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**PM Shehbaz says
Pak fully supports
Saudi Arabian govt**

Detailed News On Page-08

**Chairman Senate
extends greetings
to Saudi leadership**

Detailed News On Page-03


**Pak values its
relations with
Bulgaria: Dar**

Detailed News On Page-08



Pak 'shoots down Taliban eight drones'

Four drones were shot down near Torkham and four others near Kohat, say security sources; The development comes two days after Pakistan, in response to recent terrorist attacks in KP, conducted "calibrated" airstrikes in the border region with Afghanistan against terrorist hideouts and safe havens of terrorist organisations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The armed forces on Wednesday shot down eight drones launched by the Afghan Taliban after they entered Pakistani airspace near the Torkham border and Kohat, according to security sources. The sources said the drones were intercepted by the air defence systems, which they described as "active and vigilant". "The armed forces and the 'Shaheens' of the Pakistan Air Force professionally thwarted the Afghan Taliban regime's cowardly attempt to target public areas," security sources said.

According to the sources, four of the eight drones were shot down in areas adjacent to the Torkham border, while the remaining four were downed near Kohat. Earlier, security sources said two "rudimentary" drones had been brought down using "soft skill" methods about seven kilometres from Kohat city. They said the armed forces' air defence systems remained on round-the-clock alert and were maintaining vigilance against "all threats from Kharjistan". "This incursion serves as yet another proof of the Afghan Taliban regime's direct support and patronage of terrorists," security sources said. Later, security sources said the wreckage of the destroyed drones was being recovered. Last night's exchange of fire in Kurram sector and Wednesday's drone incursion "demonstrated the state of the

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan calls for verifiable action against terrorism

DPM Dar says India cannot unilaterally suspend its obligations under binding Indus Waters Treaty

DNA

NEW YORK: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar has stressed the need for concrete and verifiable action to prevent Afghan soil from being used for terrorism against neighbouring countries, particularly Pakistan. He was addressing the meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Contact Group on Afghanistan on Tuesday on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). DPM Dar expressed serious concern over the presence of terrorist groups inside Afghanistan and recalled the sacrifices rendered by Pakistan in combating terrorism.

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Govt orders audit of DISCOs

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to conduct a comprehensive technical audit of all power distribution companies (DISCOs) to identify the scale and underlying causes of electricity theft and distribution losses, with the findings to guide targeted measures against inefficiencies and over-billing. The decision was taken during a meeting of the Committee Constituted vide PM Directive on Inefficiencies and Electricity Theft in DISCOs, co-chaired by Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Establishment Division Senator Ahad Cheema and Federal Minister for Power Division Sardar Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari.

New gift rules for govt officials

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has introduced new rules for the management and regulation of Toshakhana, discouraging all public office holders, except the president and the prime minister, from accepting gifts from local or foreign dignitaries. The Cabinet Division has issued the Toshakhana (Management and Regulation) Rules, 2026, according to which all private persons forming part of an official delegation are also discouraged from accepting gifts for themselves or their families from the dignitaries, persons or companies with whom they engage in connection with official business. "Where accepting a gift cannot be avoided because of diplomatic norms or cultural sensitivities, it must be deposited in Toshakhana," the new rules maintained.

CM KP Afridi says

Staging protest is a legal right

KP Cabinet amends police act; chief minister empowered to appoint police personnel; can ask Center any time for the change of IG police

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Ahead of the PTI's planned long march to Islamabad on Sept 27, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi said on Wednesday that staging a protest was a legal and constitutional right. Addressing a cabinet meeting in Peshawar, CM Afridi alleged that for the past three to four days, "plainclothes individuals" had been targeting PTI workers, office-bearers and elected representatives. He alleged that an assassination attempt was made on Communications and Works Minister Shakil Khan, who also managed to evade an attempt to abduct him. CM Afridi further alleged that Minister for Public Health Engineering Fazal Shakoor was abducted by plainclothes individuals, who also opened fire on his car. "If a minister, a provincial cabinet member is not safe from these thugs, then what

about the common man?" he asked. The chief minister emphasised that the treatment being meted out to provincial cabinet members was "unacceptable". "These people are afraid of the power of the people. No sane person would take such measures," he asserted. He also assailed PML-N's Rana Sanaullah's reported remarks labelling the people of KP as terrorists and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz remarks regarding the terror threat from other provinces. He said that from today, the province would be cut off from the rest of Pakistan and all routes to it would be closed. "The rest of Pakistan will remain open, but no one will be able to enter or leave KP," he said. "What should we make of cutting KP off from the rest of Pakistan and closing all routes? Is there a conspiracy underway? Is an attempt being made to repeat the East Pakistan tragedy?" he asked.

Continued on Page 06

Pezeshkian tells Trump that Iran will never surrender

Iran's president said that his people have been "victims of terrorism" by the United States. He held up large photos of the late Ali Khamenei and the more than 150 Iranian school children killed on the first days of the war

DNA

UNITED NATIONS: Iran's president struck a defiant tone at the UN on Wednesday, where he spoke for the first time since Washington and Israel launched an all-out war on his country, vowing Tehran would never "bend at the knee." Masoud Pezeshkian accused Washington of "terrorism" for assassinating former supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei at the start of the war. He held up a photograph of the dead leader, before insisting Tehran had never started a war. Pezeshkian made no reference to the talks to resolve the stalled war in his steely speech. "(Trump) must know that the resistance of the Iranian people will only increase in the face of sanctions, increased pressure, increased bullying. We will never bow our head or bend at the knee," he said. Pezeshkian insisted that Tehran would not allow the Strait of Hormuz, which it has been intermittently blockaded since the start of the war, causing global energy prices to spike, to be used for aggression against his country. "We cannot let some have free access and bolster their interests from the waterway, while at

Continued on Page 06

Donald Trump: 'A lot of momentum' for Iran deal

Rubio says Trump open to deal with Iran, would involve hard work over period of time

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: There is "a lot of momentum" for a deal with Iran, US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday at a meeting on the sidelines of the 81st UN General Assembly in New York. The meeting was attended by the Saudi foreign minister, Qatar's emir, Jordan's king, the Turkish and Syrian presidents, Egyptian officials, the foreign minister of the UAE and the US secretaries of state and the Treasury. Trump said his envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner had held talks earlier in the day with Iranian intermediaries.

Continued on Page 06

Nauman first Secy General of MJDA



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan is pleased to announce the appointment of Lieutenant General Nauman Mahmood, Hilal-e-Imtiaz (Military), (Retired), as the first Secretary General pursuant to Makkah Joint Defence Agreement (MJDA). Secretary General will lead the General Secretariat of the Alliance being established at Riyadh.

16 outlaws killed in various operations

In Mastung, nine terrorists were killed after they attempted to attack a checkpoint, according to the state broadcaster. Heavy weapons, ammunition and three motorcycles were also recovered

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: At least 16 terrorists were killed during separate military and police operations in Balochistan's Mastung, Turbat and Quetta districts on Wednesday, state media reported. According to Radio Pakistan,

Continued on Page 06

NATIONAL DAY OF SAUDI ARABIA



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Charge d Affaires Naif bin Mlafakh cutting cake to celebrate the 96th National Day of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at Islamabad Serena Hotel. - DNA

PTI long march threat

Punjab govt seeks Rangers deployed in Rawalpindi

The deployment is proposed under Article 245 of the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973, Sections 4 and 5 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997, and Sections 7(b) and 10 of the Pakistan Rangers Ordinance, 1959

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab government has requested the federal government to deploy Rangers in Rawalpindi, Attock, Jhelum and Mianwali districts from Sept 22 to Oct 5 to assist the provincial police in maintaining law and order amid an expected protest on Sept 27. The request comes as the Kissan Ittehad and PTI have announced long marches and sit-ins in Islamabad in the coming week. PTI has announced a long march on Sept 27 to press for the release of its founder, Imran Khan. The letter, a copy of which is available with Dawn, said

Continued on Page 06

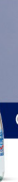
Govt seeks mobile shutdown on Sept 27

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Punjab's Home Department has reportedly asked the federal government to downgrade mobile and internet services in specific areas from September 27 amid a possible long march of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), well-placed sources said on Wednesday. The development came as the PTI prepares for a nationwide

Continued on Page 06

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Older people forum to amplify older women's voices

PESHAWAR: A district-level Older People Forum has been established in Peshawar, creating a platform for older women and men to raise concerns, influence decisions and advocate for more responsive policies and services, with a strong focus on strengthening the leadership and participation of older women.

Facilitated by 'Blue Veins', the Forum brings together older women and men from diverse backgrounds, including people from minority communities and persons with disabilities, alongside civil society and community representatives.

The initiative seeks to ensure that those experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of exclusion have a meaningful role in identifying priorities and shaping advocacy on ageing.

The Forum will focus on issues affecting people as they age, including access to social protection, health and social services, information, institutional support and opportunities to participate in public decision-making.

Particular attention will be given to the experiences of older women, who can face compounded inequalities linked to gender, age, disability, economic insecurity and social exclusion. Shoaib Khan, District Officer, Social Welfare Department Peshawar, and Khan Saib, the Department's focal person for senior citizens, reaffirmed the Department's commitment to supporting older people and strengthening coordination with organizations working on ageing and inclusion.

"QCAThe Social Welfare Department remains committed to advancing the rights and well-being of senior citizens and improving their access to information, services and institutional support. Collaboration with civil society, development partners and donors is important in strengthening sustainable responses to the needs of an ageing population, particularly older women and those facing greater social and economic vulnerabilities," they said.

Shahzad Khakheli of the Foundation for Ageing and Inclusive Development (FAID) said population ageing needs greater recognition within development planning and public policy. "Ageing is not simply a welfare issue; it is a question of rights, dignity and inclusion.

As more people live into older age, our policies, institutions and communities must be prepared to respond to their changing realities.—APP

Hunting in 53 critical wildlife areas banned in KP

Recognising this ecological significance, the wildlife department has accorded particular importance to the conservation of migratory birds, monitoring of their populations and protection of the habitats upon which their survival depends

PESHAWAR: In a major conservation measure aimed at safeguarding migratory waterfowl, protecting biodiversity, and preserving the province's fragile natural habitats, the Wildlife Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has issued comprehensive regulations for the 2026-27 waterfowl hunting season, introducing stringent controls on hunting activities across the province.

Latif Ur Rehman, spokesperson for the climate change, forestry, environment & wildlife department KP said under an official notification issued by Chief Conservator of Wildlife, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dr. Mohsin Farooq, hunting of waterfowl will be permitted only until 31 December 2026, and that too strictly in accordance with the prescribed terms and conditions.

At the same time, 53 important wetlands, wildlife areas and ecologically sensitive habitats across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have been declared completely closed to hunting, reflecting the Department's continued emphasis on the protection of migratory species and their natural habitats.

He said, every autumn and winter, migratory waterfowl undertake remarkable journeys across vast distances and international boundaries before arriving in the rivers, lakes, reservoirs, wetlands and other natural habitats of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. These seasonal visitors are not merely a beautiful expression of nature; they are an integral part of the ecological system and contribute to the health and balance of wetland ecosystems.

Their presence also reflects the continuing vitality of the natural landscapes that provide them with food, shelter and breeding and

resting grounds. Recognising this ecological significance, the wildlife department has accorded particular importance to the conservation of migratory birds, monitoring of their populations and protection of the habitats upon which their survival depends.

Under the notified regulations, hunting of specified waterfowl species, including Northern Pintail, Common Teal, Mallard, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, Garganey, Shoveler, Common Pochard, White-eyed Pochard, Tufted Duck, Eurasian Coot, Golden Plover, Grey Plover, Eastern Golden Plover, Eurasian Curlew and Snipe, will only be allowed in accordance with the prescribed legal procedure and within the limits established by the wildlife department.

As part of the conservation regime, the Department has declared 53 locations across the province completely closed to waterfowl hunting. These include major dams, lakes, river stretches, game reserves, wildlife sanctuaries, conservancies, wetlands and other sensitive natural habitats. Among the designated no-hunting areas are Tanda Dam in Kohat; Sharkai Dam, Teri and Zebdi Dam in Karak; Ghol Dam, Latamber Dam and Changhoz Dam; Manda Dam in Lower Kurram; Mali Khel Dam in Upper Kurram; Shin Kach Dam in Upper South Waziristan; Spin Dam, Gandhi Ali Dam, Ghrozandi Dam and Darmalik Dam in Kohat; Warsak Dam and its catchment area; Jarboba Dam in Khyber; Kundar Dam in Kohat; Mohmand Dam; Basha Dam in Kohistan; designated stretches of the Indus River; Pezu Dam in Lakki Marwat; Raghani Dam and Tali Dam in Bajaur; Koto Hydropower Project Dam; Saldagai Lake in Upper Dir; Talao Lake Zakhana; Banash Lake in Lower Dir; Dawa Toi Nullah in Upper South Waziristan; Ansoo Lake in Naran; Shandur Lake in Upper Chitral; designated sections of Shisham and river valleys; Chashma Lake; specified areas of the Indus Game Reserve; Kurram River; Tochi River; Mailward Dam and Dubair Khwar, along with other ecologically sensitive areas.

The notification further places several stretches of major waterways, including the Swat, Panjkora, Chitral and Indus rivers, outside the scope of hunting, while protected areas such as Kabalgram Game Reserve, Mankiyal Conservancy, Kalam Conservancy, Bashar Gol Biosphere Reserve, Tirich Koh Conservancy and Gomal Zam Conservancy have also been declared exempt from hunting. These restrictions are intended to provide secure refuge to migratory birds in areas of particular ecological importance and to ensure that the province's

most sensitive habitats remain protected from hunting pressure.

