



PM Shehbaz Sharif reaches London on way to UN session in New York

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reached London for a short tour ahead of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York. The premier arrived at the Luton airport where he was welcomed by Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK Dr Muhammad Faisal and officials of the UK government.



Rana Tanveer initiates process to enhance provincial coordination for SMEs development

Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain has initiated a process to enhance coordination with provincial governments for equitable development of the SMEs across the country as per advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting of the Chairpersons of the newly constituted Boards of Directors of the Power Distribution Companies (DISCOs), on Saturday.



Photo: PID

Deputy PM chairs meeting of Chairpersons of the Boards of Directors of DISCOs

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday chaired the meeting of the Chairpersons of the newly constituted Boards of Directors of the Power Distribution Companies (DISCOs). The meeting was also attended by Minister for Power, Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari. The discussions focused on the critically required human resource by the DISCOs. The chairpersons of

the Boards of Directors were asked to reassess the level of human resource requirements in light of the functional requirements and the principles of outsourcing for maximum efficiencies, reduction in line losses, elimination of power theft and customer care. They were also urged to look into all those ageing posts which are now redundant. The deputy PM expressed full resolve of the Government to address the issues of governance in the DISCOs.

Govt expects tariff relief following review of independent power producers



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Power Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari announced that relief in electricity tariffs is anticipated in the coming weeks, as the government has completed its review of Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and state-owned power plants. Speaking to the Senate Standing Committee on Power, Leghari stated that the committee has received all necessary information regarding the IPPs, and he promised to share positive news with the public soon. This announcement comes

as the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led coalition government faces criticism over high electricity tariffs, which have further strained consumers already grappling with inflation. In response to concerns regarding the IPPs, the government is renegotiating contracts to address "unsustainable" electricity prices that are among the highest in the region. Additionally, the Power Division recently announced a relief of up to Rs2.65 in electricity bills for September due to fuel adjustments. Combined with other measures, consumers using up to

PM for fostering peace, stability through dialogues

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday called for fostering peace and stability in the region through dialogues. "To effectively achieve this end, it is essential to resolve the long-standing disputes," he said in a message on the occasion of the International Day of Peace. He emphasized that the foundation for any lasting resolution in the region hinged solely on one



critical factor: achieving a fair and just settlement of the Jammu

and Kashmir dispute peacefully through an impartial plebiscite and relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. "As we contemplate the significance of peace, we must not overlook the plight of the innocent people of Palestine, who are courageously facing state aggression," the prime minister said, adding that for lasting peace in the Middle East, peaceful resolution of the dispute according to the UN resolutions and aspirations of the Palestinians was the

need of the hour. He said on the International Day of Peace, the government and the people of Pakistan joined the global community to reflect on the shared values of tolerance, compassion, and cooperation for a peaceful world, free of war and conflict. "On this World Peace Day, we recognize the importance of fostering dialogue and understanding among diverse communities for a peaceful and sustainable world," he remarked.

He said, "In a world often marked by conflict and division, it is essential to bridge the differences and work towards the common goal of peace." The prime minister said Pakistan recognized the critical importance of promoting a more peaceful and inclusive world for everyone and was ready to work with the global community. "It is only by working together now that we can build a peaceful tomorrow for our future generations," he concluded.

Ali Amin Gandapur vows to free PTI founder

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Ali Amin Gandapur, announced his determination to secure the release of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder, who is currently jailed in Adiala Jail. Addressing PTI workers on Lahore's Ring Road, Gandapur stressed his commitment to fulfilling his promises, despite the roadblocks and obstacles created by the Punjab government. He criticized the provincial administration, calling their actions to block roads and disrupt the rally "foolish," and praised the resilience of the PTI supporters who managed to participate in the rally despite the hurdles. "The people's full participation in the rally shows their confidence in us," Gandapur said. In a video message after the rally, he thanked the people of Lahore and KP for their strong turnout and expressed gratitude for their support. Gandapur vowed to address 'serious issues' in future speeches and reiterated that PTI will not accept the government of Form 47 or allow unconstitutional amendments to proceed. He made it clear that the party would stand firm against illegal actions and support the judiciary in upholding justice.

PTI set to hold power show in Lahore under conditions

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is all set to hold its much-hyped power show in the provincial capital's Ring Road, Kahna today under 43 conditions set by district administration. The district administration allowed PTI to hold a public gathering in Lahore but with some caveats. This came after the Lahore High Court intervened, allowing the rally to take place at Link Road, Kahna, instead of the Minar-e-Pakistan. As per the NOC, the deputy commissioner has set 43 conditions for today's public gathering, including fixing a time limit for the rally from 3pm to 6pm. In the NOC, the local administration has demanded KP CM Gandapur "to tender apology publicly for his venom during Islamabad rally on September 8." The conditions also said that those PTI members under trial for hate speech in the Islamabad rally would not be allowed to appear and participate. "In view of overall security situation and threat alerts received from different quarters, the organisers are once

again cautioned and strongly advised to undertake all requisite precautionary measures in and around the venue for safety of participants and general public since this public gathering are being convened at their call," the NOC stated. The PTI rally in Lahore led to a deadlock between the opposition leader and the Deputy Commissioner regarding the end time of the rally. The district administration proposed that the rally should conclude by 7 PM, while PTI suggested an end time of 11 PM. Crackdown continues Meanwhile, the city administration left no stone unturned to prevent PTI activists and supporters from reaching the rally venue. Heavy police contingents were also deployed around the venue. In addition, orders were issued to detain five PTI leaders and activists, including Engineer Yasir Gillani, Malik Afzal, Fazal Khan, Amir Gillani, and Fazal Dad Khan, who will be held in Kot Lakhpur Jail for 30 days. Over 100 party workers have been arrested by the Punjab police ahead of rally.

The arrested workers have been taken into preventive detention, with orders issued for their detention under Section 3 of the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) Act. The list of arrested workers includes Aslam Iqbal, Mehmood ur Rasheed's son Mian Hasan, Mehr Wajid, Waqas Amjad, Nadeem Bara, and 42 others. The police have alleged that the named individuals are involved in spreading unrest and creating law and order issues. Gandapur's non-bailable arrest warrants issued An Anti-Terrorism Court in Islamabad has issued non-bailable arrest warrants for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister (CM) Ali Amin Gandapur in a case registered at Police Station I-9 under terrorism sections. The court rejected Gandapur's pre-arrest bail application and ordered him to appear before the court at 10 am. Gandapur's lawyer, Raja Zuhor Hasan, appeared in court and requested an exemption from his appearance, which the court denied. The prosecutor argued that Gandapur had consistently violated the law, and the court took notice of his conduct.

Internet services to remain suspended on September 22

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab government has announced that mobile and internet services will remain suspended in the province on September 22. As per details, the internet will be suspended during the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) to prevent cheating. The MDCAT test will take place on September 22 in 12 districts of Punjab, and services will be suspended within 500 meters of the test centers. In total, 82,500 candidates will appear for the test in various centers across Punjab, including Lahore, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Faisalabad, Multan, Bahawalpur, and D.G. Khan. Earlier, the government of Punjab imposed Section 144 in 12 cities across the province for the upcoming MDCAT test on September 22. The imposition of section 144 is to ensure a secure exam environment and prevent cheating. According to the notification, only candidates and supervisory staff will be allowed inside the exam centers, while the movement of unrelated individuals will be restricted within 100 yards of the exam centers. These measures are being taken to prevent external assistance to candidates and ensure the security during the MDCAT exam.

JI chief booked for unpermitted rally in Sahiwal

Bureau Report

SAHIWAL: A case has been registered against Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman, the Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan, along with party officials and workers, for holding a rally without official permission in Sahiwal. As per the text of FIR, the rally caused significant disruptions for patients attempting to access DHQ Quyyum Hospital. During the Sahiwal rally, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman criticized the prevailing political system, describing it as oppressive and controlled by a small elite class that monopolizes resources and opportunities. He emphasized that while the powerful enjoy access to higher education and healthcare, ordinary citizens are left

to struggle. Hafiz Naeem referred to a recent historic dharna by Jamaat-e-Islami, asserting that the party is committed to opposing the entrenched political forces, particularly in Karachi, where he claimed MQM-P and the PPP have historically exploited the populace. Rehman also expressed concerns over the government's attempts to manipulate the judiciary and parliament for its own benefit. He mentioned ongoing discussions about a constitutional amendment bill, asserting that it has been kept secret from the public and remains unapproved, while hoping that political figures like Maulana Fazlur Rehman would continue to resist such moves.

10 billion rupees have been allocated for the Social Protection, says PM AJK

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that 10 billion rupees have been allocated for the Social Protection Fund aimed at providing subsistence allowance to poor, homeless, old-age and disabled persons. The PM said this while speaking to a private television channel here today. In response to a query, the PM said that the Social Protection Fund was established with a view to provide financial assistance to economically less-privileged sections of the society in particular to the quake survivors living with disabilities. "Thousands of our people were injured during the 2005 earthquake, many of them were living with disabilities", the PM said, adding that looking after special people was a big challenge. "My thought was that such people should be helped at the government



level, and this was the reason that along with downtrodden sections of the society people with disabilities were specially included in the list of eligible persons who can receive assistance under this scheme", the added. Regarding good governance, the PM said that a number of initiatives were taken to improve governance in the

region. The PM said that apart from his three or four sponsored critics, every citizen of the state believes that change on the ground would be visible if the present government completes its term. The prime minister said that although he does not draw salary or pension from the public exchequer

but the fact is that the salary of a grade 21 or 22 officer is higher than that of the prime minister. "I am working in the spirit of service, I have no financial greed", the PM said adding that the state has given him everything. In response to another query, the PM said that the banks have collected 54 crore rupees on account of Zakat in Azad Kashmir, of which 31 or 32 crore rupees were spent on those who were not entitled to Zakat. The PM said that when the matter came to his knowledge he stopped the honorarium for the people involved in Zakat committees. Regarding the Rathoa Hariyam Bridge, the Prime Minister said that it was a part of Mangala Uprising Project. He said that the project, which was supposed to be completed by WAPDA, was badly affected due to negligence and corruption and its cost has now increased several thousand times from the original estimate.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Birthday Celebration



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Addressing the birthday cake cutting ceremony of Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari organized by People's Lawyers Forum South Punjab. PLF South Punjab President Sheikh Ghayas ul Haque said that Bilawal Bhutto is the future Prime Minister and as Foreign Minister he has strengthened Pakistan's diplomatic relations with the world and presented Pakistan's foreign policy in an effective manner and proved that it is a subservient politics. This is the reason why Benazir Bhutto became the chairman of Bilawal Bhutto and the party gained enormous popularity. Bilawal Bhutto is a popular leader among the youth of Pakistan. Bilawal Bhutto's stance is a testament to his political insight. General Secretary District Bar Multan Syed Arif Hasan Shah, Rana Javed Akhtar, Feroza Faiz, Javed Dogar, Zille Fatima, Wajid Rizvi, Hasnain Shah Gillani, Miss Ayesha Ali, Ishtiaq attended the ceremony.

