



Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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High level Pakistan business delegation on a trip to Rwanda

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Chile's Bachelet quits race to be next UN chief

Detailed News On Page-08



Dy prime minister off to New York to attend UNGA

Detailed News On Page-08



Finance Minister says

Marches, sit-ins cause billions' loss to exchequer

Calling protests “self-inflicted pain”, finance czar says such activities would hit workers, businesses and exports; says foreign direct investments not possible due to these marches; vows to further boost foreign exchange reserves

SAIFULLAH ANSAR / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has termed planned marches and sit-ins “self-inflicted pain”, warning they could cause a Rs120 billion daily loss to the national exchequer. His remarks came as opposition parties, including Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), stepped up separate protest campaigns against the government. The PTI has announced a protest movement scheduled for September 27, with demands including the release of PTI founder Imran Khan and upholding constitutional supremacy and the rule of law. The JI has announced a march on Islamabad over the petroleum development levy and rising fuel costs. In his message on Sunday, Aurangzeb said such protests were difficult to understand at a time when Pakistan had made considerable efforts to achieve economic stability, warning that disruption to economic activity could undermine the country's transition from stability towards economic development. He said Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves had reached \$21.4 billion, the



highest level in the country's history. The finance minister said the government was reducing expenditure, while the fiscal deficit had declined significantly and the current account was in surplus. He said remittances were continuously increasing and exports were moving in the right direction. FinMin Aurangzeb expressed hope that the pace of economic growth would accelerate further. Aurangzeb said GDP growth stood at 3.7% during the last financial year, while economic growth was expected to exceed 4% during the current fiscal year. He said large-scale manufacturing was undergoing a recovery, while

corporate profits and investment in the stock market had increased. The finance minister said 11 initial public offerings (IPOs) were conducted last year, compared with five in the first two months of the current year, describing the increase as a sign of confidence in the country's business and investment environment. Aurangzeb said the government had set a goods export target of \$32.9 billion for the current year and expected goods exports to increase by around 6%. He said the average daily export volume was around \$90 million, warning that in the worst-case scenario, strikes could reduce daily exports by up to 50%. The minister said IT exports and services were expected to rise from \$4.6 billion to \$5.5 billion, while IT exports stood at around \$811 million during the first two months of the current fiscal year. He cautioned that disruptions to internet connectivity could be extremely damaging to IT exports, noting that the sector had been affected by up to 80% in past worst-case scenarios. Aurangzeb warned that disruption to economic activity could undermine Pakistan's growth journey and result in billions of rupees in losses.

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French embassy slams terror attacks

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The French Embassy in Pakistan has issued a strong condemnation following the deadly terrorist attack in Kohat, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. The Embassy expressed its deepest condolences to the families of the victims and extended heartfelt sympathies to all those affected by the tragic incident. The Embassy emphasized that France stands firmly in solidarity with Pakistan in the fight against terrorism, reaffirming its commitment to supporting peace and stability in the region.

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Azerbaijan slams attack in KP

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan has strongly condemned a terrorist attack targeting a mosque and a police compound in Kohat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, the Azerbaijani Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement. “We strongly condemn the terrorist attack targeting the mosque and police compound in Kohat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan,” the ministry said. Azerbaijan extended its deepest condolences to the Government and people of Pakistan, as well as to the families and loved ones of those who lost their lives, and wished a speedy recovery to the injured.

Continued on Page 06

10 terrorists killed in various operations

DNA

PESHAWAR: From 15-17 September 2026, Ten khwarij belonging to Indian-sponsored Fitna-Al-Khwarej were killed in multiple engagements in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. While six brave sons of the soil paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced shahadat. On reported presence of khwarej, an intelligence based operation was conducted by Security Forces in North Waziristan District. During conduct of the operation, own troops effectively engaged khwarej location and after intense exchange of fire, six khwarej belonging to

Continued on Page 06

Relief for the needy

Millions benefiting from the fuel relief package: Atta Tarar

Says govt in touch with Jamat leadership; hopes things will be settled amicably



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Attaullah Tarar has announced that millions of citizens are benefiting from the government's recently introduced fuel relief package. Speaking to reporters in Islamabad, Tarar emphasized that the initiative is designed to ease the financial burden on households amid rising global energy prices. He noted that the relief program reflects the government's commitment to supporting vulnerable communities and ensuring affordability in essential commodities. Tarar also addressed ongoing political developments, confirming that the government is in touch with the Jamaat leadership.

Continued on Page 06

Govt exits electricity purchase system

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Sunday sought Request for Proposals (RFPs) for Pakistan's first electricity wheeling auction under the Competitive Trading Bilateral Contract Market (CTBCM), as the energy minister announced that the government would no longer buy power. In a televised address in Islamabad, Federal Minister for Energy Sardar Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari said that the government was moving out of electricity purchases to enable direct transactions between producers and consumers. “The government is practically exiting electricity purchases from today,” he added. His announcement comes days after the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) approved uniform Use of System Charges (UoSC) for open-access bulk electricity consumers,

Continued on Page 06

TTAP forms committee to consult with parties

PTI claims Aleema Khan taken away by authorities in Lahore

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan on Sunday backed negotiations with the government, noting that talks have made no headway amid a “cold” political environment. Barrister Gohar maintained that political problems required political solutions and that every side would have to take a step back to resolve them. The former ruling

party has announced a nationwide protest, including a march on Islamabad on September 27, demanding the release of party founder Imran Khan and supremacy of the Constitution. Gohar's statement comes just a day after Senate Opposition Leader and Tehreek Tahaffuz Ayyeen-e-Pakistan (TTAP) Vice Chairman Allama Raja Nasir Abbas said that Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi had met him. Naqvi was told that only PTI founder chairman Imran Khan could decide whether to postpone the September 27 march, Abbas added. During today's interaction, Barrister Gohar did not deny meeting Naqvi, saying that meetings continued to take place.

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Briefs

Trump cuts short Camp David stay

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump cut short a weekend at Camp David to return unexpectedly to the White House on Saturday, as tensions rose in the Middle East. There was no explanation from the administration as to why Trump was no longer returning on Sunday from Camp David, a secluded presidential complex in rural Maryland, as had been previously announced. The change in plan came as the Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen's Houthis said on Saturday that the Iran-backed group fired a ballistic missile at Riyadh at dawn, after a fire broke out near the Saudi capital's international airport. The State Department and a string of US embassies issued security alerts to Americans.

JI long march under way

DNA

LAHORE: The Jamaat-e-Islami launched its protest march towards Islamabad on Sunday, with party Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman warning that if the government failed to abolish the petroleum levy, the JI's protest could turn into one to oust the government. Naem was addressing JI supporters at Karachi's Cantonment Station before departing for Islamabad. He said the rally would pass through Hyderabad, Landhi, Nawabshah, Rohri and Sukkur, adding that “we will invite our sisters to join us once we reach [Islamabad]”. JI is striving to bring politics and the nation together, Naem said, describing the protest as a “revolutionary struggle”. “According to the plan, people have departed for Islamabad via different routes,” he told supporters.

False propaganda

No Pakistan plane damaged in Houthi attack, say officials

In a post its fact-checking X account, the ministry said social media accounts propelling Indian propaganda were circulating false claims that Houthi missiles had struck King Abdulaziz Air Base in Saudi Arabia, damaging three PAF JF-17 aircraft and prompting their evacuation

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Information has dismissed claims of Pakistani jets getting damaged in a Houthi attack on a Saudi base as “absolutely fake”. In a post its fact-checking X account, the ministry said social media accounts propelling Indian propaganda were circulating false claims that Houthi missiles had struck King Abdulaziz Air Base in Saudi Arabia, damaging three PAF JF-17 aircraft and prompting their evacuation. The ministry also shared a screenshot of a post by one such account, with “fake” stamped on it. “This is absolute (sic) fake. No credible or official source has also reported any sort of damage to PAF JF-17s,” the ministry said in its statement.

It added that the “deliberate fabrication of damage to PAF aircraft and their alleged evacuation is only blatant Indian propaganda part of Hindutva deceit and deceptive mindset”. Pakistani forces were deployed at King Abdulaziz Air Base in Dhahran in April as part of the joint defence cooperation agreement signed between the two countries last year. The deployment was meant to boost the kingdom's security. “The Pakistani force consists of fighter and support aircraft belonging to the Pakistan Air Force, with the aim of enhancing joint military coordination, raising the level of operational readiness between the armed forces of the two countries,” the Saudi defence ministry said at the time. On the other hand, have carried out attacks on

Continued on Page 06

Foreign Office fraud case: FIA busts notorious network

This case highlights a troubling pattern of corruption within the Foreign Office. In the past, officials have been implicated in manipulation of liquor quotas, car import schemes, and other fraudulent practices. Reports suggest that billions of rupees have been lost due to corruption in the attestation department. Interestingly, Foreign Office officials who reportedly leaked information about this racket have themselves been made Officers on Special Duty

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The FIA Anti-Corruption Circle Islamabad has busted a fake apostille network in Aabpara, exposing massive corruption within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs attestation department. Acting on reliable intelligence, FIA officials raided multiple consultancy and courier offices located in the basement of F&F Plaza, Aabpara, Islamabad, and uncovered a notorious racket involved in the preparation, delivery, and circulation of fake apostille stickers, official stamps, and documents. Case No. 48/2026 was registered against 22 suspects under Sections 420, 468, 471, and 109 of the Pakistan Penal Code read with Section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1947. Investigations revealed that 16 private individuals linked to consultancy and courier firms including Sufi Consultants, Excellent Courier Service (ECS), Leopard Courier Services, RAAK Consultancy, Noon Consultants (Private) Limited, GM Consultants, and Fair Line Service were part of this network. In addition, six officials of the Min-

istry of Foreign Affairs, including AD/APS Attestation, the In-charge Apostille, and other personnel, were also implicated. The accused were reportedly collecting heavy amounts from applicants in the name of expediting apostille and attestation services, while bribes were paid to Foreign Office officials. Fake apostille stickers were found circulating across Pakistan, posing risks of heavy losses to the national exchequer. The relevant court has approved a three-day physical remand of the arrested suspects.

This case highlights a troubling pattern of corruption within the Foreign Office. In the past, officials have been implicated in manipulation of liquor quotas, car import schemes, and other fraudulent practices. Reports suggest that billions of rupees have been lost due to corruption in the attestation department. Interestingly, Foreign Office officials who reportedly leaked information about this racket have themselves been made Officers on Special Duty, raising questions about accountability and the treatment of whistleblowers. The FIA Islamabad Zone has reiterated its commitment that elements involved in corruption and forgery in government institutions, whether private or public, will be brought to justice.

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Pak's defence capability pivotal for regional peace

LAHORE: Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan has said Pakistan demonstrated its effective defence capability during the recent Pakistan-India tensions, enabling the world to witness the country's military and technological capacity. He said the country's defence capability had strengthened national security and public confidence, but stressed that disputes between states should ultimately be resolved through diplomacy, dialogue and peaceful means rather than war. The Speaker said wars inflicted the greatest losses on civilians, economies and infrastructure, making responsible conduct and sustained diplomatic efforts essential for lasting regional peace. Pakistan, he said, had played a diplomatic role in promoting peace while safeguarding its national interests during difficult regional circumstances. Addressing the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected office-bearers of the Gujrat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, he said Pakistan must give equal attention to economic stability, controlling inflation, maintaining social order and achieving development goals alongside strengthening its defence capabilities. He said the business community's continued investment and economic activity despite challenging circumstances was a positive sign and a source of hope. He stressed the need for continuity in national policies and a sustained focus on development rather than repeatedly changing direction. Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan congratulated the newly elected president and office-bearers of the Gujrat Chamber of Commerce and Industry and appreciated the mutual understanding and consensus demonstrated during the Chamber's elections. He described the consensus as a reflection of the business community's political maturity and positive traditions, saying continued investment and employment generation were important for strengthening the national economy.—APP

Commuters welcome petrol relief scheme

ISLAMABAD: Daily commuters, motorcycle riders, rickshaw drivers and small car owners have welcomed Prime Minister's petrol relief package, describing the Rs100 per litre subsidy as a much-needed support measure amid high fuel prices. The scheme, aimed at easing the burden on low- and middle-income groups, provides monthly savings of up to Rs2,000 for two- and three-wheelers and up to Rs3,000 for small cars. The relief initiative was announced after a sharp increase in petrol prices, with petrol reaching Rs375.82 per litre following successive hikes linked to global oil market pressures and tensions in the Middle East. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the government was aware of the difficulties faced by citizens due to rising fuel costs and assured that steps were being taken to provide relief to vulnerable segments of society. Under the scheme, motorcycles, rickshaws, Qingis and other two- and three-wheelers are eligible for a Rs100 per litre discount on up to 20 litres of petrol per month, providing maximum savings of Rs2,000. Small cars with up to 800cc will receive the same discount on up to 30 litres per month, with savings of up to Rs3,000.—APP

CDA, MCI move to digital Islamabad cashless, paperless

Key CDA and MCI Services, Including Property Tax and Water Bill Payments, Now Available Through PAK App

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) and the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) have taken a major step towards the digital transformation of Islamabad by making key public-facing services available through the PAK App. The initiative is aimed at making public service delivery more convenient, transparent, efficient and citizen-centric, enabling citizens, businesses and other stakeholders to access relevant services through their mobile phones without repeated visits to government offices. As part of the initiative, CDA is going digital for the collection of property tax and water bills, enabling citizens

to access online payment facilities and reducing reliance on conventional counter-based transactions. The initiative will progressively expand digital access to civic and municipal services in Islamabad. CDA and MCI will provide a wide range of public-facing services to citizens and businesses through the digital platform. These include services related to advertising and open-space permissions, parking permits, generator licences, municipal approvals, property tax, water bill payments and other related civic services, subject to applicable service requirements. Through the PAK App, citizens can submit applications online, provide required information and documents digitally, track the status of their applications and make payments through available digital channels, where applicable. The digital system will reduce dependence on physical documents, manual procedures and counter-based interactions, while saving citizens valuable time and effort. Applications, approvals, payments and other transactions will be electronically recorded, creating reliable digital records and supporting effective monitoring of service delivery. The system will also facilitate grievance redressal, allowing citizens to register and track complaints and service-related issues through digital channels, subject to applicable system and service requirements. Citizens

have appreciated the introduction of these state-of-the-art digital services by CDA and MCI, particularly the move towards cashless, contactless and paperless service delivery. They have welcomed online applications, digital document submission, application tracking and digital payment facilities, saying that these services will reduce the need to visit government offices for routine service-related matters. The initiative is part of a broader programme of CDA and MCI to modernise Islamabad's civic administration through technology, innovation, transparency, accountability and improved public facilitation. The digital platform will progressively support a shift from conventional counter-based interactions towards a modern digital service delivery model. Citizens will be able to access relevant services from anywhere through their mobile phones, subject to applicable service requirements. The initiative will also strengthen the digital documentation of civic transactions and support greater efficiency and accountability in public service delivery. The initiative of CDA and MCI will further support the vision of transforming Islamabad into a smart, modern and citizen-centric capital, where digital technology serves as an effective bridge between citizens and government.

