

# Independent

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Vol. XIV No. 221 Reg. mails-B/ID-445 Tuesday September 24, 2024, Rabi-ul-Awwal 19, 1446 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

## Sends birthday wishes to PM Shehbaz President Xi reaffirms time-tested Pak-China ties

PM thanks President Xi for "gracious gesture" of birthday greetings

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday sent a congratulatory letter to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, extending his warm birthday wishes and reaffirming the promotion of China-Pakistan strategic cooperation and the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The letter received by Prime Minister Shehbaz on his 73rd birthday from President Xi is an extraordinary development in solidifying the diplomatic relationship between both countries, according to a PM Office press release.

Conveying his good wishes to the prime minister, Xi said that Pakistan and China had been enjoy-

ing a strategic partnership through thick and thin marked by mutual trust and support which remained unaffected by any changing international scenario.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday thanked Chinese President Xi Jinping for extending the warm wishes on his 73rd birthday.

"I am grateful for this gracious gesture that reflects the iron brotherhood and All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and the People's Republic of China," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline in response to a congratulatory letter he received from President Xi.



President Asif Ali Zardari, Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Saad Ahmed Al-Malkiy and Chief Minister Punjab and Governor Sindh are cutting cake on the National Day of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), in Islamabad.

President Zardari says

## Pakistan committed to further strengthening ties with KSA

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday reiterated Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening bilateral cooperation with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) in the areas of economy, trade, defence, culture, education and people-to-people contacts.

The president expressed these views while addressing the National Day Reception of KSA, hosted by Saudi Embassy to celebrate the 94th Anniversary of the National Day of the KSA here. The event

was attended by the federal ministers, diplomats, dignitaries, and civil and military officers.

While extending heartfelt felicitations to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud and the people of Saudi Arabia on their National Day, the president highlighted that both brotherly countries enjoyed excellent relations in various fields and had always sup-

ported each other during challenging times.

The president expressed deep appreciation for the vision of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and the significant progress achieved by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He remarked that the bold initiatives taken by the Crown Prince would propel the country towards greater progress and prosperity. The president wished Saudi Arabia continued success on this transformative journey.

## SC's detailed verdict declares PTI eligible for reserved seats Election authorities denying major political party recognition infringes electorate's rights: SC

Constitution doesn't prevent any party from fielding candidates; Judgment nullifies ECP's decision to allocate seats to other parties.

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court on Monday released its detailed verdict on the July 12 order in the reserved seats case, which had declared the PTI a parliamentary party.

The 8-5 majority July order had declared ex-premier Imran Khan's PTI eligible for seats reserved for women and minorities, dealing a major setback to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's ruling coalition.

Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah had announced the majority verdict, which was supported by seven other judges: Justices Munib Akhtar, Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Ayesha A Malik, Athar Minaallah, Syed Hasan

Azhar Rizvi, Shahid Waheed and Irfan Saadat Khan.

The case had been heard by a 13-member bench — Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail had penned a minority judgment, Justices Aminuddin Khan and Naeem Akhtar Afghan in their ruling had rejected the pleas for reserved seats; and Justice Yahya Afridi had also dismissed the Sunni Ittehad Council's petitions.

Despite the 8-5 split, all 13 judges had declared the PTI a parliamentary party as they ruled that out of a list of 80 MNAs, 39 belonged to the PTI while

41 were given the chance to resubmit their party affiliation.

The 70-page judgement released today, available on the SC's website, was authored by Justice Shah, who is set to succeed incumbent CJP Isa as the top judge in October.

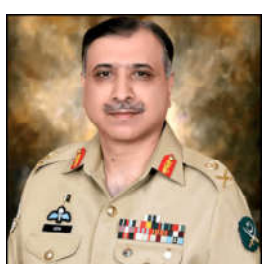
The verdict states: "When election authorities engage in actions [...] such as unlawfully denying the recognition of a major political party and treating its nominated candidates as independents, they not only compromise the rights of these candidates but also significantly infringe upon the rights of the electorate and corrode their own institutional legitimacy."

## PTI founder files petition against CJP again

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI founder Imran Khan has filed petition again against Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa under the charges of alleged bias in practice and procedure committee.

