation of the Home Department, the cabinet approved a ban on hate speech to promote harmony and tolerance in society. The meeting also endorsed the integration of Technical Education and Vocational Training Institutes under B-TEVTA, streamlining technical education across the province. The cabinet also approved the establishment of a modern Prince Fahd Hospital in Dalbandin to provide quality healthcare facilities to the public. Additionally, the cabinet approved the "Hospital Waste Management Rules 2025" to ensure the effective and safe management of waste in health centers. It was also decided to exempt World Food Programme shipments to Afghanistan from development charges, so that Balochistan

can play its part in this humanitarian mission. The Social Welfare Department's efforts to clear the city's nullah of drug addicts were appreciated, and a committee was formed to review these measures. The Balochistan cabinet made important decisions after carefully considering agenda points from the Livestock and Dairy Development Department, Local Government Department, Law Department, Forest Department, Board of Revenue, Science and Information Technology Department, Mines and Minerals Department, Higher Education Department, Social Welfare Department, and the Communications and Works Department. Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that the provincial cabinet's decisions are a guarantee of public interest and sustainable development in Balochistan. "Our government believes in moving forward with all segments of society and is taking practical steps to protect the rights of marginalized groups, including minorities, women, and transgender," he said. He added that major projects in health, education, and infrastructure are being initiated in Balochistan to provide better facilities to the public. The CM stated that the cabinet's decisions serve as a practical demonstration of transparency and good governance, reflecting a positive and sustainable journey towards the province's progress and prosperity. He reiterated that major initiatives in health, education, and infrastructure are underway to deliver improved services and lasting progress for the people of the province.

SCCI continues exporter empowerment

SIALKOT: Chairman of the Departmental Committee on SME Training at the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI), Faizan Akbar, successfully led Day 4 of the ongoing five-day Basic Media Marketing Course, continuing the Chamber's mission to empower local exporters. The session was held at the SCCI Auditorium. This specialized training program is designed specifically for exporters, aiming to equip them with practical, hands-on knowledge of digital media strategies, effective social media engagement, and modern marketing techniques. The course focuses on helping businesses enhance their global visibility, improve brand positioning, and remain competitive in the rapidly evolving international marketplace. Through such capacity-building initiatives, the SCCI reinforces its commitment to professional development and the growth of the export sector in Sialkot, a city globally recognized for its excellence in trade and manufacturing. The training session was attended by former SCCI President Majid Raza Bhutta, President of the Sialkot Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry Mian Muhammad Khalil, and a number of young entrepreneurs.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Secretary Ambreen Jan inaugurates the calligraphic exhibition held at Pak-China Center. — DNA

'Words presented out of context': IHC CJ clarifies

NEWS DESK

Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar provided a clarification on Friday regarding his reported remarks during an exchange he had with renowned rights activist and lawyer Imaan Zainab Mazari-Hazir the previous day, saying that his words were presented "out of context". The exchange took place during the hearing of a plea for the removal of rights activist Mahrang Baloch's name from the Exit Control List, where Justice Dogar warned Mazari of contempt of court proceedings for allegedly calling him a "dictator". The matter again came up during the hearing of another case. Addressing it, Justice Dogar said Mazari was "just like a daughter" to him, and he was just explaining things to her yesterday. "Being the chief justice and an elder, I was trying to make her

understand." He went on to say that his remarks were presented out of context and "a storm brewed up". The IHC CJ maintained that during his exchange with Mazari, he had told her that she could disagree with his decisions, but she should have avoided making her criticism personal. Moreover, it has been reported that during yesterday's exchange, Justice Dogar also addressed Mazari's husband, Hadi Ali Chatha, saying: "Hadi sahib, make her understand; if I get hold of her someday ..." However, he clarified today that he did not say anything along the lines of "getting hold of" Mazari. "I did not say that I will get hold of her, [but] this [reported remark] is being circulated since yesterday. Hadi sahib was standing [there], so I asked him to take her away or I would initiate contempt of court proceedings." He added that in case of contempt of court proceedings, Mazari's career would suffer. The IHC CJ then reiterated: "I was explaining to her just as (I would) to a child, but she was not understanding. She was repeatedly mentioning fundamental rights. Does this court not have any fundamental rights?"

Blood donation camp held in Attock

QAZI SHOAB

ATTOCK: While addressing the participants the experts urged upon the youth to come forward and fulfill their human responsibility for donating fresh blood. This was told in a blood awareness session was organized under the auspices of Life Care Welfare Foundation at Degree College Attock, which was attended by

health experts, social figures, and students in large numbers. On this occasion, renowned physician Dr. Mian Rashid Mushtaq, while addressing the participants, said that donating blood is in no way harmful to human health. In fact, this act not only saves the lives of others but also has positive effects on the donor's own health. He said that if someone wishes for their memory to live on forever, they should donate blood and save lives. Dr. Mian Rashid Mushtaq further stated that history bears witness that humanitarian and philanthropic personalities like Abdul Sattar Edhi always remain alive in the hearts of people because they devoted their lives to the service of humanity. Addressing the ceremony, Life Care Welfare Foundation CEO Muhammad Talha also spoke to the participants. He said that his foundation is constantly striving to create awareness among the public so that blood donation can be normalized, and patients in hospitals or emergencies do not face difficulties due to shortage of blood. He urged the youth to come forward and fulfill their human responsibility by donating blood.

Creative Minds Organization appeals for help for flood victims

In a statement, the organization highlighted that over 4 million people have been affected in Punjab alone, with thousands of villages submerged. More than 2 million people have been displaced, many forced to seek shelter in temporary camps or under open skies

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Creative Minds Organization has expressed deep concern over the devastating floods that have wreaked havoc across Punjab, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, leaving millions of people in distress. In a statement, the organization highlighted that over 4 million people have been affected in Punjab alone, with thousands of villages submerged. More than 2 million people have been displaced, many forced

to seek shelter in temporary camps or under open skies. The floods have also destroyed nearly 900,000 hectares of cropland, crippling agricultural livelihoods, while the loss of livestock in the thousands has further worsened the plight of affected households. Immediate Needs The organization emphasized the urgent need for: Emergency shelter and access to safe drinking water Food supplies and basic household items Medical care and measures to prevent waterborne diseases Support for livelihood recovery, particularly in farming and livestock Appeal for Sup-

port Creative Minds Organization has launched an urgent appeal to local communities, national and international donors, corporations, philanthropists, volunteers, and youth groups to come forward with both financial and in-kind support. "Without immediate assistance, there is a grave risk of waterborne diseases, malnutrition, and further human suffering. Together, we can save lives," the statement said. Those wishing to support relief efforts may contact Creative Minds Organization via email at Sadafbasher2017@outlook.com or call at 0305-7135335.

Pakistan Navy continues flood relief operations

DNA

KARACHI : Pakistan Navy continues relief and rescue operations in flood-affected areas of Punjab and Sindh Province. In response to the deteriorating flood situation, Pakistan Navy's Emergency Response Team (ERT) has been deployed in Jalalpur, Multan (Punjab), in addition to teams already operating in various regions of Sindh, including Kashmore, Ghotki, Sukkur, and Shikarpur.

The Emergency Response Teams are equipped with hovercrafts for rapid access to inundated areas, rescue boats and specialized diving teams to assist in rescue and relief operations. During the past 24 hours, 478 flood-affected individuals, including women and children, have been successfully evacuated from various vulnerable areas to safe locations, bringing the total number of individuals rescued in Sindh to 6,860. In addition, free medical treatment and essential medicines are also being provided to

the affected population, ensuring timely healthcare support in the wake of this natural disaster.

With rising floodwaters at Guddu and Sukkur barrages, Pakistan Navy remains on high alert and is closely monitoring the evolving situation in coordination with civil authorities. Pakistan Navy remains committed to supporting the nation during this emergency and will continue to render all possible assistance until complete rehabilitation of the affected population is achieved.

KDA board approves budget

ABBOTTABAD: The 8th meeting of the Kaghan Development Authority (KDA) Board was held at the Commissioner Hazara Office conference room under the chairmanship of Jamil Ahmed. The meeting was attended via Zoom by Member Provincial Assembly Muneer Hussain Lughmani, Chairman KDA Jamil Ahmed, Commissioner Hazara Fayyaz Ali Shah, Director General Shabbir Khan, and Board Member Lieutenant General (Retd.) Ayaz Rana. Additional Secretary for Culture, Tourism and Archaeology Nawaz Khan, Board Member Rameez Khan, and Deputy Secretary Forests Shah Adnan also joined the session through Zoom. Conservator of Forests Farhad Ali was present in person. During the meeting, the authority's current budget was thoroughly discussed and approved. The participants reviewed various development projects aimed at promoting tourism and providing better facilities to tourists in the Kaghan Valley. The board resolved to take all possible measures to preserve the valley's natural beauty and keep its environment free from pollution. It was also decided to continue strict legal action against those carrying out constructions without obtaining the required NOC.

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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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MH.....561116
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DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
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Met Office.....9250360-6
RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Water Tank
Islamabad.....0321-5744480

EU appoints Raimundas Karoblis as new Ambassador to Pakistan

The European Union has voiced optimism that Ambassador Karoblis’s appointment will inject fresh momentum into bilateral relations with Pakistan. Under his leadership, the EU aims to expand cooperation in key sectors including trade, governance, development, climate action, and regional stability

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The European Union (EU) has appointed veteran diplomat Raimundas Karoblis as its new Ambassador to Pakistan, marking a renewed chapter in EU-Pakistan relations. Ambassador Karoblis formally began his diplomatic mission in Islamabad after presenting his credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari on September 10, 2025, said in a statement issued here on Friday. With more than three decades of experience in diplomacy, international trade, and security affairs, Karoblis is widely regarded as a statesman of exceptional calibre. His career spans several key roles, including serving as the EU Ambassador to Tajikistan from 2022 to 2025, Lithuania’s Permanent Representative to the European Union from 2010 to 2015, and holding senior government positions overseeing EU affairs, foreign trade, and national security. A law graduate from Vilnius University, Karoblis is fluent in Lithuanian, English, French, and Russian, further reinforcing his diplomatic versatility. During a meeting with the Ambassador of Turkmenistan, Karoblis underscored the EU’s commitment to strengthening regional cooperation. He expressed readiness to engage in constructive dialogue and enhance collaboration with Pakistan and neighbouring countries, particularly in areas such as sustainable development and infrastructure connectivity. The European Union has voiced optimism that Ambassador Karoblis’s appointment



ment will inject fresh momentum into bilateral relations with Pakistan. Under his leadership, the EU aims to expand operation in key sectors including trade, governance, development, climate action, and regional stability.

