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Pakistan, China ties are excellent, says Asif Zardari

Detailed News On Page-08

Keshorn Walcott wins javelin throw final

Detailed News On Page-06



Pakistan a brotherly country

Detailed News On Page-07



US president in UK

Trump, Starmer differ on Palestine recognition; show unity on Russia

Prime Minister Starmer reiterated his government's long-held position that the United Kingdom remains open to formally recognizing a Palestinian state as part of its commitment to a two-state solution

CENTRELINE REPORT

LONDON: US President Donald Trump and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer held a joint press conference in London, where both leaders projected unity on global security challenges but revealed a stark difference of opinion over the question of recognizing Palestine as an independent state. The highly anticipated press briefing at Downing Street was dominated by two issues: the recognition of Palestine and the ongoing war in Ukraine. Prime Minister Starmer reiterated his government's long-held position that the United Kingdom remains open to formally recognizing a Palestinian state as part of its commitment to a two-state solution. "The UK believes that recognition of Palestine is a legitimate step that may need to be taken sooner rather

US trying to get Bagram air base back

DNA

CHEQUERS: President Donald Trump said Thursday he was working to "get back" Bagram airbase, which the United States gave up control of after the 2021 Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. "We're trying to get it back, by the way, that could be a little breaking news. We're trying to get it back because they need things from us. We want that base back," Trump said at a press conference with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

er than later in order to create a pathway to peace," Starmer said. President Trump, however, strongly opposed the idea, stressing that the release of Israeli hostages must remain the priority. "Until and unless all hostages are freed, such an option should not even be considered," Trump declared, drawing a sharp contrast with the UK's more Europe-aligned approach. Analysts note that this divergence could mark a shift in the traditionally close U.S.-UK foreign policy alignment. On the issue of Russia and Ukraine, however, both leaders struck a united front. They expressed strong distrust in Russian President Vladimir Putin and pledged to increase pressure on Moscow. "Putin cannot be trusted. He has let me down," Trump said candidly, while Starmer echoed that

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Sri Lanka secure Super 4 Spot in Asia Cup

SPORTS DESK

DUBAI: Sri Lanka booked their place in the Super 4 stage of the Asia Cup after a nail-biting victory over Afghanistan, chasing down a target of 171 in the second last over of the match. Batting first, Afghanistan posted a competitive total of 170 runs in their allotted 20 overs. Their top-order batters provided a strong foundation, but disciplined bowling from Sri Lanka in the death overs prevented Afghanistan from crossing the 180-mark. In response, Sri Lanka showed resilience under pressure.

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Reko Diq: Government earmarks \$390m for rail tracks

NEWS DESK

QUETTA: The federal government agreed to provide \$390 million to the Reko Diq mining project to build rail tracks from mines in Balochistan, according to the Finance Division on Thursday. The decision was taken during a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) in Islamabad, chaired by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, according to a press release from the Finance Division. The press release stated that the railways ministry

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Bonds of brotherhood

What does Pakistan, Saudi Arabia defence agreement mean?

The Bottom-to-Top factor highlights that Pakistanis and Saudis already enjoy centuries-old cultural, religious, and emotional bonds. This agreement is essentially an institutional reinforcement of that natural brotherhood. It makes the partnership durable, long-term, and resistant to political fluctuations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The signing of the SMDA is not just symbolic or ceremonial—it reflects a deep, strategic partnership. Its scope goes far beyond defense. It covers military relations, economic cooperation, regional and geographical security, and even people-to-people ties. This is what makes it a strategic agreement, rather than just a routine defense MoU.

2. Unique Nature of the Agreement What makes this agreement historically unique is that it works both ways: • Top-to-Bottom – from leadership, governments, and institutions. • Bottom-to-Top – rooted in the brotherly relations between the peoples of both countries. This means it is not limited to political or military elites; it draws strength from

Continued on Page 06

India to 'study implications' of Pakistan-Saudi Arabia defence pact

NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI: Reacting to the historic defence pact between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, India has said that New Delhi will study the development's implications with regard to its national security, regional and global security. "We have seen reports of the signing of a strategic mutual defence pact between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan," India's Ministry of External Affairs

Continued on Page 06

Four Indian-sponsored terrorists gunned down

Army reaffirms commitment to uprooting Indian-backed terrorism from country, says military's media wing

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Security forces eliminated four terrorists belonging to the Indian proxy "Fitna al-Hindustan" in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Balochistan's Khuzdar district, the Inter-Ser-

vices Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement on Thursday. According to the military's media wing, the IBO was conducted by security forces on September 17 on the reported presence of militants. "During the conduct of the operation, own forces effectively engaged the terrorists' location, and after an intense fire exchange, four Indian sponsored terrorists were sent to hell," the ISPR said. It added that weapons, ammunition, and explosives were also recovered from the terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area. The ISPR said that a sanitisation operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area, reaffirming that the security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of Indian-sponsored terrorism from the country.

Imran expresses grievances in letter to CJP Afridi

In the letter dated September 16, Imran expressed grievances over several matters, including the conditions he has been kept in inside jail, and urged CJP Afridi to direct the Islamabad High Court to fix some "critical petitions" that had been "hanging in the doldrums" for hearing

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: PTI founder Imran Khan has written a letter to Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi, it emerged on Thursday as party leader Latif Khosa delivered it to the top judge at the Supreme Court. In the letter dated September 16, Imran expressed grievances over several matters, including the conditions he has been kept in inside jail, and urged CJP Afridi to direct the Islamabad High Court to fix some "critical petitions" that had been "hanging in the doldrums" for hearing. The petitions he was referring to pertain to Toshakhana and Al Qadir Trust cases. Speaking to the media after delivering Imran's letter, Khosa said the CJP had sought the ex-premier's complaints

regarding the conditions in jail in writing and assured that his grievances would be addressed and responded to within 24 hours. He said, "We will inform you about whatever happens in [the next] 24 hours." Khosa said he had also expressed "our reservations" about the judiciary to the chief justice and raised the matter of jail reforms. "The CJP has sought suggestions over jail reforms," he said. Earlier, Imran's sister Aleema Khanum had reached the court with the PTI founder's letter, where she was reportedly barred from meeting the CJP by police. Khosa was later allowed access to the chief justice. Imran began his letter with complaints about jail conditions, saying: "For over 772 days, from a cage

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Pakistan role in regional peace important, says EU envoy

Senator Aurangzeb welcomed plans to activate the EU-Pakistan Business Forum and offered full support in this regard. He encouraged EU companies to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Raimundas Karoblis, the newly appointed Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, called on the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, at the Finance Division. During the meeting, both sides discussed matters of mutual interest, particularly focusing on enhancing economic cooperation and strengthening bilateral trade and investment ties between Pakistan and the European Union. Welcoming the Ambassador on his diplomatic assignment in Pakistan, the Finance Minister briefed him on the country's economic situation, noting that the economy was on the path to recovery and in a stronger position. He also apprised the Ambassador of the Government's wide-ranging macroeconomic reforms in taxation, energy, state-owned enterprises, public finance, and the rightsizing of government institutions, expressing optimism that the privatization process would gain further momentum in the coming days. He underlined that the Prime Minister was personally leading the economic reform agenda. He noted that Pakistan had recently received positive assessments from all three leading global credit rating agencies, which were now well-aligned on Pakistan's economic outlook, reflecting growing confidence from bilateral partners, including the EU. He added that overall business sentiment had improved, though continued efforts were un-

derway to further facilitate local investors. The Finance Minister also spoke about the devastation caused by recent floods to crops, livestock, and infrastructure, stating that federal and provincial governments were managing rescue and relief operations from their own resources. He informed that over 950 precious lives had been lost and that damage assessment to crops, roads, bridges, and other infrastructure was being carried out by National Disaster Management Authority and through satellite imagery. He said the federal cabinet would decide on making an appeal to the international community for

support in rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts. Senator Aurangzeb welcomed plans to activate the EU-Pakistan Business Forum and offered full support in this regard. He encouraged EU companies to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan, especially in the oil and gas, mining and minerals, information technology, agriculture, and privatization opportunities in the power, financial, and aviation sectors. He also thanked the EU for its continued support under the GSP Plus scheme. Ambassador Karoblis said he was pleased to be in Pakistan and underlined the country's importance

in promoting regional peace and stability in South Asia. He stated that he had been briefed by his team on the macroeconomic stability achieved by Pakistan over the past year and a half under the Finance Minister's leadership, and congratulated him on the recent credit rating upgrades for Pakistan. He assured the EU's continued support for Pakistan's economic progress and development. He informed that over 300 EU companies were currently operating in Pakistan across various sectors and expressed his commitment to further expanding bilateral trade and investment ties. He shared his plans to fully revive and activate the EU-Pakistan Business Forum, with a meeting planned for the first half of next year, which would serve as a catalyst for enhanced economic cooperation. Pakistan Travel Guides The Ambassador noted that the GSP Plus regime had been instrumental in boosting Pakistan's exports to the EU, with over 30 percent of Pakistan's exports destined for the EU market. He also highlighted the European Investment Bank's ongoing projects in Pakistan, including lending for water and sanitation projects in Karachi, and its future plans to support initiatives in the railways, energy, and rural housing sectors. Ambassador Karoblis expressed his condolences on the loss of lives and damage to infrastructure caused by the floods in Pakistan. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the Pakistan-EU economic partnership and to exploring new avenues of cooperation in the years ahead.



Briefs

US revokes visas of Indians involved in malpractices

DNA

NEW DELHI: The US embassy in New Delhi has revoked or denied visas for certain Indian business executives and corporate leaders due to their involvement in trafficking fentanyl precursors, the embassy said in a statement on Thursday. Fentanyl precursors refer to the basic or parent chemicals that form fentanyl. The statement from the embassy did not name the people against whom the visa action had been taken.

Blast at Chaman border kills 5

Explosives hidden in luggage detonate in Chaman, says official

DNA

CHAMAN: At least five people were killed and three others injured in an explosion at a border taxi stand in Balochistan's Chaman city on Wednesday. The area's assistant commissioner said that the blast occurred when explosives hidden in passengers' luggage went off at the busy stand. The deceased and injured were immediately shifted to the District Headquarters (DHQ) hospital. The Balochistan government has ordered an inquiry into the incident.

US, Israel criticise UN staff

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: Documents show that the United States and Israel have sent complaint letters to top United Nations officials contesting the impartiality of their staff over the Gaza conflict, as hundreds of UN staff protested outside its European headquarters, Reuters reports.

Pak faces billions in costs from plastic waste, warns Romina

ISLAMABAD :Pakistan is paying a steep price for its growing plastic pollution crisis, with 3.3 million tons of plastic waste generated annually causing severe economic, social, and environmental damage, the Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam, warned on Thursday. Speaking at a seminar during Green Action Week 2025 at the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Alam stressed that single-use plastics are not just an eyesore but a major driver of climate change, urban flooding, biodiversity loss, and public health risks. "Plastic pollution has become a defining challenge of our era, with millions of tons choking rivers, cities, and marine ecosystems annually," she said, adding that microplastics are now infiltrating human bodies, demanding urgent policy and societal action. Citing global studies, Alam highlighted the staggering financial burden of plastic waste. A 2021

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) report estimated the lifetime cost of plastic produced in 2019 alone at \$3.7 trillion. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) places annual global environmental damages from plastic at \$19 billion, while other research suggests marine plastic pollution results in losses between \$500 billion and \$2.5 trillion each year. Pakistan, she noted, is no exception. With most of its plastic waste improperly handled, the country faces rising cleanup costs, healthcare expenses, and climate-related damages – all of which strain an already fragile economy. To combat the crisis, Alam said the government has enacted a nationwide ban on single-use plastics, beginning with strict enforcement in Islamabad and extending across provinces. The regulations target polythene bags, disposable cutlery, straws, and other high-waste items, with penalties for violators. "This ban is only part of the solu-

tion. Regulation alone is not enough – we need behavioral change to replace throwaway habits with sustainable practices," Alam emphasized. As part of the government's "Plastic-Free Pakistan" campaign, alternatives such as cotton bags, paper packaging, and biodegradable products are being promoted. Confiscated plastics are also being repurposed into benches and planters to encourage a zero-waste lifestyle. The campaign is backed by community engagement and awareness drives to help citizens adopt greener practices. Alam urged industries, local authorities, and the public to take joint responsibility, pointing to Punjab's partial success with plastic bans as a model to expand. "Together, let us turn the tide on plastic pollution to secure healthy rivers, vibrant habitats, and sustainable communities," she said. "This is an investment in our environment and economy that safeguards both current and future generations."



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for National Heritage & Culture Division Huzifa Rehman visiting during opening ceremony of Digital Immersive Gallery at Islamabad Museum.

