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China, Pakista ties constantly on the move, says envoy

Detailed News On Page-08

EU knows how to protect ICC, says Kaja Kallas

Detailed News On Page-08

Can Infantino last until FIFA election in March 2027?

Detailed News On Page-06



CDF Munir reaffirms armed forces' resolve to defeat terrorism

Field Marshal reviews KP security situation and counterterrorism operations during Peshawar Corps visit, says ISPR

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir visited Corps Headquarters Peshawar on Tuesday, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said. The military's media wing said the Field Marshal was briefed on the prevailing security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, ongoing counterterrorism operations, border management measures and the operational preparedness of formations deployed in the province. CDF Munir commended the high morale, readiness and professionalism of officers and troops, acknowledging their steadfast commitment to safeguarding the country and its people. He directed formations to remain vigilant and maintain the highest standards of operational preparedness, the military's media wing said. The army chief emphasised that the armed forces, with the unwavering support of the nation, remain resolute in their determination to defeat terrorism and ensure lasting peace and stability across the country. He also laid a floral wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhada and offered Fateha, paying rich tribute to those who laid down their lives in defence of the motherland and in the fight against terrorism. He reaffirmed that their supreme sacrifices would never be forgotten. Upon arrival, the field marshal was received by the Commander Peshawar Corps. His visit came days after a deadly attack on Kohat's old Police Lines that left 22 people dead, including 16 police officials and six civilians, while 103 others were injured.

French national security head calls on CDF

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Mr. Nicolas Roche, Secretary General for Defence and National Security (SGDSN) of France accompanied by Mr. Jean-Noël Poirier, Ambassador of France to Pakistan, called on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff & Chief of Defence Forces (COAS & CDF), at General Headquarters (GHQ), Rawalpindi. During the meeting matters of mutual interest, including regional security, bilateral cooperation in defence and security domains were discussed. The COAS & CDF reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening of bilateral ties and further enhancing defence and security cooperation. Mr. Nicolas Roche acknowledged Pakistan's efforts to promote regional peace, stability and reciprocated France's interest in expanding cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Police and security forces subsequently launched an overnight clearance operation inside the Police Lines. Elite Force commandos, Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) teams and other security personnel took part in the operation, clearing key sections of the compound. Eight militants were ultimately killed during the operation, according to the Central Police Office. Security sources said the Pakistan Army joined the operation after Fajr prayers and killed the last two suicide bombers hiding inside the compound. In the aftermath of recent multiple terrorist incidents, Pakistan carried out an intelligence-based ground operation and airstrikes targeting militant safe havens in parts of Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, including in the border region with Afghanistan, the Ministry of Information said on Monday. Pakistan has witnessed a surge in militant activity, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, since 2021, when the Afghan Taliban returned to power. According to a report by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS), the two provinces remained the country's main hotspots for violence during the second quarter of 2026, with KP emerging as the worst-affected region. The report said KP and Balochistan together accounted for nearly 96% of all violence-related fatalities recorded

Continued on Page 06



RAWALPINDI: Mr. Nicolas Roche, Secretary General for Defence and National Security (SGDSN) of France accompanied by Mr. Jean-Noël Poirier, Ambassador of France to Pakistan, called on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir. – DNA

463 kg of Afghan-origin meth worth \$21m seized

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: US and Pakistani authorities have seized approximately 463kg of crystal methamphetamine worth \$21 million in a coordinated operation targeting an Afghan-origin narcotics network, the US Embassy in Islamabad said on Monday.

In a statement, the embassy said that the seizure took place on August 30 as the embassy's Drug Enforcement Administration office (DEA Islamabad) coordinated with Pakistan's Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) to make this seizure, in cooperation with Sri Lanka's Police Narcotics Bureau and DEA's New Delhi office. Between August 14 and 29, ANF's Karachi-based Port Control Unit identified containers scheduled for transport from

Continued on Page 06

Six militants killed in IBOs

NEWS DESK

QUETTA: Security forces carried out an operation against India-backed Fitna al-Hindustan terrorists in Balochistan, killing six of them under Operation Shaaban-II, security sources said. During the operation carried out in the Saran Tangi area, the security forces also detained nine suspected individuals. According to security sources, the operation was launched based on intelligence reports and successfully targeted alleged Fitna al-Hindustan militants. Weapons and ammunition were recovered from the possession of the slain militants, the security sources added. The operation was conducted a day after six Pakistan Army personnel,

Continued on Page 06

Sit-in to continue

JI puts off Islamabad long march

The decision comes after a phone call between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the JI chief

DNA

KARACHI: Jamaat-Islami (JI) chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman on Tuesday said his party was postponing its long march to Islamabad against the petroleum levy at the request of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif until a meeting was held with the latter. Rehman, along with other party leaders, announced the decision during a press conference in Multan, where his caravan arrived on Monday night as part of the long march JI had launched the day before. The decision comes after a phone call between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the JI chief, in which the premier urged the latter to "postpone

Continued on Page 06

Imran family members denied meeting with brother

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Ex-prime minister Imran Khan's cousin, Qasim Zaman, reached Rawalpindi's Adiala jail on Tuesday but was not allowed a meeting with the PTI founder, Awais Younas Chaudhry, a PTI lawyer told Dawn. "We reached there at around 2pm and waited until after 4pm, but a meeting was not allowed," he said.

Continued on Page 06

Last address to the UN General Assembly

UN chief calls for AI curbs, end to wars

DNA

NEW YORK: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres used his final address to the General Assembly on Tuesday to urge world leaders to regulate artificial intelligence, end wars, focus on climate change and overhaul UN institutions he warned are struggling to confront mounting global challenges. The former Portuguese prime minister, whose second five-year term ends on December 31, reiterated his calls for global oversight of AI risks, just as the

Continued on Page 06

Trump says US could reach deal with Iran after elections

DNA

NEW YORK: President Donald Trump told the United Nations on Tuesday that he believes the United States will strike a deal with Iran soon after the upcoming mid-term elections in November.

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Pak, other Muslim states slam Israel

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan joined other Muslim countries on Tuesday in calling for Israel to "immediately fulfill its outstanding commitments" under the first phase of a plan aimed at ending the conflict in Gaza. The demand was made in a joint statement attributed to the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Egypt, Türkiye, Indonesia, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates after they met on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The statement said that as part of its commitments under the Gaza plan, Israel should ensure the immediate, safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian.

PTI arrests: IHC summons police officials

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday summoned the senior superintendent of police (operations) on September 24 in a petition concerning alleged harassment of PTI leaders and raids on their homes ahead of the party's scheduled long march to the capital. Meanwhile, IHCBA has also claimed that police were intimidating and detaining members of the legal fraternity. The IHC directives came as Justice Raja Inaam Ameen Minhas heard a petition filed by PTI leaders, including Malik Aamir Dogar and Shoaib Shaheen, challenging alleged police harassment and raids on the residences of party leaders.



NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif arrives to attend the UN General Assembly inaugural session. – DNA

Erdogan proposes ending UN Security Council veto power

The UN Security Council's five permanent members; China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States, each have the power to veto substantive resolutions

DNA

NEW YORK: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has called for the abolition of the veto power held by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, arguing that the current system no longer reflects global political and economic realities. In an opinion piece published by Bloomberg on Tuesday, Erdogan said recent global crises, including wars, pandemics, energy shocks and supply-chain disruptions, had demonstrated the limitations of an international decision-making system in which a small number of countries retain disproportionate influence. The UN Security Council's five permanent members; China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States, each have the power to veto

substantive resolutions. Erdogan argued that reform efforts should focus on eliminating that privilege rather than expanding permanent membership and granting veto powers to additional countries. Adding more privileged members, he said, would not address the underlying problem of decision-making authority being concentrated among a limited group of states.



Instead, Erdogan proposed a Security Council without permanent members, with countries elected by the UN General Assembly for fixed and rotating terms. States seeking to return to the council would have to secure the support of a majority of UN members through a fresh election.

He also called for the powers of the General Assembly to be strengthened and for the Security Council to become more accountable to the wider UN membership. Erdogan has for years promoted the phrase "The world is bigger than five", a reference to Türkiye's position that the UN system should provide greater representation for countries outside the current group of permanent Security Council members. His latest comments come amid longstanding

Continued on Page 06

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Attaullah calls for KP govt's attention to public welfare

Information minister said sixteen years had been passed since the NFC Award came into effect. He questioned as to where billions of rupees allocated for maintaining law and order in the province had been spent

DNA

PESAHWAR: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has called for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government's greater attention to the development and public welfare in the province. Addressing a news conference at the Peshawar Press Club in Peshawar today, he said the government resources in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa belong to the people and should be used for public welfare rather than protests. He said the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has been receiving its share under the NFC Award every year during the counter-terrorism period. Attaullah Tarar said sixteen years had been passed since the NFC Award came into effect. He questioned as to where billions of rupees allocated for maintaining law and order in the province had been spent. Talking about the significance of the Peshawar Press Club, the Information Minister said this club has

a unique standing and journalists in the city have rendered great sacrifices in the fight against terrorism. He proposed preparing a database of journalists and media workers who lost their lives while performing their professional duties. He said a comprehensive mechanism will also be developed for the welfare of journalists and media workers who were martyred or died during service. Attaullah Tarar stressed the need to pay special attention to the families of deceased journalists and media workers. He also said health insurance should be introduced for journalists in Peshawar. He appreciated the Peshawar Press Club's balanced policy regarding the national narrative. Referring to Radio Pakistan Peshawar, the Information Minister said the building, set ablaze on May 9, has been fully restored and made operational on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He said the doors of Radio Pakistan are open to journalists and media persons in Peshawar who can use its studios to record podcasts and

v-logs. He further said podcast and other studios should be made available to local journalists. Attaullah Tarar recalled that the late Abdullah Jan had announced the creation of Pakistan in Pashto from Radio Pakistan Peshawar. He said Radio Pakistan continues to play an important role in providing information to the public. The Minister said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa needed greater focus on construction, development and public welfare. He said the incumbent government has been in power in the province for around twelve and a half years and there is a lack of development, which requires attention. Regarding the political situation, Attaullah Tarar said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had spoken by telephone with Jamaat-e-Islami Chief Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman. Answering a question, the Minister said the Islamabad High Court has issued clear directions that movement of citizens should not be disrupted. He said a single sit-in can cause traders losses amounting to 120 billion rupees.

ICCI to host 'Islamabad governance, provincial status convention'



DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Sardar Tahir Mehmood has announced that the ICCI will hold an "Islamabad Governance and Provincial Status Convention 2026" on September 25, 2026, to initiate an inclusive consultation on the future governance structure and status of Islamabad. Addressing a hugely attended Press Conference here on Tuesday at the Chamber House, he said that Islamabad remains governed under the 1960 ordinance, introduced when the federal capital was new and largely undeveloped. With its population approaching

2.5 million, the system can no longer meet the city's growing administrative, urban, and service-delivery needs. Sardar Tahir Mehmood said citizens of Islamabad lack an elected, effective forum to seek answers on sanitation, water supply, traffic management, infrastructure, taxation, and municipal services. Members of the National Assembly also lack authority over several key matters, while overlapping federal and administrative institutions have created unclear accountability. The absence of an elected Mayor since 2021 further highlights the weaknesses of the current local government system. He said that "Islamabad needs more than a mayor; it needs a chief executive

elected by the people and answerable to their representatives. He also called for a transparent financial framework. Although Islamabad collects various taxes and fees, it needs a clear legal and fiscal formula based on its population, responsibilities, and resource requirements. Sardar Tahir Mehmood said that various governance models and proposed legal frameworks for Islamabad are currently under discussion, but the stakeholders for whom these arrangements are being considered must be meaningfully consulted. The convention will therefore bring together the business community, trade associations, bar councils, civil society, academia, professionals and residents of Islamabad on a common platform.