The petitioner has taken plea filed on Monday that CJP Qazi Faez Isa is biased against PTI and Imran Khan. CJP should not become part of any case against me and my party. CJP still thinks the reference against him a personal attack. It was told in the petition wife of CJP Qazi Faez Isa has given statement against Imran Khan on several occasions.

## Lt Gen Asim Malik appointed new DG ISI



ISLAMABAD (APP): Lieutenant General Muhammad Asim Malik has been appointed as the Director General Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) succeeding current Chief Lieutenant General Nadeem Anjum, and he will assume his new responsibility on September 30.

Asim Malik is currently serving as Adjutant General in GHQ who has previously commanded the Infantry Division in Balochistan and the Infantry Brigade in Waziristan.

He has also received Sword of Honor in his course, whereas apart from this, he has also been posted as Chief Instructor National Defence University (NDU) and Instructor Command and Staff College Quetta.

Lieutenant General Asim is also a graduate of Fort Leavenworth and Royal College of Defence Studies and has also served in the Military Operations Directorate before his current assignment.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar addressing an important press conference.

## Azam Tarar says Lot of questions still unanswerable in SC reserved seats judgement

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Monday said that a lot of questions were still unanswerable in the detailed judgement announced by the Supreme Court in the reserved seats case.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), he said, had not been a party in the reserved seats case at any forum, including the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), Peshawar High Court (PHC) or the SC.

He said courts were used to give decisions on principles that who had filed the case and what relief was prayed by the petitioner.

Such questions were not answered in the reserved seats case as the apex court seemed to have not examined those aspects, the law minister said while addressing a press conference.

Azam Tarar said that independent candidates had joined the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) willfully and that their move was irreversible as per the law.

He said that the ECP was an independent institution working under constitutional oath and it had to render its responsibility under the law.

Similarly, he said, that the legislation was the sole prerogative of the Parliament. The judgment had not commented on the amendments in the election law, he added.

The minister said that the review petition had not become ineffective after the announcement of detailed judgement in the reserved seats case.

## US envoy meets Nawaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz

LAHORE (INP): US Ambassador Donald Blome on Monday visited Jati Umra in Lahore and met with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and former prime minister and PML-N President Nawaz Sharif.

Punjab CM Maryam welcomed the visitor on arrival.

Matters related to mutual interest came under discussion at the meeting.

Also in attendance were Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal and Senior Punjab Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf bin Said Ahmed Al-Maliki.

## Naqvi visits Saudi Embassy on National Day of Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Monday visited the Saudi Embassy on the occasion of National Day of Saudi Arabia in the diplomatic enclave.

He was received by the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia on his arrival. Interior Minister met with the Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Ahmed Al-Maliki.

The Interior Minister congratulated Ambassador Al-Maliki on Saudi Arabia's National Day and expressed good wishes for the Saudi Royal Family and the people of Saudi Arabia.

He thanked the Saudi Government and ambassador for their cooperation

during difficult times, saying, "Saudi Arabia has always stood by Pakistan, whether during floods, earthquakes, economic or other challenges.

Their support has been unparalleled."

Mohsin Naqvi emphasized that Every Muslim holds Saudi Arabia in special esteem. He said that Saudi Arabia has consistently supported Pakistan through thick and thin, and every Pakistani takes pride in our historic friendship.

Saudi Ambassador said that Saudi Arabia highly values its relations with Pakistan as Pakistan is our brotherly country.

## Latest article in Israeli newspaper further exposed Imran's links with Jewish lobbies: Daniyal Chaudhary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Daniyal Chaudhary said on Monday that the recent article published in Israeli news had further exposed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan Jewish lobbies.

Addressing his first press conference after assuming charge as parliamentary secretary, Daniyal Chaudhary said that Israeli newspaper Jerusalem Post through an article written by Harry Richer has once again exposed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Chairman Imran Khan's Zionist connection.

Barrister Daniyal said that in the article, the newspaper had clearly stated that Imran Khan was the only leader in Muslim Ummah who could play a central role "in changing both public opinion and military policy" in Pakistan towards

Israel.