KAPCO starts commercial operations of 495 MW Plant

ISLAMABAD: Kot Addu Power Company Limited (PSX: KAPCO) has successfully completed the Initial Tested Capacity (ICT) and Initial Heat Rate Test (HRT) of 495 MW power plant, conducted on September 12, 2025. The Independent Engineer has issued the official test certificate. This marks KAPCO's formal role as an Independent Power Producer (IPP) supplying electricity to the National Grid. The Tripartite Power Purchase Agreement (TPPA), signed on June 4, 2025, following approval by the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), required these tests before the TPPA could become effective. With completion of the tests, the TPPA is now effective from September 13, 2025, marking the Commercial Operation Date (COD). Commenting on the milestone, Shahab Qadir, CEO of KAPCO, said: "The COD is a significant milestone for KAPCO and Pakistan's Power Sector. From this date, KAPCO will supply electricity upto 495 MW from its plant to the National Grid and the Power Purchaser under NEPRA-approved tariff. With flexible fuel options—RLNG in summer and LSFO in winter—our plant will provide reliable and economical power, support grid stability, and contribute to the country's economic growth." KAPCO has received requisite approvals from NEPRA and NTDC, with final tariff determination expected soon. The TPPA ensures structured payments for capacity, operations, and working capital, providing a stable framework for power supply.—DNA

Bugti vows to ensure special care of people in repatriation of Afghan

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Thursday reaffirmed that the ongoing repatriation of Afghan refugees would be carried out in a transparent, well-organized and dignified manner to safeguard the self-respect of every individual. He emphasized that the provincial government was implementing the federal policy on repatriation and maintaining close coordination with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). He expressed these views while presiding over a high-level meeting here.—APP

MDCAT 2025 rescheduled to October 26

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PM&DC) on Thursday has announced that the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) 2025 would now be held on October 26, 2025, instead of October 5. The decision was taken after considering the difficulties faced by students in flood-affected areas. According to PM&DC, a total of 140,071 candidates have registered for the examination, which will be conducted nationwide through provincial universities. The test will also be held at one international venue in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Punjab has reported the highest number of applicants with 50,443 candidates registered under the University of Health Sciences, Lahore. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa follows with 39,964 candidates through Khyber Medical University, Peshawar, while Sindh has 33,160 candidates

registered under the Sukkur IBA Testing Service. From Balochistan, 10,278 candidates will appear under the Bolan University of Medical & Health Sciences, Quetta. In addition, 1,146 candidates from Islamabad Capital Territory, 3,322 from Azad Jammu & Kashmir, and 1,564 from Gilgit-Baltistan will appear under the Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University (SZABMU), Islamabad. A further 194 candidates have registered to sit the test at overseas centers through SZABMU. PM&DC clarified that while the exam will be conducted by universities nominated by federal and provincial authorities, the Council has prepared a uniform syllabus and item bank to ensure fairness. The universities are required to strictly follow PM&DC standards in both paper setting and result declaration.

The Council added that it is coordinating with the FIA, IB, and police to ensure transparency and prevent paper leaks or cheating. Candidates have been advised to follow only the official instructions and advisories issued by PM&DC or universities and to disregard false information circulating in the media. PM&DC President Dr. Rizwan Taj urged universities to make every effort to facilitate candidates and conduct the exam smoothly. He further advised students to prepare with dedication and integrity, emphasizing that merit and hard work are the only paths to success. The MDCAT remains a mandatory entry test for admission into medical and dental colleges across Pakistan and serves as a key step in selecting the most competent candidates for the healthcare profession.—APP

BISP reviews plans for secure payment system

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid has reaffirmed that BISP is committed to adopting a modern, transparent, and technology-driven payment mechanism to ensure timely, convenient, and respectful delivery of financial assistance to millions of beneficiaries across Pakistan. She was speaking at a high-level meeting held at BISP Headquarters on Thursday to review measures for developing a secure and accessible cash distribution system. The meeting was jointly

chaired by Senator Rubina Khalid and Secretary BISP, Amer Ali Ahmad, and was attended by Muhammad Bashir Khan, Chief Commercial Officer One Link, the Karandaaz team, Additional Secretary BISP, and all Directors General. The detailed deliberations were held on designing a technology-driven payment mechanism that ensures minimal human involvement, upholds dignity for beneficiaries, and provides them the freedom of choice in accessing their financial assistance. Senator Rubina Khalid emphasized that, in line with the directions of the President and the vision of the Prime

Minister of Pakistan, BISP's leadership is determined to modernize its cash transfer system and guarantee beneficiaries a transparent and dignified service experience. Secretary Amer Ali Ahmad highlighted the importance of innovation and collaboration among all stakeholders, particularly with banking partners, to create synergy in the payment system. He underscored that actionable and practical solutions will be key to ensuring a smooth and effective rollout of the new reforms, adding that technology is essential for transparency in any payment model.—APP

Balochistan needs inclusive policy interventions

ISLAMABAD: Policymakers, researchers, and development experts gathered in Quetta on Thursday at a high-level consultative dialogue titled "Towards Inclusive and Integrated Disaster Responses in Balochistan", jointly organized by P&D Department of Balochistan, UNFPA and facilitated by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). The dialogue focused on building gender-responsive and equitable disaster management systems for one of Pakistan's most climate-vulnerable provinces, said a press release. Delivering the opening remarks, Chief Economist, Planning and Development, Balochistan, Aminullah Khan said that although Pakistan contributes negligibly to global greenhouse gas emissions, it ranks among the ten most affected countries by climate change. "Balochistan is not only struggling with floods but also with recurring droughts, including the devastating 1998–2002 spell that ravaged agriculture and livestock," he noted. Khan recalled the province's repeated devastation from floods in 2011, 2013, 2015, and most recently in 2022, which severely damaged lives and infrastructure.—APP

Uzbekistan expands global financial partnerships to boost reforms

ISLAMABAD: Uzbekistan is intensifying cooperation with leading international financial institutions and global companies as part of its drive to advance economic reforms, strengthen financial stability, and ensure sustainable development. According to the Uzbek embassy in Islamabad, in recent high-level meetings, the government engaged with the World Bank on long-term development goals, including transport infrastructure projects such as the planned Tashkent–Andijan toll road, as well as broader measures to mitigate economic risks. Talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) focused on programs to support the national economy and safeguard financial stability, while the International Finance Corporation (IFC) emphasized public-private partnership (PPP) projects, particularly in healthcare and energy modernization. The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) and the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) pledged support for investment guarantees and expanded financing opportunities. At the same time, major investment banks including JPMorgan, Citi, and Franklin Templeton discussed strategies to enhance Uzbekistan's international image, strengthen capital markets, and attract new investors. Global firms such as AECOM and BlackRock explored potential partnerships in energy, transport, and water supply projects. Efforts to nurture Uzbekistan's startup ecosystem were also in focus, with Garage Startup House and 500 Global reviewing support for the national venture fund and ways to integrate Uzbek startups into the international innovation community. Additionally, discussions with Nasdaq and the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) highlighted avenues for attracting foreign investment into Uzbekistan's capital markets. Officials said the country's expanding engagement with global financial institutions and companies is opening new opportunities for investment, creating jobs, and accelerating progress toward Uzbekistan's Vision 2030 goals.—APP

Mohtasib's office wins international recognition

ISLAMABAD: The Wafaqi Mohtasib Institution's spectacular performance at home with regard to redressal of public complaints has won international recognition and acclaim. This was stated by the Wafaqi Mohtasib, Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi while speaking informally to a group of media persons and journalists at the Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat here on Tuesday. Qureshi, who is also the current President of the Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA), had recently chaired the Association's 26th Annual Meeting of its Board of Directors and 18th Meeting of the General Assembly in China further stated that Pakistan being one of its founding members, owes its prominent position in the organization in strict compliance with the international standards upholding the core values of Ombudsmanship.—APP

Pakistan-KSA's coop deepened after historic defence agreement: Experts

PESHAWAR: The recently signed strategic mutual defence agreement (SMDA) between Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) has been widely praised by the defense, political and diplomatic experts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, who have termed it a historic milestone in bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries. Analysts see the agreement as a crucial step in deepening defence cooperation between Islamabad and Riyadh amid shifting regional dynamics and evolving security situation in the Middle East. Former ambassador of Pakistan to Saudi Arabia, Manzoorul Haq, told APP on Thursday that the agreement, signed by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, Mohammad Bin Salman, strongly reflected a shared commitment to collective security and regional peace. He emphasized that the clause stating any aggression against one country shall be considered aggression against both marks a significant shift in strategic thinking and defence approach. "Pakistan and KSA are close friends and this relationship is based on mutual trust and re-

spect," he said, adding the Pakistani nation and Govt feel proud of the close relationship with people and the Govt of Saudi Arabia and hailed the SMDA agreement in all respects. Ambassador Manzoor termed the agreement a major breakthrough, saying that it strongly reflected a new security mindset in the Arab world, especially after Israel's recent illegal strikes in Arab countries especially against Doha Qatar. Referring to the Israeli attacks on Qatar and the subsequent Doha Emergency Arab Countries Summit, he said Arab nations are now increasingly focused on strengthening mutual defense capabilities, and that Pakistan's importance has enhanced significantly after its superiority in war fighting abilities shown by PAF and our armed forces against India. "If Qatar can be targeted, other nations in the region are equally vulnerable," Manzoorul Haq reiterated. "In this context, Saudi Arabia turned to its most sincere and timed tested ally Pakistan." He stressed that while Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have long enjoyed close bilateral relations and military ties, this landmark agreement formalizes their relationship at an unprecedented level. "This is a major step forward, especially after Pakistan's successful operation in

Marka-e-Haq, which reshaped regional perceptions of its military strength and war fighting abilities in land, air and sea," he added. Dr. Hussain Shaheed Soharwardi, former Chairman of the International Relations Department at the University of Peshawar, said the agreement has elevated Pakistan-Saudi ties from economic and cultural cooperation to a strategic defense alliance. "This sends a strong message to all adversaries and reinforces mutual trust and deepening defense cooperation between Pakistan and KSA," he said. "The language of the agreement is very powerful, marking a shift in Pakistan's role from a regional player to a strategic power capable of working with both Middle Eastern and South Asian partners." Dr. Soharwardi said that while the agreement was a strategic win for Pakistan but it also presented a challenge to live up to Saudi Arabia's expectations. "One clear dimension is Saudi Arabia's gradual shift away from sole reliance on the U.S security umbrella," he explained. "But more importantly, Pakistan's military capabilities were strongly demonstrated in operation iron wall against India in May last and successful IBOs against Indian sponsored Fitnaul Khwaraz terrorists that made it the most suitable choice for deepening defense cooperation between the two countries.—APP

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- 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

Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



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- Rescue (Police).....15

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Emergency Ambulance.1122 & Rescue Services.4451122

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Motorway Police.9270601-20

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DHQ.....5556311-4

RGH.....9290301-7

Holy Family.....9290322-7

PIMS.....9261170-79

Polyclinic.....9218300-09

Shifa International 4603666



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- CDA.....9221334-43

CDA.....9208301-04

Met Office.....9250360-6

RDA.....5555864

TMA.....5770886

Cantonment Board 9270151-3



- Islamabad Metropolitan
- Corporation.....9209224

Potohar Town.....9209224

Rawal Town.....5773343
- Water Tank
- Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Serena Hotels, Subhe Nau & Pak Scouts launch tree plantation drive

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels, in collaboration with Subhe Nau and the Pakistan Scouts Association, hosted a Tree Plantation Drive. The event took place at the National Headquarters, Sumbol Park, Garden Avenue, Islamabad This initiative reflected the shared commitment of all three organizations towards environmental sustainability, community engagement, and the fight against climate change. The Tree Plantation Drive aimed to raise awareness about ecological conservation and the urgent need to expand green cover in Pakistan's urban spaces. Serena Hotels, through its Public Diplomacy initiative, has long been engaged in meaningful activities that promote cultural, social, and environmental development. Partnering with Subhe Nau, a well-recognized organization advocating for ecological well-being, and the Pakistan Scouts Association, which has a proud history of community service, this campaign embodies a collective effort for a greener future. The drive witnessed active participation from community members, volunteers, scouts, and representatives of civil society, underlining the importance of unity in protecting the environment. Pakistan, Maldives Share Deep Bonds of Friendship: Acting President Gilani Islamabad, 18 September 2025: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani said Pakistan greatly values its close ties with the Maldives, describing the relationship as one founded on goodwill, trust and Islamic brotherhood. He was speaking at Aiwan-e-Sadr today while receiving a delegation from the Maldives led by Mr Abdul Raheem Abdulla, Speaker of the People's Majlis. The delegation comprised Mohamed Shahid, Hussein Mubarak, Yoosuf Nasheed and Abdulla Shazeem. The Acting President noted that Pakistan and Maldives enjoy a relationship marked by mutual trust and shared values. Recalling the meeting between Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President Dr Mohamed Muizzu on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in 2024, as well as earlier leadership-level contacts, he said these exchanges reflect the warmth and depth of the bilateral relationship. Mr Gilani emphasised the need to maintain this momentum and expand ties across a wide range of sectors, including trade, tourism, education, health, youth development, climate cooperation and defence. He highlighted that bilateral trade stood at \$8.87 million in 2024-25 and stressed that direct air and sea links could help unlock the relationship's full potential. He also noted Pakistan's ability to meet Maldivian demand for textiles, rice, cement, meat, fruits, vegetables and pharmaceuticals, and reiterated Pakistan's interest in strengthening defence cooperation. The Acting President expressed pride in Pakistan's development and welfare contributions in the Maldives, including the Parliament building in Malé, which remains a lasting symbol of friendship. He added that Pakistan would continue supporting Maldivian development, particularly through scholarships for Maldivian students in medicine, engineering, pharmacy and dentistry. Mr Gilani also highlighted the importance of promoting tourism cooperation and learning from each other's expertise in this vital sector. On regional matters, he reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to promoting peace and cooperation in South Asia and reviving SAARC as a platform for regional development, expressing hope that the Maldives would play an active role. Referring to the developments in Jammu and Kashmir since April 2025, he reiterated that a peaceful resolution in line with UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people is essential for lasting peace in the region. Mr Gilani also handed over an invitation to Mr Abdul Raheem Abdulla to attend the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference, scheduled to be held in Islamabad in November 2025.

