

# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کے  
اور اس وقت ہی ان کا بڑا بڑا کس کو  
آپ کے لئے ہمارے جس بڑی کریم  
آپ کے لئے ہمارے بڑا بڑا کس کو  
مکرم سے ہمارے بڑا بڑا کس کو  
(بیت المقدس، ص 99)

RAWALPINDI

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(Pvt) Limited



## Islamabad, Kabul should work for common goals, PM Kakar tells Afghan counterpart

Caretaker PM Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar wrote a letter to his Afghan counterpart, stressing the need to work together to achieve common goals, media report Monday. PM Kakar's letter comes amid the heightening tension between both countries due to rising cross-border terror attacks.



## Iranians give Cristiano Ronaldo an excited welcome in Tehran

Crowds of Iranian football fans gave Cristiano Ronaldo a rapturous welcome on Monday as his Saudi Arabia team arrived in Tehran for the first home-and-away club tie since the two countries resumed diplomatic relations. Fans chanted the name of the Portuguese five-time world player at the airport as he arrived with his Al Nassr teammates to face Iranian club Persepolis in the Asian Champions League on Tuesday. (Details on Page 5)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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### Full Court

ISLAMABAD: All judges of the Supreme Court hearing the petitions challenging the SC (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023.



Photo: YouTube/PTV News

## CJP Qazi Faez Isa asks judicial staff to serve people seeking justice

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa received a warm welcome from the staff upon his arrival at the Supreme Court on Monday. Justice Qazi Faez Isa took oath as the 29th CJP in a ceremony held at the President's House on Sunday. In his interaction with the SC registrar and other judicial staff, CJP Qazi Faez Isa asked them to serve the masses coming to the court for justice. "People come to SC for justice," the CJP said. The Islamabad police were to give a guard of honour to the newly appointed CJP, but he denied it.

Read more: Justice Qazi

Faez Isa takes oath as 29th chief justice of Pakistan

Earlier, Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa appointed Ms Jazeela Aslam as the first-ever woman Registrar of the Supreme Court (SC).

Justice Qazi Faez Isa on Sunday took oath as the 29th CJP at a ceremony at the Aitwan-e-Sadr, following the retirement of Justice Umar Ata Bandial.

He was administered the oath of office by President Arif Alvi. Career Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar, top military officials, caretaker federal ministers, senators and foreign ambassadors, attended the ceremony.

Justice Isa will serve in the top judicial office until October 25, 2024.

## Exports increase by 22.45 percent to Rs.1.27 trillion in two months

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The exports from the country in rupee term witnessed an increase of 22.45 percent during the first two months of current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. Exports during July-August (2023-24) were recorded at Rs.1,276,238 million as against Rs.1,042,226 million during the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 22.45 percent, according to provisional data released by PBS.

On year-on-year basis, the exports during August 2023 increased by 26.75 percent and were recorded at Rs.695,136 million compared to the exports of Rs. 548,440 million in August 2022.

On month-on-month basis, the exports increased by 19.62 percent when compared to the exports of Rs. 581,102 million in July 2023.



Main commodities of exports during August, 2023 were Knitwear (Rs. 117,892 million), readymade garments (Rs. 83,447 million), bed wear (Rs. 74,081 million), cotton cloth (Rs. 47,092 million), cotton yarn (Rs.30,793 million), towels (Rs.25,567 million), madeup articles, excluding towels & bedwear (Rs.18,377 million), rice others (Rs.18,073 million), rice besanati (Rs.16,271 million) and meat and meat preparations (Rs.11,210 million).

during the corresponding period of last year showing a decrease of 2.42%.

On year-on-year basis, imports into Pakistan during August, 2023 amounted to Rs. 1,330,458 million as against Rs. 1,337,189 million in August, 2022, showing a decline of 0.50 percent. On month-on-month basis, imports into the country witnessed an increase of 27.79 percent in August 2023 when compared to the imports of Rs. 1,041,138 million in July 2023.

The main commodities of imports during August, 2023 were petroleum products (Rs. 180,628 million), petroleum crude (Rs.119,438 million), natural gas, liquefied (Rs.89,854 million), palm oil (Rs. 80,346 million), plastic materials (Rs. 66,789 million), electric machinery & apparatus (Rs.48,536 million), iron & steel (Rs.47,489 million), mobile phones (Rs.32,712 million), iron & steel scrap (Rs.28,618 million) and medicinal products (Rs.24,592 million).

## Cipher case: IHC to hear PTI chief's plea on September 25

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Monday issued notices to the respondents including the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief's petition seeking post-arrest bail in the cipher case.

The court's notices came during the hearing of Khan's bail petition challenging the special court's decision in the said case last week. The plea was filed by the PTI chairman on Saturday and was fixed for hearing today.

The special court — established under the Official Secrets Act — had rejected the post-arrest bail pleas of the PTI chief in the case of the missing cipher.

IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq issued notices in response to the plea filed by lawyer Salman Saifur on behalf of the PTI chief. The PTI chief's legal team repeatedly urged for an early hearing of the case, following which the IHC chief justice emphasised that there is a proper procedure in place, and the case will be decided accordingly.

## Fai urges world leaders gathered at UN to push for Kashmir resolution

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: As world leaders descended on New York to speak at the 78th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), a prominent Kashmiri leader Monday appealed for decisive steps to implement UN Resolutions on the Kashmir dispute that give Kashmiri people the right of self-determination to decide their destiny.

"The clock is ticking — every day that passes without resolution of the Kashmir dispute is one day closer to a cataclysm that will reach far beyond the borders of all countries involved," Dr Ghulam Nabi Fai, Chairman of the World Forum for Peace & Justice, said in a statement referring to the heightening tensions between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan over the decades-old dispute.

"Kashmir has international legitimacy, having numerous UN Security Council resolutions which have given the right to self-determination to the people to decide their destiny," he said, stressing that those resolutions should once and for all be honoured.

## Arrested PTI leader Ibad Farooq's minor son breathes his last

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Ammar, the son of arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) ticket holder Ibad Farooq, died.

As per details, the PTI leader Ibad Farooq is under arrest in connection with the May 9 violence. The brother of Ibad Farooq said that Ammar was suffering from mental illness. The seven-year-old Ammar died today and his funeral will be offered tonight.

Earlier, in an alleged audio message to party activists, the arrested PTI ticket holder Ibad Farooq claimed that he has reached Lahore Corps Commander House along with party leader Yasmeen Rashid, Ijaz Chaudhry and Mahmood ur Rashid.

Protests from Yasmin Rashid to set Corps Commander House on fire, Ibad Farooq said, adding that Ijaz Chaudhry has also instructed not to stop until release of PTI chairman.

**May 9 events**  
Violent clashes broke out across Pakistan after the former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief was arrested at the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday.

The protests were held in remote and major cities as the party workers were agitated due to their chairman's arrest, with Balochistan, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad summoning the armed forces to ensure law and order.

Army installations and Corps Commander's house in Lahore came under attack during a protest by PTI workers.