Economic strength vital for strategic autonomy

LAHORE: Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mian Kashif Ashfaq on Sunday called for greater economic cooperation with Saudi Arabia and Türkiye, saying increased trade, investment and industrial collaboration were essential for strengthening Pakistan's strategic position in the region. Chairing a meeting of the PFC Board of Directors, he said economic diplomacy should be pursued alongside defence and diplomatic cooperation to build stronger and more sustainable regional partnerships. He called for expanding bilateral trade, attracting investment, promoting joint ventures, enhancing industrial cooperation and developing connectivity projects with partner countries.—APP

A son's salute Shaheed SP's vows to honour his father thru edu



TAKHTBHAI: In the quiet sobbing moments after the funeral of martyred SP Akbar Khan Shinwari, a young boy stood in front of his father's grave and raised his hand in salute, vowing to complete his mission. The gesture of the son of the shaheed SP was simple, but it spoke volumes. As mourners gathered around the SP grave amid police contingent salute, the sight of the officer's young son paying his final tribute left many present visibly moved. For a young boy who had just lost his father with boots on at old police lines at Kohat, the salute carried both grief and an unmistakable sense of pride. SP Akbar Shinwari along with 15 others cops was martyred in a deadly

blast and terrorists attack in Kohat on Friday. His funeral prayer was offered at the Hathian Sports Complex in Takht Bhai, Mardan on Saturday, where a large number of local residents, police officers and others gathered to pay their respects. The atmosphere on Takhtbhai remained sombre as mourners remembered the brave police officer who lost his life in the line of duty. But amid the grief and sorrow by his family and relatives, his son, spoke of a promise he intends to keep. "My father laid down life for the protection of the motherland, and his mission to serve humanity will be completed," he said. Then came words that revealed how deeply his father's hopes had become part of his own

dreams. "My father wanted to see me become an army doctor, and I will avenge his killing through education," he said. For the young boy, his father was more than a police officer and a martyr. He was a loving father who remained closely connected to his son's studies. "He was loving and always asked about my educational progress whenever he came home," he recalled. He met my teachers and inquired them about my education progress. "Last time when he came home gifted me a book and a pen," he said, adding he always remained calm during testing time. He was a loving father and always stressed me to perform prayers and wake up early besides concentrating on

his studies. Those memories now carry a painful weight. The questions his father once asked about school and studies have become part of a promise the young boy says he will carry forward. At his father's grave, his salute became an image of farewell but also of strong resolve for completion of his father mission. The fallen officer may have left behind a grieving family, but in his son's words, his aspirations continue to live on, a dream of becoming an army doctor, pursued not with violence, but with books, education and determination. For the mourners who witnessed that moment, the boy salute was more than a final goodbye. It was a son's quiet pledge to make his father proud.—DNA

Afghan-based groups behind recent terrorism: Ashrafi

LAHORE: Prime Minister's National Message of Peace Committee Coordinator Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi has alleged that the groups he referred to as "Fitna al-Hindustan" and "Fitna al-Khawarij" were involved in recent acts of terrorism in Pakistan and were operating from Afghanistan with alleged support from Afghan and Indian elements. He expressed these views while talking to a delegation of Uzbek media representatives, along with other members of the National Peace Committee, during a meeting at a local hotel here

on Sunday. Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi said Fitna al-Khawarij was carrying out terrorism against Pakistan while operating from Afghanistan, for which evidence and proof were available. He said the terrorist who carried out the suicide blast at a mosque in Kohat the previous day also belonged to Afghanistan. He said Afghanistan was a brotherly Islamic country and should take effective action against groups involved in terrorism against Pakistan. He said Pakistan's position regarding Palestine and Saudi Arabia was clear and unequivocal, adding that the

Pakistani people also stood with Palestine and Saudi Arabia. He said the protection and defence of the Holy Mosques was of utmost importance to Pakistan and the country stood with Saudi Arabia for the security and defence of the Holy Land and the Holy Mosques. The coordinator briefed the Uzbek media delegation about the establishment and objectives of the National Message of Peace Committee. He said the committee was established on September 9, 2025, reflecting a broader vision of mobilising Pakistan's religious leadership as an effective force for peace, tolerance, national unity and stability. He said representatives of all religions and schools of thought were included in the committee and its members had signed the Paigham-e-Pakistan document.—DNA

DI Khan Girls Cadet College gears up for Ist session

DERA ISMAIL KHAN : Newly established Girls Cadet College in Dera Ismail Khan has accelerated preparations for its first academic session, with comprehensive arrangements underway to provide cadets with a well-organized academic environment focused on quality education, discipline, character building and leadership development. As part of the preparations, Vice Principal Afia Saadat Qaisrani is providing guidance to newly appointed lecturers on teaching responsibilities, lesson planning and effective classroom management. Subject-wise academic plans are being prepared and educational activities are being organized to ensure that the cadets receive quality instruction in a structured and conducive learning environment. The

college administration is also finalizing other necessary arrangements ahead of the arrival of cadets, with emphasis on discipline, academic preparedness and effective implementation of the teaching programme from the beginning of the new session. Chairman Board of Governors (BoG) Faisal Amin Khan Gandapur said the Girls Cadet College Dera Ismail Khan was committed to providing young women with quality education along with opportunities for discipline, confidence-building, character development and leadership. He said the vision was to establish an institution where the daughters of Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and beyond could grow into confident, capable and responsible leaders of tomorrow. Faisal Amin Khan

Gandapur said the institution was intended to go beyond conventional academic education by providing young women with an environment conducive to personal growth, character building and development of leadership qualities. He said empowering young women through quality education and proper training would help prepare them to play a meaningful and responsible role in society and contribute to the progress of the country. Principal of Girls Cadet College Dera Ismail Khan said all necessary measures were being taken to ensure a smooth and well-planned start to the new academic session. She said the faculty was being guided on effective lesson planning and teaching strategies so that academic activities could be conducted in a systematic manner.—APP

Govt focused on public service in Punjab

SIALKOT: Provincial Minister for Local Government Mian Zeeshan Rafique said the response to recent protest calls reflected, in his view, a preference among citizens for development, stability and public service. Talking to media representatives in Daska, the minister said the public response to protest demonstrations in Lahore, Sialkot and Wazirabad, as well as a protest call issued by the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, indicated changing public priorities. He said history showed that when people supported a political leadership, even major challenges could not prevent it from moving forward. Referring to the movement for restoration of the judiciary, he recalled that the caravan led by Mian Nawaz Sharif travelled from Model Town to Shahdara despite difficulties and obstacles. Mian Zeeshan Rafique said the Punjab government was focusing on public service and practical governance through various welfare and development initiatives. He cited programmes including Suthra Punjab, Kisan Card, Minority Card, Dhee Rani Programme, free medical treatment and medicines, education initiatives, electric bus services, Apna Khet Apna Rozgar and Apni Chhat Apna Ghar as measures aimed at improving public welfare. The minister said Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif had allocated Rs15 billion under the Punjab Development Programme for Daska, with work underway to improve civic amenities and infrastructure. He said development projects in Daska included construction and rehabilitation of 102 kilometres of sewerage lines, roads and streets, construction of 43 kilometres of roads, and establishment of disposal stations and storage tanks. Work was also underway on parks to provide recreational facilities to citizens. Mian Zeeshan Rafique said the Daska Trauma Centre had been completed to improve access to healthcare services for local residents. He said the government was taking steps to improve civic facilities, infrastructure and public services across Punjab, including Daska, with a focus on addressing local issues through development projects. He added that the government's focus was on translating its development plans into tangible improvements in public services.—APP

Naval chief visits units at sea

Reflecting the changing character of warfare, this year's exercise integrates Operations in the Information Environment, Multi-Domain Operations and extensive use of unmanned systems, the news release said

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Admiral Naveed Ashraf, NI, NI (M), T Bt, Chief of the Naval Staff, visited units at sea and in the Creeks Area to review Exercise SEASPARK 2026. Underway since 1 September, the biennial exercise rehearses the full spectrum of maritime operations, testing operational preparedness and rapid transition from peacetime to wartime operations. Reflecting the changing character of warfare, this year's exercise integrates Op-



erations in the Information Environment, Multi-Domain Operations

and extensive use of unmanned systems. The Naval Chief interacted

with participating personnel and commended their professionalism,

high morale, operational readiness and resolve to remain invincible at sea.

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- Sept01/Uzbekistan Independence Day
- Sept07/Brazil Independence Day
- Sept09/DPR Korea National Day
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Water Tank

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Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia elected ICCI President

Mohammad Ashfaq Hussain Chattah, Mohammad Waqas Khan elected as Senior Vice President and Vice President

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia, Mohammad Ashfaq Hussain Chattah and Mohammad Waqas Khan have been elected as President, Senior Vice President and Vice President, respectively, of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) for the new term. The announcement was made here on Saturday by the ICCI Election Commission comprising Chairman Omar Rafiq and members Chaudhry Nadeem-ud-Din and Assad Aziz, in the presence of ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood, Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub, Vice President Mohammad Irfan Chaudhry, Chairman ICCI Founder Group Sheikh Tariq Sadiq, Council Members, Zubair Ahmad Malik, Mohammad Ejaz Abbasi, Zafar Bakhtawari, Chaudhry Masood, Wajid Ayub and President Anjuman Tajiran Pakistan Ajmal Baloch besides other leaders of the Chamber.

It is noteworthy that the official announcement and formal confirmation of the election results will be made at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for September 30, 2026. On the occasion, the newly elected office-bearers and Executive Committee members will also take the oath of their respective offices. The outgoing leadership congratulated the newly elected office-bearers and expressed hope that the new leadership would continue to strengthen the Chamber's role as an effective representative forum for the business community and further promote the interests of Islamabad's traders and entrepreneurs.



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ber's role as an effective representative forum for the business community and further promote the interests of Islamabad's traders and entrepreneurs.

Naqvi visits home of martyred Captain Hamza

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday visited the residence of martyred Captain Hamza Akram and met his father and brother to express condolences and solidarity with the bereaved family. The minister also offered Fateha and prayed for the elevation of the martyr's ranks, paying tribute to Captain Hamza Akram's sacrifice in the line of duty. During the visit, Mohsin Naqvi appreciated the courage and determination shown by the father of the martyred officer. Captain Hamza Akram's father said that his son sacrificed his life for Pakistan and that his other son was also ready to serve the country whenever needed. "My son Hamza sacrificed himself for Pakistan. My second son is also available for Pakistan," he said. The father further stated that Captain Hamza had made the family proud through his sacrifice and bravery. "Hamza has raised our heads with pride," he said, adding, "If Pakistan exists, we exist. Without Pakistan, there is nothing." Speaking on the occasion, Mohsin Naqvi said the entire nation takes pride in the courage and resolve displayed by parents like Captain Hamza Akram's father. He said the strength of the country comes from the sacrifices and commitment of officers such as Captain Hamza. The interior minister said Captain Hamza Akram demonstrated exceptional bravery by eliminating seven Khawarij militants before embracing martyrdom. He added that the sacrifice and courage shown by the fallen officer would continue to inspire the nation. Mohsin Naqvi said every drop of blood shed by Captain Hamza Akram and other martyrs serves as a guarantee for the protection and security of the homeland. He stated that the nation can never fully repay the sacrifices made by Captain Hamza Akram and his family. The minister also said that Captain Hamza's memory would remain alive in the hearts of the people and that his services and sacrifice for the country would never be forgotten. Captain Hamza Akram was martyred while bravely fighting Khawarij militants in Hangu. His sacrifice is remembered as part of the country's ongoing efforts to safeguard national security and protect its people.—DNA

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Call for stronger coordination among reserchers

The stakeholders took keen interest in the proposed trials and offered suggestions to make the research programmes more relevant to farmers' needs and practical agricultural challenges

ISLAMABAD: The Annual Programme of Research Work of the Agronomic Research Institute (ARI) for Rabi 2026-27 was held at the Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI), Faisalabad, to review proposed research trials and improve coordination among scientists, universities, private companies and farmers. The programme was chaired by AARI Chief Scientist Agriculture (Research) Dr Sajid-ur-Rehman, said a press release. The meeting was attended by representatives of provincial and federal research and adaptive research organisations, universities, Crop Reporting Service, Regional Agricultural Economic Development Centre (RAEDC), private companies and the farming community. Representatives from the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan, COMSATS Vehari, Thal Limited's Jute Division, Green Gold Agri Seeds and Tri Seed Company Rahim Yar Khan also participated. ARI Faisalabad Chief Scientist Dr Naveed Akhtar presented the institute's major achievements and ongoing research activities. Sajid-ur-Rehman appreciated the institute's achievements, particularly its success in securing research projects and seed production. He also welcomed the strong participation of stakeholders in the annual research programme. He stressed better research planning, timely conduct of field trials and closer coordination among research institutions, universities, adaptive research bodies, private companies and farmers. He said such cooperation would help make agricultural research more practical, effective and useful for the farming community. Later, the heads of eight research sections and stations presented their proposed research trials. The session chairs, scientists and other participants discussed the proposals in detail. The stakeholders took keen interest in the proposed trials and offered suggestions to make the research programmes more relevant to farmers' needs and practical agricultural challenges.