CDA Hospital hosts awareness symposium

DNA

ISLAMABAD :The Capital Hospital CDA’s Department of Gynaecology, in collaboration with the Federal Directorate of Immunization (FDI) and the World Health Organization (WHO), organized an extensive awareness symposium on cervical cancer and the upcoming Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign. The event marked the beginning of a major national effort, as Pakistan prepares for the first-ever large-scale HPV vaccine drive from September 15 to 27, 2025, aimed at protecting girls between the ages of 9 and 14. At the gathering, experts and health officials shed light on the rising threat of cervical cancer and the critical importance of preventive measures. Globally, cervical cancer is the third most common cancer among women, with an estimated 660,000 new cases and 350,000 deaths every year. Alarmingly, most of these deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries where

awareness, timely screening, and vaccination remain limited. Pakistan mirrors this trend, recording around 5,000 new cases annually and facing the highest cervical cancer mortality rate in South Asia. Speakers at the symposium noted that the majority of these deaths could be prevented through early screening and vaccination programs, but a lack of awareness, myths surrounding the vaccine, and weak healthcare infrastructure have made the fight against the disease more challenging. Dr. Naeem Taj, Executive Director of CDA Hospital, urged families and communities to take preventive health seriously. He referred to WHO’s 90-70-70 strategy, which envisions eliminating cervical cancer by ensuring 90% of girls are vaccinated with the HPV vaccine, 70% of women are screened by the age of 35 and again by 45, and 70% of those with the disease receive proper treatment. “Pakistan cannot afford to lag behind on this,” he emphasized. Dr. Sheeba Noreen, Head of Gynecology at Capital Hospital, highlighted the need to dispel

NAHE celebrates HEC’s founding anniversary

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE), Higher Education Commission (HEC), celebrated the 23rd founding anniversary of HEC with a graceful ceremony at its premises. Dr.Syed Mahmood Raza, Former Advisor HEC and a distinguished member of the founding team, was the Chief Guest. The event was also attended by 27 IPFP Fellows who joined in commemorating HEC’s remarkable journey of over two decades in transforming higher education in Pakistan. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Syed Mahmood Raza highlighted the pivotal role of the HEC in transforming Pakistan’s higher education landscape since its inception. He acknowledged the collective contributions of universities, faculty, researchers, and students in strengthening the sector and reaffirmed HEC’s mission to promote quality, innovation, and inclusivity in higher education. In her remarks, Dr.Noor Amna Malik, Managing Director NAHE, emphasized that as the institution marks its anniversary, it remains committed to expanding access to higher education, supporting cutting-edge research, strengthening governance, and aligning academic programs with the evolving needs of society and the economy. The event was also attended NAHE officers and staff.

A more digitalized Pakistan is needed to upgrade CPEC 2.0

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: “As an AI software company, we are committed to providing consulting and BPO to Chinese partners who want to support customers in other parts of the world,” said Shahid Islam, founder and CEO of Digitalsofts, an IT service provider with branches in the UK and the Middle East in addition to Pakistan, during the 2025 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS). “A week ago, our embassy in Beijing organized a B2B investment fair special event in the ICT field, with many representatives of Pakistani digital enterprises, including us, attended the meeting. I believe it is indispensable for upgrading the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor 2.0, also known as the digital corridor.” The CEO noted that Digitalsofts has just signed a memorandum of understanding with Ucloud and Inspir Software under the leadership of Minister of IT and Telecom Pakistan, Shaza Fatima Khawaja. During this year’s CIFTIS, a total of 15 leading IT & services companies is debuting at the Pakistan pavilion, the digital Pakistan. “I’m from Trio Communication, which is working onto the digital

marketing, social media, as well as AI tools. Since opening in 2017, our business has expanded to multiple countries. Now we are visiting China for the second time, to see how we could work together and move on to the next level,” Tariq Muhammad, who was negotiating with potential partners, told CEN. “Pakistan’s digitalization is reaching new heights. Our business is expanding, and our product line is constantly enriching,” Tariq said with confidence. “The increasing adoption of artificial intelligence could generate more profits and create more jobs. Is China a top player in AI field? Of course, that’s also why we are here. If our two countries can cooperate on a deeper and closer digital platform, we will definitely achieve our goals faster.” So, what about more specific measures? “For Pakistani companies, we face challenges in establishing high-level AI data centers, and the advanced technology of our Chinese partners could provide us with support. For Chinese counterparts, it may be difficult to expand their network overseas. Our large number of employees who are proficient in local culture and customs can provide effective support to Chinese companies that already have customers in the Middle East and Western countries.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar chairs meeting on IT and Telecom. Finance Minister also attended the meeting. DNA

IFA enforces cashless system amid Fines and inspections

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Director Operations of Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) on Friday said that the authority carried out over a thousand inspections, sealed 83 outlets, fined 81 restaurants more than Rs13 million, and destroyed nearly a ton of unsafe meat in the past month. Talking to APP, she announced that Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) has linked the reopening of sealed marts with the implementation of cashless payments. The decision was announced during a review meeting chaired by Director IFA Irfan Nawaz Memon. Senior officials, including Deputy Director Operations Dr. Tahira Siddique, Deputy Director Administration, and Assistant Deputy Commissioner East, attended the session. According to the decision, any mart closed due to violations will remain sealed until a cashless system is installed. Officials said the move aims to expand digital payments in large marts of the federal capital, ensuring greater transparency in retail operations. The session also reviewed the authority’s performance over the past month. Dr. Tahira Siddique presented a detailed briefing on inspections, fines, closures, licensing, and confiscation.—APP

ITP issues diversion plan

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) on Friday announced that from 11:00 a.m. to 01:00 p.m. traffic on the Expressway will remain closed from Kak Pul to Rawat T-Cross due to ongoing construction work. An official told APP that traffic coming from Lahore/Rawat towards Islamabad can use alternative entry routes via Rawalpindi. For traffic moving from Islamabad to Lahore/Rawat, commuters are advised to take the left turn from Kak Pul towards Kahuta Road, then proceed from Chakiyan to GT Road. He added traffic flow will likely remain slow due to diversions. ITP officers will be deployed at various points to guide commuters and minimize inconvenience. Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Captain (retd) Hamzah Humayun urged citizens to keep a margin of 20 minutes in their travel plans and to contact the ITP Helpline 1915 or follow official social media platforms for real-time traffic updates.—APP

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Briefs

Chinese firms partner with PEC

ISLAMABAD: In a significant move to strengthen Pakistan's engineering workforce, the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Thar Coal Block-1 Power Generation Company, Sino Sindh Resources, and Shanghai Electric Engineering Consulting Company. The agreement, part of the Thar Block-1 project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), outlines a five-year programme for training, capacity building, engineer exchange, and Chinese language learning. Under the initiative, 20 fresh engineering graduates will undergo a six-week training programme at Thar each year, combining classroom learning with practical exposure in power plant and mining operations. Over the course of five years, 100 engineers will receive hands-on training at the Thar project. Additionally, five to ten engineers will be sent annually to China for advanced short-term training, enabling knowledge exchange in modern energy technologies. The collaboration also establishes an annual scholarship fund of Rs3.5 million to support 35 deserving students, particularly in energy and mining disciplines.

A total of 175 students will benefit over five years, with opportunities to pursue higher education in China. Another key component of the programme is Chinese language training for up to 50 participants, aimed at improving communication between Pakistani and Chinese engineers and strengthening cooperation in joint projects.—APP

Two major policies launched by ML&C

RAWALPINDI: The Military Lands & Cantonments Department (ML&C) has launched two innovative policies on Friday, addressing transparency and accountability in the cantonment boards, and a health policy to uplift the medical and healthcare standards. According to the press release issued by ML&C, the 'Internal Audit Framework policy for Cantonment Boards' across the country, led by Secretary Defence Lt. General (R) Muhammad Ali, HI (M), and DG ML&C Major General Irfan Ahmad Malik, HI (M), addresses the much needed internal mechanism to enable timely corrective measures and reduce audit issues. This policy, crafted by the Director (HQs) Dr. Saima Shah, marks a significant stride toward enhancing transparency, accountability, and operational excellence. Building on existing external audits by the Directorate General Audit, Defence Services (DG ADS), the framework includes a robust Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to standardize practices, ensure compliance and identify irregularities early. Primarily preventive, remedial, and curative in nature, it strengthens financial systems, curbs unwarranted practices and fosters trust at the grassroots level.—APP

Palestinian question: Policy imperatives for Pak and beyond

Ambassador Zohair Zaid, the Ambassador of Palestine to Pakistan, offered a moving account of the Palestinian struggle. He emphasized that the conflict is rooted not in religion but in dispossession, with Palestine historically a land for Muslims, Christians and Jews alike

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) convened a special roundtable discussion on "The Palestinian Question and Regional Stability: Policy Imperatives for Pakistan and Beyond." The session examined the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, the historical and political dimensions of the Palestinian struggle and its implications for regional stability and Pakistan's foreign policy. The session brought together Ambassador Zohair Mohammad Hamdallah Zaid, Ambassador Ashraf Jehangir Qazi and senior officials, with the discussion chaired by the President of IRS.

Opening the session, the President of IRS, Ambassador Jauhar Saleem described the unprecedented destruction in Gaza noting that more than 64,000 Palestinians, two-thirds of them women and children, have been killed and 80 percent of buildings have been demolished. Despite UN resolutions, ICJ and ICC rulings and widespread global condemnation, the devastation continues. He reaffirmed Pakistan's longstanding position in support of a two-state solution, Palestinian self-determination and consistent advocacy in international forums. Delivering the keynote address, H.E Ambassador Zohair Zaid, the Ambassador of Palestine to Pakistan, offered a moving account of the Palestinian struggle. He emphasized that the conflict is rooted not in religion but in dispossession, with Palestine historically a land for Muslims, Christians and Jews alike. "Palestine is not just a national issue. It is a land for all believers, Muslims, Christians and Jews. Yet it has been turned into an instrument to divide our region and keep it unstable," he said.

Ambassador Zaid drew attention to the human cost of occupation pointing to mass displacement, systematic destruction of vil-



lages and continuing settlement expansion. He stressed that "what threatens Israel most is not our weapons, but our very existence on this land." Despite the immense suffering, he reaffirmed Palestinian resilience. Ambassador Zaid concluded with a call for decisive international action; "The world should take practical steps. Put sanctions on Israel. This is the only way that can stop Israeli aggression and bring peace." Ambassador Qazi broadened the discussion

to its global significance. He stated that "if Palestine is allowed to die, it will mark a colossal moral and civilizational failure." He argued that U.S. and Israeli policies have rendered the two-state solution impossible and asserted that Israel has forfeited its legitimacy by threatening the very existence of the indigenous people of the land. "The only just solution now is the liberation of Palestine in a framework where people of all faiths; Muslims, Christians and Jews live together

in justice and dignity," he concluded. The session concluded with a discussion in which participants highlighted the gap between political rhetoric and ground realities. Observations were made about the hypocrisy of the European states that continue to fund Israeli settlements despite official recognition of Palestine and about the double standards of international media that amplify isolated incidents in the West while remaining muted on daily Palestinian casualties.