Gilani reaffirms Pak's support to Kashmiris' right to self-determination

DNA

ISLAMABAD : Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Thursday reaffirmed that Pakistan will continue to extend its steadfast political, diplomatic and moral support to the Kashmiri people until they achieve their legitimate right to self-determination in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. He was speaking at Aiwan-e-Sadr today while meeting a delegation from Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K) comprising Speaker Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Latif Akbar, former Prime Minister Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan, and Member Legislative Assembly Hamid Raza, a Presidency's news release said. The acting president said that Kashmir is very close to his heart. Recalling his tenure as Prime Minister, he mentioned the steps his government had taken to improve the standard of living of the people of AJ&K, including funding for universities, medical colleges and improved road infrastructure. The delegation expressed deep concern over the impact of the recent floods in South Punjab. The meeting lauded the services of the late Kashmiri leader, Abdul Ghani Bhatt, Chairman Hurriyat Conference, who passed away yesterday. Gilani said Bhatt's lifelong commitment to the Kashmir cause would be remembered with respect. He paid tribute to Mr Bhatt, noting that his sacrifices would inspire future generations. The acting president invited Speaker of the AJ&K Legislative Assembly to attend the International Speakers Conference being held in November. Condemning the atrocities committed by India in IIOJK, he highlighted the mistreatment of prominent leaders such as Asiya Andrabai, Yasin Malik, and Shabbir Shah. He underlined that Pakistan would continue to raise the Kashmir dispute vocally at international forums. Gilani said that during the Marika-e-Haq standoff with India in May 2025, Pakistan's civil and military leadership acted responsibly as a nuclear state, despite Indian provocations and unsubstantiated allegations.

PNCA opens retrospective of Raja Changez Sultan

ISLAMABAD:In a defining cultural moment for Pakistan's art scene, the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) unveiled "In Trinity Together: A Retrospective of Raja Changez Sultan" on Wednesday evening, celebrating the six-decade journey of one of the country's most eminent painter-poets. The exhibition, curated by Noor Fatima, offers an unprecedented showcase of Sultan's artistic and poetic legacy, drawing diplomats, writers, artists, and cultural leaders to PNCA for a night of reflection, dialogue, and celebration. The exhibition was inaugurated by Ms. Natalie A. Baker, Charge d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, alongside Asad Rehman Gilani, Secretary, National Heritage and Culture Division, and attended by a distinguished gathering including Mr. Stetson Sanders, U.S. Consul General Lahore, Farah Naz Akbar, Parliamentary Secretary NH&CD, and M. Ayoub Jamali, Director General PNCA. Curated with support from Exhibition Manager Sarah Rajper, the retrospective features over 100 works drawn from seven of Sultan's seminal series — The Himalayan Odyssey, The Three Graces, A Thousand Faces of Eve, The Wood Nymphs, Birds of Paradise, Divided Self, and a previously unseen collection Crucifixion of Eve. Together, they offer a profound journey through landscapes, myths, archetypes, and human portraits, blurring the boundaries between painting and poetry. Gilani hailed Sultan's oeuvre as "profound meditations on life" and a vital contribution to Pakistan's cultural legacy, while Sultan himself described the exhibition as both a culmination and a continuation of his journey, reflecting "the awe of the mountains and the grace of human relationships." In her remarks, Ms. Baker praised the retrospective as a testament to the power of art in fostering dialogue and cross-cultural understanding. — Agencies

Son bags first MLS hat-trick as LAFC beat Real Salt Lake

DNA SOUTH KOREAN: Son Heung-min scored his first Major League Soccer (MLS) hat-trick to propel Los Angeles FC (LAFC) to a 4-1 victory over Real Salt Lake in Utah on Wednesday and continue his spectacular start to life in the United States. South Korea's Son, the former Tottenham captain who signed with LAFC in August for a reported MLS record \$26 million, struck twice in the first half and again in the second. A former English Premier League golden boot winner, Son has had an instant impact in America after a decade at Tottenham, scoring five goals in six MLS matches. Denis Bouanga got the fourth to become the all-time leading scorer for LAFC, who moved into fourth place in the Western Conference, two points above Seattle Sounders. Diego Luna came close to firing Real Salt Lake ahead in the second minute when he charged on to a cross in the penalty area, but his left-footed shot went wide. Just a minute later, Son punished the miss by putting the visitors in front. — APP

Schools invited to celebrate World Space Week 2025

ISLAMABAD: The Rawalpindi Astronomy Society (RAS) and Space Sciences Group have announced an exciting series of outreach activities for World Space Week 2025, which will be observed worldwide from October 4 to 10 under the theme "Living in Space." The organizers are inviting schools and educational institutes across the region to join this global celebration of science, technology, and space exploration by hosting astronomy sessions on their campuses. During the week-long program, students will be given a rare chance to witness the wonders of the universe with their own eyes. Under the guidance of experts from RAS and the Space Sciences Group, the participants will explore the craters of the Moon, observe distant planets and study star clusters through telescopes. The initiative aims to spark curiosity, inspire scientific thinking, and cultivate a deeper interest in astronomy and space sciences among young learners. World Space Week is celebrated in more than 90 countries and is recognized as the largest annual space event on Earth. Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1999, it commemorates two historic milestones in space history: the launch of the first artificial satellite, Sputnik-1, on October 4, 1957, and the signing of the Outer Space Treaty on October 10, 1967. — APP

Aleem reviews damage, rehabilitation of M-5

ISLAMABAD: In view of the flooding faced in Jalalpur Pirwala for the past three weeks, Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan visited the affected area to review the damage to Motorway M-5 and the ongoing rehabilitation activities, there. He held a special meeting attended by Senior Minister Punjab Marriyum Aurangzeb, Provincial Ministers, and Federal Secretary for Communications, Chairman NHA, Commissioner Multan and senior officials of the relevant departments, said a press release issued on Thursday. Talking on the occasion, Abdul Aleem Khan stated that floodwater has spread on both sides of the Motorway M-5 up to 20 kilometers. "Breaking the Motorway was not an easy decision but safeguarding the lives and property of citizens takes precedence," he emphasized. He added that saving Jalalpur Pirwala city remains the foremost priority as NHA working shoulderto-shoulder with the Punjab Government. He assured that whatever decision the Punjab Government takes, NHA and other institutions will fully support it. Expressing sorrow over the extensive flood damages, particularly around Multan. — APP

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN
(COMPANY REGISTRATION OFFICE)
Multan

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 425(3) OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2017

WHEREAS, notices under sub-section (1) and (2) of Section 425 of the Companies Act, 2017 were sent to the following companies to ascertain as to whether these companies are carrying on business or are in operation: -

Sr. No.	Name of Company	Registered Office Address
1	Fluxify (SMC-Pvt.) Limited	Shop No 36 Crystal Arcade, Sher Shah Town, Multan Cantt.
2	Glint Glide (SMC-Pvt.) Limited	First Floor Street No 5 Hamid Commercial Center, Mumtazabad, Mumtazabad Town, Multan
3	Impexible Software (SMC-Pvt.) Limited	Office No 14 second floor Crystal Arcade, Katchari Road, Sher Shah Town, Multan Cantt.
4	Pixel Code (SMC-Pvt.) Limited	Office No 14 Crystal Arcade Kutchery Road, Sher Shah Town, Multan Cantt.
5	Zenforge (SMC-Pvt.) Limited	Chah Munshi Wala Mohalla Sameeja Abad, Mumtazabad Town, Multan.

2. WHEREAS, no answer has been received confirming that the aforementioned companies are neither in operation nor carrying on any business.

3. Now, therefore, as required under sub-section (3) of section 425 of the Companies Act 2017, notice is hereby given that unless cause is shown to the contrary, the name of each Company, at the expiration of thirty days, from the date of this notice, shall be struck-off the register and Companies will be "DISSOLVED".

PID(I)2323/25

(KASHIF ISLAM)
Addl. Joint Registrar

Briefs

Exports up by 2.43% to Rs 1.446t in two months

ISLAMABAD: The exports from the country in rupee terms witnessed an increase of 2.43 percent during the first two months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. Exports during July-August (2025-26) were recorded at Rs.1,445,947 million as against Rs.1,411,671 million during the corresponding period of last year, according to provisional figures released by PBS. On year-on-year (YoY) basis, the exports from the country decreased by 11.18 percent during August 2025 as compared to the corresponding month of last year. The exports in August 2025 were recorded at Rs 683,369 million against the export of Rs 769,399 million recorded during last August. On month-on-month (MoM) basis the exports in August 2025 went down by 10.39 percent when compared to exports of Rs 762,578 million in July 2025. The main commodities of exports during August 2025 were knitwear (Rs.125,999 million), readymade garments (Rs.92,765 million), bed wear (Rs.76,095 million), cotton cloth (Rs.44,517 million), rice other than basmati (Rs.26,814 million), towels (Rs.24,100 million), madeup articles excluding towels & bedwear (Rs.18,860 million), cotton yarn (Rs.17,853 million), basmati rice (Rs.14,574 million) and cement (Rs.10,706 million). On the other hand, imports during July-August (2025-26) totaled Rs.3,161,422 million as against Rs.2,713,563 million during the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 16.50 percent.

Pakistani firm, China's GDTTC forge partnership to promote agri trade

ISLAMABAD: In a step to boost agricultural and trade cooperation, Pakistan's My E-Car Pvt Ltd. and China's Global Digital Trade Transaction Center (GDTTC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to forge partnership under Green Pakistan Initiative. The agreement encompasses cooperation in electric vehicles, agriculture and trade between Pakistan and China. It was decided to establish the Pakistan National Pavilion, which is intended for GDTTC located in Beijing, and the Asia Trade Pavilion in Islamabad, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro. The initiative aims to boost trade and industrial activity between the two countries by presenting a diverse array of Pakistani and Chinese products in each other's markets. Notably, the partnership emphasizes technology transfer in line with the Green Pakistan. —APP

Regulator must jealously guard petroleum sector

Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik urged OGRA to strengthen enforcement mechanisms and provide a level playing field to all stakeholders

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum, Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik, visited the head office of the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) today, where he was received by Chairman OGRA, Mr. Masroor Khan, along with senior officials. During the visit, the Minister was briefed on OGRA's mandate, regulatory functions, and a series of recent initiatives. These included safety awareness campaigns to protect lives, the brownfield upgradation of refineries to Euro-V standards, the IFEM audit, UFG management, LNG virtual pipeline projects, resolution of consumer complaints, rebates for the general public, establishment of a one-window facilitation center at OGRA headquarters, e-licensing and digitization projects, creation of strategic fuel reserves, sector reforms, and the establishment of regional offices. The Minister was also apprised on the progress with regard to digitization of the oil supply chain. He underlined the significance of this initiative, stating that digitization is essential to eliminate loopholes, ensure transparency, and identify sectoral vulnerabilities through effective monitoring and surveillance. Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik urged OGRA to strength-



en enforcement mechanisms and provide a level playing field to all stakeholders. He also stressed the importance of developing a robust strategic communication framework to keep both stakeholders

and the public informed about the realities and developments in the petroleum sector. Chairman OGRA, Mr. Masroor Khan, reaffirmed the Authority's commitment to implementing the OGRA Ord-

nance in letter and spirit while extending full support to the Federal Government in formulating policies that ensure sustainability and resilience in the petroleum sector.

Former PM AJK welcomes Pak-KSA defense agreement

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Atique Ahmad Khan, President of the All Jammu Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, on Thursday warmly welcomed the newly signed defense agreement between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, describing the pact as mutually beneficial for both nations and a significant step towards regional stability. In an official press statement, Sardar Atique extended his congratulations to the leadership and people of both Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on the historic accord. He emphasized that the agreement not only highlights the longstanding and deep-rooted bond between the two countries but also reinforces their unwavering commitment to mutual defense and strategic cooperation. "The Pakistan-Saudi defense agreement is a pivotal development aimed at strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing security across the region," he said. "This pact cements the commitment of both nations to collaborate closely in defense matters, promoting peace and stability in an increasingly volatile geopolitical environment."