IGP, NCCIA DG review security, cyber threats

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry chaired a late-night meeting to review the prevailing situation, security arrangements and law and order in the federal capital, with NCCIA Director General Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi and senior Islamabad Police officers attending. An official told media on Sunday that the meeting reviewed police preparedness to deal with any possible situation, with particular focus on security arrangements across the city and protection of important places and sensitive installations. The officers were directed to remain prepared and ensure effective security measures to protect the lives and property of citizens. The meeting also reviewed measures against online harassment, anti-state propaganda and illegal online activities. Officers were directed to take action in accordance with law against those involved in such activities and further strengthen cyber patrolling. Directions were also issued to ensure continuous monitoring of criminal activities on social media platforms and the internet and take timely legal action where required. The meeting further discussed measures to maintain the smooth flow of traffic in the federal capital and facilitate citizens in their daily movement.—APP

Resources, vehicles, support for Police operations reviewed

ISLAMABAD: Assistant Inspector General (AIG) Logistics Muhammad Usman Tariq Butt on Sunday chaired a meeting to review the effective use of resources, availability of vehicles and facilities, and logistical support required by police officers for their duties. An official told APP that DSP Headquarters Sajid Abbas Cheema, DSP Telecommunication Ashraf Azeem and other concerned officers attended the meeting. The participants discussed the law and order situation, administrative matters and effective use of available resources to support police operations across the federal capital. The meeting also reviewed the availability of vehicles and other necessary facilities and measures to ensure timely logistical support for officers performing field and operational duties. AIG Butt directed the concerned officers to ensure proper use of available resources and provide necessary logistical support to police personnel for the smooth performance of their duties.—APP

G-13 residents seek relief from persistent water shortage

ISLAMABAD: Residents of Sector G-13 continue to face inadequate water supply despite heavy rains and water accumulation in several parts of the federal capital, calling for a stronger water supply system capable of meeting the sector's growing domestic requirements. Residents said while talking to APP that the existing arrangement, under which water is supplied twice a week, often falls short of their essential needs. They suggested ... ISLAMABAD, Sep 20 (APP): Residents of Sector G-13 continue to face inadequate water supply despite heavy rains and water accumulation in several parts of the federal capital,

calling for a stronger water supply system capable of meeting the sector's growing domestic requirements. Residents said while talking to APP that the existing arrangement, under which water is supplied twice a week, often falls short of their essential needs. They suggested increasing the frequency to at least three times a week or enhancing the quantity and duration of each supply cycle so that households could receive sufficient water without having to depend on tankers. They said families had already adopted stringent water conservation practices, carefully rationing available supplies and avoiding non-essential consumption. Despite these efforts, however, the available quantity frequently ran out before their daily requirements could be met. For many households, the shortfall means arranging water tankers two or three times a month. Residents said the recurring expenditure had become increasingly difficult to bear amid rising fuel prices and broader inflationary pressures. Hafiz Gulam Ali, Imam of a mosque in G-13, told APP that the limited availability of water is creating considerable difficulties for residents in managing routine domestic affairs. "We receive water supply, but the quantity is not sufficient for our basic requirements. We use it very carefully and avoid unnecessary consumption, but even then, we have to arrange a water tanker two or three times a month. With fuel prices and overall inflation rising, this additional expense is becoming increasingly difficult for families," he said. Munaza Ahmed, a school teacher and resident of G-13, said the situation had become particularly challenging for working women, who had to balance professional commitments with household responsibilities. "Getting ready for school and taking care of household responsibilities becomes extremely difficult when there is not enough water at home—APP

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CDA to auction 5 hotel plots on Sep 26

CDA said development of new hotels will generate wider economic activity, employment and support for restaurants, retail, transport and tourism services, making Islamabad more welcoming and internationally connected

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) will hold open auction of five prime hotel plots on September 26, 2026, as Islamabad emerges as a safe, secure, beautiful, environment and tourism-friendly and internationally connected capital. The auction will be held at 10:00 am at Jinnah Convention Centre, offering investors a rare opportunity to secure strategic locations in a city gaining increased international visibility. According to the official sources, five plots being offered are Plot No.22 D-12 Markaz, Convention Center Hotel Plot No.6 F-5/1, Five Star Hotel Plot No.8 F-5/1, Hotel Plot E-11 Northern Strip on Srinagar Highway between Sports Complex and Margalla Hotel, and another plot as per official schedule. CDA has announced investor-friendly terms including one-year flexible payment plan, possession at 75% payment with bank guarantee for remaining amount,

building plan approval at 25% deposit, 5% rebate on total payment within 30 days and additional 5% rebate on full payment in US dollars. CDA will also facilitate electricity-line shifting, sewerage upgradation, land clearance and independent approach roads. CDA told that the auction is not simply about acquiring land, but an opportunity to invest in Islamabad's future at a time when the capital is hosting high-level diplomacy, peace initiatives and international engagements. Islamabad hosted negotiations between the United States and Iran in April 2026 and welcomed signing of Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding in June 2026, highlighting its capacity to host senior delegations, diplomatic missions and business leaders. Set against Margalla Hills, with extensive greenery, planned urban environment and modern infrastructure, Islamabad offers a combination of natural beauty, tranquillity and dignity of a national capital where diplomacy meets

nature and business meets leisure. As international profile grows, requirement for quality hotels, luxury accommodation, conference facilities and resorts is becoming increasingly important. CDA said objective is to encourage private-sector investment in hospitality infrastructure for international delegations, diplomats, business executives, tourists and leisure travelers. Special facilitation is being provided for overseas Pakistanis and international investors through token issuance a day before auction and payment via Roshan Digital Accounts or local banking channels. CDA said development of new hotels will generate wider economic activity, employment and support for restaurants, retail, transport and tourism services, making Islamabad more welcoming and internationally connected. Auction brochures are available at CDA One Window Directorate and official website.—DNA

AUCTION OF SCRAP MATERIALS -04/2026

A Public Sector Organization intends to dispose-off following Scrap material through sealed bidding on "AS AND WHERE BASIS" lying at a location near Jabbi Stop (Fateh Jang – Attock Road).

Lot.No	Description	Qty
1.	Furniture / Wooden Scrap	One Lot
2.	Air Conditioners	One Lot
3.	MT Scrap	One Lot

- For inspection of scrap / stores interested parties may report at office of Convener Auction Committee near Jabbi Stop (Fateh Jang–Attock Road) at 1000 Hrs on **05-10-2026 (Monday)**
- Bidders / individuals shall be allowed to participate in auction process subject to clearance by security staff.
- Interested parties would be required to deposit sealed bids along with pay order / demand draft of earnest money @25% of bid amount before **1100 Hrs on 07-10-2026 (Wednesday)** at following address:-

Jabbi Stop, Fateh Jang – Attock Road.

- Bids should remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening.
- Earnest money shall be returnable to unsuccessful bidders after finalization of bids by the committee.
- Successful bidders shall be allowed to lift scrap / items after payment of 100% amount alongwith all applicable taxes as per prevailing Government rules/regulations.
- Successful bidder will have to lift scrap / items within 30 days after the approval of bid. In case of failure, 25% amount deposited with quotation will be forfeited and bid will be cancelled.
- All participants should bring their original / valid CNIC (along with 2 x photocopies) otherwise entry will not be allowed.
- Bids for "Complete Lot" only will be accepted. Partial bids for any individual quantity / weight for any lot and less earnest money shall be liable to cancellation of bid / bids.
- Organization has the right to accept or reject any or all bids, partially or fully without assigning any reason.
- For further information please contact on following numbers during office hours.

GM (Stores)

051-90125534, 051-90125418

PID(I)2624/26

Briefs

Electric scooty boom turns into a repair nightmare

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's electric scooty boom was supposed to offer relief from soaring fuel costs. Instead, for a growing number of owners, the affordable two-wheeler is becoming an expensive lesson in poor after-sales support, costly spare parts and unreliable repairs. Imported electric scooters have rapidly appeared on Pakistani roads as consumers seek cheaper alternatives to petrol-powered transport. Female students and working women are increasingly turning to electric scooters for commuting and daily mobility but the rush to buy affordable models has exposed a growing problem, not every cheap scooty is a reliable one. For working woman Naila Shahvez, the promise of saving fuel and time quickly turned into an embarrassing ordeal. Travelling from Iqbal Town, Rawalpindi, to the beauty parlour where she works in G-9 Markaz Karachi Company Islamabad, her electric scooty suddenly stopped on the road, leaving her unsure what had gone wrong or where to get it repaired. The breakdown was particularly stressful as she was due to do a bride's makeup on her wedding day. Unable to leave the scooty unattended on the road, she had to hand it over to someone and deal with the situation, putting her work commitment at risk. Comments from owners, mechanics and dealers point to a simple message: the electric scooty can cut daily travel costs, but buyers need to look beyond the showroom price and check battery quality, warranty, spare-parts availability and after-sales service before making a purchase. For middle-income families struggling with fuel costs, an electric scooty remains an attractive option. Federal Government employee Abdullah described it as a blessing, saying it significantly reduced his daily petrol expenses. However, he advised buyers to look beyond price, shape and colour and focus on battery quality, warranty and the company's reliability.

A buyer should first check the battery, its quality, warranty and the company behind it. Spending a little more on a good lithium battery can save you from repeated trouble later, he told APP. Abdullah said he learnt this lesson after a cheaper battery from a lesser-known company failed within two months, highlighting the need for consumers to understand battery technology, replacement costs and after-sales support before buying.—APP

470 trees shifted from Kashmir Chowk Underpass site to Parade ground

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has launched a major tree rescue and transplantation operation to save 470 trees coming in the alignment of Kashmir Chowk underpass project on Srinagar Highway, shifting them to Parade Ground Shakarparian and other suitable locations under strict supervision of Environment Wing. According to CDA Environment Wing, the initiative is being carried out under the banner of "Save The Trees – Pakistan's First Tree Rescue Service", ensuring that development and environmental protection go hand in hand. The trees, which were falling in the right of way of the Kashmir Chowk underpass – a key connectivity project aimed at improving traffic flow between Srinagar Highway, Murree Road and adjoining areas – are being scientifically uprooted with root balls, transported on trailers and replanted at Parade Ground to enhance its green cover and beauty for the upcoming 23rd March celebrations. Officials said the shifting is being carried out with specialized equipment, with proper wrapping and watering arrangements to ensure maximum survival rate. The Environment Wing teams are supervising the entire operation, from extraction to replantation and aftercare. Instead of cutting down the trees, CDA has adopted the transplantation method as an environmentally sustainable solution. The operation demonstrates CDA's commitment to protect Islamabad's green character while executing major infrastructure projects.—APP

Envoys from 20 countries attend ambassador dinner

Faheem Saigol also stressed the need for greater support for small and medium enterprises, saying Pakistani SMEs had the ability to provide quality products and services but needed guidance regarding global market requirements and international quality standards

DNA

LAHORE: The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry President has called for stronger cooperation between Pakistan's business community and diplomatic missions to promote trade, attract investment, develop business-to-business linkages and create mutually beneficial economic opportunities. Addressing the LCCI Ambassador Dinner 2026 at Serena Hotel, Islamabad, he said the annual event reflected the importance attached by the Lahore Chamber to its friendship and engagement with the diplomatic community. The dinner was attended by Ambassadors and High Commissioners from Germany, Bosnia, Poland, Yemen, Palestine, Vietnam, the Philippines, Portugal, Kyrgyzstan, Oman, Norway, Nepal, Malaysia, Japan, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, South Africa and other countries were also present in the

event. LCCI Senior Vice President Tanveer Ahmad Sheikh, Convener Dr. Riaz Ahmad and Executive Committee Members Amir Ali, Rana Shoban Akhtar, Firdous Nisar, Waqas Aslam, Imran Saleemi, Malik Asif and Nadeem Ansari were also present. He said economic diplomacy had emerged as an indispensable instrument of international relations, with diplomatic missions serving as important conduits connecting businesses, investors, institutions and markets. He stressed that diplomatic goodwill should be translated into practical and high-impact economic cooperation. The Ambassadors said the success of such a gathering should ultimately be measured by the business delegations mobilised, joint ventures developed and practical trade barriers removed after the event. He expressed confidence that the dinner would contribute to deeper engagement and concrete partnerships between Pakistan and the international community. The LCCI Ambassador Din-

ner is organised annually to strengthen institutional engagement between the Lahore Chamber, diplomatic missions and the international business community and to explore new avenues for trade and economic cooperation. LCCI President said diplomatic missions and their commercial sections played an important role in helping Pakistani businesses discover new markets, identify reliable international partners and develop confidence to invest abroad. Faheem Ur Rehman Saigol particularly appreciated the support extended by embassies and commercial sections in facilitating business meetings, sharing trade information and connecting Pakistani businesses with companies in their respective countries. He said such support was especially valuable for businesses entering unfamiliar international market. The LCCI President said diplomacy had become even more important for business in the current global environment, as businesses required

peace, stability and predictable policies to grow. He expressed the hope that wisdom would prevail, tensions would ease and peace would return so that Pakistan and the international community could focus on stability, sustainable economic growth and shared prosperity.