Juniad outlines 100-acre mariculture estate

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Juniad Anwar Chaudhry has outlined a plan to establish a 100-acre Mariculture Investment and Development Estate (MIDE) at the Korangi Fisheries Harbour Authority (KoFHA). Addressing a briefing session on the proposed project, the min-

ister said the estate would integrate mariculture and aquaculture operations with hatcheries, research and innovation, processing, value addition, cold-chain facilities and commercial services under a single development framework. "The development of a modern mariculture ecosystem can help Pakistan move

towards higher-value fisheries production, strengthen aquatic seed production and promote value addition and export-oriented activities," Juniad Chaudhry said. He stated that the hatchery zone would support advanced aquatic seed production, while the research park would provide facilities for research, innova-

tion and training. Juniad Chaudhry further said that the initiative was aimed at attracting investment, increasing exports, generating employment and promoting technology and innovation as part of the country's blue economy. "Investing in modern marine infrastructure and technology is essential for building a sustainable blue economy and creating new economic opportunities for coastal communities," he said. Mariculture ecosystem operations are the management and functioning of marine farming systems within coastal and ocean environments.—DNA

Mohsin pledges mental-strength revolution in sports

OUR CORRESPONDENCE

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's decorated F-Class long-range shooter and sports psychologist, Mohsin Nawaz, has pledged to dedicate his expertise to transforming the mental preparedness of the country's athletes, emphasising that correct mental orientation must become a core pillar of Pakistan's pursuit of international sporting success. Mohsin believes Pakistani sportspersons require structured mental preparation to translate their raw potential into podium finishes on major international stages. His framework centers on pressure management, stress and anxiety reduction, goal setting, visualisation, and simulated-pressure training that allows athletes to experience competition-like environments during practice to build composure, focus, and confidence when facing unfamiliar environments. "Rather than attempting to eliminate competitive pressure, our goal must be to equip athletes with practical tools to manage it and remain focused on execution," Mohsin



noted, drawing from his background in F-Class long-range shooting where concentration and emotional control are paramount. His standing

in elite sports is further backed by prominent international roles, serving as an official Brand Ambassador for global industry leaders Kahles Optics and Peregrine Bullets, alongside his key association with the HawkSmith Gun & Sporting Club. Aligning with this vision, Mohsin highlighted an initiative of national strategic importance being developed with HawkSmith, designed to introduce premium shooting and sports facilities in Pakistan. The project aims to foster a planned, professional sports lifestyle among the country's youth, providing modern infrastructure and athletic development pathways for the next generation. Urging sports federations and coaches across the nation to integrate psychological assessments, athlete profiling, and team cohesion programs well ahead of international assignments, Mohsin emphasised that mental readiness must become a continuous component of athlete development. Through systematic mental conditioning, he aims to empower Pakistani athletes to enter international arenas with unshakeable composure, resilience, and a result-oriented mindset.



ISLAMABAD: Principal Information Officer (PIO) Ms. Raisa Adil and Ms. Zhuang Xinyan exchanging views on the occasion of the Mid-Autumn and National Day celebrations, at Islamabad Serena Hotel. DNA

Kundi stresses need for peace in KP

DNA

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi said Pakistan, particularly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, urgently needed lasting peace, urging the provincial government to focus on ensuring the safety of citizens instead of pursuing political confrontation. Addressing a ceremony held at the Governor House to mark the International Day of Democracy and Peace, the Governor said the province was facing a deteriorating law and order situation, with security personnel, police officers and civilians continuing to lose their lives in terrorist incidents.

He said funerals of martyrs were still being held while political leaders were talking about marching on Islamabad, adding that restoring peace and protecting the lives of citizens should remain the top priority of the provincial government. Kundi said peaceful protest was the constitutional right of every citizen, but warned that announcing intentions of confrontation before holding a protest could create a dangerous situation.

Referring to recent political developments, the Governor said legal matters should be resolved through the courts, adding that the release of PTI founder Imran Khan could only come through judicial process and not through protests. He urged all political stakeholders to jointly present Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's case before the federation, saying promises made to the merged districts at the time of the former FATA merger, as well as commitments under the NFC Award, had yet to be fulfilled.

Former Deputy Speaker of the KP Assembly Kiramatullah Khan Chagarmatti, Members Provincial Assembly (MPAs) Mehr Sultana and Ashber Jadoon, Pakistan Red Crescent KP Chairman, Farzand Ali Wazir, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) provincial leaders and other political and social figures attended the ceremony. A cake was also cut during the event to mark the 38th birthday of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

Abbasi orders austerity measures in Railways

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi has ordered immediate implementation of the Prime Minister's austerity measures in Pakistan Railways, taking a number of steps to curtail non-essential expenditure and ensure financial discipline. Under the directives, the issuance of House Building Advance (HBA) loans to Pakistan Railways officers and employees has been suspended until December 31, 2026. The minister has also decided to impose a ban on

official foreign visits by all Pakistan Railways officers and employees, including himself, until further orders as part of the austerity drive. In another major measure, official fuel allocations for all officers have been reduced by 50 percent, while the minister's own official fuel allocation has also been cut by half. The minister directed the Pakistan Railways administration to immediately enforce all relevant instructions issued under the Prime Minister's austerity measures.

He said the steps were aimed at ensuring effective utilisation of available resources, reducing unnecessary expenditure and maintaining financial discipline within the department. Hanif Abbasi directed all concerned officials to strictly implement the austerity measures and ensure that government resources were used efficiently. The Prime Minister's recent austerity measures include directives to limit government expenditure and reduce unnecessary foreign travel.—DNA

Pak attaches great importance to its friendly ties with Maldives

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of People's Majlis of the Maldives, Abdul Raheem Abdulla, leading a parliamentary delegation, arrived at the Parliament House on Tuesday on an official visit to Pakistan.

Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq warmly received the Maldivian Speaker upon his arrival at the Parliament House. The visiting delegation held discussions on bilateral relations between Pakistan and the Maldives, with particular emphasis on further promoting parliamentary linkages and cooperation between the

two countries. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening parliamentary contacts and institutional cooperation between the two legislatures. Ayaz Sadiq said that the visit of the Maldivian parliamentary delegation would prove to be an important step towards strengthening institutional linkages between the legislatures of Pakistan and the Maldives. He noted that Pakistan attaches great importance to its longstanding and friendly relations with the Maldives and expressed the desire to further expand

parliamentary cooperation between the two countries. The Speaker highlighted the role of the Pak-Maldives Parliamentary Friendship Group in promoting parliamentary contacts and cooperation between the two countries. He also said that various parliamentarians forums, including the Young Parliamentary Forums, SDGs Secretariat, Women Parliamentary Caucus and Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights, are playing an active role in the National Assembly. The Maldivian parliamentary delegation is visiting Pakistan at the invitation of Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. Abdul Raheem Abdulla appreciated the goodwill sentiments expressed by the National Assembly Speaker towards the Maldives and thanked him for his support during the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference held in Cape Town.—APP

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- Sept01/Uzbekistan Independence Day
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- Sept09/DPR Korea National Day
- Sept09/Tajikistan Independence Day
- Sept16/Malaysia Armed Forces Day
- Sept16/Mexico National Day
- Sept16/Papua New Guinea Independence Day
- Sept18/Chile National Day
- Sept21/Malta Independence Day
- Sept23/Saudi Arabia National Day

- Turkish Airlines.....8494949
- Rescue (Police).....15
- Bomb Disposal.....15
- Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16
- Emergency Ambulance.1122 & Rescue Services.4451122
- Motorway Police...9266044
- Motorway Police.9270601-20
- Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596
- Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



Enquiry

- Edhi Ambulance.....115
- PIA Flight Info.....114
- PIA Cargo.....9280979
- Railway Inquiry.....117
- Railway Exchange9270831-5
- WASA Rawalpindi.555489
- CAA.....9281092



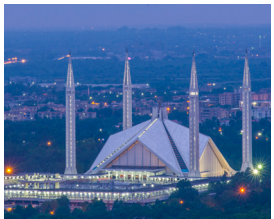
Hospitals

- CMH.....5611111
- MH.....561116
- Cantt Hospital...9270907-11
- DHQ.....5556311-4
- RGH.....9290301-7
- Holy Family.....9290322-7
- PIMS.....9261170-79
- Polyclinic.....9218300-09
- Shifa International 4603666



Departments

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



Islamabad Metropolitan

- Corporation.....9209224
- Potohar Town.....9209224
- Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

- Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Pakistan-Romania Business Council called on H.E Dan Stoenescu, Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan. The delegation briefed the ambassador about its upcoming visit to Romania where the Council plans to interact with Romanian business people with a view to strengthening bilateral relations. DNA

UK-AI system boosts tax compliance in cement sector

ISLAMABAD: The Digital Eye system is now tracking production at all 27 cement factories in Pakistan, helping the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) strengthen tax compliance and improve revenue collection for public services. The system, first piloted in 2023, uses advanced video analytics to monitor production lines in real time, providing factories and the FBR with an independent record of production. Working alongside FBR's existing Track and Trace System, it gives tax authorities greater visibility of output while reducing reliance on manual inspection and paperwork. British High Commissioner Jane Marriott visited Fecto Cement alongside senior FBR officials to see the technology in operation. During the visit, they toured the production line, observed the monitoring system and received a briefing on how the technology is supporting tax administration reforms.

British High Commissioner Jane Marriott CMG OBE said: "Digital Eye is a strong example of the UK and Pakistan working together to deliver practical change. Built in Pakistan and now operated nationwide by the FBR, it shows how innovation can be scaled to strengthen tax compliance, support fair competition and improve transparency. The UK is proud to have supported that journey through technical expertise, whilst helping build the institutional capability needed to sustain it." Dr. Najeeb Ullah, Chief Reforms & Modernization, at the FBR said: "The results speak for themselves. Real-time production monitoring has already strengthened compliance in cement and sugar, and it has done so without adding to the burden on compliant taxpayers. Our focus now is on consolidating what we have built, improving accuracy, deepening the skills of our own teams, and extending the system

to further sectors. Accurate production data protects the businesses that declare honestly and we are grateful to the UK for its technical support through REMIT, and we intend to take this approach into further sectors." Developed by a Pakistani technology company, the solution was tested, refined and rolled out nationwide with UK technical support. The project demonstrates how Pakistani innovation can be scaled through international partnership to deliver reforms at national level. The technology and the wider reform behind it are also attracting interest from countries across Africa, which are looking to Pakistan's experience for lessons on modernising tax compliance. The system complements FBR's existing Track and Trace System. While Track and Trace records products leaving the production line, Digital Eye independently monitors

production through AI-powered video analytics, allowing the two systems to be cross-checked and increasing confidence in reported output. UK support has also helped the FBR build the capability to operate, maintain and further develop the system independently. What began as a pilot project has since expanded into a nationwide system covering all 27 cement factories in Pakistan and has been extended to the sugar sector. There are further plans to extend the approach to additional sectors. The Government of Pakistan has reported that wider reforms helped recover Rs 32 billion from the cement sector and increased recorded sugar production by 31 per cent during the most recent crushing season. These results reflect a range of policy and compliance measures, of which Digital Eye forms one part.—DNA

CDA chief orders steps to ease Kashmir Chowk traffic

Capital Development Authority (CDA) Chairman Sohail Ashraf on Tuesday directed officials to ensure uninterrupted traffic flow at Kashmir Chowk and minimise inconvenience to commuters during construction of the underpass being built at the busy junction

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) Chairman Sohail Ashraf on Tuesday directed officials to ensure uninterrupted traffic flow at Kashmir Chowk and minimise inconvenience to commuters during construction of the underpass being built at the busy junction. The chairman issued the directions during a visit to Kashmir Chowk, where he reviewed progress on the underpass project and the traffic management measures in place. He was briefed by the director general infrastructure on the progress of work, ongoing activities and the timeline for completion. The chairman directed the concerned formations to ensure that temporary traffic arrangements

remained effective until completion of the underpass. He also called for special attention to traffic management during peak hours. Officials briefed him on a traffic management solution for Kashmir Chowk and Murree Road aimed at addressing bottlenecks and improving vehicular movement. The chairman directed the authorities to coordinate with relevant departments and focus on lane management, road improvements and connectivity between major roads to minimise disruption caused by the development works. He also directed the director general infrastructure, project directors and field officers to conduct regular inspections and closely monitor

the pace and quality of construction. Any bottleneck affecting the project, he said, should be identified and resolved without delay. The chairman further directed that the underpass and other development projects be completed within the stipulated timelines while adhering to engineering and safety standards. He said work on underpasses, bridges, roads and other infrastructure projects was being accelerated to improve mobility and address traffic problems in the capital. Commuters at Kashmir Chowk welcomed the measures being taken to address congestion and expressed hope that timely completion of the underpass would provide lasting relief.—APP

NCCIA chief seeks transparency in construction projects

ISLAMABAD: National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Director General Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi has directed officials to ensure transparency, quality control and timely completion of the agency's under-construction buildings and infrastructure projects. He issued the directions while chairing a high-level meeting of senior NCCIA officers at the agency's headquarters here on Tuesday, where progress on ongoing construction and development works was reviewed in detail. The meeting was briefed on the current status of the projects, quality of construction material, costs, timelines and technical and administrative issues being faced during the execution of the works. The participants also discussed a comprehensive plan for developing the agency's infrastructure in line with its institutional requirements, besides reviewing measures for effective and transparent utilisation of resources and ensuring quality control in construction works. Ali Nasir Rizvi directed the concerned officers to ensure high standards, transparency and completion of all construction projects within the stipulated timelines. He said no negligence or delay in the execution of the projects would be tolerated. The NCCIA chief further directed that the agency's under-construction buildings should be developed on sound engineering principles and durable foundations so that they could adequately meet institutional requirements and provide officers and personnel with a better working environment. —APP