President expresses solidarity with flood-hit people

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday expressed deep sympathy and heartfelt solidarity with the people of South Punjab who have been severely affected by the recent floods. The president, in a statement, acknowledged the immense hardships faced by thousands who have been displaced from their homes and whose livelihoods have been gravely impacted by the natural calamity. He assured the nation that the government stands resolutely beside the flood-affected communities during this critical time. The president said that rescue, relief, and rehabilitation operations were diligently underway in close coordination with the provincial authorities, the armed forces, and humanitarian organisations to provide essential assistance to those in need. Considering the extensive damage to agriculture and livestock, the government, responding to the request of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, has declared agricultural emergency in the country. This crucial step aims to protect farmers, safeguard food security, and ensure the swift recovery of the agricultural sector, he added. President Zardari called upon citizens to remain united, vigilant, and supportive of the ongoing relief efforts and expressed the confidence that the government would continue to deploy all necessary resources to address both the immediate needs and the long-term rehabilitation of the affected areas.—APP

Pediatrician stresses need for screen time limits

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pediatricians on Friday urged parents to manage their children's screen time, warning that too much exposure can lead to eye strain, sleep issues, and behavioral problems, while also highlighting the dangers of the "black web" and online threats, stressing the need for a balance between screen use and other activities to support children's overall development. Pediatric Nutritionist and Neurologist Dr. Ibrahim Yusuf, in an exclusive conversation with a local media channel, stressed the urgent need for parents to limit their children's screen time, adding that excessive screen exposure can lead to a range of physical and psychological issues, including eye strain, disrupted sleep patterns, and difficulty with concentration. According to Dr. Yusuf, these problems are becoming increasingly common due to the growing reliance on digital devices among children. Dr. Yusuf also expressed concern over the long-term implications of screen

overuse, noting that children who spend too much time on devices can experience developmental delays, particularly in areas such as language acquisition and social skills. "Children need time away from screens to engage in other developmental activities, such as playing outside, interacting with peers, and reading books," he said. He recommended that parents create a balanced routine that includes both screen time and physical activity, which is essential for healthy cognitive and emotional growth. "The growing reliance on digital devices, especially among children, is taking a toll on their overall health," he explained, emphasizing the importance of setting clear boundaries for screen use. According to Dr. Yusuf, excessive screen exposure can lead to a host of physical and psychological issues, including eye strain, disrupted sleep patterns, and difficulty with concentration. "The growing reliance on digital devices, especially among children, is taking a toll on their overall health," he explained, emphasizing the importance of setting clear boundaries for screen use. In addition to the physical health risks, Dr.

Yusuf also highlighted the increasing dangers of the "black web" – a dark side of the internet where harmful content, cyber-bullying, and online predators are a constant threat. As children spend more time online, they become vulnerable to various cyber risks that can affect their emotional and mental well-being," he warned. The pediatric neurologist emphasized that parents must be proactive in monitoring their children's online activities to ensure they are safe from these potential threats. Dr. Yusuf believes that by setting boundaries and promoting a balanced lifestyle, parents can help mitigate the risks associated with excessive screen time and online dangers. He further criticized parents, especially mothers, who unintentionally make it a habit for children to engage with screens during meals or even in hospitals. "It has become common to see children eating while glued to their phones or tablets, and even in medical settings, kids are being held with screens in their hands," he said. This behavior, he argued, not only disrupts the natural eating habits of children but also contributes to poor attention spans and unhealthy associations with food.

Empowering families for HPV vaccination essential

ISLAMABAD: Medical experts on Friday emphasized the crucial role of family awareness in the HPV vaccination campaign, warning that millions of Pakistani women aged 15 and older are at significant risk of cervical cancer without the protection offered by vaccination. Farukh Rana Jalal, a leading expert, emphasized in an exclusive conversation that around the world, women are dying from cervical cancer every two minutes, making it a critical global health issue, a private news channel reported. She stressed the importance of family awareness in combating this deadly disease, particularly in countries like Pakistan, where the number of cervical cancer cases is on the rise. Expert highlighted that many women in Pakistan remain unaware of the risks and preventive measures available, including the HPV vaccination, which can significantly reduce the chances of developing cervical cancer. She called on families to play an active role in raising awareness and ensuring that women, especially young girls, receive the necessary vaccinations to protect their health and future. She announced that the government will be launching an HPV Vaccination Campaign from 15–27 September 2025, with the goal of protecting girls aged 9–14 years from cervical cancer, adding, this initiative is a significant step in the fight against a disease that continues to claim the lives of many women. In her statement, she urged families to actively participate in the campaign, emphasizing the importance of vaccinating daughters to ensure their protection against cervical cancer. "Let's join us and vaccinate our daughters," she said, calling on communities to come together and take action for a healthier future. Responding to a query, she explained that the HPV vaccine is safe, effective, and free, offering a vital shield against cervical cancer, a deadly but preventable disease. She emphasized that the vaccine provides long-lasting protection by preventing the human papillomavirus, which is the leading cause of cervical cancer.

She further highlighted that the vaccine not only protects against cervical cancer but also builds lifelong immunity, offering protection throughout a woman's life. With its proven safety and efficacy, she urged families to take advantage of the free vaccination campaign to safeguard their daughters from a disease that can otherwise have life-altering consequences. In a question-and-answer session, she emphasized that early diagnosis and timely treatment are crucial for securing the health and future of patients. She explained that when cervical cancer is detected in its early stages, it can be treated effectively, significantly improving the chances of survival and recovery. She further urged women to prioritize regular screenings and consultations with healthcare professionals, as early intervention remains one of the most powerful tools in combating the disease.—DNA

Naqvi pays tribute to war hero Major Aziz Bhatti shaheed

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has paid a heartfelt tribute to Pakistan's legendary war hero, Major Aziz Bhatti Shaheed, lauding his unmatched bravery and lifelong dedication to the nation. In a statement issued on Thursday, Naqvi described Major Bhatti as "Lahore's Lion" whose courage and sacrifice turned the enemy's nefarious designs into dust. "Major Aziz Bhatti Shaheed's courage and bravery crushed the evil ambitions of a cunning enemy," he said, adding that the martyred officer's heroic stand continues to inspire generations. "Major Aziz Bhatti Shaheed wrote, with his own blood, a story of loyalty that has been etched forever in the pages of history," Naqvi remarked. He emphasized that the entire nation salutes the fallen hero, who has achieved immortality through his supreme sacrifice. The minister recalled that Major Bhatti stood as "an iron wall" during the enemy's assault on Lahore, inscribing a new chapter of valor in the city's skies. "His fearless resistance and unparalleled courage remain a timeless lesson for any aggressor," he said. Naqvi concluded by stating that Major Aziz Bhatti Shaheed's unwavering faith, loyalty, and determination set an example that will be remembered for as long as the world exists.

Cantt Dept unveils health policy

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Under the able leadership of Secretary Defence Lt. General (R) Muhammad Ali HI (M), and vision of DG ML&C Maj. General Irfan Ahmad Malik HI (M), the Military Lands & Cantonments Department (MLCG) has introduced a landmark Health Policy 2025, a forward-looking initiative that promises to revolutionize healthcare services provided by the 44 Cantonment Boards across Pakistan. The dedicated efforts of Director Cantonment Administration Rana Kalil, this comprehensive and meticulously prepared policy document sets a new benchmark in healthcare delivery at the grassroots level. It is designed to generate motivation among medical staff through the long-awaited concept of administrative empowerment, which had previously been lacking in the system. The implementation of this policy in its true spirit will ensure standardized medical facilities for all residents of Cantonment areas nationwide. The Health Policy 2025 focuses on three pivotal dimensions: Upgrading Infrastructure to modern standards, Integrating Advanced Healthcare Technologies to im-

prove diagnostics and treatment, Recruitment and Training of Proficient Healthcare Personnel to strengthen institutional capacity. By investing in these vital areas, the department aims to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness, and responsiveness of healthcare services, thereby elevating the standards of care available to Canton-

ment residents. The policy also emphasizes the paramount importance of community involvement and empowerment, recognizing that sustainable healthcare reform requires active resident participation. Robust partnerships with local communities are encouraged to foster mutual trust and to ensure that services are tailored to meet the

genuine healthcare needs of the population. The Health Policy 2025 is more than just an administrative reform – it is a transformative step toward ensuring equitable, reliable, and modern healthcare facilities. It reflects the MLCG's unwavering commitment to excellence in public service and to nurturing healthier, more empowered Cantonment communities.



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Naseer Bunda Hockey Ground practically useless

THE once-vibrant Naseer Bunda Hockey Ground in Islamabad lies in a state of disrepair, a stark reminder of the Pakistan Sports Board's (PSB) negligence and poor administrative decisions. A place that once echoed with the rhythm of hockey sticks and the dreams of young athletes now wears a deserted look. The reasons are many, but the most glaring is the sharp increase in ground usage fees that has effectively priced out local clubs and athletes. In recent months, the PSB raised the ground usage fee by nearly 300 percent, a move that has shocked and disappointed the local hockey community. What was once an affordable space for budding players and clubs to train has now become inaccessible to most due to the exorbitant charges. With no teams or clubs able to afford the revised fee, the ground sees little to no activity – leading to rapid wear and tear of the turf, unmaintained facilities, and a visible decline in its overall condition. Reports suggest that washrooms are in a filthy condition, water pumps are out of order, and general maintenance is non-existent. The very turf that was supposed to be preserved through better financial planning is now deteriorating faster due to non-usage and lack of upkeep. Ironically, the PSB's decision to increase revenue through the hike has likely backfired, as the absence of bookings means less revenue instead of more. One wonders whether anyone at PSB has formally assessed the revenue trends before and after the price hike – a basic step in policy-making. It appears not. Despite repeated appeals and written requests by local clubs to reconsider the revised fees or to offer concessions for student and grassroots teams, both the Pakistan Sports Board and the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination have remained unmoved. Their inaction signals not only indifference but also a disturbing disconnect from ground realities and the needs of the hockey community. Pakistan's national sport has long been in decline, and missteps like these only further alienate young players from pursuing hockey professionally. Naseer Bunda Hockey Ground was meant to be a cradle of talent, nurturing the next generation of national players. Instead, it now symbolizes the decay of the sport itself. There is a pressing need for introspection at the PSB and the ministry level. If the goal is to promote sports, particularly hockey, then facilities must be made affordable, accessible, and maintained to a standard that encourages participation. Charging steep fees while failing to provide basic amenities is a disservice not only to the sport but also to the nation's youth. Until the authorities take corrective action – including revisiting the fee structure, restoring basic facilities, and consulting with stakeholders – the future of hockey in Islamabad, and by extension in Pakistan, remains bleak. It's time for decision-makers to ask the tough questions: Is this revenue model working? Is it serving the goals of sports development? If the answers are negative, as they appear to be, then bold corrections must follow – and fast.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
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Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 06 Issue: 107

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

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What is OIC, Arab League upto?