He said there was considerable potential for cooperation in agriculture, manufacturing, textiles, pharmaceuticals, information technology, renewable energy, food processing, logistics, maritime affairs, mining, construction, tourism and services. Pakistan's large population and human resource base, he added, provided significant opportunities for international partnerships.

Faheem Saigol also stressed the need for greater support for small and medium enterprises, saying Pakistani SMEs had the ability to provide quality products and services but needed guidance regarding global market requirements and international quality standards.

First impressions matter Islamabad's transformed avenues blend heritage with modern design

ISLAMABAD: As dawn breaks over the horizon, warm golden light sweeps across Islamabad's freshly paved entry avenues. Pakistan's capital welcomes travelers with a redesigned urban landscape featuring landscaped green belts and colorful murals, public art and upgraded roads set against the Margalla Hills. The city's major entry points and avenues are taking on a fresh appearance as the Capital Development Authority (CDA) carries out a range of beautification and improvement works aimed at making public spaces more attractive, functional and welcoming for residents and visitors alike. From flower-filled road medians and tree-lined avenues to brightly painted underpasses and cultural murals, the changing streetcape offers travelers a glimpse of Islamabad's distinctive combination of nature, art and modern urban design from the moment they enter the city. The CDA spokesperson Nawazish Ali Asim, while talking to APP, said the authority was carrying out beautification and improvement works under the directives of the CDA Chairman, with particular attention being given to the visual appearance, greenery and functionality of major roads and public spaces. He said Islamabad had a unique advantage in its natural setting, where the Margalla Hills, open spaces and distinctive cityscape come together to create a memorable experience for visitors. He added that the improved surroundings would also strengthen the capital's image among foreign tourists and travel bloggers, who increasingly showcase Islamabad's scenic beauty, peaceful atmosphere and distinctive character to audiences around the world. Nawazish said the government's development focus was also centered on improving the beauty, environment and overall infrastructure of Islamabad, giving renewed momentum to the CDA's ongoing efforts to enhance the capital's appearance and create a more inviting urban landscape. "The initiative goes far beyond cosmetic improvements," Asim said, explaining the vision behind the capital's ongoing transformation. "What we are pursuing is a comprehensive and sustained beautification strategy aimed at strengthening Islamabad's identity as a planned, green, clean, beautiful and environmentally sustainable federal Capital." He said that they were working on a citywide approach covering major roads, entry points, green belts, medians, underpasses, flyovers and other important public spaces. Nawazish Ali Asim said the government's present emphasis on the beautification of Islamabad had further encouraged the authority to accelerate efforts aimed at improving both the appearance and functionality of the capital. Rather than treating individual walls, underpasses.—APP



ISLAMABAD: During a meeting with H.E. Dr. Maen Khraisat, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Vice Chancellor Engr. Prof. Dr. Ehsanullah Khan Kakar discussed promising opportunities to strengthen cooperation between Pakistan and Jordan, particularly in the emerging olive sector of Balochistan. DNA

ICCI President proposes long-term Islamabad economic master plan

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad has all the ingredients to become far more than Pakistan's administrative capital, it can emerge as a regional centre of investment, innovation, technology and international commerce, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Sardar Tahir Mehmood said on Saturday, calling for a bold economic vision to transform the federal capital's strategic advantages into tangible business and investment opportunities. Speaking to visiting business leaders at the Chamber House, he said Islamabad's diplomatic community, highly educated workforce, institutional strength, modern infrastructure and international exposure give the city a distinctive platform to connect Pakistan with global markets. Yet, he noted, these advantages have not been brought together under a unified economic strategy capable of attracting international businesses, investment, technology and high-value services. "Islamabad has the location, the talent, the institutions and the international connectivity; what it needs now is an economic vision that brings these strengths together and turns them into opportunity, investment and growth," Sardar Tahir Mehmood said. He proposed the formulation of a long-term Islamabad Economic Master Plan to establish a clear economic identity for the capital, with priority sectors including technology and IT-enabled services, digital trade, investment, business tourism, international conferences, education, healthcare, financial services and other knowledge-intensive industries. He said such a strategy could position Islamabad as a competitive regional business destination while creating new opportunities for entrepreneurship, employment and exports. The ICCI President said Islamabad's technology ecosystem and educated youth should be treated as strategic economic assets. He called for stronger IT and technology centres, world-class digital infrastructure, closer university-industry collaboration and an enabling regulatory environment to attract global technology companies, research institutions, startups and international business-service centres. He said the objective should be to enable businesses established in Islamabad to compete not only within Pakistan but in international markets. He also called for business tourism and economic diplomacy to become integral components of the capital's growth strategy. Islamabad's diplomatic presence, scenic character and institutional significance could support major international conferences, exhibitions, investment forums and trade events, while diplomatic missions could help develop B2B partnerships and investment linkages with Central Asia, the Middle East, Africa and other emerging markets. Sardar Tahir Mehmood said Islamabad's economic transformation would also require modern, investor-friendly commercial infrastructure, including efficient parking and mobility systems, pedestrian facilities, fire and safety standards, waste management and predictable regulatory procedures. He said ICCI was ready to work with the federal government, CDA, local administration, diplomatic missions, universities and the private sector to develop a measurable economic roadmap for Islamabad. "The capital of Pakistan should also be a capital of opportunity. Islamabad must become a city where global businesses find a gateway, investors find confidence, entrepreneurs find space to grow and innovation finds a pathway to markets. This is the new economic identity Islamabad should aspire to build," he concluded.—DNA

CCP fines edible oil tanker association PKR 60 million

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has imposed a total penalty of PKR 60 million on the All Pakistan Edible Oil Tanker Owners Association (APEOTOA) for fixing transportation charges and allocating business among tanker owners through a restrictive queue system, in violation of Section 4 of the Competition Act, 2010. The Commission imposed PKR 30 million each for price fixing and market allocation. The case originated from CCP's market surveillance, which detected circulars fixing transportation charges for edible oil, ghee and fats from Karachi ports to destinations across Pakistan. A suo motu enquiry was initiated in August 2024, followed by a search and inspection in February 2025. The enquiry established from the material impounded during the search that APEOTOA revised transportation rates 89 times between 2019 and 2025, comprising 52 increases and 37 decreases. Corresponding circulars issued by the Pakistan Vanaspati Manufacturers Association (PVMA) communicated matching rate changes, while APEOTOA representatives acknowledged that transport rates were set through an agreement between the two associations. The Commission rejected APEOTOA's claim that its rate circulars were merely advisory, holding that even non-binding recommendations by a trade association may restrict competition by influencing members' independent com-

mercial decisions. It also relied on the Supreme Court's judgment in the PVMA case, affirming that competitors must remain free to determine their prices independently. The Commission separately found that APEOTOA's queue system allocated consignments among tanker owners instead of allowing independent competition for business. The Association issued parchis for lifting consignments and enforced compliance with the system. A September 2023 circular prescribed a PKR 500,000 fine each for a tanker and its owner for violating specified allocation conditions. The relevant market was determined as road transportation services for edible oil, ghee and fats across Pakistan. In assessing the penalty, the Commission considered APEOTOA's substantial market position, the nearly six-year duration of the pricing conduct, senior management involvement, and continuation of rate revisions even after enforcement proceedings commenced.

APEOTOA has also been directed to immediately cease the anti-competitive practices, recall existing price circulars and discontinue the queue system having the effect of dividing the market. It must publish notices in two Urdu and two English national newspapers clarifying that tanker owners are free to independently determine transportation rates and lift consignments irrespective of Association membership.—DNA

DSP briefs officers on vigilant security duty

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Security Mukhtiar Bugti on Sunday briefed police officers deployed in Islamabad's High Security Zone and directed them to remain alert and perform their security duties with full vigilance.

An official told APP on Sunday that the officers were instructed to maintain a high level of readiness while performing their duties and keep a close watch on their surroundings to ensure effective security in the sensitive zone. Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police said all possible resources were being utilised to maintain peace and law and order across the federal capital. Police personnel deployed on security duties were also directed to remain vigilant and respond promptly to any situation. Fake apostille network busted in Islamabad.—APP

FIA books 22 including six MOFA officials

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Islamabad Zone has busted an alleged network involved in the preparation and use of fake apostille stickers and official stamps, booking 22 suspects, including six Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) officials, following a raid in Aabpara. An FIA official told APP on Sunday that the Anti-Corruption Circle (ACC) Islamabad conducted the raid at several consultancy and courier offices operating from the basement of F&F Plaza, Aabpara, on the basis of information received from reliable sources. The official said Case No. 48/2026 was registered against 22 suspects under Sections 420, 468, 471 and 109 of the Pakistan Penal Code, read with Section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947. According to the FIA, the investigation identified 16 private suspects linked with Sofi Consultants, Excellent Courier Service (ECS), Leopards Courier Services at F&F Plaza, RAAK Consultancy, Noon Consultants (Pvt) Ltd, GM Consultants and Fair Line Service. The case also names six MOFA officials, including officials associated with attestation and apostille work, over their alleged role in the network. The FIA alleged that applicants were charged heavy amounts on the promise of getting apostille and document attestation services expedited, while bribes were allegedly paid to ministry officials.—APP

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September 20: Azerbaijan celebrates State Sovereignty Day

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

SEPTEMBER 20 marks State Sovereignty Day in Azerbaijan, a historic milestone in the country's modern history. This day commemorates the declaration of sovereignty by the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan in 1991, a decisive step that paved the way for the nation's independence and its emergence as a sovereign state on the world stage. For Azerbaijan, State Sovereignty Day is not only a remembrance of its struggle for self-determination but also a celebration of its resilience, progress, and achievements in the decades that followed. The declaration of sovereignty was a turning point in Azerbaijan's history, as it asserted the country's right to govern itself free from external domination. It laid the foundation for the establishment of democratic institutions, the protection of national identity, and the pursuit of economic and political independence. In the years since, Azerbaijan has transformed itself into a dynamic and forward-looking nation, strengthening its sovereignty through both internal reforms and decisive actions on the international stage. Under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev, Azerbaijan has progressed by leaps and bounds, standing out as a country that has successfully combined tradition with modernity. The nation has invested heavily in infrastructure, energy, and technology, positioning itself as a key player in the global energy market and a hub for regional connectivity. Baku, the capital, has become a symbol of Azerbaijan's modernization, with its blend of historic architecture and cutting-edge development projects. The country's economic diversification efforts, including investments in renewable energy and digital transformation, reflect a vision of sustainable growth that strengthens sovereignty in practical terms. Azerbaijan's sovereignty was further reinforced after the 44-day Patriotic War with Armenia in 2020, during which Azerbaijan regained control of territories that had been under Armenian occupation for nearly three decades. This victory was

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not only a military success but also a profound political and psychological triumph for the Azerbaijani people. It restored territorial integrity, bolstered national pride, and reaffirmed the principle that sovereignty is inseparable from control over one's own land. The liberation of these territories has opened new opportunities for reconstruction, resettlement, and economic development, while also strengthening Azerbaijan's position in regional and international affairs. The post-war period has seen Azerbaijan actively engage in rebuilding liberated areas, with ambitious projects aimed at turning them into centers of innovation, agriculture, and tourism. Smart villages, modern infrastructure, and sustainable development initiatives are being introduced to ensure that these regions become integral parts of the national economy. This reconstruction effort is not only about physical rebuilding but also about healing the wounds of conflict and reaffirming the unity of the Azerbaijani nation. On the world stage, Azerbaijan has emerged as a respected and influential country. It has hosted major international events, such as the Baku European Games and Formula One Grand Prix, showcasing its ability to organize and contribute to global cultural and sporting life. Azerbaijan has also played an active role in international organizations, advocating for dialogue, cooperation, and peace. Its balanced foreign policy, which emphasizes good relations with neighbors and partnerships with global powers, has enhanced its sovereignty by ensuring that it remains an independent actor in international affairs. State Sovereignty Day is therefore more than a commemoration of a past declaration; it is a living reminder of Azerbaijan's journey from subjugation to independence, from conflict to victory, and from transition to progress. It symbolizes the determination of the Azerbaijani people to safeguard their national identity, protect their territorial integrity, and pursue a path of development that reflects their aspirations. As Azerbaijan celebrates State Sovereignty Day on September 20, it does so with pride in its achievements and confidence in its future. The country's progress under President Ilham Aliyev, its victory in the Patriotic War, and its growing influence on the world stage all testify to the strength of its sovereignty. For Azerbaijan, sovereignty is not just a legal status but a lived reality, expressed in the resilience of its people, the dynamism of its economy, and the vibrancy of its culture. This day stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of a nation that has overcome challenges, reclaimed its territories, and secured its place in the community of sovereign states.

Iran's President Heads to New York as the Costs of Trump's War Mount

Qamar Bashir



The September Fox News survey found that 71 percent of registered voters believed the administration lacked a clear plan to end the conflict. That included 43 percent of Republicans and 83 percent of independents. Sixty percent considered the decision to take military action wrong. These results cannot be dismissed as opposition confined to Democrats. They indicate that dissatisfaction reaches voters whose confidence the administration needs...

