



Islamabad POST

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UN Secy General to visit Pakistan as his tenure ends

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Ronaldo always welcome to join the team: Coach

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At Moscow moot

Pak says terrorism remains core of Afghan problems

Separately, Sadiq posted a transcript of his address at the meeting, according to which he told the moot that the roots of terrorism emanating from Afghanistan were in a “nexus between the Taliban regime and terrorist groups [...] that operate with impunity on Afghan soil”

DNA

MOSCOW: Pakistan's Special Representative for Afghanistan Mohammad Sadiq on Monday said that terrorism remained at the core of Afghanistan's problems, reaffirming that Pakistan would continue to take “all appropriate measures” for ensuring the safety of its citizens, in accordance with international law. Sadiq made these remarks at the eighth meeting of Moscow Format Consultations on Afghanistan in the Russian capital. The moot brought together Afghanistan and other countries of the region to discuss the situation in Afghanistan and issues of regional concern, the Foreign Office (FO) said in a statement. Separately, Sadiq posted a transcript of his address at the meeting, according to which he told the moot that the roots of terrorism emanating from Afghanistan were in a “nexus between the Taliban regime and terrorist groups [...] that operate with impunity on Afghan soil”. “The situation is worsened by external actors and spoilers who support proxies inside Afghanistan to target Pakistan and other countries in the region,” he added. Sadiq highlighted that five years into the Taliban rule in Afghanistan, “Pakistan faces the most serious security threat.” Over the last three years alone, he said, more than 4,700 Pakistanis had been killed due to terrorism emanating from Afghanistan. “No country would tolerate such a situation,” he remarked. “Thousands of innocent Pakistani civilians and security personnel have been martyred in the last few years. A result of terrorist attacks planned, financed, supported and carried out from Afghan soil.

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UN rights council slams Taliban

DNA

GENEVA: The UN Human Rights Council on Monday unanimously urged the Taliban to repeal all practices restricting the fundamental freedoms of women and girls, saying Afghanistan's institutionalised discrimination should shock humanity. The United Nations' 47-country rights body adopted the resolution without a vote. The council said human rights in Afghanistan were deteriorating and voiced serious concern about the “grave, worsening, widespread and systematic oppression of all women and girls in Afghanistan by the Taliban”. The council “deplores the Taliban's institutionalisation of its system of discrimination, segregation, domination, disrespect for human dignity and exclusion of women and girls, and the harms that it has entrenched, which are unbearable, unjustifiable and should shock the conscience of humanity,” it said. The Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021 and imposed a strict version of Islamic law. The Taliban government remains largely excluded from the international community,

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif received Mr. Tomasz Siemoniak, Minister, Member of the Council of Ministers, and Coordinator of Special Services of the Republic of Poland, who is currently on an official visit to Pakistan. – DNA

Court orders Imran Khan's production

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad on Monday ordered authorities to produce jailed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former prime minister Imran Khan at the next hearing in the Judicial Complex attack case. ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra conducted the hearing on the case pertaining to an incident that took place when the former prime minister visited the Judicial Complex in Islamabad to seek bail in multiple cases in 2023. A huge crowd of PTI supporters assembled at the location, dismantled security barriers, vandalised the complex's entrance gate, and obstructed court proceedings. In response, Islamabad police filed a terrorism case

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KP govt not cooperating with Centre

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Affairs Minister Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Monday accused the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government of not cooperating with the Centre in the ongoing war against terrorism. He said the provincial government was also not standing with state institutions, while Chief Minister Sohail Afridi was not cooperating in efforts to prevent terrorism. Chaudhry said three provinces were following Pakistan's policy on Afghanistan, but not KP. His remarks came days after Information Minister Attaullah Tarar had urged Imran Khan-founded PTI to clarify whether it stands with Pakistan or

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PTI leaders say

No progress in talks can be made without meeting jailed Imran

The PTI leader said that another reason for the failure of the talks was that the government was not willing to pursue a collective strategy against terrorism. Raja told the media that the PTI had entered into the negotiations with sincerity and was serious about addressing the issues

FAISAL SHIEKH

ISLAMABAD: PTI leaders on Monday declared that reconciliation between their party and the government was not possible without including incarcerated party founder Imran Khan in the dialogue process. Narrating the opposition's stance on why the talks with the government failed over the weekend, PTI's secretary general, Salman Akram Raja, presented his party's demand that Imran be included in any future political dialogue. “Only [Imran] has the capability to bridge the gulf that has developed between the state and the nation,” Raja said during the press conference held at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House in Islamabad. “Imran Khan is very important for us and we had every right to seek his opinion, but it was not allowed,” Raja said.

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PML-N accuses PTI of deliberately sabotaging talks

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Barrister Danyal Chaudhry, has accused the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of deliberately sabotaging negotiations and misleading the public. “They [PTI] are pursuing the politics of hatred and division,” Chaudhry said, adding that the government believed in a policy of reconciliation. He alleged that PTI

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Briefs

Rain expected in uppar parts of Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Monday predicted heavy rains, strong winds and thunderstorms, with isolated hailstorms, in the upper parts of the country over the next two days. In a press release, the Met Office said a westerly wave was likely to enter the upper parts of the country tonight and was expected to persist until Oct 7 (Wednesday). Under the influence of this weather system, the PMD predicted rain, windstorms and thunderstorms, with isolated hailstorms, in various locations in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Punjab as well as the Islamabad region.

Remaining 3 Pakistanis rescued

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said on Monday that the three remaining Pakistani crew members of MT Honour 25, an oil tanker that was hijacked off the coast of Somalia in April, are expected to be flown back to Pakistan on Wednesday. The maritime police force of Somalia's semi-autonomous Puntland said last week that it had recovered the MT Honour 25, a Palau-flagged oil tanker with 19 crew members on board, including 10 Pakistanis, which had been hijacked by Somali pirates in April. The Foreign Office subsequently confirmed that three Pakistanis had died and several others were injured during the operation, later identifying the deceased as Rafullah Khan, Syed Kashif Umer and Mahmood Ahmed Ansari. Four Pakistanis injured in the operation had arrived in Karachi on Sunday, with the remains of those killed.

Middle East issue

US withdraws all bomber aircraft from UK airbase

A statement from a Pentagon official on Sunday said, “We can acknowledge now that all US bombers that were deployed to RAF Fairford have redeployed to their home stations in the United States”

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: The United States confirmed that it had withdrawn all B-1 bombers from the British airbase of RAF Fairford, reportedly due to “new threats”, with Britain's government insisting on Monday that the site is safe. Police were called to the base in southwest England on Sept 27 after a local farmer reported a group of men with several vans engaged in “suspicious” activity. The scare prompted a counter-terrorism probe and forced evacuations at 85 homes near the airbase, which was used by the US to launch strikes on Iran. Investigators did not find any explosives in the vans, but “a quantity of petrol was recovered”, according to counter-terrorism police.

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Oil market turmoil could last for years, executives say

DNA

NEW YORK: Shipping bottlenecks, deep cuts in refinery output and inventory draws that could take years to replace will keep global oil prices high beyond this year, industry executives say at a conference in London, Reuters reports. “I think it is going to be bedlam for the bulk of the end of the year and maybe 2027,” Petronas CEO Tengku Muhammad Taufiq says.

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Bilawal once again opposed creation of new provinces

PPP chairman says Tharparkar children topping exams should be a matter of pride for entire country

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday criticised a party of “political orphans” for bringing “Zionist politics” into Sindh, saying such efforts would never be allowed to succeed. Speaking at the inauguration of Thar Coal Phase III in Thar, Bilawal said the success of students from Tharparkar in the MDCAT examination should have been a source of pride for the entire country. Instead, he said, a “party of political orphans” had resorted to “politics of hatred and division.” Bilawal was responding to the reservations expressed by the MQM-P over the MDCAT results, according to which no candidate from Karachi Division made it into the province's top 20. According to results released by Sukkur IBA



(SIBA) Testing Services, students from Sindh's smaller and less-developed districts secured top positions. MQM-P leader Farooq Sattar said that corruption was rampant in Sindh and questioned whether the medical entrance test could remain unaffected by the PPP's influence. “How is it possible that MDCAT has remained untouched by the PPP?” Sattar asked. “You must have heard about Israel and Palestine, but they want to introduce this kind of politics to Sindh,” Bilawal said, adding that such efforts would never succeed. “If our children from Tharparkar or any other underdeveloped area are topping exams, then this should be a matter of pride.” Bilawal said he did not understand the logic of creating new provinces on the premise that the existing governance system had

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KP increases security spending by 41pc over 3 years

The Finance Advisor said the KP government had spent around Rs55 billion over the past few years on temporary displaced persons (TDPs) and victims affected by security operations. The expenditure stood at Rs3.9 billion in 2023-24, Rs4.6 billion in 2024-25 and Rs19.84 billion in 2025-26, while Rs17 billion had been allocated for 2026-27

PESHAWAR: Advisor to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister on Finance Muzzammil Aslam said on Monday that the provincial government had substantially increased allocations for police, security, internally displaced persons and the judiciary over the past three years.

He said the KP police budget had increased from Rs123.2 billion in 2024-25 to around Rs151 billion in 2025-26 and Rs173.8 billion in 2026-27, reflecting an increase of around 41 percent. Muzzammil Aslam said Rs3.4 billion had been allocated for police arms and other procurement in 2024-25, against which actual expenditure reached Rs6.8 billion. The allocation was subsequently increased to Rs13 billion in 2025-26 and Rs14.52 billion in 2026-27. He said Rs191.4 billion had been allocated for the KP police in the current financial year, accounting for around 8.8 percent of the provincial budget. Punjab had allocated around Rs213 billion, or 3.6 percent of its provincial budget, Sindh Rs198 billion, or 5.5 percent, and Balochistan Rs87.2

billion, or around 8 percent, he added. The Finance Advisor said around 140,000 police personnel were currently serving in the province, with approximately one policeman for every 292 people, compared with around one for every 541 people in Punjab. He said the government had also increased police salaries and allowances and enhanced compensation packages for families of police martyrs. A package of Rs11 million along with a plot was being provided to martyrs from constable to inspector ranks, Rs16 million for a DSP and up to Rs21 million for SP, SSP and DIG ranks. Muzzammil Aslam said the police development budget had also witnessed a significant increase. Against an initial allocation of Rs12.7 billion for the current financial year, the revised allocation stood at around Rs22 billion, with approximately Rs21 billion already spent. He said the provincial government had continued investment in police infrastructure, establishment of police stations, restructuring of the force and recruitment in the merged

districts. The Finance Advisor said the KP government had spent around Rs55 billion over the past few years on temporary displaced persons (TDPs) and victims affected by security operations. The expenditure stood at Rs3.9 billion in 2023-24, Rs4.6 billion in 2024-25 and Rs19.84 billion in 2025-26, while Rs17 billion had been allocated for 2026-27. He said the government had continued supporting affected families through its available resources. Muzzammil Aslam said an effective judicial system was also essential for maintaining security and law and order. He said the province had allocated Rs6 billion for judicial development during the current financial year. He said the figures reflected the provincial government's sustained focus on security, law and order, police development, support for affected families and strengthening of the justice system. He added that increased financial resources would enable the province to further expand investment in security, merged districts, police, TDPs and the justice sector.—APP



ISLAMKOT: Pakistan People Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah and others offering dua at inauguration ceremony of the Thar Coal Block II expansion project.

Humayun pays tribute to teachers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Central Secretary General of the Pakistan Peoples Party, Muhammad Humayun Khan, has paid tribute to teachers across the country on the occasion of World Teachers' Day, acknowledging their vital role in educating, guiding and shaping future generations.

In his message, Muhammad Humayun Khan said that teachers are the architects of the nation and the guarantors of a brighter future. Beyond imparting knowledge, teachers play a fundamental role in character building, creating awareness and developing responsible citizens. He emphasized that the progress of any nation is closely linked with quality education and dedicated teachers. Providing educators with respect, adequate facilities and a conducive teaching environment is a collective responsibility. Muhammad Humayun Khan said that the Pakistan Peoples Party remains committed to promoting education, empowering youth and providing equal opportunities for a better future. On World Teachers' Day, he expressed his profound appreciation for the invaluable services of teachers and acknowledged their enduring contribution to the development and progress of society.—APP

Services' exports up by 28.89%

ISLAMABAD :The export of various services witnessed 28.89 percent increase during the first two months of the current fiscal year as compared to the exports of corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

According to PBS data, Pakistan earned \$1.881 billion from the export of services during July-August (2026-27) as compared to \$1.405 billion in July-August 2025-26. The services' imports also witnessed an increase of 9.77 percent during the period under review and were recorded at \$2.370 billion as compared to the imports of \$2.159 billion in July-August 2025-26.

During the period under review, the services trade deficit contracted by 25.84 percent as it was recorded at \$0.559 billion as against the \$0.754 billion. Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the export of services increased by 28.97 percent to \$0.873 billion during the month of August 2026 as against the exports of \$0.676 billion during August 2025. The import of services increased by 2.53 percent to \$1.155 billion as compared to \$1.127 billion during last August. On month-on-month basis, the services exports, however witnessed negative growth of 6.93 percent in August 2026 when compared to the exports of \$0.938 billion in July 2026. Likewise, the imports of services declined by 4.86 percent in August 2026 as compared to the imports of \$1.214 billion in July 2026, the PBS reported.—APP

Kundi lauds security forces for killing terrorists

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday paid tribute to the security forces for eliminating three terrorists during a successful operation in Dera Ismail Khan.

The Governor said the effective operations being carried out by the security forces were commendable and reflected the

country's firm resolve to eradicate terrorism from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said the ongoing operations against terrorists were playing a vital role in dismantling their networks and restoring lasting peace in the province.

Governor Kundi said actions against Fitna al-Khawarij under the Azm-e-Istehkam vision would continue until terrorism was com-

pletely eliminated.