It is pertinent to mention here that

PTI Chairman Khan was arrested from his Lahore residence on August

5 after he was slapped with a five-year disqualification and a three-

year prison term in the Toshakhana criminal case.

# Pak-Kenya trade relations must be strengthened: high commissioner

**Bureau Report**

**FAISALABAD:** Madam Mary Nyambura Kamau, the high commissioner of Kenya, emphasized the need to strengthen bilateral trade relations between Pakistan and her country to unlock their full potential.

She was speaking to the business community at the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) on Monday.

Madam Kamau referred to Faisalabad as a land of opportunities and highlighted the robust and friendly bilateral relations between Kenya and Pakistan, primarily centered around trade and investment. She underscored the pivotal role that chambers like the FCCI play in connecting business communities and fostering strong bilateral trade ties.

Madam Kamau commended the FCCI for its efforts to enhance its economic significance and pledged full support from the Kenyan High Commission to facilitate connections

between the FCCI members and reliable importers and exporters in Kenya. She expressed the mission's commitment to furthering the realization of trade and investment potential through collaboration with relevant stakeholders in both the government and private sectors. She suggested the development of dynamic mechanisms to address trade and investment barriers and encouraged the organisation of joint business networking meetings, seminars, conferences, exhibitions, trade fairs, and other promotional activities.

In response to a question, Madam Kamau assured that Kenya maintains a satisfactory law and order situation, providing a safe entry point for Pakistani investors seeking opportunities in neighboring countries.

Dr. Khurram Tariq, president of the FCCI, welcomed the high commissioner and attendees and provided historical context to Faisalabad's development. Highlighting the economic significance of Faisalabad

to Pakistan, he noted that approximately 35% of Pakistan's GDP originates from this region, contributing significantly, around 60-80%, to the country's total export revenue.

Regarding bilateral trade, Dr. Tariq mentioned that it currently favours Kenya due to Pakistan's substantial expenditure on tea imports from that country. He emphasised the importance of leveraging the "Look Africa" policy and exploring opportunities in emerging non-traditional markets.

Dr. Tariq also highlighted the positive impact of NADRA's digitization efforts on the economy, law and order, and governance.

The question-and-answer session featured participation of Mian Muhammad Latif, Azhar Chaudhry, Mian Tayyab, and other members.

Dr. Khurram Tariq presented a memento from the FCCI to Madam Mary Nyambura Kamau, and she reciprocated with a valuable gift of Kenyan tea, recording her impressions in the FCCI visitor's book.



Ms. Eschior J. Lelei, Second Counselor, Ms. Uzma Umar, Vice President of the Pak-Kenya Business Kenya High Commission were also in attendance.

## Preparation for Eid Miladun Nabi

**KARACHI:** A stunning view of the New Memnon Mosque illuminated with colorful lights during the celebrations of Eid Miladun Nabi, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## Jamaat-e-Islami demonstration against the increase the Prices of Petroleum: Liaqat Baloch

**Asim Tanveer**

**MULTAN:** Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Liaqat Baloch said the high petrol diesel prices twice in a month by the caretaker government is condemnable. Jamaat-e-Islami has started nationwide protest against inflation. After South Punjab, sit-ins will be held outside the governor's houses of Khyber and Punjab next week. The people are ready for a rebellion, the dollar is cheap, petrol is expensive, and the business of this business should be closed. All the expectations of the people from the caretaker government have been shattered. These views were expressed by Deputy Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Liaqat Baloch in a speech to the media and a demonstration against the increase in the prices of petroleum products and inflation on Jama Uloom Masoom Shah Road.

He further said that the primary responsibility of the caretaker



government is to conduct the election on time, but failure to do so will harm the country and the nation. The storm

of inflation created by the caretaker government and its guardian establishment in the country is taking its

toll. People are forced to sell children to earn a living. The incidents of suicide and child killing are increasing day by day. He further said that flood-sugar pulses have become out of reach of the common man.

The army chief told his agenda and then raised the baton, people's expectations increased that the inflation will decrease, but nothing like that seems to be possible. The primary responsibility of the caretaker government is to ensure that the elections are held in a timely manner, if this does not happen, it will harm the country. Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Multan Dr. Saifur Hashmi also addressed the demonstration. PPP, PDM and Tehreek-e-Insaf laid mines for the people and will soon announce their protest program against inflation. Central Media Coordinator Hasan Akhwanji, Khawaja Sagheer, Hafiz Aslam candidate PP 215 and others also participated in the demonstration.

## IG Islamabad's non-bailable arrest warrants issued over Pervez Elahi's arrest

**Bureau Report**

**LAHORE:** Lahore High Court (LHC) issued non-bailable arrest warrants of Inspector General (IG) Islamabad police over arrest of PTI President Pervez Elahi against court orders.

As per details, the court heard the case of arresting PTI president Pervez Elahi against the court orders and summoned the DIG operations and DIG investigation to indict them in this case.

The court directed the concerned SP to arrest IG Islamabad and present him before Lahore High Court as he did not appear before court despite his bailable arrest warrants.

The Lahore High Court (LHC) on September 11 issued arrest warrant of Inspector General (IG) of Islamabad police in the contempt case.

As per details, the arrest warrants of IG Islamabad were issued in contempt case over the arrest of former chief minister and PTI president Pervez Elahi.

The court issued the written verdict of his arrest warrant for not appearing before court and ordered to present him on September 18 in LHC.

## Forced of child labor is a serious crime: Mehr Nazir Syal

**Asim Tanveer**

**MULTAN:** Assistant Director Labor Department Mehr Nazir Syal, General Secretary Central Anjuman Tajran Cantt Muazzam Waheed Khawaja, Labor Inspector Ghulam Abbas, Chief Coordinator Ghazanfar Malik, Zafar Iqbal Khan, Sajjad Bhatti, Khwaja Dilshad Ahmed and Kalb Abid Khan addressed during a meeting organized against child labor in Cantt. While doing so, he said that it is the duty of all of us to respect the labor laws. Forced labor of children is a serious crime. On the special instructions of the Provincial Government of Punjab and the Director General of the Labor Department, a special campaign has been launched to strictly implement the labor laws and rules and regulations and to inform the society about the laws. It has been started, instead of forcing children to work in shops, tradesmen should play a positive role for the protection of the basic rights of children and for education and training.

## Concrete works on spillway, diversion tunnels of Mohmand dam vigorously going on

**City Desk**

**ISLAMABAD:** Concrete works on upper stilling basin of the spillway and construction activities at left and right abutments of the Mohmand dam besides various components of the diversion system including the diversion tunnels in upcoming low-flow season are vigorously going on. Official sources told APP here Monday that the contractor has already been directed to ensure the completion of the diversion system during the upcoming low-flow season for diversion of River Swat. WAPDA is constructing Mohmand Dam Project across River Swat in Mohmand District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It is the 5th highest concrete-face-rock-fill dam in the world. The dam will store water for agriculture, control flood, supply water to Peshawar for urban use and generate green, clean and economically affordable hydel electricity. The project is scheduled for completion in 2026-27. With a gross water storage capacity of 1.29 MAE, Mohmand Dam will irrigate 18,293 acres of new lands in Mohmand and Charsadda, besides supplementing irrigation supplies to 160,000 acres of existing land. Installed power capacity of the project stands at 800 MW with annual energy generation of 2.86 billion units. The project will also provide 300 million gallons water per day to Peshawar for drinking purpose.