THE decision to allow Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi to attend the United Nations General Assembly comes at an uncomfortable moment for President Donald Trump. More than 200 days into the war, Iran remains an adversary Washington must confront diplomatically as well as militarily. Meanwhile, Americans face higher fuel prices, mounting military expenditure, and growing doubts about the administration's strategy. The Iranian delegation's arrival in New York will place those contradictions on an international stage. The political contrast is striking. A government subjected to American military pressure will send its president and foreign minister to speak before the world from American soil. Their presence cannot establish surrender by either side, but it challenges any expectation that military force would quickly remove Iran from the diplomatic equation. Tehran remains a participant whose decisions matter to ending the conflict. That reality gives the visit significance beyond the issuing of travel documents. The decision can therefore be read as preserving room for political engagement while military pressure has failed to produce an enduring settlement. It does, however, leave open a channel at a time when the costs of continuing the war are becoming harder to separate from American domestic life. The question is whether the administration will use that opening to pursue an achievable outcome or continue relying on promises of eventual success. For American households, the war's consequences are increasingly tangible. On September 17, the national gasoline average reached \$4.44 per gallon, nearly 50 percent above its pre-war level. Diesel reached a record \$6.40. These figures translate geopolitical conflict into the price of commuting, delivering goods, operating machinery, and running a business. Families do not need a strategic briefing to understand the difference between an assurance that events are under control and a fuel bill that keeps rising. Diesel makes the burden especially pervasive. Its cost enters trucking, agriculture, construction, and other activities that sustain everyday commerce. Businesses may absorb part of the increase, but others pass it through to customers. Energy specialists have also warned of higher heating expenses. The pressure

intended to influence events overseas consequently reaches American kitchens, workplaces, and household budgets. Other supply disruptions contribute to these prices, but the Iran war is an important part of the economic strain. That strain provides a direct connection between foreign policy and public frustration. A prolonged war becomes politically harder to sustain when citizens cannot identify either its destination or its benefits. Initial uncertainty can turn into opposition as costs accumulate. The administration must explain why continued sacrifice will produce a better outcome, rather than simply ask the public to wait. Its difficulty is that recent polling records substantial doubt about the existence of a clear strategy. The September Fox News survey found that 71 percent of registered voters believed the administration lacked a clear plan to end the conflict. That included 43 percent of Republicans and 83 percent of independents. Sixty percent considered the decision to take military action wrong. These results cannot be dismissed as opposition confined to Democrats. They indicate that dissatisfaction reaches voters whose confidence the administration needs, including within its own political coalition. With the midterms approaching, those doubts carry obvious consequences. Trump's overall approval stood at 39 percent in the same survey. Electoral outcomes remain uncertain, and national polling cannot determine control of either chamber. Nevertheless, Republicans face the task of defending a government whose handling of the war has attracted broad criticism. Higher living costs make that task more difficult because they bring the consequences of distant decisions into the daily experience of voters. The military picture adds another layer. Photographs supplied to CBS News by active service members revealed damaged aircraft, buildings, vehicles, and equipment at American positions in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. They give visible form to losses otherwise expressed through official statements and aggregate figures. Such images raise questions about force protection, preparedness, and the resources required to sustain operations. They also demonstrate that technological superiority has not insulated American assets from serious damage. The financial accounting reinforces those questions. The Congressional Budget

Office estimated that the conflict had cost the Department of Defense approximately \$38 billion through August 1. Expenditure on this scale requires an explanation of objectives and results. Americans are entitled to ask what further operations are expected to achieve, how long they will continue, and what alternatives have been examined. Rising expenditure cannot itself become a reason to continue spending in pursuit of an undefined conclusion. This is the background against which Iran's leaders will arrive. Their visit gives Washington an opportunity to connect existing intermittent contacts with a concentrated gathering of international officials. Trump's planned discussions with Gulf leaders add a regional dimension. Those governments have their own interests in reducing attacks and restoring commercial stability. Their presence could help identify terms that address practical concerns, even if the parties remain far apart on larger political questions. A breakthrough need not begin with a presidential handshake or a comprehensive agreement. It could begin with authorized exchanges through intermediaries, a defined negotiating agenda, or reciprocal measures that reduce immediate risks. What matters is whether communication produces changes in conduct. A visit followed only by competing speeches would leave the central problem intact. A visit that establishes sustained talks could become an important step toward ending a war that continues to impose costs without a settled political outcome. Washington's strongest response would be to treat that possibility seriously. Seeking an agreement would not erase American power; it would recognize that military capability and political success are different things. The Iranian delegation's presence offers no guarantee of peace, but it creates an occasion to test whether diplomacy can achieve what continued confrontation has not. After more than 200 days, the administration owes Americans more than another prediction of success. It owes them a credible course toward ending the war and limiting its further human and economic damage.

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

66 Years of Stability Undone by Unilateral Abeyance

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



The Award was accompanied by a unanimous Order imposing interim measures concerning the Ratle Hydro-Electric Plant. The Court prohibited India from concreting specified portions of the dam wall and power-intake structure above prescribed levels pending the Neutral Expert's decision, while also requiring reporting on construction-schedule changes. The Court has demonstrated that treaty compliance has practical consequences for ongoing infrastructure...

WATER is the essence of life, and it is through its presence that the world achieves prosperity and progress. Nature has provided numerous sources of water; while vast reserves exist underground, rivers—whose courses were charted by nature itself—remain the most vital source. Securing river water was a challenge for Pakistan from the very beginning, as India frequently attempted to obstruct the flow of these natural waterways. To resolve this issue, the Indus Waters Treaty was signed between Pakistan and India on September 19, 1960. Although sixty-six years have passed since then, India has consistently created obstacles in the treaty's implementation. For Pakistan, water and its rivers serve as a lifeline. India's unilateral decision to place the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance challenges the principles of cooperation, predictability, and responsibility essential to transboundary river governance. Rivers are life, livelihoods, and food security; undermining established mechanisms governing shared rivers places millions of downstream people at greater risk and weakens the foundations of sustainable development. For Pakistan, the Indus river system is the backbone of agriculture, irrigation, hydropower, ecosystems, and rural livelihoods; uncertainty surrounding treaty-based water management therefore carries consequences far beyond diplomacy. In a climate-stressed Indus Basin, unilateral disruption of established water governance mechanisms risks compounding natural hydrological variability with man-made uncertainty, increasing vulnerabilities to both floods and water scarcity. The rights of lower riparian cannot be subordinated to unilateral political calculations. Sustainable transboundary water management requires that upstream development and water management remain consistent with established legal obligations and downstream interests. The Indus Waters Treaty survived decades of conflict because water security was recognised as a shared strategic responsibility. Its unilateral disruption threatens to erode one of the region's most important institutional safeguards against water-related instability. Climate change makes cooperation more necessary. As glacier melt, extreme precipitation, droughts, and changing river regimes increase hydrological uncertainty, South Asia requires stronger mechanisms for data-sharing, flood coordination, drought preparedness, and sustainable basin management. Water must remain a bridge between communities, not a weapon of geopolitical pressure. India's unilateral abeyance of the IWT risks converting a shared ecological resource into an instrument of strategic coercion, with consequenc-

es extending well beyond bilateral relations. When rivers are destabilised, societies are destabilised. Weakening the institutional safeguards around the Indus risks intensifying pressures on agriculture, food systems, livelihoods, energy security, ecosystems, and regional stability. For sixty-six years, the Indus Waters Treaty survived wars, military confrontations, and prolonged political hostility; India's unilateral abeyance of the treaty now threatens the very principle that enabled this historic agreement to endure. A treaty that endured six decades of conflict should not be discarded through unilateral political action; India's attempt to place the IWT in abeyance undermines the sanctity of international agreements. India's unilateral abeyance of the IWT raises fundamental questions about its commitment to pacta sunt servanda, the basic principle that treaties must be respected and performed in good faith. After sixty-six years of treaty continuity, India's attempt to suspend the IWT establishes a dangerous precedent that political disagreements can be used to undermine legally binding transboundary water arrangements. The strength of international law lies not in its observance during periods of peace, but in its preservation during periods of crisis. India's conduct puts that principle under serious strain. The continued operation of the Court of Arbitration and Neutral Expert processes demonstrates that unilateral political disengagement cannot simply extinguish established treaty-based mechanisms. India's refusal to engage constructively with established dispute-resolution mechanisms undermines the institutional architecture that allowed the IWT to survive six decades of bilateral confrontation. The IWT's sixty-six-year history proves that shared rivers can remain governed by law even when political relations collapse; India's unilateral abeyance risks reversing that historic achievement. Water treaties are instruments of stability, not tools of political retaliation. India's attempt to weaponise the IWT threatens the credibility of transboundary water governance beyond South Asia. If unilateral suspension of water treaties becomes acceptable, every downstream state dependent on a shared river could face increased uncertainty whenever relations with an upstream state deteriorate. The Hague Award is a significant affirmation of Pakistan's longstanding position that the Indus Waters Treaty cannot be placed in unilateral "abeyance." By reaffirming that the Treaty remains fully in force, the ruling strengthens Pakistan's legal credibility and demonstrates that its reliance on international law and established dispute-resolution mechanisms was justified. The PCA's unanimous determi-

nation strikes at the legal foundation of India's "abeyance" policy. The Treaty itself contains no provision permitting unilateral suspension, termination or "abeyance"; it remains in force. India cannot convert a political declaration into a legal instrument. The ruling reinforces the fundamental principle of pacta sunt servanda. India declined to participate in this phase despite being invited to make written submissions. Absence from the courtroom does not erase treaty obligations, nor does it create a legal veto over international adjudication. Refusal to participate cannot become a model for powerful states seeking to evade international dispute resolution mechanisms. The Award reaffirmed that India's rights over hydro-electric development on the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab, the Western Rivers, are treaty-defined rights, not unlimited sovereign discretion. India may construct permitted run-of-river hydro-electric projects, but their design and operation remain subject to the Treaty and its dispute-settlement framework. The Award was accompanied by a unanimous Order imposing interim measures concerning the Ratle Hydro-Electric Plant. The Court prohibited India from concreting specified portions of the dam wall and power-intake structure above prescribed levels pending the Neutral Expert's decision, while also requiring reporting on construction-schedule changes. The Court has demonstrated that treaty compliance has practical consequences for ongoing infrastructure activity. The stakes extend far beyond Pakistan and India. If an upstream state could unilaterally suspend a water-sharing treaty whenever political relations deteriorate, the security of downstream states across transboundary river systems would become vulnerable to political coercion. The PCA's ruling therefore protects not merely one treaty, but a broader principle: international agreements cannot be subordinated to unilateral political convenience. The Award reinforces the principle that binding water treaties cannot be displaced through unilateral political declarations, strengthening the rules-based framework that protects downstream states worldwide. Pakistan's position has therefore received authoritative international legal validation: disputes over shared water resources must be governed by law, not coercion or unilateralism. For Pakistan, the Indus system is not merely a river network but the foundation of its agricultural economy, rural livelihoods and food security. The Hague ruling provides critical legal reassurance that the treaty framework governing these vital waters remains intact, while underscoring the importance of predictable, transparent and rules-based water flows for millions whose lives and livelihoods depend on the Indus Basin.

Briefs

Marches, sit-ins cause billions’...

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He estimated that the services sector could suffer losses of around Rs86 billion per day from disruption, while the industrial sector could face losses of approximately Rs25 billion daily. He also estimated that disruption could result in around Rs17 billion in revenue losses, while putting the overall daily loss at Rs120 billion. The finance minister said the immediate burden of economic disruption would fall on ordinary people and daily-wage workers, while small shopkeepers and businesses would also be directly affected. Aurangzeb said tax revenues had increased by around 40% over the past two years, while Pakistan had attracted \$311 million in direct foreign investment during the current period. He said economic stability was a basic condition for attracting foreign investment, adding that foreign investment increased once confidence among domestic investors was restored. The minister also highlighted the challenges posed by the situation in the Middle East, saying it was affecting global trade through supply-chain disruptions and higher freight and insurance costs.

Govt exits electricity purchase...

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allowing eligible users to choose their power suppliers. According to Leghari, 400 megawatts of electricity is being offered in the first phase, with plans to auction 800MW over the next five years. He said that businesses and industries would be able to purchase electricity from power plants on a competitive basis under the new system. “Nobody will have the right to sell electricity to the government, nor will the government be able to purchase it,” he added. According to the minister, the system would initially apply to industrial and other large consumers, with consumers using more than one megawatt eligible in the first phase.

TTAP forms committee to consult...

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“I do not deny meetings with Mohsin Naqvi; meetings keep happening,” he said. The PTI chief said that efforts were underway to increase the capacity of the KP police, adding that the province had spent Rs45 billion on the police department last year. “We will ensure that there is no political interference in the police,” he added. Regarding the KP chief minister’s powers over the police, he said the authority would not be used on personal preferences. “The chief minister will take steps for the improvement of the police.” On the court orders regarding the KP police chief, Barrister Gohar said that the court should not have sought an affidavit from the inspector general of police. PTI on Sunday claimed that party founder Imran Khan’s sister was “abducted” in Lahore. In a post on X, PTI claimed that authorities “abducted” Aleema from outside her home.

Azerbaijan slams attack in KP

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“Azerbaijan stands in solidarity with Pakistan in the fight against terrorism in all its forms,” the statement added. The attack underscores the continued security challenges facing Pakistan’s Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where security forces and civilian targets have repeatedly come under assault by militant groups in recent years. Azerbaijan and Pakistan maintain close bilateral ties, with both countries frequently expressing solidarity on security and counterterrorism issues.