CPO Faisalabad Kamran Adil holding Ordal Room in Police Line

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: Various punishments to police employees for poor performance and negligence. 3 lady constables will be punished with withholding of increment for two years.

Driver Constable Naveed Hussain was sentenced to imprisonment. Deciding on 25 appeals, 13 appeals were filed, 7 appeals were changed, 3 appeals were rejected, while 2 appeals were set to be investigated. Punishment and punishment process are concurrent in the police.

Olive oil extraction machine inaugurated in Wana

Adam Khan Wazir

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: In a significant development for the farmers of Wana, South Waziristan Lower, an olive oil extraction machine was inaugurated on Saturday at the Agriculture Office Wana. The machine was installed with the support of the South Waziristan Lower Agriculture Department and was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Nasir Khan.

Deputy Commissioner Nasir Khan expressed his views during the opening ceremony, stating that the installation of the machine will greatly benefit the farmers and further encourage them to invest in this sector.

He also mentioned that the machine can be operated by a generator and other power sources, and steps will be taken soon for its solarization to maximize its benefits.

Agriculture Officer Habib Ur Rehman Wazir stated that the recent season is likely to produce 10,000 liters of olive oil, which is a welcome development. He further stated that farmers associated with olive groves will now have access to facilities at their doorstep, which are available in other districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

He said the two tribal districts, Lower South Waziristan and Upper South Waziristan, have several lakhs of olives, generating income worth crores of rupees annually. Local farmers have shifted their focus to planting olive groves due to climate change, as it not only increases income but also has lower costs compared to other fruit trees.

This development is expected to boost the production of olive oil in the region, and the solarization of the machine will ensure maximum benefit for the farmers. The inauguration of the olive oil extraction machine is a significant step towards promoting olive cultivation and production in the area.

Pakistan Kashmiris protest mock election by India

Geneva/Muzaffarabad

President Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin's leadership of the Kashmiris/ Pakistani community staged a big demonstration against The so-called mock elections by India Inhumane atrocities ongoing in Occupied Kashmir Efforts to change demography and Arrests of Hurriyat leadership against judicial killings and serious violations of human rights In front of the headquarters of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, there was a strong demonstration, chanting slogans against India. It is using new tactics to strengthen. The pretense of election that is being created since September 18 is also a link in this chain. The so-called elections cannot be a substitute for referendum. He said that India has been settling extremist Hindus and RSS goondas to change the demography of Occupied Kashmir. New constituencies will be made to pave the way for a Hindu Chief Minister. Target killing of young people in Occupied Kashmir, abuse of women and anonymous graves are making the face of just countries and human rights organizations. The threats of the Indian foreign minister are pushing the region towards nuclear war. India's obstinacy is not limited to South Asia. They can destroy the peace of the world. Hurriyat leaders are imprisoned and they are being judicially killed. India is openly flouting international laws. United Nations and human rights organizations should take notice of India's actions and security. Take serious steps to implement the resolutions of the Security Council of United Nations.

Protest

FAISALABAD: Teachers protesting for their demands under the auspices of the Punjab Teachers' Union, in District Council Chowk, in the city.



Photo: Online

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Will Be the Next Prime Minister: Naveed Amir Jeeva

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Regarding the 36th birthday of Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, a cake cut under the leadership of MNA Naveed Amir Jeeva in the Minority wing and prayers were offered for Bilawal Bhutto's long life. Shahzad Jorge, Barkat Saroya, Kamran Yusuf, Pastor Mubasher Nawab, Yusuf Nadeem, Raheel Anjum and others were present. Addressing the ceremony, MNA Naveed Amir Jeeva said that we are proud of the leadership of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Moving forward, he is striving for the stability of



Pakistan and the improvement of the people, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will be the next prime minister and will end inflation and unemployment from the country. Said that Pakistan People's Party is the only party which is the voice of the rights of all oppressed

classes, workers, farmers, women and minority community of Pakistan, the party that gives identity to the Christian community is the People's Party, therefore the leadership of the People's Party has to serve the minority community. He made him MNA, so

that minority representation can be ensured and their problems can be solved, he said that former President Asif Ali Zardari and former Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani gave importance to minorities during their regime and appointed Shehbaz Bhatti as Federal Minister. Minister for Minority Affairs, allocated 5% quota for minorities in government jobs and also issued a notification to celebrate Minority Day on August 11 every year, allocated 4 seats for minorities in the Senate of Pakistan and declared religious festivals of minorities official. The announcement of celebrating at the level was

also made during the government of the PPP, I was elected as a member of the National Assembly for the reserved seat of minorities in 2004, then President Asif Ali Zardari approved the Christian Marriage Act (Amendment) by fulfilling the long-standing demand of the Christian community. While setting the age of boys and girls as 18 years, which was previously 13 years for girls and 16 years for boys, thus a historic feat was accomplished, Naveed Amir Jeeva added that PPP is always a leader for the rights of minorities and this in the series, new laws are coming soon in the assembly.

Electricity Thugs-112 electricity thieves arrested by MAPCO

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Yesterday, under the direction of MAPCO Chief Executive, under the leadership of SE Multan Circle Engineer Amjad Nawaz Bhatti, the Ranger Wing Commander and the XEN, s of 5 Division and all SDOs conducted a grand operation against electricity thieves. 112 electricity thieves were caught in three hours.

According to details, three electricity thieves were arrested on the spot under the leadership of MEPCO DISCO Support Unit (DSU) Ranger Wing Commander and SE Engineer Amjad Nawaz Bhatti yesterday.

Akram Javed, Fayyaz Khokhar, Mushab Ali Selmi, Ghulam Mohi-

uddin Matila, Mohammad Ali Yasir, Deputy Director Technical Malik Arif Vance, Additional Exens Taj Mahmood Qamar, Rana Mazhar TA and FIA Industrial Estate Pak of Shah Rukan Alam Division. Gate City, Shah Rukn Alam, Wilayatnabad Cantt, Hasanabad, Gilgasht, Busan Road, New Multan, Manzoorabad and Qasa Mitral Sub-division successful grand operation in which Hussain Awazahi, Indron Lohari Gate, Hunnu Ka Chhaja, Indron Pak Gate, Haram Gate, Bohar Gate, Khani Burj, Hassanabad, Inner Delhi Gate, Double Gate, Basti Dogran Wali, Kumara Wali Basti and other areas were included on this occasion., Arif Syal and other

DSD overs, Zonal Secretary Union Ilyas Sindhu, Sheikh Bilal TA City Division, Muhammad Shahzad Ali Circle Secretary Broadcasting and Police, FIA, Rangers participated and all the wires, Meters and devices which were connected to the direct were taken down and three electricity thieves, including Bilal Shah and two political figures, were arrested on the spot by Axon Fayaz Khokhar of Mumtazabad, while an FIR was registered against all the other electricity thieves.

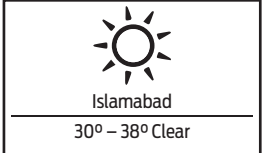
On this occasion, SE Engineer Amjad Nawaz Bhatti thanked the heads of all departments, Mapco team, all axes, SD overs workers and line staff for making this grand



operation a success. And 112 electricity thieves were caught in only

three hours of operation. The operation will continue for 24 hours in the

future and the electricity thieves will be eliminated.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:32 am
 Zohr 12:01 pm
 Asr 4:22 pm
 Maghrib 6:06 pm
 Isha 7:29 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
 Bomb Disposal 15
 Fire Services Rawalpindi/
 Islamabad 1122 & 16
 Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
 & Rescue Services 4451122
 Motorway Police 9266044
 Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
 Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance 115
 PIA Flight Info 114
 PIA Cargo 9280979
 Railway Inquiry 117
 Railway Exchange 9270831-5
 WASA Rawalpindi 5555489
 CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
 MH 561116
 MH 561116
 Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
 DHQ 5556311-4
 RGH 9290301-7
 Holy Family 9290322-7
 PIMS 9261170-79
 Polyclinic 9218300-09
 Shifa International 4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
 CDA 9208301-04
 Met Office 9250360-6
 RDA 5555864
 TMA 5770886
 Cantonment Board 9270151-3
 Islamabad Metropolitan
 Corporation 9209224
 Potohar Town 9209224
 Rawal Town 5773343

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 9266316
 Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
 Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
 Wasa Water Tank
 Rawalpindi 0331-5022125

Iraqi Ambassador calls on PRCS Chairman

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Mr. Hamid Abbas Lafta expresses his pleasure at visiting PRCS, commending the organization's efforts under Chairman Laghari's leadership; reiterates Iraq's commitment to supporting humanitarian causes

Islamabad, September 21, 2024: His Excellency Mr. Hamid Abbas Lafta, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to Pakistan, visited the National Headquarters of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) on Friday, where he met with PRCS Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari. The two leaders engaged in discussions centered around strengthening bilateral ties between

Pakistan and Iraq, with a special focus on humanitarian collaboration and exploring potential joint initiatives to assist vulnerable communities in both nations.

Chairman Laghari provided an overview of PRCS's wide-ranging humanitarian efforts across Pakistan, notably emphasizing the support extended to millions impacted by the devastating monsoon floods of 2022. He highlighted the organization's ongoing recovery initiatives, including providing shelter, livelihood support, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) services, and cash assistance for flood-affected families.