President felicitates Saudi leadership, on National Day

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has extended heartfelt felicitations to the leadership and brotherly people of Saudi Arabia on the occasion of the Kingdom's 96th National Day, saying the signing of the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement and the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement have further strengthened the strategic dimension of the longstanding Pakistan-Saudi partnership. In his letters to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the President said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia share deep-rooted ties of faith, shared history, friendship, mutual trust and solidarity. The President said the two countries greatly value their close relations, marked by strong cooperation and mutual support at bilateral, regional and international fora. He said the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement and the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement mark important milestones in the longstanding partnership, contributing to peace, stability and security in the region. President Zardari expressed confidence that the fraternal relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia would continue to deepen and expand across diverse areas of mutual interest for the mutual benefit of the two countries and peoples. In his message to the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, President Zardari said he looks forward to welcoming him to Pakistan at an early and convenient date and to working closely with him to further deepen and broaden bilateral cooperation.—APP

Pak Post prints 6.83m commemorative stamps

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Post printed 6.83 million commemorative stamps and 220,000 souvenir sheets from 2024 to 2026, issuing 54 stamps and 19 souvenir sheets under its annual commemorative programme to highlight national days, prominent personalities, cultural and natural heritage, social awareness and Pakistan's international and diplomatic ties. According to documents available with Wealth Pakistan, Pakistan Post issued 54 commemorative stamps during the three years, including 13 in 2024, 27 in 2025 and 14 in 2026. The postal service printed 2.3 million commemorative stamps in 2024, 3.5 million in 2025 and 1.03 million in 2026, bringing the total to 6.83 million. It also issued 19 souvenir sheets during the period, comprising six in 2024, 10 in 2025 and three in 2026. In terms of printing volume, Pakistan Post produced 85,000 souvenir sheets in 2024, 105,000 in 2025 and 30,000 in 2026, taking the three-year total to 220,000. The commemorative programme covered seven broad themes: national days, eminent personalities, cultural heritage, natural heritage, international relations.—APP

Call for integrated system to monitor glaciers, climate data

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr Musadik Malik on Tuesday called for integration of national institutions dealing with climate, glacier monitoring, early warning systems, satellite data and disaster management to ensure timely availability and effective use of climate-related information. The climate change minister told the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, chaired by Senator Sherry Rehman, that Pakistan needed a coordinated mechanism under which relevant departments could automatically share data instead of waiting for formal requests from one another. He said Prime Minister had constituted a committee under the Ministry of Defence to bring relevant departments and institutions onto a common platform. Dr Malik said a virtual platform had already been developed as part of efforts to integrate available information. He said glacier and water systems were dealt with by the Ministry of Water Resources, while the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) was responsible for devices monitoring snowfall and glacier melt. Early warning systems, he said, fell under the Ministry of Defence, satellite data was handled by the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commis-

sion (Suparco), while disaster-related matters were dealt with by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). "Whether civilian or defence-related, satellite data is with Suparco, while disaster management is the responsibility of NDMA. We need to bring these systems together so that the country can receive integrated and timely data," the minister said. Dr Malik said the government was also working towards establishing a new authority to deal with civilian weather-related matters. The proposed authority, he said, would also serve as the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination's think tank. He added that proposals in this regard would be finalised and presented before the federal cabinet shortly. Discussing glacier-related risks, Dr Malik said glacier melt and flooding were two different phenomena and required different responses. "Dams can help control floods, but glaciers cannot be stopped," he said, adding that glacier-related disasters could involve movement of land and terrain and were therefore not simply a matter of water flow. The minister said the government was exploring the use of digital twinning for better understanding and modelling of climate- and glacier-related risks. He also stressed the need for establishing a digital laboratory._APP

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Briefs**PSW integrates with NADRA's PakID app for biometric verification**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Single Window (PSW) has integrated with the National Database and Registration Authority's (NADRA) PakID Mobile App, enabling PSW users to complete the mandatory verification process remotely through the App for PSW subscription, subscription renewal and profile updates. Previously, completing biometric verification required users to physically visit a NADRA e-Sahulat Centre. With the PakID integration, users can now complete their PSW biometric verification remotely through their smartphones, subject to applicable NADRA verification requirements, reducing the need for physical visits. The facility offers a particularly significant convenience for overseas Pakistanis engaged in trade-related activities in Pakistan. Eligible overseas users can now complete their PSW biometric verification remotely through the PakID Mobile App. To ensure a smooth transition and uninterrupted facilitation for the business community, both verification channels will remain operational during an interim period. During this phase, users can choose to verify their biometrics either digitally via the PakID Mobile App or continue visiting NADRA e-Sahulat Centres.—APP

Activated carbon useful for water treatment

ISLAMABAD: Activated carbon can help remove unpleasant smell, taste, colour, chlorine and certain organic contaminants from water, but it could not be used alone as a complete water treatment system, an expert from the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) said. Talking to APP, Director, National Water Quality Laboratory, PCRWR, Saiga Imran, said activated carbon was normally incorporated as one of several stages in a water treatment system, with each stage designed to address specific impurities. She explained that cartridge filters were generally used to remove turbidity, while activated carbon filters served a different purpose by trapping certain substances responsible for undesirable taste, odour and colour in water. The expert said coal-based activated carbon was commonly used in filtration systems to reduce smell, colour and taste-related impurities and could make water clearer to some extent. However, she cautioned against considering activated carbon a complete solution for all water-quality problems.—APP

USF Policy Committee okays Rs 32.90b budget

ISLAMABAD: The Universal Service Fund (USF) Policy Committee on Tuesday approved the USF budget for fiscal year 2026-27, with an outlay of Rs. 32.90 billion aimed at expanding digital connectivity across unserved and underserved areas of the country. The committee was chaired by Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja, who was briefed by USF Chief Executive Officer Mudassar Naveed and senior management of the Fund, said a news release. They presented the proposed programme portfolio and budgetary priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. The approved budget comprises Rs. 24.89 billion for disbursements against ongoing projects and Rs. 6.56 billion earmarked for new initiatives. Currently, 28 projects are under implementation, including 17 Next Generation Broadband Service Delivery (NG-BSD) mobile broadband projects and 11 Next Generation Optical Fiber Network Services (NG-OFNS) projects. Under the new allocation, nine NG-BSD and four NG-OFNS projects had been approved, in addition to block allocations for small lots under both programmes.—APP

Al-Shifa finds refractive errors leading eye problem among kids

“The school screening programme provides an important preventive component of Al-Shifa’s eye-care work, helping identify vision problems among children at an early stage,” said Dr Hafiz Muhammad Najam ul Hasnat, GM ACCO

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Al-Shifa Trust has released a new report on its community eye-care programme, finding that refractive errors are the most common eye problem identified among children during school screening camps. The report, prepared by the Al-Shifa Center for Community Ophthalmology (ACCO), highlights the importance of early detection of vision problems among children. Refractive error ranks first among the top five conditions identified through its school screening programme. Squint ranks second, followed by conjunctivitis, blepharitis and sty. The findings underline the role of school-based eye screening in identifying children who may otherwise continue their education with undetected vision problems. Early detection can help children receive appropriate eye care and reduce the risk of vision problems affecting their education and daily activities. ACCO has developed one of Pakistan’s most extensive community eye-care outreach programmes, operating screening, school screening and



surgical eye camps through teams based at Al-Shifa Trust hospitals in Rawalpindi, Sukkur, Kohat, Muzaffarabad and Chakwal. Since its establishment, the programme

has conducted more than 5,000 school screening camps and benefited more than seven million people through its community activities. It has also reached more than 150 of Pakistan’s 170 districts. The outreach programme has conducted more than 500 surgical eye camps, over 5,000 community screening camps and more than 100,000 free cataract surgeries. These activities extend free eye care to rural and underserved communities where access to specialist services remains limited. Al-Shifa has also introduced three mobile operation theatres to perform vision-restoring procedures, including cataract surgery, in communities with limited healthcare infrastructure. The Trust’s outreach work has expanded alongside patient demand. ACCO recorded 715,333 outpatient visits during 2025-26, compared with 665,608 in 2024-25. “The school screening programme provides an important preventive component of Al-Shifa’s eye-care work, helping identify vision problems among children at an early stage,” said Dr Hafiz Muhammad Najam ul Hasnat, GM ACCO. The Trust aims to make quality eye care accessible and affordable while working to reduce preventable blindness in Pakistan.

Senate Secretariat fuel conservation, austerity steps

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Tuesday approved a comprehensive package of fuel conservation and austerity measures for the Senate Secretariat aimed at reducing expenditure and promoting the efficient use of public resources. Under the measures, Monday to Thursday will be observed as physical working days, while Friday will be observed as a work-from-home day during non-session days. Employees will remain available through telephone, email, WhatsApp and other means of communication and will be required to report to the office within one hour if directed by the competent authority. Official office timings will be from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on non-session days. During Senate sessions, offices will remain open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or until the conclusion of the session. As part of the transport-related austerity measures, fuel provision for official vehicles has been reduced by 50 percent for three months, while the purchase of vehicles of all types has been completely banned. A five percent reduction in the Non-ERE Budget for the financial year 2026-27 will also be implemented monthly. The Senate Secretariat will also give preference to teleconferencing for meetings, except intra-city meetings, while the number of meetings will be kept to the bare minimum. Foreign visits and travel have been banned for three months, subject to specified exceptions, while official dinners will only be hosted for visiting foreign delegations. The austerity package further prohibits government-funded seminars, training sessions and conferences, with in-house facilities to be preferred where such activities are necessary. E-filing, digital correspondence and electronic sharing of official documents will also be encouraged. The notification directs all offices to ensure the efficient use of electricity by switching off lights, air-conditioning systems, computers, printers, photocopiers and other electrical and electronic equipment when they are not required for official purposes.—DNA

Steps to strengthen insurance grievance redressal

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) on Tuesday recommended increasing the number of Insurance Tribunals and Small Dispute Resolution Committees (SDRCs) and establishing an integrated digital complaint system to improve the resolution of policyholders’ grievances nationwide. The recommendations are outlined in SECP’s report, “Strengthening Insurance Grievance Redressal in Pakistan: Current Status and Strategic Way Forward.” The report reviews the existing grievance mechanisms, which collectively received 37,029 complaints in 2025, said a news release. SECP has recommended that the Ministry of Law and Justice increase the number of Insurance Tribunals according to geographical needs, publish a list of Sessions Courts designated as Insurance Tribunals and ensure the timely appointment of tribunal members. The report also calls for expanding the scope and geographical coverage of SDRCs, periodically reviewing their financial thresholds and digitising their operations through online complaint submission and document sharing. To improve coordination, SECP has proposed a formal mechanism for sharing information and consolidating complaint data among SECP, the Federal Insurance Ombudsman, Wafaqi Mohtasib, Insurance Tribunals, SDRCs and insurance companies. Complaint volumes, resolution rates, disposal times and emerging trends should also be included in the Insurance Industry Statistics Report to support evidence-based regulatory oversight, the report recommends. To address overlapping jurisdictions, the report suggests legal and administrative measures for transferring complaints concerning public-sector insurers to the Federal Insurance Ombudsman, in line with the understanding reached among the relevant authorities. It also calls for grievance forums to publish complaint-resolution timelines and for insurers to clearly inform policyholders about available grievance procedures. The report also calls for a coordinated public-awareness campaign and a stronger role for the Insurance Association of Pakistan in promoting consistent complaint-handling practices across the industry. SECP Chairman Dr Kabir Ahmed Sidhu said that through stronger coordination and the use of technology, we aim to reduce complaint-resolution times, improve accountability and ensure that every policyholder has access to an effective grievance redressal forum. The report provides an action-oriented framework assigning proposed measures to relevant stakeholders to improve access to redressal and the overall policyholder experience.—DNA