The new regulations also restrict legal waterfowl hunting to Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, making a valid Small Game Shooting Licence mandatory for hunters.

No special permit for waterfowl hunting will be issued to any person who does not possess a valid shooting licence. The annual fee for a Small Game Shooting Licence has been fixed at Rs. 5,000, while the Special Duck Hunting Fee has been prescribed at Rs. 100 per day per gun. In addition, a strict daily bag limit of five ducks per gun has been prescribed, and exceeding the specified limit will not be permitted under any circumstances. The wildlife department has also imposed clear restrictions on hunting hours. Waterfowl hunting will not be permitted before the first light of dawn, while all hunting activities must cease before sunset. Hunting after sunset is strictly prohibited. The use of electronic devices for hunting waterfowl has also been completely prohibited, while hunters will not be allowed to imitate bird calls or use call birds to attract migratory waterfowl.

The department has directed its field formations to take immediate legal action against violations of the notified regulations. Any person found hunting within any of the 53 areas declared closed to hunting will face action under the relevant wildlife laws. Wildlife staff will also maintain continuous surveillance of bird populations and hunting activities during the season, and where ecological conditions, population trends or conservation requirements warrant, hunting may be suspended or further restricted.

In case of violations, legal proceedings will be initiated under the relevant provisions of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Wildlife and Biodiversity (Protection, Preservation, Conservation and Management) Act, 2015, as well as other applicable rules and government notifications. The department has made it clear that the licensing of hunting does not provide unrestricted freedom to hunt; rather, it establishes a regulated framework intended to balance lawful recreational activity with the long-term conservation of wildlife.

The wildlife department has urged hunters to recognise that responsible hunting begins with respect for the law, the prescribed limits and the ecological value of wildlife. Hunters will be required to comply fully with all restrictions relating to designated areas, authorised days, hunting hours, species and daily bag limits.—DNA

Naqvi, Natalie discuss bilateral ties

Speaking on the occasion, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that Pakistan stands as a strong wall between the world and terrorism. He highlighted Pakistan's continued efforts and sacrifices in combating terrorism and maintaining regional security



ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday met with US Ambassador Natalie Baker in Islamabad and discussed ways to strengthen Pakistan-US relations, investment opportunities, regional security and efforts for peace and stability. During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on promoting bilateral relations and explored opportunities for increasing investment cooperation between Pakistan and the United States. They also discussed the latest regional situation and ongoing efforts aimed at maintaining peace and stability. Regional security matters and Pakistan's role in promoting peace were also reviewed. The two sides agreed to strengthen mutual contacts in order to further enhance bilateral cooperation. US Ambassador Natalie Baker appreciated Pakistan's sacrifices in the fight against terrorism and acknowledged the country's contributions in addressing security challenges. Speaking on the occasion, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that Pakistan stands as a strong wall between the world and terrorism. He highlighted Pakistan's continued efforts and sacrifices in combating terrorism and maintaining regional security.—DNA

Afghanistan has become hub of terrorism: Ayaz

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Wednesday said that Pakistan has been grappling with the menace of terrorism, as neighbouring Afghanistan has become a hub of terrorism in the region.

Sophisticated weapons left behind by NATO forces in Afghanistan were being used against innocent Pakistani citizens and the country's security forces. The Speaker expressed these views during a meeting with the European Parliamentary delegation led by Mary Khan, Member of the European Parliament, at Parliament House, a news release said.

He said that Pakistan had demonstrated considerable restraint in response to recent Indian aggression. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with the European Union and its member states.

He expressed Pakistan's desire to further strengthen

parliamentary relations with the European Union and proposed the establishment of a Pakistan-European Union Parliamentary Friendship Group. He said enhanced parliamentary contacts would provide opportunities for exchanging experiences, information and best practices between the two sides. Ayaz Sadiq also said that terrorism emanating from Afghan territory remains a major challenge for Pakistan.

He recalled that Pakistan had hosted Afghan refugees for four decades and reiterated that Pakistan desired peace and stability in the region. He said that Pakistan wanted regional disputes to be resolved peacefully through dialogue and engagement.

Ayaz Sadiq has also said that Pakistan had demonstrated restraint in response to unprovoked Indian aggression and played a responsible role for regional peace and stability. He said Pakistan remains

committed to peaceful resolution of Kashmir.

The NA Speaker said that the world appreciated the efforts of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and CDF Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir for promoting global peace, dialogue and stability.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that although Pakistan contributes less than 1 percent in greenhouse emissions yet Pakistan was severely affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, which emerged as a major challenge for the country. He urged the international community to play its role in addressing climate-related challenges. The Speaker also said that Pakistan's Parliament is the world's 1st green Parliament.

He said that the use of solar energy in Parliament is an environment-friendly initiative and reflects Pakistan's commitment to sustainable and green development.

The speaker said that the Women Parliamentary Caucus is playing an active role in protecting and promoting the rights of women.

He added that the Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights, SDGs Secretariat and Young Parliamentarians Forum of the National Assembly are also playing an active role for the betterment and welfare of the people of Pakistan.—DNA

From policy to practice: Pakistan's maritime turn on World Maritime Day 2026

DR. MARRIYAM SIDDIQUE

World Maritime Day 2026 adopts the theme "From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence." This is the first two-year theme in the International Maritime Organisation's history, running through 2026 and 2027. It signals a shift in global maritime governance. The era of treaty-making has matured and the era of enforcement has begun.

The 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea remains the constitution of the oceans and nearly every coastal state has ratified it. Yet ratification is not implementation and the IMO acknowledges this gap by insisting that a rule must be translated into concrete national legislation, enforcement and day-to-day operations. Paper commitments do not secure sea lanes because only practice does. This gap matters more now than in most years. Attacks on shipping in the Red Sea, a fragile Strait of Hormuz and rising war-risk premiums have shown how quickly the maritime commons turns contested. A convention does not stop a missile from hitting a tanker, only enforcement does.

Pakistan offers an instructive case. In July 2026, the Lloyd's Market Association's Joint War Committee removed Pakistan from its listed war-zone countries. The designation had stood since 2001 and it functioned as a standing tax on Pakistani trade by raising insurance costs at Karachi, Port Qasim and Gwadar. Its removal is a milestone. This outcome was not automatic; it followed sustained technical engagement. A formal submission was made in March and verified data was provided. Pakistan Navy worked alongside other national stakeholders in a coordinated whole-of-government effort. The effect is measurable, since war-risk premiums have fallen, competitiveness has improved and confidence in Pakistani ports has increased. This is what implementation looks like – not a signature on a treaty but months of quiet work, evidence and follow-through.

In March 2026, Pakistan Navy launched Operation Muhafiz-ul-Bahr in response to regional escalation. The de-facto closure of the Strait of Hormuz threatened energy supplies and disrupted global energy sea lines of communication, so

Pakistan acted. The operation secures national sea lines of communication, protects critical energy supplies, escorts Pakistan-flagged merchant vessels and coordinates with Pakistan National Shipping Corporation. As of late 2026, seventy-six transits have been escorted through the Gulf and the Red Sea, making Pakistan the first nation in the region to commence such escorts. This is implementation in motion. The Pakistan Navy has also maintained a continuous presence in the North Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman, which reassures international maritime traffic and contributes to regional stability. Pakistan has also joined the Saudi-led Multinational Maritime Defence Coalition, which aims to strengthen security in the Bab el-Mandeb–Red Sea–Gulf of Aden corridor, actively participating in this burden-sharing and burden-bearing effort. The Pakistan Navy's sustained presence and escort operations have become a visible expression of Pakistan's commitment to keeping the region's sea lanes open and secure.

Implementation requires more than operations because it also requires awareness. Pakistan Navy is playing a key role in the Maritime Awareness Campaign Plan, which seeks to generate maritime awareness, channel efforts to reap the full potential of Pakistan's maritime sector and promote the Blue Economy. The campaign conducts an annual Maritime Security Workshop, briefs government officials and policymakers, raises awareness about marine pollution, engages the business community and supports domain-specific research at the Maritime Centre of Excellence (MCE). These are capacity-building measures that build the human capital implementation requires.

Pakistan International Maritime Exhibition and Conference is another pillar and its second edition was held in November 2025 under the patronage of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs. It received an overwhelming response, with one hundred and thirty-three international delegations attending and forty-four countries represented. Exhibitions and conferences build networks, share knowledge, attract investment, and showcase capability. They do not by themselves build shipyards or cut port turnaround times, but they are necessary conditions, because they create the connections that later become con-

tracts, signal intent and open doors.

Pakistan's exclusive economic zone is a frontier and Pakistan Navy is pursuing its exploration with China Geological Survey and National Institute of Oceanography. Three expeditions have been conducted within Pakistan's EEZ and they have mapped various zones and identified oil and gas reserves whose preliminary estimates rank them sixteenth and fifth largest in the world respectively. If fully realised, these resources could be a game changer by reshaping Pakistan's energy import bill and anchoring a new industrial base. But identification is not extraction and estimates are not production, because a survey finding is a precondition for success rather than success itself. The task ahead is to convert potential into practice.

World Maritime Day 2026 should be read as an audit rather than a celebration. Pakistan can point to real outcomes, including the Lloyd's delisting, Operation Muhafiz-ul-Bahr, PIMEC and scientific exploration. These are not declarations but actions. The harder half of the equation remains: regulatory enforcement must be embedded in domestic law, blue-economy potential must be converted into functioning industry, port infrastructure must keep pace with ambition, human capital must be deepened and regional stability must hold. These are long-term tasks that require sustained attention, resources and political will.

IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez has framed the stakes by stating that the goal is "ensuring regulations are put into action" so that global rules "lead to safer, more secure and environmentally sound shipping worldwide." Pakistan's 2026 record shows that it is moving in the direction from policy to practice. World Maritime Day 2026 calls on states to move beyond signature, to enforce, to build and to deliver. Pakistan has answered part of that call by showing that diplomacy can lower costs, navies can protect trade, campaigns can build awareness, exhibitions can build networks and science can map resources. The rest is work of legislation, infrastructure, industry, and time, because the theme "From Policy to Practice" is not a slogan but a standard and Pakistan's 2026 record suggests it understands the standard while the challenge is to meet it fully.

DNA

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- 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.....5555489
- 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

Zarif for regional security through dialogue, coop

He called for a future in which geography was not a sentence, history was not a prison and differences were not used as a pretext for permanent conflict, emphasising that the task was not merely to predict what came next, but to build what should come next

ISLAMABAD: Former Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Javad Zarif on Wednesday called for a shift from a threat-centred security paradigm towards regional dialogue, cooperation and shared prosperity, saying the emerging post-polar world placed greater responsibility on regional states to build mechanisms for collective security. “The post-polar world does not give us peace automatically; it gives us greater responsibility. We must move from security against one another towards security with one another,” he said while speaking at a roundtable discussion hosted by the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI). The session was organised by ISSI’s Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) under its Distinguished Lecture Series, said a press release. Dr. Javad Zarif is a veteran Iranian diplomat, scholar and academic who has been closely associated with Iran’s diplomatic engagements on major regional and international issues. He served as Iran’s Foreign Minister from 2013-2021. He also played the central role in the negotiations that led to the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and is recognised internationally for his role in multilateral diplomacy and international negotiations. Dr. Zarif said that the emerging post-polar global order had created both challenges and opportunities for regional states and called for a shift from a threat-centred security paradigm towards a possibility-centred approach based on regional ownership, dialogue, cooperation and shared prosperity. He highlighted that the central question was not only what kind of world the international community was entering, but also what kind of future it was prepared to build. He argued that the future was not a finished destination but was being produced through the narratives, institutions, net-



works and choices made by societies. Reflecting on the region’s history, Dr. Zarif said that West Asia had experienced colonialism, partition, sectarianism, occupation, invasion, externally sponsored conflicts, terrorism, sanctions and repeated military aggression. He said the past contained important lessons about the consequences of miscalculation, exclusion, domination and the outsourcing of security. However, he cautioned that history could become a prison when societies remained trapped in memories of past conflicts and grievances. Societies, therefore needed to confront the past honestly in order to recover possibilities that the past had suppressed. Discussing the international

order, Dr. Zarif described the current environment as a post-polar world, in which power had become distributed across regions, societies, markets, technologies, networks and public narratives. No single state, he argued, possessed the capacity to control every major outcome, while middle powers and regional states had acquired greater strategic agency. Permanent alliances and loyalties were giving way to issue-based coalitions and network relations, while economic interdependence, technology, information and non-state actors were increasingly shaping security and political outcomes. Speaking about Pakistan’s role in facilitating dialogue between Iran and the United States, Dr. Zarif applauded Pa-

kistan’s sincere efforts to promote diplomacy and de-escalation. He acknowledged Pakistan’s constructive role in bringing the two sides to the negotiating table and said that the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) provided an important framework for dialogue and the peaceful resolution of differences. He also highlighted Pakistan’s diplomatic experience as an asset in managing complex regional dynamics. Concluding his address, Dr. Zarif said that the past demonstrated that military superiority did not by itself produce political legitimacy, sanctions and coercion did not create stability, and foreign guarantees could not substitute for regional arrangements.

CDA cleans G-10 reservoirs for water security

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has carried out routine cleaning and disinfection of water reservoirs at G-10 Water Works to maintain hygienic conditions and safeguard the quality of drinking water supplied to residents. “CDA is committed to ensuring a reliable supply of clean drinking water to the citizens of Islamabad,” the authority’s spokesperson told APP on Wednesday. The spokesperson said the cleaning of reservoirs was part of the authority’s regular maintenance and disinfection measures. He said the CDA

was also taking steps to improve the existing water supply infrastructure, strengthen the distribution network and reduce water losses to meet the growing needs of the capital’s population. The authority was working to enhance water storage capacity and explore additional sustainable sources, while promoting the efficient use and conservation of available resources, he added. The spokesperson said rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge were also among the measures being encouraged as part of the CDA’s long-term water management strategy.