Ambassador Lafta expressed his delight in visiting PRCS and praised the organization's impactful work under the



leadership of Chairman Laghari, especially during natural disasters and crises. He reiterated Iraq's strong commitment to humanitarian causes and expressed deep appreciation for Pakistan's support during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the provision of essential medicines and vaccines.

The Ambassador emphasized the importance of enhancing collaboration between the PRCS and the Iraq Red Crescent Society, expressing his commitment to facilitating future exchange visits between the two National Societies. He also suggested the possibility of signing Memorandums of Under-

standing (MoUs) to formalize cooperation on various humanitarian projects. During his visit, Ambassador Lafta toured the PRCS library and left a message in the guest book. As a gesture of goodwill, Chairman Laghari presented him with souvenirs and his book, Dastan-e-Azam.

Truk Art

ISLAMABAD: A truck art painter working near Mandi Morr in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Nurse went missing under mysterious circumstances

Raaza Naqvi

ATTOCK: A teenage female nurse of a private hospital went missing under mysterious circumstances from Pindigheb police station limits in Attock on Saturday, police sources said.

Muhammad Fida- a native of village Ikhlas has reported to Police that his 17 years old daughter Nimra Bibi who is serving as a nurse at a private hospital went for work on Saturday but did not return home.

When her uncle went to hospital to inquire about her, the hospital staff has informed that she left the hospital earlier.

Pindigheb Police registered a case against the unknown abductor under section 365-B of Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) and launched a hunt to recover the abducted nurse.

Cultural Day hosted by Pakistan Forum Luxembourg showcases rich Pakistani traditions

Spokesman Report

LUXEMBOURG: The Pakistan Forum Luxembourg (PFL) organized a lively Cultural Day, bringing the vibrant traditions of Pakistan to Luxembourg. The event was a platform for cultural exchange and celebration of Pakistan's diverse heritage, drawing attendees from the local Luxembourgish community and the Pakistani diaspora.

The Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels, Mr. Faraz Zaidi, attended the event. The event aimed to promote cultural promotion and understanding.

Visitors enjoyed traditional Pakistani cuisine, with food stalls offering a range of regional dishes that provided



an authentic culinary experience. From savory curries to sweet delicacies, the cuisine was a highlight, showcasing Pakistan's diverse gastronomic landscape.

The event also featured stalls displaying handmade arts and crafts, including textiles, pottery, and jewellery. These

creations reflected the rich artisanal traditions of Pakistan, offering attendees a chance to appreciate the craftsmanship and cultural significance behind these works.

Families and children engaged in carnival-style games and activities, creating a fun and inclusive environment. The

lively atmosphere was further enriched by live music performances featuring traditional Pakistani music, which added to the festive spirit of the day.

In his brief remarks, Mr. Zaidi expressed appreciation for the Pakistan Forum Luxembourg's efforts in organizing the event. He noted, "This Cultural Day offers a valuable opportunity to share Pakistan's rich culture with the people of Luxembourg, fostering mutual understanding and community ties."

The Pakistan Forum Luxembourg continues its active role in promoting Pakistani culture and heritage in the region. This event marked another meaningful initiative to build bridges between Pakistan and Luxembourg.

Sarmad Qadeer and Iuliana Beregoi Team Up for a Global Collaboration with "Baby Do You Know"

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: After the critically acclaimed release of "Teri Galli" in July 2024, Pakistani singer-songwriter Sarmad Qadeer returns with a brand-new track, "Baby Do You Know," featuring Romanian pop star and social media sensation Iuliana Beregoi. Released and distributed by Giraffe Music, Pakistan's premier music and audio production company, this romantic cross-cultural collaboration blends Punjabi and English lyrics, marking a significant milestone for both artists. Blending their unique styles and cultural influences, they create a truly global sound.



Iuliana Beregoi shared her excitement about the collaboration, "Working with Sarmad has been such a unique experience. The fusion of cultures in this song really speaks to how music can bring people together from anywhere in the world."

Indeed, "Baby Do You Know" is a testament to the growing influence of Pakistani music on the global stage. The song can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRgB75VLqXU>

Sarmad Qadeer is a rising star in the Pakistani music industry, known for his versatile talent as a singer, songwriter, and composer. With a string of successful collaborations and a dedicated fanbase, Sarmad has established himself as a prominent figure in the music scene. His journey to stardom began at the tender age of 16, and since then he has consistently delivered chart-topping hits.

Romanian sensation Iuliana Beregoi, with her vibrant pop tunes and massive social media following, is one of the most promising young talents in Europe. Her music, brimming with energy and relatability, has garnered millions of fans across borders, making her a perfect partner for this global collaboration.

Radio Pakistan employees' problems increasing day by day: Ex-employees

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Radio Pakistan employees problems are increasing day by day despite government changes. Since a long period, pensioners and current employees have been denied medical facilities, leading to some employees losing their lives due to lack of access to medicines. Approximately, 380 retired employees haven't yet received their commutation for over four years, causing various problems for their families. Despite decisions made by the Federal Ombudsman and the President of Pakistan in favor of retired employees, the organization hasn't provided them with their graduation amounts. Similarly, the organization has failed to implement government-authorized increments given in view of prevailing price hike. Retirees and current employees claim Radio Pakistan's administration is forcing them to protest on the streets to achieve their demands.

Pakistan High Commission Australia hosts event to unveil the Wonders of Pakistani Tourism

Spokesman Report

AUSTRALIA: Pakistan High Commission Australia hosts an exclusive event to Unveil the Wonders of Pakistani Tourism. In a vibrant celebration of Pakistan's rich cultural and natural heritage, the High Commission for Pakistan organised an event titled "Discover & Celebrate: Unveiling the Wonders of Pakistani Tourism". In his opening remarks, the High Commissioner for Pakistan, H. E. Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri expressed the significance of the event, stating that Pakistan's tourism sector is an undiscovered gem that offers immense growth potential. Through such events, we aim to highlight the beauty of Paki-

stan and promote it as a destination for adventure, culture, and hospitality. We are honoured to have such an illustrious group of individuals come together to celebrate the beauty of Pakistan. He appreciated the efforts of Gaynor Shaw in publishing a book about the breathtaking scenery of Pakistan. The event featured a documentary that took the audience on a spectacular journey across Pakistan's most iconic tourist destinations. The event also included exclusive messages from renowned Australian mountaineers and adventurers Allie Pepper, who summited K-2 last month, and Sonia Thomas. They shared their experiences of exploring Pakistan's majestic peaks and rugged terrains.

The main highlight of the event was an exclusive launch of the book, "Reverie of the Highlands: A Visual Journey through Pakistan's Spectacular North" by Gaynor Shaw. The book, an ode to the northern regions of Pakistan, is a stunning visual narrative that captures the untouched beauty of the highlands. The book launch was followed by an interactive session in which the Author Gaynor Shaw, her spouse, former Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan H. E. Geoffrey Shaw and the High Commissioner for Pakistan shared their views about tourism in Pakistan and answered questions from the audience. During the discussion, Gaynor Shaw talked about traversing the rugged

terrains of Pakistan, and how the country's landscapes left an indelible mark on her. She said "Pakistan's northern highlands are a hidden gem, and through this book, I hope to reveal the untold stories of its mountains, rivers, and valleys. The people of Pakistan, with their warm hospitality, made this journey not just memorable, but transformative". H. E. Geoffrey Shaw also praised the natural and cultural treasures of Pakistan. He stated that "the warmth of the people and the grandeur of the landscapes are unforgettable. This book is not just a personal journey but a tribute to the vibrant diversity of Pakistan". The event ended with a traditional Rubab performance by Sumaira Khan and



her musical group, evoking the cultural richness and mystique of Pakistan's heritage. The guests, which included representatives from Australian government departments, members

of the diplomatic corps, prominent academicians, tour operators, media professionals, and members of the Pakistani community, attended the event, reflecting the broad interest in

fostering cultural and tourism ties between Australia and Pakistan. The guests also interacted with the author and the High Commissioner during the reception.

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Parliament's Reckless Amendments

When Parliament passed the Supreme Court Procedure and Practices Act 2023, analysts, including myself, predicted that the government, if it came to power in a subsequent term, would soon realize the shortsightedness of this move, as it was enacted mainly to curtail the powers of the then-outgoing Chief Justice, Atta Bandial. This act, which was quickly passed by Parliament and endorsed by the President without thorough deliberation, lacked the collective wisdom and broad consultation that are essential for any successful legislation.

The main provision of the newly amended Supreme Court Procedure and Practices (SCPP) Act 2024 is to empower the Chief Justice to select the third member of his choice for the three-member committee responsible for determining the composition of Supreme Court benches. This role is of paramount importance, as it greatly influences the direction any given case will take.

While the current Chief Justice, whom the government believes it has empowered through this amendment, will soon complete his tenure, the next Chief Justice—who is largely perceived as being less favorable to the government—is expected to assume this power. This upcoming Chief Justice is likely to hold office for several years and could leverage this authority to challenge the vested interests of the government, potentially creating significant challenges for them in the future.

Contrary to the established principle that enacting or amending laws requires thorough scrutiny to ensure they provide long-term benefits to the general public, the government appears to be enacting laws and amending existing ones hastily,

primarily in an attempt to maintain its hold on power. In doing so, they are deviating from established practices and legal norms, particularly the principle that laws should not be applied retrospectively. For instance, the retrospective amendments to the Election Act 2023 in Pakistan seem intended to alter the outcomes of elections conducted under that law, potentially undermining democratic principles and the legitimacy of the electoral process. Previously, election tribunals were required to resolve disputes within a stipulated six-month period. However, recent amendments introduced flexibility, allowing tribunals to seek extensions if cases were complicated or required more time.

The recent amendment to the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2024, signed by President Asif Ali Zardari, expands the Chief Justice of Pakistan's power to select a judge for the committee overseeing the Supreme Court's affairs, giving the Chief Justice more control over case assignments. The amendment also mandates that all hearings be recorded, with transcripts made publicly available. Additionally, a sub-clause limiting the right of appeal was removed.