He said that Zionist lobbies believe that Imran Khan and his party could represent Israel in Islamic world in a better way.

He remarked that Imran was already representing Jewish sentiments as his children were with them and he had supported Zac Goldsmith against Pakistani Sadiq Khan in London mayoral elections.

He lamented that whenever Pakistan was on the path of stability, the anti-Pakistan lobbies became active to weaken it. Daniyal Chaudhary said that the article had connection with the lobbyist firms hired by Imran Khan on behalf of India in the US to weaken Pakistan. He said that the objective of Imran Khan was to run a defamation campaign against Pakistan in international media and get legislation done against Pakistan in the US Parliament.

## PM reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to collaborate with KSA to promote peace, stability, development in region

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to a strong and enduring friendship with Saudi Arabia, pledging to work together to promote peace, stability and development in the region.

This friendship is built on mutual respect, cooperation, and shared values that have withstood the test of time, the prime minister said in a video message on the occasion of the National Day of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

The message was aired at the National Day Reception of KSA, hosted by Saudi Embassy to celebrate the 94th Anniversary of the National Day of the KSA.

He said the bilateral relation was unique and went

beyond common interstate interactions, as the countries had consistently supporting each other in times of need standing in solidarity during natural disasters and crisis, reflecting the depth of the fraternal bond that exist between the two countries.

"The people of Pakistan join me in acknowledging from the core of our hearts, the Kingdom's generosity in helping stabilize Pakistan's economic situation from time to time."

He said "on behalf of the government and the people of Pakistan, I warmly congratulate the custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdul Aziz and Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, as well as the brotherly people of KSA on the joyous occasion of their 94th national

day.

The prime minister paid tribute to the visionary leadership of King Salman bin Abdul Aziz who steadfastly guided the KSA towards progress and prosperity while upholding the sacred responsibility of the custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. "We also highly commend the sagacious and farsighted vision of Mohammad bin Salman whose initiatives have positioned Saudi Arabia as a beacon of modernity, innovation and economic growth." He said the KSA with its vision 2030 and the theme "We Dream We Achieve" under the dynamic leadership of King Salman bin Abdul Aziz and Prince Mohammed bin Salman was assuming a global leadership role.



PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, GB, SAFRON and President PML-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engr. Amir Muqam addressing a press conference.

## Poor governance, law & order in KP increase people's problems: Muqam

PESHAWAR (APP): Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs, Engr Amir Muqam here Monday categorically stated that the deteriorating governance and law & order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have negatively impacted the lives of people besides marred development works.

He strongly indicated that if the situation does

not improve in KP, the imposition of Governor Rule may be considered as a last resort for the sake of people.

Addressing a press-conference here, Engr Amir Muqam, who is also the Provincial President of the Pakistan Muslim League-N, maintained that Governor Rule was a constitutional provision that would be considered as a last option if the ongoing

grim situation in KP becomes uncontrollable. Expressing his deep concern over the deteriorating law and order situation, particularly in the southern districts and merged areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,

Engr Amir Muqam referred to the recent IED blast in Malam Jabba Swat district that resulted in the death of one policeman and injuries to four others.



KARACHI: Warmly welcomed by Pakistan Navy officers and sailors upon arrival of Qatar Emiri Naval Forces Ship (QENS) ALKHOR visited Karachi for exercise ASAD ALBHAR-111.



## Maryam emphasizes CPEC's importance for Pak-China ties

Attends 75th National Day of People's Republic of China

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif said on Monday the significance of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a vital indicator of the robust and enduring relationship between Pakistan and China.

The CM views CPEC as a crucial development initiative that not only enhances economic ties but also reflects the deep-rooted partnership and mutual cooperation between the two nations. She expressed her views while participating in the 75th National Day ceremony of the People's Republic of China, where she met Chinese Consul General Zhao Shirin to convey her congratulations on this significant occasion. The CM expressed greetings on behalf of the Pakistani people, stating, "On the occasion of

China's 75th National Day, I extend my warm wishes to the Chinese people." She conveyed that the people of Punjab also send heartfelt congratulations to their Chinese brothers and sisters, expressing pride in attending the event.