Atique also praised the presence of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir (Chief of Army Staff), during the signing ceremony, noting that such high-level military involvement sends a strong and clear message to common adversaries. He expressed confidence that the agreement will significantly bolster Pakistan-Saudi defense ties and cooperation, thereby contributing positively to regional security. Describing the pact as a timely and necessary initiative, the All Jammu Kashmir Muslim Conference president highlighted that the agreement showcases Pakistan's advanced defense capabilities on the global stage. He further remarked that Pakistan's role in defending the sacred sites of Makkah and Madina through this collaboration is a matter of great honor and responsibility for the country.

Sardar Atique added that the agreement is expected to support Saudi Arabia's goal of achieving greater self-sufficiency in defense production and capabilities. He underlined that the partnership would serve as a strategic barrier against potential threats in the Gulf and broader Middle East, thereby enhancing the overall security architecture of the region. The President of the All Jammu Kashmir Muslim Conference also congratulated the leadership and citizens of both countries and expressed optimism that the pact would pave the way for joint defense training programs and military exercises, further solidifying the alliance and fostering long-term peace and stability in the Gulf and Middle East regions.—APP

Educational reforms top priority, says Hanif

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister for Railways, Muhammad Hanif Abbasi said that educational reforms are a top priority for Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, crediting her for ensuring merit and transparency in the education system. Speaking at the prize distribution ceremony for the Intermediate First Annual Exam 2025 organized by the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE), Rawalpindi, he congratulated successful students and their parents. The ceremony, held at Fatima Jinnah Women University, honored top-performing students. Areej Shafqat Hayat from Punjab College for Women, Tala Gang topped in the overall results with

1148 out of 1200 marks whereas Ayesha Mushtaq from the same college took second with 1139 marks and Eman Fatima from Royal College of Sciences for Girls, Chakwal, claimed third position with 1138 marks. Female students outperformed males, achieving a pass rate of 62.4% compared to 39.87% for male students. The overall pass percentage was 54.12%. Abbasi awarded medals and prizes to position holders, who also received a guard of honor. The minister praised BISE Rawalpindi Chairman Muhammad Adnan Khan and his team for ensuring transparent results. He highlighted Punjab CM's initiatives, including laptops and scholarships for students, and commended Punjab Education Minister Sikandar Hayat for modernizing the education system.

"Development work in Rawalpindi's schools and colleges continues," he said.

The minister also celebrated Pakistan's role in protecting holy sites in Saudi Arabia, calling the recently inked Pakistan-Saudi strategic agreement a milestone. He praised the Pakistan Army for defeating a stronger enemy in May this year, and credited Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for diplomatic successes in the following developments. The event was attended by Punjab Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Culture Shazia Rizwan, MPAs Ziaullah Shah, Asima Abbasi, Rifat Abbasi, and Falak Sher, BISE Chairman Muhammad Adnan Khan, Controller of Examinations Tanveer Asghar Awan, senior education officials, students, and parents.

Interior minister lauds security forces

The latest success in Khuzdar underscores the broader efforts of Pakistan's security forces to secure Balochistan and send a strong message to hostile actors attempting to destabilize the country

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday praised Pakistan's security forces for conducting a successful counter-terrorism operation in Khuzdar, which resulted in the elimination of four Indian-sponsored militants. In an official statement, Naqvi commended the professionalism and unwavering commitment of the forces, describing the operation as a significant achievement in safeguarding national security and restoring peace in the restive Balochistan province. "The professional capabilities demonstrated by our security forces in sending four India-backed terrorists to their end is a matter of national pride," the interior minister said. "Their efforts are a clear testament to their dedication to ensuring the safety and sovereignty of Pakistan." He emphasized that the government views the security forces' continued operations to establish stability in Balochistan with "great appreciation and respect," highlighting their sacrifices in the fight against terrorism. Naqvi further assured the forces of the nation's full backing: "The entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with its security personnel. Together, we will not allow any external elements or their proxies to disrupt the peace of Pakistan." The Khuzdar operation, carried out earlier this week, is part of a series of intensified security measures aimed at dismantling terrorist networks believed to be operating with foreign support in Balochistan. Analysts said such operations are crucial in countering cross-border threats and ensuring long-term stability in the region. Security officials have reiterated their resolve to continue proactive intelligence-based actions to eliminate any remaining militant cells. The government maintains that external interference, particularly from Indian-backed groups, will be met with swift and decisive responses. The latest success in Khuzdar underscores the broader efforts of Pakistan's security forces to secure Balochistan and send a strong message to hostile actors attempting to destabilize the country.—DNA

RCCI welcomes Pakistan-Saudi Arabia defence agreement

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has welcomed the signing of the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement between Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, calling it a defining milestone in the two nations' brotherly ties.

RCCI President Usman Shaukat hailed the accord, under which both countries pledge to consider any act of aggression against one as an attack on both.

"This landmark agreement reflects the strength of our enduring relations with Saudi Arabia and underscores Pakistan's growing influence in regional and global geopolitics," he said.

Usman Shaukat congratulated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal General Asim Munir on the historic achievement. He noted that the ceremonial welcome, where Royal Saudi Air Force jets escorted the Prime Minister, was a powerful symbol of mutual respect and the deep, unshakable bond between the two nations.

Highlighting the significance of the agreement, the RCCI President expressed confidence that the agreement would not only strengthen Pakistan's national security but will foster regional stability and deter aggression.—APP

IRSA releases 238,900 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 238,900 cusecs of water from various rim stations with inflow of 256,900 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, Tarbela Dam has attained its maximum conservation level of 1550.00 feet, which was 148.00 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 153,400 cusecs and 153,600 cusecs, respectively. The water level in the River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1238.60 feet, which was 188.60 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 26,600 cusecs and 9,000 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 184,000, 154,400, 475,300, and 510,600 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 22,900 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera.—APP

Al-Shifa Trust treats over 15,000 flood victims

DNA

RAWALPINDI : Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital has treated more than fifteen thousand flood victims across Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa this month, bringing crucial medical assistance to families struggling in the aftermath of Pakistan's worst floods of 2025. The Rawalpindi-based charity organised eight emergency medical camps in Swat, Buner, Swabi, Sambrial, Sialkot, Narowal, Wazirabad, and Kasur, where patients lined up for eye checkups, general consultations, and urgent treatment. For many, these camps provided the first medical help since rising waters swept away homes, livestock and health facilities, leaving entire communities stranded without doctors or medicines. The floods have tragically claimed 900 lives, including 255 innocent children, and disrupted the lives of more than five million people. Families displaced from their homes are spending nights in makeshift shelters, struggling with food shortages and unsafe drinking water. Elderly citizens with chronic diseases and children with infections remain most at risk.



jam, General Manager of Al-Shifa Centre for Community Ophthalmology (ACCO), said the most frequently observed eye diseases in flood-affected areas include allergic conjunctivitis, viral eye infections, keratitis, and

various bacterial infections that often result from exposure to contaminated water and poor hygiene practices. He added that more serious conditions, such as acanthamoeba keratitis and leptospirosis, both potentially linked to water tainted with animal urine, have also been reported. He informed that the trust has distributed over 2,000 prescription eyeglasses, provided eye drops and ointments for various eye infections, and screened over 3,000 patients for diabetes and hypertension. It offered 2,500 food packets and 3,500 water purification tablets. In KPK, more than 5,200 patients benefited from three camps, while five locations in Punjab served close to 9,800 patients. With its nationwide eye hospital network in Rawalpindi, Chakwal, Kohat, Gilgit, and Muzaffarabad, Al-Shifa Trust is using its resources and expertise to reach communities cut off from specialised care. The trust has plans to scale up mobile clinics, equipped with ophthalmic equipment, medicines, and trained staff, in more affected areas in the coming weeks. The initiative underscores the crucial role that private sector healthcare networks can play in providing timely support in disaster zones.



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OSHAZ FATIMA

PAKISTAN has begun a public health intervention that clinical medicine has long anticipated and public health experts have urged for decades. The government has launched a large scale human papillomavirus vaccination campaign aimed at girls aged nine to fourteen across several provinces with the explicit objective of preventing cervical cancer. This is not a cosmetic addition to the national immunization schedule. It is primary prevention against a disease that is largely preventable when vaccination and screening are implemented at scale. The first phase targets roughly 13 million girls and will be delivered through schools, community outreach and fixed health centres, with the goal of integrating the vaccine into routine immunizations and achieving very high coverage in the coming years. This campaign is backed by global immunization partners and the vaccine being used is WHO prequalified, all designed to make safe, effective protection widely available and free at point of care. The clinical rationale is straightforward and compelling. Persistent infection with high risk HPV types is the dominant cause of cervical cancer. Vaccines that prevent infection with those high risk types substantially lower future rates of cervical precancer and cancer. The disease burden in Pakistan puts urgency behind that recommendation. National and institutional estimates converge on a stark figure: roughly five thousand new cervical cancer diagnoses a year and about three thousand deaths annually. Those numbers make cervical cancer one of the most important malignancies affecting Pakistani women, particularly because many cases are diagnosed late and access to radiotherapy and specialist care is limited. The high mortality to incidence ratio reflects low screening coverage, limited diagnostic capacity, and many women presenting with advanced disease that is difficult and costly to treat. Preventing infection now through a properly run vaccination campaign will reduce those future deaths and reduce pressure on a health system that already struggles with cancer care access. Despite clear efficacy and safety data, the campaign has met resistance in some communities. That resistance is predictable given Pakistan's recent vaccine history and the social environment where rumours spread quickly on social platforms. Decades of immunization work in Pakistan have achieved remarkable gains, but they have also encountered repeated episodes of mistrust. A single high profile breach of trust in 2011, when intelligence actors used a

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



vaccination ruse in a counterterrorism operation, was seized upon by militants and anti vaccine actors to discredit public health campaigns for years. There are additional, more prosaic reasons why communities hesitate. Low awareness of cervical cancer itself is common across demographic groups. Studies, even among urban and hospital attending populations, show that a majority of women may have heard of cervical cancer but only a minority understand screening or vaccination as prevention. Many parents have never seen HPV listed on a childhood immunization card and do not have a clear idea of how sexually transmitted viruses relate to cancer decades later. No vaccination program stands alone. To reduce future cervical cancer mortality significantly, vaccination must be combined with realistic expansion of screening and treatment. Screening programs detect precancerous lesions that can be treated before they progress. Operationally there are several technical points clinicians and program managers should watch closely. Cold chain integrity, correct documentation, robust adverse event following immunization systems and transparent reporting strengthen public confidence. Clear referral pathways for girls with adverse events, even if unrelated to vaccination, build trust in the system. Surveillance should include monitoring uptake across socioeconomic gradients to ensure the most vulnerable populations are reached. Where supply permits, catch up cohorts and later inclusion of boys can be considered, but the immediate priority is rapid, equitable coverage of the core target group of young girls. Success will be measured in both health metrics and in the quality of community relationships. Vaccination coverage rates, reductions in vaccine preventable HPV infection and, years later, declining rates of cervical pre cancer and cancer are the final public health outcomes. In the short term, however, success must also mean minimal missed opportunities, transparent handling of adverse events, and a sustained reduction in misinformation. Achieving 90 percent coverage across a large and diverse population is an ambitious target but an achievable one if the campaign continues to pair technical excellence with culturally sensitive, empathetic outreach. The introduction of HPV vaccination in Pakistan is a moment that combines science, policy and social reality. It is a clear opportunity to prevent thousands of deaths and to reduce a cancer that disproportionately affects women in low resource settings. It will not be easy and no single communication line will fix deep rooted fears overnight. But an evidence based program that is transparently run, that links vaccination to investments in screening and treatment and that listens to community concerns will change the epidemiology of cervical cancer in Pakistan over a generation. The choice is not between tradition and modern medicine. The choice is whether Pakistan will deploy a safe, effective, globally recommended tool to protect its girls and then build the services to ensure that protection translates into lives saved. The public health case is decisive. The program's success will rest on competence, clarity and the sustained work of health workers who are already trusted in their communities.

Afghanistan today stands on the edge of a generational turning point. The collapse of women's education, the weakening of regional trade, and the persistence of cultural isolation have created a dangerous mix. Yet within this crisis lies a possibility: to rebuild Afghanistan's stability through three pillars: education, connectivity, and Islamic legitimacy. Taken together, these foundations can provide the country with a durable path toward peace, prosperity, and inclusion.