## Chest pain can indicate a number of respiratory conditions!

**Nabeel Zafar**

**H**ealthy lungs are incredibly important and knowing the early signs of a poorly functioning respiratory system can help one breathe easier. There are many symptoms describing the problems associated with breathing that is an extremely discomforting medical condition.

**Chronic cough**  
Many people experience a cough for short-term reasons such as a cold or flu but a cough that does not go away may be a sign of a chronic condition. Conditions that often lead to chronic coughing include postnasal drip, asthma, emphysema and chronic bronchitis and can be one of the early signs of lung cancer. While there is no reason to panic from a few days of coughing,

a long-term cough is worth getting looked at.

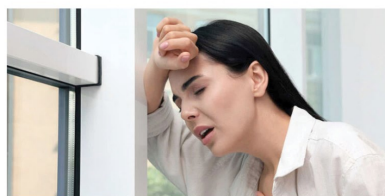
**Wheezing**  
Wheezing is caused by inflamed, narrowing airways, which can in turn be caused by a number of conditions. From chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) to allergies to heart failure, wheezing can be caused by so many different conditions, it is important to speak to a doctor about it even if no other symptoms are present. Additionally, wheezing can be caused by certain medications, such as aspirin so it may be best to tell the physician if it is experienced.

**Painful swallowing**  
If it hurts to swallow, it could be an early indicator of respiratory illness. On top of the typical suite of illnesses that typically cause sore throats such as strep throat and tonsillitis, chronic conditions like COPD can also involve

symptoms such as painful swallowing. When in doubt, it's always best to consult a medical professional about the possibility that persistent pain when swallowing might be linked to COPD or another chronic condition.

**Chest pain**  
Chest pain can indicate a number of respiratory, cardiac, muscular and digestive conditions, so it is important not to armchair-diagnose yourself. That said, if one is experiencing other respiratory symptoms along with chest pain, such as shortness of breath and coughing, it might be a sign of pleurisy or another respiratory condition.

**Shortness of breath**  
Though some causes of shortness of breath are temporary and mild, others are quite serious including asthma, anaphylaxis, COVID, and even carbon monoxide poisoning. Of course, reaching out to a doctor is the best way to



learn more about why one is experiencing shortness of breath.

**Coughing up blood**  
Coughing up blood is never a good sign as it is a sign of something more severe going on. Identifying the underlying cause of coughing up blood may include X-rays, blood tests, CT scans and other examinations. One's doctor

can help determine which tests are needed to identify the root cause of symptoms.

**Waking up with headaches**  
If one experiences morning headaches in tandem with snoring and other major sleep apnea symptoms, it might be time to reach out to a doctor.

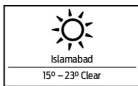
**Choking**

One of the many complications associated with COPD is swallowing problems to the point that one might have an increased risk of choking.

**Loss of weight or appetite**  
Sudden weight loss or a decrease in appetite can be caused by a number of factors but it may be possible that it is linked to respiratory issues. Conditions like COPD are known for causing a decrease in appetite while pulmonary fibrosis can cause weight loss.

**Excessive mucus production**  
The cause of excess mucus can be anything from short-term conditions, like infections or allergies, to chronic illnesses like asthma and bronchitis, so it is important to speak to a physician, especially if symptoms persist long after recovering from a cold or making it through allergy season.

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15° - 23° Clear

**SERVICES**  
**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 4:29 am  
Zohr ..... 12:02 pm  
Asr ..... 4:26 pm  
Maghrib ..... 6:31 pm  
Isha ..... 7:34 pm

**EMERGENCY**

Rescue (Police) ..... 15  
Bomb Disposal ..... 15  
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad ..... 1122 & 116  
Emergency Ambulance ..... 1122 & 116  
& Rescue Services ..... 445122  
Motorway Police ..... 9266044  
Motorway Police ..... 9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

Edhi Ambulance ..... 115  
PIA Flight Info ..... 114  
PIA Cargo ..... 9280979  
Railway Inquiry ..... 117  
Railway Exchange ..... 9270931-5  
WASA Rawalpindi ..... 5555489  
CAA ..... 9281092

**HOSPITALS**

CMH ..... 56011  
MH ..... 56016  
MH ..... 56016  
Cantt Hospital ..... 9270907-11  
DHQ ..... 55531-4  
RGH ..... 9290301-7  
Holy Family ..... 929032-7  
PIMS ..... 926170-79  
Polyclinic ..... 9218300-09  
Shifa International ..... 4603666

**DEPARTMENTS**

COA ..... 921334-43  
CDA ..... 920303-04  
Met Office ..... 9250360-6  
RDA ..... 5555864  
TMA ..... 5770886  
Cantonment Board ..... 9270913-3  
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation ..... 9209224  
Ferozshah Town ..... 9209224  
Rawal Town ..... 5772343

**COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service  
E-7, F-10 & F-11 ..... 9204654  
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 ..... 9203883  
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..... 9205616  
Wapda Islamabad ..... 9217579-80  
Sul Gas Complaint ..... 119, 9272249  
Wasa Water Tank Rawalpindi ..... 0331-5022125

## IUII holds 91st meeting of BoG

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The 91st meeting of the Board of Governors (BoG) of International Islamic University, Islamabad (IUII) was held here on Monday at Allama Iqbal Auditorium, the central campus of the university.

The meeting was chaired by Prof Dr Samina Malik, Rector IUII / Chairperson Board of Governors of the University, attended by Vice Chairman of BoG and Rector IUII Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi and the board members.

The board took important decisions in the meeting including the appointment of Dr. Abdul Raheem as Vice President Academics. It approved the adoption of time pay scale of the government for the employees of BPS O1 to 16.

In the meeting, approval of the recommendations of the selection boards held from June 2022 to March 2023 in various disciplines was also given.

The BoG chair and the members approved the financial year 2023-24. The budget as well as recommendations of the academic council on certain academic matters were also approved.

In the meeting, implementation reports of the 80th and 90th meetings of the BoG were also endorsed.

# HEC announces undergraduate scholarships for students of GB

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has announced Undergraduate Scholarships for the students of Gilgit-Baltistan to study at top Pakistan Universities/Institutions.

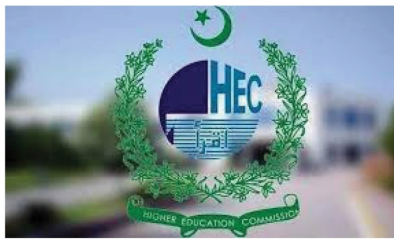
According to the official sources, the applications are invited from outstanding students of Gilgit-Baltistan who intend to pursue undergraduate studies (four/five years BS Programmes) from HEC-recognized public sector Universities/Degree Awarding Institutions (DAIs). The Scholarships are being offered for the academic year 2023-24 in all areas of study/disciplines under the project titled, "Undergraduate Scholarship Programme for the students of Gilgit-Baltistan in Top Pakistani Universities/Institutions (Batch-III)".