Residents, educational institutions, housing societies and commercial establishments had been urged to conserve water, repair leaking taps and pipelines, and report leakages to the relevant authorities for timely action. The CDA also advised citizens against disposing of solid waste, chemicals, oil and sewage into drains, nullahs and watercourses to protect water resources from pollution. The spokesperson said the authority would continue maintenance of its water supply facilities and promote responsible water use to support a sustainable supply for the capital.—APP

Nafeesa seeks early NCSW chief appointment

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Special Committee on Gender Mainstreaming, Dr. Nafisa Shah, MNA, has expressed serious concern over the continued delay in the appointment of Chairpersons of the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) and the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women. Chairing a meeting of the Committee at Parliament House, Dr. Nafisa Shah observed that prolonged vacancies at the leadership level undermined the effective functioning, institutional authority and continuity of the important statutory bodies. The Committee stressed that the appointments should be made without further delay in accordance with the applicable legal framework to enable the Commissions to effectively discharge their mandates and provide strong institutional leadership for the promotion and protection of women’s rights. The Committee also expressed concern over the acute shortage of staff and vacant sanctioned posts in the NCSW and other Women’s Commissions, besides the lack of basic facilities, pensionary benefits and appropriate incentives for employees. It emphasized that adequate financial, human and institutional resources were essential for the Commissions to effectively perform their statutory responsibilities. Dr. Nafisa Shah paid tribute to the Chairpersons of the NCSW and Provincial Commissions for their commitment to advancing

and protecting women’s rights, acknowledging their dedication, courage and resilience in pursuing the national cause. The Committee received a comprehensive briefing from the Acting Chairperson, NCSW, on the Commission’s legal framework, mandate, performance, operational functioning and challenges. Chairpersons of the Provincial Commissions on the Status of Women also apprised the Committee of their experiences, achievements, institutional challenges and areas requiring greater coordination and support. The Acting Chairperson informed the Committee that the NCSW, established under the National Commission on the Status of Women Act, 2012, is mandated to promote and protect women’s rights and advance gender equality. Its functions include reviewing laws.—APP

order, Dr. Zarif described the current environment as a post-polar world, in which power had become distributed across regions, societies, markets, technologies, networks and public narratives. No single state, he argued, possessed the capacity to control every major outcome, while middle powers and regional states had acquired greater strategic agency. Permanent alliances and loyalties were giving way to issue-based coalitions and network relations, while economic interdependence, technology, information and non-state actors were increasingly shaping security and political outcomes. Speaking about Pakistan’s role in facilitating dialogue between Iran and the United States, Dr. Zarif applauded Pa-

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Olive cultivation spreads to 60 districts

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan’s olive cultivation drive has expanded to 60 districts under the PSDP Olive Project, engaging 12,000 farmers as the country develops a farm-to-fork value chain covering cultivation, processing, quality control and value addition. According to official documents available with Wealth Pakistan, more than 7.5 million olive trees have been planted nationwide over around 60,400 acres under federal, provincial and international development programmes. Of these, 66%, or 5 million trees, have been planted under the PSDP Olive Project, which covers 60 districts and engages 12,000 olive farmers. Another 6,594 acres of olive groves have been equipped with water-saving irrigation systems to improve water-use efficiency. The documents show that Pakistan has more than 4 million hectares of potential olive plantation area, along with millions of wild olive trees. The country has developed defined olive-growing clusters across different zones and approved 22 olive varieties for cultivation. Initially dependent on sapling imports from Mediterranean countries, Pakistan has shifted to domestic propagation of olive plants since 2022, helping save foreign exchange through public-private partnerships and targeted capacity building. The development of processing infrastructure has accompanied the expansion in cultivation. A total of 51 olive oil extraction units have been installed across Punjab, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. These include 15 extraction units established under the PSDP project, while other facilities have been supported by provincial governments, the World Bank, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, TIKa and other agencies. Supporting infrastructure includes six fruit-processing units, 500 pre- and post-harvest kits, 14 DS nursery tunnels, five weather stations and four laboratories equipped for olive oil quality analysis. Human resource development has also formed a major part of the initiative. A total of 276 capacity-building programmes covering orchard and nursery management, post-harvest handling, Good Agricultural Practices, Good Manufacturing Practices, oil extraction and value addition have benefited 17,986 stakeholders nationwide. The documents said more than 36 publications on different aspects of the olive value chain had been developed, while dedicated project websites, educational YouTube channels and an interactive dashboard were being used for information dissemination and awareness among stakeholders. The olive sector has also expanded into entrepreneurship and value-added production. More than 100 entrepreneurs are now engaged in olive oil and value-added products, including pickles, jams, cosmetics, soaps and nutraceuticals, with individual brands.—DNA

Gilani greets Saudi leadership, people on National Day

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani Wednesday extended his heartfelt greetings to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Saudi leadership and the brotherly people of Saudi Arabia on the 96th National Day of the Kingdom. In his message, the Chairman Senate said Saudi National Day was a significant occasion to celebrate national unity, pride, progress and the Kingdom’s remarkable development. He expressed his best wishes for Saudi Arabia’s continued peace, stability, prosperity and success. He said Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations were rooted in shared faith, brotherhood, history, mutual respect and strong people-to-people ties. Describing Saudi Arabia as a trusted and steadfast friend of Pakistan, he noted that the recent strategic mutual defence agreement further reflected the depth and enduring strength of bilateral relations. The Chairman Senate emphasized that Pakistan attaches great importance to its fraternal ties with Saudi Arabia and remains committed to further strengthening parliamentary, economic, trade, investment, energy, education, health and cultural cooperation. He expressed the hope that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia would continue working together for peace, security, prosperity and unity in the Muslim Ummah, while praying for the continued progress and well-being of the Kingdom and further strengthening of the brotherly ties between the two countries.—APP

Cops briefed on security duties amid prevailing situation

ISLAMABAD: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Safe City Operations Shehzada Umar Abbas briefed police officers on the prevailing law and order situation and security duties, directing them to remain vigilant and disciplined to ensure the protection of citizens and their property. According to the official that the SSP Umar briefed Safe City police officers about their duties and stressed the need for alertness and discipline while performing their responsibilities. He directed the officers to carry out their duties with professionalism and responsibility and remain prepared to respond effectively to any situation. Protection of citizens is our top priority, and all officers and personnel must perform their responsibilities in a professional manner, the SSP said. He stressed that officers should remain vigilant during duty and ensure all necessary measures for the safety of citizens and their property.—APP

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Briefs

SP briefs
anti-riot
force on
emergency
response

ISLAMABAD: Superintendent of Police (SP) Industrial Area Zone Dr Ayaz Husain briefed personnel of the Anti-Riot Force on operational preparedness, emergency response and maintaining discipline during duty. An official told APP on Wednesday that the briefing focused on practical drills and training to prepare personnel for handling emergency and law and order situations effectively. The SP Ayaz directed the personnel to remain prepared for any situation and ensure discipline while performing their duties. He stressed that regular practical exercises and professional training were essential to improve the force's readiness and response capabilities. The personnel were also briefed on performing their assigned duties with discipline, responsibility and professionalism.—APP

Cyber cases
NCCIA DG
seeks faster
forensic
analysis

ISLAMABAD: Director General National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, on Wednesday, visited the National Forensics Agency (NFA), Islamabad and discussed measures to speed up forensic analysis of evidence and strengthen investigations in cyber crime cases. An official told A on Wednesday that Rizvi met Additional IGP/Director General NFA Jawad Ahmed Dogar and Director Crime Scene Unit (Retd) Colonel Shehzad Shafiq during the visit. The officials discussed closer coordination between the two agencies for the analysis of evidence in cybercrime cases and ways to make the investigation process faster and more effective. The NCCIA chief Rizvi also inspected different sections of the National Forensics Agency, including its Digital Forensics Laboratory, and reviewed the facilities and technology being used for forensic examination. Rizvi said the use of modern technology and stronger institutional coordination would help improve efforts to prevent and investigate cybercrimes. He stressed closer cooperation between NCCIA and NFA to strengthen evidence-based investigations and improve the handling of cybercrime cases.—APP

Russian
language
classes
receives
overwhelming
response

ISLAMABAD: Vice Chancellor (VC) of the Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology (FUUAST) Islamabad, Prof. Dr Zabta Khan Shinwari, visited a Russian language class at the university and expressed happiness over the large number of students attending the course. Speaking to students in the classroom, Dr Zabta Khan Shinwari said one of the university's main aims is to broaden the worldview of the young generation. He said Russian culture is rich and learning the Russian language is beneficial for students. "Learning an important language of a major country like Russia is the need of the time. It is a great opportunity for our students," he said. The Vice Chancellor announced that Russian language would also be offered as a regular course from the next semester. He thanked the Russian government, Ural State Pedagogical University and Russian language instructor Dr. Roman Porozov for their cooperation. Earlier, Russian Professor Dr. Roman Porozov met Vice Chancellor Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari at his office. Head of

Shaista lauds ICB students
participation in SDGs' drive

She also acknowledged ICB's efforts to raise awareness and engage young people in the SDG initiative, and commended the college for its strong showing in the campaign's first phase

ISLAMABAD: Shaista Pervaiz Malik, MNA and Convener of the Parliamentary Task Force on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), visited Islamabad College for Boys (ICB), G-6/3, on Wednesday in connection with the Hum Hain Pakistan-SDG Youth Campaign. During her visit, she was accompanied by Dr Sultan Azam Temuri, Founding Director and CEO of the International Governance and Sustainability Institute (IG-SI) and a proud alumnus of ICB. Dr Yaseen Aafaqui welcomed the distinguished guests on behalf of the college. Syed Nadeem Ahsan, Focal Person for the SDGs Programme at ICB, briefed them on the SDG activities and initiatives under way at the college during the campaign's first phase. The MNA was apprised that so far, 1,114 students have registered and completed the SDG Pre-Assessment Test, and 30 SDG awareness sessions, lectures and seminars have been held. In September, the college marked International Literacy Day and the International Day of Peace, and student groups have been formed to carry out SDG Quick Impact Projects (QIPs). After the briefing, the guests toured the college, including its classrooms, library and podcast studio, before moving to the historic Old Hall to meet the students taking part in the campaign. Addressing the students in the Old Hall, Ms. Shaista Pervaiz Malik praised them for their active participation in the campaign and their commitment to learning about and promoting the SDGs. She also acknowledged ICB's efforts to



raise awareness and engage young people in the SDG initiative, and commended the college for its strong showing in the campaign's first phase. She highlighted the central role of young people in achieving the SDGs in Pakistan and urged every student to reflect on their own contribution to the national development agenda. Calling "Awareness and Action" the hallmark of the Hum Hain Pakistan campaign, she encouraged students and young people across the country to embrace it and

to adopt a mindset of asking what they can do for Pakistan. She also requested the Principal and the SDG Focal Person to send ICB students to rural schools to mentor their peers on the SDGs, carrying the campaign's message beyond the capital. At the close of the visit, the college presented commemorative shields to Ms. Shaista Pervaiz Malik and Dr Sultan Azam Temuri in recognition of their contributions. The visit gave the students and the institution a valuable opportunity

to engage with distinguished personalities and further strengthened the objectives of the Hum Hain Pakistan-SDG Youth Campaign. The Hum Hain Pakistan-SDG Youth Campaign is a youth-led initiative of the International Governance and Sustainability Institute (IG-SI), run in partnership with the Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs. It works through educational institutions to build awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals and to turn that awareness into action by students.—APP

Over 2.12m smart meters
installed nationwide to
curb power theft

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has installed more than 2.12 million smart electricity meters across the country as part of efforts to curb electricity theft, improve billing accuracy and strengthen revenue recovery. According to an official document available with APP, a total of 2,125,296 smart meters had been installed across the country as of August 5, 2026. The highest number of smart meters has been installed in Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO), with 1.15

million meters, followed by Gujranwala Electric Power Company (GEPCO) with 348,135, Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) with 229,719 and Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) with 119,372. Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has installed 111,948 smart meters, Peshawar Electric Power Company (PESCO) 60,685, K-Electric 50,599, Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) 19,620, Sukkur Electric Power Company (SEPCO) 13,432, Quetta

Electric Supply Company (QESCO) 9,194, Hazara Electric Supply Company (HAZEKO) 7,659 and Tribal Electric Supply Company (TESCO) 1,377. The rollout is part of wider power-sector reforms aimed at improving billing accuracy, reducing electricity theft and strengthening monitoring of consumption. Smart meters can transmit consumption data electronically, reducing reliance on manual meter readings and allowing utilities to identify abnormal usage and losses more efficiently.

The Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system enables distribution companies to identify tampering and theft through alarms generated for slow or defective meters, missing or faulty current and potential transformers, communication failures, missing interval readings, overload conditions and other metering anomalies. AMI also provides load profiles and consumption patterns, allowing operational staff to identify abnormal trends and take timely corrective measures. The document said smart meters improved billing accuracy by eliminating manual meter-reading errors and estimated billing, while real-time access to metering data enabled prompt verification, field inspections.—APP

AIOU speakers
call for education
transformation

ISLAMABAD: Speakers from home and abroad at an international conference organized by Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) have called for transforming the education system in line with the rapidly changing demands of artificial intelligence and digital technology, stressing the need to equip students with critical thinking, research and problem-solving skills to meet future challenges. They expressed these views during the concluding session of the 9th International Conference on "Research and Practices in Education," organized by the Faculty of Education at AIOU. The speakers emphasized that the growing influence of AI and digital technologies requires educational institutions to rethink curricula, teaching methodologies and learning practices to prepare students for an increasingly technology-driven world. Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr Nasir Mahmood, said that artificial intelligence should be used as a supportive technology to enhance teachers' effectiveness rather than as a substitute for teachers. He said that the rapidly changing technological landscape required fundamental changes in teaching methods and the role of educators. Prof. Dr Nasir Mahmood said that AI had made access to knowledge and information exceptionally easy, however, the availability of information and its authenticity were two different matters. Teachers, students and researchers should benefit from AI, but they must ensure the accuracy, authenticity and proper referencing of information obtained through AI tools. He said that curricula and academic programmes should be designed not only to meet present-day requirements but also to address the intellectual, social, economic and technological needs of the next 15 to 20 years. Future education, he added, should not merely teach students what to know but also how to think, ask questions, conduct research and develop solutions to complex problems.—DNA

KP govt urged
improvement
in governance

ISLAMABAD: PML-N MNA Babar Nawaz on Wednesday said the leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf were misleading the nation and pursuing the politics of unrest instead of focusing on the uplift of people. Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club Islamabad along with ANP leader Samar Bilour and PML-N leader Saeeda Jamsheer, Nawaz highlighted that the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was indulged in corruption in areas public welfare. Babar Nawaz mentioned that the medical and education services in KP needed attention of the provincial government. He pointed out that several hospitals in KP were in unsatisfactory condition while hundreds of schools had no teachers available. He said that public money in KP was being squandered and the many hospitals in the province had turned into dispensaries. Babar Nawaz said there should be no leniency with the people who were trying to create unrest in the country. He referred to the statements by KP Chief Minister Sohail Afridi reaching Islamabad on September 27 and bringing everything to a standstill, and questioned that how legal action after such statements could be considered wrong.—APP

IHC issues
contempt
show-cause
notice to
CDA Member
Estate

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday issued a contempt of court show-cause notice to the Capital Development Authority's (CDA) Member Estate for allegedly making a false statement regarding his absence from the court in a case concerning allotment of land to affectees. Chief Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar issued the notice while hearing a contempt petition filed over non-implementation of a single-bench judgment in favour of the petitioner. During the hearing, petitioner's counsel Hasnain Haider Thameem submitted that the CDA Member Estate had appeared before another bench of the High Court, while informing the present court that he was unwell. The counsel produced the attendance sheet showing the CDA official's appearance before the court of Justice Raja Inam Amin Minhas.—APP

Russian language classes
receives overwhelming response

ISLAMABAD: Vice Chancellor (VC) of the Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology (FUUAST) Islamabad, Prof. Dr Zabta Khan Shinwari, visited a Russian language class at the university and expressed happiness over the large number of students attending the course. Speaking to students in the classroom, Dr Zabta Khan Shinwari said one of the university's main aims is to broaden the worldview of the young generation. He said Russian culture is rich and learning the Russian language is beneficial for students. "Learning an important language of a major country like Russia is the need of the time. It is a great opportunity for our students," he said. The Vice Chancellor announced that Russian language would also be offered as a regular course from the next semester. He thanked the Russian government, Ural State Pedagogical University and Russian language instructor Dr. Roman Porozov for their cooperation. Earlier, Russian Professor Dr. Roman Porozov met Vice Chancellor Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari at his office. Head of

the Departments of IR and Mass Communication, Dr Faisal Javaid and Dr Sikander Zarran were also present. Dr. Roman described the academic environment at FUUAST as encouraging and inspiring. Dr Zabta Khan Shinwari said the university is expanding its international academic links and providing new opportunities to students. He said FUUAST had already carried out research programmes with Russian institutions, while university students are also studying at Russian universities under. He said FUUAST would organize a major research Conference in Karachi in October on the use of artificial intelligence for environmental protection. He also mentioned the Green Journalism Conference organized by the Mass Communication Department Islamabad Campus in June, saying that it received positive feedback. Students from different departments thanked Vice Chancellor Dr Zabta Khan Shinwari and ORIC Deputy Director Dr Faisal Javaid for introducing the Russian language course at the university.—APP

Gilani departs for Belarus
to boost bilateral ties

The Chairman will underscore the importance of regular parliamentary exchanges, institutional linkages between the two Parliaments and greater interaction among parliamentarians and parliamentary committees

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Wednesday departed for the Republic of Belarus on an official visit at the invitation of his counterpart Natalya Kochanova, Chairperson, Council of the Republic. The visit is aimed at further strengthening bilateral relations and parliamentary co-operation between Pakistan and Belarus. The visit carries particular significance in view of the growing momentum in Pakistan-Belarus relations and the shared desire to expand cooperation across political, parliamentary, economic and people-to-people domains. During the visit, the Chairman Senate is scheduled to hold meetings with the President of Belarus, the leadership of the Belarusian Parliament and other senior officials, during which matters relating to bilateral relations, parlia-



mentary exchanges and regional and international developments will be discussed. The Chairman will underscore the importance of regular parliamentary exchanges, institutional linkages between the two Parliaments and greater in-

teraction among parliamentarians and parliamentary committees. Chairman Senate is accompanied by Senators Mir Dostain Khan Domki, Senator Umer Farooq Kasi, Senator Mohsin Aziz, Senator Agha Shahzaib Durrani and Senator Amir Waliud-

din Chishti. The visit reflects the Senate of Pakistan's continued commitment to strengthening parliamentary diplomacy and international parliamentary engagement in support of Pakistan's broader bilateral and diplomatic objectives.—APP

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Trump's Hubris at the United Nations

QAMAR BASHIR

TRUMP'S UN address and the international rejection surrounding Netanyahu exposed a world increasingly divided between the rule of law and the unrestrained exercise of power. The United Nations was created after the Second World War to restrain power through law, replace war with diplomacy and give sovereign countries a voice. President Donald Trump's address to the 81st General Assembly on September 22, 2026, presented a different conception of international order—one in which military dominance, economic control and national power appeared to take precedence over multilateral accountability. Trump again credited himself with settling eight wars. Fact-checkers found the claim exaggerated: several cases involved temporary ceasefires, while at least two were not wars during his presidency. The continuing US-Iran conflict further complicated his peacemaking claim. His assertion of \$21 trillion in new investment commitments also exceeded his administration's published total of approximately \$11.2 trillion, much of it consisting of nonbinding announcements. The most consequential passage concerned Iran. Trump offered a choice between an agreement allowing Iran to rebuild and the rapid annihilation of the Islamic Republic. He spoke of driving it into a condition with no hope of survival. These words were delivered before the institution was established to prevent aggressive war and mass destruction. Religious and ethical traditions differ, but humility, restraint and the protection of innocent life are central to many of them. Against that background, contemplating the destruction of an entire country represented the hubris of power, speaking as if it possessed authority over the survival of another civilization. A threat alone is not only a completed war crime, but implementing an indiscriminate campaign against Iran's population or civilian infrastructure is also a grave violation of international humanitarian law. Trump's attack on the International Criminal Court reflected the same conflict over accountability. He called it an anti-American tribunal, described its officials in degrading language and urged all member states to withdraw. The United States is not a party to the Rome Statute, but the claim that the court can never exercise jurisdiction over Americans is incomplete. The ICC says nationals of nonmember states may fall within its jurisdiction when alleged crimes occur on a member state's territory, when jurisdiction is accepted by the relevant state or after a Security Council referral. Trump announced that artificial intelligence should be renamed "super intelligence" and rejected international controls. Yet superintelligence already means a hypothetical system exceeding human abilities. Hundreds of researchers and executives have warned that extreme AI risks deserve serious attention. AI offers remarkable benefits, but celebrating its power while dismissing its risks is not responsible governance. Trump also mocked predictions of climate catastrophe. His administration withdrew

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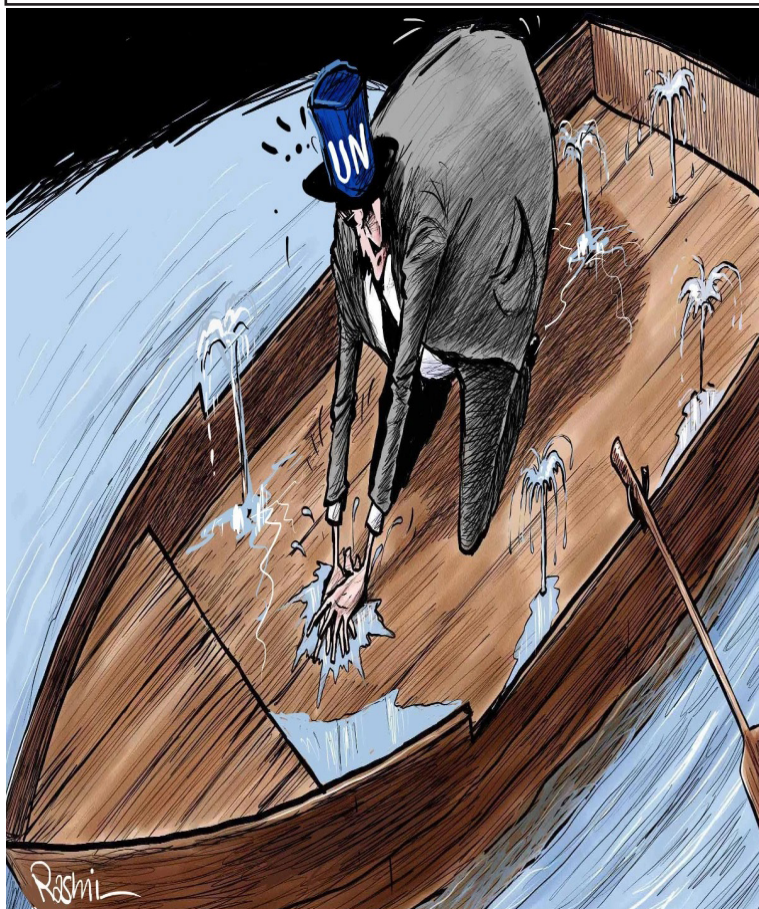
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from the Paris Agreement and, in January 2026, announced its departure from the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Scientists' central finding is that human emissions are warming the planet and increasing serious risks. America's withdrawal weakened action on a problem no border can contain. Other economic assertions required similar scrutiny. The official poverty rate declined to 10.2 percent in 2025, but the broader Supplemental Poverty Measure remained around 13.1 percent. In the Strait of Hormuz, Trump described large numbers of ships moving through regularly, although shipping data recorded only 17 commodity vessels during the cited weekend—far below the prewar average of approximately 125 large commercial vessels per day. The gap between rhetoric and verifiable conditions ran throughout the address.

The most revealing issue, however, concerned Venezuela. Trump publicly said the United States was taking in "billions and billions of dollars" from that country. When asked about reports of \$13 billion, he suggested the amount might be even greater and declared that the proceeds had repaid the cost of the American military operation many times over. He further indicated that the money could support the running of the United States, including its military. Before the House Financial Services Committee, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent described the broader Venezuelan arrangement as potentially "one of the largest assets ever to go on the U.S. balance sheet." He confirmed American control over multiple Venezuelan assets but did not provide lawmakers with a complete total, identify every account or disclose all ultimate beneficiaries. The central issue is not an accounting technicality but sovereignty and propriety. Venezuela is an independent country whose oil, gold, minerals and other natural resources belong to its people. When a foreign power takes control of revenue and national assets and then describes the arrangement as an asset on its own balance sheet, the boundary between custody and appropriation becomes impossible to ignore. Calling the arrangement management, protection or administration does not erase the reality that Washington determines how the wealth is held, valued and distributed. Consider the reaction if Britain intervened in the United States, assumed control over American oil revenue, gold or strategic minerals and placed the resulting interests on the British balance sheet. Washington would never accept such an arrangement as benevolent stewardship. Imposing it upon Venezuela establishes an alarming precedent: military superiority allows the stronger country to control the resources and sovereign functions of the weaker one. The administration maintains that Venezuelan funds remain Venezuelan sovereign property held in American custody. Yet that explanation sits uneasily beside Trump's assertion that "we" are taking in the money, his claim that it repaid America's war costs and Bessent's reference to the US balance sheet. The absence of a complete public accounting makes the contradiction more serious. Whatever legal terminology is ultimately applied, Venezuelans—not foreign governments, corporations or financial intermediaries—should be the beneficiaries of Venezuela's national wealth. Trump's conflict with the press added a constitutional dimension. CNN, MS NOW and Politico journalists were denied White House access, prompting major networks to suspend pooled coverage while the excluded organizations sought judicial relief. At the UN, Trump told CNN's Kaitlan Collins that she should not be there. Viewpoint-based exclusion creates serious constitutional questions; a press free to question power remains indispensable to democratic accountability.

Creativity as an Economic Strategy: The Indonesian Experience

Dr M Ali Hamza



Look at Indonesia's blueprint for the WCCE 2026, that includes themes like Bankable Creativity: where the sessions focus on helping banks and investors accept intellectual property (IP), copyrights, and digital assets as collateral for business loans. Indonesian retail brands, such as popular coffee chains like Kopi Kenangan and TUKU, are treated as cultural ambassadors that drive international business and this comes under the theme Gastro Diplomacy. A discussion on Digital Platforms & AI will bring leaders from Google...