She lauded the Chinese nation for achieving remarkable heights in development and innovation while extending a hand of friendship to the global community. Maryam Nawaz emphasized that China's greatness lies in its unwavering commitment to peace, cooperation, and humanitarian well-being.

Highlighting the deep-rooted friendship between Pakistan and China, she remarked that their relationship was built on trust, respect, and a shared vision for a bright future. "Our bond is not merely based

on strategic interests; it is a connection of hearts and souls," she asserted. The CM acknowledged China's significant achievements in lifting millions out of poverty and praised its role as a model for the world in technology, infrastructure, and industry. She noted China's indispensable contribution during global crises, affirming its commitment to providing resources to countries in need.

As a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, China has consistently promoted peace and development, exemplified by its Belt and Road Initiative, she said and added that the fruits of China's economic development are benefiting people around the world and that China is emerging as a leader with a vision that transcends borders.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Abdul Qadir Patel and MPA Asif Khan during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

## Governor Kundi attends Bilawal's birthday celebration

KARACHI (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi attended a grand celebration in Karachi to mark the birthday of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

The event was well-attended by senior party leaders, activists, and distinguished guests. During the celebration, a birthday cake was cut for Bilawal, and Governor Kundi offered heartfelt congratulations. He praised Bilawal as a leader for the younger generation and highlighted how under his leadership, the PPP has introduced new dimensions to Pakistani politics.

Kundi commended Bilawal's commitment to democratic principles and public service, stating that he is successfully carrying forward the legacy of his grandfather, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, and mother, Benazir Bhutto Shaheed. Kundi said that the influence of former President Asif Ali Zardari's political acumen is evident in Bilawal's approach to politics.

He emphasized that Bilawal is actively working towards realizing the true vision of Bhutto Shaheed, focusing on public service and the stability of democracy.

## Ghandapur's software updated: Azma bukhari

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said that KP Chief Minister Ghandapur's software has been updated in Lahore.

Talking to the media at the Lahore High Court, she said that her case was adjourned because the FIA DG was not available. "Falak Javed's indecent remarks reflect her flawed upbringing.

Her parents portray themselves as innocent whenever the law takes its course. Lawyer Azhar Siddique has been caught submitting fake affidavits and forging signatures for three times," she added.

Azma Bokhari noted that Advocate Azhar had accompanied the father of Falak Javed, who again discussed her fake video. She said that Falak encouraged other women to follow her lead. Bokhari said that the language used about the Punjab Chief Minister during the Islamabad rally was inappropriate. She questioned why Falak had deleted the fake video if she had done nothing wrong. "The PTI has a team that engages in such activities," she added.

The litigants when asked said that the demands of the public prosecutors should be accepted by the provincial government as the strike was further adding to their problems.

## Court proceedings badly hampered as prosecutors' strike continues in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The strike of public prosecutors in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for their demands of raise in salaries, incentives and establishment of the Prosecutor General Office, has entered its fifth day on Monday here badly hampering the court proceedings.

In the wake of the strike, public prosecutors were not appearing before the courts in hearings and police were unable to submit challans. The situation on one hand has badly affected the court proceedings while on the other hand public prosecutors were not ready to step back from their demands. President Public Prosecutors Welfare Association, Sangin Shah has said that till acceptance of all their demands and provision of needed facilities to the female prosecutors at all the district court and offices were not ensured, the strike will continue across the province.

The litigants when asked said that the demands of the public prosecutors should be accepted by the provincial government as the strike was further adding to their problems.

## CM KP directs to expand Sehat Card program

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Monday chaired a meeting on Sehat Card program and took important decisions aimed at improving healthcare accessibility in the province.

The meeting was attended by Health Advisor Ehtisham Ali, Finance Advisor Muzammil Aslam, administrative secretaries, officials from the health department, and representatives from State Life Insurance. Chief Minister agreed in principle to include life insurance for citizens under

the Sehat Card scheme. He directed concerned officials to prepare a detailed plan for its formal approval at the earliest.

He also addressed complaints regarding the lack of heart surgeries at the Peshawar Institute of Cardiology (PIC) due to reduced rates under the Sehat Card.