He said the sacrifices rendered by the security forces in the fight against terrorism had further strengthened the nation's determination and morale.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to peace, the Governor said the nefarious designs of externally backed terrorist elements would be foiled at all costs, adding.—APP

LCCI leadership all-out to resolve business community's issues

LAHORE: A delegation representing the Quaid-i-Azam Industrial Estate visited the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry and extended its warm congratulations to newly elected LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar, Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani and Vice President Khadim Hussain Chaudhry on assuming their respective offices. The delegation felicitated the new office-bearers and expressed the hope that the Ali Hussam Asghar, Sardar Usman Ghani and Khadim Hussain Chaudhry would continue to play a proactive role in promoting industrial growth, investment, exports and employment while effectively highlighting the issues confronting the business and industrial

community. Former LCCI Presidents Mian Misbah-ur-Rehman, Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, Noman Kabir, former Senior Vice Presidents Nasir Hameed Khan, Rehman Aziz Chan, Shahzad Nasir, former Vice President Haris Ateeq, Sabir Hameed, Chaudhry Amjad Ali and Mian Sohail Nisar, LCCI Executive Committee Members Tariq Mehmood, Zulfiqar Ali Chaudhry, Ali Raza, Shahzad Ali Shah, Shah Behram, Syed Azmat Ali, Mian Maqbool, Muhammad Umar Abdullah, Muhammad Yaseen, Chaudhry Shahab Basharat, Shahzad Mahmood and Sahir Mush-taq also attended the meeting. LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar welcomed the delegation and thanked

the industrial community for its confidence and good wishes. He said the Lahore Chamber would extend full support and cooperation to the Quaid-i-Azam Industrial Estate and other industrial clusters and would work closely with them to identify and resolve issues affecting industrial activity. He said that industry was the backbone of economic growth and played a vital role in increasing production, generating employment, promoting exports and attracting investment. He stressed that the problems faced by industrialists needed to be addressed through regular consultation and effective coordination between the business community and relevant government institutions.—APP

Doctor not exempted from drug sale license

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Constitutional Court of Pakistan (FCCP) has held that the authority of a registered medical practitioner to prescribe or provide medicines to patients does not exempt the doctor from obtaining a license for the sale of drugs if he stocks medicines for sale or operates a medical store under the Drugs Act, 1976.

The ruling was given by a two-member bench comprising Chief Justice Aminuddin Khan and Justice Ali Baqar Najafi while deciding a civil petition filed by the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa against Dr Muhammad Rizwan Rajput and others.

In its detailed written judgment, the court observed that the Pharmacy Act, 1967 and the Drugs Act, 1976 regulate distinct legal fields. Section 31(4)(a) of the Pharmacy Act provides protection to a registered medical practitioner in prescribing or supplying medicines to his patients, but the provision could not be construed as a general exemption from the licensing requirement for sale of drugs under the Drugs Act, 1976.

The court noted that under Section 23(1)(c) of the Drugs Act, no person could sell drugs without a license, and the law contained no general exemption from this requirement for doctors. The FCCP, however, distinguished between a doctor merely supplying medicines prescribed to his own patients and running a regular medical store or drug-selling business. The distinction, it said, had to be determined on the basis of evidence, including the quantity and nature of medicines stocked, purchase and supply records, details of sales, receipts, prescriptions and other relevant documents.—APP

Bugti reviews progress of ongoing uplift projects

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Monday presided over a meeting of Secretaries Committee to review progress of ongoing development projects and government performance sectors on past two and a half year. Provincial Ministers Mir Sadiq Umrani, Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi, Mir Saleem Khan Khosa, and Mir Shoaib Noshewani attended the meeting as special invitees. The meeting reviewed ongoing development projects in Balochistan, reforms across various sectors, and the performance of government departments over the past two and a half years.

Balochistan Health Secretary Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Panezai briefed the participants on the implementation of the DHIS2 digi-

tal health system, noting significant improvements in digital data reporting and reporting compliance within the health sector. He stated that the scope of DHIS2 would be further expanded to promote the digitalization of primary healthcare, artificial intelligence, local innovations, and research. Referring to his recent visit to Oslo, the Health Secretary mentioned that the Balochistan government's digital health and reform initiatives were lauded at a global forum, with the effective implementation of DHIS2 and the utilization of data in the province hailed as a significant achievement. He said that measures are being taken in collaboration with the University of Oslo's HISP Centre to conduct joint research, facilitate

technical exchanges, and showcase Balochistan's digital health model on the international stage, focus is also being placed on establishing a robust DHIS2 core team within the Health Department and enhancing the capacity of relevant staff. Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti expressed satisfaction with the departments' performance over the past two and a half years, saying that future reforms would ensure the promotion of merit and the implementation of AI-based recruitment processes. He emphasized the need to more effectively utilize modern technology and data-driven systems to improve public service delivery. Provincial ministers attending the meeting commended the provincial government's performance under Chief Minister Bugti's leadership, noting that significant steps have been taken regarding sectoral reforms, the promotion of merit, transparency, and the enhancement of public services.—APP

Musadiq vows protection for poor settlements under new policy

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Musadik Malik on Monday said the National Housing Policy 2025 sought to enable people to own homes at instalments comparable to their existing rent, protect poor settlements from demolition and promote climate-resilient housing. Speaking at the launch of the National Housing Policy 2025 here at NUST University, the minister said the country needed around 500,000 houses annually but only about 300,000 were being built, leaving around 200,000 people homeless in one way or another each year. "If 2,00,000 people do not have homes and there are six people in a household, according to your own statistics, 1.2 million people are entering every year without a roof over their heads," he said, adding that around 10 to 12.5 million people were currently living without adequate shelter. Musadik Malik said the government's policy had been framed to address the shortage of housing finance, noting that banks provided only a small proportion of the financing required for house purchases in Pakistan. Under the "Apna Ghar" scheme, he said, the government had decided that an applicant would contribute 10 per cent of the cost while banks would provide 90pc financing. He said the 90pc financing would be available at a fixed rate of 5pc for 10 years. A loan of Rs 2.5 million, he said, would carry a monthly installment of around Rs 16,500, while a Rs 5 million loan would entail an installment of around Rs 30,000 to Rs 31,000. "The idea is that if you are paying Rs 16,000 to Rs 30,000 in rent throughout your life, you should now be able to use that amount to own your own house," he said. The minister said the policy also aimed to protect low-income settlements, particularly those where families had lived for generations. He said such settlements would not simply be demolished, but would instead be provided with infrastructure and basic facilities, including drainage, safe drinking water, schools, clinics and roads. "If this is not possible at a particular location, you will have to find land within 5 to 10 kilometres so that the community is not displaced," he said.—APP

CDA responds to 1475 emergency calls in September

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On the directions of Federal Minister for Interior Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi and the able and effective supervision of the Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Sohail Ashraf, the Capital Emergency Service (CES), CDA continued comprehensive and effective emergency response, rescue and medical operations across Islamabad during September 2026, responding to a total of 1,475 emergency calls during the month. The September 2026 operational figures demonstrate the wide-ranging responsibilities of the Capital Emergency Service, which responded to medical emergencies, road traffic crashes, fire incidents, rescue situations, dewatering requirements, animal rescue cases and other emergencies across the federal capital. According to the Monthly Consolidated Emergency/Event Cover Report for September 2026, the Capital Emergency Service responded to 1,152 Emergency Medical Service (EMS) calls, representing the largest category of emergencies handled during the month. These included 544 medical emergencies, 433 road traffic crashes (RTCs), 120 miscellaneous cases, 46 fall/slip incidents, 6 crime-related cases and 3 drowning incidents. The Capital Emergency Service also responded to 82 fire emergencies during September. The fire incidents comprised 29 electric fires, 10 house fires, 6 vehicle fires, 2 LPG/gas or liquid-related blast/fire incidents, 17 building/commercial area fires, 7 green-ar-

ea fires and 11 garbage fires. In addition to emergency medical and firefighting operations, CES teams carried out 123 rescue operations during the reporting period. These included 44 dewatering calls, 1 collapsed-structure incident, 11 mountain/well/trap rescue operations, 65 animal rescue calls and 2 fallen-tree incidents. The figures reflect the diverse range of emergencies requiring specialized rescue intervention across Islamabad. The Capital Emergency Service also remained engaged in emergency cover-related duties during September. The service undertook 100 duties and 18 motorcade duties, making a total of 118 deployments during the month. No event deployment was recorded during the reporting period. The consolidated report further records 1,013 victims associated with the reported emergencies. Of these, 979 were recorded under injured/illness cases, while 34 fatalities were reported. The report also records 148 cases of F/A on spot and 865 cases shifted, reflecting the emergency response and assistance provided by CES teams. The effective and timely response of the Capital Emergency Service has also been appreciated by citizens of Islamabad, who have expressed their gratitude for the professional services being provided by CES personnel during emergencies. The sustained response to medical emergencies, road accidents, fires and diverse rescue situations has contributed to strengthening public confidence in the emergency response mechanism of the federal capital.

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OCTOBER

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Oct 01/Nigeria Armed Forces Day

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Oct 03/Germany Unification Day

Oct 03/Republic of Korea National Foundation Day

Oct 05/Indonesia Armed Forces Day

Oct 06/Egypt Armed Forces Day

Oct 09/Uganda Independence Day

Oct 12/Spain National Day

Oct 23/Hungary National Day

October 24/United Nations United Nations Day

Oct/25/Romania Armed Forces Day

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PIMS.....9261170-79

Polyclinic.....9218300-09

Shifa International 4603666

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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

DG Special Education pays tribute to teachers

Syed Tauqeer Hussain Shah emphasized that the contribution of teachers and supporting professionals deserves the highest appreciation and continued institutional support

NA

ISLAMABAD : Director General Special Education, Syed Tauqeer Hussain Shah, has extended heartfelt congratulations and appreciation to teachers, multidisciplinary teams and support staff serving children with special needs on the occasion of World Teachers’ Day 2026. In his message, the Director General acknowledged the dedication, compassion and commitment of teachers and professionals whose efforts enable children with special needs to learn, grow and realize their potential. He said that every skill imparted to students helps dismantle barriers, promotes independence and transforms aspirations into meaningful possibilities. Syed Tauqeer Hussain Shah emphasized that the contribution of teachers and supporting professionals deserves the highest appreciation and continued institutional support. Their role, he noted, goes beyond classroom teaching by building confidence, fostering inclusion and empowering students to participate more independently in society. On behalf of the Directorate General of Special Education (DGSE), he also expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training for its continued guidance and support. The Director General reaffirmed DGSE’s commitment to strengthening special education, empowering educators and ensuring that every child is provided opportunities to learn and flourish with dignity. “Happy Teachers’ Day to all our dedicated teachers and professionals who continue to inspire, educate and empower our children.”

ISLAMABAD: Women nature enthusiasts selecting seasonal outdoor plants for their home garden at a roadside nursery along the Expressway.

Japan logo contest to mark diplomatic ties with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Japan has announced a digital logo design competition to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan in 2027. The Embassy of Japan in Pakistan said on Monday that citizens of Japan and Pakistan were being invited to participate in the competition aimed at creating an original logo reflecting the friendship, partnership and close ties between the two countries. The winning design will be adopted as the official logo for the 75th anniversary and used for events and activities to be held throughout 2027 to mark the milestone. Participants of any age residing anywhere in the world can submit an original logo design representing the 75th anniversary. The deadline for submission is October 23, while the result is expected to be announced on the website of Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs around late December 2026. The Embassy said digital logo designs in JPEG, PDF, or EPS format should be submitted by email with the subject line “Logo Entry” to the Southwest Asian Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, at japanpakistan75@mofa.go.jp (mailto:japanpakistan75@mofa.go.jp). Each entry should also include a separate explanation of the design of approximately 80 words. The submitted design must be original, previously unpublished and should not infringe upon any third-party copyright, the Embassy said. It added that designs containing offensive, unlawful, politically or religiously promotional, culturally or socially insensitive, commercial or otherwise inappropriate content would be disqualified. The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) in logo designs is not permitted. Detailed information about the competition guidelines is available on the website of Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—APP

Second Hajj installment collection begins

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony on Monday started collecting the second installment of Hajj dues from pilgrims selected under the Government Hajj Scheme 2027. According to the ministry, successful applicants can deposit the second installment from October 5 to October 20. The ministry said the payment process has been fully digitized, enabling pilgrims to deposit their dues through the Pak Hajj App and Digital Hajj Portal. The spokesperson said uploading a certified medical fitness certificate has been made mandatory before payment of the second installment. Pilgrims will be eligible to deposit the dues only after uploading the certificate on the Pa Hajj App or Digital Hajj Portal. The spokesperson said the facility to modify or change Hajj packages had also been closed. The ministry has set October 20 as the final date for payment of the second installment. Failure to deposit the dues by the deadline would result in automatic cancellation of the Hajj application, while the amount already deposited would be refunded to the applicant’s account.—APP

ECP pushes provinces, Centre to expedite local polls preparations

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday directed the federal and provincial governments to expedite legal and administrative measures for holding local government elections across Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Islamabad and cantonments, as it reviewed preparations and stressed the need to remove remaining hurdles to ensure timely polls. Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja chaired the special meeting, attended by ECP members Nisar Ahmed Durrani, Shah Muhammad Jatoui and Justice (retired) Ikrumullah, Secretary ECP and senior officials. Regarding Punjab, the commission was briefed that it was ready to conduct local government elections and had already sent a draft election schedule to the provincial government. The ECP has also sought lists of District Returning Officers, Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers from the Punjab government to facilitate their appointment. The commission asked the provincial government to respond to the draft election schedule at the earliest. For Islamabad Capital Territory, the commission was informed that delimitation had been completed. However, the Islamabad Capital Territory Amendment Ordinance 2026 had expired. The ECP decided to approach the federal government, pointing out that the relevant legislation had already been approved by the Senate Standing Committee and urging completion of the legislative process without delay. The commission said that if the required legislation was not enacted, it would proceed with local government elections under the existing Islamabad Capital Territory Local Government Act, 2015. Regarding cantonments, the ECP said delimitation had been completed across all cantonments and it was ready to conduct elections. Under Section 19-D(2) of the Cantonments Act, 2023, however, the federal government is required to request the ECP to hold elections in cantonments. The commission noted that despite reminders and a letter written by the Chief Election Commissioner to the Prime Minister, no progress had been made in forwarding the required request. The ECP decided to send a final letter to the Ministry of Defence and said that if no satisfactory response was received, it would take an appropriate decision regarding the holding of cantonment elections.—APP

Pirzada urges joint efforts for housing policy implementation

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Housing and Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada on Monday said that the National Housing Policy 2025 reflected the vision of the Prime Minister, stressing that all relevant institutions and stakeholders would have to make concerted efforts for its effective implementation. He was addressing the launching ceremony of the National Housing Policy 2025, held at the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Islamabad, in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) on the occasion of World Habitat Day. The federal minister hailed the efforts of all those who contributed to the formulation of the National Housing Policy 2025, saying that the policy had been prepared after 24 years through consultations with all relevant stakeholders. Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada said the launch of the National Housing Policy was an important step towards addressing the challenges facing the housing sector. He stressed that all relevant institutions and stakeholders would have to work together to ensure its effective implementation. Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Masood Malik, educationists, researchers, representatives of the housing sector and other stakeholders attended the ceremony. Dr. Musadik Malik, highlighting the importance of environmentally friendly and sustainable housing projects in the context of climate change, said the National Housing Policy provided comprehensive planning for providing shelter to homeless people. He said the government, private sector and all relevant institutions should utilise available resources for the effective implementation of the National Housing Policy.—APP