These amendments, initially seen as advantageous for the government, may soon backfire and cause more harm to the ruling party than to any other institution. The government is likely to confront the Supreme Court over its larger bench verdict, which restored the PTI as a political party and allowed independent candidates to join it. The live hearings and the availability of transcripts to the public are expected to attract significant media

attention, potentially exposing inconsistencies in the government's stance and strengthening the position of opposition parties, particularly the PTI. Moreover, the removal of limitations on the right to appeal may end up benefiting the PTI more than the government itself.

In established democracies like the United Kingdom, United States, and Germany, there is a strong emphasis on the principle of legal certainty, which ensures that laws remain consistent and predictable, especially in matters like elections. Once elections are held under a specific law, subsequent processes—such as seat allocation, party status determination, and legal challenges—typically follow the legal framework in place at the time of the election. This principle ensures fairness, transparency, and respect for the democratic process.

For example, in the US presidential elections, the Electoral College process and state laws governing elections remain fixed and unaltered throughout the election cycle. Any changes to election laws or procedures are implemented prospectively, not retrospectively, to avoid influencing the outcome of elections that have already taken place.

In the case of Pakistan, the government's retrospective amendments to the Election Act 2023 appear to be an attempt to influence election outcomes and subsequent legal and procedural matters. Such amendments, especially if enacted with the intention of impacting ongoing court cases or the allocation of seats, violate the principles of legal certainty and rule of law. They create a sense of instability and undermine

public trust in democratic processes. Comparatively, established democracies typically avoid retrospective legislation that directly affects election outcomes. For instance, in the UK, the Representation of the People Act (which governs elections) undergoes amendments, but these are always applied to future elections. This ensures that the rules remain consistent throughout an electoral cycle, preventing any manipulation of election results post-facto.

Retrospective changes to election laws, as seen in Pakistan, can be perceived as attempts to manipulate the political landscape for short-term gains. Such practices can have long-term detrimental effects on democratic institutions, as they create an environment where electoral outcomes can be influenced by those in power, rather than reflecting the will of the people. In established democracies, any attempt to alter election laws retroactively would likely face strong resistance from the judiciary, civil society, and opposition parties, as it would be seen as undermining democratic principles.

The use of retrospective amendments to influence election outcomes and related processes, as observed in Pakistan, contrasts sharply with established democratic practices that prioritize legal certainty, fairness, and respect for the democratic process. To maintain the integrity of elections and democratic governance, it is crucial that any amendments to election laws be applied prospectively, ensuring that the rules in place at the time of the election remain the guiding framework for all subsequent actions.

Writer is Former Press Secretary to the President, Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former MD, SRBC and CEO, ATV



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

WHO appeals for more support for civilians as crises in Lebanon intensify

The international community must come to the aid of Lebanon in the face of back-to-back crises and spillover from the Israeli war in Gaza, the World Health Organization (WHO) representative in Beirut said Friday, as reports emerged of more Israeli airstrikes in the south.

Dr. Abdinasir Abubakar outlined how the UN agency has been supporting Lebanon's Ministry of Health, including following the wave of electronic device explosions this week.

Hundreds of pagers across the country simultaneously detonated on Tuesday, while walkie-talkies and even some solar panels blew up the following day. The attacks reportedly targeted the Hezbollah group, killing civilians, including children. On his part, Hezbollah has vowed to strike back.

Speaking at the regular briefing for correspondents in New York, Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric called for "maximum restraint" by all parties to the conflict.

"We are very concerned at the heightened escalation across the Blue Line including the deadly strike we saw in Beirut today", he added.

"We also urge the parties to immediately return to the cessation of hostilities... The region is on the brink of a catastrophe."

Dr. Abukakar told UN News, a media website, that as of Thursday evening, the Ministry of Health had recorded 37 deaths and more than 3,000 wounded.

WHO has been assisting Lebanon's hospitals to prepare for mass casualty events given the unrest in the region.

He described the past few days as "unprecedented", both for the country and the health system, "because in one time on September 17, from almost 3:30 up to 4 o'clock, almost 3,000 injured patients were rushed to hospitals, and the hospitals were not prepared enough, actually, to handle simultaneously that number of cases."

Following the explosions, WHO supported the Ministry of Health "to properly coordinate with the hospitals so at least there is a proper referral system," he said.

"We work with the emergency operation rooms to ensure that there's a proper coordination within the hospitals where patients can be referred from one hospital to another hospital."

Teams also dispensed and distributed supplies hospitals would need to manage cases, in addition to supporting the Lebanese Red Cross with proper supplies and testing kits for blood transfusions.

WHO also provided other support, including for mental healthcare services for health workers, patients and families, and to allow essential health services to continue.

The crisis is the latest challenge for Lebanon, where the health system has been severely impacted in recent years.

Dr. Abubkar said first there was the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by the devastating August 2020 explosion at the port in the capital, Beirut. The blast killed more than 200 people and caused millions in damage.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Awsat)

Why has the democratic system failed in our country?

The truth is that we have failed to shape our state structure according to democratic values.

Since the ruling elite has grown accustomed to indulging in wealth earned through the labor of the people, they will not allow the elimination of this monopoly through police force, judiciary, and legislation. The transfer of power and authority to the people and the protection of their economic interests is true democracy, but here it would mean the death of the ruling class. Therefore, in the prevalent personality-based political system, there is no room for public interest. This is why, when public interest is discussed, the entire elite unites to oppose it and protect their own interests. Or in a more concise version, We have failed to democratize our state structure, as the ruling elite prioritizes their own interests over public welfare, exploiting the system to maintain their power and wealth.

The truth is that the colonial system destroyed the entire world, and after its demise, all newly independent societies faced numerous fundamental issues in establishing state institutions and the legislative process. The most critical problem is how to provide a sound foundation for legislation and bring lawmakers within the realm of the law. A good

state's establishment relies on the mutual relationship between society and state institutions and their reciprocal support. Unfortunately, those in power do not consider the people. They often exploit them using authoritarian tactics, believing that the more they oppress the people, the stronger their power will be. After assuming power, they try to distance themselves from the people. This leads state institutions to adopt authoritarian policies, and the public feels they have no stake in the state and that politicians have used them for personal gain. This is not just a theoretical concept; it has been our reality for over seven decades. In this context, if we examine the world, democratic systems are prevalent in most countries for public governance. According to a recent report released on September 17, 2024, the number of democratic states is at an all-time high globally. However, the report reveals that declining voter turnout and increasing disputed electoral outcomes threaten democracy's credibility. The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance's report states that 2008-2023 saw a 10-point decrease in global voter turnout. The report evaluated democratic performance in 158 countries since 1975 and found that 47% experienced significant declines in key indicators over

the past five years, marking the eighth consecutive year of global democratic decline. The watchdog noted that every fifth national electoral process was legally challenged between mid-2020 and mid-2024, with voting and vote-counting being the most disputed aspects. The think tank, IDEA, uses four key categories to rank performance in its Global State of Democracy Indexes. They reported that 2023 was the worst year for free and fair elections and parliamentary oversight. The report highlighted that the United States, with upcoming presidential elections, showed some improvement in democratic performance over the past two years. However, the watchdog noted that the recent attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump underscored persistent threats. The report emphasized that despite numerous threats and decline, elections remain crucial for ensuring public control over decision-makers and policymakers. The report concluded that many elections have upheld their longstanding promise to serve as a means for public control over decision-makers. In summary, the current democratic system is flawed and declining, with voter turnout decreasing and disputed election outcomes increasing. This threatens democracy's credibility and may lead to authoritarianism. To prevent this, it is essential to improve the democratic system; otherwise, the world may enter a new era with significant geographical changes, primarily affecting multinational states.



Analysis

Tariq Khan Yousafzai

China: A look at the country's rapid transition over 75 years - I

Hamna Obaid

The People's Republic of China (PRC) was established on October 1, 1949, marking the beginning of a new era in Chinese history. Over the past 75 years, China has undergone profound transformations in its political, economic, social, and cultural spheres. From a war-torn and economically fragile state, it has emerged as a global superpower, influencing international politics and economics. Today, this most populous country of the world is one of the top leading nations in the international system. Its language (Mandarin Chinese) has the most number of speakers (1.1 billion) in the world after English. In the national flag of PRC, the red background symbolizes the Chinese Communist Revolution while the five stars and their relationship represents the unity of Chinese people under the leadership of the CCP.

Political Evolution
 The PRC's political journey began with the consolidation of power by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) under the leadership of Mao Zedong. The early years were marked by radical political campaigns such as the Great Leap Forward (1958-1962) and the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), which aimed at transforming China into a socialist society but resulted in significant socio-economic disruptions and human suffering. The death of Mao Zedong in 1976 marked a turning point, leading to the rise of Deng Xiaoping, who introduced the era of "Reform and Open-

ing-Up" in 1978. These opening-up policies and reforms shifted China from a centrally planned economy to a more market-oriented one, fostering rapid economic growth and development. These reforms also paved way for betterment of China's global relations as US president Nixon visited China for the first time in 1970s. Subsequent leaders, including Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao, and Xi Jinping, have continued to build on this foundation, each contributing to China's unique political landscape characterized by strong central governance and gradual political reforms.

Economic Transformation
 China's economic transformation over the past 75 years is one of the most notable in modern history. The economic reforms initiated by Deng Xiaoping led to the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), attracting foreign investment and boosting exports. China transitioned from an agrarian economy to an industrial powerhouse, becoming the world's second-largest economy by nominal GDP and the largest by purchasing power parity (PPP). The country's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001 further integrated China into the global economy, enhancing its trade relations and economic influence. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), launched in 2013, exemplifies China's ambition to expand its economic reach and build infrastructure networks across Asia, Europe, and Africa. Huawei (1987), Oppo (2004) and Xiaomi (2010) are some of the greatest productions of China that has contributed to the mobile sector worldwide as users of these phones exist in all the conti-

nents.