The sources said that Gilgit-Baltistan has significant geographical importance and is the terminal point of CPEC.

The main aim of this programme is to provide financial assistance to GBs students aspiring for undergraduate studies in the best Public Sector Universities in Pakistan.

The programme is also in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Pakistan i.e. To eradicate extreme poverty and mobilize resources; therefore, to accomplish these goals, the government has directed HEC to expand higher education scholarships for the least developed areas and reduce inequality within the country, they added.

Meanwhile, the general eligibility criteria for all these scholarships are as under: the applicants must have domicile/local certificate of Gilgit-Baltistan, applicants must have completed Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC/Equivalent), the applicants who are already availing any other HEC/Government scholarship are not eligible to apply.



Similarly, the students already enrolled in any BS Program prior to advertisement maximum of one academic year/session may also apply.

The award of scholarships will be made irrespective of gender, caste, race, and religion.

The students already enrolled in any BS Program in public sector universities/institutions prior to the advertisement (maximum one academic year-session) may also apply.

However, as per selection criteria, the HEC Scholarship Applicant's Test shall be arranged by HEC/ETC. Applicants must secure at least 50% marks in the test. The test result will be valid for 01 year.

The selected applicants shall secure admissions by themselves in the defined program of study in Pakistan.

The scholar shall sign an agreement/undertaking before availing of the scholarship. The terms and conditions laid down in the agreement/undertaking and award letter shall be binding for both parties.

Final award letters shall be issued after securing the admission and the completion of all required formalities including the legal documents.

The students are required to apply through the following HEC Online Application System? <https://portal.hec.gov.pk/> till 30 September, 2023.

## Brazilian Flavors

ISLAMABAD: Brazilian Ambassador to Pakistan Olyntho Vieira posing for group photo along with others during event entitled "Brazilian Flavors" at a local hotel in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultana Bashir

## CIRCLE brings She Loves Tech back for its 7th year Islamabad Round-An Unmissable Event!

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: She Loves Tech, a global startup and tech competition dedicated to empowering women entrepreneurs, has returned for its 7th consecutive year in Islamabad. Presented by CIRCLE Women Association, a women-led startup, and generously supported by HBL. Happening on September 15th, 2023 at HBL Towers Blue Area Islamabad.

In a nation where female entrepreneurs make up just one percent of the entrepreneurial landscape, She Loves Tech Pakistan stands as a beacon of change. It proudly ranked among the top 10 events globally with the highest number of participating countries, showcasing its immense impact.

Sadaf Abid, Founder of



CIRCLE Women, passionately expressed her motivation for bringing this competition to Pakistan, stating, "Supporting women entrepreneurs is not merely an option; it is a vital necessity of our time. By bridging the gender gap in entrepreneurship, we unlock the untapped potential of our women, addressing the challenges of our era. Embracing women in their entrepreneurial endeavors transcends business creation; it builds resilience, uplifts families, empowers generations, and cultivates vibrant communities."

Dr. Sarah Alam, Founder of Tibbi.pk and Winner of She Loves Tech Pakistan 2022, shared her journey, saying, "She Loves Tech made me realize that I'm not alone as a woman entrepreneur. It has given me a community that I can call

my own and rely on whenever needed. The guidance provided at the boot camp and by the mentors were monumental in shaping us towards our win." She Loves Tech Pakistan extended its reach this year, encompassing local rounds in Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Multan, Faisalabad, Sukkur, Quetta, Hyderabad, and Gilgit, among the 15 participating cities.

This event was attended by Karandaaz, Easyxis, USAID, Atom camp, and PMIC, The Community Partners were: Plan 9 Incubation Wing and Darfarkhawan and The Academic Partners: were Fast Nu and TMLUC esteemed media and guests. Overall, She Loves Tech Islamabad Round epitomized the fusion of technology and empowerment, showcasing a future where innovation knows no bounds.

## Captain(R) Khan challenged to Astronomers about Climate Change

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Captain(R) Engineers Ghulam Mohammad Khan climate change or environment on earth All the Astronomers of the world are Challenged Regarding their views about the Climate Change on Earth. The fact is that the Sun has moved from South of the earth towards north, this all has happened before my eyes and I still direct the movement towards the North of the earth stated about 12 years ago and is still moving. Now the result will be the northern countries must be hotter and southern be colder. The astronomers are requested to check equatorial line on the earth to know No court of the word can be blamed. It is pure godly work and the whole word has forgotten the God.

## Turkish students complete Urdu language course at AIOU

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Department of Urdu, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) concluded a month-long Urdu Language Course for its second batch of students from the University of Istanbul. The Vice Chancellor of AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, presided over the certificate distribution ceremony, with the Academic Attaché of the Turkish Embassy in Pakistan, Mehmet Toyran, as the chief guest. Director of Yunus Emre Institute Pakistan, Prof. Dr. Halil Tokar, all the deans of AIOU, principal officers, faculty members, and staff members of International Collaboration and Exchange, Dr. Zahid Majeed were also present at the event. Turkish students introduced themselves in Urdu and mentioned that they were able to learn how to write and speak the language in just one month. They proudly spoke in Urdu during their visits to various places throughout the course, without using a single word of English. The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, expressed his admiration for the students and their efforts for their dedication and hard work. Dr. Nasir Mahmood also emphasized the importance of language and culture, and how completing this course will enable these students to become ambassadors and contribute to strengthening the relationship between Turkey and Pakistan. The educational attaché of Turkey expressed gratitude towards the Vice Chancellor and teachers of AIOU for teaching Urdu to their students.

## 21 drug peddlers netted with 20 kg charras, over 1 kg heroin

**City Desk**

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers conducted raids in different areas and rounded up 21 accused on recovery of over 20 kg charras, over 1 kg heroin and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Dharmal police held Shehnaaz Bibi for carrying 1200 grams of heroin and Noreen Bibi for possessing 2030 grams of charras. Race Course police also recovered 1600 grams of charras from the possession of a female drug smuggler named Mehroz Bibi. Cejzar Khan, Sadliqabadi, Race Course, R. A. Bazar, Airport, Saddar Baroni, Rawat, Bani, Taxla Naseerabad and Saddar Wah police conducted raids in their respective jurisdiction and rounded up Sadaqat, Danish, Zeeshan, Hamid, Gulzar, Shahbair Ahmed, Ahmer, Tanveer, Javed, Rehan and others and recovered over 17 kg charras. Separate cases have been registered against all accused while further investigations are underway. City Police Officer, Rawalpindi had directed the police officers to accelerate ongoing operations against drug peddlers, bootleggers and other lawbreakers, he added.