Rain, windstorm, hailstorm forecast

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast rain-windstorm/thunderstorm with isolated hailstorm in upper parts of the country from Tuesday to Wednesday under the influence of a westerly wave. In Punjab and Islamabad, rain-windstorm/thunderstorm with isolated hailstorm is expected at isolated places in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Murree, Galliat, Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum, Mandi Bahaudin, Gujrat, Gujranwala, Hafizabad, Wazirabad, Lahore, Kasur, Sheikhupura, Sialkot, Narowal, Mianwali, Khushab, Sargodha, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh and Faisalabad on October 06 and 07. In Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, rain-windstorm/thunderstorm with isolated hailstorm is expected in Dir, Chitral, Swat, Kohistan, Shangla, Battagram, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Buner, Malakand, Bajaur, Mohmand, Kohat, Peshawar, Charsadda, Nowshera, Mardan, Swabi, Khyber, Orakzai, Kurram, Hangu, Lakki Marwat, Karak, Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan and Waziristan from the night of October 05-07. Rain-windstorm/thunderstorm with isolated hailstorm is likely at isolated places in Kashmir, including Neelum Valley, Muzaffarabad, Rawalakot, Poonch, Hattian, Bagh, Haveli, Sudhanoti, Kotli, Bhimber and Mirpur, as well as in Gilgit-Baltistan, including Diamir, Astore, Ghizer, Skardu, Hunza, Gilgit, Ghanche and Shigar, on October 06-07. In Balochistan, mainly hot and dry weather is expected, with rain-windstorm/thunderstorm at isolated places in Zhob, Barkhan and Musakhel during the evening/night of October 06. Mainly hot and dry weather is likely to continue in Sindh during the coming days. The PMD cautioned that windstorm, hailstorm and lightning may damage weak structures, including roofs and walls of kacha houses, electric poles, billboards, vehicles and solar panels. Day temperatures are likely to drop by 02 to 04 degrees Celsius during the forecast period. The department advised farmers to plan crop-related activities in view of the expected weather conditions and urged all concerned authorities to remain vigilant and take necessary measures to avoid any untoward situation.—APP

IRSA releases 133,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 133,000 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 88,000 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the River Indus at Tarela Dam stood at 1520.69 feet, which was 118.69 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 54,700 cusecs and 70,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1206.85 feet, which was 156.85 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water were recorded as 7,300 cusecs and 37,000 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Tarela, Guddu, and Sukkur was recorded as 74,800, 68,300, 56,600, and 14,000 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 10,200 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera, and 5,300 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

Youth skill development stressed for energy solutions

The programme will continue until October 08 with technical sessions, practical training, field exposure and group project presentations aimed at developing a skilled youth workforce capable of contributing to the renewable energy sector and sustainable energy solutions

ISLAMABAD: The COMSTech Training Programme on “Youth Skill Development: Solar Power Solutions for Distributed Power Generation” commenced on Monday at the OIC-COMSTech Secretariat, bringing together young participants, experts and resource persons from Pakistan and OIC Member and Observer States. The four-day training programme, being organized under the COMSTech Forum on Environment and Ecosystem Restoration (CFEER), aims to equip youth with practical knowledge and skills in solar power technologies, distributed generation, system design, installation, operation and maintenance. The inaugural session was attended by Lieutenant General (R) Moazzam Ejaz, H.I., Rector, National University of Technology (NUTECH) and Chairman National Technology Council Pakistan as Chief Guest, along with Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General OIC-COMSTech, international resource persons and experts from academia and industry. Addressing the inaugural session, Lt. Gen. (R) Moazzam Ejaz termed skill development a need of the hour to enable the Muslim Ummah to effectively address its emerging challenges. He emphasized the importance of collective efforts among OIC Member States to address the energy crisis by developing indigenous capacities, strengthening human resources, and making effective use of natural sources of energy. The chief guest appreciated the continued contribution of OIC-COMSTech in undertaking various skill development initiatives and promoting the spirit of Ummah, cooperation, and knowledge-sharing among OIC Member States. He stressed that strengthening technical and professional skills among youth would help countries develop sustainable and locally driven solutions to their energy challenges. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary welcomed the participants and international resource persons, including Assoc. Prof. Ir. Dr. Adnan Bin Ibrahim from the Solar Energy Research Institute (SERI), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, and Mr. Md. Enamul Karim Pavel, Head of Renewable Energy, Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL), Bangladesh. He highlighted the growing importance of solar energy and distributed power generation, particularly for countries endowed with abundant sunshine and a young population. He said the programme was designed to connect young people, renewable energy opportunities, and practical skills to contribute to sustainable development. Participants from different countries joined the programme both physically and online, including representatives from Burkina Faso, Benin, Cameroon, Egypt, Palestine, Iran, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), Nigeria, Sudan, Somalia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, The Gambia and Mauritania, reflecting the broad international reach of COMSTech’s capacity-building initiatives. OIC-COMSTech is also actively working with the Prime Minister’s Youth Programme (PMYP) on skills development and professional training programmes, with a focus on enhancing the technical and professional capabilities of young people and creating greater opportunities for their participation in emerging sectors. The training will cover solar PV fundamentals and components, safety, solar resource assessment, off-grid, on-grid and hybrid systems, system sizing and design, net-metering, energy storage, EV integration, installation, commissioning, troubleshooting, and operation and maintenance. The programme will continue until October 08 with technical sessions, practical training, field exposure and group project presentations aimed at developing a skilled youth workforce capable of contributing to the renewable energy sector and sustainable energy solutions.—DNA

12 professional beggars

ISLAMABAD: As part of the ongoing anti-begging campaign, the City Assistant Commissioner Maheen Hassan on Monday conducted operations against professional beggars and shifted 12 individuals to the lockup. The action was taken to curb organized begging and maintain public order in the federal capital. According to the district administration, the operation was carried out under the anti-begging drive being implemented across different areas of the city. During the crackdown, 12 professional beggars were identified and taken into custody before being transferred to the lockup for legal proceedings. Officials said the campaign is aimed at discouraging professional begging and addressing complaints from residents regarding the growing presence of beggars in public places. The administration is continuing inspections and enforcement actions in various parts of the city as part of the ongoing effort. The City Assistant Commissioner urged citizens to support the administration in its campaign to make the city free from professional beggars. Residents were requested not to encourage begging and to cooperate with authorities by reporting such activities whenever they are observed..._APP

NCCIA recovers Rs 3.1m lost by citizen in online fraud

ISLAMABAD: The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Islamabad has recovered Rs 3.1 million taken from a citizen through online fraud and returned the recovered amount to him. An NCCIA official told on Monday that the amount was recovered during action taken by the agency against online fraud. Following the recovery, the Rs 3.1 million was handed back to the affected citizen, providing him relief in the cyber fraud case. The official said NCCIA was continuing action against online fraud under its zero-tolerance policy against cybercrime. He said efforts were being made to protect citizens from online fraud and take action against those involved in such crimes.—APP

Briefs

Syedaal
pays tribute
to teachers

ISLAMABAD: Acting Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan Nasar Monday paid tribute to teachers on the occasion of World Teachers' Day, acknowledging their invaluable contribution to educating and guiding future generations. In his message, the Acting Chairman said that teachers play a vital role in nurturing knowledge, discipline, confidence and a sense of responsibility among young people. He emphasized that the progress of any society is closely linked with the quality of its education and the dedication of its teachers. Syedaal Khan Nasar said that Pakistan needs an education system that equips students with knowledge, critical thinking and skills required to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world. He stressed the importance of providing teachers with modern educational resources, professional development opportunities and a conducive working environment. He further said that the growing use of technology has transformed the educational landscape, making it essential to enhance teachers' capacity to effectively utilize modern teaching methods and digital tools. The Acting Chairman Senate also called for greater attention to the welfare and legitimate concerns of teachers, saying that their dignity, respect and well-being must remain a priority. Syedaal Khan Nasar appreciated the dedication and services of teachers across the country and expressed the hope that their continued efforts would contribute significantly towards building an educated, responsible and progressive Pakistan.—APP

HEC
announces
research
awards

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has announced its Research Awards for the year 2026-27 and invited applications from Pakistani researchers and scholars across the country. According to the announcement shared by HEC, the objective of these awards is to recognize excellence in research, acknowledge contributions to intellectual development, and promote high-impact publications. The awards will be given in three categories including Best Researcher, Best Young Researcher and Best Publication. Under the general eligibility criteria, the applicant must never have been blacklisted by HEC. The applicant or publication must not have received the same award earlier and none of the publications on the applicant or authors' credit should be plagiarized as per HEC plagiarism policy. For the Best Publication category, the publication must be a scholarly book or journal article, must not have been published more than three years before January 1, 2026, and must have been authored by no more than three authors. All authors must have been residents of Pakistan for at least three years as of January 1, 2026. For the Best Publication category, the publication must be a scholarly book or journal article, must not be more than three years old before January 01, 2026, and must be written by no more than three authors. All authors must be residents of Pakistan for at least three years on January 01, 2026. Additionally, the research article must be published in a HEC recognized W-category journal and must have a minimum citation count of 100, while the book must be published by a recognized or renowned academic press. HEC has informed that application forms must be submitted via its online portal at <https://research.hec.gov.pk> and incomplete or late applications will not be entertained. The deadline for submission is Saturday, October 31, 2026.—APP

Naqvi reviews Expressway Service Road Project

Mohsin Naqvi also ordered the concerned authorities to accelerate work on the project. He instructed officials to increase the workforce engaged at the site in order to improve the pace of construction and meet project requirements.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Monday visited the Islamabad Expressway Service Road Project and reviewed the ongoing construction work. During the visit, the minister was briefed on the progress of the project and directed the authorities to speed up work and remove hurdles affecting its completion. Mohsin Naqvi conducted a detailed inspection of the construction activities at the project site. He expressed displeasure over delays in the relocation of utilities, which have affected the pace of work on the project. The Interior Minister directed the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to immediately contact Sui Gas authorities to ensure the timely relocation of utilities. He stressed that the transfer of utilities should be carried out on an emergency basis so that construction work can continue without interruption. Mohsin Naqvi also ordered the concerned authorities to accelerate work on the project. He instructed officials to increase the workforce engaged at the site in order to improve the pace of construction and meet project requirements. The minister further directed that the number of machines being used on the project should also be increased to support ongoing construction activities and help complete the work more efficiently. During the visit, CDA Chairman briefed the



Interior Minister on different aspects of the Islamabad Expressway Service Road Project. According to the briefing, more than 60 machines are currently working simultaneously on the project. The briefing also covered the ongoing

construction activities and operational arrangements being implemented at the site to advance the project. The CDA Chairman and other senior officials were present on the occasion and accompanied the Interior Minister during the review of the project.

Mohsin Naqvi emphasized the need for immediate action on utility relocation and directed the relevant authorities to ensure that work on the project moves forward without delay.—DNA

Fish, Seafood
exports Reach
\$125m: Junaid

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry said on Monday that Pakistan's fish and seafood exports rose by 74.4 per cent in value during the first quarter of the current fiscal year, reaching \$125.4 million against \$71.9m during the last two fiscal years. Increase in export earnings underscores the growing economic potential of the marine fisheries sector as Pakistan seeks to expand its blue economy, he said in a statement. Junaid Chaudhry noted that export volume also rose by 74.8pc over the three-year period, increasing from 35,294MT in Q1 2024-25 to 43,995MT in Q1 2025-26 and reached 61,679MT in Q1 2026-27. The minister noted that both the value and volume of fish exports had grown substantially over the past three years, with the rise in export earnings broadly keeping pace with the increase in volume. He said the fisheries sector was an important com-

ponent of Pakistan's coastal economy, providing livelihoods to fishing communities while generating foreign exchange through exports of fish and other marine products. Junaid Chaudhry appreciated the performance of the Marine Fisheries Department, particularly its record export earnings of \$568 million during FY2025-26. He said the opening of new international markets, particularly Russia, for Pakistani fisheries products was another significant achievement. He said recent initiatives to resume shrimp exports to the United States, along with the revival of the fishing licensing regime in Pakistan's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), would help promote the sustainable utilisation of the country's marine fisheries resources. The minister stressed the need to address institutional, technical and capacity-related bottlenecks to enhance fish and seafood exports to lucrative international seafood markets, particularly the European Union. He also called for the revival and restoration of the Fisheries Training Centre (FTC) of the Marine Fisheries Department to strengthen human-resource capacity, improve technical and professional standards, and enhance compliance with international fisheries and seafood safety requirements. Junaid Chaudhry said strengthening the capacity of fishermen, skippers, fisheries professionals and other stakeholders across the fisheries supply chain would help improve the quality, safety and traceability of Pakistani seafood and enhance its competitiveness in international markets. He reiterated his commitment to modernising the fisheries sector, promoting the sustainable utilisation of marine resources, expanding international market access and increasing the sector's contribution to the national economy.—DNA

Lottery win
not qualify for
allotment: FCCP

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Constitutional Court of Pakistan (FCCP) has held that a person who does not meet the eligibility criteria of a housing scheme cannot claim a legal, vested or enforceable right to allotment of a flat or house merely because his name was declared successful in a computerized ballot. A two-member bench comprising Chief Justice Aminuddin Khan and Justice Ali Baqar Najafi gave the ruling while deciding cases concerning allotment of 2,100-square-foot high-rise flats in Hayatabad Phase-V, Peshawar, and dismissed the petitions and a criminal appeal with costs. In its detailed written judgment, the court observed that the eligibility conditions set out in the housing scheme's advertisement were fundamental and mandatory. A computerized ballot was merely a method of selection among applicants who already fulfilled the eligibility requirements. The success in the ballot could not convert an ineligible applicant into an eligible one. The court noted that the petitioners were serving employees of the federal government at the time of the ballot and did not meet the eligibility requirements prescribed under the scheme. Their names being drawn in the ballot therefore had no legal effect. An administrative mistake, it held, could not confer a right that a person did not otherwise possess under the law or the scheme's conditions. The FCCP further held that a public authority was not required to perpetuate an illegality merely because the mistake had been committed by its own officials. Once such an erroneous allotment was discovered, it was the authority's legal duty to rectify it. Allowing ineligible persons to retain allotments in a scheme involving limited public resources merely because of an administrative error would be unfair to applicants who fulfilled the prescribed conditions, the court observed. The court said cancellation of the petitioners' allotments did not amount to deprivation of any vested or accrued legal right, but constituted a correction of an administrative error.—APP