Social and Cultural Enrichment
 Chinese people respect hierarchy and appreciate proper social relations, full of harmony and with minimal conflict. Families in cities tend to live in apartments, often with grandparents. Filial piety and loyalty are valued by most Chinese families. China's socio-cultural landscape has also witnessed significant changes. The one-child policy, implemented in 1979 to control population growth, was replaced by a two-child policy in 2015 and later a three-child policy, reflecting demographic challenges such as an aging population and labor shortages. Urbanization has accelerated, with a significant portion of the population moving to cities, fostering economic opportunities and modern lifestyles. Religion in China is diverse and most Chinese people are either non-religious or practice a combination of Buddhism and Taoism with a Confucian worldview, which is collectively termed as Chinese folk religion.

Newspapers such as Red Flag and People's Daily keep the citizens updated about domestic and international affairs. The two primary news agencies are Xinhua News Agency and the China News Service. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 and until the 1980s, almost all media outlets in mainland China have been state-run. Privately owned media outlets only began to emerge at the onset of the Chinese economic reform, although state media continue to hold significant market share.

To be continued

Nepal Celebrates National & Constitutional Day

Pakistan, Nepal 'partner in fight against climate change': Federal Minister of Energy

Naveed Ahmad Khan

Federal Minister of Energy (Power Division) Sardar Awaish Ahmad Khan Leghari and Ambassador of Nepal Mr. Tapas Adhikari have noted climate change and environment as the key areas where both countries can and should work together because both are affected by this challenge. Their observations came at the National Day and Constitution Day of Nepal that was celebrated at Serena Hotels Islamabad on 20th Sep 2024.

Mr. and Mrs Tapas Adhikari, Ambassador of Nepal hosted a magnificent reception to mark the Day with national pride and bilateral resolve to further cement the already present cordial relations and close cooperation.

Minister Awaish Leghari was chief guest at the ceremony while notables from Gov, Armed Forces, Diplomatic Community, Businessmen, Civil Society and Media persons were also present to express their solidarity with Nepalese gov and people. Prominent among them were Mr. Ishphanyar Bhandara MNA, Dean of Diplomatic Corp Ambassador Turkmenistan Atadjan Movlamov, Former Minister State for Foreign Affairs Hammad Malik and others.

The hall was beautifully decorated with the cultural heritage, tourists attractions, mountains and landscape. Nepalese movie songs were also screened that made us recall the golden era of joint film productions between late 80s and early 90s.

Minister Leghari congratulated the people and gov of Nepal on their auspicious occasion and appreciated Nepal's role in maintaining a good neighborhood and playing constructive part at bilateral, regional and international levels.

Ambassador Tapas Adhikari, in his welcoming address, apprised the guests about the background of the Constitution Day of Nepal.

H. E shared, "On this day in 2015,



a diverse and inclusive elected representatives of the Constituent Assembly came together to craft a constitution which reflects the hopes, dreams and unity of the people of Nepal. This constitution stands as a symbol of our shared journey, our resilience and our commitment to building a brighter and inclusive future. To commemorate the day, the Gov of Nepal organizes the Constitution Day and National Day recalling the journey of constitution making and sharing the salient features of the Constitution."

"The Nepali Constitution embodies the principles of democracy, human rights, peace, progress and prosperity with social justice, equality and equity at its center. The Constitution is not just a document; it is a social contract that upholds the values of modern democracy, placing inclusivity at the heart of its vision, the Ambassador continued.

The Constitution provides the women their due place and role in Nepal. As Mr. Adhikari said, It guar-

antees the participation of women, marginalized groups and other minorities in the decision making process. One third of parliamentary and provincial assemblies' seats are reserved for women.

H. E added, "The foundation laid by the Constitution continues to grow stronger. Under the constitutional provisions, the first elected parliament has completed its 5 year term and now the second parliament is at the helm of affairs. Likewise, our provincial and local governments are working to meet the people's expectations for peace, progress and prosperity with steadfast commitment to equality, equality and justice."

Nepal Pakistan Relations

H. E Adhikari shed light on bilateral relations and cooperation as well. He noted that both countries enjoy friendly relations marked by cordiality, goodwill and cooperation ever since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1960. The relations have

expanded over the decades in multiple sectors including cooperation during the natural calamities like earthquakes in Nepal or in floods in Pakistan.

Many Nepali students are studying in Pakistan in the field of medical and engineering under technical assistance programme and those who have completed their courses are now contributing to their respective fields in Nepali. They have truly enriched our relations as well. We are grateful to the Gov of Pakistan for this important cooperation.

Nepal and Pakistan are founding members of SAARC and members of the United Nations with commitment to the charter of these organizations. Both countries have been consistently collaborating in bilateral, regional and multilateral forums working towards the common goals of promoting peace, stability and development.

Lately, both countries are actively engaged in advancing key agendas, including sustainable development,



climate action and environmental protection, recognizing that these efforts are crucial for the well being of our nations and the world at large.

There is a huge prospect of expanding and increasing our business

relations. We need to continue working together to expand them further for the mutual benefit of our countries and people.

Mountain & Adventure Tourism in Nepal

Nepal recognized as a global hub for mountain and adventure tourism. It is a learning center for mountaineering. A large number of foreign tourists including many from Pakistan visit Nepal for trekking, mountaineering and adventure related activities. Some glimpses are presented here on displays today as well. Nepal's diverse cultures and tradition and renowned hospitality have firmly placed our country on the global tourism map. Nepal is ready and eager to welcome guests for various tourism activities by offering unforgettable experiences to all visitors.

Ambassador saddened the guests by sharing that he is about to leave Pakistan for his next assignment. He has completed 4 eventful years in Pakistan. Minister Leghari lauded his services for enhancing bilateral cooperation and expressed best wishes for his future endeavors.

Photos Ramzan Mughal / Sultan Bashir



Sawasdee Pakistan

Thai Embassy, Centuras Mall organize Vibrant Thai Cultural Extravaganza

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Centaurus Mall in Islamabad was transformed into a vibrant showcase of Thai culture and cuisine as the Royal Thai Embassy in Pakistan and the Centaurus Mall collaborated to host the Sawasdee Pakistan Festival, a two-day celebration of the rich heritage of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The festival, which took place at the Centaurus Mall, was graced by the presence of Sardar Yasir Ilyas, the Chief Executive Officer of the Centaurus Mall, as well as ambassadors from the ASEAN countries. The event aimed to introduce both traditional and contemporary Thai culture to the Pakistani audience, offering an immersive experience that captivated visitors.

"Food has always been a signifi-

cant part of Thailand's culture, and we are pleased to share our culinary heritage with the people of Islamabad," said Miss Kamolwan Sriposil, the Chargé d'Affaires of the Royal Thai Embassy. "The Sawasdee Festival at the Centaurus Mall provides a wonderful opportunity for locals and expatriates alike to experience the vibrant and diverse flavors of Thailand, while also enjoying traditional Thai performances."

In addition to the delectable Thai cuisine prepared by the hotel's expert Thai chef, the festival featured live performances by a special Thai cultural troupe flown in directly from Thailand to enhance the festival's atmosphere. The menu showcased an array of traditional Thai dishes, from spicy salads to creamy curries, offering guests a true taste of Thailand.



Speaking at the event, Sardar Yasir Ilyas expressed his excitement for hosting the festival, stating, "We are thrilled to bring the rich flavors of Thailand to Islamabad through this vibrant festival. Our goal is to provide our guests with an immersive cultural experience, allowing them to savor authentic Thai cuisine while enjoying performances that showcase the beauty of Thai culture. We are honored to have the collaboration of the Royal Thai Embassy and look forward to welcoming everyone to this exciting event."

The festival also featured a

lucky draw with exciting prizes, including a free trip to Thailand, further adding to the festivities and engaging the attendees.

The Sawasdee Festival at the Centaurus Mall in Islamabad provided a unique opportunity for the local community to explore

the diverse and captivating culture of Thailand, fostering cultural exchange and promoting deeper understanding between the two nations.

Photos Ramzan Mughal / Sultan Bashir



Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
82,074.44	81,459.28
Day's High	Day's Low
82,372.19	81,387.57
Index Value	Change
24,398,522,009	+615.16
Percentage	Time
+0.76%	20 Sept, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,229.99	-98.73
Percentage	Time
-1.19%	20 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
42,093.82	+68.63
Percentage	Time
+0.16%	20 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
37,723.91	+568.58
Percentage	Time
+1.53%	20 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	188.25	190.50
Bahrain Dinar	734.20	742.20
Canadian Dollar	204.70	207.10
China Yuan	38.25	38.65
Danish Krone	40.03	40.43
Euro	308.00	310.75
Hong Kong Dollar	35.68	36.03
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.93	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	900.65	910.15
Malaysian Ringgit	59.3	60.3
New Zealand \$	169.34	171.34
Norwegians Krone	26.14	26.44
Omani Riyal	718.50	727.00
Qatari Riyal	76.44	77.14
Saudi Riyal	74.08	74.63
Singapore Dollar	201.85	203.85
Swedish Korona	26.15	26.45
Swiss Franc	328.70	331.50
Thai Bhat	7.55	7.7
U.A.E Dirham	75.7	76.30
UK Pound Sterling	367.5	371
US Dollar	279.25	280.75

Gold prices reach new all-time high in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Gold prices in Pakistan reached a new all-time high of Rs272,500 per tola in Pakistan after the yellow metal price for one tola of gold rose by Rs500. The price for 10 grams of gold climbed to Rs233,625, marking an increase of Rs429, according to the All-Pakistan Gems and Jewellers Sarafa Association. On Friday, gold prices surged by Rs3,500, settling at Rs272,000 per tola. Meanwhile, silver prices remained unchanged at Rs2,950 per tola.

ICCI elects Nasir Mansoor Qureshi as President

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The election for the office bearers of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the year was held at Chamber House on Saturday. As per election results, Nasir Mansoor Qureshi was elected as President, Abdul Rahman Siddiqui, Senior Vice President and Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry, as Vice President. All the candidates were elected unopposed and will formally take over the charge of their offices on October 1, 2024.

Speaking at the occasion, the newly elected President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi said that he would strive hard for the progress and prosperity of business community by focusing on resolving its issues.

He said that the liaison with business related

government departments and other relevant organizations would be further strengthened to address the problems of trade and industry. He said that he would take the fraternity on board on important issues and for ease of doing businesses. He said that workable proposals would be given to the government for creating conducive environment for business activities.