THE Muslim world, comprising over 1.8 billion people across 57 countries, faces complex challenges—political conflicts, economic disparities, and religious extremism. Two major organizations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Arab League, have long sought to address these issues. However, their effectiveness remains debatable. Strengths of OIC and Arab League: The OIC, with 57 member states, serves as the largest collective voice of the Muslim world. It has mediated conflicts, such as the Afghanistan reconciliation process, and advocated for Palestinian rights at the UN. The Arab League, though smaller (22 members), has played a role in crises like the Yemen war and Libya negotiations. Both organizations have launched aid programs. The OIC's Islamic Development Bank funds infrastructure projects, while the Arab League coordinates economic policies among members. The OIC promotes Islamic solidarity, condemning Islamophobia globally. The Arab League preserves Arab identity through cultural exchanges and media collaborations. Weaknesses and Failures: Neither body has strong mechanisms to implement decisions. The OIC's resolutions on Kashmir and Palestine often go unheeded, while the Arab League failed to prevent the Syria war or Gulf diplomatic rifts. Geopolitical rivalries (Saudi-Iran tensions, Turkey-Arab disputes) paralyze decision-making. The Arab League is split between pro-US and anti-Western blocs, weakening collective action. Both organizations suffer from slow, consensus-based processes. The OIC's response to crises like the Rohingya genocide was delayed, and the Arab League's economic integration lags behind ASEAN or the EU. Given these limitations, there is a strong case for a more effective, action-oriented body to represent the Muslim world. A smaller, more agile organization (e.g., a "G20 of Muslim Nations") could bypass bureaucratic hurdles. A dedicated trade bloc, like an "Islamic Common Market," could reduce dependency on the West. A neutral, military-backed peacekeeping force could intervene in crises like Sudan or Afghanistan. The OIC and Arab League have symbolic value but lack teeth. Instead of creating a new body from scratch, reforming the OIC with stricter compliance mechanisms, a rapid-response crisis unit, and economic integration plans may be more practical. However, if divisions persist, a coalition of willing nations—perhaps led by Turkey, Malaysia, Indonesia and Pakistan—could pioneer a more effective platform. The Muslim world needs unity and decisive leadership. Whether through revitalizing existing bodies or establishing a new one, the time for passive diplomacy is over. Without bold steps, the ummah's voice will remain fragmented in an increasingly polarized world.

How Trump's green card cuts empower China

Qamar Bashir



The connection between immigration and frontier innovation is equally visible at the highest echelons of science. Immigrants have won about 40% of the Nobel Prizes awarded to Americans in physics, chemistry, and medicine since 2000, and immigrants comprised 31% of U.S. Nobel laureates in economics through 2024, underscoring a century-long pattern of outsized scientific impact. Zooming into sectoral contributions, the picture sharpens further. In technology and advanced computing, immigrant and H-1B talent anchor core research teams and patent...

THERE is a profound shift unfolding in U.S. immigration policy under the Trump administration—a radical transformation in how the nation admits new entrants. No longer is America's visa and green-card system governed by long-standing principles of family reunification, open opportunity, or merit-driven inclusion. Instead, it is taking shape as a transactional marketplace, where entry, settlement, and ownership depend on purchasing power rather than potential—a system more "gold card for a price" than promise. Immigration has long powered U.S. growth. Foreign-born individuals are markedly more likely to start businesses, and immigrants and their children founded almost half of Fortune 500 companies, driving value in technology, health care, and advanced manufacturing. Their presence in STEM is outsized: foreign-born workers now account for roughly one-fifth of the entire U.S. STEM workforce and 43% of doctorate-level scientists and engineers, a staggering share of the nation's innovation engine. The economic consequences are immediate and measurable in higher education alone: international students contributed an estimated \$43.8 billion to the U.S. economy in the 2023–24 academic year and supported ~378,000 jobs nationwide, with modeling showing that a sharp drop in new enrollments could erase nearly \$7 billion in revenue and more than 60,000 jobs in a single academic cycle. Abroad, China's evolution reveals a stark contrast. Inspired by the very American playbook that once defined U.S. leadership, Beijing has spent a decade building aggressive talent-magnet programs and is now doubling down. After high-profile recruitment schemes such as the Thousand Talents Program, China is rolling out a streamlined K-visa in 2025 to fast-track young STEM graduates and researchers without employer sponsorship, directly channeling global talent into labs and startups at scale. This shift is not theoretical. U.S. analysts warn that curbs on visas and campus access risk ceding academic leadership to China just as its universities climb global rankings, with Tsinghua University breaking into the global top tier; and when U.S. policy sowed confusion, institutions in places like Hong Kong moved quickly to recruit displaced international students. The net effect is a global talent market realigning around openness and clarity, not uncertainty and transactions. Inside the United States, mixed signals amplify the damage. One day, senior voices float ending family-based green cards; the next, they tease a purchas-

able "gold card." Unclear timelines leave families wondering whether changes would apply retroactively, jeopardizing lawful lives and ongoing research, or only prospectively. That uncertainty alone pushes many students and skilled workers to choose Canada, Europe, or Asia, where pathways and timelines are predictable. The cost of the confusion is borne in stalled labs, deferred startups, and missed hiring cycles—losses that never show up as a neat line item but compound over years. On the student side, leading design and arts schools such as Parsons report students from 100+ countries, mirroring a broader campus reality where international talent is central to teaching studios, orchestras, labs, galleries, and fashion houses. Crucially, the arts and cultural sector contributed \$1.17–\$1.2 trillion (≈4.2% of U.S. GDP) in 2023 and grew about twice as fast as the overall economy—a reminder that America's creative edge is not ornamental but economically foundational. These ecosystems rely on a steady flow of foreign trainers, educators, creative directors, curators, and managers who cross-pollinate styles and technologies across fashion, film, museums, design services, and higher-education arts programs. The connection between immigration and frontier innovation is equally visible at the highest echelons of science. Immigrants have won about 40% of the Nobel Prizes awarded to Americans in physics, chemistry, and medicine since 2000, and immigrants comprised 31% of U.S. Nobel laureates in economics through 2024, underscoring a century-long pattern of outsized scientific impact. Zooming into sectoral contributions, the picture sharpens further. In technology and advanced computing, immigrant and H-1B talent anchor core research teams and patent generation; foreign-born workers constitute around one-fifth of the overall STEM workforce and nearly half of doctorate-level scientists and engineers, boosting productivity and startup formation in AI, semiconductors, and software. In health care, international physicians and nurses—often trained at U.S. universities on student visas before progressing to H-1B or permanent residency—staff hospitals and clinics in underserved regions, directly affecting health outcomes and workforce availability. In higher education and research, international students keep graduate programs viable, which in turn sustain federal research grants and the commercialization pipelines around them. In biotech and pharmaceuticals, immigrant scientists are overrepresented among venture-backed founders

and patent holders, accelerating drug discovery and gene-editing platforms. And in the creative economy—fashion, design, performing arts, museums, gaming, and media—the \$1.2 trillion arts-and-culture sector interacts with tourism, retail, and tech, yielding spillovers in exports and city revitalization. Each of these five arenas is materially dependent on immigration-enabled talent flows that the current transactional turn places at risk. This is why the administration's broader transaction-first posture has proved so alienating to allies and so costly at home. The fashion and design industry—one of America's soft-power amplifiers—has already warned the White House that tariff volatility and inward-looking rules are squeezing a \$500 billion ecosystem and 10 million U.S. jobs across design, manufacturing, logistics, and retail, even as the sector pays a disproportionate share of import duties. Meanwhile, competitors are not waiting. China is expanding scholarships, launching fast visas, and wiring capital into labs and studios to entice the very cohort America is deterring. European and Canadian universities, facing their own demographic cliffs, are scaling recruitment precisely where U.S. policy sends mixed messages. U.S. campuses and the towns that rely on them understand the stakes: the impending undergraduate "demographic cliff" and softer foreign-student demand could shrink enrollments by millions over the decade without robust international inflows, with adverse spillovers for local economies. The danger is practical and ideological. Short-term revenues from visa sales and higher tariffs may look attractive on a monthly ledger, but the hidden costs—lost labs, offshored startups, and a thinner creative class—compound over years. The nation that once invited the world's best and converted their ideas into prosperity is choosing status and transaction over openness and promise. History teaches that countries that build bridges to talent endure; those that price talent at the door get bypassed. America stands at a clear fork. It can reclaim the strategy that made it great—open doors, predictable rules, investment in universities and research, pathways from student to founder—or it can retreat into a marketplace for status where visas are commodities and the future is auctioned to the highest bidder. One road renews the engine of growth; the other empowers competitors. In this contest, China is not stealing America's playbook; it is using the pages America is tearing out.