NCCIA raids three illegal call centres, 212 held

ISLAMABAD: The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Islamabad has raided three alleged illegal call centres in sectors E-11 and G-10 during the last 24 hours, taking 212 Pakistani and Chinese men and women into custody in connection with an alleged international online fraud network. An official told media on Tuesday that the raids were conducted as part of a major operation against illegal call centres involved in differ-

ent forms of online fraud. An NCCIA spokesperson said the agency recovered 306 mobile phones, 383 computers/CPUs, 299 monitors and laptops during the operations. According to the spokesperson, the suspects allegedly used different methods to target people online, including Google-related fraud, loan and dating schemes, fake social media profiles and fraudulent trading offers. The initial investigation also indicated alleged links of the network with India and Brazil, while Chinese nationals were among those taken into custody, the spokesperson said. In G-10, NCCIA teams raided two alleged illegal call centres, where investigators found that different online schemes were allegedly being used to deceive people. The detained persons also included Pakistani women. Due to the large number of detained suspects, the call centre premises were declared a sub-jail for further legal proceedings. A case has been registered under relevant sections of law against 212 suspects, including seven Chinese nationals, while further investigation is underway to determine the network’s operations, financial links and the role of each suspect.—APP

BISP payment system opens up greater flexibility

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme, Senator Rubina Khalid Tuesday said that women beneficiaries of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) will have greater freedom in accessing their payments under the new Digital Wallet and interoperable payment system, enabling them to withdraw funds from any authorized retailer of any of the Programme’s six partner banks anywhere in Pakistan. She was addressing beneficiaries during a live E-Kachehri held at BISP Headquarters, where she directly heard complaints and queries from callers from different parts of the country and issued instructions to concerned officers for their prompt resolution. The E-Kachehri was broadcast live through BISP’s official Facebook account as part of the Programme’s ongoing public outreach and grievance redressal efforts. As many as 31 callers contacted the Chairperson by telephone and apprised her of their issues and complaints. Senator Rubina Khalid directed the concerned officers to resolve all complaints on a priority basis and submit immediate reports on the action taken. She said that, on the directives of President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, BISP had introduced the Digital Wallet system to ensure secure and transparent transfer of payments to beneficiaries, describing it as a gift from the Govern-

ment of Pakistan for their convenience. Under the interoperability system, she said, beneficiaries would no longer remain restricted to a particular city or a particular bank’s retailer and could receive their payments anywhere in the country, at any time, from any authorized and trusted retailer of HBL, Habib Microfinance, Bank Alfalah, Telenor Microfinance, Bank of Punjab and Mobilink/Jazz Bank. To receive payments, beneficiaries must have their original CNIC and complete biometric verification. Senator Rubina Khalid said beneficiaries whose CNICs had expired should immediately renew their identity cards through NADRA to avoid any difficulty in receiving payments. She also urged beneficiaries who had not yet obtained their free Benazir SIM, or had obtained a SIM from another source, to obtain the free SIM only from their nearest BISP office. Beneficiaries should bring their original CNIC and personal mobile phone for the purpose. She stressed that the Benazir SIM should not be obtained from any franchise, retailer or unauthorized person, nor activated through an unauthorized source. The SIM would be activated at designated BISP sites by representatives of the relevant mobile phone company. The Chairperson further advised beneficiaries to ask BISP staff to insert the SIM into their mobile phones themselves when the SIM was issued.—DNA

PMYP, JA Pak pact to empower young talent

The PMYP continues to collaborate with public and private sector partners to expand opportunities for young people in education, skills development, entrepreneurship, employment and innovation

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister’s Youth Programme (PMYP) and Junior Achievement Pakistan (JA Pakistan) on Tuesday signed a strategic Letter of Intent (LOI) in Islamabad to expand opportunities for Pakistani youth through financial literacy, entrepreneurship, work readiness skills and practical learning, while linking education and skills development with real-world economic opportunities. Chairman PMYP Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan witnessed the signing ceremony held at the PMYP Head Office, which was attended by senior representatives of both organisations, government officials and key stakeholders working in youth development. The LOI was formally signed by JA Pakistan Chief Executive Officer Hassan Noor Pagganwala and PMYP Deputy Director Amsal Zaman. Under the partnership, both organisations will combine JA Pakistan’s experiential learning expertise with PMYP’s nationwide outreach and youth-focused initiatives to equip young people with essential financial literacy, entrepreneurial capabilities, work-readiness skills and practical knowledge. The collaboration will also explore opportunities to support youth development through initiatives linked with Daanish Schools and other youth-focused programmes of the PMYP, helping connect education and skills development with employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. Speaking at the ceremony, Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan highlighted the importance of equipping young people with relevant skills, entrepreneurial knowledge and meaningful opportunities to support their personal growth and contribute to the country’s socio-economic development. The partnership reflects a shared commitment to expanding access to quality learning, strengthening youth capabilities and creating pathways for young Pakistanis to become productive contributors to the national economy. The PMYP continues to collaborate with public and private sector partners to expand opportunities for young people in education, skills development, entrepreneurship, employment and innovation.—DNA

Property moot, Realtors Awards preparations in full swing

ISLAMABAD: Preparations for the Property Conference and Realtors Awards 2026 are in full swing, as organizers are finalizing arrangements for a major gathering aimed at recognizing talent and contributions to Pakistan’s real estate sector. The awards will be presented in various categories, including Hero of Realtors, Young Realtors, Best Influencer, Best Builders and Best Architecture, providing recognition to professionals and emerging talent associated with the property and construction industry. Talking to APP, Chairman SRH International Pvt Ltd Rehan Khan said that the preparations for the event were progressing at a fast pace, with organizing committees and relevant teams finalized to ensure smooth arrangements. He said back-to-back meetings were being held to review preparations, exchange ideas and finalize the various segments of the conference. “We have taken several marketing companies and media partners on board as collaborators, while prominent and well-reputed personalities have also been invited to attend the event,” he said. Rehan said the organizing team was working round the clock to make the conference a meaningful and successful platform for the real estate community. He particularly highlighted the efforts of the social media team, saying it was actively promoting the event and engaging audiences through different social media platforms. He said the conference would also include panel discussions and presentation sessions, providing industry stakeholders an opportunity to discuss emerging trends, challenges and opportunities in the real estate sector. The Chief Executive Officer said the event would bring together realtors, builders, architects, influencers, young professionals, investors, media representatives and other stakeholders associated with the property sector. He said the initiative was aimed at providing recognition to professionals who were contributing to the growth of the real estate industry while also creating opportunities for networking and exchange of ideas among sector stakeholders. Rehan said the date and venue for the Property Conference and Realtors Awards 2026 were yet to be finalized and would be announced soon.—APP

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From New York to Bab Al-Mandab

GHASSAN CHARBEL

SESSIONS of the UN General Assembly have lost much of their glow and much of the hope once invested in them. Leaders go to renew their wager on an awakening of international legitimacy, however late. Before that, they go to address their own people from this international platform. But in reality, they are betting on a public relations spectacle taking place outside the hall of speeches and wishes. In previous decades, the leaders of small states would paint their countries' tears onto the walls of the UN. The General Assembly lived for a long time amid the clamor of the confrontation that dominated the world of two camps. The building in New York holds memories of raucous hours that captured the world's attention: a scene of Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev banging the desk with his shoe; of Fidel Castro, with the allure of his charismatic personality, his beard and his olive-green fatigues, delivering a seemingly endless, fiery speech denouncing American imperialism and affirming himself as a thorn lodged in its side; and of Muammar Qaddafi tearing up the UN Charter and throwing it to the floor, flooding the Libyan delegation with astonishment, embarrassment and shame. Time is an executioner that cuts the neck of dreams and illusions. Castro's mausoleum suffers repeated power cuts for lack of fuel. His country writhes over the fire of crises, awaiting the hour of its fall into the hands of its neighbor and enemy, America. Castro is no longer a source of inspiration at home or abroad. Most likely, he would have felt terrible pain on being told that "General" Donald Trump had led his Venezuelan comrade Nicolas Maduro off to an American prison and struck a deal with his aides. The world has changed. The Soviet delegate's name has become the Russian delegate. The master of the Kremlin can no longer sit with the master of the White House as an equal to discuss the management of the world's affairs. The heir of the Red Army has been fighting on Ukrainian soil for years and is enlisting the soldiers of Kim Il Sung's grandson to reduce the number of bodies returning to the Russian frost. This long war befits neither great Russia nor its leader, Vladimir Putin. The statements of his shadow, Dmitry Medvedev, are regrettable; he speaks as though he is turning a nuclear bomb over in his hands and brandishing it at an aging Europe. The people of the Middle East feel that Antonio Guterres' organization has become a mere relief agency. This week, the people of the Middle East will not pay much attention to the speeches of the General Assembly. They feel that Antonio Guterres' organization has become a mere relief agency, sending flour, tents and blankets to the victims of fires. It has fallen captive to the envoys of the great powers and to regional schemes. The world will certainly turn its attention to



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How politicians in the US and Europe are weaponizing sharia

Qamar Bashir



She places this alongside the Quran's rejection of forced conversion as a starting point for discussion. Her argument challenges the conflation of personal Muslim observance with a campaign to take control of society. Her account helps distinguish five overlapping subjects: worship, personal and family ethics, scholarly interpretation, voluntary religious dispute resolution, and state enforcement.

These distinctions expose the weakness of sweeping accusations. A Muslim refusing pork, seeking marriage advice, or donating to the poor is not thereby demanding governmental power

ACROSS the United States and Europe, political rhetoric has turned "Sharia" into a weapon of suspicion, transforming a Muslim neighbor's faith into an imagined threat to national institutions. Prayer, charity, dietary observance, and personal ethics disappear behind warnings of an approaching theocracy. This confusion encourages fear and has made exclusion appear defensive while deliberately ignoring that voluntary religious observance does not itself override courts, displace legislatures, direct public administration, or replace constitutional government. Bringing back religion into politics is contrary to the long and arduous efforts of both American and European societies to finally culminate in developing protections against religious coercion and for individual conscience. The law and constitution of the USA and Europe protects religious liberties and provides freedom to believe, worship, change faith, or have no faith. However, by weaponizing Sharia to cast collective suspicion on Muslims undermines these protections by turning religious identity into a test of belonging. That contradiction gives Jessica McDonald's inquiry its significance. McDonald, a Christian a renowned and accomplished lawyer in her social media broadcasts, countered these alarming claims she had heard about Islam. Rather than accepting inherited assumptions, she opened the Quran and examined its language and context. Her account offers a response to political fear: understand a religious tradition before treating its followers as dangerous. She asks Christians to extend to Muslim scripture the interpretive care they expect for the Bible. The politicians are weaponizing Sharia not due to fear of Sharia itself but to stop and put an end to economic prosperity and social recognition achieved by the Muslim community in all aspects of national life. Their visibility has unsettled those who regard professional opportunity or national belonging as the preserve of a white majority. McDonald explains that Sharia encompasses far more than criminal punishment. Associated with a path or way, it refers broadly to divine guidance for Muslim life: prayer, fasting, charity, family duties, honesty, and ethical commerce. It also encompasses legal subjects. Fiqh is the human work of interpreting and applying that guidance. Different scholarly traditions can produce different conclusions. Her essential point is that no single universally accepted rulebook explains everything

every Muslim means by following Sharia. McDonald specifically emphasizes that Quranic teachings teaches Muslims living in non-Muslim countries to obey the laws of the country where they have chosen to live and not impose their religion on others. In her explanation, following Sharia through worship, charity, and ethical conduct does not mean seeking to replace the American or European government. She places this alongside the Quran's rejection of forced conversion as a starting point for discussion. Her argument challenges the conflation of personal Muslim observance with a campaign to take control of society. Her account helps distinguish five overlapping subjects: worship, personal and family ethics, scholarly interpretation, voluntary religious dispute resolution, and state enforcement. These distinctions expose the weakness of sweeping accusations. A Muslim refusing pork, seeking marriage advice, or donating to the poor is not thereby demanding governmental power. A government enforcing religious criminal penalties raises different questions. Serious debate must identify the practice, whose interpretation governs it, whether participation is voluntary, and whether anyone's rights are infringed. For Christian audiences, McDonald makes the comparison familiar. Biblical faith also addresses marriage, money, sexuality, generosity, and duties toward neighbors. Christians disagree over interpretation while recognizing their scriptures as sacred. Most do not understand every ancient Israelite punishment or ritual requirement as binding today. Christianity and Islam differ, but the comparison exposes an inconsistent standard: expecting distinctions within one's own tradition while accepting the harshest representation of another. Fairness requires comparable care. Her reading of Quran 2:190-194 applies that principle to warfare. McDonald recalls hearing "kill them wherever you find them" presented as an instruction to attack Christians. She asks who "them" refers to and what the surrounding verses say. She emphasizes that the passage begins with fighting those who fight you and prohibits transgression. It discusses expulsion, restricts fighting at the sacred mosque unless attacked there, includes cessation clauses, and limits retaliation. Removing those features creates the impression of an unrestricted command. These conditions matter. In McDonald's reading, persecution and expulsion do not authorize unlimited revenge. Permission to fight carries boundaries; retaliation must remain proportionate, and

the text repeatedly addresses cessation. Its appeal to taqwa, or consciousness of God, places moral accountability inside warfare itself. Even when people have suffered injustice, she stresses, they remain responsible for their response. Her explanation therefore challenges the portrayal of Muslim scripture as offering indiscriminate permission for violence against people of other religions. McDonald does not pretend that every difficult question has disappeared. She acknowledges uncertainty surrounding fitnah and explicitly declines to conclude that every Quranic warfare passage is defensive. Other passages, she says, deserve their own examination. This restraint strengthens her argument. Her apology to Muslim neighbors concerns accepting frightening quotations without checking their context. She also turns toward difficult biblical warfare passages, asking whether familiarity has spared her own tradition the scrutiny she applies to Islam. That same discipline should shape public debate. Allegations of coercion, discrimination, or unlawful religious authority deserve examination through evidence and legal process. They do not justify suspicion of every Muslim household, mosque, or professional. Defending peaceful religious observance does not require endorsing every interpretation or excusing abuse. It requires distinguishing individual conduct from collective identity and applying the same standards across faiths. Political leaders should identify specific wrongdoing rather than allow an unfamiliar religious term to stand in for proof. McDonald's inquiry ultimately asks whether citizens will examine inherited fears before allowing them to shape their treatment of neighbors. Her findings challenge the assumption that Muslim devotion means political disloyalty. In her account, prayer, charity, ethical responsibility, and respect for the country's laws can belong to the same religious life. That understanding creates room for honest criticism without collective hostility. Americans and Europeans should demand evidence from those who invoke Sharia as a threat, protect equal citizenship, and refuse to let religious difference become a pretext for exclusion.