China’s digital energy advances as Pakistan seeks battery storage solutions

Pakistan’s cooperation with China is already moving forward, with partnerships taking shape between the two countries

SHENZHEN: “Battery storage is not an option for Pakistan. It is a core component of our energy security,” Muhammad Imran, Pakistan’s Trade and Investment Counsellor in Guangzhou, told an audience in Shenzhen. He was delivering a keynote speech titled “Unlocking Opportunities in Pakistan’s Energy Storage Market” at the 2026 New Energy Storage Digital Intelligence, Safety & High-Quality Development Forum, Gwadar Pro reported. He noted that Pakistan has set a national target to raise the share of clean energy in its electricity mix to 90 percent by 2035. The forum was a sideline of the 2026 International Digital Energy Exhibition, held at the Shenzhen Convention and Exhibition Center from Sept 15 to 17 and co-launched with the 2026 Energy Green Development Conference. Spanning more than 50,000

square meters, the event brought together participants from over 50 countries and regions and nearly 400 overseas enterprises, showcasing nearly 100 digital energy innovations. The counsellor’s message reflects Pakistan’s energy reality. According to Pakistan’s Ministry of Energy, clean energy sources including hydropower, nuclear, wind and solar account for approximately 55 percent of the country’s electricity generation, while nearly 38 gigawatts of distributed solar have been installed through consumer-led investment. Federal Minister for Energy Sardar Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari has said battery storage is essential to shift surplus daytime solar power to peak hours and reduce reliance on imported fuels. To support this, Pakistan has proposed the National Lithium-Ion Battery Manu-

facturing Policy 2026–2031, which sets out phased localization targets, tariff reforms and performance-based incentives to encourage manufacturing and private sector investment. Pakistan’s cooperation with China is already moving forward, with partnerships taking shape between the two countries. One example is a memorandum of understanding signed in June between Pakistan’s Saigol Group and China’s Hebei Juhang Energy Technology Group on advanced lithium-ion batteries, energy storage systems and electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Haroon Akhtar Khan, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production, described it “a declaration of confidence in Pakistan’s industrial future and in the enduring strength of Pakistan-China cooperation.”

He added that China’s remarkable transformation into a global leader in innovation, electric vehicles, battery technologies, renewable energy, artificial intelligence and advanced manufacturing provides valuable lessons for developing economies. China’s new-type energy storage capacity has grown rapidly in recent years, with lithium-ion battery technology, liquid-cooled ultra-fast charging and photovoltaic inverters among the innovations on display at the Shenzhen exhibition. Companies including Huawei, BYD and BTR are among the global leaders in the sector. Muhammad Imran said he looked forward to strengthened industrial coordination between China and Pakistan in energy storage, advancing technological innovation and global deployment amid the AI-driven energy transition. – APP

Raphinha treble fires perfect Barca to win at Sevilla

SEVILLE, Spain: Raphinha scored a superb hat-trick to earn Barcelona a 3-1 win at Sevilla on Saturday in La Liga and preserve their 100 percent record. Hansi Flick’s side moved six points clear of Jose Mourinho’s Real Madrid, who visit Atletico Madrid in a derby clash on Sunday. The Spanish champions were given the biggest test of their season to date but overcame Sevilla at the Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan thanks to Raphinha’s treble. The Brazil international has started the season in sensational form, playing out of position as a central striker. La Liga’s top goalscorer, Raphinha reached 12 goals in seven league appearances with a second consecutive hat-trick, and scored twice more in the Champions League. “We know the quality of Raphinha and we’re very happy about him, he gives us a lot,” Flick told reporters. “Today the team gives him the last pass and he made it happen for us, so it’s good. “After these numbers in these eight games, he’s very happy to play as a number nine.” Barcelona sporting director Deco said the

former Leeds winger had agreed to extend his stay at the club until 2030 ahead of the game, and Raphinha celebrated in style. “He’s very good and can adapt to any position up front. We give him the balls and he scores the goals,” Barca midfielder Fermin Lopez told Movistar. Flick handed Croatian goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic his debut in goal with Joan Garcia out injured. Hosts Sevilla, fifth, started strongly, making Barca uncomfortable, and took the lead through Youssef Fofana in the 19th minute. Sevilla’s Senegalese defender #12 Arouna Sangante (L) and Barcelona’s Brazilian forward #11 Raphinha fight for the ball during the Spanish league football match between Sevilla FC and FC Barcelona at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan stadium in Seville on September 19, 2026. Sevilla’s Senegalese defender #12 Arouna Sangante (L) and Barcelona’s Brazilian forward #11 Raphinha fight for the ball during the Spanish league football match between Sevilla FC and FC Barcelona at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan stadium in Seville on September

19, 2026. Felix Correia escaped Eric Garcia and crossed for Fofana to nod home at the near post. Teenage star Lamine Yamal almost pulled Barca level but Sevilla goalkeeper Odysseas Vlachodimos managed to push his curling effort against the post and out. It was no surprise when the Catalans did equalize that it was Raphinha who was the man to score. He cleverly shifted his body weight to escape a defender and slipped the ball home with a low finish. Yamal sent another shot over and after Sevilla fans whistled him, goaded them to keep doing so. Although the 19-year-old did not score himself, he did create Raphinha’s next two goals, after the break. Flick said his team improved in the second half and gave the ball away left. “It was a difficult game, especially in the first half... we also gave away the ball too easily a lot, that’s not usually our level and our standard, and in the second half it was like that,” said Flick. Early in the second period Yamal crossed and Raphinha headed home to put Barca in front. – APP

Salah hat-trick fires Trabzonspor to 4-0 rout of Galatasaray

TRABZON, Türkiye: Mohamed Salah scored a hat-trick and set up another goal as Trabzonspor thrashed defending champions Galatasaray 4-0 at home on Saturday, handing the Istanbul side their first defeat of the Turkish Super Lig season. Salah opened the scoring in the fourth minute, running through from midfield and finishing calmly, before he turned provider to set up Noah Saviolo, who struck from inside penalty area in the 39th. Salah added a third in the 44th minute with a clinical finish from a Francolino Dju assist, sending the team he joined last month into the break three goals up. He completed his hat-trick in the 80th minute, running more than half the length of the pitch unchallenged to score with a trademark side-foot finish. Galatasaray coach Okan Buruk was sent to the stands in the 71st minute while Lesley Ugochukwu was shown a red card in the 87th. – APP

Three development projects unveiled in Gwadar

They visited various sections of the Government Girls High School and reviewed the educational and basic facilities provided by the GDA

ISLAMABAD: Member of the Provincial Assembly (MPA) Gwadar Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman and Director General of the Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) Moeen-ur-Rehman Khan formally inaugurated three development projects completed under the GDA Old Town Rehabilitation Project. The inaugurated projects include various construction, expansion and renovation works at the Government Girls High School Gwadar, as well as the Captain Yaqoob Rahi Volleyball Ground and Abdullah Asim Futsal Ground, Gwadar Pro reported. Following the inauguration, MPA Gwadar Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman and GDA Director General Moeen-ur-Rehman Khan also participated in a tree-planting drive at the school and sports grounds. They visited various sections of the Government Girls High School and reviewed the educational and basic facilities provided by the GDA. The various components of the project include the construction of additional classrooms, installation of Tuff Tiles, boundary walls, two main gates, an examination hall, auditorium, cafeteria, water tank, sheds, play area, electricity transformer, provision of furniture for classrooms, restoration of the old structure, and other necessary facilities. Similarly, under the sports ground projects, futsal and volleyball grounds have been constructed and improved, along with boundary walls, basic infrastructure, renovation and other essential facilities, to provide young people and students with a better environment for healthy recreational and sporting activities. Speaking to media representatives, MPA Gwadar Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman said that the inauguration of the educational and sports projects completed by the GDA was an important gift for the people of Gwadar, particularly those associated with education. – APP

No Pakistan plane damaged in Houthis...

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Saudi Arabia in recent days, as the US-Israeli war on Iran expands into a wider conflict. Houthis had struck King Khalid air base in Khamis Mushait, in the kingdom’s south, hitting hangars, radar installations, runways and ammunition stores on Monday. Saudi authorities issued emergency alerts in Khamis Mushait and three other southern areas following the attacks. But no attacks on King Abdulaziz Air Base have been reported so far.

Millions benefiting from the fuel relief...

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He expressed optimism that matters will be settled amicably through dialogue and mutual understanding. Stressing the importance of political stability, he said that constructive engagement with all stakeholders remains a priority for the administration. The minister highlighted that the relief package is part of broader economic measures aimed at strengthening public confidence and stabilizing the market. He reiterated that the government will continue to explore avenues to provide maximum support to citizens during challenging times. This announcement comes at a critical juncture, as Pakistan navigates both economic pressures and political negotiations, with hopes that consensus-building will pave the way for long-term stability.

10 terrorists killed in various operations

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Indian-sponsored Fit-na-al-Khwarji were sent to hell. In another encounter that took place in Hangu District, own troops successfully neutralized four more Khwarji. On 17 September 26, an improvised explosive device exploded on security forces convoy, resultantly, six brave sons of soil, rendered the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat. Weapons and ammunition have also been recovered from killed Indian sponsored khwarji, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area. Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Indian sponsored Kharij found in the area, as relentless Counter Terrorism campaign under vision “Azam e Istekham” (as approved by Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan) by Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies of Pakistan will continue at full pace to wipe out the menace of foreign sponsored and supported terrorism from the country. These sacrifices of our brave soldiers further reinforce our unwavering commitment to safeguarding our nation at all costs.

French embassy slams terror attacks

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The attack, which claimed multiple lives, has once again highlighted the ongoing challenges posed by extremist violence in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and across Pakistan. French officials underscored that such acts of terror are unacceptable and must be confronted with unity and resilience. The Embassy’s message reflects the broader international community’s support for Pakistan as it continues to combat terrorism and safeguard its citizens. This latest attack has drawn widespread condemnation both domestically and internationally, with calls for stronger cooperation against extremist networks. France’s statement reinforces the importance of global solidarity in addressing the threat of terrorism and ensuring that the victims and their families are not forgotten.

Former spinners Tauseef, Saqlain trade barbs over Shadab Khan’s selection

Tauseef alleges Saqlain favours Shadab; spin wizard demands evidence

KARACHI: Former Pakistan spinners Tauseef Ahmed and Saqlain Mushtaq have traded barbs over alleged favoritism of all-rounder Shadab Khan for inclusion in Pakistan cricket. Speaking on the YouTube channel of another national cricketer, Fawad Alam, Tauseef claimed that he possesses recordings purportedly capturing Saqlain lobbying for Shadab’s, who is also the latter’s son-in-law, inclusion in the national team. “He doesn’t see anything other than Shadab. And such things. Man, there’s a limit. There’s a limit to the favour. Who has put their hand on you? He called me and also asked someone else to do so; I didn’t pick up the phone,” said Tauseef. “Recording, [I have the] recording. He sent it later. I don’t say it like that. I say the wrong thing is wrong.” Tauseef also questioned the treatment of Pakistan captain Shan Masood, claiming that he had been placed in a C or D category, while players could secure contracts despite fitness concerns. “You come from outside and take the contract. Shan Masood,

your captain, goes to C or D category. No one is going to ask what’s happening,” he said. He further questioned why players such as Sufiyan Mueqem were overlooked. “Great players who have played good cricket, they came here and failed in coaching,” Ahmed said. Responding to Tauseef’s remarks, Saqlain challenged the former spinner to publicly release the alleged recording. “Mr Tauseef Ahmed, you said you have my voice message—prove it. Release it publicly,” Saqlain wrote on X. He said he had called Ahmed out of respect, considering him a senior, and rejected the way the interaction had been presented. “Don’t lie, don’t hide, and don’t twist the facts. I have the full record too. Release yours, and I’ll release mine. Let the public hear the truth,” Saqlain added. Saqlain, who has held key positions in the Pakistan cricket circuit over the years, including serving as their interim head coach from 2021 to 2023, has faced repeated accusations of favouring Shadab. – DNA



BYD to Start Local Assembly of Sealion 6 in Pakistan by Late 2026

f @ X in ●

BYD to begin local assembly of SEALION 6 in Pakistan from Q4 2026

ISLAMABAD: Chinese new-energy vehicle (NEV) giant BYD is set to deepen its footprint in Pakistan, with its local partner Mega Motor Company (MMC) announcing plans to commence local assembly of the BYD SEALION 6 from the fourth quarter of 2026, marking a significant shift from vehicle imports towards domestic production. The development was announced at the Pakistan Auto Show (PAPS) 2026 here where BYD and MMC showcased the Chinese automaker’s expanding portfolio of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles, alongside its luxury technology brand DENZA and a range of genuine BYD accessories. The planned assembly of SEALION 6 represents a major milestone in BYD’s strategy for Pakistan and is expected to strengthen the company’s long-term presence in the country’s rapidly evolving automotive market, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Sunday. It would also position BYD among the Chinese automotive companies contributing to the localisation of new-energy vehicle manufacturing in Pakistan. At the centre of BYD’s PAPS 2026 display is the SEALION 6, which is planned to become the company’s first locally assembled vehicle in Pakistan. The move comes as demand for electric and electrified vehicles gradually expands beyond conventional internal-combustion engine vehicles. SEALION 6 is powered

by BYD’s Super DM-i (Dual Mode-intelligence) technology, the company’s latest-generation intelligent plug-in hybrid system. According to BYD, vehicles equipped with its global Super DM technology have surpassed 8.5 million in sales, underlining the scale of the Chinese company’s new-energy technology deployment worldwide. SEALION 6 combines electric driving with the flexibility of a plug-in hybrid system and offers a total range of up to 1,100 kilometres. Its technology is designed to prioritise electric driving while intelligently switching between electric and hybrid power depending on driving conditions solutions. For the Pakistani market, the technology could offer a combination of lower fuel consumption and longer-distance flexibility, particularly for consumers concerned about charging infrastructure and range during inter-city travel. BYD’s broader PAPS 2026 lineup included the BYD ATTO 2, described by the company as Pakistan’s most popular electric vehicle, the BYD SHARK 6 Anniversary Edition in Outback Orange, the SEALION 6 and DENZA B8. The lineup demonstrates the expanding range of Chinese new-energy technologies being introduced into Pakistan, covering fully electric vehicles, plug-in hybrids and premium electrified mobility. – APP