He ordered Sehat Card officials to ensure these surgeries continue, assuring that all costs related to heart operations would be borne by the provincial government, leaving no financial burden on the patients.



LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Ahmed Khan and Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider along with Chinese Consul General Zhao Shirin and his wife cutting the cake to celebrate 75th National Day of the People's Republic of China.

## Sindh crackdown: Top officials suspended over encroachment scandal

Independent Report KARACHI: In a surprise move, Sindh's top bureaucrat, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, has suspended two senior officials over rampant encroachments and mismanagement in the President's area.

During an unscheduled visit, Shah expressed dismay at the poor state of roads and widespread encroachments. Municipal Commissioner President Noor Hassan Jokhio and Deputy Director Sindh

Solid Waste Management Board Manzoor Hussain Sheikh were promptly suspended.

Shah vowed to tackle encroachments head-on, stating: "We will not tolerate any encroachments in the city. The sanitation system will be overhauled to provide better services to citizens."

The suspensions signal a crackdown on inept officials and underscore Shah's commitment to effective governance.

## Mashhood says: Awareness drive on thalassemia to be launched across country

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister's Youth Programme Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan said on Monday that a vigorous awareness campaign was being launched across the country to spread awareness about thalassemia and hemophilia diseases.

During his visit at Sundas Foundation here, he commended the foundation's work as a shining example of selflessness and compassion, adding that the foundation was doing great services for humanity.

He praised the Sundas Foundation's dedication to providing free medical care and support to deserving patients.

The chairman also met with children undergoing treatment for thalassemia and other blood disorders and distributed gifts among patients. He termed the foundation work as a "beacon of hope" for underprivileged individuals suffering from deadly diseases. The Sundas Foundation's mission was truly admirable, and their commitment to serving humanity was unparalleled, he added.

Rana Mashhood appreciated the foundation's administration for bringing advanced and latest medical equipments to fight with thalassemia and hemophilia, saying that government was committed to provide all possible facilities to such institutions as serving the humanity was the motto of their government.

He emphasized the importance of promoting pre-marital thalassemia testing to prevent the spread of the disease. "We will work together with the Sundas Foundation to create awareness about thalassemia and the importance of pre-marital testing.

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## ANF unearths drug factory

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) unearthed a factory engaged in the production of drugs and intoxicated tablets, said ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that ANF in a successful operation against a factory manufacturing chemical drugs and intoxicated tablets managed to arrest two suspects.

Acting on a tip-off, a raid was conducted in Danishabad area, Peshawar and the factory was sealed while the ANF team recovered chemical drugs, intoxicated tablets and other equipment. A thorough search of the factory led to the seizure of a tablet punching machine, various equipment such as punches, dryers, mixers and scales. During the operation, both the accused were caught red-handed while preparing intoxicated tablets at the site.

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## International News

## 274 dead, over 1,000 wounded in Israeli strikes on Hezbollah strongholds in Lebanon

Monitoring Desk TYRE: Lebanese Health Minister Firass Abiad said the death toll in Israeli strikes Monday rose to 274, including 21 children, the bloodiest daily toll in nearly a year of cross-border clashes.

The toll stood at "274 dead, including 21 children and 39 women — that's who we know about until now", Abiad told reporters, adding "thousands of families from the targeted areas have been displaced".

The dead also included two rescuers, with 16 other emergency workers wounded, he said, adding that "two ambulances, a fire truck and a medical centre were targeted".

The attacks wounded 1,024 people who were treated in 27 hospitals, Abiad said.

About 5,000 people had been wounded "in less than a week" of Israeli attacks, he said, after

Hezbollah pagers and walkie-talkies exploded and an Israeli strike on Beirut's southern suburbs.

That number accounts for about half of the overall wounded toll of "10,000 to 11,000", he said, referring to nearly one year of cross-border clashes between the Iran-backed Hezbollah group and Israel after the eruption of the Gaza conflict. The conflict began when Hamas attacked Israel, with Hezbollah and other Iran-backed groups around the region drawn into the violence.

The Israeli military said it had struck around 800 Hezbollah targets on Monday.