Education is the frontline of Afghanistan's struggle for survival. When girls are barred from schools and universities, not only just their futures stolen, but the nation's economic and social capital is dismantled. A society that denies education to half its population condemns itself to stagnation. Schools should not be considered as classrooms only; in fact, they are engines of resilience, equipping families and communities with the skills to navigate adversity. Historical experience shows this clearly. In the early 2000s, as Afghan girls returned to school in large numbers, literacy rates increased, and households benefited from improved health and higher income levels. The reversal of this progress since 2021 represents a human tragedy as well as an impending economic disaster. Reopening educational access for women and girls is therefore not an abstract right but a strategic necessity. Without it, Afghanistan risks producing a generation deprived of the very tools required to rebuild the country.

But education alone cannot sustain stability. Afghanistan must be reconnected with its neighbors. Regional connectivity offers both opportunity and leverage. The proposed Trans-Afghan railway, linking Central Asia with South Asia, symbolizes this vision. Beyond the physical rails, connectivity means trade corridors, cultural exchanges, and shared markets that anchor Afghanistan in interdependence rather than isolation. Uzbekistan's advocacy for infrastructure and people-to-people diplomacy underscores this point. When goods, students, and ideas flow across borders, the appeal of extremism and exclusion diminish-

es. Connectivity provides the infrastructure of peace, transforming geography into opportunity. For Afghanistan, integration into regional networks is existential. Yet even with education and connectivity, one barrier remains: legitimacy. No policy, however rational, can succeed in Afghanistan without cultural and religious grounding. This is where Islamic engagement becomes indispensable. The Qur'an and Sunnah provide ample support for women's pursuit of knowledge. Islamic scholars across the region must engage their Afghan counterparts, offering reasoned fatwas that affirm education as a religious duty. Such religiously credible endorsements can open doors that external pressure cannot. Fatwas carry authority in ways that international appeals never will. To secure progress, reforms must be rooted in Islamic reasoning that resonates with Afghan society. Mobilizing ulema, providing religiously sanctioned solutions for women's travel and study, and ensuring educational initiatives are embedded within an Islamic framework are critical for sustainability. The fusion of these three pillars, education, connectivity, and Islamic legitimacy, creates a roadmap for Afghanistan's recovery. Scholarships and online programs can bridge immediate gaps, ensuring Afghan women are not cut off from learning. Teacher-training programs can sustain quality and expand reach, especially in rural areas. Regional infrastructure projects can open corridors of trade and opportunity, while also binding Afghanistan into cooperative networks that reduce incentives for conflict. Religious dialogue can provide the cultural legitimacy that makes reforms sustainable, turning what might otherwise be foreign impositions into accepted norms. The implications stretch beyond Afghanistan. For Central Asia, an educated and connected Afghanistan can unlock markets and reduce insecurity along its borders. For South Asia, it promises trade routes and stability in a region too often hostage to conflict. For the broader Muslim world, supporting Afghan women's education

within an Islamic framework is a test of credibility. If Muslim nations cannot uphold the right to knowledge as a religious duty, then their appeals to shared values will ring hollow. Conversely, if they succeed, they will demonstrate that Islamic reasoning can be harnessed to advance progress rather than obstruct it.

To transform this vision into reality, three conditions are essential. First, institutionalization. Universities, ministries, and regional organizations must establish dedicated units to manage scholarships, online learning platforms, and cultural exchanges. Second, sustainable financing. Long-term commitments, rather than one-off donor projects, are necessary to ensure that initiatives survive political transitions. Third, monitoring and accountability. Success must be measured not by announcements but by enrollment figures, graduation rates, and the number of partnerships that materialize.

The stakes are stark. If these measures are pursued with seriousness, Afghanistan can still build a foundation for stability. But if they are delayed or diluted, the cost will be severe: radicalization, poverty, and regional instability that will not stop at Afghanistan's borders. The human cost, borne most heavily by women, will be matched by a geopolitical cost paid by all neighbors. What Afghanistan needs now is not sympathy but strategy. The region possesses the tools: railways that link economies, classrooms that train generations, and a faith tradition that affirms learning as a sacred duty. To combine them is to give Afghanistan a future. To neglect them is to watch a generation slip away. The choice, though urgent, is still open. The question is whether the region has the resolve to act before it is too late.

—Dr. Farhana Qazi is Religious Scholar and Associate Professor in University of Peshawar. Halima Nasiri is Afghan Religious Scholar and the Principal of a private school. Aziza Mukhammedova is a Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Afghanistan and South Asian Studies at the Institute for Advanced International Studies (IAIS), Uzbekistan.

On the security front, the noticeable threat from Hezbollah is considered a decisive factor. Hassan Nasrallah's leadership gave security assurances to the Israeli leadership that the Shock field would not be attacked. The entire deal was vetted by the group's top officials before it was approved, marking a reversal in years

THE 1983 Israel-Lebanon Peace Accords established diplomatic relations after Israel expelled the Palestine Liberation Organization from its northern neighbor. Syria immediately abrogated this new peace, even though it was a treaty under international law. The agreement signed did not have "an Arab leader and an Israeli leader sitting down, but was a paper-document agreement between the US and Israel and the US and Lebanon, and Lebanon "signed" in the same room of the Israelis.

On the security front, the noticeable threat from Hezbollah is considered a decisive factor. Hassan Nasrallah's leadership gave security assurances to the Israeli leadership that the Shock field would not be attacked. The entire deal was vetted by the group's top officials before it was approved, marking a reversal in years of Hezbollah's hardline stance in border negotiations with Israel. However, the question is whether Hezbollah's conciliatory position will be maintained. The movement currently lacks popular support in Lebanon and Hezbollah will be eager to exploit the country's fragile political situation using its resistance rhetoric against its political opponents and their dealings with Israel.

Now it is impossible for Hezbollah to open hostility toward Israel. Although this is the worst time for Hezbollah to go to war because it has sent 4,000 to 8,000 armed men to Iran to support widespread protests against Israel's government. If it's about deterrence, Israel just split them paying protection money to his opponents. As for the American guarantee of Israel's security, this is said to be part of the exchange of letter. American support for the Jewish state depends on the fact that "Israel carries its weight" as an ally of the United States. Israel support United States stance on the issue of Russian invasion in Ukraine and China's growing threat to Taiwan.

Israel's willingness to chart its own course, as then-Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu opposed the Obama administration's Iran nuclear deal in a 2015 speech to Congress, told Gulf States like the Emirates United Arabs who can trust Israel. He added that this helped open the door to Ibrahim Accord. The Lebanon deal could undermine that notion. Israel is going to become a natural gas export hub, with lines connecting Persian Gulf producers and Israel to Europe. Instead, it seems likely that Israel will continue to rely on natural gas exports through Egypt and Jordan rather than develop its own infrastructure. Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid hailed the agreement as a political achievement, saying: It is not every day that an enemy country recognizes Israel in a written agreement in front of the international community as the beginning of a new era. But the Lebanese government has also emphasized that the deal, reached after more than a decade of negotiations, does not signal a normalization of relations with Israel and is less important than agreements that established full diplomatic relations between Lebanon and Israel. In Israel, the deal has been variously portrayed as a historic achievement that will boost regional prosperity and stability, or as a shameful capitulation to threats from the Iranian-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah, which has waged a months-long war with Israel. Before a deal was sealed, Hezbollah had promised to block any Israeli attempt to drill at Karish Easter Mediterranean, an underwater gas field near the disputed border between the two countries. Earlier this year, the Israeli army shot down several drones sent by Hezbollah as warnings to tamper with

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Trump, Starmer differ on Palestine recognition...

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the Kremlin's actions have prolonged unnecessary suffering in Ukraine. Both leaders vowed to work with NATO partners to press for an early resolution of the conflict and to keep military and economic pressure on Moscow. Despite differences over Palestine, both Trump and Starmer sought to highlight the enduring strength of U.S.-UK relations. They emphasized the "impeccable relationship" between the two countries, pointing to historic ties, multi-billion-dollar investments, and a long record of military, intelligence, and economic cooperation. "We are natural allies," Starmer affirmed, with Trump adding that the alliance was "as strong as ever." Yet, observers note that the UK's apparent willingness to align with European partners on the Palestine issue could complicate this equation. While both leaders underscored unity, the divergence revealed today suggests that one of the world's closest alliances may face new strains as London and Washington navigate different approaches to Middle East diplomacy.

Imran expresses grievances..

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measuring 9 x 11, from a dungeon of enforced silence, isolation and incommunicado, I have endured continued solitary confinement ... All access to books and newspapers has been denied to me." "Meetings with my lawyers and family are "arbitrarily cancelled at the whims and wishes of one man", Imran claimed, referring to the army chief. He also alleged that his sons were barred from talking to him on phone and political workers were also not allowed to see him. "It is not lawful imprisonment since its inception; it is only calculated psychological torture, crafted to break my will ... It is an ongoing assault on the Constitution, the rule of law and the democratic future of my beloved homeland, Pakistan," he continued. The PTI founder also complained of "inhuman and degrading treatment" being meted out to his wife, Bushra Bibi, in jail, alleging that she was being denied medical treatment and access to books and television. He pointed out that superior courts have held that "female prisoners are entitled to leniency through bail as a matter of right". Yet, in Bushra Bibi's case, "this principle has been suspended", he said. The former premier then went on highlight that "thousands of my supporters and party workers continue to languish in jails" and had been "abducted, beaten and subjected to military trials in flagrant violation of constitutional protections". He also expressed grievances with regards to the "political victimisation" of his family members. "Courts that should stand as guardians of liberty have been weaponised to dismantle Pakistan's largest political party," the further said. Imran maintained that his PTI secured a "landslide victory" in last year's general elections "despite the brutal tactics, the suppression of all bold voices, despite my own imprisonment". "Yet, the mandate of the people was stolen overnight, turning democracy into [a] farce and the Constitution into a casualty. The same has been sanctioned and rubber-stamped by the leaked report of Commonwealth 2024," he wrote. Although the Commonwealth Observer Group's (COG) report on Pakistan has yet to be officially released, news outlet Drop Site News claimed that the group had "buried their report" after finding those polls to be riddled with problems. Imran further said that "the so-called 26th Constitutional Amendment has been used as a tool to sanctify this electoral dacoity, while petitions challenging it lie unheard in your (CJP's) court".

Ambassador of Türkiye visits PBSF training camp

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Pakistan, Dr. İrfan Neziroğlu, visited the ongoing national goalball training camp organized by the Pakistan Blind Sports Federation (PBSF) at Liaquat Gymnasium, Pakistan Sports Complex. PBSF President Muhammad Waqas, Col. Akram Malik, Chief Editor Pasban Aziz-ur-Rehman Mujahid, Irfan Tabasum, Tahseen Javed Chaudhry, and Vice President Shehzad Javed welcomed the distinguished guest. National team player Ms. Hira Kanwal presented a bouquet to the Ambassador as a gesture of hospitality. In his address, Dr. Neziroğlu said that Pakistan and Türkiye are century-old friends who have always stood by each other in times of natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods. "Though two separate nations, we have always remained side by side and will continue to do so," he added. He termed Pakistan's hosting of the Asia Pacific Goalball Championship 2025 as a great honor for the country and PBSF. He further remarked that he was not visiting merely as an ambassador but as "Uncle İrfan" of the blind athletes, encouraging the players to call him by that affectionate title. The Ambassador appreciated the dedication of the male and female teams and expressed his wish to see a bilateral series between the blind teams of Pakistan and Türkiye in the near future. He assured full support for the promotion and development of blind sports in Pakistan and vowed to continue engaging with PBSF leadership and athletes in the future.

The event featured exhibition matches by the male and female national goalball teams, showcasing their skills and preparation for upcoming international events. A special musical performance by singer Fawad Alam also entertained the participants. At the conclusion, Col. Akram Malik presented a commemorative shield to Dr. Neziroğlu on behalf of PBSF. PBSF President Muhammad Waqas thanked



the Ambassador for his encouragement and support, reiterating the Federation's commitment to strengthening international cooperation in blind sports. Azerbaijani delegation attends 12th Beijing Xiangshan Forum BAKU, Sep 18 (AZERTAC/APP): The 12th Xiangshan Forum, under the theme "Upholding International Order and Promoting Peaceful Development," kicked off in the Chinese capital of Beijing. Azerbaijani is represented at the event by a delegation led by Minister of Defense, Colonel General Zakir Hasanov.

The Beijing Xiangshan Forum, jointly organized by the China Association for Military Sciences and the Chinese Institute for International Strategic Studies, is meant to provide a platform for defense officials and representatives from different countries and regions to compare notes on global security issues. The two initiatives provide apt lenses with which to focus their discussions. The participation of defense officials and representatives from more than 100 countries, regions and international organizations speaks volumes about the high attention

the international community pays to security issues as regional tensions and military conflicts are posing an increasing threat to global peace. The forum will feature four plenary sessions and eight parallel panel discussions on topics such as building a fair and reasonable global security governance system, the trajectory of major-power relations, and the current state and future of arms control. Increased understanding will help dispel misgivings and help avoid the escalation of tensions and damage to the ties between countries.