President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari congratulated the newly elected office bearers and assured them of his full support and cooperation in their endeavors aimed at resolving the key issues of the business community. He also thanked all the members for their votes to the candidates of the Founder Group and enabling them to achieve historic win.

Khalid Iqbal Malik, Chairman Founder

Group congratulated the newly elected office bearers and said that their unopposed election reflected the trust and confidence of business community on the leadership of Founder Group.

Former President ICCI and Secretary General United Business Group (UBG) Zafar Bakhtawari while congratulating the newly elected office bearers expressed the hope that they will leave no stone unturned in serving the fraternity and further promoting the image of the Chamber.

Newly elected Senior Vice President Abdul Rahman Siddiqui said that connecting local businessmen with regional and global markets and increasing trade will remain the part of their core vision.

Newly elected Vice President Nasir

Mahmood Chaudhry said that they are well aware of the problems being faced by the community at present and are fully prepared to get resolved these challenges.

SVP Faad Waheed, VP Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Founder Group senior members Zubair Ahmed Malik, Khalid Javed, Abdur Rauf Allam, Mian Akram Farid, Mian Shaukat Masud, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Ch. Waheed ud Din., Shaikh Tariq Sadiq, Group leader Blue area Yousaf Rajput, President All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajraan Ajmal Baloch and other have felicitated the newly elected office bearers of ICCI and expressed good wishes for them.

The Chief Election Commissioner Zahid Maqbool, along with the Commission's members Khalid Chaudhry and Zaheer ud Din Babar announced the results amid clapping.

ICCI Election

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, alongwith President elect Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, Vice President Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry, Chairman Founder Group Khalid Iqbal Malik, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawari, former Presidents FPCCI Zubair Ahmed Malik, Abdu Rauf Allam, former presidents ICCI Khalid Javadi, Shaikh Tariq Saidq, Ch. Waheed ud Din., Mian Shaukat Masood, M. Ejaz Abbasi, Ch. Masood, President All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajraan Ajmal Baloch, Aamir Waheed Shaikh, Kashif Ch. Khalid Ch. Nisar Ahmed Mirza, Babar Ch. Imtiaz Abbasi and others can also be seen.



CCP Scrutinizes Misleading Discount Advertisements

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), while taking action against retailers advertising discounts as "up to a percentage" during the "End of Season Sales" issued notices to 20 brands, seeking clarification on their potentially misleading discount practices.

Such unspecified discount offers are akin to 'Bait and Switch Advertising' defined as a tactic to mislead buyers, whereby a seller advertises an appealing but spurious offer to sell a product or service that the seller does not actually intend to sell. Instead, the seller offers an unwanted alternative which is prohibited under Section 10 of the Act as Deceptive Marketing Practices.

Market Intelligence Unit/Office of Fair Trade of the CCP conducted a random

survey in the twin cities and identified various brands offering discounts "Up to Some Percentage" on their products. The survey revealed that maximum (upper limit) discount was being offered on a small collection of least attractive articles and the most popular and frequently purchased items were available with minimal or no discount.

Consequently, a clear gap was observed between the advertised discounts and the real offers, compelling the customers to ask multiple questions to determine the actual discounts available on their chosen items. Some of the brands were, however, offering flat discounts or concessions (discounts up to some upper limit) with adequate disclosures/disclaimers i.e. on the entire/limited or specified stock which is highly appreciated by the CCP.

The Commission advises various consumer brands offering discounts to preclude distributing any misleading information and ensure clear and adequate disclosures regarding actual and discounted prices with the details of the stock on offer with flat or differential discounts. Undertakings, Brands and outlets violating this directive may face enforcement action by the CCP under Section 10 of the Competition Act, 2010. Similarly, consumers are also advised to exercise vigilance while availing discounts and sales offers to avoid falling victim to deceptive marketing practices.

CCP remains committed to its mandate under the Competition Act, 2010 continuously striving to ensure free competition, enhance economic efficiency, and protect consumers from anti-competitive behavior.

FBR sets Sept 30 deadline for income tax returns: Spokesperson

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Spokesperson Bakhtiar Muhammad Saturday cautioned citizens against last-minute rush, advising them to file their income tax returns well before the September 30 deadline and emphasized that no extensions will be granted.

Talking to a private news channel, Bakhtiar Muhammad urged taxpayers to submit their taxes on time to boost Pakistan's economy.

By doing so, the government aims to promote a culture of tax compliance, which is crucial for the country's economic stability and growth.

Responding to a query, he said that FBR is committed to improving the capability

of our tax system through the application of modern techniques.

This includes leveraging data analytics and artificial intelligence (AI) to identify and combat tax evasion, upgrading tax infrastructure, and enhancing audit and verification processes, he added.

To support taxpayers, the FBR is providing assistance and simplifying tax laws and procedures, he said.

The Iris portal, a user-friendly tax filing system, is a key initiative in this effort, he said, adding that the FBR is focused on building a motivated, satisfied, dedicated, and professional workforce through training and development programs, fostering a culture of professionalism and integrity and encouraging employee motivation and job satisfaction.

HID launches the FARGO HDP5000e in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: HID*, a worldwide leader in trusted identity solutions, today announces the launch of the next-generation FARGO® HDP5000e designed to deliver vibrant, high definition cards and IDs across Pakistan.

HID's Isaac Young, VP & Head of FARGO, stated, "The HDP5000e is where unparalleled reliability meets exceptional usability and performance — setting a new standard for the everyday retransfer card printing experience."

Built on the rock-solid foundation of the renowned HDP5000 printer series and proven retransfer technology over the last 25 years, the HID FARGO



HDP5000e ID card printer emerges as the next iteration of this market-leading solution, poised to redefine the standards of reliability, usability and printing excellence.

PPP Alliance makes successful visits to major markets, commercial centres

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The candidates of PIAF Pioneer Progressive Alliance Associate Class along with its leaders including Chairman PPP Alliance Mian Anjum Nisar, Former President Lahore Chamber Muhammad Ali Mian, Haris Atiq, Abdul Wadud Alvi, Malik Khalid Gujjar, Usman Malik, Imran Asghar, Sheikh Sajjad Afzal and PIAF executive committee made successfully visits to several major important commercial centers of Lahore, Anar Kali, Abakari Road, Urdu Bazar, Maryam Tower and Chamber Lane Road.

Fahimur Rahman from Chamber Lane Road Market, representing his market, assured the full support of PIAF Alliance from the traders of his market. President Abid Pal, Vice President Fazal Javed, General Secretary Ali Raza and other officials and businessmen also welcomed the leaders of PIAF Pioneer Progressive Alliance and announced their support from Chamber Lane Road Market. A large number of the supporters of PIAF Mian Anjum Nisar Group participated in these visits. Addressing the businessmen on this occasion, Patron-in-chief Mian Anjum Nisar called to end family politics from Lahore Chamber. He pledged that he will come to power and solve all the problems related to businessmen and industrialists from the government.

Senior Vice Chairman PIAF Nasrullah Mughal, Vice Chairman PIAF Tahir Manzoor Chaudhary, Former Chairman PIAF Muhammad Ali Mian, Senior Vice President Zafar Chaudhry, Vice President Adnan Khalid



Butt and others were present.

Major Cigarette Manufacturer Price Slash Increases Cigarette Accessibility: Federal Law Breach Raises Urgent Health and Economic Concerns

Islamabad, September 19, 2024 – A leading cigarette manufacturer has drastically reduced the prices of its local cigarette packs, slashing prices from PKR 483 to PKR 283, a reduction of nearly 50%. This significant cut, aimed at reviving declining sales, not only raises urgent

concerns about increased cigarette accessibility but also constitutes a clear breach of the Federal Excise Act of 2005. The newly priced cigarettes are available in the local market, further amplifying these concerns.

The Federal Excise Act explicitly prohibits cigarette manufacturers from reducing retail prices below those set at the time of the latest budget announcement. This move to reduce prices so sharply undermines this regulation, designed to limit tobacco accessibility and

curb smoking rates. By making cigarettes more affordable, the company is effectively increasing their accessibility to a broader audience, including vulnerable youth. This is particularly alarming given that, according to recent data, approximately 1,200 children between the ages of 6 and 15 start smoking every day in Pakistan.

Mr. Zulfikar Ali, General Manager Programs and Projects at the Human Development Foundation (HDF), expressed

profound concern over the implications of this price cut: "This price reduction blatantly disregards the Federal Excise Act and significantly increases the accessibility of cigarettes. This not only violates regulatory safeguards but also poses a severe risk to public health. By making cigarettes more affordable, the company is likely to attract younger individuals, exacerbating smoking rates among children and teenagers and leading to a rise in tobacco-related health issues."

The potential consequences of this breach extend beyond regulatory non-compliance. Ms. Arooj Rajput, Project Manager of the Tobacco Control Campaign at HDF, highlighted the broader economic impact: "The increased accessibility of cigarettes due to this price cut could lead to a spike in youth smoking rates. This, in turn, would result in higher long-term healthcare costs and put additional strain on public health resources. Furthermore, the anticipated rise in cigarette sales on lower price tiers may reduce tobacco tax revenues for the government, exacerbating existing financial pressures."

This decision to cut prices and boost sales through increased accessibility not only violates federal law but also threatens to escalate tobacco consumption among youth, with serious implications for public health and economic stability. HDF urgently calls on the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to take immediate notice of this breach and enforce appropriate measures to address the violation. Additionally, HDF urges the implementation of effective public health policies to mitigate the adverse effects of increased tobacco use.

Shahzaib Rind receives heroic welcome after clinching world title

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Shahzaib Rind, the newly crowned World Karate Combat Light Heavyweight Champion was accorded a hero's welcome upon his return to Pakistan from Singapore on late Saturday.

Secretary Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination Nadeem Irshad Kayani, Additional Secretary Zahoor Ahmed, Deputy Director General Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) Shahid Islam, officials of Prime Minister's Youth Programme, former Deputy Mayor Islamabad Zeeshan Ali Naqvi and a large crowd of enthusiastic fans greeted him at Islamabad International Airport with warm applause and cheers.