Women's
rights
complaints
dominate
MoHR
Helpline

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Human Rights' Helpline 1099 received 12,750 calls and provided 4,079 services during September 2026, with women's rights-related complaints constituting the largest share of reported cases. According to the ministry's September fact sheet and summary report, women's rights accounted for 71.1 per cent of the reported cases, followed by government and administrative issues at 11.4 per cent, while child rights cases constituted 7.9 per cent. The report showed that 81 cases were related to women's rights, 13 to government/administrative issues, and nine to child rights. In terms of gender, female and male callers each accounted for 44.7 per cent, while 0.9 per cent of callers identified as transgender and the gender of 9.6 per cent was not specified. Punjab recorded the highest regional share with 68 cases, followed by Islamabad and Sindh with 13 cases each. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reported 10 cases, Azad Jammu and Kashmir four, Balochistan two, and Gilgit-Baltistan one, while three cases had no region specified. The Ministry of Human Rights operates Helpline 1099 to provide legal advice, assistance and referrals to citizens facing human rights violations and related issues.—APP

Nawab of Bahawalpur family house theft

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police have traced the theft of historical antiques and valuable items worth around Rs20 million from the F-8/3 residence of the Nawab of Bahawalpur's family, arresting six suspects and recovering around 70 to 80 percent of the stolen property. An official told media on Monday that the Margalla Police Station team traced the case with the help of modern technology, Safe City cameras and human intelligence. The theft took place at the residence of Prince Bahawal Abbas Khan Abbasi, son of Nawab Salahuddin Abbasi, in Sector F-8/3. According to an earlier report, historical and valuable items belonging to the Nawab of Bahawalpur's family were taken from the house. The stolen items included a silver throne chair, silver ladder, silver bowls and statues, gold plates and items carrying the crest of the former Bahawalpur State. A large historical silver frame bearing the Bahawalpur State crest was also reported missing.—APP

PTI long march not to be
allowed to enter Islamabad

He also alleged that provincial government resources, including the official helicopter, were being used despite court orders to the contrary

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam on Monday said the long march planned by the PTI and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government would not be allowed to enter Punjab or Islamabad. Addressing a press conference at the Kashmir Council alongside MNA Samar Haroon Bilour and Senator Zahid Khan, he urged the people of KP not to become "pawns" in what he termed the PTI's political agenda. Muqam questioned the purpose of the long march, saying it was being organized for political and personal gains rather than the welfare of the people of KP. He alleged that the PTI government in KP was using protest politics to divert attention from poor governance and corruption in the province. The minister said terrorism was a national issue and required a united response,

adding that the situation in KP was deteriorating due to the lack of effective governance. He criticized what he described as the KP government's soft attitude towards terrorists, saying terrorism could not be eliminated without taking a firm position against militants. Muqam said the KP chief minister had not openly condemned acts of terrorism or visited the families of security personnel martyred in the war against terrorism to offer condolences. Referring to recent negotiations between the government and opposition, he said an agreement had been reached to issue a joint statement, but the process was disrupted after the KP chief minister announced continuation of the long march. He also questioned the recent provincial assembly resolution concerning the police, saying such measures could demoralize the force. The

minister said the people had already witnessed protests on May 9 and during the attempted siege of Islamabad, questioning what the proposed march would achieve when its organizers knew they would not be allowed to enter Islamabad or Punjab. He said the federal government would continue to protect the people of KP and work to rid the province of terrorism.

Muqam said the federal government had consistently supported KP on public issues and raised matters relating to PATA and FATA at the legislative and cabinet levels. He urged the people not to become victims of protest politics, saying ordinary citizens suffered most from such activities. He also alleged that provincial government resources, including the official helicopter, were being used despite court orders to the contrary.—APP

Call for greater
investment in teachers

ISLAMABAD: Freedom Gate Prosperity (FGP) Founder and Chief Executive Officer Muhammad Anwar on Monday paid tribute to teachers across Pakistan, highlighting their vital role in shaping young minds, strengthening communities and building the country's future. Talking to media on the occasion of World Teachers' Day, he said teaching was not merely a profession but a responsibility that shaped the foundations of every other profession and contributed to the development of society. "Every doctor, engineer, entrepreneur, civil servant and professional begins his or her journey with a teacher," he said, adding that teachers, particularly those serving low-income and underserved communities, often performed their duties with limited resources, inadequate professional support and financial pressures. Muhammad Anwar said recognition of teachers should go beyond words of appreciation, stressing the need for fair and competitive remuneration, professional dignity and opportunities for career growth. "A teacher in a classroom should be able to focus on the learning and future of students rather than constantly worrying about meeting basic household expenses," he said. He observed that teachers played a role far beyond delivering curricula, as they influenced how young people think, question, create and contribute to society. "If we expect teachers

to prepare our children for the future, we must also give teachers the respect, remuneration and opportunities they deserve," he added. FGP CEO said the teaching profession was also evolving rapidly with digitalisation, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies transforming the ways people learned and worked. He stressed the need to provide teachers with continuous opportunities to enhance their skills in digital learning, responsible use of artificial intelligence, modern teaching methodologies and skills-based education. However, he said technology should support teachers rather than replace them, as digital tools and artificial intelligence could expand learning opportunities and improve access to knowledge, but education remained fundamentally a human process. "A capable and motivated teacher understands the individual student, the classroom and the community in ways that technology alone cannot," he remarked. Muhammad Anwar called upon government institutions, educational organisations, the private sector, civil society and development partners to invest not only in school infrastructure and technology but also in the people who make education possible. He emphasised the importance of better teacher training, competitive remuneration, professional recognition and supportive working conditions.—APP

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Yemen and the battle for the state

GHASSAN CHARBEL

THE Houthis surged toward the Bab Al-Mandab Strait after bleeding Yemen, exhausting Yemenis and unsettling the neighborhood. More than one opportunity for reconciliation within the embrace of the state was offered to them but they insisted on residing atop the rubble of its institutions, placing their regional program before their country's interest. They left Yemen's legitimate authorities no option but comprehensive action against them, which is what President Rashad Al-Alimi announced on Sunday. The decision to begin military operations "to recover what remains of the republic's territory and extend the authority of the state" came after the opportunities for de-escalation had been exhausted, as Al-Alimi made clear. The Houthis met the opportunities for peace with further escalation and more attacks on Yemenis, on neighboring states and on international waterways. The Houthis, who became embroiled in certain events following the outbreak of the Al-Aqsa Flood, are now paying the price of their rush toward Bab Al-Mandab in order to link it with the Strait of Hormuz in an attempt to strangle the global economy. They are paying the price of harassing their neighbors and of joining the war of straits and sea lanes. The Houthis were unable to offer any convincing model inside Yemen. The ordinary Yemeni felt he was living on the embers of illusions. No reconciliation and no development. The absence of even a minimal acceptance of the other. They treated anyone who differed as though he were an enemy and regarded every piece of advice with suspicion. Instead of drawing strength from people's sympathy, they chose to lean on the arsenal. Poverty doubled, services declined and fear prevailed. In the areas under their control, the Houthis showed no serious knowledge of the realities of Yemen's composition. They chose a policy of subjugation and of breaking the will of the people. The Houthis met opportunities for peace with more attacks on Yemenis, neighboring states and international waterways. Externally, the Houthis showed no respect for international rules and norms. They imagined that a militia could break the balance of power by relying on a regional program that kept pumping slogans of extremism into their veins. They imagined they could

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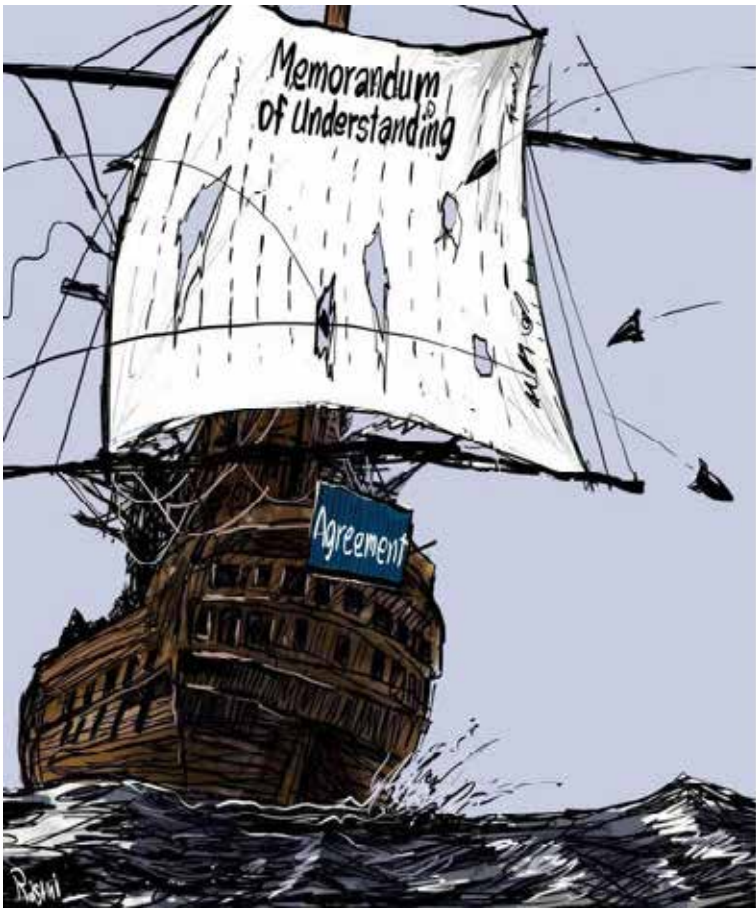
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address their neighbors with missiles and drones. They misread their neighbors' adoption of a policy of patience and wisdom and their wager on the group turning back from its adventurist course. Yemen cannot allow its fate to be held hostage by a group that has deepened Yemeni divisions. And the region's states cannot accept a group of this ilk controlling a vital waterway such as Bab Al-Mandab. And if the world does not concede to Iran the right to control the Strait of Hormuz, how could it accept placing Bab Al-Mandab in the custody of the Houthis? Every attempt to draw the Houthis into the language of serious dialogue has failed. It was established conclusively that they hold a position hostile to the very idea of a state with room for them and for others. Their dictionary has no place for the idea of the state and its institutions. They appeared as people commissioned for a mission larger than Yemen — a mission that exported fire and imported fire. Yemen does not need more adventures. It needs a dose of stability: legitimate security institutions and a government that gathers up the Yemeni fragments and relaunches hope. Yemen cannot be left an open wound in the custody of warmongers who multiply the suffering of Yemenis. What Al-Alimi announced is the battle to recover the state. Yemen cannot be left an open wound in the custody of warmongers who multiply the suffering of Yemenis, which is already great. The battle for the state is a new page in Yemen's life. The suffering has been long and so too the waiting. Yemen has the right to leave the regional game and return to Yemen. It has the right to dress its wounds, of which there are many. And Al-Alimi was clear that the battle for the state is a battle of truth and justice, not a battle of vengeance or subjugation. Al-Alimi stressed that the mission "is not only to recover the land but to return the state to it," affirming that the new phase aims at returning weapons to "their natural place under the authority of the law." In this, he echoed the concerns of the other countries reached by the aftershocks of the "flood," which is nearing its third anniversary. The file of the factions and of confining their weapons to the hands of the state is open from Gaza to Iraq, by way of Lebanon, after they loaded their countries with more than they could bear and their regional roles exploded in their faces and those of their maps. The flood struck the region and then rebounded on the so-called Axis of Resistance. The Middle East cannot bear to go on being a region booby-trapped with militias, wars, floods and occupations. Nor can the world.

Power without Accountability

Qamar Bashir



This concern comes from within the American military scholarship itself. Deborah Kidwell's 2005 study, *Public War, Private Fight?*, published by the Army's Combat Studies Institute, described divided authority over contractors and warned that it could obscure responsibility. The author's views were not official policy, but the publication demonstrates that these structural weaknesses were recognized decades ago. Kidwell discussed allegations of sexual slavery and illegal weapons purchases involving contractor employees in Bosnia. She also examined contractor interrogation work at Abu Ghraib and difficulties bringing criminal prosecutions

WHEN a thief is caught and punished, justice has been done in that case. It does not follow that every theft has been detected or every thief punished. This distinction becomes consequential when powerful states cite a handful of military prosecutions as evidence that their overseas operations function within an effective system of accountability. The arrest of a U.S. Marine in Okinawa on suspicion of robbery and murder brings that distinction into focus in Oct 2026. The allegation remains unproven, but the public anger surrounding it reflects earlier crimes, including the 1995 assault of a schoolgirl by American servicemen and the 2016 rape and murder committed by a former Marine working as a base contractor. America presents its military power as a shield for freedom, democracy, and international order. Israeli officials likewise invoke military morality. Such declarations invite examination against conduct. A victim's family cannot measure ethical standards through speeches, recruiting slogans, or the existence of disciplinary regulations. Its concern is whether the person responsible will answer for what happened. Prosecutions establish that particular offenders were held accountable. They cannot reveal how many offenses escaped detection, how many complaints were abandoned, or how many victims lacked the means to pursue justice. The unseen total cannot responsibly be invented. Neither can it be assumed away because a government produces several examples of punishment. Military contracting makes this problem more complicated. Private companies perform legitimate tasks, including transport, maintenance, construction, and protection. But when public operations pass through commercial contracts, responsibility can become dispersed among commanders, officials, corporations, and subcontractors. Victims confront an institutional maze while the government retains the benefit of the services it commissioned. This concern comes from within the American military scholarship itself. Deborah Kidwell's 2005 study, *Public War, Private Fight?*, published by the Army's Combat Studies Institute, described divided authority over contractors and warned that it could obscure responsibility. The author's views were not official policy, but the publication demonstrates that these structural weaknesses were recognized decades ago. Kidwell discussed allegations of sexual slavery and illegal weapons purchases involving contractor employees in Bosnia. She also examined contractor interrogation work at Abu Ghraib and difficulties bringing criminal prosecutions. Her study provides grounds for questioning whether outsourcing can weaken accountability precisely