"Since this morning, the IDF [military] has conducted proactive and extensive aerial strikes against Hezbollah terrorist targets in Lebanon," a statement said, adding that the strikes hit "approximately 800 Hezbollah terror targets in

southern Lebanon and in the area of Bekaa deep inside Lebanese territory".

World powers have implored Israel and Hezbollah to pull back from the brink of all-out war, with the focus of violence shifting sharply in recent days from Israel's southern front with Gaza to its northern border with Lebanon. "We sleep and wake up to bombardment ... that's what our life has become," said Wafaa Ismail, 60, a housewife from the southern Lebanese village of Zawtar. Israeli military spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari told people in Lebanon to avoid potential targets linked to Hezbollah as strikes would "go on for the near future".

Hagari said Israel's military "will engage in [more] extensive and precise strikes against terror targets which have been embedded widely throughout Lebanon".



NEW YORK: President of Brazil Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva speaks during 'Summit of the Future' on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

## Sri Lanka's new President Dissanayake promises change

Monitoring Desk COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's leftist leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake took office as president on Monday, promising change in the island nation long led by powerful political families which is emerging from its worst economic crisis in more than seven decades.

Millions of Sri Lankans had voted for the opposition parliamentarian, putting faith in his graft-fighting pledge and vow to bolster a fragile economic recovery.

"I pledge ... to demonstrate dedication to protecting and upholding democracy," Dissanayake, 55, said in inauguration remarks at the president's office, saying he was taking office at a challenging time in the Indian Ocean nation.

"Our politics needs to be cleaner, and the people have called for a different political culture," he added. "I am ready to commit to that change."

## Tehran ready for nuclear talks in New York 'if other parties are willing', foreign minister says

Monitoring Desk TEHRAN: Iran is ready to start nuclear negotiations on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York if "other parties are willing", Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said on Monday in a video published on his Telegram channel. The United States, under then-President Donald Trump, withdrew in 2018 from a nuclear accord signed in 2015 between Iran and six world powers, which restricted Tehran's nuclear programme.

## Six dead after floods in central Japan: media

TOKYO (AFP/APP): Heavy rain that triggered floods and landslides on a Japanese peninsula recovering from an earthquake this year killed at least six people, local media reported Monday. Public broadcaster NHK and other outlets said six were dead, while a fire department official told AFP that one had died and five were "in a state of cardio-respiratory arrest", a term used in Japan before a feared death can be confirmed by a doctor.

The regional government in Ishikawa on the Sea of Japan coast said two were missing and the status of eight people was unknown.

Heavy rain pounded Ishikawa from Saturday, with more than 540 millimetres (21 inches) recorded in the city of Wajima over 72 hours, the heaviest continuous rain since comparative data became available. The region is still reeling from a magnitude-7.5 quake at the start of the year, which toppled buildings, triggered tsunami waves and sparked a major fire. Floodwaters inundated emergency housing built for those who had lost their homes in the New Year's Day quake.

## UN adopts pact to tackle volatile future for mankind

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: UN members adopted a blueprint for the future on Sunday to tackle the myriad wars, environmental threats and technological challenges facing humanity that was hailed by the organisation as "groundbreaking" but panned by critics as unambitious.

Secretary General Antonio Guterres, who championed the "Pact for the Future" and its components, billed them as "landmark agreements — a step-change towards more effective, inclusive, networked multilateralism."

As an opener for the annual high-level week of the UN General Assembly, which begins on Tuesday, dozens of heads of state and government gathered for the adoption, which faced last-minute opposition from Russia and its allies.

Leaders pledged to bolster the multilateral system to "keep pace with a changing world" and to "protect the needs and interests of current and future generations" facing "persistent crisis."

"We believe there is a path to a brighter future for all of humanity," the document says.

The pact outlines 56 "actions," including commitments to multilateralism, upholding the UN Charter and peace-keeping.

## Iran walls off part of border with Afghanistan: state media

Monitoring Desk TEHRAN: Iran's military has built a wall along more than 10 kilometres of its eastern border with Afghanistan, the main entry point for immigrants, local media reported Monday.