Shahzaib won Karate Combat KC-49

Championship, overpowering Brazilian fighter Luiz Victor Rocha in Singapore in an intense bout on Wednesday. He remained unbeaten throughout the tournament, making history as the first Pakistani to win a major world championship in the martial arts.

Shahzaib has previously won the Combat League in the United States. He is also a six-time national champion.

His victory has sparked national pride, with fans waving flags and chanting slogans in celebration of his remarkable achievement. The Ministry of IPC and PSB officials lauded Shahzaib's hard work, discipline and dedication, crediting him for bringing pride to the nation.

Speaking to the media, Shahzaib expressed his gratitude to his supporters,



the PSB and his training team for helping him achieve this milestone. "This victory is not just mine but belongs to the whole nation," he said, visibly moved by the outpouring of support.

He said right from the outset he was sure to emerge victorious. "This is just a beginning. I'm determined to continue winning the titles and bring laurels for my country," he added.

Combaxx Sports will continue its support for the promotion of the game of softball, Zubair Macha

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Trinity Greens won the title of "Combaxx Sports Softball Talent Hunt Championship" held under the auspices of the Softball Federation of Pakistan, by defeating Karachi Whites by 5 runs.

In the final played at Trinity Girls School and College Ground, Trinity Greens scored 8 runs in three innings whereas Karachi Whites managed to score just 3 runs in three innings.

On behalf of the winning team, Amina Mushtaq, Zainab Nasir and Faiza Babar scored 2 runs, while Maryam, Kulsoom and Marfra scored 1 run each on behalf of Karachi Whites.

The chief guest of the prize distribution ceremony was Zubair Macha, General Manager of Combaxx Sports.

On this occasion, the President of



the Softball Federation of Pakistan Asif Azeem, Principal of Trinity College Mrs Irene Pearl, Secretary of Audit Kamran Kaleem, Vice President of the Federation Tehmina Asif, President of Karachi Softball Muhammad Nasir, Secretary Faraz Ijaz, Elizabeth Majeed Gul, Nahid

Liaquat, and a large number of players and students were present.

While speaking on the occasion, GM of Combaxx Sports Zubair Macha said that youth are the future of Pakistan, and healthy players are the message of a strong Pakistan from the platform of

Combaxx Sports.

The talent hunt program at the level of educational institutions will give young players ample opportunities to express their talents, for which Combaxx Sports will continue its support for the development and promotion of softball at the national level.

Asif Azeem said that the exemplary discipline was shown by all the teams during the talent hunt championship, I congratulate all the players and officials on my behalf, especially the performance of Karachi softball to make the event a success and their performance is worthy of praise.

Later, Zubair Macha along with Asif Azeem, Kamran Kaleem, Mrs. Irene Pearl and Tehmina Asif distributed trophies, shields and souvenirs to the successful players and officials.

ICC Women T20 World Cup Trophy ceremony held at Government College University



Abdul Majid

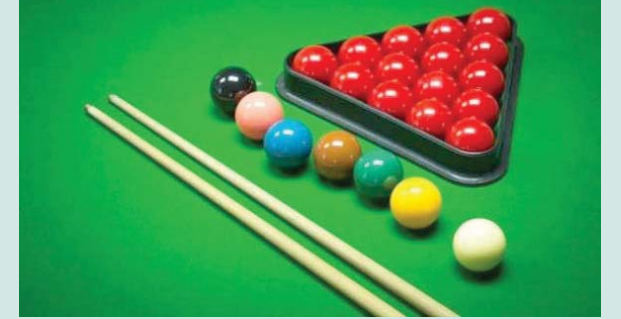
FAISALABAD: Directorate of Sports Government College University Faisalabad and Pakistan Cricket Board in collaboration with International Cricket Council inaugurated Women's Cricket World Trophy in Dubai. Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Amin, Director Sports Zeeshan Ahmed Khan, Dr. Tayyaba Sultana, Dr. Maryam Rehman and Adnan Ali General Manager International Cricket Operations unveiled the trophy along with the students.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Amin said in his speech that it is a matter of great honor for GC University and the city of Faisalabad that the World Trophy has been brought for the unveiling. Appreciate the efforts. He expressed prayers and good wishes for the victory of Pakistan Women Cricket Team.

Director Sports Zeeshan Ahmed Khan paid tribute to Chairman Higher Education, Director Sports Higher Education Javed Ali Memon, Amara Rabab In-charge of Sports Kintred College for their services regarding sports in universities.

Asjad, Awais victorious in World 6Red Snooker C'ship

Sports Desk



ISLAMABAD: Pakistani cueists Asjad Iqbal and Awais Muneer earned victories on day 1 of the IBSF World 6Red Snooker Championship at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

On Day 1st, Asjad beat Ulziitogtokh Davaasuren (Mongolia) 4-1 (50-18, 75(75)-0, 82(75)-0, 0-73(73), 64(61)-0) while Awais Muneer outplayed Mendsaikhan Bat-Erdene (Mongolia) 4-2 (64(64)-0, 20-45, 0-54(47), 54-10, 53-21, 46-15).

On Sunday, Asjad will play Pandurangiah E (India) and Alijalil Ali (Iraq) while Awais would face Jia Jun Ong (Singapore) and Shachar Ruberg (Israel), respectively.

Tayyab's ton in vain as Panthers seal nail-biter win over Stallions

Tayyab Tahir's century and Zaman Khan's cameo failed to eclipse Saim Ayub's 156 as Panthers thumped Stallions in a high scoring game, winning their third consecutive match of the Champions One-Day Cup at Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad on Saturday.

Muhammad Haris-led side was bundled out on 324 in reply of Panthers' 344/7 despite Zaman Khan's 42-run cameo, with 6 sixes, towards the end.

Earlier, Saim Ayub, who had stepped up as the team's skipper in the absence of Shadab Khan, steered his side to a mammoth 344/7 total with the help of his ton.

The 22-year-old led from the front and took on the Stallions' bowlers throughout after he decided to bat first.

Saim crafted a stunning 156 off 130 balls, which included 13 boundaries and 7 sixes at a strike rate of 120. His commanding innings anchored the Panthers' batting, laying a solid foundation for a massive total.

Saim was well supported by Azan Awais, who contributed a steady 51 off 77 deliveries. Together, they put on a strong 138-run partnership for the first wicket before Awais was dismissed by Abrar Ahmed.

Usman Khan added further firepower, smashing 75 off just 47 balls, laced with 8 fours and 4 sixes, boosting the Panthers' momentum. His aggressive knock helped propel the team towards a competitive score, especially after Saim's solid groundwork.

After Usman's dismissal at 254 in the 39th over, Mubasir Khan added 18 off 15 balls, but a series of quick wickets followed. Saim eventually fell in the 46th over, caught by Jahandad off Zaman Khan's bowling.

Following his departure, a mini-collapse ensued, with Amad Butt (2), Haider Ali (8), and Arafat Minhas (1) falling in quick succession. Despite the middle-order stutter, Rizwan Mehmood's unbeaten 14 off 9 balls helped Panthers finish strong.

Clutch Carey aids Australia to thump England in second ODI

A Sports

LEEDS: Alex Carey scored a defiant half-century which turned out to be a cornerstone in leading Australia to a statement 68-run victory over England in the second ODI of the five-match series here at Headingley on Saturday.

Australia were reeling at 221/9 in 36.3 overs despite a counter-punching half-century by skipper Mitchell Marsh in the middle.

But Carey led them out of trouble and to a decent total of 270 all out with a one-sided partnership with Josh Hazlewood.

Carey remained the top-scorer for Australia with a 67-ball 74, laced up with eight fours and three sixes. He was finally dismissed by Olly Stone in the fifth over.

Earlier, after being put into bat first, the visitors lost their in-form opener Travis Head (29) early with just 46 runs on the board in the ninth over, which



paved the way for Marsh's onslaught.

The right-handed batter smashed six fours and three sixes on his way to a 59-ball 60 before eventually falling victim to Jacob Bethell in the 26th over,

reducing Australia to 151/5.

Australia kept on losing wickets and eventually slipped to just one wicket away from bundling out on a modest total before Alex Carey turned the tide

in their favour.

Brydon Carse was the star with the ball for England, picking up three wickets. He was followed by Bethell, Adil Rashid and Potts, who bagged two each.

The 271-run target turned out to be sufficient for new-look England, who had slipped to 56/5 inside 10 overs.

Wicketkeeper batter Jamie Smith offered some fightback with a cautious 49 until falling victim to Hazlewood in the 31st over, leaving England in tatters at 159/7.

England's batting tail was toothless against a disciplined Australia bowling attack as their remaining three wickets only yielded 43 runs, resulting in the home side being eventually booked on 202 with around 10 overs to spare.

Mitchell Starc led Australia's bowling charge with three wickets. He was backed by fellow pacer Hazlewood, Glenn Maxwell and Aaron Hardie, who took two apiece.

India hold upper hand despite spirited Bangladesh chase in first Test

Sports Desk

Centuries from Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant helped India close in on victory in the first Test despite a spirited start to Bangladesh's chase for their target of 515 in Chennai on Saturday.

Bangladesh started briskly but lost wickets to reach 158-4 when bad light stopped play on day three, with the visitors still needing 357 for a win.

India earlier declared their second innings on 287-4.

Pant, who made 109, and Gill, unbeaten on 119, put on 167 runs for the fourth wicket to ram home India's advantage in the second session after they bundled out Bangladesh for 149 on day two.

Bangladesh skipper Najmul

Hossain Shanto was unbeaten on 51 at the close of play, with Shakib Al Hasan on five.

India were hitting Bangladesh with some "quality bowling", Bangladesh batting coach David Hemp told reporters. "Very confident side, especially at home, so you are going to be challenged," he said.

"So it's a case of how do we match that. You have to look to score and that's what we just reinforce... to the batting group, to trust their strengths."

India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin took three wickets to add to his 113 with the bat in his team's first innings total of 376.

Bangladesh openers Zakir Hasan and Shadman Islam began briskly with 62 runs for the first wicket before Jasprit Bumrah

ended their defiant stand to send back Zakir for 33. Ashwin dismissed Shadman for 35.