where the exercise of power requires the strongest supervision. Nisour Square illustrates both the possibility and fragility of justice. Blackwater guards killed 14 unarmed civilians in Baghdad in September 2007, according to American prosecutors. Four guards were convicted; Nicholas Slatten eventually received life imprisonment. President Donald Trump pardoned all four in December 2020. Punishment established through judicial proceedings was subsequently removed through political authority. Those convictions cannot be treated as proof that other contractor abuses were discovered or punished. Nor can the pardons be separated from their wider message. Iraqi families watched the country financing the security operation forgive men convicted over civilian deaths. Legal accountability had existed, but its consequences proved vulnerable to presidential preference. The regular forces also supply documented examples. Steven Green received life imprisonment for his role in the rape of an Iraqi girl and the murder of her family. Robert Bales received life without parole after murdering 16 Afghan civilians. Calvin Gibbs was convicted following staged killings of Afghan civilians presented as legitimate combat encounters. These cases expose grave crimes; they do not measure the full extent of misconduct. Haditha offers a different outcome: 24 Iraqi civilians were killed, while the final defendant pleaded guilty to negligent dereliction of duty and received no imprisonment. The distance between human loss and legal consequence deserves examination beyond simply counting convictions. Corruption further connects uniformed authority with private enterprise. In Afghanistan, soldiers and a contractor employee used fraudulent transport documents to facilitate fuel theft exceeding a million dollars. Their prosecution established responsibility for that scheme. It supplied no basis for concluding that every comparable scheme had been uncovered or that oversight worked consistently. Remote warfare introduces another distance between power and consequence. Reported signature strikes targeted suspected militants through behavioral patterns without necessarily identifying them by name. Contractors support drone operations, although involvement does not establish independent authority to order killings. The central concern is the reliability of decisions that turn observed association into grounds for lethal force. Reporting on leaked records from Operation Haymaker described a five-month period during the 2012–2013 Afghanistan campaign when nearly 90 percent of those killed in airstrikes were not the intended targets. This does not establish that all were civilians. It does expose the inadequacy of treating technological accuracy as a guarantee of narrow human consequences. The human cost becomes unbearable when

children are involved. In March 2026, Reuters reported preliminary investigative findings pointing toward likely American responsibility for the February strike on an Iranian girls' school. Iranian authorities reported 168 children killed. Attribution required investigation; the suffering demanded answers that could withstand independent scrutiny rather than reassurance from those conducting the war. Leadership shapes the atmosphere in which restraint operates. On April 7, Trump warned that "a whole civilization will die tonight," before later agreeing to a ceasefire. His administration portrayed the threat as negotiating pressure. Yet the language placed an entire people within a threat of destruction, treating their collective existence as an instrument of coercion. Pete Hegseth's dismissal of "stupid rules of engagement" compounds the concern. Rules governing military force help protect civilians and translate legal obligations into operational decisions. When senior officials disparage restraint, their words risk encouraging subordinates to regard caution as weakness. That risk extends across America's extensive overseas presence and into the relationships troops maintain with host communities. Watching the Avatar films, I recognized a disturbing metaphor in the colonel's treatment of another world's inhabitants as obstacles to domination. Fiction proves nothing about particular operations. It nevertheless dramatizes the intoxication of power: overwhelming capability becoming, in the aggressor's imagination, sufficient justification for violence. Military superiority then takes the place of moral reasoning. The danger also returns home. When leaders teach that strength places a nation above rules, they weaken the principle that authority must justify itself. Citizens may then encounter the same reasoning in domestic policing, political disputes, and public administration. Foreign victims experience the immediate consequences, but Americans inherit the institutional habits formed when their government exercises power without sufficient scrutiny or durable corrective consequences. A contract cannot erase responsibility for public power. Accountability requires examination of those who commission, supervise, and authorize operations, alongside those who carry them out. Isolated punishments cannot answer complaints that remain uninvestigated. American citizens can demand disclosure, meaningful independent scrutiny, and consequences that survive political convenience. A country's ethical standing depends on the restraint it practices, not the innocence it proclaims.

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Checkpoint diplomacy weaponizing maritime geography

Dr. Bader bin Saud

The Houthis' military placement on Mayun Island secures an absolute physical blockade over the western channel, transforming the sole deep-water artery for intercontinental oil tankers into an active tactical trap where low-cost projectiles and drone networks hold sway. Ongoing data assessments from the International Institute for Strategic Studies reveal that this crisis has successfully forged a highly fragmented global maritime reality. By physically connecting the flashpoints of the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab Al-Mandab into a single escalatory theater, regional...

THE recent fall of the Yemeni city of Mokha and its strategic port, followed immediately by the Houthi militia's invasion of Mayun Island in the middle of the Bab Al-Mandab Strait, signal a permanent shift in global maritime security. This coordinated maritime encirclement, cementing its strategic weight across global shipping corridors, directly mirrors the Ottoman fleet's siege of the Malacca Strait in 1569, which successfully strangled trade with the global empires of Spain, Genoa, Portugal and Venice. Modern nonstate actors and regional powers have effectively weaponized these waterways, transforming once-free global passageways into tools for the total economic strangulation of distant capitals without ever marching on their borders. History repeats itself with absolute clarity, confronting the international order with a raw reality that shatters its foundational credibility: maritime geography has permanently shifted from a safe commercial commons into a supreme weapon of political blackmail — a weapon whose asymmetric power completely surpasses conventional military arsenals and renders international maritime laws entirely powerless. Geopolitical containment across the southern Red Sea now strikes directly at the core of global energy stability. Falling coastal territories along the Yemeni coast have triggered an immediate domino effect, destabilizing Saudi Arabia's strategic East-West Pipeline network and forcing major state enterprises like Aramco to structurally reroute shipments away from European refineries. This calculated freeze of 3.1 million barrels per day of crude oil and vital derivatives presents a severe threat to Asian and Western energy security alike. The Houthis' military placement on Mayun Island secures an absolute physical blockade over the western channel, transforming the sole deep-water artery for intercontinental oil tankers into an active tactical trap where low-cost projectiles and drone networks hold sway. Ongoing data assessments from the International Institute for Strategic Studies reveal that this crisis has successfully forged a highly fragmented global maritime reality. By physically connecting the flashpoints of the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab Al-Mandab into a single escalatory theater, regional actors have permanently expanded the militarization of the seas into an open, active front.

International maritime laws cannot protect global waterways unless they are backed by a military presence. Current developments demonstrate that the pressure around global maritime corridors does not stop at the borders of the Middle East. Analysis from the Center for Strategic and International Studies highlights a mirroring war of nerves actively unfolding across Southeast Asia, focused directly on the waters of the Malacca Strait — the vital economic lifeline of Chinese state stability. This narrow transit corridor handles more than 80 percent of Beijing's raw crude oil imports, leaving the state highly vulnerable to geographical blackmail while under the constant surveillance of forward-deployed US fleets. Beijing has attempted to bypass this acute geographical constraint by pouring billions into alternative land corridors across Pakistan and Myanmar, yet these overland routes remain entirely inadequate substitutes for the massive scale of maritime trade. Joint efforts with Moscow to develop the Northern Sea Route into a functional "Polar Silk Road" remain grounded by severe winter icing and the immense capital cost of icebreaker operations, forcing the Chinese economy straight back into the Malacca vice. Consequently, the Malacca Strait has shifted from a routine merchant transit route into the definitive front line of a cold conflict between Washington and Beijing, where global energy security is held hostage by localized military restrictions deployed from the strategic naval bases of Malaysia and Singapore. Narrow waterways under active military siege expose a fatal regulatory impasse, signaling the complete erosion of the legal and legislative frameworks that have governed international seas since the mid-20th century. Imposing coastal blockades by raw force has effectively destroyed the operational authority of the 1936 Montreux Convention and the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Treaties explicitly guaranteeing the unrestricted right of passage for commercial fleets have been rendered meaningless. Existing international regulatory bodies possess zero material or legal deterrent capacity to prevent the militarization of strategic straits by modern militias or regional actors utilizing a policy of the accomplished fact. To put it bluntly, without evasion or

euphemisms, international maritime laws cannot protect global waterways unless those laws are backed by a permanent, physical military presence along the coasts. Maintaining obsolete, unreformed agreements simply provides a thin bureaucratic cover that legitimizes and encourages systemic maritime chaos. Today, data from the Drewry Global Container Index reveals that the cost of shipping a standard 40-foot container has locked into a high plateau of \$4,500 as global carriers bypass the Red Sea entirely to detour round the Cape of Good Hope. Detailed assessments by the UN Conference on Trade and Development confirm that this structural detour has inflated global shipping distances by about 17 percent, extending voyages by 14 days and triggering war risk surcharges exceeding 1.5 percent of vessel hull value. These expanded maritime danger zones impose millions in additional costs per voyage, transforming localized crises into unexpected, systemic price spikes footed entirely by consumer markets in major capitals. Contemporary maritime security crises are not temporary interruptions; they represent a radical, permanent restructuring of the global map of influence. Maritime geography has officially turned the page on the historical era of free and shared passage, opening a harsh new chapter of fragmented maritime sovereignty in which sea lane access can be prevented by the physical placement of coastal missile and drone batteries. The absolute inability of Western decision-making capitals to protect these vital chokepoints has redefined the concept of national sovereignty for developing and developed nations alike. In a world where international treaties are disregarded and where coastal enforcement holds absolute sway, whoever wields authority over critical crossings and straits not only controls the physical flow of global wealth but ultimately dictates the survival of the global economy itself.

– Dr. Bader bin Saud is a columnist for Al-Riyadh newspaper, a researcher in media and knowledge management, a university professor, an expert in crowd management and strategic planning, and the former deputy commander of the Special Forces for Hajj and Umrah in Saudi Arabia.

Briefs

Pak says terrorism remains...

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The Taliban regime is complicit in this. No responsible state can remain passive when its security is repeatedly undermined, and its people are viciously targeted." The special representative said Pakistan's counter-terrorism operations were conducted in response to the terrorist attacks being perpetrated from Afghan soil. "These operations are precise, intelligence-based and defensive in nature. Pakistan's actions are in exercise of its right to self-defence, to ensure the safety and security of its citizens. These actions are directed solely against the terrorist outfits based in Afghanistan that pose a threat to the region and beyond." Sadiq continued that Pakistan had been, and would continue to take "all appropriate measures to uphold the safety and security of its citizens in accordance with international law, and based on the principles of necessity and as a measure of last resort".

UN rights council slams...

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which criticises its its repressive measures. Women have been particularly affected by Taliban government measures. They are banned from public places including parks and from most jobs, while education for girls beyond age 12 is outlawed. - "Conformity, fear and exclusion" - The UN council said it was deeply concerned about the "continuing, systematic, systemic and all-encompassing erosion" of respect for women's rights by the Taliban. The council said many human rights had been "under concerted attack in Afghanistan in the past five years", while the Taliban "have enforced a growing web of edicts and institutional controls that has reshaped nearly every aspect of public and private life, engineering a society founded on ideological conformity, fear and exclusion".

US withdraws all bomber...

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A statement from a Pentagon official on Sunday said, "We can acknowledge now that all US bombers that were deployed to RAF Fairford have redeployed to their home stations in the United States." The statement noted that "operational security precluded us from confirming the movement of our assets and forces in real-time". US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Monday expressed "confidence in the security of all of our bases". US facilities "theoretically could be threatened at any moment, and that's why there's so much security built around them", Rubio said, adding that Washington had worked with London on the investigation and "they couldn't be more cooperative". An unidentified US official told CNN that the bombers were moved after "an unspecified new threat", with the source calling the latest threat a "real world incident".

KP govt not cooperating with Centre

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Afghanistan amid deadly terror attacks across the province. Addressing a press conference last week, Tarar said that the PTI-led KP government refuses to take ownership of the counterterrorism operations or take effective steps against terrorism. "I have been saying for years that they [PTI] is a B-team of the TTP [Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan]. I am justified in saying that because they facilitated the terrorists in the last 12 years," he had added. The parliamentary affairs minister said today that the federal government was considering imposing an emergency in KP amid the prevailing situation in the province.

Sunken Silk Road city reveals Central Asia's lost history

The section of Silk Road that passed through the settlement during its existence is thought to have been under the control of the Karakhanids, a Turkic dynasty that controlled much of Central Asia from the 9th to early 13th centuries

DNA
TORU-AYGYR: The sun had barely risen, but diving volunteer Elizaveta Bodrova was already raring to plunge into the cold waters of Lake Issyk-Kul, where the ruins of a once-thriving city have lain submerged for centuries. Situated on an ancient trading route between China and Europe, little is known about the history of the settlement under Kyrgyzstan's largest lake or how it came to be flooded an estimated 800 years ago. Together with a team of around 20 scientists, Bodrova is helping uncover its past, findings that could shape our understanding of the history of Central Asia and beyond. "The visibility isn't very good today, but I hope we'll still be able to find the boundary of the settlement," the 42-year-old told AFP with a smile, before hopping off a motorboat into the depths below. Maxim Menshikov, archaeologist and the expedition director, and divers go onshore with the finds discovered at the underwater site on the bed of Lake Issyk-Kul in Kyrgyzstan on September 22, 2026. Maxim Menshikov, archaeologist and the expedition director, and divers go onshore with the finds discovered at the underwater site on the bed of Lake Issyk-Kul in Kyrgyzstan on September 22, 2026. The project, which began in 2024 and is funded by the Russian Academy of Scienc-

es, is the first major exploration of the site since it was rediscovered in the 19th century. The settlement is located at the heart of what was once the Silk Road, a trading route that linked China to the Mediterranean from the 2nd century BC until the mid-15th century. Although often associated with nomads, what is now Kyrgyzstan has been inhabited by multiple civilizations throughout its history, among them Turkic dynasties that traded between Europe and China. "This is actually a blind spot in history, even though it is right in the center of Central Asia," expedition director Maxim Menshikov, who was steering the boat, said of the ruins. Expedition Director Maxim Menshikov and colleagues stand by artifacts found at the underwater site on the bed of Lake Issyk-Kul of what is identified by researchers as a submerged medieval city on the Silk Road in the settlement of Toru-Aygyr in Kyrgyzstan on September 22, 2026. Expedition Director Maxim Menshikov and colleagues stand by artifacts found at the underwater site on the bed of Lake Issyk-Kul of what is identified by researchers as a submerged medieval city on the Silk Road in the settlement of Toru-Aygyr in Kyrgyzstan on September 22, 2026. "It is a very important chapter in the history of humankind, because it was the period that linked East and West during the Middle Ages. The Silk Road is not merely the history of a single region, it is the history of