WHEN we hear the word 'economy', we usually think of factories, agriculture, oil, and heavy shipping containers. For decades, traditional trade was built almost entirely on tangible physical goods. Today, however, another sector is quietly driving growth around the world: the Creative Economy. This sector includes gaming, software, film, design, fashion, music, and food culture. It turns human imagination and cultural heritage into profitable, high-value businesses. Unlike natural resources, which run out over time, creative ideas are renewable. In an increasingly digital world, the creative economy is no longer a luxury; it is a core driver of modern employment and export revenue. This October, Indonesia is hosting the 5th World Conference on Creative Economy (WCCE) 2026, in Jakarta. The event brings together ministers, international organizations, tech giants, and independent creators. A close look at the agenda shows that Indonesia is not treating culture merely as entertainment, but as a strategic pillar for long-term economic development. Look at Indonesia's blueprint for the WCCE 2026, that includes themes like Bankable Creativity: where the sessions focus on helping banks and investors accept intellectual property (IP), copyrights, and digital assets as collateral for business loans. Indonesian retail brands, such as popular coffee chains like Kopi Kenangan and TUKU, are treated as cultural ambassadors that drive international business and this comes under the theme Gastro Diplomacy. A discussion on Digital Platforms & AI will bring leaders from Google, TikTok, Shopee, and local studios to address how local creators can survive, compete, and scale in the digital era. This all required robust Global Governance; so, a session is dedicated to focus on that how through frameworks like the "Friends of Creative Economy" and the "Jakarta Vi-

sion," Indonesia actively shapes international rules and UN policies regarding creative trade. Indonesia's leadership in this field did not happen overnight. Years ago, the country established a dedicated ministry and specialized agency to support creative industries. Instead of relying only on traditional exports like palm oil, minerals, electronics etc., Indonesia decided to build an ecosystem that monetizes its culture and digital talent. Indonesia has shown that when a government provides proper legal protections, easy financing, and digital infrastructure, creative talent can turn into massive economic value. Indonesia's policy frameworks and institutional focus have delivered measurable economic returns. The creative economy contributes over Rp 1,500 - 1,611 trillion (approx. \$90 - 100 billion), accounting for 7.28% of Indonesia's total GDP. The sector employs 26.47 to 27.4 million workers, predominantly young professionals under the age of 40, representing roughly 18% of the national workforce. Creative exports surpassed \$26.6 billion, representing approximately 12% of Indonesia's non-oil and gas export earnings, led by fashion, handicrafts, and culinary industries. Institutional backing including intellectual property collateralization drove creative sector investment to Rp 183 trillion. And by initiating the inaugural World Conference on Creative Economy (WCCE) in Bali (2018) and driving UN General Assembly Resolution 74/198, Indonesia elevated its creative trade while formalizing the 2026–2045 Creative Economy Master Plan. On the other hand, Pakistan has an enormous amount of raw creative energy. It has one of the youngest populations in the world, a booming freelance community, talented software developers, and a television drama industry that reaches millions of viewers across South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East. Pakistani artisans

in Lahore, Multan, and Karachi produce world-class textiles, pottery, brass work and what not. However, Pakistan's creative sector faces serious bottlenecks, such as Lack of Formal Financing. Banks still hesitate to lend money to animators, game developers, or fashion designers because their main assets are ideas and software, not land or machinery. There is a weak Intellectual Property Enforcement: Without reliable copyright and patent protections, creators struggle to protect their work and monetize it properly. And most importantly an absence of a Unified Policy: unlike Indonesia, Pakistan does not yet have a single, dedicated national framework that connects artists and coders directly to export promotion and trade finance. Pakistan and Indonesia enjoy warm diplomatic ties, but their bilateral trade has historically been quite narrow. Indonesia exports large amounts of palm oil to Pakistan, while Pakistan mainly exports raw cotton, and fruits. Both countries can expand beyond bulk commodities by partnering in the creative space. Through studying Indonesia's model, Pakistan can learn how to treat its creators not just as freelance workers, but as small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that deserve structured tax incentives, venture funding, and export support. The upcoming conference in Jakarta demonstrates that global trade is moving toward knowledge, technology, and culture. For developing nations with large youth populations like Pakistan, this shift offers a real path to sustainable economic growth. Pakistan has the talent, and Indonesia has built the working blueprint. If both countries look beyond traditional cargo shipments and invest in joint digital, cultural, and media ventures, they can build a modern economic partnership that benefits the next generations of both brotherly nations.

The Turkey-Iran-Pakistan Triangle

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The three countries could begin with regular security consultations, counterterrorism cooperation, maritime security discussions, border management, intelligence exchanges and joint efforts to address instability in Afghanistan. Economic cooperation could provide the foundation for wider strategic coordination. Transport links connecting Pakistan with Iran...

THE idea of a new security order in the Middle East is no longer confined to diplomatic conferences or academic seminars. The wars and rivalries of recent years have exposed the limits of the existing arrangements and encouraged regional powers to think about security without relying on the United States. Among the more striking proposals now being discussed is the possibility of strategic cooperation between Turkey, Iran and Pakistan. Sami Al-Arian, a Palestinian-American academic based in Turkey, has recently put this idea forward in unusually explicit terms. In the a webinar on the conflict involving Iran, Israel and the United States, he argued that the traditional Gulf security arrangement, built substantially around American military protection, had reached a turning point. His proposed alternative is a regional security structure led principally by Turkey, Iran and Pakistan. Once a senior Turkish decision-maker about Ankara's "grand strategy" said that Turkey should develop close relations with Iran and Pakistan. There is disappointment that no Arab country had been included. There is no public confirmation of the identity of the Turkish official or of the circumstances in which the alleged conversation took place. Nor has Ankara formally announced a grand strategy based on a Turkey-Iran-Pakistan security bloc. The important is that the idea is increasingly being discussed in political and intellectual circles. For decades, the security architecture of the Gulf depended heavily on American military power. Washington maintained bases, naval forces, air capabilities and defence partnerships across the region. Gulf monarchies are pursuing their own national interests, generally regarded the American presence as an important insurance against regional threats. Regional governments have often complained that American policy is unpredictable, while Washington has repeatedly urged its partners to assume greater responsibility for their own security. The wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and Yemen, together with the continuing Israeli-Palestinian conflict, have further complicated the picture. The latest confrontation involving Iran has added another layer to these doubts. Supporters of greater regional autonomy argue that the conflict demonstrated the vulnerability of states that depend too heavily on external protection. They should develop mechanisms for consultation, deterrence and crisis management without waiting for Washing-

ton to decide when and how to intervene. A region cannot indefinitely outsource its security to an external power and expect the arrangement to remain politically sustainable. Turkey and Iran are neighbours, competitors and occasional partners. They cooperate on trade, energy and diplomacy, but their interests have frequently diverged over Syria, Iraq, the South Caucasus and the wider regional balance. Ankara has supported forces opposed to the Assad government, while Tehran was one of Damascus's principal supporters. Turkey and Iran have also competed for influence in Iraq and among different political constituencies across the Middle East. Pakistan's position is different. Islamabad has traditionally maintained friendly relations with both Ankara and Tehran, but it has avoided becoming part of an explicitly anti-American or anti-Western bloc. Pakistan's economic interests, security requirements and relations with the Gulf States make such a choice particularly difficult. The three countries could begin with regular security consultations, counterterrorism cooperation, maritime security discussions, border management, intelligence exchanges and joint efforts to address instability in Afghanistan. Economic cooperation could provide the foundation for wider strategic coordination. Transport links connecting Pakistan with Iran and Turkey could eventually give the relationship an economic dimension that goes beyond political declarations. Such cooperation would also have an important geographical advantage. Turkey connects Europe, the Middle East and the Caucasus. Iran occupies a central position between South Asia, Central Asia and the Gulf. Pakistan provides access to the Arabian Sea and sits at the intersection of South Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East. Their geographical positions alone make closer cooperation strategically significant. But there is another missing element in the proposed formula is the Arab world. A Middle Eastern security architecture that excludes Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Qatar, Oman and other Arab states would remain incomplete. The Gulf States have their own interests and pursue more diversified foreign policies. They maintain relations with Washington but have simultaneously expanded engagement with Beijing, Moscow, Ankara and Tehran. Iran's reconciliation with Saudi Arabia demonstrated that

regional diplomacy does not necessarily have to follow the old pattern of permanent confrontation. This experience may be more important for the future than the creation of another rigid bloc. Indeed, the Middle East does not necessarily need another "axis". It needs a system in which rival states can talk to one another before crises become wars. Islamabad should welcome any development that reduces the possibility of conflict in the Gulf and encourages regional cooperation. Pakistan has strong relations with Turkey, shares a long and complicated border with Iran, and has deep economic and political ties with the Arab Gulf. Its strategic interest is therefore better served by maintaining working relations with all sides rather than becoming an instrument in a confrontation between competing camps. Pakistan can also contribute something that is often missing from discussions of regional security: geographical connectivity. The proposed relationship could begin not with military commitments but with trade corridors, energy cooperation, railway links, ports, academic exchanges and diplomatic consultations. Gwadar, Chabahar and Turkish transport networks could eventually become components of a broader economic geography linking South Asia, the Gulf, Iran, Central Asia and Europe. Such an approach would be more sustainable than an alliance constructed primarily around opposition to the United States or Israel. The same caution applies to Turkey. Ankara is a member of NATO and has substantial economic relations with Europe. It may criticise Western policies and pursue closer relations with Russia, Iran and China, but it has not abandoned its wider economic and strategic interests in the West. Iran, meanwhile, has its own conception of regional influence, built over decades and shaped by its rivalry with Israel and the United States. Tehran may welcome closer relations with Turkey and Pakistan, but that does not mean that either country would accept the Iranian model of regional security. The opportunity is real, but so are the obstacles. The wisest course is to begin with what the three countries can actually agree upon: trade, connectivity, counterterrorism, energy, border security and diplomatic consultation and allow political trust to develop gradually.

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Briefs

Pak 'shoots down Taliban eight drones'

FROM PAGE 01
Afghan Taliban's panic and disarray," security sources added. The development comes two days after Pakistan, in response to recent terrorist attacks in KP, conducted "calibrated" airstrikes in the border region with Afghanistan against terrorist hideouts and safe havens of terrorist organisations. A statement from the information ministry on Monday said that over 28 terrorists were eliminated in the strikes. "It is a matter of grave concern that Afghanistan continues to remain a hub of terrorism," the ministry said at the time, specifying that the "threat to Pakistan emanates from Afghanistan". Before the airstrikes, security forces conducted a "well-planned intelligence-based ground operation" on September 20 against a group of terrorists in KP's Kohat and Hangu districts, the ministry said. Nine terrorists were eliminated in the engagement. The airstrikes came after a major attack in the old Police Lines in KP's Kohat claimed 23 lives and injured about 100 others. Eight terrorists were killed during an overnight clearance operation launched to clear the area.

Pakistan calls for verifiable...

FROM PAGE 01
He highlighted the recent terrorist attack in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kohat, which claimed innocent lives and left scores of others injured, terming it a stark reminder of the grave threat posed by terrorism emanating from the region. He said such attacks underscored the urgent need for concrete action against terrorist groups and their sanctuaries. The deputy prime minister urged the Afghan Taliban to honour Afghanistan's international obligations and commitments, end patronage of terrorist groups, and lift restrictions on women and girls that are contrary to Islamic principles and the norms of Muslim society. He also called upon the Afghan authorities to promote politically inclusive governance and facilitate the resettlement and integration of Afghan returnees. DPM Dar further called for adequate international funding to meet Afghanistan's humanitarian requirements and support its socio-economic development.

Pezeshkian tells Trump that Iran...

FROM PAGE 01
the same time using that waterway to impose their aggression upon us," he said. Soaring fuel prices threaten to cost Trump's Republicans their control of Congress in November's midterms. Pezeshkian's attendance at the UN's signature diplomatic event, in the heart of Manhattan, had been in doubt as it was unclear if the United States would issue a visa. Ultimately, Washington granted the permit, but denied visas to several members of Pezeshkian's entourage. We have been 'victims of terrorism' Iran's president said that his people have been "victims of terrorism" by the United States. He held up large photos of the late Ali Khamenei and the more than 150 Iranian school children killed on the first days of the war.

Staging protest...

FROM PAGE 01
"Whatever conspiracy is being hatched, and whoever is behind it, our clear message to them is: Pakistan belongs to us," the chief minister said. He asserted that KP was and will continue to be a part of Pakistan. "Goons dressed in plain clothes are intimidating and threatening our bureaucracy, police, deputy commissioners and district police officers," he further alleged. The chief minister advised that the bureaucracy, police, deputy commissioners and district police officers to not to be afraid.

PCB advertises for bowling coach after Ashley Noffke's Netherlands appointment

Noffke is part of the Pakistan contingent for the upcoming Asian Games cricket competition, for which the men's national side is set to depart from Karachi on Thursday

DNA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has advertised for a new bowling coach for the national men's team shortly after the Netherlands Cricket Board announced the appointment of Ashley Noffke as its head coach on



Wednesday. Noffke, who is currently Pakistan's white-ball bowling coach, has been appointed by the Royal Dutch Cricket Association (KNCB) on an initial two-year contract until the end of 2028. He will take charge of the Netherlands side for its qualification campaigns for the 2027 ODI and 2028 T20 World Cups.

There had been no indication in recent days that Noffke was set to step down from his position with Pakistan, but the Netherlands announcement on Wednesday was followed by the PCB advertising the position for men's national team bowling coach.

Noffke is part of the Pakistan contingent for the upcoming Asian Games cricket competition, for which the men's national side is set to depart from Karachi on Thursday.

The PCB advertisement does not mention Noffke or his departure, but seeks an experienced coach with a minimum Level III Cricket Coaching Accreditation and at least five years' experience in a similar role with elite cricketers or national/international teams.

Noffke joined the Pakistan backroom staff in 2025 as assistant coach and bowling lead, working alongside head coach Mike Hesson. The PCB has invited applications for the bowling coach position until Oct 8.