– **The writer is the Press Secretary to the President (Rtd) Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France Former Press Attaché to Malaysia Former MD, SRBC | Michigan, USA**

The Meticulously Crafted Trap

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



The apparent design is rather to raise the cost of Saudi Arabia's present political stance by degrees until that stance becomes progressively harder to sustain. At a chosen moment Washington might then observe that it holds the means of relieving the pressure—provided only that the puzzle of the Abraham Accords is first resolved

THE situation in the Gulf has grown steadily clearer of late, and with it the realisation that neither Israel nor its principal patron, the United States, can secure their wider aims unless Saudi Arabia is at length brought into line. Direct persuasion having failed to draw Riyadh into recognition of the Abraham Accords, both parties appear to have resorted to more circuitous means of tightening the noose. What once seemed a confused picture of regional tension now reveals a deliberate design intended to isolate the Kingdom and compel a change of course. Events about the Bab el-Mandeb Strait were never without purpose. Their true object has been to hem Saudi Arabia in and to multiply the pressures bearing upon it from several quarters at once. These pressures, it is increasingly plain, form part of a concerted American and Israeli calculation intended to edge the Kingdom towards the Accords by rendering its present independence of policy progressively more costly. An international news agency has reported that the Houthis have approached the Trump administration with a request that Washington refrain from direct military involvement against them. In the same breath they have given assurance that the maritime passage through Bab el-Mandeb will remain open to American, Israeli, French and other foreign shipping—with one notable exception: vessels connected with Saudi Arabia. This selective exclusion is of particular significance, for it strikes at the heart of Saudi commercial and strategic interests while sparing those of the very powers seeking Riyadh's compliance. President Trump, for his part, has confirmed that he has spoken with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and that Riyadh sought American military intervention against the Houthis. Washington declined to commit forces of its own, offering instead only

the provision of intelligence support. The refusal to engage directly, while simultaneously withholding substantial military assistance, leaves the Kingdom to face escalating threats largely alone. A closer examination of the wider scene brings the pattern into sharper relief. The Strait of Hormuz remains under strain; Bab el-Mandeb is likewise constrained; Saudi Arabia's East-West oil pipeline has already been struck by hostile action. Houthi missiles and drones continue to raise the temperature across land and sea routes vital to the Kingdom's economy, while the United States still withholds both direct military action and even substantial direct military aid. Can so many converging difficulties be dismissed as mere coincidence? It seems unlikely. The apparent design is rather to raise the cost of Saudi Arabia's present political stance by degrees until that stance becomes progressively harder to sustain. At a chosen moment Washington might then observe that it holds the means of relieving the pressure—provided only that the puzzle of the Abraham Accords is first resolved. In this manner the Kingdom would be presented with a stark choice: continued isolation and vulnerability, or diplomatic realignment under American and Israeli auspices. Other speculations regarding this matter are also circulating, appearing to be driven by vested interests; however, only time will reveal the game being played behind the scenes. Yet this Israeli-American strategy faces a considerable impediment in the shape of the Mecca Agreement and in Turkey's expanding influence at both regional and international levels. The Mecca Agreement, which sought to foster greater unity among Muslim states on questions of collective security and religious solidarity, continues to meet with resistance in various quarters precisely because it offers an alternative framework to the Accords. Turkey's growing diplomatic and military role further com-

plicates the picture, providing Riyadh with potential counterweights and alternative channels of support that dilute the force of Western leverage. What is now unfolding may therefore be read as an Israeli effort to enlarge its diplomatic reach across the region by opening new channels, employing for the purpose such indirect instruments of pressure as the Houthis and certain Iraqi drone groups. These non-state actors serve usefully as proxies, allowing deniability while steadily increasing the sense of encirclement. As reported, the recent drone attacks in the vicinity of the Holy Mosques are especially disquieting and demand the closest attention. Any threat, however remote, to the sanctity of Mecca and Medina carries profound religious and political implications for Saudi Arabia's standing in the Muslim world, and the timing of such incidents cannot be regarded as accidental. At the same time, every oil-producing state finds itself under serious challenge from fluctuating markets, regional insecurity and external pressures, while even non-producing Muslim countries—Pakistan among them—confront circumstances in many respects more testing than those faced by the West. Pakistan, bound by historical ties of faith and diplomacy to Saudi Arabia, must navigate increasing difficulties of its own, ranging from economic strain to the delicate balancing of relations with both Western powers and fellow Muslim states. How it is to do so, without compromising its principles or its security, remains an open and pressing question. In sum, the pressures now converging upon Saudi Arabia—from the closure of vital sea lanes to selective targeting of its infrastructure and the calculated restraint of its traditional allies—appear designed to force a fundamental revision of its foreign policy. Whether the Mecca Agreement and the emerging role of Turkey will prove sufficient to resist that design remains to be seen, but the outlines of the strategy are no longer in doubt.

Briefs

CDF Munir reaffirms armed forces'...

FROM PAGE 01
during the quarter. Of the total deaths, more than 61% (475) were reported in KP, while Balochistan accounted for 34% (265). KP also recorded the highest number of violent incidents, with 151 cases, representing 57% of the nationwide total. Balochistan followed with 94 incidents, or 35%, underscoring the concentration of militant activity in the two provinces. Despite Islamabad's repeated calls on the Afghan regime to prevent its soil from being used for terrorism, Kabul has yet to fulfil its commitments.

Erdogan proposes...

FROM PAGE 01
international debate over Security Council reform, including calls for greater representation for Africa, Asia, Latin America and developing countries. Erdogan said shifts in economic and political power had made reform increasingly urgent, pointing to Asia's growing economic weight, demands from African states for stronger representation and a more assertive role for developing countries in international affairs. He argued that global institutions had failed to adapt quickly enough to these changes. The Turkish president also linked institutional reform to wider concerns over climate change, migration, economic inequality, energy security and disruptions to global trade and transport routes. He said regional powers with strong diplomatic and economic capabilities should assume greater responsibility for addressing conflicts and challenges in their own regions, while solutions should take greater account of local conditions and the priorities of the countries concerned.

JI puts off Islamabad...

FROM PAGE 01
the sit-in", according to the PM Office (PMO). Both leaders agreed to meet after PM Shehbaz returned from his official visit to the United States, and to "continue further consultation on this matter", the statement said. Addressing media in Multan, Rehman recalled that he received the prime minister's phone call last night and sought time to consult his party leaders on the request to postpone the march. Announcing JI's plan of action after "very lengthy" party consultations, Rehman said: "We will not step back from our protests. We will not step back from our long march either. However, we just want to give a chance to the government, as the prime minister has gotten involved for the first time. So, we will meet them, listen to what they have to say and present our arguments. We are a sensible party."

Imran family members...

FROM PAGE 01
Imran has been in prison since 2023. The IHC has allowed Imran twice-a-week meetings — on Tuesdays and Thursdays — with his family, lawyers and other associates. Despite the order, the PTI founder has been restricted from meeting visitors. Usually, Imran's sisters — Aleema Khan, Uzma Khan and Noreen Niazi — would be the ones to reach Adiala every week in the hopes to meet him. But they have now been detained by the authorities under the Punjab Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance, 1960 ahead of the PTI's Sept 27 protest call. Chaudhry, who submits lists of party leaders and lawyers to the jail administration for the weekly meetings, said in response to a question by Dawn that had no one from Imran's family had reached Adiala, the jail administration would have argued before the IHC that the meeting did not take place because nobody came. They would have argued that otherwise, a meeting would have been allowed.

Ambassador Hamid Asghar briefs Nigerian delegation about PAC

The Nigerian delegation appreciated the vision of the Pakistan Africa Economic Council and expressed interest in continued engagement and collaboration



DNA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation from Nigeria's National Institute for Security Studies visited the Islamabad office of the Pakistan Africa Economic Council (PAC) to strengthen institutional relations and bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Nigeria. The delegation was warmly received by Ambassador Hamid Asghar, along with Dr. Mubashir Bhatti and Liaqat Ali Magray, who welcomed the visiting delegates. During the meeting, the delegation was briefed on the vision, objectives, strategic roadmap and ongoing initiatives of the Pakistan Africa Economic Council, to create meaningful opportunities for business, investment and institutional collaboration. The discussions covered a broad range of areas. The Nigerian delegation appreciated the vision of the Pakistan Africa Economic Council and expressed interest in continued engagement and collaboration. The visit concluded with an exchange of institutional souvenirs.

Can Georgios Donis end Saudi Arabia's 22-year Arabian Gulf Cup drought?

DNA

DUBAI: The region's finest have regrouped in Saudi Arabia for Arabian Gulf Cup 27 — a tournament renowned for producing surprises. Football fever is gripping Jeddah ahead of Wednesday's opening day, headlined by the hosts facing record 10-time champions Kuwait. DNA News runs you through the engaging storylines, breakout stars and elite performers likely to shape the next fortnight.

GROUP A
Saudi Arabia
Head coach: Georgios Donis
Star player: Mohamed Kanno (Al-Hilal) One to watch: Saleh Abu Al-Shamat (Al-Ahli) Best Gulf Cup finish: 3x champions (1994, 2002, 2003-04) Prediction: Winners. Home advantage and an experienced squad

make them narrow favorites. Expectation always follows the Green Falcons — especially during a seismic few months on home soil. The Arabian Gulf Cup can act as a salve for their disappointing group-stage exit at World Cup 2026, plus a springboard toward hosting the forthcoming Asian Cup 2027. Donis must plan without injured talisman Salem Al-Dawsari, standout Lens defender Saud Abdulhamid and promising midfielder Musab Al-Juwayr. With significant changes made to the roster from North America, it is up to the likes of Firas Al-Buraikan and Abdullah Al-Hamdan to make this squad their own.

Iraq Head coach: Graham Arnold
Star player: Aymen Hussein (Al-Basra) One to watch: Jusef Nasrawe (SV Ried) Best Gulf Cup finish: 4x champions (1979, 1984,

1988, 2023). Prediction: Semifinals. A new generation is eager to excel and Arnold is the man to make them shine. Australian boss Arnold cannot be accused of resting on his laurels. Twelve members of the squad which conceded 12 goals in three World Cup 2026 group games have failed to make the cut. There are also seven uncapped call-ups.

Hero of the 25th Arabian Gulf Cup Hussein remains up front, where his leadership will be vital. Al-Zawraa's Ahmed Basil inherits the goalkeeping mantle, while midfielder Zidane Iqbal should arrive in better shape after a revitalizing switch to Dundee United.

Oman Head coach: Tarik Sektioui
Star player: Issam Al-Sabhi (Port) One to watch: Sultan Al-Marzouq (Dhofar) Best Gulf Cup finish: 2x champions (2009,

2017-18) Prediction: Group stage. They appear short of attacking firepower.