Eurasia as a whole," he added. The section of Silk Road that passed through the settlement during its existence is thought to have been under the control of the Karakhanids, a Turkic dynasty that controlled much of Central Asia from the 9th to early 13th centuries. Researchers believe the city, the name and population of which are not known, may have covered up to five square kilometers (nearly two square miles). Accurately dating the remains has been difficult. But traces of two cemeteries discovered at the site suggest they were built during the early Islamization of the region. Among the discovered remains was a decorated public building, possibly a mosque, public bath or religious school. After several hours scouring the lakebed, the divers returned to dry land with their spoils: the remains of animal bones and pottery shards. "The bones that have been found will enable archaeologists to determine their diet and age of the remains, as well as the diet of the people who lived in this region," said Viktor Pozdnyakov, a diver and laboratory assistant on the expedition team. A photograph shows artifacts discovered by the expedition members at the underwater site on the bed of Lake Issyk-Kul in Kyrgyzstan on September 22, 2026. A photograph shows artifacts discovered by the expedition members at the underwater site on the bed of Lake Issyk-Kul in Kyrgyzstan on September 22, 2026. "The pottery will enable us to date the

finds and determine the approximate period more precisely. And, of course, to understand where it was produced, how and by what method," the 22-year-old added. Back at base, the artifacts are carefully preserved, catalogued and recorded. Among those in better condition was a child's chamber pot, known as a "tuvaq." "In fact, these are still in use today in Central Asia and the Caucasus," said Menshikov, pointing to it as evidence of the daily life in the city. Although known to researchers since the 19th century, the site has only been systematically explored in recent years by Russian and Kyrgyz teams. The researchers hope their work will improve understanding of Central Asia history. "You could compare this research to that of Pompeii," said Menshikov, referring to the largely preserved ruins of an ancient Roman city buried by an eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. "They had a highly developed civilization and culture. And in an instant, nature simply destroyed it all," he said. What submerged the city under Issyk-Kul remains a mystery. Among the theories is that the settlement sank to the bottom of the lake following a landslide, or that it was gradually flooded by a "tectonic dam" — a natural damming of a water body that could have occurred following an earthquake. The probable cause was a "past seismic disaster," said Andrei Strelnikov, a geologist with the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Portugal stay perfect without Ronaldo

DNA
GONÇALO Ramos is helping Portugal to forget all about Cristiano Ronaldo, while Greece took more points off Jürgen Klopp and Germany in the Nations League. Ramos fired Portugal to a 2-1 win over Norway on Sunday to keep the Portuguese perfect in Group A4 with four wins — enough to book their place in the quarterfinals. Ronaldo was involved in Portugal's opening Nations League game, where he was replaced by Ramos in a 1-0 win over Wales, and hasn't played sinffe. The veteran left the squad after watching the second game from the substitutes' bench — a 2-1 win in Norway — and Portugal showed no ill effects from his departure with a 4-2 win in Denmark

and the latest 2-1 win over Norway. Kristoffer Ajer opened the scoring Sunday with a brilliant half volley inside the far corner from the edge of the penalty area after taking down Martin degeard's free kick to set up the shot in the 36th minute. A seemingly inspired Jo o Cancelo responded in similar fashion at the other end two minutes later. Ramos got the winner from close range in the 79th after a move involving Vitinha and Jo o Félix, and Portugal survived Francisco Conceição's late sending off with his second yellow card. Erling Haaland failed to score for the second consecutive game, and was substituted in the 67th minute. He has 65 goals in 59 appearances. A late penalty from Rasmus Hjulund was enough for Denmark to beat Wales 1-0 in the other group game.

The Danes are second in Group A4 after two wins, while Wales and Norway have a win each. Greece blunts Germany's attack Greece, which celebrated its first win over Germany last week, almost did it again. Ivan Jovanović's team held Klopp's side 0-0 in Thessaloniki. Germany dominated with more possession, more passes and more goal chances, but neither team could score. Klopp tried reinvigorating his attack with Nick Woltemade and Cologne star Said El Mala for Jonathan Burkardt and Lennart Karl for the last half hour, but Georgios Masouras had the best chance late for the hosts. Of Klopp's four games in charge, Germany has only won one. Joshua Zirkzee fired the Netherlands to a 2-1 win at home over Serbia in the other Group A2 game. The Netherlands

Asian Games close in Japan after records, rancour and rain

TOKYO: The Asian Games in Japan closed on Sunday after a fortnight lit up by record-smashing young stars but marred by mishaps, mediocre crowds and accusations of mismanagement. More than 17,000 athletes and officials, a bigger number than the Olympics, descended on Nagoya and Aichi Prefecture for the continent's premier sporting spectacular. Chinese swimming sensation Yu Zidi, just 13, stole the show with three gold medals, all in Games-record times. She looks set to be a major medal threat at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics. The schoolgirl was named a Games MVP to cap an extraordinary showing that saw her scorch to gold in the 200m butterfly and do the 200m-400m individual medley double. For all that, the shy teenager said: "I don't think I am what people describe as a prodigy." Also in the pool, Japanese swimmer Shin Ohashi, only 17, smashed the men's 200m breaststroke world record to delight the home crowd. In athletics, where rain tumbled down over several days, the 20-year-old Thai sprinter Puripol Boonson did the 100m-200m double and was named men's MVP. On a dry evening, a celebratory closing ceremony full of colour and song saw Japan hand over hosting duties to Doha 2030. Olympic Council of Asia director general Husain Al-Musallam said "numbers are facts", pointing to 50 world records broken at the Games after they opened on September 19. Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) President Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al-Thani (C) hands over the OCA flag to Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani during the closing ceremony of the 2026 Asian Games at Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture on October 4, 2026. — APP

PHC orders payment of newspaper dues

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court has directed the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Department to immediately release the first installment of long-pending dues to newspapers, amounting to approximately Rs 400 million, following a writ petition filed by the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS). The court also instructed the authorities to submit a compliance report after the payment is made. Regarding the second installment, the court directed the Finance Department to expedite the reconciliation process and forward the matter to the Information Department for further action. Officials of APNS and editors of regional newspapers welcomed the decision, stating that the payment of outstanding dues would help ease the financial difficulties facing the newspaper industry and contribute to improving the working conditions of journalists. They said consultations would also be held with the Khyber Union of Journalists in this regard. The case was represented by senior lawyer Tariq Khan Hoti Advocate, who informed the court about the financial challenges faced by regional newspapers. APNS Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Committee Chairman and Chief Editor of Daily Wahdat Peshawar, Pir Haroon Shah, along with other members of the society, was also present during the court proceedings. — DNA

Dubai Basketball kick off defense of ABA League title with victory in Slovenia

DUBAI: Dubai started their ABA League season with a comprehensive wire-to-wire win over Perpekativa Ilirija (70-85) in Tivoli Sports Hall, Ljubljana, at the weekend. Head coach Xavi Pascual had changed his starting five, with Thomas Walkup, Davion Mintz, Tornike Shengelia and Mamadi Diakite joining Dwayne Bacon on court for the tip-off. Pascual took the opportunity to rest regular starters McKinley Wright IV and Mfiondu Kabengele as well as Davis Bertans, while Elie Okobo and Jaron Blossomgame remained on the bench throughout the first half, only entering the contest in the second. Dubai started strong in the first quarter notable for Dubai's five of seven three-point shooting. An early 7-0 run propelled Dubai to a 16-8 lead and, after five quick Ilirija points, the visitors extended their lead to 10 with a 9-2 run to end the quarter. The away side's offense was not at the same level at the start of the second half, and it took them 3 minutes, 23 seconds to score their first field goal of the quarter. Dubai then continued the quarter in confident manner at both ends, scoring 17 points unanswered in just under 4 minutes. Dubai shared the scoring load and took a 20-point lead into the half-time break thanks to 7/14 shooting from three, and seven rebounds in as many

minutes from Kenan Kamenjas. Another lineup change by Pascual saw the visitors start the second half with a five of Kosta Kondic, Okobo, Nemanja Dangubic, Blossomgame and Diakite. Okobo stamped his mark on the game with a sweet step-back three and a lob to Kamenjas that was right on target for the slam. Okobo played all 10 minutes in the third quarter, finishing with eight points and two assists before sitting out the rest of the contest. Dubai took a 24-point lead into the final period and with the result beyond doubt, the visiting side wisely milked the clock for the remaining 10 minutes. Ilirija did put up a fight as time wound down, with three three-pointers contributing to their 16-5 run over the last few minutes. But it was to no avail, as Dubai dribbled out the clock and chalked up their first ABA League win of the season in defense of their crown. In an Ilirija side with a number of young players, veteran forward Edo Muric led the way with 15 points and five rebounds. Davion Mintz top-scored for Dubai with 20 on 7/12 shooting (5/9 from three). Kamenjas added 11 points and eight rebounds, while Tornike Shengelia scored 11 points to go with four assists. Dubai Basketball now return to the UAE ahead of their EuroLeague round-four clash against Crvena Zvezda on Thursday, Oct. 8. — DNA

Ronaldo can return to Portugal team if he wants: coach Jesus

Portugal coach says Ronaldo "should end his time in national team the way he wants"

PORTO, PORTUGAL: Portugal superstar Cristiano Ronaldo can return to the squad if he wishes, despite walking out on his teammates, said national team coach Jorge Jesus on Sunday. Jesus said Ronaldo can come back into the fold "if he wants to" after the team beat Norway without the veteran attacker to reach the Nations League quarter-finals. The dispute began last week when Jesus left 41-year-old Ronaldo on the bench for Portugal's first win over Norway. Ronaldo subsequently walked out on the squad on Wednesday after learning he would not start against Denmark. "For me, Cris, in the next call-up, if he's playing at Al-Nassr, he'll be a player who can be called up," Jesus told reporters, referring to Ronaldo's Saudi club side. "If he wants to, he'll return to the national team." The coach said if Ronaldo wishes to speak to him before Portugal's next matches in November, that would happen. "If he wants to, as we did before this call-up, we talked



before the call-up, we can talk before the next call-up," continued Jesus. "But Cris is the one who's going to decide." Former Real Madrid and Manchester United attacker Ronaldo is Portugal's all-time leading scorer and most-capped player. Jesus said he had told Ronaldo he needed him in the squad for his first games at the helm after replacing Roberto Martinez following the 2026 World Cup. "Cristiano should end his time in the national team the way he wants, he's the one who will decide how he wants it," said Jesus. "That's how we talked, the two of us — I said, 'I need you'. In my first call-up, I said, 'I need you, I need you to be close to me, playing or not playing, I need you'. And now I'm saying the same thing." Ronaldo, who made his Portugal debut in 2003 at the age of 18, has said this will "probably" be his final year in football. The forward has been a fixture of the national team for more than two decades and has played at six World Cups. In Ronaldo's absence Portugal became the first team to secure a place in the quarter-finals, with two group games still to play. Ronaldo's long-time rival for the title of the world's best player, Lionel Messi, will play his final match for Argentina in a friendly against Benin in Buenos Aires on Tuesday. — APP

Bilawal once again opposed creation...

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failed, arguing that such reasoning was flawed. The PPP chairman said that if the same logic were accepted, then Islamabad should be handed over to the people of Thar if it had failed. He added that Islamabad should be run in the same way as Thar, saying the Thar Coal project was one of the greatest examples of the success of the 18th Constitutional Amendment. The PPP chairman's remarks come as discussions over Pakistan's administrative framework continue to gather momentum, with coalition partners the PPP and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) holding differing views on the establishment of new provinces or administrative units. The discussion began in July after Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi described the governance system as having "collapsed" and called for structural reforms, including new administrative units with greater powers devolved to lower levels.

No progress in talks can be made...

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The PTI leader said that another reason for the failure of the talks was that the government was not willing to pursue a collective strategy against terrorism. Raja told the media that the PTI had entered into the negotiations with sincerity and was serious about addressing the issues. "Even on the second day, we were hoping that another round of talks would streamline things," he said. Describing the reasons for talks failing, Raja said: "We were being pushed to support the government over every action being taken regarding terrorism in KP." He added that the PTI had demanded that the government respect the recommendations and opinions of a jirga held by the KP Assembly, in which political parties and stakeholders had participated.

Oil market turmoil could last...

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In his first conference address since the start of the Iran war, Amin Nasser, chief executive of the world's biggest oil company, Saudi Aramco, tells the Energy Intelligence Forum in London it could take up to two years to refill global stockpiles drawn on as an emergency measure. "Until [the Strait of] Hormuz fully re-opens and confidence returns, the crude reality is that pressure at both ends of the barrel will intensify. Even then, replenishing inventories while meeting demand could take up to two years," he outlines. "Both ends of the barrel" refers to unrefined crude and refined products, such as diesel and jet fuel. He adds that 3 billion barrels have been lost since the start of the conflict, and 1bn barrels have been withdrawn from global inventories.

Court orders Imran...

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against several suspects at the Ramna police station, citing Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) and Section 353 of the Pakistan Penal Code. The PTI founder has remained in prison since August 2023 following convictions he and his party describe as politically motivated. Since his ouster in April 2022 following a no-confidence vote, he has faced multiple legal cases, including allegations of selling state gifts and an unlawful marriage case.

PML-N accuses...

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was trying to mislead the public and said the party's performance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was "in front of everyone". Barrister Chaudhry also alleged that corruption had been rampant in KP for 15 years, while criticising PTI over its priorities regarding the funerals of martyrs. "Permission cannot be given for chaos and disorder in the country," he said.

Briefs

PSX witnesses bearish trend, loses over 2,288 points

ISLAMABAD: The benchmark KSE-100 Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) stayed bearish on Monday, losing 2,288.17 points, a negative change of 1.36 percent, to close at 165,867.32 points against 168,155.49 points recorded in the previous trading session. The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 441.898 million shares, compared to 493.957 million shares traded in the previous session, while the traded value decreased to Rs15.709 billion from Rs17.491 billion. Market capitalisation decreased to Rs18.464 trillion from Rs18.725 trillion recorded a day earlier. Out of 499 companies that traded in the ready market, 55 posted gains, 409 suffered losses, while 35 remained unchanged, reflecting a bearish trend in the market. F. Nat. Equities led the volume chart with 50,252 million shares, followed by Pak Int. Bulk with 30.666 million shares and Cnergycio PK with 30.042 million shares. Among the top gainers, Dadex Eternit Limited surged by Rs13.14 to close at Rs144.55, while Pakistan Synthetics Limited advanced by Rs11.61 to settle at Rs183.95. APP

Rupee gains 01 paisa against Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Monday appreciated by 01 paisa against the US Dollar in interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.06 compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 277.07. According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the dollar's open-market buying and selling rates were Rs 278 and Rs 278.10, respectively. The price of the Euro against the rupee decreased by Rs 0.89 and closed at Rs 310.71 against the previous day's closing of Rs 311.60, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen remained unchanged at Rs 1.75, whereas the exchange rate of the British Pound witnessed an increase of Rs 0.71 and closed at Rs 366.56 compared to the previous day's Rs 365.85. The exchange rates of the Emirate Dirham came down by 01 paisa and closed at Rs 75.43, while the Saudi Riyal surged by 01 paisa to close at Rs 73.80.—APP

Extreme heat putting pregnant women, newborns at risk

NADI, Fiji: Extreme heat is putting pregnant mothers and their newborns at increasing risk, United Nations climate chief Simon Stiell will warn on Monday. Speaking at the "pre-COP" summit in Nadi, Fiji, Stiell will cite a new survey showing more than two thirds of health professionals across five continents had seen complications caused by intense heat in the past five years. "Rising temperatures mean rising danger in pregnancy," he is expected to say. "Climate-driven extreme heat during pregnancy is increasingly linked to premature birth, stillbirth, low birth weight, and maternal complications." "The picture is clear and very disturbing: as extreme heat worsens, pregnancy and birth are now a new fault-line in the global climate crisis, and one which is potentially fatal," Stiell will say. "This faultline must not become another deep chasm of climate-driven suffering, inequality and injustice." Scientists warn that climate change is making extreme weather events more intense and resulting in heat records tumbling more often. Around 33 countries, spanning from western Europe to the Sahel and central America, recorded their hottest July since records began this year, according to AFP analysis of data from the European Union's Copernicus climate observatory. The survey of 1000 midwives and doctors in the United Kingdom, Australia, India, Brazil and Zimbabwe was commissioned by charitable foundation Wellcome.—APP

UBG delegation visits RCCI to greet elected body

Zafar Bakhtawari appreciated Sohail Altaf's longstanding services and positive contribution to the business community. He said Sohail Altaf has consistently played an active role in addressing the issues faced by the Chamber and business community and in strengthening unity among businessmen

ISLAMABAD: Secretary General of the United Business Group (UBG), Zafar Bakhtawari, along with a delegation, visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and congratulated newly elected President Noshewan Khalil Khan, Patron-in-Chief RCCI Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Waseem Aslam, Vice President Ikram Abbasi, and members of the newly elected Executive Committee on their success. The delegation included Islamabad Women Chamber President Samina Fazal, Talagang Chamber President Malik Shabbir, President of Markazi Tanzeem-e-Tajran Pakistan Kashif Chaudhry, and former Executive Member Malik Mohsin Khalid. Welcoming the delegation led by Zafar Bakhtawari, Sohail Altaf thanked them for visiting RCCI and said that such interactions are highly important for encouraging the business community and promoting



unity among traders and industrialists. He said the business community plays a fundamental role in the country's economic development. Zafar Bakhtawari appreciated Sohail Altaf's longstanding services and positive contribution to the business community. He

said Sohail Altaf has consistently played an active role in addressing the issues faced by the Chamber and business community and in strengthening unity among businessmen. Zafar Bakhtawari said Pakistan needs economic stability, increased exports,

greater investment, and a more business-friendly environment. He stressed that chambers of commerce should serve as an effective bridge between the government and the business community. Noshewan Khalil Khan thanked the delegation for the visit.