All-rounder Jacks stars as England beat Sri Lanka in 1st ODI

DNA

CHESTER-LE-STREET, United Kingdom: Will Jacks starred with both bat and ball as England overwhelmed Sri Lanka by 89 runs in the first one-day international at Chester-le-Street on Tuesday. His quickfire 46 not out helped guide England to a competitive 265 all out after they lost momentum following the exit of captain Harry Brook for 67. Off-spinner Jacks then took a fine 5-22 in seven overs, including three dismissals in what became the final over. Sri Lanka were dismissed for 176 with 13 overs to spare as England went 1-0 up in this three-match series Jacks's figures, his maiden five-wicket haul at this level, were the second-best by an England spinner in ODI cricket, surpassed only by Vic Marks's 5-20 against New Zealand in Wellington back in 1984. "I think I am getting used to this role now. It is more about playing the situation and playing what is out there," said player-of-the-match Jacks after a win which followed seventh-placed England's 2-1 series success at home to top-ranked India in July. Brook, meanwhile was heartened by another encouraging performance ahead of next year's 50-over World Cup in southern Africa.

"It wasn't the easiest of surfaces, but we want to be a team that can adapt to conditions as well as possible and manufacture wins where the conditions aren't quite in our favor," said Brook. "I think we did that well today." Turning to the "outstanding" Jacks, he said: "The way he's come in in this middle order and played this role in the middle order, taking a heavy part of the bowling on; he has been an awesome player to have in the side." Sri Lanka made a positive start to their pursuit of a target of 266. But after Josh Tongue had Pathum Nissanka caught behind for 27 to leave Sri Lanka 48-2, the innings stalled, with Pavan Rathnayake taking 23 balls for his 13. And 84-3 then became 85-4 when Jacks had Charith Asalanka lbw missing a sweep. Sri Lanka captain Kusal Mendis fell in similar fashion when he too was lbw attempting to sweep Jacks for 42 off 60 balls, with his side faltering at 105-6.

How France handles its strict secularism as it prepares for a papal visit

PARIS: A four-day visit by Pope Leo XIV beginning Friday that will feature large public gatherings, popemobile parades and an open-air Mass in Paris presents France with a balancing act under its strict approach to secularism, known as laïcité. "France is an indivisible, secular, democratic and social Republic," the country's Constitution states. Secularism guarantees the freedom to believe or not to believe, as well as the freedom to practice a religion as long as it does not disturb public order. It also requires the state to remain neutral toward all religions. Here is a look at France's distinctive model of secularism, known as laïcité (pronounced lah-ee-see-TAY). A republic based on separation of church and state. Key rules have been defined by a historic 1905 law, primarily intended to distance the state from the then-powerful influence of the Catholic Church. The law guarantees freedom of

conscience and the free exercise of religion while requiring the state to remain neutral. Churches built before 1905 are the property of municipalities or the state, which maintain the buildings while religious communities to use them for worship. Most places of worship built after 1905, including most mosques, are financed and maintained by religious organizations. A national survey carried out in 2019 and 2020 found that Catholicism was France's largest religious affiliation, representing 29% of the population, followed by Islam at 10%. About half of respondents said they had no religious affiliation. Pope to meet with Macron like other foreign leaders During his time in France, Leo will visit Paris, Saint-Denis, Lourdes and Metz. He will be received by the French president in the pope's capacity as head of Vatican City, making Friday's meeting at the Élysée Palace an encounter between two heads of state.

Laïcité does not require the government to reject contact with religious institutions. Macron met Leo at the Vatican in April to discuss relations with the Holy See, international affairs, peace, and interreligious dialogue, according to his office. During Pope Francis' visit to Marseille in 2023, Macron attended the Mass but did not participate in worship. Responding to criticism that his attendance breached France's secular principles, Macron said he would be present as president out of respect and courtesy, not as a practicing worshipper. Open-air Mass and other public events planned The 1905 law explicitly mentions religious ceremonies, processions and other outdoor manifestations as subject to the ordinary rules governing public order. Security for such events, however, is provided and financed by the state. Other religions also regularly receive permission to use public spaces.

Still, some observers argue that holding Saturday's Mass at Place de la Concorde and along the Champs-Élysées, near the National Assembly and the presidential palace, could be seen as a continuation of Catholicism's privileged cultural position. The area is usually used for the Bastille Day parade, state visits by foreign leaders and football fans' celebrations. Transforming it into a venue for a religious event expected to attract hundreds of thousands of worshippers gives the Catholic Church exceptional visibility. In 2008, Pope Benedict XVI celebrated Mass before about 260,000 people at Les Invalides in central Paris. Rules are questioned in schools and on sport fields A 2004 law bars conspicuous religious symbols in French public schools. The ban covers Muslim headscarves, Jewish kippahs, oversized Christian crosses and other clothing that visibly signals a religious affiliation. — Agencies

Manchester City salvage 2-2 draw

DNA

MUNICH: Manchester City rallied from two goals down to draw 2-2 at Bayern Munich in their return to the Women's Champions League at the start of the league phase on Tuesday. Inter Milan, making their debut in the competition proper, edged Håcken 1-0 at home. Man City recover from tough start Bayern, a semifinalist last season, got off to a quick start with Giulia Gwinn scoring in the 11th minute and with an own-goal by Kerstin Casparij in the 28th. City began their rally before halftime, with Beth Mead netting in the 45th. Carlotta Wamser, who just joined City from Bayer Leverkusen, completed the comeback with a shot from inside the area in the 86th. Forward Khadija Shaw missed a 62nd-minute penalty kick for City, which became the first English team not to lose away to Bayern in Europe. City made it to the quarterfinals two seasons ago, being eliminated by Chelsea, but didn't qualify for the European tournament last season. They made it back after their first year under coach Andree Jeggert, who helped the team end Chelsea's dominance of the Women's Super League to claim their first league title in a decade. City also won the FA Cup to complete a domestic double. Winning debut for Inter Haley Bugeja scored five minutes into the match and Inter held on for their opening victory over Swedish club Håcken. The visitors saw goalkeeper Jennifer Falk sent off in the 89th. Inter twice hit the post with headers by Elisa Bartoli and Lina Magull. Inter made its debut after advancing through a penalty shootout win over Wolfsburg. The league phase, in its second year, has 18 teams competing over six matchdays.

Pak-China business ties in focus at China's National Day reception

ISLAMABAD: Chinese and Pakistani business representatives called for stronger investment, industrial and technology cooperation at a reception held here, marking China's National Day and the Mid-Autumn Festival. The event was jointly hosted by the Chinese Embassy, the Association of Overseas Chinese in Pakistan and the Association of Chinese Enterprises in Pakistan. Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong attended alongside Pakistani officials, diplomats and business representatives. According to a Gwadar Pro's report, Jiang said China's economic development had created new opportunities for international cooperation, including with Pakistan. He cited growth in advanced manufacturing and foreign trade, while acknowledging external pressures and domestic supply-demand challenges. He said China would continue working with Pakistan to deepen their all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and expand mutually beneficial cooperation. Participants also called for closer cooperation between Chinese and Pakistani enterprises through technology transfer, industrial partnerships and stronger links with local industries. — APP



China's Inner Mongolia's company offers lesson to Pakistan enhancing livestock resources

Rashid said Lan Gege's journey from three cows to a nationwide business illustrates how a small livestock-based enterprise can evolve when traditional knowledge is combined with technology, specialization and investment

DNA

BEIJING: Three cows, four brothers and just 500 yuan may sound like an unlikely foundation for a modern dairy company, but that is the story behind Lan Gege Dairy in Ulanqab, Inner Mongolia, where a family's traditional yogurt-making skills have evolved into a modern enterprise spanning dairy farming, research, automated production and distribution across China.

The company's story may offer lessons for Pakistan, one of the world's major milk-producing countries, where the challenge is not only to produce more milk but also to improve productivity, processing, quality, branding and value addition. According to Wang Wei, brand general manager at Inner Mongolia Lan Gege Dairy Co., Ltd., the company's "3-4-5" story refers to three cows initially received by family members following the restructuring of a state-owned dairy plant, four brothers who later built the business around those cows, and the 500 yuan they pooled to buy basic equipment and start producing and delivering milk. "What began with three cows and 500 yuan became the initial means of production," Wang said during an interview to China Economic Net. The family later transformed its traditional yogurt-making skills into a commercial business serving markets across China.

Today, Lan Gege combines traditional dairy-making techniques with modern production. The company says its products undergo 98 quality checks, while its automated production workshop integrates milk purification, pasteurization, fermentation, filling and packaging. Wang said the experience is relevant to Pakistan because the country has a large livestock base but considerable room to increase value addition through modern dairy processing, breeding, animal nutrition, cold-chain systems and branding. "China-Pakistan cooperation in dairy can move from traditional livestock development toward modern breeding, processing and value-added products," said Prof. Dr. Audil Rashid of the University of Gujrat. He noted that a Chinese project involving buffalo embryo development could significantly improve buffalo breeds and milk yields in both Pakistan and China. He also said that in 2026, Pakistan finalized a Material Transfer Agreement with China's Royal Group for the export of high-value buffalo genetic material, including embryos, semen and sexed semen.

A specialized facility has been established in Pakistan for the collection, processing and export of the genetic material to China. Rashid said the initiative could create a new high-value export avenue for the livestock sector. "The opportunity, therefore, extends beyond exporting milk. China and Pakistan could deepen cooperation across the dairy value chain, from animal genetics, breeding and feed to processing technology, quality control, cold chains, packaging, branding and access to international markets," Rashid said. Rashid said Lan Gege's journey from three cows to a nationwide business illustrates how a small livestock-based enterprise can evolve when traditional knowledge is combined with technology, specialization and investment. For Pakistan, he said, the broader lesson is that the country's substantial livestock resources could generate greater economic value when farmers and businesses are connected to modern processing, research and markets, according to a China Economic Net's report.

Donald Trump: 'A lot of...'

FROM PAGE 01

"The Iranians respect them both very much, and I think that's important," he added. "I think there's a lot of momentum for them to make a deal. That's what we're hearing from everybody." Iran's economy is "in really bad shape," Trump said. "I hope they're going to do something that's really good for their people, and I think they are actually. The other alternative isn't an acceptable alternative for anybody." Trump described the leaders at the meeting as "some of America's greatest and closest friends, allies, and partners" working toward "a safer and more prosperous Middle East." He said the same group had gathered on the UNGA sidelines a year earlier to discuss ending the war in Gaza, at a time when the conflict "was raging with no end in sight." Weeks later, he said, the same countries helped broker "a historic peace deal," crediting the group with "saving hundreds of thousands of lives" and the creation of the Board of Peace. "Nobody thought it was possible," he said. "The people around this table made that possible."

Punjab govt seeks Rangers...

FROM PAGE 01

Rangers had been requested for deployment in Rawalpindi, Attock, Jhelum and Mianwali from Sept 22 to Oct 5. According to a letter sent by the Punjab Home Department to the Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control, three companies of the Pakistan Rangers have been sought for deployment in Rawalpindi, including one for Rawalpindi city and two for Taxila. Five Rangers wings have been sought for Attock, while Jhelum and Mianwali have each been allocated one company. The deployment is proposed under Article 245 of the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973, Sections 4 and 5 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997, and Sections 7(b) and 10 of the Pakistan Rangers Ordinance, 1959.

Govt seeks mobile shutdown...

FROM PAGE 01

protest and march towards Islamabad on September 27, demanding the release of its incarcerated founder Imran Khan and supremacy of the Constitution. According to sources, the Punjab Home Department has written to the federal government seeking the suspension of mobile and internet services, as well as the weakening of signals, in selected areas of Attock and Rawalpindi. In Rawalpindi, the requested areas include Brahma, Bahter, Taxila, Wah Sadar and Chakri, according to sources. Earlier in the day, the provincial government sought Rangers' deployment in four districts to maintain law and order in the backdrop of PTI's September 27 protest call. The Punjab Home Department written to the Ministry of Interior seeking Rangers' deployment in Rawalpindi, Attock, Jhelum and Mianwali, according to its spokesperson.

16 outlaws killed in...

FROM PAGE 01

security forces killed two terrorists affiliated with Fitna al Hindustani during an intelligence-based operation in the Jausak area of Turbat. The state has designated Balochistan-based terrorist groups as Fitna al Hindustani to highlight India's alleged role in terrorism and destabilisation across Pakistan. Meanwhile, Pakistan Television reported that security forces continued operations against terrorists in Balochistan under Raddul Fitna-3. In Mastung, nine terrorists were killed after they attempted to attack a checkpoint, according to the state broadcaster. Heavy weapons, ammunition and three motorcycles were also recovered, it added. "Operations will continue until the threat is eliminated," Pakistan TV said, quoting the security forces. Meanwhile, Balochistan police killed five terrorists in a gun battle in Quetta's Aghbarg area after terrorists attempted to attack a police station, officials said.