# Maroof Int'l Hospital organized Free Medical Camp with senior health professionals

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Maroof Int'l Hospital placed a Free Medical Camp, in collaboration with AGIKO to promote wellness and raise healthcare awareness within the community. Especially in the wake of rising conjunctivitis in Pakistan, due to humidity, poor sanitation and hygiene conditions following the summer monsoon season. The camp was held at Pakistan Revenue Automation Pvt Ltd. (PRAL), featuring renowned medical professionals in Ophthalmology, Physiotherapy, and Nutrition. It was an all-day event that included informative sessions, interactive workshops, and opportunities for the attendees to have free consultation with the medical experts.

Dr. Jahanzeb Durmani, a senior Ophthalmologist, emphasized the importance of maintaining good eye health and regular eye check-ups. More than a hundred people had consultation with Dr. Jahanzeb. Around 40% were diagnosed with Near Sightedness (Myopia), a common vision condition in which near objects appear clear, but objects further away look blurry. Whereas 30% people had Allergic Conjunctivitis; this occurs when the conjunctiva becomes swollen or inflamed due to a reaction to pollen, dust mites, pet dander, mold, or other allergen-causing substances. 20% people had Hypermetropia or Hyperopia also known as Long-Sightedness; common vision disorder. Whilst 10% patients had Keratoconus; a condition that causes



the cornea (the clear surface on the front of the eye) to gradually thin and bulge into a cone shape, added Dr. Jahanzeb.

Whilst giving health awareness session on Office Ergonomics, Dr. Mahmood Shahank; a skilled Physiotherapist stated that many of us think of an office work environment to be the safest place to work. However, it can pose many risks to our health. Being aware of the right

office ergonomics can protect us from injury, accidents and improve our productivity.

Ms. Nida Ashraf, a leading expert in the field of nutrition, provided valuable insights into maintaining a balanced diet and its impact on long-term health. The participants got practical tips and guidance on making healthier food choices. Rubina Afzal Head of Corporate Business MHH advised that



the camp also provided free consultation, blood, sugar, BP and weight checks. Our next Free Medical Camp will be in Nala Musلمانan a

marginalized community near Kalar Syedan on Sunday 24 September 2023 to provide free consultation, medicines and vital checks, in specialities

like Gyne, Internal Medicines, General Surgery & Peds. Aimed to raise awareness & preventive measure about Dengue & other health issues, she added.

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## China, Pakistan cooperating closely in science, technology education

The Beijing International Week for Science Literacy has brought together leaders from different parts of the world to share their experiences and achievements in promoting science literacy in their respective countries and to learn from the Chinese experience, said Khan Muhammad Wazir, Science, and Technology Counselor of the Pakistani Embassy in China.

In an exclusive interview with the Global Times, Wazir congratulated and expressed his appreciation of the leadership of the Beijing Association for Science and Technology (BAST), for hosting the event.

A total of 24 international organizations and institutions from 22 countries and regions, with 27 representatives from various tech sectors and the science education industry, are attending the conference.

They will jointly explore the issue of improving public scientific literacy and plan a win-win development path, according to the BAST, the main organizer of the event.

Khan Muhammad Wazir attended the launch ceremony at the Shougang Park in Beijing.

When asked in what specific areas China and Pakistan could work together to improve the general public's science literacy and how that will help enhance the iron-clad friendship between the two countries, Wazir noted that China and Pakistan are cooperating closely on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education and recently a MoU between the China Association for Science and Technology and the Pakistan Science Foundation was signed.

The cooperation includes the training of STEM teachers, the exchange of STEM students, and the sharing of experiences and resources.

Set to end on September 24, this year's Beijing week is themed "Working Together for Common Development - Digital Literacy and Future Education." This theme reveals the Chinese openness, mutual learning for common benefits, and China's willingness to share with the rest of the world its achievements in making science a culture and new normal, the councillor said.

He also noted that China has used science, technology, and innovation for its socio-economic development and to transform its economy and society into digital and connected systems.

The theme further explains the increasing and essential link of education with digital technology.

## UNGA session: World leaders to address Global South's concern over poverty

**Itfikhkar Ali**

Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister, Anwar-ul-Ilq, will join nearly 150 world leaders in next week's UN General Assembly to deliberate about key international peace and security issues as well as Global South concerns over growing poverty, inflation and debt burden.

With the high-level segment of the 199-member Assembly's 78th session beginning Sept 19, hundreds of New York Police Department (NYPD) personnel on Sunday began erecting roadblocks and check points around UN Headquarters in Manhattan to turn the area into a high security zone to protect the visiting world leaders.

PM Kasari is scheduled to arrive in New York tomorrow at the head of the Pakistan delegation to UNGA. He will address the Assembly on Sept 22, the first Pakistani caretaker premier to do so. Caretaker Foreign Jafar Abbas Illahi will also be here.

In his address, the prime minister will outline Pakistan's perspective on a range of regional and general issues of concern, including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. He will also elaborate on the significant measures taken by his caretaker administration to consolidate the country's economic recovery and efforts to boost its domestic and external investment.

In addition, the prime minister will hold bilateral meetings with counterparts from various countries as well as with the heads of international organizations, philanthropic organizations and corporate leaders, he also has a number of

media engagements.

US President Joe Biden, as leader of the host country, will be the second speaker on Tuesday, the opening day of the annual gathering of world leaders who take the pulse of the planet and tackle global challenges.

The list of speakers indicates the presence of 145 Heads of State and Government, 6 Vice Presidents, 4 Deputy Prime Ministers and 38 Ministers or Chiefs of Delegations—a total of 196. This year's theme is "restoring trust and reigniting global solidarity", but the credibility of the UN is currently being undermined by geopolitical conflicts, divisions and paralysis at the Security Council, as economic, humanitarian and climate-related crises continue.

In an interview with APP, Pakistan's UN Ambassador, Munir Akram, underscored the need for a plan to counter the grim challenges facing the world.

"The 78th session of the General Assembly is meeting in a complex international environment, marked by conflicts, especially in Europe and Africa, growing great power tensions in Asia, a slowing global economy, 60 developing countries in financial distress, and as yet no clear strategy on how to address these challenges," Ambassador Akram said.

Russia's war in Ukraine, well into its second year, will again be a focus of the debate with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy attending in person for the first time since the conflict started.

The war is exacerbating food price inflation in emerging markets and developing economies and adversely impacts some of the poorest and most vulnerable countries.

Several top-level meetings happening

during the General Assembly focus on priorities of developing countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia: climate, health, financing for development, and how to get the Sustainable Development Goals—a global "do-do" list created in 2015—on track.

In a series of briefings, UN officials have said that efforts to address Global South needs, including tackling poverty and diseases and improving access to clean water and energy, are trailing far behind the target that U.N. member countries have set for themselves through the SDGs.

Briefing Pakistani newsmen, Ambassador Akram, who has served twice as chairman of the Group of 77 (developing countries) plus China, said that Pakistan stands for the immediate expansion of concessional financing by the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), reduction of borrowing cost for developing countries, and allocation of \$500 billion new Special Drawing Rights (SDRs).

With 134 members, G77 is the United Nations' biggest intergovernmental group of emerging countries.