Asia Cup 2025: Pakistan Ready for India Rematch

The ICC has indicated its willingness to conduct a formal inquiry into the alleged breach of the code of conduct. India and Pakistan could meet for a third time at the tournament if they both reach the September 28 final

DUBAI: Pakistan captain Salman Agha said his team were ready to face India in the next round of the Asia Cup on Sunday after last week's group-stage match between the arch-rivals ended in acrimony when the Indian side refused to shake hands. Pakistan beat United Arab Emirates in their final Group A game on Wednesday to advance to the Super Fours stage, where they will also play two teams from Group B in a round robin format. Bilateral cricket between India and Pakistan has been suspended since 2013 and they play each other only in multi-team tournaments. "We are ready, we are ready for any challenge," Salman said after their 41-run victory against UAE. "We just want to play good cricket. If we play good cricket, like we have played in the last few months, I think we'll be good against any side." Fakhar Zaman made 50 but Pakistan's frontline batters disappointed against UAE's modest attack with opener Saim Ayub falling for his third successive duck in the tournament. Salman acknowledged they had to bat better. "We got the job done but we still need to improve our batting in the middle order," Salman said. "That's been a concern and something we need to work on." India had cruised to a seven-wicket victory over Pakistan last weekend in the first cricket match between the sides since a four-day military conflict between the nuclear-armed neighbours in May. There was no shaking of hands between the captains at the toss or among the players at the end. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) called for match referee Andy Pycroft's immediate removal for a code of conduct violation and considered withdrawing from the tournament before going ahead with Wednesday's match after referee tendered apologies. Naqvi, flanked by former chairmen Ramiz Raja and Najam Sethi, told reporters at Gaddafi Stadium that Zimbabwe-based match referee Andy Pycroft had formally apologised to national captain Salman Ali Agha, the coach and the team manager, acknowledging the concerns raised by the side. According to the PCB, Pycroft described the incident as a result of miscommunication. The ICC has indicated its willingness to conduct a formal inquiry into the alleged breach of the code of conduct. India and Pakistan could meet for a third time at the tournament if they both reach the September 28 final.—Agencies

Asia Cup 2025: Pakistan qualify for Super Four after defeating UAE

DUBAI: Pakistan advanced to Asia Cup 2025's Super Four phase after eliminating the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from the tournament in the 10th group match at Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Wednesday. Chasing a 146-run target on a challenging Dubai International Cricket Stadium's surface, UAE's batting unit could yield 105 before being bowled out in 17.4 overs. Wicketkeeper batter Rahul Chopra waged a lone battle with a run-a-ball 35, while Dhruv Prashar (20), skipper Muhammad Waseem (14) and opener Alishan Sharafu (12) were the other notable run-getters, while the rest failed to amass double figures against Pakistan's disciplined bowling attack. For Pakistan, Shaheen, Haris Rauf and Abrar Ahmed picked up two wickets each, while Saim Ayub and captain Salman Ali Agha chipped in with one scalp apiece. Put into bat first, Pakistan accumulated 146/9 in their allotted 20 overs. The Green Shirts got off to a dismal start to their innings as Junaid Siddique dismissed both their openers – Saim Ayub (zero) and Sahibzada Farhan (five) – in his first two overs with just nine runs on the board. Following the double setback, Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha joined experienced Fakhar

Zaman in the middle, and the duo anchored the innings by putting together 61 runs for the third wicket until the former fell victim to Dhruv Prashar in the 11th over. Agha remained a notable run-getter for Pakistan with a cautious 20 off 27 deliveries with the help of two boundaries. Fakhar then knitted a one-sided 16-run partnership for the

fourth wicket with Hasan Nawaz (three) until eventually falling victim to Simranjeet in the 14th over. The left-handed batter remained the top-scorer for Pakistan with 50 off 36 deliveries, stuck with two fours and three sixes. His dismissal sparked a collapse, which saw Pakistan lose three more wickets at regular inter-

vals and consequently slip to 110/7 in 16.5 overs. Wicketkeeper batter Mohammad Harris (18) then made handy contributions before Shaheen Shah Afridi's last-over blitz bolstered Pakistan's total past the 140-run mark. The number nine batter smashed three fours and two sixes on his way to an unbeaten 29 off 14 deliveries.— APP



India to 'study implications' of Pak...

FROM PAGE 01
spokesperson Shri Randhir Jaiswal said in a statement on Thursday. "The government remains committed to protecting India's national interests and ensuring comprehensive national security in all domains," it added. India's reaction – to be interpreted against the backdrop of its hostilities with Pakistan in May – comes a day after Islamabad and Riyadh formalised a landmark Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement, pledging to treat any aggression against one country as aggression against both. India had launched cross-border strikes into Pakistan, prompting the latter to first down multiple Indian Air Force (IAF) jets in retaliation, followed by the launch of "Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos". The conflict eventually ended after a ceasefire brokered by the United States.

Sri Lanka secure Super 4 Spot in...

FROM PAGE 01
The chase went down to the wire, with the Islanders needing runs off the final over to secure their qualification. A composed finish from their middle-order guided Sri Lanka home, ensuring a spot in the Super 4 stage of the tournament. The result is a setback for Afghanistan, who fought hard but failed to defend their total. Sri Lanka's victory further intensifies the competition, as they join the next stage of the Asia Cup alongside cricketing heavyweights. Meanwhile, anticipation is building for the much-awaited clash between arch-rivals Pakistan and India. The two teams are set to meet for the second time in the tournament, a fixture that always draws massive global attention. Their first encounter ended dramatically, and fans across the cricketing world are eagerly awaiting another high-voltage battle.

Reko Diq: Government earmarks...

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submitted a summary on rail development and bridge financing agreements with the Reko Diq Mining Company, to provide \$390m for laying a 1,350-kilometre railway track to transport large volumes of export material from mines in Balochistan. "The ECC approved the proposal and directed the Ministry of Railways to share both agreement documents with the Finance Division for appraisal," the press release read. "It further instructed the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Finance to submit an update to the ECC by March next year on the execution and implementation of the project." Additionally, the ECC reviewed a summary from the petroleum ministry regarding approvals for agreements and financial commitments to fund the Reko Diq project, the press release read.

What does Pakistan...

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genuine public affection and shared values. 3. People-Centric Dimension. The Bottom-to-Top factor highlights that Pakistanis and Saudis already enjoy centuries-old cultural, religious, and emotional bonds. This agreement is essentially an institutional reinforcement of that natural brotherhood. It makes the partnership durable, long-term, and resistant to political fluctuations. 4. Conditions for Historical Agreements. Historically, successful strategic agreements require both sides to be: • Responsible – able to manage threats wisely without reckless adventurism. • Capable – militarily, economically, and diplomatically strong enough to uphold commitments. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia fulfill both conditions. Both states have repeatedly demonstrated maturity and foresight in handling geopolitical challenges. 5. Countering Misinterpretations.

Racing big names set for Taif Season's penultimate meeting

TAIF: Star names are on show for the penultimate meeting of the Taif racing season, and none are bigger than multiple Grade 1 winner Tilal AlKhalediah (Saudi Arabia), who heads the field for the Prince Abdullah Al-Faisal Cup at King Khalid Racecourse. The final two races on Friday both carry purses of \$266,000 and are open to Purebred Arabian horses, with the Listed Prince Abdullah Al-Faisal Cup over 2,000 meters and the Group 3 King Faisal Cup over the shorter 1,600 meters. Tilal AlKhalediah, trained by Nass-

er Mutlaq and ridden by Adel Alfouairdi, has twice shone on Saudi Cup night with victories in the 2023 Obaiyah Arabian Classic and in this year's Group 1 renewal of that race. He will make his first start since his second in Dubai's Kahayla Classic last April. The 15-time winner towers above his rivals with chief opponents appearing to be last week's winner and former stablemate Turki AlKhalediah II (Saudi Arabia) and the hattrick-seeking Binti Ghaliat AlKhalediah (Saudi Arabia) – both trained by Mousa Almasaodi. Almasaodi

also holds strong claims in the Group 3 King Faisal Cup, restricted to 3-year-olds, as he sends out the top-rated filly Gista (France) who is unbeaten in two runs, and the mount of Fahad Alfouairdi takes on the reopposing Wshmi Alsraya (Saudi Arabia) under Abdullah Alsaedi. Also in the lineup are the once-raced and unbeaten pair of Monsieur De Faust (France) and RB Next Of Kin (US) who will be ridden by Alfouairdi and Abdullah Alhussain respectively. Friday's main

supporting event is the \$18,660 Okaz Cup Sponsored by Boutique Group over 2,000 meters with many of the 13-strong field having done battle already this season. Trainer Nicolas Bachalard's pair of the Alexis Moreno-ridden Almurtaajiz (US) and Tariq Almansour's Henry Q (US) clashed on Aug. 1 with the latter coming out on top before being beaten later in the month, while Almurtaajiz built on his eighth-place finish to land the Alashfa Cup.—Agencies

Men's javelin finals: Keshorn Walcott clinched the gold medal

Arshad Nadeem Misses Out as Walcott Strikes Gold in Javelin Final

TOKYO:— Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem crashed out of the medal race in the javelin final after fouling his fourth throw, finishing with a best effort of 82.75m. Trinidad and Tobago's Keshorn Walcott clinched the gold medal with a season's best throw of 88.16m on his fourth attempt. Grenada's Anderson Peters secured silver with 87.38m in his second attempt, while the United States' Curtis Thompson bagged bronze courtesy of his 86.67m effort Among South Asian competitors, India's Sachin Yadav emerged as the best performer, narrowly missing the podium with a throw of 86.27m to finish fourth. His compatriot and Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra failed to make an impression in the top standings. Pakistan's star javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem has crashed out of the World Athletics Championships at the Japan National Stadium here on Wednesday after failing to cross the qualification mark in the final round. Arshad opened with a throw of 82.73m, followed by a foul on his second attempt, and managed only a slight improvement to 82.75m on his third. In his fourth attempt, he made another foul, causing him to crash out of the competition, as the effort was insufficient to

secure a place among the finalists. Meanwhile, his arch-rival and defending champion Neeraj Chopra began strongly, landing 83.65m with his first throw and extending it to 84.03m on his second. Although his third attempt was ruled invalid, Chopra comfortably advanced to the next stage.—DNA



Briefs

Indonesia partners with UAE to train 10m coders

JAKARTA: Indonesia is partnering with the UAE to train 10 million young people in programming in the next three years, its Ministry of Communication and Digital Affairs has announced, as Southeast Asia's biggest economy seeks to equip its youth with stronger tech skills.

Indonesia has the world's third-largest youth population, with over 64 million people aged between 16 and 30, comprising almost a quarter of the country's population. It also has the third-highest number of software developers in the Asia-Pacific, after India and China. The 10 Million Coders initiative was launched earlier this week on the sidelines of the Indonesia-UAE Government Experience Exchange Forum in Jakarta, as the two countries seek to strengthen their digital and tech cooperation. "We are launching this collaboration to strengthen our digital talent capacity, especially with this digital literacy program, which will train 10 million coders among Indonesia's younger generation," Nezar Patria, deputy minister of communications and digital affairs, told reporters.—APP

UAE, Indonesian presidents reiterate support for Qatar

DUBAI: UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed and his Indonesian counterpart President Prabowo Subianto on Friday have reiterated their countries' full solidarity with Qatar following Israel's attack on the state last week. Sheikh Mohamed received President Prabowo on Friday in Abu Dhabi, who is on an official visit to the United Arab Emirates. During their meeting, "the two leaders also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual concern, including the Israeli attack on the State of Qatar," WAM News Agency reported. Both sides reiterated their countries' condemnation of the attack and expressed their solidarity with Qatar, it added.—APP

Rupee gains 04 paisa against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Thursday appreciated by 04 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 281.46 against the previous day's closing of Rs 281.50. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 282.55 and Rs 282.75, respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by Rs 0.48 to close at Rs 332.87 against the last day's closing of Rs 333.35, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen remained unchanged at close at Rs 1.91, whereas a decrease of 13 paisa was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 383.68 compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 383.81. The exchange rate of the declined by 01 paisa and closed at Rs 76.63 while the Saudi Riyal remained stagnant at Rs 75.03.—APP

Gold price stables at Rs.388,600 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat gold remained unchanged at Rs.388,600 per tola on Thursday, according to All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association. The price of 10 gram 24 karat gold also stayed unchanged at Rs.333,161, whereas 10 gram 22 karat gold was traded at existing rates of Rs.305,408. In the international market, the rate of gold stood firm at \$3,668 per ounce. On the other hand, the price of silver registered an increase.—APP

Pak, Syria agree to explore new avenues for cooperation

Welcoming the Ambassador, the Finance Minister appreciated the improving situation in Syria and the gradual return to normalcy

Dr. Ramez Alraee, Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic to Pakistan, called on the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, at the Finance Division today. During the meeting, both sides discussed matters of mutual interest, with a focus on further strengthening the longstanding fraternal ties between Pakistan and Syria and exploring avenues for enhanced bilateral cooperation. Welcoming the Ambassador, the Finance Minister appreciated the improving situation in Syria and the gradual return to normalcy. He expressed the hope that the removal of sanctions by the United States would help Syria reintegrate into the international system and open up opportunities for investment and bilateral trade. He assured the Ambassador of Pakistan's full support to Syria in every possible way,



noting that the people of both countries share deep bonds of affection and empathy. Ambassador Alraee said that having served in Pakistan for almost three years, he considered Pakistan his second home and saw himself as not only Syria's Ambassador to Pakistan but also as a well-wisher of Pakistan, always striving to promote the historical brotherly ties between the two nations. He thanked the Government of Pakistan, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and the country's political leadership for extending full political and diplomatic support to Syria following the recent Israeli aggression. He also expressed gratitude to the Government and people of Pakistan for standing with the people of Syria, recalling in particular the humanitarian aid sent by Pakistan after the devastating 2023 Turkey-Syria earthquake.