A first major test of Sektioui's regime awaits. The man who led Morocco A to the 2025 FIFA Arab Cup and the Under-23s to Paris Olympics bronze only took over from Carlos Queiroz in March. Hopes of a third successive run to the final, however, have been badly hit by the injury-enforced absence of prolific Bangkok United forward Muhsen Al-Ghassani.

Kuwait Head coach: Helio Sousa
Star player: Mohammad Daham (Kuwait SC) One to watch: Yousef Majed (Al-Arabi) Best Gulf Cup finish: 10x champions (1970, 1972, 1974, 1976, 1982, 1986, 1990, 1996, 1998, 2010) Prediction: Group stage. Sousa's winning pedigree with Bahrain in 2019 will not be enough. — APP

China strongly condemns terrorist attack in Pakistan

BEIJING: China strongly condemned a terrorist attack on a police facility in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on September 18 and reaffirmed its support for Pakistan's counter-terrorism efforts. This was stated by the Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said at a regular press conference, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. "China strongly condemns this attack. We mourn for the loss of lives and extend sincere sympathies to the injured and the bereaved families," Guo said in response to a question about the attack. "Terrorism is a common enemy of humanity. Fighting terrorism is in the shared interests of all countries," he said. China will continue its steadfast support for Pakistan's counter-terrorism efforts, Guo said, calling on all countries to join forces in tackling the threat of terrorism and safeguarding global security and stability. — APP



Put that phone away': inside a chaotic Kings League MENA Matchday 2

RIYADH: A thrilling Kings League MENA Matchday 2 took place at Cool Arena at Boulevard Riyadh City, with a series of end-to-end fixtures that have begun to shape the table. For the uninitiated, the Kings League is unlike anything traditional football has to offer — faster, more unpredictable, and designed to ensure no moment goes to waste across its 40 minutes. The night opened with Ultra Chmicha, led by Morocco's Ilyas Elmaliki, continuing their strong start with a 7-3 victory over Saudi content creator Abdulrahman Al-Shehri's Rising Peaks to move to the top of the table. "The level at this Kings League edition is very high," Ultra Chmicha head coach Ricardo Ballestin told DNA News. "The victory in our first game made us think this one would be easier." "You have to give it your 100 percent in every match — any of the teams here can beat you," he added. "Because at the individual level, there are very strong players in this league." "The mentality with which players have to come here is to compete from the first minute." Next up was a heated battle between Fwaz's FWZ and Mahero's Redzone. FWZ took a 2-0 lead inside the first two minutes before Redzone rallied to a 4-2 advantage by the 28th minute, the fourth scored by Jordanian national team star Ali Olwan. FWZ

pulled it back to 4-3 before Jero Martin scored a double goal shortly after to restore Redzone's advantage. That match saw both teams score in the first two minutes of each half — when the scale-up occurs. The Kings League does not start with all seven players on each side; instead, it scales up from 1v1 — with goalkeepers throughout — with the dice roll determining whether the opening phase is 1v1, 2v2 or 3v3 for the second half. The final phase produced a stellar comeback by FWZ, who had fallen behind 6-5 in match ball mode before drawing level at 6-6 — forcing the de-escalation phase to continue, in which players drop off the pitch one by one until it is down to 1v1 plus goalkeepers, with the next goal now deciding the winner. Cristian Hernandez struck the post from the penalty spot, only for Mohamed Bencherif to complete his brace and seal it for FWZ at 7-6. Jordanian fans had more to cheer in the next game when 3BS took on Morocco's Bakhira FC. 3BS — still smarting from a 7-1 defeat to RDZ on the opening matchday — cruised to a 9-3 victory, with double goals from former Le Havre winger Moussa Sao and Khaled Abbas. In what was becoming a pattern on the night, the high-scoring victory was followed by a nervy encounter. — DNA

Pakistan women's cricket team claim bronze medal at Asian Games 2026

PAKISTAN secured the bronze medal in the 2026 Asian Games women's cricket competition after defeating Bangladesh by 31 runs in the third-place playoff at Korogi Sports Park, Nisshin, on Tuesday. Batting first, Pakistan were restricted to 145-8 in their allotted 20 overs as Bangladesh produced an impressive bowling performance to contain the Green Shirts' batting lineup. Captain Fatima Sana top-scored for Pakistan with an unbeaten 45 off 30 deliveries, smashing three boundaries and three sixes. Opener Gull Peroza contributed 31 off 23 balls, hitting six boundaries. Aliya Riaz played a valuable knock of 25 off 22 deliveries, including one boundary and two sixes, while fellow opener Shawaal Zulfiqar scored 17 off 27 balls without hitting a boundary. Saira Jabeen was dismissed for five off six deliveries, with one boundary, while Ayesha Zafar scored nine off seven balls, including one boundary. Eyman Fatima was dismissed for a duck after facing three deliveries, while Tuba Hassan contributed four off two balls, hitting one boundary. For Bangladesh, Ritu Moni, Shorna Akter and Nahida Akter claimed two wickets each, while Sanjida Akter Meghla chipped in with one wicket. Chasing 146, the Tigrisses were restricted to 114-7 in their allotted 20 overs as Pakistan staged a fighting comeback with the ball after struggling with the bat. — APP

Daihai Lake restoration offers China experience for protecting Pakistan's wetlands

DNA

BEIJING: The ecological revival of Daihai Lake in Inner Mongolia is offering valuable experience for Pakistan as it seeks to protect wetlands and migratory birds along the Indus Flyway, demonstrating how integrated watershed management, water conservation and digital technologies can work together to restore fragile ecosystems, according to a report carried by China Economic Net (CEN). Located in Liangcheng County, Daihai Lake, the third-largest inland lake in Inner Mongolia, has undergone a remarkable transformation after years of shrinking water levels, groundwater depletion, and deteriorating water quality. According to Du Haijun, Director of the Daihai Nature Reserve Service Center, the restoration reflects a shift from managing the lake as an isolated waterbody to treating the entire watershed as one ecological system. Speaking to CEN, Du said the Daihai Ecological Emergency Water Supply Project has played an important role in restoring the lake. The 134.2-kilometer water diversion system draws seasonal excess water from the Yellow River and can deliver up to 44.66 million cubic meters annually. The project includes three high-lift pump stations, three water-delivery tunnels and about 123 kilometers of conduits. He said that water replenishment, however, has been accompanied by strict measures to reduce pressure on local water resources. Authorities converted 260,000 mu of water-intensive irrigated farmland to dryland agriculture, decommissioned redundant wells and strengthened controls on

agricultural and industrial water use. Industrial facilities have also adopted air-cooling and wastewater recycling technologies. Du explained that sewage treatment and agricultural pollution control have been strengthened across the watershed. Treated wastewater is reused by a local power plant instead of being discharged into the lake, replacing an annual withdrawal of about 9 million cubic meters of natural lake water. The results are reflected in the lake's ecological indicators. By August 2026, Daihai's water surface had expanded to 65.8 square kilometers, while its water level had risen by 3.82 meters compared with the end of the 13th Five-Year Plan. Groundwater levels around the lake also recovered. Salinity declined from 18‰ in 2022 to 5.7‰, creating more suitable con-

ditions for freshwater species. "The improvement has also benefited biodiversity. Wetland vegetation coverage has reached 70 percent, while the number of recorded bird species increased from 68 before major restoration efforts to 113. More than 70 first-class protected Great Bustards regularly overwinter in the basin, while four pairs of Oriental White Storks successfully nested and bred in the reserve in 2026", he added. Another important component of the restoration is intelligent monitoring. The reserve now uses automated monitoring stations, pan-tilt-zoom cameras and drones to collect information on water levels, precipitation, water quality, vegetation, fish populations and bird species. The system can also detect unauthorized entry, illegal fishing and other activities, allowing



authorities to respond more quickly. For Pakistan, the experience is particularly relevant as migratory birds begin arriving during the September-to-March winter season. Dr. Tariq Mahmood, Associate Professor of Wildlife Management at PMAS Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, told China Economic Net that Pakistan has witnessed a decline in both the number and diversity of migratory birds over roughly the past decade. He identified illegal hunting, deteriorating water quality, human disturbance and uncontrolled tourism as major challenges facing Pakistan's wetlands. Migratory birds traveling from Central Asia along the Indus Flyway pass through Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa before dispersing toward Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan. "Illegal hunting must be controlled," Dr. Tariq said, adding that pollution, plastics and excessive human activity around recreational wetlands also negatively affect aquatic wildlife. He noted that several Pakistani wetlands, including Ramsar sites, face increasing ecological pressures. In places such as Kallar Kahar Lake, heavy tourism, boating, litter, and other activities can disturb both resident and migratory birds. "Two important wetlands near Islamabad, Kallar Kahar Lake and Sarkalan Lake, urgently need comprehensive ecological restoration and protection. Once thriving hubs for migratory birds, these lakes have witnessed a significant decline in bird populations due to deteriorating water quality, habitat disturbance, and human activities. The experience of Daihai Lake could provide a valuable model for restoring these important bird habitats", Dr. Tariq stated.

UN chief calls for AI curbs, end to wars

FROM PAGE 01

UN's 15-member Security Council prepares to host AI leaders for a briefing on the powerful technology. Guterres also reflected on the gridlock within the organisation, as nearly 130 world leaders gathered in New York, and Chinese President Xi Jinping and others — including leaders from South Africa, India and Germany — skipped the diplomatic meeting. Delegates responded with sustained applause when Guterres defended a two-state solution for Israelis and Palestinians, demanded that "polluters must pay" for climate change and pressed for reforms to international institutions, causes he has championed throughout his decade leading the United Nations. The address capped a decade-long tenure in which Guterres sought to position the UN as a mediator in conflicts and a forum for governing emerging technologies, even as major powers increasingly bypassed the organisation and Washington slashed its funding.

Trump says US could...

FROM PAGE 01

Speaking before world leaders, Trump suggested that political timing plays a role in negotiations, adding that "right after the elections, I think we'll have a deal with Iran." The president also touched on a wide range of global issues during his address. He declared that "no enemy will be allowed to have an army in Greenland," a remark that drew attention for its unusual reference to the Arctic territory. Trump further emphasized his desire to see an end to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, stating that Washington is committed to pursuing peace in the region. Turning to Latin America, Trump mentioned ongoing Cuba talks, saying, "Let us see what comes out of Cuba talks." His comments suggested cautious optimism but stopped short of announcing any concrete policy changes. On South Asia, Trump claimed that his administration had prevented multiple conflicts, saying he "stopped eight wars, including Pakistan and India."

463 kg of Afghan...

FROM PAGE 01

Pakistan to Colombo, which ANF suspected to be carrying illicit narcotics that originated in Afghanistan, the statement mentioned. "This prompted ANF to alert DEA Islamabad, which worked with authorities across the countries involved to seize the narcotics and to arrest several suspects, including those of Pakistani origin." The embassy mentioned that the US government has provided foreign assistance to support sustained training of ANF, enabling it to serve as a "key partner in advancing US priorities in counternarcotics interdiction". The United States remains committed to working with Pakistan to dismantle transnational criminal organization[s] to protect US citizens from the dangers of narcotrafficking [...]. The Trump administration has made halting the flow of illicit narcotics a key component of helping make America more secure."

Six militants killed in IBOs

FROM PAGE 01

including Captain Abuzar Farooq and Lieutenant Sheryaz Babar, embraced martyrdom during the exchange of fire in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Hangu, during which eight militants belonging to the India-sponsored Fitna al-Khawarij were killed. Pakistan has experienced a marked rise in terrorist activity, with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan particularly affected since 2021, following the Afghan Taliban's return to power. A report released by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) identified the two provinces as Pakistan's primary violence hotspots during the second quarter of 2026. KP was recorded as the most severely affected province during the period.