Israel's reckless violation of Qatari sovereignty demands unified response

Faisal J Abbas

Israel's pattern of behavior is no longer a matter of debate. Its repeated violations against Arab states, now including Qatar, reveal a blatant disregard for international law and diplomatic norms. This is not the conduct of a responsible state – it is the behavior of a rogue actor. The time has come for Arab nations to speak with one voice and demand accountability. Saudi Arabia supports all measures Qatar may take to protect its sovereignty and national security

I N a region long accustomed to geopolitical turbulence, there are moments that pierce the noise with unmistakable clarity. The recent Israeli aggression against Qatar is one such moment – a flagrant violation not only of Qatari sovereignty but of the collective security architecture that binds the Gulf Cooperation Council together. Saudi Arabia's response was swift and resolute. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's direct call to Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani was more than a diplomatic courtesy – it was a declaration of solidarity, a reaffirmation of the deep-rooted ties between Riyadh and Doha, and a signal that the Kingdom stands ready to mobilize its full capabilities in defense of its brotherly nation. This is not merely a bilateral matter. It is a regional alarm bell. The Kingdom has made it clear:

the security of Qatar is inseparable from the security of Saudi Arabia. Any assault on Doha is an assault on the GCC as a whole. Such provocations must be met with firm, coordinated action – political, legal, and strategic – to ensure they are never repeated under any guise or justification. This transgression is a call to action for Gulf, Arab, and Islamic nations to close ranks and isolate Israel diplomatically and regionally. Israel's pattern of behavior is no longer a matter of debate. Its repeated violations against Arab states, now including Qatar, reveal a blatant disregard for international law and diplomatic norms. This is not the conduct of a responsible state – it is the behavior of a rogue actor. The time has come for Arab nations to speak with one voice and demand accountability. Saudi Arabia supports all meas-

ures Qatar may take to protect its sovereignty and national security. These actions are not only justified – they are essential. They send a clear message: our destinies are intertwined, and aggression against one is a threat to all. This latest transgression is a test of Arab unity. It is a call to action for Gulf, Arab, and Islamic nations to close ranks and isolate Israel diplomatically and regionally. The message must be unmistakable: violations of Arab sovereignty will not be tolerated, and the cost of such recklessness will be steep. Finally, the international community must rise to the occasion. It must condemn this unjustified attack and take meaningful steps to halt Israel's destabilizing behavior. Regional peace and stability depend on it – and silence is no longer an option. – Faisal J. Abbas is the Editor-in-Chief of Arab News.

Briefs

Rs25.5bn package laid-off Utility Stores employees

FROM PAGE 01
and 35 running basic pay for those with more than 16 years. Daily wagers will receive a flat calculation based on a Rs37,000 benchmark. Rs37,000 for each remaining month for those with two or fewer years remaining; 15 × Rs37,000 (Rs555,000) for up to 10 years of service; 28 × Rs37,000 (Rs1,036,00) for those who had served for 10 to 15 years; and 30 × Rs37,000 (1,110,000) for those who had served USC for more than 15 years. The circular also instructs that pending salaries, wages and terminal dues admissible under USC service rules will be paid and that affected employees are being notified separately and will be helped to obtain NOCs from relevant departments so that the dues can be processed once federal funds are released.

4 terrorists belonging to Indian proxy neutralised

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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. KP, as per the 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.

Russia and GCC states condemn Israeli...

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norms but also a direct assault on Qatar's sovereignty and a deliberate attempt to undermine ongoing diplomatic efforts for peace and stability in the region. The ministers emphasized that such actions require a firm, unified, and unambiguous international response — one that holds Israel accountable for its repeated violations of international peace and security. The declaration called on the international community, particularly the United Nations Security Council, to fulfill its responsibilities by taking immediate and effective measures to halt Israeli aggression and prevent its recurrence. The ministers further warned that the continuation of such policies would only fuel greater instability in the Middle East, eroding opportunities for peace and threatening both regional and global security.

Marcon: France deploys...

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A French military official said the warplanes had already been deployed to Poland prior to Tuesday's incursions. On Tuesday, Poland said it had scrambled aircraft alongside allies to shoot down "hostile objects" violating its airspace during a Russian attack on neighbouring Ukraine, a first for a NATO country during the war. The incursion came as Russia unleashed a barrage of strikes across Ukraine, including in the western city of Lviv, around 50 miles (80 kilometres) from the Polish border. Responding to the accusation, Russia's foreign ministry claimed that its drones had carried out a major attack on military facilities in western Ukraine but stressed that there were no plans to hit any targets in Poland.

UN for lifting of workplace ban on local women in Afghanistan

This was extended to field offices across the country, following written or verbal notifications from Taliban leadership

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations in Afghanistan has called on Taliban authorities to lift restrictions barring women national staff from entering its premises. These measures are putting life-saving humanitarian assistance and other essential services for hundreds of thousands of people affected by a recent deadly earthquake at risk, the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) warned in a statement. On Sunday, the de facto security forces prevented women Afghan staff members and contractors from entering UN compounds in the capital, Kabul. This was extended to field offices across the country, following written or verbal notifications from Taliban leadership. Furthermore, security forces are visibly present at the entrances of UN premises in

Kabul, Herat, and Mazar-i-Sharif to enforce the measure. "This is particularly concerning in view of continuing restrictions on the rights of Afghan women and girls," the statement said. Since returning to power four years ago, the Taliban have issued numerous edicts impacting women's rights such as prohibiting girls from attending secondary school and banning women from most jobs, including working with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The UN has also received reports of security forces attempting to bar women national staff from traveling to field locations, including to support women and girls as part of the response to the earthquake that struck eastern Afghanistan last month. They are also being blocked from accessing operational sites for Afghan returnees

from Iran and Pakistan. Since January, over 2.4 million people have returned or been forced to return to Afghanistan from neighbouring countries, according to the UN refugee agency, UNHCR. As a result of the restrictions, UNHCR has temporarily suspended activities at sites where returnees receive cash support and other assistance so that they can rebuild their lives after years of displacement and exile. "This decision was taken for operational reasons, as it is not possible to interview and collect information for the 52 per cent of returnee women, without female staff," the agency said in a statement posted on social media. The UN is engaging the Taliban authorities and calls for the immediate lifting of restrictions to continue critical support to

the Afghan people, noting that the current actions disregard "previously communicated arrangements". "Such arrangements have enabled the United Nations to deliver critical assistance across the country, through a culturally sensitive and principled approach ensuring the delivery of assistance by women, for women," the statement said. In the interim, UNAMA and UN agencies, funds and programmes in Afghanistan have implemented operational adjustments to protect staff and assess options for continuing their essential work. The statement concluded by recalling that the prohibition on the movement of UN staff and the obstruction of UN operations is a breach of international rules on the privileges and immunities of the organization's personnel.

Ukraine's energy strikes hit Russians at the pump

Kyiv has been targeting Russian refineries for months, calling the attacks fair retribution for Moscow's own barrages and an attempt to cut off energy revenues that fund Russia's army

MOSCOW: Watching the price tick higher as he filled up his car, Russian pensioner Oleg raised against the recent surge in petrol prices, pushed higher by Ukrainian strikes on Russia's oil infrastructure. Kyiv has been targeting Russian refineries for months, calling the attacks fair retribution for Moscow's own barrages and an attempt to cut off energy revenues that fund Russia's army. Over the summer, a wave of strikes hit processing capacity at several key facilities, pushing fuel prices higher and leading to shortages. "Little-by-little, but very frequently, the price of fuel is going up. Everybody has noticed," Oleg, 62, told AFP. Since order-

ing troops into Ukraine in February 2022, the Kremlin has tried to shelter Russians from the economic fallout of its offensive. Sanctions have failed to deliver the killer blow the West had hoped. But in one of the world's top oil producers, where consumers are used to paying much less for fuel than in Europe, price increases have many worried. "Since the start of summer, even the start of the year, prices have been noticeably rising," said Artem, a 56-year-old who declined to give his last name. "You know, for ordinary people, an extra 200 or 300 rubles (\$2.3) starts to be felt," he added. While average salaries in Russia have risen strongly since

the start of the conflict, they were still only around \$1,000 a month in 2024. And that has been matched by steep inflation, still running at more than eight percent, according to official statistics. Wholesale prices for Russia's standard AI-95 fuel are close to a record high, according to market data. At gas stations in Moscow, a litre costs 66 rubles (\$0.77) — up 6.7 percent so far this year. Other regions are seeing shortages. From the Far East to the Crimean peninsula, annexed by Moscow in 2014, social media has been flooded with videos of long queues at gas stations. The pro-government Izvestia media outlet this week reported "supply disruptions" in more than 10

regions. Ukrainian drone strikes have hit "major refineries in the European part of Russia — in the Samara, Ryazan, Volgograd, Saratov, Rostov, Krasnodar and Komi regions," military blogger Alexander Kots reported on Telegram. Last month Ukraine said it struck the Syzran refinery — over 800 kilometres from the border and described by Kyiv as state oil giant Rosneft's "most significant" facility. There are no official statistics on how much capacity has been taken offline, and state media do not typically report on successful Ukrainian attacks. The Kommersant business daily quoted analyst Maxim Dyachenko as saying there has been a 10 percent drop in output. — APP

PSB appoints Shabana Khattak as Director Coordination

OUR CORRESPONDENT



ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) has appointed Shabana Khattak as Director Coordination at its headquarters in Islamabad on deputation. According to an office

order issued by the PSB, Khattak has assumed charge of her new responsibilities. She has been appointed in her own pay scale, while her eligibility for a PSB allowance at the rate of 150% will be determined by a committee after reviewing her performance during the first three months. The appointment was made with the approval of the Director General, Pakistan Sports Board. Prior to this assignment, Shabana Khattak was serving as Assistant Director Sports at Bacha Khan University, Charsadda, where she actively contributed to sports administration and coordination programs.

Jazz and Deaf Cricket Academy Team Up

By organizing the Jazz Deaf Cricket Clash, Jazz is reaffirming its role as both a leading digital operator and a catalyst for social inclusion

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital operator, has partnered with the Deaf Cricket Academy as the title sponsor to present the upcoming Jazz Deaf Cricket Clash, a national-level tournament celebrating the passion and talent of the deaf community. Cricket has always been at the heart of Pakistani culture, uniting millions across the country. Through this partnership, Jazz is ensuring that the deaf community is equally part of this national heartbeat. By empowering the Deaf Cricket Academy, Jazz is creating avenues for greater opportunities, visibility, and digital access for athletes who are often underrepresented in mainstream sports. Commenting on the partnership, Kazim Mujtaba, President Consumer Division at Jazz, said: "At Jazz, we believe that true progress comes from inclusivity. Organizing the Jazz Deaf Cricket Clash allows us to not only celebrate the passion for cricket but also create meaningful opportunities for the deaf community to be seen, heard, and recognized on a national stage. This initiative also reflects our broader mission of enabling lives and livelihoods by bringing digital empowerment to every segment of society." Muhammad Irfan Miraj, President Deaf Cricket Academy, added: "This partnership with Jazz gives our players a platform to showcase their skills and passion for cricket to a much wider audience. It's an important step in ensuring that the deaf community is fully included in Pakistan's vibrant cricket culture, and we are grateful to Jazz for extending their support for the cause." This initiative reflects the company's broader vision of enabling every Pakistani to thrive in the digital age, ensuring no community is left behind. Through platforms like the Deaf Cricket Academy, Jazz is fostering a more inclusive sporting culture that celebrates diversity and proves cricket is truly a game for everyone.