Samina Fazal emphasized the need to enhance women's participation in economic activities and expand business opportunities for them, while former RCCI President Dr. Hassan Sarosh underlined the importance of stronger coordination between chambers

of commerce and trade organizations. Senior Vice President Waseem Aslam thanked Zafar Bakhtawari, Samina Fazal, Malik Shabbir, Kashif Chaudhry, and Malik Mohsin Khalid for visiting RCCI and encouraging the newly elected leadership.—DNA

Afghans yet to receive 'genuine justice' for Western coalition abuses

LONDON: Afghans subjected to war crimes and human rights abuses by US-led coalition forces in the country have not received "genuine justice," Human Rights Watch has said. The organization cited "beatings, humiliation, waterboarding, prolonged sleep deprivation, and mock executions" among numerous crimes committed following the invasion of Afghanistan in the wake of the 9/11 terror attacks on the US. "Twenty-five years on, Afghans tortured in US custody and families of those wrongfully killed still have no clear path for filing a claim or receiving redress from the US government," said Patricia Grossman, senior associate Asia director at HRW. "Successive US administrations have swept grave abuses under the rug, leaving those most affected with neither compensation nor justice." The US and its allies were governed by the 1949 Geneva Conventions, the UN Convention Against Torture, and international human rights and humanitarian law "which prohibits summary executions, torture and other ill-treatment, and deliberate or indiscriminate attacks on civilians," HRW said. In Australia, six years after the Independent Afghanistan Inquiry, just two arrests into the alleged killing of civilians have been made, and no trial has begun. None of the families involved have received compensation. Meanwhile, HRW said the UK government "had tried to prevent any prosecutions" of special forces accused of killing Afghan civilians "by covering up crimes and shutting

down criminal inquiries. An independent inquiry into the Afghanistan allegations was eventually established in December 2022, but its scope was limited to three years, 2010-2013." Local "strongmen" backed by the US had also carried out extensive human rights abuses, HRW added. Under the protection of the then-Afghan government, these figures "were responsible for serious abuses, including attacks on civilians, the torture and rape of detainees, and enforced disappearances. Local militias funded and trained by US forces and CIA-run Afghan 'strike forces' carried out summary executions and disappearances." The Taliban, too, were condemned by HRW for their abuse of Afghan civilians, especially their targeting of women, embassies and hotels among other establishments. "The Taliban's use of indiscriminate improvised explosive devices on public roads and in populated areas was a leading cause of civilian deaths and injuries," HRW said. "The Taliban did not hold their personnel to account for abuses. Other armed groups, including an Islamic State (Daesh) affiliate, carried out suicide attacks targeting the Hazara and other minority communities." Despite an International Criminal Court investigation into human rights abuses and war crimes, in recent years much of that has focused on the activity of the Taliban and Daesh, largely ignoring the role of coalition forces, HRW said. "In October 2025, the UN Human Rights Council crucially decided to establish an independent investigative mechanism for Afghanistan to collect, consolidate, preserve, and analyze evidence of past and ongoing international crimes by all parties, and to prepare files to facilitate future prosecutions," HRW said. "UN leadership should ensure the mechanism receives adequate resources and begins its investigations without delay. "Judicial authorities abroad should engage with the mechanism to ensure that its work includes consultations with Afghan survivors of abuses, including women and girls, and supports prosecutions of those implicated in serious international crimes." Grossman said: "The United States and other countries that took part in the war in Afghanistan should properly investigate and prosecute alleged war crimes by their forces and provide appropriate redress to the victims of abuses and their families.—APP

Pakistan offers significant potential for inclusive insurance

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has significant potential to expand inclusive insurance coverage, which can strengthen social protection and support progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, said Michael J. McCord, Managing Director of the MicroInsurance Centre at Milliman. He made these remarks while speaking at a session of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) Talk Series on "Inclusive Insurance: Global Insights." Welcoming participants, Commissioner Insurance, Imtiaz Haider said microinsurance could help low-income families, farmers and small businesses recover from illness, accidents or natural disasters without depleting their savings or selling productive assets. He reaffirmed SECP's commitment to an inclusive and trusted insurance sector, stressing that affordable risk protection is essential to financial inclusion. In his lecture, Michael J. McCord highlighted the potential to expand insurance protection for underserved households, farmers, workers and small businesses in Pakistan. He stressed that insurance can help protect livelihoods, strengthen financial resilience and provide a wider social safety net. McCord said insurance products must deliver meaningful value to consumers and emphasised that products should be easy to understand, affordable and responsive to customers' actual needs. He urged insurers to build public trust through timely and reliable claims payments, noting that customers' experience when making a claim shapes the industry's reputation. He also highlighted the importance of digital technology and alternative distribution channels in reducing costs and extending coverage. Joining the discussion, SECP Chairman Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu said the commission is advancing insurance-market development by digitalising the regulatory ecosystem, facilitating digital insurers and encouraging simple, accessible products.—APP

Spain PM to make public address after housing steps rejected

MADRID: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez will give a televised speech on Monday, his office said, amid speculation he may call early elections after parliament rejected housing relief measures proposed by his government. The defeat in parliament on Friday was another political setback for the Socialist premier, renewing questions over whether his minority government can survive until the next scheduled general election in 2027. Sanchez, in office since 2018, will make the address at 9:00 am (0800 GMT) from la Moncloa, his official residence, his office said in a brief statement, without giving further details. Tens of thousands of protesters marched in Madrid and other cities in Spain on Saturday to demand affordable housing. His government's proposed measures, which included automatic renewal of tenancy contracts and restrictions on evicting vulnerable tenants, were voted down by opposition parties in Spain's parliament. The defeat infuriated those protesting the country's increasingly expensive housing market and underscored the difficulties his minority coalition government faces in passing legislation. Spain has been operating under its 2023 budget, the last national spending plan passed by Sanchez's government, for several years. The demonstrations extended a crisis that has gone on for more than a week, triggered by the eviction last month of a pensioner, 87-year-old Maricarmen Abascal, from her Madrid flat where she had lived for decades. APP

Secretary-General for strong tech partnership among D-8 members

ISTANBUL: The Secretary-General of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), H.E. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, has advocated for a stronger technology partnership among D-8 member states, stressing the importance of deeper collaboration in industry and technology, including Artificial Intelligence, during a high-level visit to TEKNOFEST in Şanlıurfa, Türkiye. At the invitation of Türkiye's Minister of Industry and Technology, Mehmet Fatih Kacar, Ambassador Mahmood participated in the latest edition of TEKNOFEST, held from 30 September to 4 October 2026. The visit underscored the D-8's commitment to advancing technological cooperation across its member geography amid rapid global technological transformations. During the two-day visit, the Secretary-General attended the grand high-level event featuring an inspiring address by H.E. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and the award ceremony for winners of wide-ranging technology competitions. He interacted with key policymakers and technology leaders, including Minister Kacar, Deputy Minister of Industry and Technology H.E. Muhammet Kasım Gönüllü; TEKNOFEST Board Chairman and Chairman of the T3 Foundation, Mr. Selçuk Bayraktar; the Presidency's Head of Cyber Security of the Republic of Türkiye, H.E. Ümit Onal; President of TÜBİTAK, Prof. Dr. Orhan Aydın; and senior management from TÜBİTAK, ASELSAN, HAVELSAN, and

several other participating institutions. The Secretary-General toured pavilions of major companies, where he was briefed on a range of cutting-edge products, and engaged with young innovators participating in the TEKNOFEST competitions, learning about their award-winning products. Throughout these interactions, the focus remained on strengthening the prospects of a formidable D-8 technology partnership. Ambassador Mahmood apprised his interlocutors of the progress in the D-8's different tracks of sectoral cooperation and stressed the importance of deeper collaboration in the fields of industry and technology, including Artificial Intelligence.—DNA



PCB okays to advance ongoing transactions in 3 sectors

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Privatisation Commission Board (PCB) has approved key measures to advance ongoing privatisation transactions across the power, aviation and financial sectors. The Privatisation Commission (PC) Board, in its 259th meeting held under the chairmanship of Mr. Muhammad Ali, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Privatisation and Chairman of the Privatisation Commission, considered and approved key measures to advance ongoing privatisation transactions across the power, aviation and financial sectors. As a major agenda item, the Board approved the prequalification of 9 Interested Parties (IPs) for the privatisation of Gujranwala Electric Power Company (GEPCO). The Board was informed that 11 Expressions of Interest (EOIs) had been received for GEPCO for the acquisition of 51% to 100% shareholding, together with management control. Following evaluation of the submissions against the approved prequalification criteria, the Financial Adviser recommended 9 Interested Parties

for prequalification and progression to the next stage of the transaction. The Board approved the following prequalified Interested Parties: 1. Aktor Elektrik Enerji Yatırımları San. Ve Tic. A.Ş. 2. Genvera Enerji A.Ş. 3. Cengiz Enerji Sanayii Ve Ticaret A.Ş. 4. Engro Energy Limited 5. Sapphire Fibers Limited 6. Hub Power Holdings Consortium 7. Shirazi Investments (Pvt.) Limited Consortium 8. Artistic Milliners (Pvt.) Limited Consortium 9. AKD Securities Consortium The prequalified parties include three Turkish energy companies, alongside leading Pakistani business groups and investment consortia, reflecting continued domestic and international investor interest in Pakistan's electricity distribution sector. Of the remaining Interested Parties, K-Electric formally withdrew its Expression of Interest through written intimation to the Privatisation Commission, while Al Sharif Contracting & Commercial Development Co. Ltd. was unable to provide the documents required under the Request for Statement of Qualification (RSOQ). The 9 prequalified parties will now proceed to the next stage of the transaction in accordance with

the approved process, including access to the Virtual Data Room (VDR) for detailed buy-side due diligence. On the aviation sector, the Board considered the reconstitution of the Negotiation Committee for the outsourcing/concession of Allama Iqbal International Airport, Lahore; Jinnah International Airport, Karachi; and Islamabad International Airport, as part of the Commission's ongoing efforts to advance the airport outsourcing programme through a structured transaction process. The Board also reviewed progress on key financial-sector transactions and advised the Transaction Advisers to fast-track the privatisation processes for House Building Finance Company Limited (HBFC) and Zarai Taraqati Bank Limited (ZTBL), with a view to ensuring timely progress of both transactions.

The Board reaffirmed its commitment to advancing the Government's privatisation programme through transparent, competitive and professionally managed transactions, with a focus on attracting credible domestic and international investment, improving efficiency and service delivery, and maximising value for the Government and the people of Pakistan.—DNA

Egypt, Eritrea, Sudan and Somalia leaders vow Red Sea sovereignty

NEW ALAMEIN: "This is not a summit directed against any third party," former Egyptian assistant foreign minister Hussein Haridy told Arab News as the leaders of Egypt, Eritrea, Sudan and Somalia gathered in New Alamein on Sunday amid mounting tensions in the Horn of Africa.

"Rather, it is a consultative gathering held without a formal agenda," Haridy said, adding that the meeting was intended to exchange views on developments in the Horn of Africa and Gulf of Aden and their political and economic implications. Rakha Ahmed Hassan, another former Egyptian assistant foreign minister, said the summit came at a particularly critical moment following the sharp deterioration in relations between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

The two countries severed diplomatic relations on Oct. 1 after Ethiopia ordered the closure of its embassy in Asmara and expelled 10 Eritrean diplomats, accusing Eritrea of supporting armed opposition groups. Eritrea rejected the allegations and responded by cutting diplomatic ties.

Hassan also rejected Ethiopian accusations of Egyptian interference.

"Egypt respects the sovereignty of all nations and does not interfere in internal affairs," he said, describing the accusations as baseless and unsupported by evidence.

He said Egypt did not oppose development in Africa but objected to actions it considered contrary to international law.

Red Sea security, Hassan added, had become another major concern amid the latest regional tensions.

The leaders of Egypt, Eritrea, Sudan and Somalia met on the sidelines of the 8th African Union Mid-Year Coordination Meeting, hosted by Egypt in New Alamein. In their joint statement, they placed freedom of navigation, Red Sea security and respect for sovereignty at the heart of the talks. The leaders affirmed the principle of freedom of navigation and said the security and governance of the Red Sea should remain the responsibility of littoral states. They also stressed the importance of adhering to international law governing transboundary rivers, including the Nile, particularly the principles of avoiding harm and cooperating through prior notification, consultation and consensus.—APP

Syria condemns Israeli 'Sufa 53' project in Quneitra countryside

LONDON: The Syrian Arab Republic condemned on Sunday Israeli excavation and construction work in the southern Quneitra countryside, saying the activity violated the 1974 Disengagement Agreement and international law. The Syrian Foreign Ministry, in a statement posted on its official Telegram channel, cited the completion of work on the "Sufa 53 Line" as the latest in a series of Israeli violations of Syrian territory.