Ambassador Akram also stressed the need for urgent mobilization of at least \$1 trillion annually for investment in sustainable infrastructure (inter-ala energy, transport, housing, industry, agriculture, trade facilitation) for developing countries to boost the achievement of the SDGs in the remaining decade of action; fulfillment by the developed countries of their pledge of \$100 billion annually towards climate finance and to at least double climate finance towards adaptation, and give developing countries due share in all economic decision-making bodies.

The UN's annual General Debate provides world leaders with a bully pulpit

to speak out on the world's most pressing human rights issues," said Louis Charbonneau, UN director at Human Rights Watch, a prominent international watchdog body.

"They should all make use of this golden opportunity to generate discussion on world crises, finding justice for ongoing abuses, or bringing attention to issues outside the headlines."

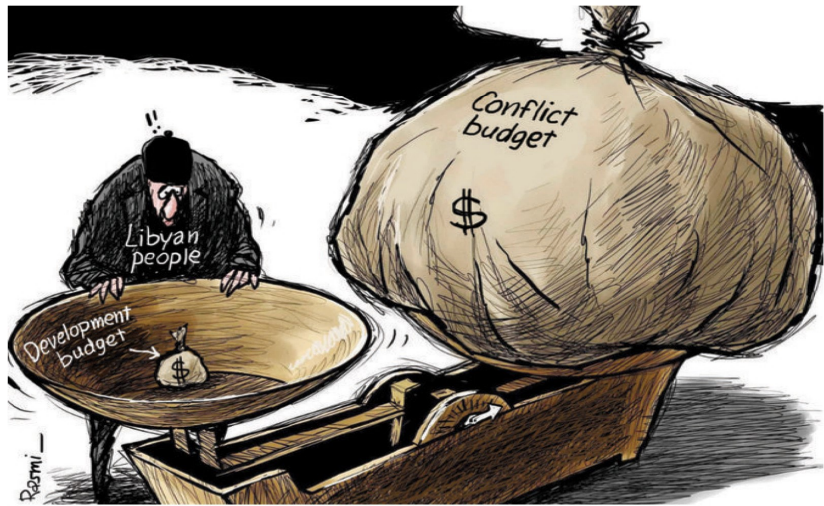
UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has urged states to focus greater attention on issues that are priorities for developing countries, including climate change and meeting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals aimed at eradicating poverty. Meeting the Sustainable Development Goals is crucial to the rights to health, water, sanitation, food, and education, among others in the course of the 78th session.

"Action is what the world needs," the UN chief said in his bi-annual press conference on Wednesday, defining the gathering of world leaders as a "one-of-a-kind moment" to both assess the state of world affairs but also "set for the common good."

"This is not a time for indifference or inaction," Guterres told reporters at UN Headquarters. "This is a time to come together for real, practical solutions."

"It is time for compromise for a better tomorrow. Politics is compromise. Diplomacy is compromise. Effective leadership is compromise."

In the course of the 78th session, Pakistan will also table its traditional resolution affirming the right of self-determination and also one denouncing Islamophobia and desecration of the Holy Quran and Islamic symbols, besides its disarmament-related resolutions.



Cartoon by Anjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Accat)

## The Asim Doctrine in action for Betterment - I

Pakistan, a country rich in history and cultural diversity, has made significant strides since its inception in 1947. However, it continues to grapple with numerous challenges that impede its progress. While the nation has made noteworthy achievements in various sectors, it is essential to recognize and address the major problems that persist.

Economic instability remains a significant concern in Pakistan. The country faces issues such as inflation, fiscal deficits, and a lack of sustainable economic growth. These problems can lead to reduced purchasing power for citizens and hinder long-term development. Pakistan faces chronic energy shortages, leading to frequent power outages and disruptions in daily life. The energy crisis has a detrimental impact on industries, hampers economic growth, and discourages foreign investment.

Security issues are a longstanding challenge in Pakistan. Terrorism, militancy, and regional instability have posed significant threats to the country's security and stability. Although Pakistan has made strides in combating these challenges, they persist to some extent. Big threats are from India and Afghanistan. India is hosting and facilitating militant activities in Pakistan. India also has a long history of spying in Pakistan where numbers of RAW agents have been arrested in past. Indian hand behind recent Jananwala tragedy is also in form of us.

Then on the other side is Afghanistan which is still hosting and facilitating TTP who is involved in militant attacks in Pakistan. Recently, two army posts were attacked by terrorists on the Pak-Afghan border in Kailash area of Chitral, in which 4 brave soldiers of Pakistan Army were martyred. According to ISPR, the security forces repulse the attack and inflicted heavy casualties on the terrorists. In the exchange of fire, 4 soldiers were martyred and 12 terrorists were killed while a large number of them were seriously injured. Spokesperson of the Pakistani Foreign Office has said that modern weapons have fallen into the hands of terrorists in Afghanistan and attacks are being carried out on Pakistan and its security institutions with these weapons. During the weekly briefing in Islamabad, Foreign Office Spokesperson said that Pakistan is concerned about the modern weapons available in Afghanistan which are used against us by militant groups. The spokesman said that we believe that the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan should be a border of peace. If the border is closed by Pakistan, it is because of the serious security situation. We are negotiating with the Afghan government. The interim government has informed its concerns regarding the recent incident on the Afghan border. On the Chitral attack, the

spokesperson of the Foreign Office said that they have expressed their concern about the situation in Chitral to the Afghan authorities. After Soviet war, millions of Afghans migrated to neighboring countries including Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Qazakistan, Tajikistan and Iran etc for saving their lives. Some refused to keep them and the ones who accepted kept them in refugee camps. Those camps were not less than jails. One the other hand Pakistan settled them across the country and allowed them to do business independently. According to a report more than 4.4 million afghans are in Pakistan out of which more than 1.7 millions are un-registered. Theft, terrorism etc have been increased in Pakistan due to these Afghans but Pakistan kept them as a resemblance in Pakistan due to these Afghans back bite our country. They take food from us and live in Pakistan but always prefer India.

They were also involved in Chitral incident along with India. They are behind smuggling, illegal storage and terrorism. They burn our flags and damage our economy by smuggling the things from here. Now it's the need of time to take action against such Anti-Pakistan elements and send them back to their country of origin. People of Pakistan stand with Army Chief on his stance relating to Afghanistan, TTP and Afghans.

Political instability and frequent changes in government leadership have hindered policy continuity and long-term planning. Effective governance remains a need of the population. Pakistan faces an education crisis characterized by low literacy rates, inadequate educational infrastructure, and a shortage of trained teachers. Millions of children remain out of school, perpetuating a cycle of poverty and underdevelopment. Pakistan is grappling with severe water scarcity, exacerbated by mismanagement, over-extraction, and the effects of climate change. The country's reliance on the Indus River for its water supply makes it vulnerable to water-related crises. The healthcare system in Pakistan faces numerous challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, a lack of access to quality healthcare in rural areas, and the prevalence of preventable diseases. Corruption remains a pervasive issue in Pakistan, affecting government institutions, public services, and economic development. Efforts to combat corruption are ongoing but face resistance from entrenched interests. Pakistan's environmental challenges such as desertification, air and water pollution, and climate change impacts. These issues have wide-ranging consequences, from health problems to disruptions in agriculture.