"More than 10 kilometres of walls have been built on the border and another 50 kilometres are ready to be walled off," ISNA news agency said, citing General Nozar Nemati, deputy commander of army ground forces.

Iran shares a more than 900km border with Afghanistan, and the Islamic republic hosts one of the largest refugee populations in the world.

This comprises mostly well-integrated Afghans who arrived over the past 40 years after fleeing conflict in their home country.

The flow of Afghan immigrants has increased since the Taliban took over in August 2021 after US forces withdrew.

Tehran has not given official figures for the number of Afghan immigrants,

but member of parliament Abolfazl Torabi has estimated their number at "between six and seven million".

The authorities have recently increased pressure on "illegal" refugees, regularly announcing expulsions through the eastern border.

"By blocking the border, we want to control the country's entries and exits" and "better increase the security of border areas", General Nemati said.

In September, Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni said Iran would employ other methods including barbed wire and water-filled ditches in addition to the wall to block the border.

On September 13, the spokesman for the parliamentary National Security Committee, Ebrahim Rezaei, said police plan to "expel more than two million illegal citizens in the near future".

According to the official IRNA news agency, Afghans represent "more than 90 percent of foreign nationals" in Iran.

## China 'testing us', says Biden in hot mic remarks to Quad allies

Monitoring Desk WILMINGTON: US President Joe Biden was caught on a hot mic on Saturday telling the leaders of Australia, India and Japan that an aggressive China is "testing us," in remarks that risked undercutting a summit declaration that carefully avoided mentioning Beijing by name.

The comments came as Biden opened a farewell summit in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

"China continues to behave aggressively, testing us all across the region," Biden was heard in what were supposed to be behind-closed-doors remarks to the so-called "Quad".

Biden said that while Chinese President Xi Jinping was focusing on "domestic economic challenges" he was also "looking to buy himself some diplomatic space, in my view, to aggressively pursue China's interests".

But he insisted that recent "intense efforts" by Washington to reduce tensions, including a call with Xi in April, were helping to prevent conflict.

The hot mic blunder risked undermining careful diplomatic efforts by all four countries during the summit to insist that their grouping is about more than just providing a counterweight to China. In their joint statement after the summit, the four leaders made no direct mention of China, even as they expressed concern over tensions on its borders.

## Ukraine says it hit two Russian munitions depots overnight

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Ukraine said on Saturday it had hit two Russian munition depots overnight, in attacks that illustrated its growing capability to strike targets deep inside Russia.

Russian officials acknowledged the Ukrainian attack on one of the depots in southern Krasnodar region, saying it was carried out with drones. They introduced local emergency measures to mitigate the effects of the assault.

A statement by Ukraine's military general staff said the munitions depots were at Tikhoretsk in Krasnodar region and Oktyabrsky in the western region of Tver.

"The (Tikhoretsk) facility is in the top three largest munitions storages of the occupiers.

## Belief in Finality of Prophethood fundamental component of every Muslim's faith: Ch Salik Hussain

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Monday said that belief in the Finality of Prophethood was a fundamental component of every Muslim's faith.

Addressing a gathering of religious scholars, he called for early release of the detailed verdict of the Mubarak Sani case.

Salik underscored the crucial role of religious leaders, stating, "The true lead-

ers of religion are the esteemed scholars and spiritual guides, not those who take up arms against the state."

He stressed that for securing the future of the younger generation, the government, institutions, and religious scholars must work together. He expressed confidence that a unified message of peace, solidarity and harmony from religious scholars would have a far-reaching impact on the nation.

The minister also warned against the misuse of Islam for nefarious purposes, urging that efforts be made to stop such practices. He called for the implementation of scholars' recommendations regarding the fight against terrorism.

He also shared that the government had initiated consultations with religious scholars and leaders from other faiths to eliminate terrorism. "With the help of scholars and other religious

leaders, we can overcome these challenges," Salik added.

He commended the religious scholars and saints for rejecting the narratives of extremists and terrorists, calling for an end to the exploitation of religion for terrorist activities.

He remarked, "Anyone or any group that takes up arms against the state is a terrorist, and we must unite as a nation to eradicate the scourge of terrorism."