Briefs

Rupee gains
01 paisa
against
Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Wednesday appreciated by 01 paisa against the US Dollar in interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.20, compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 277.21. According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs 278.5 and Rs 278.35, respectively. The price of the Euro against the rupee decreased by Rs 0.45 and closed at Rs 316.58 against the previous day's closing of Rs 317.03, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.75, whereas the exchange rate of the British Pound witnessed a decrease of Rs 0.88 and closed at Rs 368.82 compared to the previous day's Rs 369.70. The exchange rates of the Emirate increased by 01 pasia and closed at Rs75.48 while the Saudi Riyal remained stagnant at Rs 73.81. **_APP**

Gold prices
fall by Rs1,800
per tola

ISLAMABAD: The prices of gold witnessed a decline in the local market on Wednesday, with the price of 24-karat gold per tola falling by Rs1,800 to settle at Rs453,936, 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 Rs1,544 to Rs389,176, whereas 10 grams of 22-karat gold declined by Rs1,416 to Rs356,757. In the international market, the price of gold fell by \$18 to \$4,314 per ounce, the association reported. Meanwhile, the price of silver per tola fell by Rs30 to settle at Rs7,008, while the price of 10 grams of silver decreased by Rs25 to Rs6,008. The price of silver in the international market also declined by \$0.30 to settle at \$65.30 per ounce, the association added. **_APP**

PSX stays
bullish, gains
over 830
points

ISLAMABAD: The benchmark KSE-100 Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a strong positive trend on Wednesday, gaining 830.43 points, a positive change of 0.48 percent, to close at 172,232.51 points against 171,402.08 points recorded in the previous trading session. The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 773.593 million shares, compared to 641.834 million shares traded in the previous session, while the traded value increased to Rs26.453 billion from Rs18.466 billion. Market capitalisation increased to Rs19.178 trillion from Rs19.093 trillion recorded a day earlier. Out of 496 companies that traded in the ready market, 262 posted gains, 196 suffered losses, while 38 remained unchanged. Cnergycio PK led the volume chart with 150.274 million shares, followed by WorldCall Telecom with 91.079 million shares and Tasdeeq Information with 58.641 million shares. Among the top gainers, PIA Holding Company LimitedB surged by Rs259.28 to close at Rs15,932.33, while Khyber Textile Mills Limited advanced by Rs58.58 to settle at Rs1,871.26. On the losing side, Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited fell by Rs250.00 to close at Rs25,000.00, while Pakistan Services Limited declined by Rs70.82 to Rs1,151.42. In the futures (DFC) market, turnover stood at 456.574 million shares with a traded value of Rs20.360 billion, compared with 505.609 million shares worth Rs17.489 billion in the previous session. Of the 319 companies traded in the DFC market, 233 advanced, 81 declined and 5 remained unchanged. **_APP**

Govt to audit DISCOs to identify causes of losses

“The government is fully focused on reducing electricity theft. Under no circumstances will the burden of power theft or inefficiencies within the distribution system be shifted to the people. Overbilling is completely unacceptable,” Senator Ahad Cheema said

ISLAMABAD :The government on Wednesday decided to undertake a comprehensive technical audit of all power distribution companies (DISCOs) to determine the scale, causes and geographical concentration of electricity theft and technical and commercial losses, and devise measures to improve their performance. The decision was taken during the meeting of the committee constituted under the Prime Minister's directive on inefficiencies and electricity theft in DISCOs. It was co-chaired by Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Establishment Division, Senator Ahad Cheema and Federal Minister for Power Division Sardar Awaish Ahmad Khan Leghari. The Committee received detailed briefings from the Power Division, National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, Pakistan Digital Authority and other relevant institutions on power theft, distribution losses, recoveries and technology-based interventions in the power sector. The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication was assigned responsibility for providing technological assistance



and facilitating the technical audit through a transparent and credible mechanism. An Expression of Interest will be issued shortly to engage suitably qualified technical experts for the exercise. The Committee further decided that the Terms of Reference for the technical audit would be finalised by next week. Senator Ahad Cheema stressed that the audit must include a comprehensive diagnostic

analysis of the underlying causes of power theft and losses and produce credible and actionable findings. “The government is fully focused on reducing electricity theft. Under no circumstances will the burden of power theft or inefficiencies within the distribution system be shifted to the people. Overbilling is completely unacceptable,” Senator Ahad Cheema said. He added that the findings of the technical audit

would enable the government to take targeted and evidence-based measures to reduce power theft and distribution losses. He reiterated that every possible step would be taken to prevent any further increase in circular debt. Federal Minister for Power Division Sardar Awaish Ahmad Khan Leghari said the Power Division was fully aligned with the objectives of the Committee and was actively working to con-

trol theft and losses, particularly in DISCOs where the incidence of electricity theft remained high. The Committee was also briefed on incentive-based solarisation pilot projects in areas served by PESCO and QESCO where power theft and distribution losses are particularly high. The initiative is aimed at providing solar energy solutions to reduce pressure on the electricity network. **—DNA**

Syria, Lebanon discuss reconstruction, investment

LONDON: The first Syrian-Lebanese Investment Forum was held on Wednesday in Beirut, bringing together government officials and business leaders from the two neighboring countries to discuss reconstruction, investment and closer economic cooperation. The forum's sessions focused on investment opportunities, sustainable development, transportation, and broader efforts to expand trade and business ties, according to the Syrian Arab News Agency. Syrian Economy and Industry Minister Nidal Al-Shaar said the gathering could help recast the two countries' economic relationship as a partnership based on mutual interests and voluntary cooperation. This partnership, he said, must rest on “clear and balanced foundations” that respected each country's sovereignty, independent decision-making and national interests. Al-Shaar said deeper economic cooperation could also foster lasting trust, moving the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon beyond their longstanding geographic and historic connections toward a more structured institutional relationship. He said the Syrian delegation was the largest to visit Lebanon since December 2024, when the regime of longtime President Bashar Assad was ousted in a rebel

offensive led by President Ahmad Al-Sharaa. However, Al-Shaar insisted that proximity alone would not produce economic integration. Stronger ties, he said, required efficient border crossings, dependable institutions, banks able to finance trade, companies prepared to receive investment and capital capable of assessing risks. Al-Shaar said Lebanon and Syria brought complementary advantages to a potential economic partnership. He identified transportation, ports, logistics, agriculture, food processing, tourism, healthcare and technology as areas where the countries could develop joint value chains. For Lebanese businesses, stronger ties with Syria could provide access to a nearby market, overland routes to the region and new opportunities in investment, production, services and logistics, he said. Lebanon, in turn, could offer Syria commercial networks, services and expertise that complemented its productive capacity. Al-Shaar said Syria's economic model was being reshaped around a free-market system, competition and partnerships with the private sector. Under that approach, he added, the government would serve primarily as a regulator and facilitator rather than compete with investors. **_Agencies**

Fish, meat exports witness growth

ISLAMABAD, Sep 23 (APP):Exports of fish and fish preparations grew by 3.23 percent during the first two months of the fiscal year 2026-27 as compared to the corresponding period of last year, according to the latest data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). According to the PBS data, Pakistan exported 24,662 metric tons of fish and fish products worth \$47.791 million during July-August 2026, compared with 22,433 metric tons valued at \$46.295 million during the same period of the previous year. Meanwhile, exports of meat and meat preparations increased by 22.53 percent during the period under review. The country exported 17,653 metric tons of meat and meat products worth \$94.147 million during July-August 2026, compared with 17,177 metric tons valued at \$76.835 million during the corresponding period of last year, the PBS data showed. Food group exports from the country during the first two months of the current financial year grew by 7.67 per cent as compared to exports of the corresponding period of the last year. During the period from July-August 2026, food commodities worth \$833.023 million were exported as compared to the exports of \$773.644 million in the same period of the last year. On the other hand, food group imports into the country during the first two months of the current financial year grew by 2.23 per cent as against the imports of the same period of the last year. **—DNA**

Yemen govt expands community mobilization to support fighters

The Yemeni government has expanded community support for the armed forces and frontlines by mobilizing various social groups and provinces to participate in backing fighters and providing essential supplies to the frontlines. Nayef Al-Bakri, Minister of Youth and Sports and head of a committee for popular support and government backing for the armed forces, told Asharq Al-Awsat that the committee operates under the directives of Chairman of the Presidential Leadership Council Dr. Rashad Muhammad Al-Alimi, council members, and the prime minister. The committee aims to organize and activate popular support for the armed forces and fighters across various frontlines, which includes providing food, petroleum products, fuel, and essential materials needed for fighters to maintain their positions, he added. The committee includes representatives from several ministries, including Interior, Defense, Social Affairs, Transport, Health, and Industry. A broader committee includes representatives from more than 15 provinces, aiming to unify popular efforts and strengthen the state of mobilization. Several provinces, including Socotra, are preparing to dispatch relief convoys to battle areas, Al-Bakri revealed. Community support encompasses the health sector through blood donations and backing provincial blood banks. Various social groups have become part of the support system, he went on to say. Taiz, Hodeidah, Lahij, Dhale, Marib, Al-Jawf and Shabwa are priority frontlines, the minister said. Taiz is witnessing a “decisive battle,” he stressed. On whether the support committee would handle preparing youths to join the frontlines, Al-Bakri explained that the responsibility for recruitment is the responsibility of military authorities. **_APP**

Palestinian kids' plights in Israeli prisons highlighted

NEW YORK: The world has “turned a blind eye” for “decades” to the plight of Palestinian children in Israel's “notoriously brutal prison system,” Jordan's Queen Rania said on Tuesday at a meeting attended by Arab News on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York. “They're arbitrarily taken into custody, denied due process and held indefinitely,” she added. “Most parents can barely allow themselves to imagine it — their 12-year-old taken at gunpoint, driven away somewhere they can't follow. It's inconceivable. Yet it happens to Palestinian families all the time.” The meeting was organized by Save the Children, which has extensively documented Israel's detention practises, including physical, psychological

and sexual abuse. Every year, hundreds of children in the Occupied Territories are detained before being prosecuted in Israeli military courts. The most common charge they face is stone throwing, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years, according to Save the Children. Conditions have deteriorated for the 9,350 Palestinian prisoners currently held, including 350 children. “Children tell of a grim, familiar pattern — ripped from their homes in the middle of the night, not knowing where or why they're being taken, brought alone, handcuffed and blindfolded to interrogation sites, held before military courts, pressured to sign documents they don't understand, assaulted and threat-

ened with rape, kept underfed, isolated and afraid,” Queen Rania said. She referred to the death of Walid Khalid Ahmad, 17, in Megiddo Prison in March 2025 after six months of imprisonment over charges of throwing stones and Molotov cocktails. He is the first minor to die in Israeli detention since the war on Gaza began in October 2023. His body is still in custody after an autopsy conducted by an Israeli pathologist revealed that he likely died from prolonged malnutrition in prison. “So much of his experience was typical,” the queen said. “He was taken in a pre-dawn raid. He was held without charge. He requested medical assistance that never came. This routine cruelty isn't the

work of a few abusers.” Israel is accused by various rights groups and the UN of committing torture in its prisons. Palestinian children engaged in political activism are subjected to the military court system, unlike Israeli children who are tried under civil law. Queen Rania said Israel has normalized violence against children: “And I just don't understand. What's so terrifying about Palestinian children? Before they even come of age, Palestinians are cast as threats — demographic threats, security threats, presumed guilty for future crimes they haven't committed.” At least 66 Palestinians have died in Israeli prisons since the outbreak of the Gaza war, among them 40 from the enclave. Since the occupation of the Palestinian territories in 1967, at least 303 Palestinian prisoners have died in custody, with 75 bodies still held by Israel. The country passed a law in May legalizing the death penalty for Palestinians involved in deadly attacks against Israelis. **_Agencies**

Civil society groups urge Malaysia to stop deporting Rohingyas

NAYPYIDAW: More than 160 civil society organizations released a joint statement on Wednesday urging Malaysia to halt plans to deport Rohingya refugees to Myanmar, citing severe risks of ongoing violence and forced conscription. The groups expressed “grave concerns” over Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's proposal to seek Myanmar junta leader-turned-president Min Aung Hlaing's cooperation to send back Rohingya, a Muslim-minority community long persecuted in Myanmar. Malaysia's Home Ministry declined to comment, pointing to earlier remarks that the repatriation was voluntary and involved Myanmar nationals.

Malaysia had around 193,800 refugees from Myanmar — including large numbers of Rohingya — as of February, according to the United Nations and the country says it plans to return 1,500 refugees on September 29 in a first phase. Malaysia said Myanmar has agreed to take back 5,000 refugees without specifying if they were Rohingya.

Anwar has said he plans to invite Myanmar's Min Aung Hlaing to Malaysia in return for accepting Rohingya refugees. The statement said Myanmar's Min Aung Hlaing is the “architect of genocide” against Rohingya for the military crackdown on the community, with the International Criminal Court currently weighing an arrest warrant against him. Myanmar, which does not recognize Rohingya as an ethnic group, has previously said its military actions in Rakhine state that drove out large numbers of Rohingya were in response to militant attacks.

The groups warned that upon returning to Myanmar, Rohingya could face forced conscription into multiple armed groups, including the military, the Arakan Army (AA), and the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA). Thousands of persecuted Rohingya flee Myanmar each year, often risking dangerous journeys on rickety boats and overland routes.

Myanmar's military is fighting the Arakan Army, an ethnic armed group based in Rakhine state — from where large numbers of Rohingya have been driven out — that is seeking greater autonomy for the region. **_APP**

SECP briefs on corporatization, REIT opportunities

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) on Wednesday briefed members of the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) on the benefits of corporatization and opportunities for registering Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs). SECP Commissioner Muzaffar Ahmed Mirza led the Commission's delegation at the session, hosted at ABAD's head office which was attended by ABAD Chairman Mohammed Hassan Bakshi, Senior Vice Chairman Syed Afzal Hameed, Vice Chairman Tariq Aziz Memon and representatives of the builder and developer community, said a news release.

Mirza briefed participants on SECP's reforms to simplify business incorporation, improve regulatory clarity and encourage informal businesses and partnerships to adopt formal corporate structures.

He explained that incorporation creates a separate legal entity and generally limits shareholders' liability, helping separate business obligations from members' personal assets.