The veteran off-spinner kept up the charge when he bowled left-handed Mominul Haque for 13 with a flighted delivery that also turned. He then had Mushfiqur Rahim caught out, also for 13.

Najmul stood firm to reach his fifty and, with fellow left-hander Shakib for company, the two saw off the day in fading light.

The left-handed wicketkeeper-batsman Pant earlier smashed the Bangladesh bowlers to all parts of the ground before a double off Shakib gave him his sixth Test century.

The 26-year-old, who survived a near-fatal car crash in December 2022, took off his helmet and

raised his bat to acknowledge a standing ovation from the weekend crowd.

Pant fell caught and bowled by spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz after his 128-ball knock that included 13 fours and four sixes.

Gill kept up the charge and raised his fifth Test ton before skipper Rohit Sharma called him and KL Rahul, on 22, back.

"Having got out the way I got out in the first innings, I was obviously very disappointed," Gill said of his first-innings duck. "But it further motivated me to be able to spend a lot of time at the crease and put extra value on my wicket."

Gill and Pant, who survived a dropped catch by Najmul off Shakib on 72, started cautiously on India's overnight score of 81-3



after early morning rain.

Pant let loose with two boundaries before Gill smashed Mehidy for two sixes in an over to raise his fifty.

The batting duo handled the spinners with ease and jumped out of the crease to hit boundaries.

India are looking to extend their lead at the top of the World Test

Championship rankings as they begin a fresh Test season of 10 matches.

Bangladesh have never beaten India in a Test.

Meeting with Chinese Minister

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Chinese Minister for Political and Legal Affairs Chen Mingguo on Saturday.



Photo: PID

Mohsin Naqvi meets Chinese delegation led by minister Chen Mingguo

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met with a high-level Chinese delegation led by Minister for Political and Legal Affairs Chen Mingguo, on Saturday.

Minister for Interior warmly welcomed Minister Chen Mingguo and his delegation upon their arrival at the Ministry of Interior.

During the meeting, it was agreed to enhance cooperation in various fields, including counter-terrorism, cross-border cooperation, anti-smuggling, and anti-narcotics efforts.

During the meeting, Pakistan-China relations, particularly with Xinjiang, and matters of mutual interest were discussed.

During the meeting, it was agreed to conduct joint police and paramilitary forces exercises in Gilgit-Baltistan or Xinjiang and train Gilgit-Baltistan police officers at the Xinjiang Police Academy.

During the meeting, it was also agreed that comprehensive measures would be taken against terrorism which is a global issue. It was also decided that a Pakistani delegation, led by the Federal Secretary of Inter-

rior, would soon visit Xinjiang to enhance mutual cooperation. Chinese Minister Chen Mingguo also invited Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi to visit Xinjiang.

Mohsin Naqvi said that Xinjiang province is of vital importance for Pakistan in its relations with China. He underscored that besides being Pakistan's neighbor, we have a 600-kilometer-long border with Xinjiang.

He added that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project also passes through Xinjiang. He emphasized that Pakistan wants to

completely eliminate smuggling of drugs, arms, and all other goods.

He noted that the visit of the Pakistani delegation to Xinjiang would open new avenues for strengthening mutual cooperation.

Minister Chen Mingguo expressed the desire to enhance relations with Pakistan in all fields.

He said that terrorism is a common problem, adding that Xinjiang had suffered from it for many years.

He highlighted that Pakistan can benefit from Xinjiang's experience in counter-terror-

ism.

Pakistan-China relations, particularly with Xinjiang, and matters of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting.

The Chinese delegation included Xinjiang's Deputy Secretary of the Committee of Parliamentary and Legal Affairs, Executive Director General of Police, and Vice President of Xinjiang Police Academy. Secretary Interior Khurram Ali Agha, Special Secretary Interior Waqas Ali Mahmood, and Additional Secretary Interior Nazir Muhammad Buzdar were also present on the occasion.

PTI dares not to hold another Jalsa after flop show in Lahore: Atta Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Saturday said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) would not dare to hold another public gathering anywhere in the country after a flop show in Lahore which witnessed a minimal turn-out of the people.

Talking to the media, the minister said the PTI had miserably failed to galvanize the support of their workers for the public gathering in Lahore, despite the all-out facilitation by the administration which not only kept the roads completely open but also provided a foolproof security in the designated area.

No obstacle was placed



in any city, including Islamabad, Attock, and Mianwali, from where the PTI had asked their workers to participate in the public gathering, he said, adding their leadership and

workers were given free access to enter Lahore from across the country.

He said similarly, the PTI had failed to gather the people in their public gathering of

Islamabad, which also saw the presence of a small number of the people.

The minister challenged the PTI leadership to release drone shots of their public gathering in Lahore, which exposed their support among the masses.

Tarar said this showed that the people of Pakistan had rejected them completely, showing full confidence in the governance of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief Minister of Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, who have been taking crucial steps to provide relief to the masses.

He said the people of Pakistan knew that the inflation had been reduced to a single digit, which, during the tenure of the PTI, reached a double digit from the four percent that

was achieved under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif.

The international financial institutions are acknowledging that the Pakistani economy was taking off, while Bloomberg identified Pakistan's stock market as an emerging and best market in Asia, he said, adding Fitch and Moody had improved ratings for Pakistan as well.

He said there has been 14 per cent increase in exports, current account deficit was shrinking, and the policy rate was reduced to attract foreign investment. The progress of Pakistan under the leadership of PM Shehbaz had stunned the opposition which was hell-bent on creating a situation of chaos and anarchy in the country to halt the development process, he added.

Rana Tanveer initiates process to enhance provincial coordination for SMEs development

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain has initiated a process to enhance coordination with provincial governments for equitable development of the SMEs across the country as per advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

In this regard, he held a meeting with Punjab government's Industries department at PCOM, according to a SMEA spokesman here Saturday. The meeting was also attended by Ehsan Bhutta, Secretary Industries

Punjab, and Ms. Saira Umar, Managing Director PSIC, from the Punjab government. The minister was accompanied by Saif Anjum, Federal Secretary Industries and Production and Soerat Aman Rana, Chief Executive Officer of SMEA. A number of the other senior officers including GM SMEA Ms. Saleha Saeed and Ms. Nadia Jehangir Seth.

Addressing the meeting, the federal minister said that Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) play a crucial role in the economy of any country, contributing significantly to employ-



ment generation, economic growth, innovation, and social stability. SMEs are essential drivers of economic development, job creation, innovation, and social progress. The Small Medium Enter-

prises have momentous role in economic development of the country. Small businesses can play a key role in shaping the national growth strategy, he said, adding the development and progress of Small Medium Enterprises are top priority of the current government. The government is determined to maintain equitable development of SMEs in all provinces of the country that is why a coordination process has been initiated with provinces on direction of the PM, he said and assured that the government will facilitate and incentivize SMEs to achieve optimal economic growth in the country. He said that such coordination meetings would also be held with other province on regular basis to maintain a conducive support mechanism for SMEs across the country.

CCoSOEs approves reconstitution of PRAL's Board of Directors



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSOEs) on Saturday approved the summary of the Revenue Division regarding the reconstitution of the Board of Directors of Pakistan Revenue Automation private limited (PRAL) as per terms specified under the State Owned Enterprises Act 2023.

The meeting was met under the chairmanship of Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb (virtual), said a news release.

Earlier, the meeting considered the recommendation of five majority independent directors and four ex-officio members by the Board Nominations Committee as per Section (1) of Section 10 of the Enterprises (Governance and Operations) Act, 2023.

The meeting was told that all the five members recommended for positions of independent directors were drawn from the private sector and possessed vast relevant experience in

top management positions besides having high-end professional qualifications, expertise and academic background in law, accountancy and management.

The meeting considered the summary and accorded strong endorsement to the proposal.

Muhammad Aurangzeb lauded the step to have majority independent directors in the Board, and complemented the selection of very prominent professionals from the SME sector to run the Board in a professional manner.

He hoped the new Board would be able to observe strong oversight and good management of PRAL to help achieve revenue generation goals.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh, Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Rashid Mahmood Langrial (virtual), Chairman Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) Akif Saeed (virtual), federal secretaries, and senior officers from relevant ministries and departments.

North Korea has appointed Choe Chang Man as Ambassador to Pakistan



Spokesman Report

SEOUL: As per the report of KCNA, Choe Chang Man has been appointed as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to Pakistan.

The official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported "Choe

Chang Man has been appointed as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan".

KCNA did not provide more details over the development and only reported that DPRK Ambassador to Pakistan has been appointed.

Message from Federal Minister for Commerce on International Peace Day

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: On this International Peace Day, I urge to reflect on the true essence of peace—both as individuals and as nation. In these challenging times, our country faces not only economic and social difficulties but also the urgent need to heal divisions within our society.

Peace is not just a global aspiration; it starts at home, in our communities, and in our daily interactions. As Pakistan navigates through economic recovery, political challenges, and societal transformations, it is vital that we

stand united, embrace diversity, and resolve our differences with tolerance and respect.

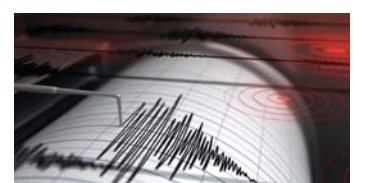
The future of Pakistan depends on our ability to live in harmony, to work together for the common good, and to uplift each other as one resilient nation. Let us reject hatred and division, and instead, champion dialogue, understanding, and compassion.

Only by fostering peace within can we hope to achieve lasting stability, development, and prosperity for all. On this International Peace Day, I call on every Pakistani to contribute to a peaceful, inclusive, and united Pakistan.

Earthquake jolts Swat, adjoining areas

ISLAMABAD, SEP 21 (APP): An earthquake measuring 4.7 on the Richter scale jolted Swat and its surrounding areas on Saturday. According to the National Seismic Monitoring Centre (NSMC), reported a private news channel.

The earthquake's depth was recorded at 89 kilometers, with its epicenter located in the Hindu Kush Mountain range. Tremors were felt across Swat and adjoining regions,



causing brief panic among residents. However, no immediate reports of damage or casualties have been received.