Pakistan successfully cleared from WADA watchlist after intense scrutiny

"This is not just a bureaucratic victory; it is a lifeline for Pakistani athletes and sports federations," said DG PSB Yasir Pirzada

ISLAMABAD: After months of uncertainty, Pakistan has finally managed to clear its name from the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) watchlist — a significant breakthrough for the country's sports community. According to official communication available with this news agency, WADA confirmed that the compliance procedure against Pakistan's Anti-Doping Organization (ADOP) was closed after all pending corrective actions were completed. A follow-up confirmation

Pakistani all-women team summits 5,400m Bari La peak

DNA

KARACHI: A team of Pakistani women mountaineers made history this week by becoming the country's first all-women expedition to summit the 5,400-meter Bari La peak in Gilgit-Baltistan, the Alpine Club of Pakistan said. The expedition, organised to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Alpine Club, included women from all four provinces as well as Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Kashmir, and Islamabad. The group reached the summit on September 10 after training and ac-

climatisation at the Sadpara Mountaineering Training School under the guidance of renowned climbers Sajid and Ashraf Sadpara. The team was led by Bibi Afzoon and included Mona Khan, a journalist from Islamabad, along with Amina Shabbir of Islamabad, Maria Bangash from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Zeba Batool from Gilgit-Baltistan, Bisma Hassan and Iqra Jillani from Punjab, Laraib Batool from Balochistan, Madeeha Syed from Sindh, and Shahreen Khan from Islamabad. The four-day expedition began on September 7 in Skardu, with the climbers camping at Deosai

standards in time. This development comes just months after Pakistan was warned in September 2024 that failure to meet critical anti-doping requirements by January 2025 would trigger automatic non-compliance, a status that could have barred Pakistani athletes from competing under the national flag and risked international isolation in sport. "This is not just a bureaucratic victory; it is a lifeline for Pakistani athletes and sports federations," said DG PSB Yasir Pirzada. For a country preparing to showcase itself on major sporting platforms, this clearance from WADA marks a vital step forward. — APP

Top for acclimatisation and receiving hiking drills before making their push to the summit. "This climb is not just about reaching a peak, but about empowerment and showing that Pakistani women can rise to any challenge," Alpine Club Vice President Karrar Haidri said. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated the climbers on their achievement and invited them to the Prime Minister's House in recognition of their success. The guides for the climb included Sajid Sadpara, Ashraf Sadpara, Fida Ali, and Sharif Sadpara, who praised the women for their determination. "I am proud to have been part of this team. These women showed great courage and strength," Sajid Sadpara said.

Over 100 killed in deadly Punjab floods

FROM PAGE 01

deep sympathy for those affected and highlighted ongoing relief efforts. "Our hearts go out to the millions of Pakistanis whose lives have been uprooted by the devastating flooding across the country," the statement read. The U.S. military has already delivered critical supplies, including food and shelter materials, to impacted areas. Building on this support, the U.S. Department of State announced the provision of additional lifesaving assistance, encompassing food, temporary housing, and other essential relief items. "We stand with the people of Pakistan during this time of crisis," the statement emphasized, assuring continued U.S. commitment to help affected communities recover.

Pakistan to host next SCO summit

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The total project cost is Rs 1,495 million, with a duration of 150 days. The project officially starts today and is expected to be completed by February 9 next year. The project is being constructed on existing available land with no need for land acquisition and is financed through self-financing by the CDA. Addressing the groundbreaking ceremony, the prime minister praised the interior minister, Capital Development Authority (CDA) chairman, and their teams for initiating such a vital public interest project. He directed all concerned authorities to ensure the highest standards of quality throughout the construction and emphasized that there should be no compromise on quality while completing the project in the shortest possible time. The prime minister highlighted that Pakistan will be hosting the next SCO Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, and preparations must begin immediately. This includes constructing new accommodations and further beautifying Islamabad. In this regard, he mentioned that Tajikistan has gifted saplings, and the CDA and other teams are working on plantation efforts. PM Shehbaz also stressed that government was also planning to embark upon another public interest project of rail car in the twin cities. "If it happens (the project completes), it will be a great gift for the residents of the twin cities," he said directing the relevant authorities to begin work on the project without delay.

MDCAT admission test...

FROM PAGE 01

According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Health, "After holding discussions with relevant representatives from all four provinces, AJK (Azad Jammu and Kashmir) and Gilgit-Baltistan, on the instructions of Health Minister Mustafa Kamal, the PMDC has revised the exam date to October 26 (Sunday)." The PMDC is the national statutory organisation responsible for regulating the standards of medical and dental education throughout the country. The decision was taken in light of the "difficulties faced by students in the affected areas," the statement read. The exam was previously scheduled to be held on October 5. The "decision is in the larger interest of the students," the statement quoted Health Minister Mustafa Kamal as saying. "The government is committed to providing equal educational opportunities to every student in the country," he added. The exam, which in previous years has been marred by delays, is the entry requirement for admission to medical and dental colleges across Pakistan. Each year, approximately 200,000 candidates take the MDCAT. This year, the exam will be conducted in the following universities across the country: University of Health Sciences, Lahore in Punjab; Sukkur IBA University, Sukkur in Sindh; Khyber Medical University, Peshawar for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Pakistan Defeat Oman by 93 runs in Asia Cup Clash at Dubai

DNA

DUBAI: Pakistan outclassed Oman in their Asia Cup cricket tournament encounter at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, securing a thumping 93-run victory and strengthening their position in the competition. Batting first, Pakistan set a formidable total on the board, thanks to a solid top-order performance. Openers laid the foundation with a stylish half-century, while skipper anchored the innings with a composed knock. Contributions from the middle order pushed Pakistan's score past the mark, leaving Oman with a daunting chase under lights. Oman, in reply, began positively but soon ran into trouble against Pakistan's fiery pace attack led by Shaheen Shah who ripped through the top order. The spinners tightened the grip in the middle overs, and Oman's batting lineup crumbled under relentless pressure. Despite a brief resistance from [Oman Player Name], the team was bundled out for just 67 runs in 16.4 overs, handing Pakistan a comfortable victory. This win not only boosts Pakistan's chances of progressing to the next stage but also underscores their depth and dominance in both batting and bowling. Oman,

on the other hand, will look to regroup quickly ahead of their next fixture. The

triumph was celebrated by a large crowd of Pakistani supporters in Dubai, who

turned the stadium into a sea of green, cheering every run and wicket.



Briefs

Pakistan Pavilion shines at Paris festival

PARIS: Ambassador of Pakistan to France Mumtaz Zahra Baloch visited the International Village of Gastronomy Paris at the invitation of its President and Founder Anne-Laure Descombin. It is one of the biggest gastronomy events in Paris being held since 2016 and aims to celebrate the richness of culinary traditions from around the world. Inaugurating the Pakistan pavilion Ambassador Baloch highlighted the rich culinary heritage and culture of Pakistan. She appreciated the tradition of holding international gastronomy festivals to promote understanding and appreciation of the cuisine and cultures of countries around the world. Pakistan's participation in this year's festival is part of a series of public diplomacy initiatives being taken by the Embassy of Pakistan with a vision to popularize Pakistan's culture and cuisine in France. Pakistan's pavilion remained center of attraction at the Festival as food lovers came in large numbers to enjoy Pakistani cuisine and learn about the traditional culinary culture of Pakistan. The visitors also appreciated the diversity of the savory and sweet dishes on display: chicken biryani, channa chaat, chicken seekh kebab, vegetable samosas, gulab jamans, jalebi along with the famous drink Rool Afza and mango juice. They showed keen interest in the cooking process, the ingredients used and the recipes of the dishes. —APP

From Discord to Bitchat, tech at the heart of Nepal protests

KATHMANDU: From sparking protests that toppled the prime minister to giving young people a platform to discuss their country's political future, social media was key to Nepal's extraordinary uprising this week. Fuelled in part by anger over flashy lifestyles flaunted by elites, young anti-corruption demonstrators mainly in their 20s rallied on Monday. The loose grouping, largely viewed as members of "Gen Z", flooded the capital Kathmandu to demand an end to a ban on Facebook, YouTube and other popular sites. The rallies ended in chaos and tragedy, with at least 19 protesters killed in a police crackdown on Monday. The apps were restored, but protests widened in anger. On Tuesday, other Nepalis joined the crowds. Parliament was set ablaze, KP Sharma Oli resigned as prime minister, and the army took charge of the streets. Now, many activists are taking to the US group-chat app Discord to talk over their next steps. One server with more than 145,000 members has hosted feverish debate about who could be an interim leader, with many pushing 73-year-old former chief justice Sushila Karki. It is just one example of how social media has driven demands for change. —APP

Vast opportunities of Tashkent region outlined

DNA

TASHKENT: President Shavkat Mirziyoyev chaired a meeting to discuss the effectiveness of ongoing reforms and new plans in Tashkent region. The economy of this picturesque and promising region is developing steadily. Over the past eight years, \$10 billion of regional investments and \$8 billion of sectoral investments have been attracted, and about 10,000 industrial, trade, and service enterprises have been established. In the past three years, the number of enterprises with an annual turnover exceeding 10 billion UZS has increased 1.8 times, reaching 1,700. The number of enterprises with a turnover of over 100 billion UZS has grown from 137 to 193. As a result, while the region's average annual exports did not even reach \$1 billion in previous years, they have already surpassed this mark in just the first eight months of this year.

Pakistan rebukes Israel for citing Osama bin Laden incident

"It is unacceptable, indeed, ludicrous, for an aggressor, an occupier, a serial violator of UN Charter and international law - that is Israel - to abuse this chamber and disrespect the sanctity of this Council," Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, said in his right of reply

DNA

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan hit back after Israel defended its Doha strikes, rejecting the sharp condemnation on Thursday by most members of the UN Security Council of its aggression against Qatar while asserting that the US action against Osama bin Laden had drawn no criticism. "It is unacceptable, indeed, ludicrous, for an aggressor, an occupier, a serial violator of UN Charter and international law - that is Israel - to abuse this chamber and disrespect the sanctity of this Council," Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, said in his right of reply. "By pointing fingers on others, baseless assertions, primarily aimed at masking its own illegal actions and violations of international law", he told the 15-member Council. The exchange took in the Security Council's debate on the situation in the Middle East, convened by Pakistan, Algeria and Somalia, under South Korean presidency. In his defence of its "illegal and unprovoked" Qatar attack, Israeli Ambassador Danny Dannon remained defiant, saying, there was no sanctuary for terrorists, not in Gaza, not in Tehran, not in Doha. "There



is no immunity for terrorists. History will not be kind to accomplices. Either Qatar condemns Hamas, expels Hamas and brings Hamas to justice, or Israel will," he warned.