Briefs

CCP fines
Rs10m over
Scotch-Brite
marketing

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) on Tuesday imposed a penalty of PKR 10 million on M/s 3M Pakistan (Private) Limited for deceptive marketing through a false or misleading comparison of its Scotch-Brite product with Colgate-Palmolive Pakistan Limited's Max Scrub, in violation of Section 10 of the Competition Act, 2010. The proceedings originated from a complaint filed by Colgate-Palmolive Pakistan Limited, alleging that during a marketing campaign for Scotch-Brite, a video showed a comparison in which, after washing Scotch-Brite and Max Scrub for 20 minutes, Max Scrub was shown to have deteriorated significantly while Scotch-Brite remained in comparatively better condition, according to CCP press release. Following an enquiry, CCP issued a Show Cause Notice to 3M Pakistan. The company challenged the authenticity and reliability of the video and maintained that the demonstration was carried out by an employee in his personal capacity without company authorisation. The Commission, however, found that Muhammad Imran, then Regional Sales Manager of 3M Pakistan, had acknowledged before the Enquiry Committee that he made the comparison. As the demonstration was closely connected with his official duties and occurred in the context of a marketing campaign commissioned by 3M Pakistan, the Commission held that his conduct was attributable to the company. The Commission held that a comparison of competing products made without a reasonable basis or recognisable substantiation may constitute false or misleading advertising.—APP

PSX gains
over 248
points

ISLAMABAD: The benchmark KSE-100 Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a positive trend on Tuesday, gaining 248.92 points, a positive change of 0.15 percent, to close at 171,402.08 points against 171,153.17 points recorded in the previous trading session. The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 641.834 million shares, compared to 692.884 million shares traded in the previous session, while the traded value decreased to Rs18.466 billion from Rs20.100 billion. Market capitalisation increased to Rs19.093 trillion from Rs19.041 trillion recorded a day earlier. Out of 494 companies that traded in the ready market, 226 posted gains, 221 suffered losses, while 47 remained unchanged. Tasdeeq Information led the volume chart with 133.189 million shares, followed by Media Times Ltd with 72.720 million shares and WorldCall Telecom with 48.572 million shares. Among the top gainers, Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited surged by Rs250.00 to close at Rs25,250.00, while Pakistan Tobacco Company Limited advanced by Rs42.14 to settle at Rs1,405.47. On the losing side, PIA Holding Company LimitedB fell by Rs276.95 to close at Rs15,673.05, while Siemens (Pakistan) Engineering declined by Rs80.27 to Rs1,620.10. In the futures (DFC) market, turnover stood at 505.609 million shares with a traded value of Rs17.489 billion, compared with 368.488 million shares worth Rs15.354 billion in the previous session.—APP

Gold prices
fall by
Rs1,800 per
tola

ISLAMABAD: The prices of gold witnessed a decline in the local market on Tuesday, with the price of 24-karat gold per tola falling by Rs1,800 to settle at Rs455,736, according to rates issued by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association. Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold decreased by Rs1,543 to Rs390,720, whereas 10 grams of 22-karat gold declined by Rs1,414 to Rs358,173. In the international market, the price of gold fell by \$18 to \$4,332 per ounce, the association reported.—APP

GB govt, AFD, EU and Aga Khan Foundation launch landmark project

DNA

GILGIT-BALTISTAN: The Government of Gilgit-Baltistan, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the European Union, and the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) launched the "Gilgit-Baltistan Rural Development and Climate Resilience" project today, marking a significant step towards enhancing climate resilience and improving the quality of life across all districts of Gilgit-Baltistan. The EUR 54.24 million (PKR 17.2 billion) project, supported through a combination of AFD financing, a European Union (EU) grant, AKF funding and community contributions, aims to improve living conditions and strengthen the resilience of communities to climate change and natural disasters. Additional Chief Secretary (Development), Gilgit-Baltistan, Mr. Riaz Ahmed; AFD Country Director, Mr. Marc-Antoine Leclercq; and CEO, Aga Khan Foundation Pakistan, Mr. Akhtar Iqbal, formally signed the agreement. The "Gilgit-Baltistan Rural Development and Climate Resilience" project will deliver a comprehensive package of climate-resilient interventions across all districts of Gilgit-Baltistan. The interventions will range from improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation services through 216 water supply and sewerage schemes (117 drinking water supply schemes and 30 sanitation projects including sewerage network and wastewater treatment). Additionally, 1200-1300kW of clean energy is also expected to be generated through hydropower initiatives. The project will also strengthen climate resilience through vulnerability assessments across all 110 Union Councils, alongside the green retrofitting of 3,000 households and energy-efficient, resilient construction of 700 households. The project will further invest in people and institutions through training in climate-smart planning, enterprise development and sustainable infrastructure management.



The project is expected to reach approximately 43,200 households (325,600 people), with women comprising at least 40% of beneficiaries. During the event, Northern Pakistan Energy Limited (NPAK Energy) also presented the key findings of the Gilgit-Baltistan Energy Master Plan. Developed as a 30-year roadmap under the EU-funded "Energy Plus" project, a EUR 31 million (PKR 9.8 billion) initiative supporting the transition towards a climate-resilient

and low-carbon economy in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral. The Master Plan aims to establish a reliable, affordable and climate-resilient energy system for the region. Developed in partnership with the Water and Power Department of the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan, NPAK Energy and other stakeholders, the Master Plan outlines a strategic pathway for addressing Gilgit-Baltistan's energy deficit while harnessing its significant renewable energy potential.

Honourable Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan, Mr. Amjad Hussain Azaar, welcomed the AFD and European Union delegations and officials from the Aga Khan Foundation to Gilgit. Speaking on the occasion he noted, "The project would be an important milestone for the sustainable development and prosperity of the people of the region and for protecting communities from the adverse impacts of climate change."

11 hurt as teen opens fire
outside Turkiye school

IZMIR :A teenager opened fire outside a high school in western Turkiye on Tuesday, wounding 11 people before being detained by police, a minister said. The incident happened around 8:00 am (0500 GMT) in Turgutlu in Manisa province, near the western resort city of Izmir, the regional governor's office said. Although such shootings are rare in Turkiye, there were two separate attacks by teenagers on consecutive days in April that shocked the nation, sparking deep concern about school security. "Eleven students were injured, two of them seriously... The minor who carried out the attack was quickly apprehended and taken into custody," Justice Minister Akin Gurlek wrote on X. He said the suspect's parents and grandfather had also been detained by investigators probing the attack, which saw police and rescuers rushing to the scene alongside panicked parents. Speaking to IHA news agency, one local resident said they saw the gunman moments after the shooting, saying he appeared to be angry. "Gunshots rang out. I immediately went out onto the balcony. He was swearing as he walked towards the side street. He was shouting," he said. "He fired at people here with the gun he was carrying. We could not intervene because he had a rifle," another eyewitness told IHA, which did not name either of them. CCTV footage DHA news agency broadcast CCTV footage of the alleged attacker, a young man wearing black jeans and a jacket and a green top, holding what looked like a long-barrelled gun. IHA had a similar image of the same person with a gun, although this time running. NTV private television said it was a shotgun. Footage from outside the school showed police wrestling a man in a white shirt to the ground before leading him away, as a woman screamed, with onlookers pressed against the school fence, filming with their mobile phones. Authorities have opened an investigation into the incident, Gurlek said. "How the weapon used in the attack ended up in the minor's hands, the conditions under which it was kept and supervised... and allegations of bullying prior to the incident are all being investigated," he wrote on X. The education ministry said all lessons were suspended for the day at the school. School safety The attack came five months after two back-to-back school shootings that raised public concerns about security in Turkish schools. In April, a 14-year-old opened fire at a school in the southern province of Kahramanmaraş, killing a teacher and nine students aged 10 and 11. The attacker died at the scene. A day earlier, another teenager opened fire at his former high school in the southeastern province of Sanliurfa, wounding 16 people before taking his own life when confronted by police. Following the attacks, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan pledged his government would introduce tighter gun controls and vowed school safety would be a top priority.—DNA

Tunisia says
2026 summer
hottest on record

TUNIS: Tunisia's summer this year was its hottest on record, the country's weather authority said Tuesday, following multiple heatwaves, water shortages and power cuts. "The summer of 2026 was ranked the hottest in Tunisia since 1950," the year temperature records began, the National Meteorological Institute said. The average temperature was about 2.9 degrees Celsius higher than the previous record, it added. Although accustomed to scorching heat, Tunisia experienced a particularly gruelling summer this year, with July and August marked by "intense and prolonged heatwaves", the authority said. Scientists attribute these episodes to climate change. This summer also saw persistently high nighttime temperatures, the agency added. The highest temperature was recorded in the central city of Kairouan, which reached 49.7 degrees Celsius in mid-July. Temperatures also reached 49.2 degrees Celsius in Beja in the northwest, and in the south they reached 48.4 degrees Celsius in Tozeur. Authorities have yet to provide figures on the health impact of the heatwaves, but a group representing young Tunisian doctors reported numerous deaths it said were caused by the heat. The Tunisian League for Human Rights (LTDH) documented 23 deaths in prisons, citing harsh conditions worsened by the high temperatures and overcrowding in cells. President Kais Saied has said the outages, which sometimes lasted more than 10 hours, including in the capital, were "not simply temporary or isolated cases" and "did not result from ordinary breakdowns". Instead, they were part of "criminal plans" and "attempts at provocation". Stat-run electricity company STEG had said the power cuts were used for load shedding in order to ease pressure on its network. Water cuts also became frequent, as much of Tunisia's water supply depends on electric pumps, which were disrupted during power outages.—APP

Kenya, Pak to strengthen
cultural ties thru exhibition

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a significant celebration of cross-continental friendship and environmental appreciation, the High Commissioner of Kenya and Chief Patron of the Pak-Africa Council, Amb. Hamid Asghar, will co-host a prestigious Kenya-Pakistan Nature and Wildlife Photographic Exhibition. Themed "Landscapes & Wildlife: Beyond Borders," the two-day exhibition is scheduled to take place on October 11, 2026, at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), Mezzanine Floor, Exhibition Hall 6. The exhibition will be formally inaugurated by the Minister for Culture, as announced on September 11. The inaugural ceremony will bring together diplomats, government officials, art enthusiasts, conservationists, and members of the civil society. The High Commissioner of Kenya also expressed enthusiasm for the initiative, noting that it provides a unique platform to highlight Kenya's



renowned biodiversity and rich natural heritage to the people of Pakistan, while also celebrating Pakistan's own spectacular landscapes and wildlife. The exhibition is expected to feature a curated collection of stunning photographs capturing the raw

beauty of savannas, mountains, and diverse ecosystems from both Kenya and Pakistan. It aims to foster a deeper appreciation for conservation efforts and promote people-to-people connections through the shared language of visual art. The PakAfrica Council

continues to play a pivotal role in bridging cultural and economic gaps between Pakistan and African nations, with this exhibition serving as another milestone in its ongoing efforts to promote mutual understanding and collaboration.

Traders urge immediate opening of
Rs15 billion Blue area parking plaza

He urged the authorities to open that facility as well so that residents and visitors could benefit from improved parking arrangements across Islamabad's major commercial centres

ISLAMABAD: The All Traders Welfare Association Blue Area has called upon the Chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to immediately make the newly constructed parking plaza in Blue Area operational for the public and business community, saying the facility is essential to address persistent parking shortages and improve traffic flow in the capital's main commercial district. The demand was made during a meeting of the association chaired by Traders Welfare Association President Yousaf Rajput. The meeting was attended by Opposition Leader Tariq Mahmood Khokhar; Blue Area General Secretary and newly elected Executive Member of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI),

Imran Bukhari; ICCI Executive Member Muhammad Khurshid; as well as Malik Asad, Ishtiaq Bangash, Muhammad Abbas, Sherzada, Jameel Abbasi, Abdul Rashid, Muhammad Tariq, Muhammad Arif, and other representatives of the business community. Participants observed that Blue Area is Islamabad's principal commercial and business hub, attracting thousands of visitors daily for shopping, trade and other economic activities. They said the absence of adequate parking facilities has created serious inconvenience for both traders and the general public, while also contributing to traffic congestion in the area. The meeting noted that despite substantial public expenditure on the construction of the parking plaza, the facility

has yet to be made fully operational. The participants stressed that any further delay would continue to aggravate parking and traffic-related problems and urged the CDA to open the plaza without delay. Speaking on the occasion, Yousaf Rajput said that the immediate operationalisation of the parking plaza would significantly ease traffic pressure in Blue Area and provide much-needed relief to traders, shoppers and other visitors. He also drew attention to the parking plaza at Jinnah Super Market, which, he said, has yet to become operational. He urged the authorities to open that facility as well so that residents and visitors could benefit from improved parking arrangements across Islamabad's major commercial centres.—DNA

Respiratory
problems
climb past
170,000
cases in
Indonesia

JAKARTA: More than 170,000 respiratory cases were recorded in regions affected by haze in Indonesia, a health ministry official said Tuesday, as the country battles for weeks to control fires that caused the toxic smog. Blazes in Borneo, Sumatra and Papua have blanketed parts of the vast archipelago of more than 280 million people, as well as neighbouring Malaysia and Singapore, sending air quality indices plummeting. The toxic smog contains pollutants including PM 2.5, a fine particulate matter smaller than a human hair that could carry health risk such as respiratory infections, health ministry official Then Suyanti told a news conference. "There were 174,694 cases of acute respiratory infections between August and September 21 in areas affected by forest and land fires," she said. More than 40,000 of the recorded respiratory cases affected toddlers, she said. The overall figure, reported in seven haze-affected provinces across Indonesia, was up from over 113,000 cases reported as of September 9.—APP

Mobile boat
clinics bring
healthcare to
India's re-
mote islands

NALBARI: An infant lets out a feeble cry as a doctor administers a routine but vital injection aboard a mobile boat clinic, part of a network serving remote riverine communities in north-eastern India. Hundreds of thousands of people in Assam state, crisscrossed by the Brahmaputra river, live on "chars", or temporary river islands and sandbars where access to even basic healthcare can be a challenge. More than 2,000 such islands dot the state where there are limited health facilities, most "with little or no manpower", according to the local government. But the network of mobile boat clinics has brought doctors, medicines, vaccines and basic laboratory services to 13 districts across the state. For thousands of villagers on these remote islands - many prone to flooding and erosion - the clinics provide a vital link to healthcare. "We are totally dependent on the boat clinic," said Rekiul Amin, a resident of the Barballa river island in Nalbari district, which has no medical facilities at all. "Whatever medicines people receive here, they get them through the boat clinic," Amin said, adding that women in particular had "benefited greatly".—APP

Briefs

No Saudi, Pak visa needed for diplomatic...