To Be Continued

## Pakistani economy is tanking while global economy is picking up

**Asrar Raouf**

It is indeed ironic to observe that while the global economy is recovering from the setbacks of Covid pandemic and Ukraine war yet Pakistan's economy is sliding consistently. A new world trade report released by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) points out that negative headlines are obscuring a more optimistic global trade picture as even trade between the United States and China reached its highest-level last year despite escalation of trade tensions between them since 2018.

Trade tensions that began in 2018 between the world's two largest trading partners saw tit-for-tat escalation of import tariffs but the report noted that despite all obstacles bilateral trade increased. Unilateral trade-related measures are generating an increasing number of trade measures that are raised by WTO members in different bodies. The nature of these concerns is also changing as re-globalisation through increased international cooperation and broader integration is assisting trade, inclusiveness and environmental sustainability. On the other hand, Pakistan is sinking deep in economic mire as it is now reported that for the country's interest payments last month increased alarmingly to Rs.537 billion while its income stood at Rs.381 billion surpassing the federal government's net income for the month by Rs.156 billion that constitutes 41 per cent of its GDP. This has raised concerns that annual debt servicing cost may exceed budget allocations due to rising interest rates. Provisional federal fiscal operations for July, marking the beginning of fiscal year 2023-24 have

indicated that Pakistan's debt situation is no longer sustainable. The country is now borrowing primarily to meet interest payments that is contributing to an elevated debt burden. Intriguingly, just a year ago, the net income was sufficient to cover interest payments, but this is not the situation currently.

Moreover, the ever-increasing interest rates has forced the federal government to borrow Rs.1.3 trillion at a rate of 24.5% for three months, a rate that was 2.5% higher than the key policy rate. Market sentiment appeared reluctant to lend money to the government due to reports that the central bank was considering increasing the key policy rate to 25%, although the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) denied these reports.

The federal government had no choice but to secure these costly loans due to its cash buffers being nearly Rs.1.5 trillion less than emergent needs as against the available cash buffers, the government was scheduled to make Rs.2.05 trillion in debt repayments. Similarly, Rs.310 billion in interest payments were due within this week including on external loans. Additionally, around Rs.80 billion was due to the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) beneficiaries. It must be kept in view that for the current fiscal year, the government has allocated Rs.7.3 trillion for debt servicing though this figure may go up to Rs.8 trillion.

In the previous fiscal year, the federal government missed its budget targets and failed to restrict fiscal operations to the level agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as the coalition government went entirely out of line leading to a substantial increase in public debt from Rs.44 trillion in March 2022

# America's days as sole super-power over?

M. Ali Siddiqui

The recent expansion in BRICS has brought to fore yet again that days of unipolarity are finally over. Though the widely spread tentacles and influence levels of the American power still keep it in the global forefront yet its decisive impact is widely debated.

Despite America's huge influence, the end of the Cold War blew away some of its perceptions and so helped to chart a new political geography which had been taking shape in the shadows of the Cold War. Essential elements in the accepted formulation of world politics suddenly seemed to be false and many impressions went haywire.

The most crucial failure to emerge out of the fall of the Soviet Union was the final breakdown of the much-dreaded belief in the concept of bipolarity.

Though doubts started to emerge after the resurrection of Japan after 1945 and the later inclusion of China in global affairs made bipolarity look quaint yet such was the strength of the Cold War matrix that Japan had been regarded as an adjunct of the United States and China of the USSR.



profoundly misleading.

The protagonists, for whom the new category of superpower was invented, were opposed in a pattern which was neither dual between exclusive autocracies nor a mutable constellation of several powers like the European states system which it superseded.

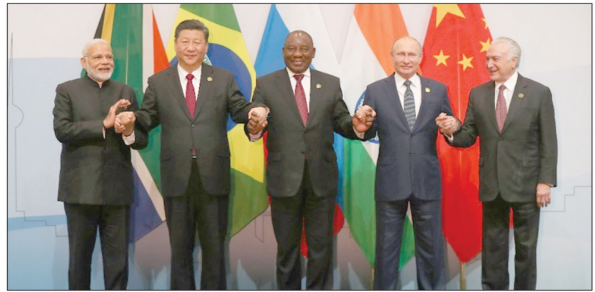
The fact of the matter was that the superpowers were two and supposedly roughly equal but in truth they were never equal. And this eventualities was widely known and acknowledged.

The United States was superior to the USSR in material resources, in education and invention and in governmental skills and principles. Though these aspects were not made part of any logical debate about the functionality of superpower phenomenon yet the disparity was made manifest when the Cold War wrecked the Soviet communist economy without doing comparable damage to American capitalism.

Soviet system was unable to prepare adequate leadership material for the future and left the union under the fragile watch of octogenarian leadership with its members kept on dying with regular intervals weakening the hold over the huge state that was kept together by the apparent use of force.

The special feature of the Cold War was the existence of nuclear weapons which were deemed to be specific to superpowers and were considered the hallmark of their supremacy. However, with the passage of time other states also acquired them taking their sting out of the equation and they virtually became paper tigers though the perceived horrors associated with them kept their awe intact.

Though nuclear weapons are potentially devastating but they are rated to be inefficient weapons of war barely credible political weapons and not used after the Second World War. In fact, more money and resources were spent to keep them safely in their arsenal and



the most important sign of bipolarity was recognised to be their efforts to contain nuclear weapons.

It was a widely acknowledged fact that nuclear weapons made war supremely irrational, conferred more power on fanatics than on sanely calculating statesmen and distracted attention from the undiminished incidence and mounting toll of non-nuclear wars.

One of the most significant offshoots of the Cold War was the strengthening of NATO alliance that not only survived the Cold War but actually outlasted it.

Despite the overweening influence of NATO during the Cold War, the American point of view was gradually challenged by the European members of the alliance that became manifest when America tried to assess its own strength against the Iraq conflict but it lasted just a year till the Gulf War of 1991 demonstrated among other things that the United States had ceased to be a virtually unchallengeable and necessary ringmaster in world affairs. Although indubitably a dominant power, it no longer commanded the same kind of leadership, no longer possessed a simple touchstone where to test and tune its foreign policies and might no longer choose to act in

concert rather than alone.

These facts however reduced the sense of relief felt by the fall of Soviet Union and kept the tensions within the European theatre intact.

Another factor that challenged the American unipolarity was the gradually deteriorating relationship between the US and the United Nations as the pressure exerted by large number of member states resulted in creating tremendous discomfiture for America. The UN is committed to preservation of sovereignty of member states but it upholds the independence of each of its members along with explicitly forbidding intervention in the domestic affairs of other states unless the Security Council finds a state guilty of a threat to peace, a breach of the peace or an act of aggression.

The non-committal status of the UN was a contradiction in terms for the US for this fundamental, although qualified, immunity of the state from intervention severely restricted the capacity of the UN to discharge its obligation to uphold human rights since, on the one hand, it frequently could not do so without forcible intervention and on the other, such intervention was no less frequently blocked by a veto — or threat of a veto — in the Security Council.