In a tough rebuttal, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad said, "It (Israel) is an occupier that does not listen to anyone; that does not pay heed to any advice, even from its

friends, if there are any left; that refuses, and not just refuses, it threatens members of the international community, international media, international human rights and humanitarian organizations, doesn't listen to the ICJ or the ICC, and threatens the UN and its senior officials; and it does that with impunity. "Shielded by its apologists, who time and again acquiesce in its illegal

actions and defiance of the international community. And like all occupiers, despite being the aggressor, it feigns and plays the victim, but today, it is totally exposed." About the unrelated bin Laden incident and his misleading remarks regarding Pakistan, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad said he did so in an effort to justify its own illegal actions and violations of international law. In fact, he rejected the false analogy. "Pakistan's position on that incident has been clearly stated and is publicly available," the Pakistani envoy said, adding, "The international community is well aware of Pakistan's frontline role and sacrifices in the international community's fight against terrorism. "The entire world, including our partners, acknowledges that Al Qaeda was largely decimated due to Pakistan's counterterrorism efforts. And we remained committed in this global, collective endeavor. "That is, in fact, the perpetrator of the worst kind of state terrorism that we are witnessing in Gaza, and in fact, in the Occupied Palestinian Territories for decades," the Pakistani envoy said. "For whatever way it interprets these statements in this Council, the occupying power must go back and read carefully the statement issued by the Security Council today.

Carmakers to push EU for 2035 combustion-engine ban rethink

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM: Europe's biggest carmakers are to hold talks with EU chief Ursula von der Leyen on Friday as the industry pressures the bloc to revise plans to end combustion-engine vehicle sales by 2035. Suffering from fierce Chinese competition and a stuttering transition towards electric vehicles (EVs), embattled European automakers are pushing for Brussels to reconsider its ambitious climate goals. "The regulation that applies to us is too rigid to produce success, and really we believe must be adapted to reality," said Sigrid de Vries, director of the European auto lobby ACEA. "We need to be more pragmatic." Friday's meeting in Brussels is the third under an EU initiative launched in January to help a sector that employs 13 million people and accounts for about seven percent of Europe's GDP. The first gathering resulted in a reprieve for automakers, with the European Commission allowing them more time to meet the first carbon emissions target under plans to phase out sales of new combustion-engine vehicles by 2035. But companies are now pushing for more systemic change. In an August letter to von der Leyen, carmakers and their suppliers lamented a series of challenges including dependency on Asia for batteries, high manufacturing costs and US tariffs, which have been upped to 15 percent under a deal struck with Brussels. Paired with an uneven distribution of charging infrastructure, they said those obstacles are holding back sales of EVs, which account for about 15 percent of new cars sold across Europe. "We are being asked to transform with our hands tied behind our backs," Mercedes-Benz chief Ola Kaelenius and Matthias Zink, of the automotive parts supplier Schaeffler, wrote on behalf of their industries. Describing the 2035 target as "no longer feasible", they called for incentives such as tax breaks to boost demand for EVs. They also want more room for plug-in hybrids, highly efficient combustion-engine vehicles and other low-but not zero-emission vehicles. That is opposed by green groups and EV sector businesses, more than 150 of which wrote a letter to von der Leyen this week urging her to "stand firm". Road transport accounts for about 20 percent of total planet-warming emissions in Europe, and 61 percent of those come from cars' exhaust pipes, according to the EU. Michael Lohscheller, chief executive of Swedish EV company Polestar, said the 2035 target gave "clarity to industry, direction to investors and certainty to consumers". Weakening it "would harm Europe's ability to compete", he said. The range of new European EVs unveiled at the Munich auto show this week showed that the targets were working, said William Todts, director of the clean transport advocacy group T&E, who is to take part in Friday's talks. "For the first time in 10 years, Germans can say we are as good as the Chinese, almost. And the only reason they're doing that is because of the CO2 standards," he told AFP. "They've had to invest more than they wanted, and this has an impact on dividends and short-term profits, but it does make them more competitive," he said. Yet in a sweeping speech on Wednesday, von der Leyen hinted that tweaks might be on the cards. "With respect for technology neutrality, we are now preparing the 2035 review," she said, referring to carmakers' demand that not only EVs but other low-emission technologies be allowed on the market after 2035. The German politician also announced plans for a "small affordable cars initiative" for Europe to "have its own E-car" - but provided no detail about what that entailed. —APP

S. Korea workers head home after US immigration raid

SEOUL: Hundreds of South Korean workers were headed back to Seoul on Friday after their detention in a US immigration raid that Hyundai warned will delay completion of its battery factory. South Korean workers accounted for most of the 475 people arrested last week at the Hyundai-LG battery plant under construction in Georgia, prompting tense negotiations between Seoul and Washington, staunch security allies. A specially chartered Korean Air Boeing 747-8I carrying 316 South Koreans and 14 foreign employees departed Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport on Thursday, Seoul's foreign ministry said. "Everything at Atlanta went smoothly," a foreign ministry official told AFP on Friday, ahead of the workers' expected arrival at 2:00 pm (0500 GMT). "The plane departed as scheduled with the planned number of passengers." The Georgia raid was the largest single-site operation conducted since US President Donald Trump launched a sweeping immigration crackdown, a top political priority since he returned to office in January. Experts say most of the detained South Korean workers were likely to have been on visas that do not permit hands-on construction work. President Lee Jae Myung called the raid "bewildering" and noted it could have a chilling effect on future investment. He added that Seoul was negotiating with Washington "to ensure that visa issuance for investment-related purposes operates normally". —APP

Donald Trump urges peaceful response to Charlie Kirk killing

Kirk, a 31-year-old superstar on the Republican right who harnessed surging youth support for Trump, was shot while addressing a large crowd at Utah Valley University on Wednesday

OREM, UNITED STATES: President Donald Trump urged supporters Thursday to respond peacefully to the killing of right-wing campaigner Charlie Kirk, as the murderer continued to evade a manhunt more than 24 hours after a shooting that put an already divided United States on edge. Trump, who soon after the killing angrily pledged a wide-ranging response against the "radical left," told reporters that Kirk had been "an advocate of nonviolence." "That's the way I'd like to see people respond," he said. Kirk, a 31-year-old superstar on the Republican right who harnessed surging youth support for Trump, was shot while addressing a large crowd at Utah Valley University on Wednesday. But a day later, authorities said the gunman remained at large. "Multiple leads are currently being investigated, but no suspect is in custody," Utah law enforcement officials posted. "We're doing everything we can to find him, and we're not sure how far he has gone yet," FBI Special Agent Robert Bohls said earlier. The FBI, which described the attack on Kirk as "targeted," published photos of a young person it called "the potential shooter." The pictures showed a man wearing a black baseball cap, dark sunglasses, and what appeared to be jeans, with a long-sleeved top emblazoned with a design that included an American flag. A reward of up to \$100,000 was posted for information leading to his capture. Police say they believe the shooter fired a single bullet from a rooftop up to 200 yards (180 meters), hitting Kirk in the neck. A high-powered bolt-action rifle was recovered in a wooded area. Reflecting the highly political nature of the killing, Kirk's coffin was transported to his home city of Phoenix on JD Vance's official plane. Footage showed the vice president with his hands on the casket as it was carried to Air Force 2. Kirk's widow, Erika, held hands with Vance's wife as they got off the plane in Arizona, the headquarters of the powerful Turning Point USA. The right wing mediasphere remained in a state of heightened emotion Thursday, with Fox News contributors recounting the impact Kirk had on their lives. Conspiracy theories ricocheted around the internet, while calls for a return to civility vied with those demanding vengeance. "THIS IS WAR" wrote the popular right-wing X account of @LibsofTikTok. Fox News host Jesse Watters on Wednesday said the killing showed his side of the political spectrum was under attack. "Whether we want to accept it or not, they are at war with us. And what are we going to do about it?" he asked his audience. —DNA

APJCCI, KOBIA agree to promote SME cooperation

DNA

BAKU: The Azerbaijan-Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (APJCCI) and the Small and Medium Business Development Agency of Azerbaijan (KOBIA) have agreed to promote SME cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan. A delegation led by APJCCI Patron-in-Chief Ahsan Bakhtawari met with KOBIA Chairman Orkhan Mammadov. Pakistan's Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Qasim Moinuddin, was also present on the occasion. During the meeting, both sides discussed exploring opportunities for collaboration in the SME sector between the two countries. Welcoming the delegation, KOBIA Chairman Orkhan Mammadov said that APJCCI serves as an effective platform for strengthening economic relations between the two countries. He identified agriculture, tourism, pharmaceuticals, IT, food processing, and construction as promising sectors for cooperation. He invited Pakistani businessmen to participate in the upcoming "Halal Business Forum" scheduled for October and informed that KOBIA will also send an Azerbaijani delegation to Pakistan later this year to sign Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in various sectors. He added that KOBIA's SME Friend Service Centers are providing entrepreneurs with services related to registration, licensing, taxation, customs, and consultancy to further facilitate business activities.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari stated that more than 50% of Pakistan's GDP comes from the SME sector, which is why establishing strong linkages between Pakistani and Azerbaijani SMEs is the need of the hour. He appreciated KOBIA's one-stop services, which simplify business registration and operational procedures through its SME Friend Service Centers, and urged Pakistani entrepreneurs to fully benefit from these facilities. He emphasized that KOBIA's support is essential for understanding Azerbaijan's business setup, taxation system, and import regulations, and noted that a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two countries could significantly boost bilateral trade. Pakistan's Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Qasim Moinuddin, termed Azer-

baijan an important destination for Pakistani trade and investment and said that regulatory understanding and business delegations can further enhance bilateral relations. He appreciated KOBIA's business facilitation services and stressed the need to review the Preferential Trade Agree-

ment (PTA) to include a wider range of bilateral trade items. Babak Huseynli, Trade Facilitation Coordinator for Pakistan-Azerbaijan, emphasized the importance of connecting entrepreneurs from both countries and noted that Azerbaijan has the potential to become a major market for Pakistani exports.



First ever EU-Egypt summit on October 22

BRUSSELS: The European Council has announced that the first-ever summit between the European Union and Egypt will be held on October 22 in Brussels. The EU will be represented by European Council President António Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, while Egypt will be represented by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi. According to the Council's statement, the summit comes within the framework of the comprehensive strategic partnership established in March 2024 that aims to deepen political and economic cooperation while supporting stability, peace, and shared prosperity. The summit will also address pressing global issues, including the situation in the Middle East, as well as multilateralism, trade, migration, and security. —APP

UAE participates in workshop

ABU DHABI: The UAE, represented by the Ministry of Interior, took part in a workshop dedicated to preparing the Gulf Anti-Money Laundering Strategy. Organised by the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the workshop was hosted by the Ministry of Interior of the sisterly State of Kuwait from September 8-11. The workshop aimed to establish a unified strategic framework that strengthens security and regulatory cooperation among GCC member states, while ensuring alignment with international standards issued by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF). Discussions focused on enhancing the GCC Secretariat's role in combating money laundering crimes, as well as reviewing national legislation, policies, and mechanisms for further development. The event was attended by Jassim Mohammed Al-Budaiwi, Secretary-General of the GCC, alongside representatives from GCC Ministries of Interior, regulatory and judicial authorities, central banks, and specialized international organisations. —APP

Toll in Mexico City gas truck blast climbs to eight

MEXICO City: The death toll from a gas truck explosion in Mexico City rose to eight after four more victims succumbed to their injuries at the hospital on Thursday, authorities said.