Briefs

Mocha gripped by fear after Houthi takeover

DUBAI: Life has ground to a halt for locals in Yemen's Mocha since Houthi fighters seized the strategic Red Sea port city last week, with shops closed, schools deserted and families confined to their homes. "I haven't gone out to work for a week. If I do go out, it's only to go to the grocery shop out of necessity," resident Mahmoud, 34, said by phone. The bus driver spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals by the Houthis, who took control of the southwestern city in a lightning offensive this month against the internationally recognized government's forces. Large numbers of civilians have fled the city, which once played a key role in the coffee trade and gives the drink its name. Shops that used to stay open in the evenings now close much earlier, Mahmoud said. "People are afraid. There is electricity, but at 8 p.m. the whole city is plunged into darkness," he said. After the Houthis moved in, tens of thousands of locals fled, many to the major southern city of Aden, where the government is based. Yet "many families stayed behind," mainly because of a lack of funds, said Mahmoud, adding that the price of a bus journey to Aden had skyrocketed. After moving into the city, the Houthis "are coming up against the reluctance of residents who are holed up in their homes," said Yousef, a 45-year-old teacher who also requested anonymity. He said that "for the time being, parents are refusing to send their children to school" in the city. "There is anxiety, fear and constant tension." —APP

Palestinian children return to school in war-devastated Gaza

GAZA: The UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) says more than 280,000 children in Gaza are attending school in tents and heavily damaged classrooms after years of war. Children in the territory attempted to return to lessons on Saturday for the start of the academic year. At a UNRWA-run school in Nuseirat, some classrooms have no desks, leaving children to sit on blankets on the floor. Still, some families say that a return to school brings back a familiar sense of routine that was upended by war. UNRWA education program chief Tawfiq Al-Hourani said the agency hopes to restore conditions for schooling to the state they were three years ago when it operated 182 fully equipped schools. e said 95 percent of those schools have since been lost. —APP

Oman producer prices jump 32.7% in Q2

JEDDAH: Oman's producer prices surged 32.7 percent in the second quarter from a year earlier, reversing a decline in the previous quarter as crude oil, natural gas and refined petroleum prices climbed, official data showed. Mining and quarrying prices rose 31 percent, led by a 31.9 percent increase in crude oil and natural gas prices, according to data from the National Centre for Statistics and Information reported by Oman News Agency. The increase marked a sharp turnaround from the first quarter, when Oman's Producer Price Index fell 3.9 percent year on year. Mining and quarrying prices declined 11.3 percent in the period, while crude oil and natural gas prices dropped 11.6 percent. The increase comes as Oman continues efforts to diversify its economy away from hydrocarbons. The International Monetary Fund expects real gross domestic product growth of about 3.7 percent in 2026, driven by higher oil production, while nonhydrocarbon growth is projected at 2.5 percent, with stronger expansion expected in 2027. —APP

Call for Pak's cultural heritage promotion among Arab readers

During the meeting, the delegation and the ambassador discussed the themes, literary and cultural significance, and relevance of the books displayed at the Pakistan Pavilion for Pakistani and Arab readers

ISLAMABAD: The delegation of the Pakistan Pavilion at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair 2026 held an important meeting with Ambassador of Pakistan to the United Arab Emirates, Shafqat Ali Khan, during which they discussed Pakistan's literary and cultural representation, promotion of books, cultural linkages and future collaborative initiatives. The delegation comprised Murad Ali Mohmand, Director Headquarters, National Book Foundation (NBF); Amar Shahid, Director, Book Corner Jhelum; and Sarmad Khan, Chief Executive Officer, Urdu World Books and Principal Organiser of the Pakistan Pavilion. Ambassador Shafqat Ali Khan appreciated the efforts of the National Book Foundation, Book Corner Jhelum and Urdu World Books in presenting Pakistani literature, culture and intellectual heritage at the Pakistan Pavilion, said a message received here. He also noted the interest of visitors and readers in Pakistani publications, particularly Urdu literature, children's books, cultural subjects and translated works. During the meeting, the delegation and the ambassador discussed the themes, literary and cultural significance, and relevance of the books displayed at the Pakistan Pavilion for Pakistani and Arab readers. Particular attention was given to the interest of the Pakistani diaspora in Urdu fiction, poetry and contemporary literature; the growing need for Arabic and English translations of Pakistani literature; the role of children's literature in connecting younger generations with their cultural identity; and the promotion of publications on Pakistan's history, heritage, culture and tourism. The Ambassador stressed the importance of



presenting Pakistan's cultural diversity and civilizational heritage to Arab readers through carefully selected, high-quality publications. He appreciated the standard of publications displayed at the Pakistan Pavilion and encouraged further expansion of literary and cultural content about Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates. He also proposed the preparation of a high-quality Arabic-language coffee-table book covering Pakistan's cultural heritage, historical legacy, important tourist destinations, civilizational contributions, fine arts and contemporary literary activities. The proposed publication would be developed through collaboration among the Embassy of Pa-

kistan in Abu Dhabi, the National Book Foundation and Book Corner Jhelum, with the aim of providing Arab readers, UAE institutions and international visitors with a comprehensive introduction to Pakistan's cultural and civilizational heritage. Murad Ali Mohmand proposed the establishment of an NBF Book Corner at the Embassy of Pakistan in Abu Dhabi. The proposed Book Corner would provide Pakistani citizens and other readers visiting the Embassy with access to Urdu literature, Pakistan Studies and books relating to Pakistan's history and culture, while promoting a sustained reading culture and creating a permanent literary presence. The delegation also vis-

ited the proposed location for the Book Corner at the Embassy and discussed its administrative and operational modalities with the relevant officials. At the conclusion of the meeting, selected publications of the National Book Foundation and Book Corner Jhelum were presented to Ambassador Shafqat Ali Khan. The books included publications on Pakistan's culture, heritage and civilization, children's literature and contemporary Urdu literature. Sarmad Khan, CEO of Urdu World Books, thanked the Ambassador for his valuable time, guidance and support for Pakistan's literary and cultural activities in the United Arab Emirates. —DNA

Germans vote in elections threatening fresh blow to Merz

BERLIN: Germans began voting Sunday in two state elections where far-right and far-left gains could send new shock waves to Berlin and rock the government of embattled Chancellor Friedrich Merz. Merz, 70, has scheduled a crisis meeting of his centre-right CDU party leadership to discuss the first results as they come in from the regional polls in Berlin and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. The chancellor, in power for 16 months, has also cleared his calendar for the following days and skipped a trip to the UN General Assembly to deal with potential aftershocks from the votes. The far-right, pro-Trump and Moscow-friendly Alternative for Germany (AfD) dealt a stunning defeat to his CDU two weeks ago in the state of Saxony-Anhalt, fuelling speculation that internal party support for Merz is wobbling. The election debacle came as Merz's approval ratings have nose-dived and he has struggled to push through promised economic and social welfare reforms with his centre-left coalition partners the SPD. The AfD will make fresh gains Sunday, polls suggest, although it is unlikely to come within reach of power in either state — unlike in Saxony-Anhalt where it fell just a few seats short of an absolute majority. Polling stations opened at 8:00 am (0600 GMT) with voting set to last until 6:00 pm. Under-fire Merz received some badly needed support from CDU powerbrokers on Wednesday. Eight state premiers declared jointly that Germany needs "stability now more than ever" rather than "discussions about personnel". They refrained from issuing a personal endorsement for Merz, however. In Sunday's vote, the CDU faces different challenges unique to those regions. In the northeastern coastal state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Merz's party is an onlooker to the main battle between the SPD of popular state premier Manuela Schwesig and the AfD. While the AfD was polling at 36 percent against the SPD's 37, according to public broadcaster ZDF, Merz's CDU, at just six percent, was dangerously close to missing the five-per-cent hurdle needed to stay in the state parliament. A CDU crash below that line would be a historic first and heap enormous pressure on Merz. In the city-state of Berlin, the ruling CDU is running a neck-and-neck race against the far-left Die Linke, which promises drastic steps to solve a dire housing crisis and is popular with young people. A CDU defeat there would be another black eye for Merz — especially at the hands of Die Linke, which wants to curb corporate power and leans toward Moscow. When Merz took office in May last year, he vowed to reboot a flagging economy, rebuild the military to deter Russia, and reduce irregular immigration to soothe voters' fears and lure them away from the AfD. But the AfD now leads nationwide polls and Merz's personal approval ratings hover just above 10 percent, not helped by his occasionally blunt and abrasive comments. —APP

Syria, Uzbekistan sign MoU to strengthen trade ties

RIYADH: Syria and Uzbekistan signed a memorandum of understanding to establish a joint economic and trade committee, as the two countries seek to expand investment, commercial and industrial cooperation. The committee will provide a regular framework for monitoring economic and trade relations, exchanging information, exploring business opportunities, addressing challenges and proposing ways to expand trade and partnerships between the two countries, the Syrian Arab News Agency reported. The agreement comes as Syria's economic recovery strengthens, with the International Monetary Fund expecting double-digit growth in 2026 and continued strong growth in 2027, supported by recovering agriculture, higher hydrocarbon production and electricity provision, as well as trade and services. Uzbekistan, meanwhile, recorded \$43.1 billion in foreign investment inflows in 2025, while its economy grew 7.7 percent, according to the country's investment-promotion agency. The country's industrial production also expanded 6.8 percent last year. "Under the MoU, the committee will meet annually, alternating between Syria and Uzbekistan, with private sector participation. This aims to facilitate the transition from economic dialogue to tangible, developable opportunities, projects, and partnerships," the SANA report stated. The Syrian Ministry of Economy and Industry said the agreement followed discussions on attracting investment, developing industrial and commercial projects, and drawing on Uzbekistan's experience in guiding investors from identifying opportunities through to project implementation. The Syrian Ministry of Economy and Industry said the agreement followed discussions on attracting investment, developing industrial and commercial projects, and drawing on Uzbekistan's experience in guiding investors from identifying opportunities through to project implementation. Syrian Economy and Industry Minister Nidal Al-Shaar began a visit to Uzbekistan on Sept. 17 at the head of an economic delegation to discuss expanding trade, industrial and investment cooperation and opportunities for joint projects, SANA reported. The move comes as Syria seeks to deepen international economic ties and attract foreign capital following the lifting of US sanctions in July 2025. Earlier this week, a US economic delegation met with Syria's sovereign fund to discuss investment opportunities and assess the country's market. Syria has also sought to revive trade and investment partnerships with regional economies. The UAE and Syria relaunched their joint business council in August, with the initiative aimed at supporting private-sector investment and economic cooperation. —APP

Preliminary deal inked for 55k-home Riyadh project

RIYADH: Talaat Moustafa Group's Saudi subsidiary has signed a preliminary agreement with Public Investment Fund-owned ROSHN Group to establish a joint company to explore a mixed-use development in Riyadh. TMG Saudi will hold a 51 percent stake in the proposed joint company, while ROSHN will own 49 percent, according to a disclosure by TMG Holding to the Egyptian Exchange. The project, which is planned for a prime location in Riyadh, is expected to comprise more than 55,000 residential units, alongside re-

tail, commercial, hospitality, entertainment, healthcare and education facilities, as well as parks and public spaces, the company said. The agreement follows a June memorandum of understanding between TMG Saudi and the Saudi PIF to explore opportunities in real estate development across the Kingdom. "The fully integrated community under evaluation is expected to leverage TMG's proven development model to introduce a differentiated proposition in Saudi Arabia," TMG said in its bourse filing to the EGX.

The development is still under evaluation, with the company's disclosure describing the arrangement as a preliminary agreement to establish a joint company to explore the project. The agreement follows the June 7 MoU covering residential, commercial, hospitality and retail developments under PIF's urban development and livability ecosystem, part of its 2026-2030 strategy. The ecosystem spans housing, retail, offices and community services, supporting greater private-sector participation and Saudi Arabia's target of

70 percent homeownership among citizens by 2030. Daniel Al Banna, financial market analyst and wealth management specialist at Hewan Group, told Arab News that the latest agreement represents a more concrete step in the relationship. "The June MoU established the broader framework for cooperation, while the latest agreement moves toward a more concrete structure with a defined joint venture and project," he said. Al Banna said TMG's majority stake provides a platform for expanding its integrated-community development model in Riyadh, while ROSHN brings its strategic real estate portfolio and PIF backing. Aseel Al-Aranksi, head of financial market analysis at CG Invest, told Arab News that the agreement moves the partnership from a broad framework toward a specific project with a defined ownership structure. —APP

Kaiser Sheikh to attend WEF meetings

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Kaiser Ahmed Sheikh, has departed for New York to attend the "Sustainable Development Impact Meetings 2026," organized by the World Economic Forum (WEF) from September 21 to 24, where he will showcase Pakistan's economic potential and favorable investment climate.

The four-day high-profile global gathering will convene world leaders, global investors, prominent business executives, and heads of international financial institutions to deliberate on strategic frameworks for sustainable development and global economic resilience, said a press release.