The ministry said Israeli military operations, field incursions and construction activity posed a direct threat to regional security and stability while undermining international law.

Israeli forces recently resumed excavation work west of Al-Asha village in southern Quneitra, the Hawar News Agency reported on Sunday, citing local sources. Israeli military vehicles entered the area, where crews dug trenches and built earth berms. The work is part of the "Sufa 53" project, a fortified military route and network of observation posts along the separation line. The route is expected to extend toward Hader and the slopes of Mount Hermon. Israel reportedly began the project, also referred to as "Great Storm," in the Quneitra countryside in 2022. It includes construction of a military road, fortifications and observation posts near the occupied Golan Heights.—APP

Briefs

**JI to announce
next phase
of fuel levy
protest
campaign
after Oct 7**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) chief Hafiz Naemur Rehman said on Monday that the party will announce the next phase of its protest campaign against the fuel levy after October 7, while criticising the government's petrol relief package.

Addressing a presser in Karachi, the JI chief said the government's relief package was not a favour to the people and claimed it had been announced under pressure. "The government had to give this package after coming under pressure," he said. The JI had postponed its march, which called for the abolition of the petroleum levy, a day after it began on September 21, following an appeal from the prime minister and his assurance of a meeting with the party leadership. The prime minister left for the United Nations General Assembly session after the development and returned earlier this week. However, no meeting between him and JI leaders has taken place so far. Addressing the media earlier today, Hafiz Naem said the petroleum relief package would not benefit all motorcyclists, noting that there are around four million motorcycles. "The only solution to this issue is the abolition of the petroleum levy," he stressed. He also questioned the silence of other political parties over the petroleum issue. "Why is everyone silent over the petroleum issue?" he asked.

**100 fighter
jets took part
in 'Operation
Yemen'**

RIYADH: The coalition fighting to restore legitimacy in Yemen said that 100 fighter jets took part in Monday's morning launch of "Operation Dawn of Yemen," destroying 324 high-value targets. Coalition spokesperson Maj. Gen. Turki Al-Maliki said their forces are providing air cover to secure the Bab Al-Mandab Strait, while operations against moving targets remain ongoing. The coalition also said it is providing round-the-clock air support to Yemeni armed forces operating on the ground. Yemeni government forces took control of Thubab near Bab al-Mandab in a flanking maneuver from Khabub Mountains on Monday. Yemen's President Rashad Al Alimi declared a large-scale operation called "Dawn of Yemen" to target Houthi capabilities. The President of the Leadership Council said the operation is to restore state institutions, liberate Sana'a, and end the coup. — APP

Co-pilot planned FlyDubai attack before hired by airline

All of the sources spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the investigation. UAE and Israeli authorities did not immediately respond to a request for comment, nor did flydubai

JERUSALEM: The FlyDubai co-pilot who stabbed his captain in an alleged attempt to crash the plane last week told UAE interrogators he planned the attack before being hired by the airline, according to two Israeli officials with knowledge of the probe. A third source briefed on the UAE probe said the co-pilot, an Omani national, had planned to crash Wednesday's flight into Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv. He had also operated a flight to Tel Aviv earlier this year and intended to hijack and crash the plane then, but opted not to, the source added. It was not immediately clear why the co-pilot changed his mind on that previous flight, although the co-pilot is thought to have known someone onboard, the source said. All of the sources spoke on condi-

tion of anonymity to discuss the investigation. UAE and Israeli authorities did not immediately respond to a request for comment, nor did flydubai. The co-pilot of flydubai flight FZ1073, which was bound for Israel from Dubai last Wednesday, attacked the pilot with an emergency crash axe, the United Arab Emirates prosecutor general has said, calling the incident a "terrorist attack".

Two sources have said the co-pilot is an Omani national named Hamam al-Hammami. Israeli officials have not named the co-pilot but have said he is from Oman. UAE authorities and flydubai have not publicly disclosed the co-pilot's identity. Reuters has not been able to independently reach al-Hammami, who is in UAE custody,

for comment. The UAE has not announced any formal charges against him and it is not known if he has appointed legal counsel. Oman has not commented on the incident. The two Israeli officials said the co-pilot told interrogators that he had applied for a job at Dubai state-owned flydubai after searching for airlines that fly to Tel Aviv. The third source said that Israel was being continuously updated about the investigation from the UAE. Disaster on board flight FZ1073 was averted after passengers and crew subdued the co-pilot. The pilot, Indian national Smit Machchhar, survived the attack and has been hailed as a hero for managing to open the cockpit door. The plane was carrying more than 170 passengers and crew, most of them Israeli.

A reserve flydubai pilot travelling on the flight took control of the aircraft and landed it at a regional airport in northwestern Saudi Arabia, where the co-pilot was detained by Saudi authorities and later transferred to the UAE on Thursday. Authorities in the United Arab Emirates shared with Israel a list of passengers and crew ahead of the FlyDubai flight on which a pilot attempted to seize control of the Israel-bound aircraft and crash it, regional officials said Sunday, raising new questions over how the attacker evaded detection. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu later told the head of the National Security Council to appoint an examiner to review "all security aspects regarding foreign civil aviation to Israel." — APP

Two people die trying to cross Channel to UK

LILLE: Two men died off the French coast overnight from Sunday to Monday while attempting to cross the Channel into Britain, while two women were hospitalised with burns, French authorities said. The two migrants who died were in their thirties and forties, the prefecture told AFP. Two women suffering from burns over large areas of their bodies were taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, officials said. La Voix du Nord, a regional daily newspaper in northern France, said that the burns were caused by a chemical reaction that occurs when gasoline mixes with seawater. Prosecutors launched an investigation to determine the circumstances surrounding the two deaths. — APP

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to visit Pakistan from Oct 6-8

UN chief to meet President Zardari, PM Shehbaz, DPM Dar and CDF Asim Munir, says FO

DNA

ISLAMABAD: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will arrive in Pakistan tomorrow (Tuesday) for a three-day official visit, during which he is scheduled to meet the country's top leadership and discuss regional and international developments, the Foreign Office said on Monday. Guterres, who is visiting Pakistan at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, will stay in the country from October 6 to 8. During his visit, the UN chief will meet President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Ishaq Dar and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir. Moreover, the UN secretary-general will visit the headquarters of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) and attend a

briefing at the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Pakistan.

He will also have other engagements during the visit, during which Pakistan's efforts towards strengthening multilateralism, and international peace and security, as well as its strides towards disaster preparedness and early warning will be highlighted. The visit of the UN chief will offer an important opportunity to reiterate Pakistan's longstanding cooperation with the United Nations, and to exchange views on regional and international developments.

The visit will provide an opportunity to acknowledge the able leadership and vital contributions of the UN secretary-general in the areas of international peace and development. The forthcoming visit reflects Pakistan's unwavering support for multilateralism with UN at its core, and its abiding commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

German, US scientists win Nobel prize brain works

STOCKHOLM: American Karl Deisseroth and Germans Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel won the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine on Monday for their discoveries on light and optogenetics that have helped understand how the brain works. The Nobel Assembly of Sweden's Karolinska Institute medical university said Deisseroth, 54, Hegemann, 71, and Nagel, 73, were selected for their "discoveries concerning light-gated ion channels and optogenetics". Optogenetics "makes it possible to switch on, or off, the activity of individual nerve cells in a living brain", said Thomas Perlmann, Secretary-General of the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet. "This method is now being used in laboratories around the world to reveal the brain's mysteries," Perlmann said. In clinical trials, researchers are restoring vision to people blinded by a condition called retinitis pigmentosa by inserting a light-sensitive protein in the retina. Researchers also hope optogenetics could improve cochlea implants, allowing more precise stimulation of the auditory nerve than current electrical devices. The physiology or medicine prize traditionally opens the annual Nobel announcements, with awards in physics, chemistry, literature, peace and economics to follow over the coming days. Deisseroth, Hegemann and Nagel will share a prize sum amounting to 12 million Swedish crowns (\$1.2m). In the early 1990s, Hegemann investigated how the alga Chlamydomonas reacts to light in half a millisecond. He hypothesised that a single protein captured light and acted as an ion channel. Nagel tested this by injecting Chlamydomonas genes into frog eggs, discovering channelrhodopsin-2—an ion channel that opens when exposed to light. In 2003, they published that this protein could be introduced into human and hamster cells to generate electrical impulses using light. In 2005, Deisseroth at Stanford demonstrated the technique in rat nerve cells and the method was named optogenetics a year later. — APP

Iran tells US there is no military solution to Middle East war



TEHRAN: Iran's top diplomat insisted on Sunday that there would be no military solution to the United States' war against the Islamic republic, with talks on ending the conflict apparently at an impasse. A campaign of heavy bombardment failed to bring a decisive close to the war launched by the US and Israel in late February, and Washington in recent weeks has dialled back military operations in favor of economic pressure. The main point of contention remains Iran's attempt to blockade the Strait of Hormuz, a vital conduit for Gulf oil and gas where a UK maritime agency reported on Sunday another tanker was struck by an unknown projectile. "If our enemies again choose the path of military confrontation, our response will be stronger than before, and we will defend ourselves with even more force," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said at a gathering of foreign ambassadors. "There is no military solution, nor any solution based on new sanctions," he continued, adding "only negotiations based on justice and fairness" could end the conflict. The two

sides agreed a memorandum of understanding in June that spelled out a framework for a permanent resolution, but Iranian attacks on vessels in the Hormuz prompted a return to US military operations. Iran has sought to impose its control over the vital shipping lane since the start of the war, striking vessels that attempt to transit without its authorization. The US has imposed its own counterblockade of Iranian ports, and has also struck vessels it accuses of violating it.

On Sunday, the British maritime security agency UKMTD said a tanker in the Hormuz "reported being struck by an unknown projectile, causing damage to the engine room," though the crew were reported safe and no environmental impact was recorded. The agency did not specify the date of the incident, the vessel's origin or destination, or whether it was an oil tanker or LNG carrier. But as Iran faces growing queues at petrol stations due to the impact of the Middle East war, the country's oil minister Mohsen Paknejad resigned, the president's office said on Sunday. Hamid Bovard, the chief executive of the National Iranian Oil Company, "has been appointed as acting Minister of Oil by a decree from the president," said the presidency statement carried by state media.

Iranian and US officials last week held indirect talks on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, with Tehran saying it presented seven conditions for reopening the strait. Iran has demanded, among other things, a ceasefire across the Middle East, the unfreezing of its assets abroad, the lifting of sanctions on its oil sector and an end to the US naval blockade. Trump, however, rejected the proposal, while leaving the door open both to further talks or renewed military operations. Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said Sunday that the US had expressed its views on the proposal and said they were being reviewed. "The Americans, through intermediaries, have also conveyed their views on this proposal, and these views are currently being examined inside the country through the relevant channels and procedures," he told reporters, according to state news agency IRNA. — APP

Imaan case: ATC reprimands police over IO's absence

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad on Monday reprimanded police officials for failing to appear during the hearing of the bail application filed by lawyer and human rights activist Imaan Mazari and her husband, Hadi Ali Chattha. ATC Judge Abul Hasnat Muhammad Zulqarnain presided over the hearing in a case against the couple over their alleged involvement in a violent protest.

Last month, Supreme Court suspended the couple's sentences in a case related to controversial tweets and granted them bail against surety bonds worth Rs200,000 each, until the final decision on the case pending before the Islamabad High Court. However, the couple was rearrested in a separate case on the same day and is currently incarcerated at Adiala jail.

During today's proceedings, the judge expressed anger after being informed that the investigating officer was out of the city and summoned the deputy superintendent of police (DSP) in person. Defence counsel Riasat Ali told the court that he was ready to present detailed arguments.

The DSP appeared before the court shortly afterwards. When he spoke in English, Judge Zulqarnain told him, "Speak to me in Urdu." The DSP said, according to his information, the investigating officer was out of the city. He later produced a printed copy of a WhatsApp message, saying the investigator had gone to Gilgit-Baltistan. The court rejected the WhatsApp copy and directed the DSP to produce the original document. During the proceedings, the judge ordered handcuffs to be brought into the courtroom and directed the security in-charge to keep the DSP there until he made a decision.

Myanmar says 10,000 migrants returned from Malaysia this year

"Necessary arrangements are continuing to facilitate their swift reunion with relatives and family members, ensuring their safe return to their respective hometowns," The Global New Light of Myanmar said

YANGON, MYANMAR: Myanmar has repatriated nearly 10,000 migrants from Malaysia this year, state media said on Monday, a day after a flotilla returning almost 1,500 of its citizens docked in the country. The United Nations (UN) has sharply criticised Malaysia's push to return migrants to Myanmar under an opaque scheme it says cannot guarantee safe homecomings to the war-torn nation. A group of 1,476 returnees arrived by ship outside Yangon on Sunday, the first of 5,000 that Kuala Lumpur says Myanmar agreed to take back amid a wave of anti-migrant sentiment in Malaysia. Rights monitors have raised concerns that members of the Rohingya minority may be sent back to Myanmar, where they have faced violent persecution, but Malaysia has not commented on the ethnicities of returnees. Myanmar revealed on Monday that a parallel and larger repatriation push has also been taking place by plane.

Between January and August this year, "8,041 citizens were repatriated by air", state newspaper The Global New Light of Myanmar said. While the ship returns have been highly publicised in Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur has not commented on the returns Myanmar says it organised by weekly flights. The total number of migrants Myanmar has said returned by plane and ship this year is 9,517. Malaysia insists returnees under its scheme agreed to voluntary repatriation from detention centres, where Myanmar says they had "faced difficulties" after serving sentences for immigration offences.

But rights groups report dire conditions in the facilities, and the UN refugee agency says staff were not allowed to verify that decisions to return were "genuinely free and informed". More than 100,000 people are estimated to have been killed in Myanmar since a military coup in 2021 unleashed civil war, according to monitor organisation ACLED. The Rohingya started fleeing the country en masse to Malaysia before that, escaping a military crackdown starting in 2017 deemed a genocide by rights groups — a charge the armed forces have always denied. The Rohingya make up two-thirds of the 190,000 Myanmar refugees and asylum seekers in Malaysia, according to UN data, and have been the focus of recent anti-migrant sentiment. After the ships carrying the 1,476 migrants docked Sunday in Thanlyin, just south of Yangon, AFP journalists saw dozens moved to a monastery holding centre for ID and health checks. "Necessary arrangements are continuing to facilitate their swift reunion with relatives and family members, ensuring their safe return to their respective hometowns," The Global New Light of Myanmar said. — APP

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