The movement of events however frequently created disunity in the Security Council in the case of a powerful member, determined on action, was opposed by a majority in the Council forcing it to abandon its purpose or proceeding in defiance of the law as was borne out by the operations against Iraq after the war of 1991 and against Serbia in 1999 that made the US to intervene in breach of the law of the Charter.

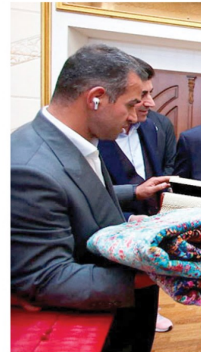
The consequences included a diminution of the UN's effectiveness and prestige and a blow to the aim of strengthening the rule of law in international affairs. So, there were at the core of the international system tensions between the UN and its more powerful members and with the end of the Cold War the United States, uniquely powerful, found itself in a fatigued position. As a consequence, America found it difficult to map a course between leadership and high-handedness and has to exercise extreme caution thereby reduction in its status as a superpower. This where countries like China and India emerged as protagonists of bringing back the multipolarity in international affairs and BRICS is its manifestation. TV

## Iranians give Cristiano Ronaldo an excited welcome in Tehran

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Crowds of Iranian football fans gave Cristiano Ronaldo a rapturous welcome on Monday as his Saudi Arabian team lined up in Tehran for the first home-and-away club tie since the two coun-

tries resumed diplomatic relations. Fans chanted the name of the Portuguese five-time world player of the year as he arrived with his Al Nassr teammates to face Iranian club Persepolis in the Asian Champions League on Tuesday. The match will be the first since Tehran and Riyadh reached a China-brokered deal announced in March.



Teams from both countries had only played matches on neutral grounds since 2016 when Saudi Arabia and Iran severed ties. In Tehran, excitement filled the air as fans eagerly waited to catch a glimpse of Cristiano Ronaldo as he left Iran's Imam Khomeini's airport. Large numbers of cheering fans lined the streets as Cristiano Ronaldo and his team arrived at a hotel in Tehran

on board a bus. Posters of Cristiano Ronaldo sprung up across the Iranian capital's main streets emblazoned with "Welcome", written in Arabic, English, and Farsi.

"I think it will be a beautiful game and will have a lot of excitement," said a long-time friend of Cristiano Ronaldo, a 22-year-old Iranian Kurd, who had been arrested for allegedly violating the Islamic republic's dress code for women.

Last week, Persepolis's general manager Reza Darvish proposed that the Saudi team be given SIM cards with unfiltered internet access.

"I have talked to the CEO of IranCell (a local provider for this struggle) and asked for SIM cards for... players and those who accompany them with unlimited internet," he said in a press conference.

The 2023-2024 Asian Champions League will begin this week with the spotlight on Saudi Arabia which alongside Cristiano Ronaldo has lured a host of stars including Karim Benzema, Neymar and Sadio Mane.

Persepolis are one of the region's most successful clubs and reached the final of the Asian Champions League in 2018 and 2020, while Al Nassr won the tournament in 1995.

Other matches between the two countries will take place in the coming weeks. Saudi's Al-Hilal are scheduled to play Iran's Sepahan on October 2, and Saudi club Al-Hilal is scheduled to meet Iran's Nassaji Mazandaran on October 3.

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## Georgia accuses Ukrainian official of plotting coup

News Desk

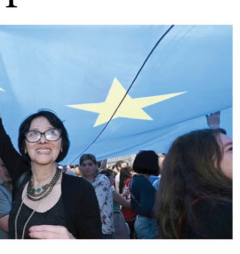
TBILISI: Georgia on Monday accused a senior Ukrainian official of plotting to overthrow the Black Sea nation's government by organising mass unrest, in the latest episode of escalating tensions between the ex-Soviet countries.

Georgia has been accused of cooperating with the Kremlin through Russian forces have deployed to separatist regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia since 2008, when Moscow invaded the tiny Caucasus country.

Georgian security services said the deputy chief of Ukraine's military counterintelligence and Georgia's former deputy interior minister, Giorgi Lorkipidze, was plotting "destabilisation aimed at a violent overthrow of the government."

It said the plot "is being carried out with the coordination and funding from a foreign country."

The EU recognised Georgia's "European perspective" last year, when the European Commission is set to publish its decision on Georgia's EU membership application.



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## US-Pakistan Relations: UNGA Parallel event in New York



Saeeda Bano

worldwide to engage in critical conversations. One such event organized this year was "Pillars of Democracy: US-Pakistan Relations," hosted by the Muslim American Leadership Alliance (MALA) in New York.

The Panel discussion brought together American and Pakistani officials, experts, and activists to exchange perspectives on promoting democracy in Pakistan. Participants included Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Elizabeth Horst from the US State Department, seasoned diplomat Ambassador Robin Raphael, attorney

Dawood Ghaznavi, and the 11-time Emmy award winner moderator Ernie Manosevic. A Long-time friend of Pakistan from Texas, Joanne King Herring, especially flew in for the event just as Riffat Chughtai, Foreign Policy consultant, at One UN Plaza while UNGA goes into session.

Tracing the History of Instability: Pakistan's Tumultuous democratic journey since gaining independence was discussed, as stated by Imran Igra, one of the organizers. Despite founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah's vision of democ-

racy and social welfare, Pakistan faced challenges establishing a constitution until 1976. Reasons for this struggle included conflicts with India and Afghanistan, ethnic provincial divisions following Jinnah's premature death, and a national preoccupation with security concerns.

Speakers like Ambassador Raphael acknowledged Pakistan's first elections in 1970 but noted continuing turbulence and power struggles in subsequent decades. The charter of democracy created by leading parties in 2006 was considered

a positive for civilian rule. Pakistan witnessed the completion of a full democratic term for the first time in 2013. But civil-military imbalance has now sharpened again under the current establishment.

Call for Free and Fair Elections: There are calls from all quarters for Pakistan to hold free and fair elections, without undue influence. Elizabeth Horst expressed the US' full support for this through diplomatic channels. However, it was acknowledged that external powers alone cannot strength-

en democracy in Pakistan. This will have to come from within. Ideas for Constructive Partnership: Speakers floated ideas for how the US and Pakistani diaspora could promote institutions and economic stability in Pakistan while respecting its sovereignty. Suggestions included increasing trade, transferring technology to modernize agriculture, supporting civil society groups, and investing in youth.

Speakers like Ambassador Raphael and others urged closer US-Pakistan cooperation in countering terrorism and boosting internal security as well.

While problems persisted, participants were hopeful that US-Pakistan ties were progressing in the right direction. Continued constructive partnership centering democratic norms, Pakistan's latent potential can be realized for a stable and prosperous future. As Elizabeth Horst asserted, "the future of Pakistan lies with the Pakistani people."

Saeeda Bano is an International Relations Graduate from Franklin University, Switzerland and currently resides in New York. @insaecedabano\_