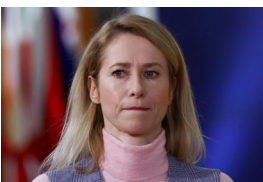
NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed an agreement on Tuesday to abolish visa requirements for holders of diplomatic, official and special passports. Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar signed the agreement with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, he said in a post on X. DPM Dar hoped the step would "further facilitate high-level engagement and institutional exchanges, and contribute to advancing our enduring and brotherly strategic partnership across all areas of mutual interest".

The two countries share robust bilateral cooperation, with frequent high-level diplomatic exchanges on both sides. On August 7, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, alongside Türkiye, also signed a joint defence agreement pledging to strengthen collective security, deepen defence cooperation and promote peace and stability in the region and beyond.

Later that month, the two countries agreed to boost Pakistani agricultural and food exports to the Gulf state up to \$3 billion. The agreement was reached during the visit of a Saudi delegation led by Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture Engineer Abdulrahman Al-Fadley.

EU has 'tools' to defend ICC



DNA

NEW YORK: The EU is prepared to draw on measures already at its disposal to defend the International Criminal Court should pressure tied to its Gaza-related warrants intensify further, while working to rally broader global backing for the institution, the bloc's foreign policy chief told.

"The ICC is under attack, that's very clear," Kaja Kallas said. "We've been very clear in our statements of support to the ICC. We have the tools in our toolbox when it gets really serious how to defend the ICC, and here we are rallying countries behind supporting the ICC ... because it's not only a European issue — it's much broader than that." She rejected a separate charge of selective justice after Arab News asked why the EU has pursued a special tribunal.

Mid-Autumn and National Day

Ambassador Zaidong dwells upon enduring China-Pak partnership

Ambassador Jiang reiterated President Xi Jinping's vision of collective effort and shared progress. He called on all Chinese citizens, both at home and abroad, to contribute to the nation's development and to promote China's image of credibility, love, and respect



ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong delivered a powerful speech in Islamabad to mark the 77th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and the Mid-Autumn Festival. A large number of Chinese nationals, companies and media houses based in Pakistan attended the reception. Addressing compatriots, workers, students, and media representatives, the ambassador extended heartfelt greetings and reflected on China's remarkable journey since 1949. He emphasized the resilience, unity, and progress achieved under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), highlighting the nation's transformation from "standing up to becoming stronger." Ambassador Jiang underscored the rapid economic development that has defined China's trajectory. He noted that in the first half of the year, China's gross domestic product grew phenomenally. Indus-

trial output surged, particularly in high-tech manufacturing. The production of battery-powered industrial robots rose dramatically, reflecting China's commitment to innovation and modernization. In August this year, industrial production continued to accelerate and upgrade. The value added of the equipment manufacturing industry rose by 12.1 percent year-on-year, among which high-tech manufacturing increased by 16.7 percent. The output of lithium-ion batteries and industrial robots surged by 57.2 percent and 34.6 percent respectively. Foreign trade maintained robust growth. In August, China's total import and export volume of goods increased by 19.8 percent year-on-year, up 0.6 percentage points from the previous month, with exports rising by 18.6 percent and imports by 21.7 percent. From January to August, exports grew by 14.6 percent and imports by 22 percent, with import growth consistently outpacing export growth. China has undoubtedly grown into a huge global market offering new opportunities for world

development. These figures do not fully represent China's economic landscape, yet they fully demonstrate that the Chinese economy continues to forge ahead with steady progress, quality improvement and structural upgrading. Despite deepening adverse impacts of the external environment and lingering domestic supply-demand structural imbalances, China has full confidence and capability to sustain high-quality economic development. We will continue to share the fruits of Chinese modernization with the world, deliver greater benefits to Pakistan, our iron-clad all-weather friend, and work together to build an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era. China's leaping development over the past 77 years and its sustained high-quality growth this year are hard-won achievements stemming from the united endeavors of people of all ethnic groups under the leadership of the Communist Party of China. As General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized, "We

have made remarkable achievements inscribed in history through the united efforts of people of all ethnic groups, and we will continue to create new glories through solidarity and hard work.

Beyond economic progress, Jiang highlighted the importance of national unity. He referenced the National Unity Development Promotion Act, which fosters cohesion among China's diverse communities. Activities such as the National Unity Development Promotion Week aim to strengthen solidarity and ensure that all citizens benefit from the country's development. He pointed to Xinjiang as a region playing a vital role in China's growth, stressing that its development reflects the broader success of the nation's policies.

Jiang praised the contributions of scholars, workers, and citizens who have embraced the vision of equality and precision in development. He described China as a "big family," where unity and mutual support are central to its achievements.

A significant portion of Jiang's speech was dedicated to the enduring partnership between China and Pakistan. He expressed gratitude for Pakistan's support and reaffirmed China's commitment to deepening cooperation. The ambassador highlighted the role of Chinese businesspeople in Pakistan, who contribute to local economic development and cultural exchange. He described them as the "main force" of China-Pakistan cooperation, working tirelessly to strengthen ties between the two nations.

Jiang emphasized that the China-Pakistan relationship is built on mutual respect, trust, and shared aspirations. He envisioned a future where both countries continue to collaborate on high-quality development projects, enhancing resilience and prosperity for their peoples. Ambassador Jiang concluded by reiterating President Xi Jinping's vision of collective effort and shared progress. He called on all Chinese citizens, both at home and abroad, to contribute to the nation's development and to promote China's image of credibility, love, and respect. He stressed that China's story is not only about economic success but also about unity, friendship, and cooperation with the global community.

Govt secures another Qatari LNG cargo after talks 'involving Iranian officials'

Officials say additional LNG will provide temporary support to power sector amid prolonged loadshedding

MONITORING DESK

ISLAMABAD: Another Qatari LNG cargo is heading towards Pakistan following diplomatic engagement involving Iranian officials, with the shipment having crossed the Strait of Hormuz and expected to reach Port Qasim within days, officials said. The shipment marks the second Qatari LNG cargo secured by Pakistan this month, providing some relief to the country's power sector amid continued gas supply constraints and prolonged load shedding in several areas. Pakistan received its first Qatari LNG cargo of the month on September 10, when the carrier Al Marrouna arrived carrying around 81,936 metric tonnes of LNG from Qatar's Ras Laffan terminal. The vessel crossed the Strait of Hormuz on September 7 under the government-to-government LNG arrangement between Pakistan and Qatar. The latest cargo has also been secured at a price equivalent to 13.37% of Brent, according to officials. The additional LNG is expected to provide temporary support to

the power sector, which is currently facing six to 12 hours of loadshedding in parts of the country. The development comes as Pakistan continues to closely monitor gas supplies across its transmission network. Data for September 21 showed line-pack at 4,792 MMcf, while the power sector was consuming around 208 MMcf/d of gas. Gas consumption by the fertiliser sector remained steady at 89 MMcf/d, unchanged from the previous day. At the same time, domestic gas production has faced disruptions at several fields. Raw gas supplies from the Qadirpur field to Liberty Power have remained suspended since 10:55am on September 17 over non-payment. Gas input from MEL's GTH plant was also reduced by 37 MMcf/d on September 20 because of its annual turnaround. Current gas input from the plant stands at 52 MMcf/d. The Nashpa plant reported an 83 MMcf/d reduction in gas input following an issue at the facility, while current input stands at 83 MMcf/d. Gas input from MOL's CPF was reduced by 158 MMcf/d because of an operational problem, with current input reported at 154 MMcf/d.

White House launches Trump TV

DNA

WASHINGTON: The White House on Tuesday launched Trump TV, a live streaming platform, "updated in real time, with top past moments, announcements, and the latest and greatest from the administration all in one place", it announced in a post on X. When it went online, it was showing archive footage of US President Donald Trump delivering a speech on July 3 at Mount Rushmore. The launch came shortly after US television networks staged an extraordinary revolt on Monday when they effectively boycotted coverage of Trump in protest at his decision to ban three leading outlets from the White House. CNN, MS NOW and Politico also went to court after Trump on Friday ordered them to be barred, as the 80-year-old Republican stepped up his years-long assault on the US media. As a result of the row, Trump's opening of his cherished new White House helipad and his trip to the United Nations General Assembly proceeded without live television coverage. In a rare move, the top five US broadcasters said on Monday that they were halting "pool" coverage of the White House – where a broadcaster films on behalf of all television outlets for the day – in solidarity with CNN.

Aleema Khan's detention: LHC seeks arguments

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Tuesday sought arguments on the maintainability of a petition challenging the detention of PTI founder Imran Khan's sister Aleema Khan and her driver under the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) Ordinance. Aleema was detained by authorities on Sunday, after the office of Lahore's deputy commissioner (DC) ordered her detention or arrest for 30 days. The DC's order cited a letter by the Lahore capital city police officer. It said the letter referred to police reports that said Aleema and Ameer "are prejudicial to the public safety and maintenance of public order". According to the order, the reports also mentioned that the two had been involved in roadblocks and protests on May 9, 2023, when PTI supporters and workers took to the streets against Imran's arrest. It said multiple cases had been registered against the two, declaring them "potential dangers to public peace and tranquillity". Justice Abher Gul Khan heard the petition filed by Shahriz Khan, Aleema's son, challenging the detention orders. During the hearing, the court asked the petitioner's counsel whether he had first approached the relevant authority against the detention order. Barrister Taimur Malik, the counsel, replied that the case was different from other matters, arguing that the detention proceedings appeared to have been initiated after Aleema and her driver had already been taken into custody. He submitted that the District Intelligence Committee (DIC) meeting and issuance of the detention notification took place on the same day. "It appears that the arrest was made first and the DIC meeting was held afterwards," the counsel alleged. Barrister Malik further contended that the detention notification was issued after the arrest had already taken place. Justice Khan observed that the court would examine the issue. She said the court was reserving its decision on the maintainability of the petition. However, on the counsel's request, the judge adjourned the hearing until Sept 25 for further arguments.

وزیراعظم کی خصوصی ریلیف اسکیم

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

رعایتی پٹرول کے حصول کا طریقہ کار:

STEP 01 رجسٹریشن کے بعد پٹرول ریلیف حاصل کرنے کے لیے پٹرول پمپ جانے سے پہلے TOK لکھ کر 9771 پر بھیج دیں

STEP 02 موصول ہونے والے میسج میں ٹوکن نمبر، گاڑی کا رجسٹریشن نمبر، پٹرول کی مقدار اور ٹوکن استعمال کرنے کی مدت درج ہوگی

STEP 03 ٹوکن پٹرول پمپ پر دکھا کر آپ رعایتی قیمت پر پٹرول حاصل کر سکتے ہیں

صوبے کے نام کا پہلا حرف

اسلام آباد (A) سندھ (S) پنجاب (P) بلوچستان (B)
خیبر پختونخوا (K) گلگت بلتستان (G) آزاد جموں و کشمیر (A)

REG لکھ کر space دیں

STEP 01 اپنا قومی شناختی کارڈ نمبر
3740515196983 لکھنے کے بعد space دیں

STEP 02 بغیر space نمبر پلیٹ
LHR123 ایسے لکھنے کے بعد space دیں

STEP 03 صوبے کے نام کا پہلا حرف
جہاں آپ کی گاڑی رجسٹر ہے
صوبہ کا نام پنجاب (P) کے بعد space دیں

STEP 04 وہیکل رجسٹریشن کی تاریخ
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برس روز میں 100 روپے
فی لیٹر رعایت
10 لیٹر پر

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