SECP officials, including Karachi Company Registration Office Incharge Sidney Custodio Pereira, demonstrated the eZfile platform and explained how digital integration with external registries has made incorporation and corporate filings faster and simpler. The session also highlighted how corporate status can improve access to finance and domestic and international markets while strengthening business credibility, transparency and continuity. **_APP**

Pakistan, Bangladesh for stronger agri partnership

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, Wednesday, highlighted the common vulnerabilities of Pakistan and Bangladesh as agriculture-dependent countries facing the growing impacts of climate change, emerging diseases and environmental pressures. The minister held a high-level meeting with Bangladesh's Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Abdul Awal Mintoo, and Minister of State for Fisheries and Livestock, Sultan Salauddin Tuku, on the sidelines of the FAO Global Conference for Actions on One Health in Agrifood Systems in Rome, said a press release. The meeting focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation in agriculture, livestock, fisheries, climate adaptation and the One Health approach, with discussions centred on shared challenges and opportunities for advancing sustainable and resilient agrifood systems. He emphasised that closer collaboration in animal, human and environmental health could help strengthen

food security, protect rural livelihoods and improve the resilience of agricultural communities.

The minister underscored the potential for expanding cooperation in agricultural trade, research, mechanisation, livestock breed improvement and capacity building. He also highlighted opportunities for institutional partnerships, technical exchanges and collaboration in agriculture and veterinary sciences, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to a relationship based on mutual respect, sovereign equality and shared development priorities. Abdul Awal Mintoo appreciated the opportunity for engagement on the sidelines of the international conference and highlighted the importance of addressing climate change and environmental challenges through coordinated action. He emphasised the value of exchanging knowledge, experiences and practical approaches to strengthen climate resilience and promote sustainable agrifood systems, while recognising the potential for closer cooperation between the two countries.

Sultan Salauddin Tuku highlighted the importance of the fisheries and livestock sectors in supporting food security,

nutrition and rural livelihoods.

He expressed the significance of cooperation in livestock development, improved production systems, disease prevention, research and technical capacity building, noting the scope for Pakistan and Bangladesh to benefit from sharing expertise and strengthening institutional linkages. The meeting also explored cooperation in climate-smart livestock production, improved feed and fodder systems, disease surveillance, antimicrobial resistance, food safety and value addition. Both sides recognised the importance of sustained technical engagement to identify priority areas and translate discussions into practical initiatives. Rana Tanveer Hussain invited the Bangladeshi ministers to visit Pakistan for further bilateral discussions and to advance cooperation in agriculture, fisheries, livestock and climate-resilient agrifood systems. The meeting concluded with a shared emphasis on strengthening bilateral engagement and contributing to regional resilience and the global One Health agenda. **_APP**

Briefs

Iran flight
lands in China
despite threat

BEIJING: A Mahan Air flight from Tehran landed in China's Guangzhou, tracking data by FlightRadar24 said on Wednesday, the day Washington had threatened to "shut down" Tehran's carriers and punish anyone doing business with them. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent warned this week that any countries which provided Iranian planes with "landing services" would be "knocked out of the dollar system", but did not give further details. The flight was not listed on the official website of Guangzhou Baiyun airport, which was the location shown as the landing site of the Mahan plane. — APP

US committed
to role in
Lebanon

NEW YORK: The UN remains committed to a role in Lebanon even as its peace-keeping mission, which has operated in the country's south for nearly five decades, nears the end of its mandate on Dec. 31, the UN under-secretary-general for peace operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, told Arab News. The wind-down comes as Lebanon warns of a looming security vacuum — its UN ambassador called the withdrawal "premature" in an August letter to the Security Council — while Israeli strikes in the south have continued despite last November's ceasefire. Lacroix said restoring full Lebanese sovereignty over the entire country is a "universally shared goal" pursued through the ongoing Israeli-Lebanese talks mediated by the US alongside continued Lebanese government efforts that he described as courageous. Meanwhile, he said, the UN Interim Force in Lebanon "is providing a valuable contribution" — helping deliver humanitarian support to the population in the south, backing the Lebanese Armed Forces, and "working on de-confliction among the various entities and stakeholders that are present on the ground." Sustaining that support once UNIFIL's mandate lapses, he added, comes down to options that the secretary-general has presented to the Security Council for a UN presence after UNIFIL, drawn up in consultation with Lebanese authorities and submitted at the council's request. — APP

Punjab seeks Rangers
deployment in four districts

LAHORE: The Punjab government has sought the deployment of Rangers in four districts to maintain law and order ahead of the Imran Khan-founded Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) planned march towards Islamabad on September 27. The request comes amid security preparations ahead of the major opposition party's nationwide protests and march on the federal capital, aiming at securing the release of its incarcerated founder Imran Khan and ensuring constitutional supremacy. The Punjab Home Depart-

ment has written to the Ministry of Interior seeking Rangers' deployment in Rawalpindi, Attock, Jhelum and Mianwali, according to its spokesperson. The Punjab Home Department has requested three Rangers companies for Rawalpindi and recommended five wings for Attock, Jhelum and Mianwali will each have one Rangers company, the spokesperson said. The federal government has already sought additional police personnel from the provinces to assist Islamabad authorities with security arrange-

The federal government has already sought additional police personnel from the provinces to assist Islamabad authorities with security arrangements.

ments. Punjab is providing 19,000 police officers and personnel, while Sindh is sending a 1,950-strong contingent to the capital. The Islamabad High Court (IHC) had also issued a series of directions concerning the planned march. In its detailed verdict, the court directed chief ministers to ensure that government vehicles, machinery, funds and other official resources are not used for protests or rallies. — APP

Man linked to Daesh
arrested in Australia

DNA

WELLINGTON, New Zealand: A man in the Australian city of Melbourne is accused of pledging allegiance to the Daesh group and spreading thousands of pieces of extremist propaganda online over a period of years, the authorities said on Wednesday. He was the seventh man to be arrested in Victoria state since May over allegations of possessing or distributing Daesh content online. Australia's federal police didn't link the latest arrest to the other six and wouldn't say if they believed the man's case was connected. The 65-year-old Australian citizen, whose name hasn't been released, was due to appear in a Melbourne court later on Wednesday. He's charged with being a member of a terrorist organization and with transmitting violent extremist material in an encrypted messaging app the authorities didn't name. The maximum penalty for the offenses is 10 years in prison. The authorities said the man had sent 10,000 files containing extremist content between 2015 and 2020, including material relating to executions, torture and Daesh propaganda. The federal police allege that he also shared information about avoiding detection from law enforcement and instructional guides on planning and conducting mass casualty attacks, a statement Wednesday said. Acting Assistant Commissioner Paula Hudson told report-

ers in Canberra that the scale and distribution of the materials by the man "placed him as a principal distributor of Daesh propaganda within the group." "The material glorified acts of violence and terrorism, spreading hateful ideology that is designed to radicalize others," Hudson said. An investigation into the man began when border officials examined the man's luggage as he departed Australia for a six-month trip to Egypt in 2020, the authorities said. He wasn't known to have traveled abroad since 2020 and wasn't linked to any attack or plot, Hudson said. Earlier this month, a 30-year-old Melbourne man was arrested and charged with possessing violent extremist content as he attempted to depart Australia for the Middle East, authorities said. The federal police allege he was part of an online group chat with five other Victoria state men arrested in May, who all face charges relating to possessing extremist material, including Daesh propaganda. The Islamic State group is a scattered and considerably weaker group since a 2019 United States-led military intervention drove it out of territory it had seized in Iraq and Syria, but its cells remain active and it has inspired a number of independent attacks, including in western countries. In Australia, a mass shooting at a Hanukkah event in 2025, in which two men are accused of killing 15 Jewish people, was motivated by the shooters' Daesh affiliations, the authorities allege.

PM reiterates 'unwavering'
support for Saudi Arabia

Premier extends felicitations to King Salman, Crown Prince MBS and people of Saudi Arabia on National Day

DNA

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday reaffirmed that Pakistan stood "unwaveringly" and "shoulder to shoulder" with Saudi Arabia in safeguarding its sovereignty and security amid recent attacks on the kingdom by Yemen's Houthis. In his message on Saudi National Day, the prime minister reiterated Pakistan's strongest condemnation of the Houthi attacks, particularly the attempted drone attack on Makkah. "Any threat to the sanctity and security of the Haramain Sharifain deeply wounds the sentiments of Muslims across the world,"

the prime minister wrote in his message posted on his official X account. Earlier this month, Saudi Arabia said its air defences destroyed a Houthi drone south of Makkah before it entered prohibited airspace over the holy city. The drone was the second Houthi attempt to target Makkah, a spokesperson for the Saudi-led military coalition in Yemen said. The group has also declared a maritime blockade against Saudi Arabia, targeting Saudi-linked shipping in the Red Sea as well as sites within the kingdom. Following the attacks on Saudi Arabia, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director-General Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said that Pakistan's armed forces will go "to any extent" to defend the kingdom. "Pakistan

fully stands with the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, both diplomatically and physically," he said in an interview with Arab News. Meanwhile, PM Shehbaz extended felicitations to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and the people of Saudi Arabia on the country's National Day. The prime minister said that the kingdom's journey of progress and transformation was a source of pride and admiration not only for the Saudi nation, but also for Pakistan. Pakistan took immense pride in its historic and time-tested brotherhood with Saudi Arabia, rooted in faith, mutual trust and an abiding bond between our peoples, he said. "Today, under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin

Salman, this brotherhood is growing into an even stronger strategic partnership, underpinned by our shared commitment to peace, security and the unity of the Muslim Ummah," he added. The prime minister also referred to the signing of the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement and the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement in his message. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed the mutual defence pact in September 2025, committing both sides to treat any aggression against either country as an attack on both. Last month, Islamabad, Riyadh and Turkiye signed the Makkah Defence Alliance, under which an armed attack against any one of the three countries would be regarded as an attack against them all.

LHC chief
justice
summons
Punjab IG

DNA

LAHORE: Lahore High Court's (LHC) Chief Justice Aalia Neelum on Wednesday summoned Punjab Inspector General (IG) Rao Abdul Kareem in a contempt of court petition against personnel of the Chung police. The chief justice was hearing a petition filed by citizen Mian Muhammad Jamil, with Superintendent of Police (SP) Abdullah appearing before the court on behalf of the Chung police.

The petitioner's counsel, Advocate Shahbaz Bhatti, informed the judge that an LHC single bench had suspended a 2021 order by a sessions court of registering a first information report (FIR) against his client. Despite the single bench ruling, the counsel alleged, the police registered a case against the petitioner unlawfully.

When Justice Neelum asked SP Abdullah to read the FIR aloud, he was unable to properly read or narrate its contents. "Why is the FIR not readable? I cannot understand what has been written in it," the chief justice remarked.

Hamas
finance dept
head killed:
Israel

DUBAI: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Wednesday that Hamas financial chief Mahmoud Abu Alwan was killed in an Israeli airstrike on Khan Yunis. Palestinian medics said that two men were killed in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, Osama Abu Khater and Mohammed Abu Alwan, when an Israeli airstrike targeted a vehicle in western Khan Yunis in the southern part of the Strip, according to Reuters. Two other people were injured. Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant announced in a joint statement that the Israeli army had killed Abu Alwan, describing him as a senior financial official in Hamas. The joint statement read: "We will not allow Hamas to regain its strength, and we will not stop until Hamas is eliminated from Gaza." The Palestinian movement has not yet issued any comment. — APP

Black Sea drone attacks spell
terror for Turkish sailors

TURKIYE: They'd just had breakfast when a huge blast brought the crew of the Turkish fishing boat racing out onto main deck, where they were standing when the second strike hit. "There was fire and smoke, the blast lifted us up and threw us left and right, it was very powerful," said Ahmet Ozlu, 40, one of five fishermen on board the Turkish-flagged Duru 67 that was hit by a drone off Crimea on June 5. Such attacks on commercial vessels have multiplied in recent months as the Russia-Ukraine war has spilled into the Black Sea, with Turkish ships increasingly in the firing line. A fire broke out and the boat began taking on water, so the fishermen rushed to the bridge where they found their captain and childhood friend Cuneyt Varlik, 45, lying in a pool of his own blood, his carotid artery severed by shrapnel. Putting out a distress call, they waited bleeding and terrified as the boat sank lower until

they were rescued an hour later. "We thought we were going to die. And we were terrified of another strike," said Ozlu, who suffered extensive shrapnel injuries. The attack was never claimed but the Turkish coastguard told them it was a Ukrainian drone which hit them "by mistake", he said. "We never thought Ukraine would hit us because our flag was raised. We are civilians, our boat doesn't carry weapons," said his older brother Mehmet Ozlu, 53, who suffered extensive internal and external injuries. Both deeply traumatised, neither brother has been back out to sea due to their injuries, Mehmet explained while helping mend nets in the northeastern port of Trabzon. "I still ask myself why Ukraine hit people like us, Turkish civilians. As a state, they owe us an answer and compensation because this has ruined my and my children's future," he said. — APP

UNSC condemns Kohat
terrorist attack

NEW YORK: The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on Wednesday condemned last week's terrorist attack in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kohat district, calling for the perpetrators and sponsors of the attack to be held accountable. At least 23 people were killed in the September 18's deadly two-pronged assault, including 17 policemen and six civilians. After detonating an explosives-laden vehicle near a mosque in old Police Lines during Friday prayers, terrorists stormed the compound and attacked police facilities. KP police said eight terrorists were killed in retaliatory action by police and security forces. A UNSC statement issued by Council President Jérôme Bonnafont, representing France, strongly condemned the "heinous and cowardly" suicide bombing at a mosque. UNSC member states expressed sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and the government, and wished the injured a swift recovery. Member states stressed that "terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security". According to the statement, UNSC members underscored the need to hold the "perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors" accountable and urged all states to cooperate with Pakistan in the matter. The UNSC held that any act of terrorism was "criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of [its] motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed". The Security Council "reaffirmed the need for all states to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts". — DNA



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