The truck overturned and blew up Wednesday in the capital's densely populated Iztapalapa district, injuring dozens and leaving several people with second- and third-degree burns.

The blast caused widespread damage and disruption. Mayor Clara Brugada told journalists a total of 94 people were hurt in the blast, of whom 22 including the driver remained hospitalized in critical condition Thursday, while six suffered serious injuries. had already been discharged. People swarmed to hospitals Thursday to bring food and water to relatives of the victims who were waiting anxiously for updates. Brugada offered economic help for the injured and to pay for the funeral costs of the deceased. Prosecutor Bertha Alcalde said the accident was "likely" the result of speeding. It appears the truck transporting nearly 50,000 liters (13,200 gallons) of gas overturned shortly before bursting into flames. Claudia Sheinbaum told reporters Thursday such "tragic" accidents must not be allowed to happen again, adding she would task federal institutions responsible for granting permits for the transportation of hazardous substances to review their regulations. Images distributed on television and social networks showed harrowing depictions of people with what appear to be serious burns moments after the powerful blast, while others fled before fast-spreading flames that were soon brought under control by firefighters. Several other vehicles were damaged. Some victims were evacuated by helicopter as part of an emergency response that involved hundreds of paramedics and soldiers. —APP

Briefs

Death toll
from Nepal
protest
violence
rises to 51

KATHMANDU: At least 51 people were killed during violent anti-corruption protests in Nepal this week, police said Friday in an updated toll, as the full scale of chaos that toppled the government emerges. Talks continue between the president, protest representatives, key potential figures who may lead an interim administration and the army – which has imposed a curfew and taken charge of the streets. At least 21 protesters were among those killed, mainly on Monday during a police crackdown on demonstrations against a government ban on social media, corruption and poor governance. On Tuesday, protesters set the parliament ablaze, KP Sharma Oli resigned as prime minister, and the army then took charge of the streets. – Agencies

Heavy rains
in eastern,
western Japan

TOKYO: The Japanese weather agency on Friday warned of heavy rains in the eastern and western parts of the country, urging residents to stay vigilant for lightning strikes, tornadoes, strong winds and hail. The Japan Meteorological Agency said that heavy rain could cause mudslides and flooding in low-lying areas, as well as river overflows in western Japan around Hiroshima due to unstable atmospheric conditions. In parts of Tokyo and surrounding areas on Thursday, torrential rain caused flooding, with some wards in the Japanese capital logging record downpours. Transport services including shinkansen operations and air traffic were also disrupted. – Agencies

IHC
reinstates ED
HEC on post

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday suspended the decision of Sessions Court and reinstated Higher Education Commission (HEC)'s Executive Director Zia-ul-Qayyum on his post until the next hearing. The High Court has issued a stay order against the Sessions Court's decision. Justice Saman Raffat Intiaz issued a short judgment, the next hearing of the case will be on October 1. It should be noted that the decision to remove Executive Director Dr. Zia-ul-Qayyum from office was taken in a meeting called by Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed. – Agencies

CJP bars Justice Mansoor
from Yale conference trip

Yale Law School invited Justice Mansoor to participate in “Global Constitutionalism 2025” conference next week

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi has once again refused to grant Justice Mansoor Ali Shah a no-objection certificate (NOC) to attend an international event abroad. Last month, Yale Law School in the United States invited Justice Mansoor to participate in a conference – “Global Constitutionalism 2025” – scheduled for September 10 to 13, The News reported. It was learnt that the school has been inviting Justice Mansoor to the conference for the past five years. The gathering is attended by senior judges from around the world as well as renowned scholars from Yale, Harvard and Princeton universities. Sources said that Justice Mansoor was scheduled to present a paper on artificial intelligence and the judiciary at the event. Yale Law School had also made a formal written request to the CJP to



officially nominate Justice Mansoor. On August 6, Justice Mansoor himself submitted the same request to the chief jus-



stice. Sources revealed that the Supreme Court Registrar office conveyed in its response to the school that the new judicial

year would begin on September 8, marked by a full-court session in which the annual programme is reviewed. The office had further informed the school that this session, along with key institutional events and interactions with the legal community, has become a tradition. It added that the participation of all judges in the opening ceremony of the new judicial year is essential for collective deliberation, setting priorities, and determining the institutional direction. In these circumstances, the Registrar Office conveyed that the Supreme Court was not in a position to facilitate Justice Mansoor's participation in the event. Sources said that Justice Mansoor, in a letter dated August 15, once again requested the chief justice to issue him the NOC, citing several reasons why it should be granted. Earlier, in February, Justice Mansoor's request for leave to attend arbitration events in Saudi Arabia was also denied, forcing him to cancel his trip.

No shooter
threat found
at US Naval
Academy

DNA

WASHINGTON: Military personnel and local law enforcement did not find any shooter threat at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, which was placed on a lockdown on Thursday due to reports of security threats to the installation, a US Navy official said. Naval Support Activity Annapolis security and local law enforcement responded to reports of suspicious activity on the Naval Academy grounds at 5:07 PM ET (2107 GMT). “There is no active shooter threat; however, one person was injured while Naval Security Forces were clearing a building,” the official said in a statement, adding that the injured person had been medevacked and was in a stable condition. Fox News reported earlier that gunshots were heard inside the campus. Naval Support Activity Annapolis said in an earlier statement on Facebook that the base was placed on lockdown “out of an abundance of caution” and that there had been “reports of threats made to the Naval Academy.” The shooting scare comes over a day after Charlie Kirk, a conservative influencer and close aide of President Donald Trump, was killed by a single gunshot as he gave a talk at a university in Utah in what President Donald Trump called a “heinous assassination.”

Armed Forces
Mark 60th
Martyrdom
Anniversary
of War Hero

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff; General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, NI, NI (M), Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee; Admiral Naveed Ashraf, NI, NI (M), Chief of the Naval Staff; and Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, NI (M), HJ, Chief of the Air Staff, on behalf of the Armed Forces of Pakistan, solemnly commemorate the 60th martyrdom anniversary of Major Raja Aziz Bhatti Shaheed, (Nishan-e-Haider) and pay profound tribute to his extraordinary bravery and sacrifice. During the 1965 War, Major Aziz Bhatti defended the Burki sector near Lahore and stood like an iron wall against relentless enemy assaults for five days and nights.

Imran asks MPs to resist
mily action in KP

“Killing one’s own always leads to an increase in terrorism,” the post on the ex-PM’s official account said

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: PTI founder Imran Khan has demanded an immediate end to the ongoing military operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and called on his party's lawmakers to “resist operations and drone strikes against our own people”. A series of posts shared on his personal X (formerly Twitter) account on Thursday, which were supposedly based on his conversation with his sisters in Adiala Jail, recalled that the former ruling ANP had become unpopular in the province due to its support for such military action. Although Mr Khan does not have access to his X account while in prison, it is not clear who operates it in his stead. “Killing one’s own always leads to an increase in terrorism,” the post on the ex-PM’s official account said. The message instructed all members of provincial and national assemblies and the Senate who are from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa “to come together and resist these operations and drone strikes against our own people, and to work for peace so that issues can be resolved through dialogue”. Continuing his mantra of favouring negotiations over kinetic action, he also regretted the forcible expulsion of Afghans from the country. “These measures must stop immediately, otherwise the situation will deteriorate further.”

Brazil’s top
court jails
ex-president
Bolsonaro

Trump, who levied steep tariffs on Brazil as punishment over Bolsonaro’s trial, labels verdict “very surprising”

NEWS DESK

BRASLIA: Brazil’s Supreme Court on Thursday sentenced firebrand ex-president Jair Bolsonaro to 27 years in prison for coup plotting at the end of a landmark trial that divided the nation and drew US fury. The sentence could see the 70-year-old far-right leader spend the rest of his days in jail. Judges voted 4-1 to convict Bolsonaro of plotting to overthrow Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva following his October 2022 election defeat by the left-winger. He can appeal the verdict. Washington was quick to respond to the conviction of the man dubbed “the Trump of the tropics.” Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the United States “will respond accordingly” to what he called a politically motivated “witch hunt.” Trump, who had levied steep tariffs on Brazil as punishment over Bolsonaro’s prosecution, labelled the verdict “very surprising.”

Russia says
shot down
221 Ukrainian
drones overnight

MOSCOW: Russia said on Friday that it had shot down 221 Ukrainian drones overnight, one of the highest tallies of the more than three-year war. Moscow’s defence ministry said its alert systems had “intercepted and destroyed” the drones, over half of which flew over the regions of Bryansk and Smolensk. The figure included 28 aircraft downed over the Leningrad region, which surrounds the city of St Petersburg. Leningrad governor Aleksandr Drozdov said a fire had broken out on a vessel in the Port of Primorsk, a major facility on the Baltic Sea, following drone incursions in the region. The attacks came after Poland, which borders Ukraine, accused Russia of launching a drone raid on its territory this week. Moscow has denied targeting the country and said there was no evidence the drones were Russian. But France and Germany moved to bolster the defence of Polish airspace, with the UN Security Council calling an emergency meeting to discuss the allegations. Russia has targeted Ukraine with regular drone barrages as part of an ongoing offensive there following its 2022 invasion. – Agencies

UK announces £3 million
flood relief Support

Senator Ishaq Dar appreciated the UK’s timely commitment and understanding of the scale of devastation caused by the floods



SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Ms. Jane Marriott, called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar today to express the United Kingdom’s solidarity with Pakistan in the wake of the devastating floods and ongoing monsoon season. High Commissioner Marriott announced £3 million in emergency relief and response assistance, with further humanitarian support to follow.

She assured that the UK would continue to work closely with the Government of Pakistan and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to support both immediate relief and longer-term recovery efforts. Senator Ishaq Dar appreciated the UK’s timely commitment and understanding of the scale of devastation caused by the floods. He conveyed Pakistan’s gratitude for the UK’s solidarity and support at this critical hour. The meeting also covered discussions on bilateral relations, the importance of high-level exchanges, and recent regional and international developments.

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