During the forum, the minister will highlight the attractive incentives, structural government reforms, and streamlined ease-of-doing-business facilities available to foreign investors across strategic sectors, including energy, technology, agriculture, and manufacturing. On the sidelines of the summit, the federal minister is scheduled to hold a series of bilateral and multilateral meetings with international investors, corporate executives, and global economic leaders, aimed at catalyzing foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into Pakistan and expanding cross-border commercial partnerships. Economic analysts view the minister's participation at the World Economic Forum as a significant and forward-looking step toward positioning Pakistan as a competitive and stable investment destination in the region. —APP

Turkiye says working with US to solve S-400 missile issue

ANKARA: Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said on Saturday that Ankara and Washington were working on "creative ideas" to lift US sanctions imposed on Türkiye over its purchase of Russian S-400 missile systems. Speaking to broadcaster NTV, Fidan did not elaborate on what the ideas were, but said he was hoping for positive steps on the issue. Washington imposed CAAT-SA sanctions on its NATO ally in 2020 and removed it from its F-35 fighter jet program due to the acquisition of the Russian systems. In July, Turkish media reported that Türkiye could resell the S-400s to a Gulf nation in order to persuade the US to sell F-35s to Ankara. Russia said at the time it was in contact with Ankara on the issue. —APP

Egyptian startups discover market challenges

RIYADH: The rush by Egyptian startups to expand into Saudi Arabia has largely reversed after some companies entered the Kingdom too early, burned through capital and underestimated the differences between the two markets, according to F6 Ventures co-founder and General Partner Dina El-Shenoufy. The trend peaked in 2022 and 2023, when economic uncertainty and currency devaluation in Egypt drove founders to seek revenue diversification, El-Shenoufy told Arab News. Investors also encouraged portfolio companies to enter Saudi Arabia, particularly when Saudi or other Gulf investors were on their capitalization tables. "Many of them regretted it very much because many of them went and burned so much money, only to realize that the markets are very different," she said. Saudi Arabia is a large market with strong purchasing power, high card penetration and consumer familiarity with online services, but its culture, customer targeting and marketing language differ sharply from Egypt, she said. Those characteristics can make the Kingdom particularly attractive for business-to-consumer companies, while also raising the cost of getting expansion wrong. El-Shenoufy said successful Egyptian companies can still find growth opportunities in Saudi Arabia, provided they have secured their domestic operations, built a financial cushion and allowed time to understand the local market. The greater risk lies with companies treating expansion as an escape from challenges at home. —APP

Pak's rich cultural heritage showcased at Baku

BAKU: The Embassy of Pakistan in Baku participated in the National Clothing Day event and showcased Pakistan's rich and diverse cultural heritage and traditional attire. The event was organized by the "Icherisheher" State Historical-Architectural Reserve Administration which was well attended by Azerbaijani dignitaries from the government, representatives of the arts and literary communities, and members of the diplomatic corps. Pakistan's colourful traditional and regional costumes, truck art, jewellery, and handicrafts received great appreciation from participants and visitors. Diplomatic missions, including those of China, Korea, Iraq, Tajikistan, Malaysia, Indonesia and Russia, also presented their national dances and traditional costumes, creating a rich and diverse celebration of cultures and highlighting the importance of cultural exchange and mutual understanding. The participation of Pakistan embassy in the event further contributed to promoting the close and historic cultural bonds between Pakistan and brotherly Azerbaijan. —DNA



Briefs

Chinese nationals get bail

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court has approved the bail pleas of ten Chinese nationals arrested in a call centre cyber crime case. Justice Shahrukh Arjumand issued a five-page written verdict, directing each suspect to submit surety bonds worth Rs 500,000 and to appear before the trial court on every hearing date. According to the court, the suspects cannot leave Pakistan without prior permission from the trial court. The verdict stated that no specific role or clear act was attributed to the suspects. No specific electronic or independent evidence linking the suspects to the alleged electronic fraud or transmission of obscene material was presented either.

11 speculated cadres in bureaucracy proposed

ISLAMABAD: Amid concerns over declining standards and lack of specialisation in the bureaucracy, the federal government has finalised a sweeping restructuring of the civil service, proposing 11 new professional cadres, a complete overhaul of the Central Superior Services (CSS) examination and senior-level promotions and linking officials' performance to financial rewards. The proposed reforms, estimated to cost Rs11 billion to implement, seek to reshape recruitment, training, career progression, performance evaluation and the institutional structure of the federal bureaucracy. The package was unveiled at a consultative session on civil service reforms chaired by Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal on Saturday. The session was attended by Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Federal Minister Aleem Khan, former PTI federal minister Asad Umar, senior policy-makers, sector specialists and other stakeholders. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had constituted two committees on civil service reforms, which have held 18 meetings since September 2024 and reached consensus on 43 of 46 recommendations. Proposed new professional cadres include HR, Law, Engineering, Science and Technology, IT and Telecom, Energy, Climate, Agriculture and Forestry, Education and Health groups. - APP

Rwanda a gateway to the wider African market

High Commissioner Harerimana Fatou said the Investment Forum represented a broader effort to transform Rwanda-Pakistan relations into a stronger partnership in trade; Hamid Asghar Khan to lead the delegation



SAIFULLAH ANSAR / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Rwanda High Commission in Pakistan hosted a press conference to announce the upcoming visit of a Pakistani business delegation to Kigali for the Rwanda-Pakistan Investment Forum, being held from 23-25 September 2026. The press conference was addressed by H.E. Harerimana Fatou, High Commissioner of Rwanda to Pakistan, followed by remarks from Ambassador Hamid Asghar Khan, Patron-in-Chief, Pakistan Africa Economic Council (PAC). The delegation comprises representatives of Pakistan's business and investment com-

munity and will engage with Rwandan government institutions, business leaders, investors and private-sector representatives to explore opportunities for trade, investment, joint ventures and business partnerships. A key milestone of the visit will be the signing of a Bilateral Trade Agreement between Rwanda and Pakistan, marking an important step towards strengthening the institutional framework for bilateral trade. High Commissioner Harerimana Fatou said the Investment Forum represented a broader effort to transform Rwanda-Pakistan relations into a stronger partnership in trade, investment, technology, manufacturing and business-to-business cooperation. She highlighted Rwanda as a gateway to



the wider African market, encouraging Pakistani companies to view Rwanda not only as a market but as a destination for investment, production, joint ventures and regional expansion. He further described the signing of the Rwanda-Pakistan Bilateral Trade Agreement during the Forum as a milestone in strengthening trade and investment ties between the two countries. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Hamid Asghar Khan, Patron In Chief, Pakistan Africa Economic Council, described the Pakistan-Rwanda Investment Forum as an important initiative at a time when Africa, particularly East Africa and Rwanda, is emerging as a growing destination for global investment.

He highlighted Rwanda's peace, stability, competitive operating environment, skilled workforce and investor-friendly policies, noting the opportunities these offer to Pakistani businesses. He said the participation of a 15-16-member Pakistani delegation from PAC would help explore avenues for trade, investment and employment, including greater opportunities for Pakistan's skilled youth. Rwanda High Commission expressed confidence that the visit of the Pakistani business delegation will further strengthen business-to-business engagement and economic cooperation between Rwanda and Pakistan, while opening new avenues for investment and mutually beneficial partnerships.

Mass drone barrage on Moscow kills two

DNA

MOSCOW: Hundreds of drones targeting Moscow and its surrounding region killed at least two people and damaged a major refinery on the final day of the country's parliamentary elections, the authorities said Sunday. The capital's Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said that more than 1,600 drones had been intercepted and shot down, 450 of which were aimed at Moscow. He accused Ukraine of attempting to interfere with a tightly controlled three-day election that is set to tighten President Vladimir Putin's 26-year grip on power. "The unprecedented attack was clearly planned with the aim of disrupting the elections. The enemy did not succeed," he said on Telegram. Moscow regional Governor Andrey Vorobyov said on the social media platform that at least two people were killed - a 44-year-old woman and an elderly man - in two separate locations. A fire triggered by a drone crashing into a 21-storey building also led to 400 people being evacuated, Vorobyov said. He did not specify the drones' origin. The attacks come

at a time when Kyiv stepped up its long-range drone strike campaign against Russia in recent months, particularly against energy infrastructure to target a vital source of the Kremlin's revenue to fund its war effort, now in its fifth year. "A facility on the territory of the Moscow Oil Refinery has been damaged, Sobyanin added, noting that no casualties had been reported so far and that emergency services were on the scene. This major refinery has already been hit by Ukrainian strikes in recent months. The latest strike comes after US President Donald Trump said Monday that Ukraine and Russia had agreed not to target each other's energy facilities. It also comes after Russians began voting on Friday in the country's first parliamentary election since Moscow sent troops to Ukraine in February 2022, setting off a conflict that has killed hundreds of thousands. Only parties that support Putin and the Kremlin's military campaign have been registered to run. Moscow has also organised voting in occupied Ukraine. While few Russians doubt Putin's United Russia party will cruise to victory again, the vote offers a gauge of public support for the war.

French Daesh suspect to stand trial

NEWS DESK

BAGHDAD: Six French nationals are due to stand trial in Iraq on Sunday, as the country assumes responsibility for prosecuting thousands of suspected Daesh group members. Iraq's prisons, already packed with Daesh suspects, have received thousands more detainees transferred since last year from neighboring Syria. An Iraqi judicial source told AFP on Thursday that six French nationals were scheduled to stand trial on Sunday. Their identities remain unclear, but they are part of a group of 47 French citizens transferred from Syria last year. The larger group includes Adrien Guihal, who claimed responsibility for the 2016 Nice attack for Daesh. The jihadist group swept across Syria and Iraq in 2014, committing massacres and forcing women and girls into sexual slavery. Iraq, backed by US-led forces, proclaimed victory over Daesh in 2017, and the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces ultimately defeated the group in Syria two years later. Iraq is nonetheless still reckoning with the legacy left

behind by the group, with mass graves and testimonies of Daesh brutality yet to be investigated. For years, its courts have handed down hundreds of execution orders and life sentences to those convicted of terrorism of fenses, including foreign fighters. In 2019, 11 French nationals received death sentences that were later commuted to life in prison. Some human rights groups have denounced terrorism trials in Iraq as rushed and lacking due process. In France, which has been the target of repeated jihadist attacks, repatriation of Daesh suspects and their family members has been a contentious issue. French lawyers on Thursday urged the repatriation of the French nationals detained in Iraq, warning that they could face the death penalty. In February, over 5,700 Daesh detainees from more than 60 countries were transferred to Iraq by the United States, after years held in Syrian prisons overseen by Kurdish-led forces. Among them were at least five French nationals, some of whom were minors when their parents joined Daesh.

Ishaq Dar off to New York

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar has departed Islamabad for New York, where he will accompany Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif from 21-25 September for the High-Level Week of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). DPM/FM will have an extensive and wide-ranging programme during the High Level week. He will attend the meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu & Kashmir during which he will highlight Pakistan's unwavering support for the right to self determination of the Kashmiris. He will also attend several OIC Ministerial meetings on the sidelines of the UNGA, including OIC Foreign Ministers' Annual Coordination Meeting, as well as other OIC Contact Group meetings. As a reflection of Pakistan's strong support for the Palestinian cause, DPM/FM will attend several high level meetings on the issue of Palestine, including meeting of the Group of Eight Arab Islamic countries, as well as High-level Ministerial Meeting of the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution among others. DPM/FM will deliver a statement during the UN Security Council high level briefing on the issue of Artificial Intelligence, in addition to attending the High-Level Meeting on Pandemic prevention, preparedness & response. He will also Chair the Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers.

North Korea fires projectiles

SEOUL: North Korea fired an unidentified projectile off its east coast on Sunday, South Korea's military said, days after Pyongyang reaffirmed its status as a nuclear-armed state. The launch came eight days after North Korea fired multiple short-range ballistic missiles towards the East Sea - also called the Sea of Japan - as part of what it later described as a joint firepower drill. It also followed Pyongyang's rejection this week of a resolution by the UN nuclear watchdog demanding that it halt its nuclear activities. "The North has fired an unidentified projectile into the East Sea," South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. The office of the Japanese prime minister also confirmed the launch, saying on X that the projectile was a "suspected ballistic missile". - APP

Chile's Bachelet quits race to be next UN chief



SANTIAGO: Michelle Bachelet, the former president of Chile, withdrew her candidacy for the position of United Nations secretary-general on Saturday, weeks after a straw poll showed her in second to last place among eight candidates. "Today I announced that I have decided not to continue with my candidacy for the position of secretary-general of the United Nations," Bachelet, who served

as Chile's first female leader, said in a video posted on her social media accounts. "Some may believe that the time was not right for a candidacy like the one I sought to represent. I do not regret having taken on this great challenge," she said. Bachelet stressed that by running for the top UN post, she had helped spark debate "that the next secretary-general should be a woman from Latin America." Chile's government said in a statement that it had withdrawn its support for Bachelet's candidacy in March. Since then, it has not backed any of the candidates in the running. The government also "reaffirmed its commitment to multilateralism and to reform of the United Nations." So far in three polls as part of the informal process to pick the next UN chief, the 15-member Security Council twice placed Costa Rica's former vice president Rebeca Grynspan in the lead. Guyanese ex-foreign minister Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett placed first in the third poll. Bachelet was initially nominated last February by the administration of then-president Gabriel Boric, and supported by the leftist leaders of Mexico and Brazil. But the left-leaning 74-year-old's candidacy lost momentum after Chile's new leader, far-right President Jose Antonio Kast, withdrew his backing. Earlier this month at a university event, Bachelet had appeared to recognize her underdog status, joking about her slim chances of leading the global body. No woman has led the United Nations in its 80-year history, and only one Latin American has served as secretary-general: Javier Perez de Cuellar of Peru, at the helm from 1982 to 1991. According to unwritten practice - one that is not always followed - the top position rotates among geographic regions. - APP

یکم جنوری 2006 کے بعد سے رجسٹرڈ موٹر سائیکل، چنگچی، رکشہ اور چھوٹی گاڑیاں خصوصی ریلیف اسکیم کے لیے اہل ہیں

وزیر اعظم کی خصوصی ریلیف اسکیم

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ایک ہفتے میں

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برس روز 100 روپے فی لیٹر بچت

میں 10 لیٹر پر

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