Alraee reaffirmed his commitment to promoting bilateral trade and commerce between the two countries and emphasized the importance of facilitating exchanges of official and business delegations to further strengthen economic and people-to-people ties.

Both sides reiterated their resolve to deepen the friendly relations between Pakistan and Syria and to work together for the mutual benefit of their peoples.

Pak committed for regulatory reforms: Ahad

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Establishment Division, Ahad Cheema here on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting focused on the strategic road map of the Board of Investment (BOI). The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Finance, Bilal Azhar Kayani, Secretary BOI, and other senior officials. The primary objective of the meeting was to deliberate on policy measures aimed at accelerating economic growth, improving Pakistan's investment climate, and increasing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), said a release issued here on Thursday. Federal Minister Ahad Cheema expressed satisfaction with the ongoing progress on the regulatory reforms framework during the BOI briefing on the reforms package. He conveyed optimism that Pakistan will develop a comprehensive regulatory reforms package soon, which he believes will be a game changer for the country's investment climate. The federal minister underscored the urgent need

to operationalize Specialized Economic Zones (SEZs) in a structured and efficient manner. He highlighted that SEZs are a critical component of Pakistan's economic strategy, contributing significantly to industrial expansion, employment generation, and technological advancement. He emphasized that strong intergovernmental coordination, particularly between federal and provincial levels, is key to ensuring the success and global competitiveness of these zones. Another theme of the discussion was the adoption of data-driven, market-based strategies for the development and management of SEZs. Minister Cheema directed that export promotion and industrial growth must be backed by competitive, evidence-based data to ensure long-term viability and to make these zones more attractive to international investors. The Minister was also briefed on the status of reforms and the collaborative efforts underway between federal and provincial governments. He appreciated the

proactive alignment of provincial authorities with the BOI's reform agenda and recognized it as a cornerstone for creating a seamless and unified national investment framework. In accordance with the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Minister Cheema reiterated the importance of improving Pakistan's "Business Ready" ranking. He noted that this goal was directly tied to strengthening the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) framework. A robust and transparent business environment, he said, is essential for enhancing Pakistan's global competitiveness and unlocking new avenues for foreign investment. Concluding the meeting, Minister Cheema expressed the confidence in the ongoing reform efforts and praised the close cooperation between federal and provincial institutions. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to fostering a business-friendly ecosystem and positioning Pakistan as a prime destination for regional and international investment.—DNA

Turkiye warns Cyprus' Israeli air defense system could destabilize island

ANKARA: Turkiye is closely monitoring Cyprus' reported procurement of an Israeli air defense system, Turkish officials said Thursday, warning that the move could destabilize a "fragile balance" on the divided island. Turkish defense ministry officials expressed concerns over reports suggesting that an Israeli-made Barak MX integrated air defense system had been delivered to Cyprus. "The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with government regulations, said Cyprus' ongoing armament efforts would threaten peace and stability on the island and may lead to "dangerous consequences." The Mediterranean Island has been split along ethnic lines since 1974 when Turkiye invaded in the wake of a coup that aimed to unify the island with Greece. Only Turkiye recognizes a 1983 Turkish Cypriot declaration of independence in the island's northern third where Turkiye continues to maintain more than 35,000 troops. The Israeli ground-based system is capable of simultaneously intercepting missiles, drones and aircraft from as far as 93 miles (150 kilometers) away. Its deployment would mark a significant upgrade to Cyprus' defense shield, which had until recently only consisted of Soviet-era weapons, such as the BUK M1-2 missile system. Cyprus' defense minister, Vasilis Palmas, said in an interview with The Associated Press last year that bolstering the country's defense capacity is critical for the island nation, which is located close to the war-torn Middle East.—APP

Pakistan, Poland for enhanced cooperation in food security

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain on Thursday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment for building long-term partnerships with Poland in the field of agriculture and food security. He expressed confidence that enhanced bilateral cooperation would open new avenues for trade, technology transfer, and sustainable agricultural development. The minister held a high-level meeting with the Ambassador of Poland, which focused on strengthening bilateral agricultural cooperation, enhancing Pakistan's agricultural exports to Poland, and addressing technical barriers related to sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) requirements. The minister highlighted Poland's role as a major agricultural producer in Europe, ranking second globally in rye exports and third in apple exports, with significant production of wheat, barley, oats, sugar beet, tobacco, fruits, and potatoes. He emphasized that Pakistan and Poland could greatly benefit from mutual collaboration in cereals, fruits, livestock, and food processing sectors. Discussing SPS challenges, Hussain underlined that Pakistan's exporters face difficulties in accessing the Polish market due to stringent EU standards regarding transportation, storage, aflatoxins, and packaging. He urged Poland's support in harmonizing SPS measures between Pakistan's Department of Plant Protection (DPP) and Poland's National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO). He further stressed the need for cooperation in capacity development, food safety, and certification systems to facilitate smooth trade. The minister noted that Pakistan currently exports rice, mango, sesame seeds, dates, and alfalfa seed to Poland, albeit in small volumes compared to its production surplus. Imports from Poland mainly include potato starch and tortilla wraps. He identified citrus, rice, mango, and animal products as strong potential areas for expanding exports and urged Poland to allow imports of Pakistani citrus, which is already being exported to more than 40 countries, including the UK, Norway, and Russia.

Both sides also discussed expanding cooperation in the livestock sector and the minister proposed establishing a Joint Working Group on Livestock to strengthen collaboration in animal health, veterinary sciences, meat trade, and dairy production. He highlighted Pakistan's existing export of animal casings to Poland and expressed interest in expanding cooperation to include cooked meat, poultry, and processed food. The meeting further explored areas of agricultural cooperation such as exchange of elite crop genetic resources, joint research on post-harvest management and value addition, renewable energy use in agriculture, water conservation, biotechnology for land reclamation, and expertise-sharing in organic farming and certification.—DNA

Despair deepens for Palestinian family forced to flee across Gaza yet again

KHAN YOUNIS: Exhaustion, despair and anger are grinding away at Ne'man Abu Jarad. Once again, for the 11th time, he and his family have been forced to uproot and move across the Gaza Strip. "It's a renewal of the torture. We're not being displaced, we're dying," Ne'man said last week as the family packed up their possessions and tents in Gaza City to escape escalating Israel bombardment ahead of a planned invasion of the city. The next day, they unpacked in southern Gaza on barren former agricultural land outside the city of Khan Younis, unsure where they would now find food and water. This has been the Abu Jarads' life for nearly two years, since fleeing their home in the far north of Gaza days after Israel launched its onslaught in response to Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack. Like countless Palestinian families, they have fled the length of Gaza and back, forced to move every few months as Israel attacks each new shelter. The Associated Press has chronicled much of their journey. During the ceasefire that began in January, they had a bittersweet return to their home, which was damaged but still standing. But within two months, Israel broke the ceasefire, and the Abu Jarads had to wrench themselves away. With each move, Ne'man and his wife Majida try to preserve some stability for their six daughters and their 2-year-old granddaughter amid the misery of tent life. The youngest is 8-year-old Lana; the eldest is Balsam, in her 20s and married. But the sense of futility is weighing heavier. No end is in sight and Ne'man fears it will get worse.—APP

Delegation of Islamabad Chamber leaders visits Kyrgyz embassy

Ambassador Kylychbek Sultan emphasized the importance of enhancing bilateral business and economic relations on a reciprocal basis. He also showcased Kyrgyzstan's traditional hospitality and highlighted the country's favorable weather, scenic beauty, and vast tourism potential

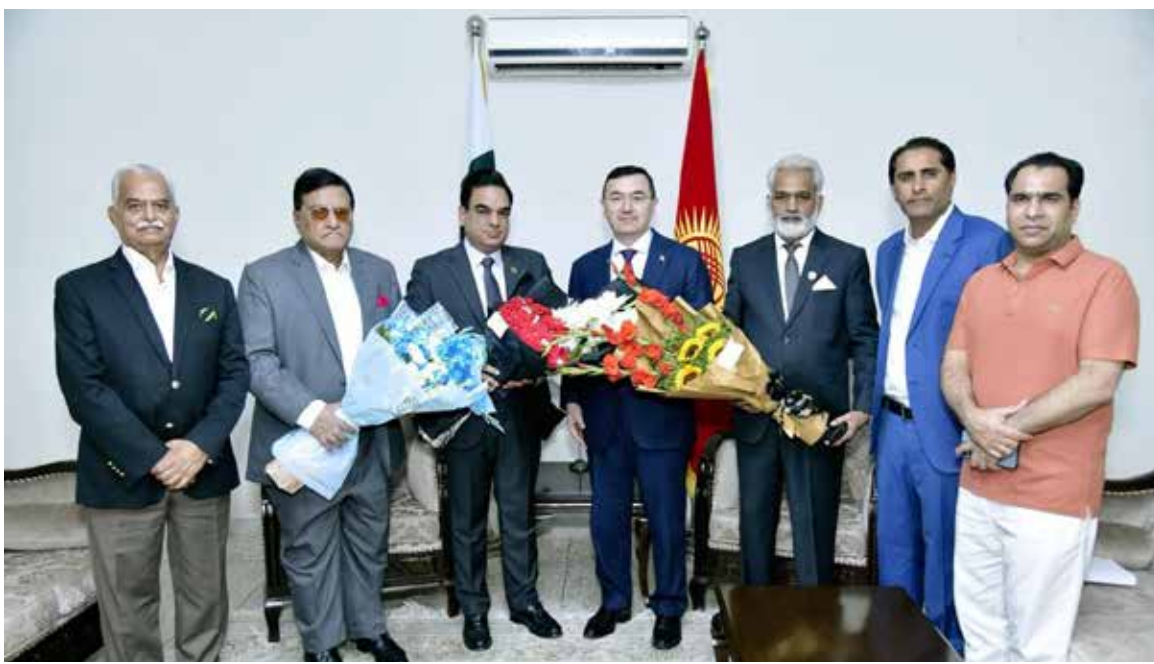
DNA

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation from the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and United Business Group (UBG) visited the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic in Islamabad to congratulate Kylychbek Sultan on his appointment as the new Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan. The delegation included Sardar Tahir Mehmood, President ICCI; Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General UBG, former President ICCI and Chairman D. Watson Group; Ifan Choudhary, Vice President ICCI; Khalid Iqbal Malik, former President ICCI; and Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari, Executive Member FPCCI and former President Chakwal Chamber of Commerce. Ambassador Kylychbek Sultan underlined the importance of strengthening bilateral economic and trade ties on a reciprocal basis. He highlighted Kyrgyzstan's favorable climate, natural beauty, and immense tourism potential, while encouraging the development of concrete proposals to expand cooperation between the two countries. Speaking on the occasion, ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood assured the Ambassador of the Chamber's full support in enhancing Kyrgyz-Pakistani relations. He emphasized that trade must be mutually beneficial and called for facilitation of regular business delegations.

Zafar Bakhtawari stressed the need for improved trade connectivity, visa facilitation, and promotion of cultural exchanges, noting that stronger people-to-people linkages would further consolidate bilateral ties. Khalid Iqbal Malik pointed out Pakistan's strong export potential in mangoes, rice, and

other products, proposing joint trade exhibitions and marketing campaigns to boost commerce. Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari suggested establishing direct trade connections with Bishkek to strengthen business-to-business linkages. The

meeting concluded with both sides reaffirming their commitment to advancing trade, cultural exchanges, and economic cooperation. The Ambassador welcomed practical proposals and assured his full cooperation in translating them into action.



Kashmir Council Europe mourns over demise of Prof. Ghani

DNA

BRUSSELS: Chairman of Kashmir Council Europe (KCEU), Ali Raza Syed, has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the demise of veteran Kashmiri leader Professor Abdul Ghani Bhat, former chairman of All Parties Hurriyet Conference (APHC) and former president of Muslim Conference Jammu Kashmir (MCJK). Prof. Bhat, a prominent intellectual, academician, and political leader, passed away at the age of 89 in Sopore, occupied Kashmir, on Wednesday.

Paying rich tribute to the late leader, Ali Raza Syed described Prof. Bhat as "an unparalleled advocate for the rights of the people of Kashmir," praising his wisdom, vision, and powerful oratory in highlighting the Kashmir dispute on global platforms. "Prof. Bhat will always be remembered in the history of Kashmir for his vision, expression, statesmanship, and tireless advocacy for the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people," the KCEU chief said. Calling his demise a "great loss for the ongoing freedom struggle," Ali Raza Syed extended heartfelt condolences to Prof. Bhat's family and the Kashmiri people, praying for eternal peace of the departed soul.—APP

Lebanon health ministry says two killed in Israeli strike

BEIRUT: An Israeli strike on the eastern city of Baalbek killed at least two people late on Wednesday night, Lebanon's health ministry said. Lebanon's official National News Agency reported that the strike was carried out by "an Israeli drone." Israel frequently launches strikes in Lebanon, saying it is targeting Hezbollah, despite a ceasefire that brought its most recent war with the group to a halt in November. Baalbek, a millennia-old city and home to a set of UNESCO World Heritage-listed Roman temples, sits in the Bekaa Valley, which is close to the Syrian border and has been a stronghold for Hezbollah.

Under pressure from the United States and fearing an escalation of Israeli strikes, the Lebanese government is now moving to disarm Hezbollah. The group, which previously dominated Lebanese politics and was thought to be better armed than the military, was severely weakened by the war with Israel. According to Beirut, the Lebanese army must complete its disarmament of Hezbollah in areas near the Israeli border within three months.—APP

Jordan crown prince warns US over Israeli unilateral actions

DUBAI: Jordan's Crown Prince Hussein bin Abdullah II warned on Wednesday of the dangers posed by unilateral measures taken by the Israeli government, saying they undermine prospects for peace in the region and fuel extremist rhetoric. In meetings with members of the US Congress, the Crown Prince emphasized the urgent need to end the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and to de-escalate tensions in the West Bank to restore regional stability. During talks with Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman James Risch and committee member Senator Jeanne Shaheen, he highlighted the importance of supporting stability, sovereignty and territorial integrity in Syria and Lebanon. In a separate meeting with Senator Chris Van Hollen, a member of the Senate Appropriations and Foreign Relations Committees, the Crown Prince highlighted Jordan's commitment to modernization at home and to restore regional calm. He reaffirmed Jordan's determination to continue providing support to the Palestinian people to help alleviate the unprecedented humanitarian crisis in Gaza.—APP

Briefs

Toshakhana 2 case

Key witnesses admit undervaluing jewellery

PTI founder's ex-principal secretary confesses to coercing private appraiser to undervalue Bulgari jewellery set

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Eye-opening revelations have surfaced in confessional statements of key witnesses obtained by Geo News, concerning the undervaluation of a jewellery set in the Toshakhana 2 case against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi. The confessional statements are of Khan's former personal secretary, Inamullah Shah, and the private appraiser of the Bulgari jewellery set, Sohaib Abbasi. The jewellery set was gifted to Khan and his wife by the Saudi royal family when the former held the office of the PM.

In his statement recorded before the court on Thursday, Shah said that he not only received "double salaries" from both the PTI and his government job from 2019 to 2021, but also coerced a private appraiser to undervalue the Bulgari jewellery set.

"I asked [Sohaib] Abbasi to reduce the value of the jewellery set," he said.

"I was fired from the job due to Bushra Bibi's displeasure; there was no complaint of double salary [she] was suspicious that my brother has links with Jahangir Tareen," Shah remarked, adding that he was posted in Bani Gala as the comptroller of the Prime Minister's House (PMO).

Hike in power bills on cards

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Electricity consumers across the country are likely to face higher bills in October after the Central Power Purchasing Agency-Guarantee (CPPA-G) requested the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) to approve additional collection of Rs0.1911 per unit from consumers.

The agency's demand is under the monthly fuel charges adjustment (FCA) for August 2025. Nepra has scheduled a public hearing on Sept 29 to decide the matter. In its petition, filed on behalf of ex-Wapda distribution companies (Discos) and K-Electric, the CPPA-G said the reference fuel charges for August were Rs7.3149 per unit, while the actual cost of power generation averaged Rs7.5059 per unit.

The gap, it argued, must be recovered from consumers through the FCA mechanism. As per the sources, if the request for hike is approved, an additional burden of Rs3 billion may be imposed on consumers across the country.

IHC reinstates PTA chairman Hafeez Ur Rehman

A two-member bench comprising Justices Muhammad Asif and Inaam Ameen Minhas hear intra-court appeals



DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a fresh development, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday suspended the single-bench Justice Babar Sattar's order that had removed Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Chairman Major General (retd) Hafeez Ur Rehman from his post. A two-member division bench comprising Justices Muhammad Asif and Inaam Ameen Minhas heard the intra-court appeals filed by the federal government, the PTA, and the removed chairman.

Advocate Qasim Wadud appeared on behalf of retired Major General Hafeez Ur Rehman before court. During the proceedings, PTA's counsel Advocate Salman Mansoor raised serious procedural objections to the earlier ruling. "The single-bench decision granted relief that wasn't even sought in the petition," Mansoor told the court.

"Neither were the rules governing the removal of the PTA chairman challenged, nor was a legal notice issued to the Attorney General before the order," he argued. PTA's counsel further maintained that the judgment violated the principles laid out in Article 199 of the Constitution. "Relief cannot be granted for something that is not sought in the petition," he contended. "Even [the] court acknowledged that arguments were not completed when the judgment was reserved," he said. He further argued that two petitions containing objections had been filed, but the bench reserved judgment without hearing those objections. "[The] court reserved the verdict on a day when some of the counsel were on leave," he maintained. At which, Justice Muhammad Asif said: "You were given ample opportunity to argue your case." After hearing arguments, the court suspended Babar Sattar's ruling and reinstated Hafeez Ur Rehman as PTA chairman.



URUMQI: President Asif Ali Zardari visiting the Urban Operations and Management Centre in Urumqi, accompanied by the Mayor of the city and the Vice Governor of Xinjiang. – DNA

At UN Pakistan says TTP security threat

"The TTP (Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan), with nearly 6,000 fighters, remains the largest UN-designated terrorist group on Afghan soil," Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan to the U.N., said in a debate on the situation in Afghanistan

DNA

UNITED NATIONS: Terrorism emanating from Afghanistan remains the "gravest threat" to Pakistan's national security, a senior Pakistani diplomat told the UN Security Council as he exhorted the Taliban authorities to fulfill their international obligations on counterterrorism.

"The TTP (Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan), with nearly 6,000 fighters, remains the largest UN-designated terrorist group on Afghan soil," Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan to the U.N., said in a debate on the situation in Afghanistan. Pakistan, he said, had thwarted multiple infiltration attempts of TTP and BLA (Balochistan Liberation Army) terrorists from across Afghanistan, confiscating significant caches of sophisticated military grade modern equipment left behind by international forces in Afghanistan—mainly weapons abandoned by the departing US troops.

"These efforts come at a heavy price - huge

sacrifices by our valiant security forces and civilians," Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad said, referring to the martyrdom of 12 Pakistani soldiers in a single incident just this month while they were defending the borders. "This situation is intolerable," the Pakistani envoy told the 15-member Council. Terrorist entities, including ISIL-K/ Da'esh, Al-Qaeda, TTP, BLA, and its Majeed Brigade, he said, operate from Afghan sanctuaries, with more than 60 such terrorist camps serving as hubs for enabling cross-border infiltration and attacks.

"We have credible evidence of collaboration among these terrorist groups through joint training, illicit weapons trade, refuge to terrorists, and coordinated attacks - all aimed at targeting civilian and law enforcement agencies and disrupting and sabotaging infrastructure and development projects in Pakistan." He called for swift action on the proposal by China and Pakistan in the UNSC's 1267 Sanctions Committee to designate the BLA and Majeed Brigade as terrorist organizations.

On its part, the United States has already listed the two terrorist outfits. Recalling that Pakistan has "consistently advocated sustained engagement with Afghanistan", Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad stressed that the Taliban sanctions regime must not "fall prey to political considerations of Council members".

Specifically, travel-ban-exemption requests remain crucial for meaningful engagement, he said, recalling the recent quadrilateral meeting between Pakistan, China, Iran, and the Russian Federation in Dushanbe, "where we agreed on result-oriented engagement" with Afghanistan's interim authorities. Urging international engagement with clear objectives, reciprocal steps and a "realistic road map guided by dialogue and diplomacy," he underscored: "Isolation and disengagement serves no one's interest." He also said that "Continued restrictions on (Afghan) women and girls are inconsistent with Islamic traditions and norms of Muslim society."

With conflict in Afghanistan now having ended, many Afghans, whom Pakistan had hosted for decades, have been repatriated in a dignified, phased, and orderly manner, the Pakistani envoy said.

Pakistan has also instituted a liberal visa regime that enables a large number of Afghans to be in Pakistan, legally, for various purposes, including family links, education, medical, and business. "While we will continue to extend all possible assistance to our Afghan brothers and sisters, the international community must shoulder its responsibility and take the necessary steps to ameliorate the conditions and share this burden more equitably," he said. "International partners must fulfill their obligations also with regard to their commitments - that are in fact long delayed and unkept - including for third country resettlements." As immediate neighbours bound by geography, culture, and history, no country desires peace and stability in Afghanistan more than Pakistan, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad said.

10 injured as Israeli forces intensify bombardment in Gaza

GAZA: Four Palestinian citizens were martyred on Thursday in the Al-Bureij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip as the Israeli occupation forces escalated the aggression on Gaza City, intensifying the aerial and artillery bombardment and detonating booby-trapped robots to destroy homes and force citizens to leave the city.

The Palestinian news agency (WAFA) said that four citizens were martyred and ten others were injured when Israeli aircraft bombed a house in the Block 7 area of Al-Bureij refugee camp, central Gaza Strip.

The occupation forces carried out operations to destroy infrastructure and demolish residential buildings south and north of Gaza City, forcing citizens to flee to the southern part of the Strip, WAFA said.

This escalation in Gaza City and its neighborhoods comes amid the continued disruption of internet and landline services in Gaza and North Gaza governorates due to the ongoing aggression and the targeting of key network routes, according to the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority.

The ongoing aggression on Gaza City has resulted in the forced displacement of more than 40,000 people over the past two days, according to the spokesman for the UN Secretary-General Stéphane Dujarric.

Medical sources announced last night that 99 citizens were martyred in massacres committed by the Israeli occupation in the Gaza Strip over the past 24 hours, including 77 martyrs in the northern Gaza Strip. Since Oct. 7, 2023, the Israeli occupation has committed genocidal crimes in the Gaza Strip, killing 65,062 and injuring 165,697 wounded, most of them children and women. A famine has also claimed the lives of 432 Palestinians, including 146 children, he United Nations warned that the situation in Gaza is deteriorating by the hour and renewed its call for immediate protection for civilians. It emphasized that issuing displacement orders does not absolve the parties to the conflict of their responsibilities to protect civilians, especially in light of the ongoing attacks launched by the occupying power, Israel, on Gaza. – APP

Zardari visits Xinjiang Islamic Institute in Ürümqi

DNA

ÜRÜMQI: President Asif Ali Zardari visited the Xinjiang Islamic Institute in Ürümqi today. He was received by Mr Mukhtirei Sifu, President of the Xinjiang Islamic Institute. Mr Sifu explained that the Institute plays a central role in providing structured theological education and training religious scholars, imams and khatibs for service across Xinjiang. He highlighted the Institute's efforts to blend religious education with modern learning, noting the importance of preparing students to serve both their faith and society. The President was informed that the Institute offers courses in Quran, Hadith, Islamic jurisprudence, Arabic, theology and general subjects including history, computer literacy, ethics and sciences.

The curriculum also includes Mandarin Chinese, civil law and regional religious policies. The Institute has the capacity to host around 1,000 students at its main campus, with affiliated institutes in other parts of Xinjiang. Facilities include a central mosque, library, lecture halls, classrooms, dormitories and administrative buildings. Students receive scholarships, housing, meals and stipends during their studies.

61 Irregular migrants missing

GENEVA: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced that 61 irregular migrants are missing after a boat capsized off the eastern coast of Libya.

In a statement on X, the UNHCR said it is deeply saddened by a second tragic boat incident off Tobruk where a vessel carrying 74 people capsized. Only 13 people survived and dozens remain missing. This incident follows the death of 50 Sudanese nationals and the rescue of 24 other migrants after their boat sank off Tobruk last Sunday, according to IOM. – APP

Pak, IAEA ink pact to boost peaceful nuclear coop

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: A new six-year Country Programme Framework (CPF) has been signed between Pakistan and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) aimed at strengthening cooperation in peaceful nuclear applications ranging from food security to energy and healthcare. Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) Chairman Dr Raja Ali Raza Anwar and IAEA Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Technical Cooperation Hua Liu signed the fifth CPF, covering 2026-2031 on the sidelines of the IAEA General Conference in Vienna, Austria.

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