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious affairs and inter-faith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain meeting with religious scholars.



## Redressal of public grievances top priority; says IGP Islamabad

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, held a Khuli Katchery at the Central Police Office Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

During the katchery, he listened to the issues of citizens and police officers and issued directives on the spot for their resolution.

He said that resolving citizens' issues on merit is our top priority. Negligence and carelessness in duties will not be tolerated. Any citizen facing any issue related to the police can come to the Khuli Katchery. My office is always open for my citizens, the IGP said.

IG Islamabad further directed the concerned officers to resolve the citizen grievances on merit within the stipulated time frame and report back to the Central Police Office.

He directed all SDPOs and SHO's to adhere to the designated office hours and prioritize resolving citizens' issues.

On this occasion, the IGP Islamabad said that the Islamabad Police are taking various measures for the facilitation of citizens. The daily holding of Khuli Katchery helps in resolving issues on a priority basis, he added.

Moreover, all zonal officers and SHO's are directed to meet citizens during the designated office hours and resolve their issues promptly and on merit.

## Senator Rubina Khalid urges youth to spearhead transformative change

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid Monday urged the youth to spearhead transformative change in the country.

She was speaking, as a chief guest, at the Pashtun Culture Day celebrations at Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology (SZABIST), Islamabad.

Accompanied by Head of Campus, Khusrav Khan, Chairperson BISP urged students to spearhead transformative change in

Pashtun society and Pakistan.

Addressing the gathering, Rubina Khalid emphasized the vital role of youth in revitalizing Pashtun culture's foundational pillars: respect for elders. She also advised the students to utilize social media responsibly for fostering constructive dialogue and community engagement and harnessing education to promote inclusivity, social cohesion, and national progress.

"Pashtun culture's essence lies in its values of honor, and respect.

## NIM Islamabad delegation visits Safe City Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: The Mid-Career Management Course delegation from National Institute of Management (NIM) Islamabad visited Safe City Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

He said that the delegation visits the command and control center, the data hub unit, modern technology-equipped cameras, and the Police operations center hall. They were fully briefed about the procedures and advantages of this project.

Furthermore, the delegation was informed that Safe City Islamabad is playing a significant role in various departments through modern techniques, including the Police Operations Center, Emergency Control Center, Data Hub Unit, Dispatch Control Center, E-Challan System, and the "Pucar-15" helpline.

also apprised of the functionality and benefits of the Safe City cameras in the city. The modern cameras of Safe City are playing a crucial role in ensuring the safety of the city and preventing crimes and safeguarding the lives and property of citizens. 42% of crimes are resolved through the Safe City Command and Control Center.

Face recognition cameras have been installed at the entry and exit points of the city which are playing an important role in identifying suspicious elements, he maintained. The delegation also met with Director General (DG) Safe City Shakir Hussain Dawar and acknowledged the modern technical system of the Islamabad Police and its benefits. The delegation expressed special gratitude to DG Safe City Islamabad and his team for this successful visit.



ISLAMABAD: Labourer busy in construction work of bridge at IJP Road during development work in the Federal Capital

## KSA symbol of strength, progress: Ayaz Sadiq

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, said on Monday that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a symbol of strength and progress around the world.

In a statement on the 94th National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, he said, "On behalf of the National Assembly and the people of Pakistan, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on this joyous occasion." "Saudi Arabia's contributions to global peace, economic development, and the preservation of Islamic heritage are recognized and appreciated worldwide," he added.

He expressed special greetings to King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Speaker of

Shura Council Dr. Abdullah Al-Sheikh and the nation of Saudi Arabia commending their exemplary leadership and vision.

Ayaz Sadiq emphasized Saudi Arabia's vital role as the custodian of the Holy Cities of Mecca and Medina, expressing profound gratitude for the Kingdom's hospitality towards millions of Muslim pilgrims each year. He acknowledged the importance of this sacred responsibility, highlighting the Kingdom's commitment to ensuring a safe and enriching pilgrimage experience for all. Reflecting on Saudi Arabia's achievements over the past 94 years, the Speaker said the Kingdom's contributions to socio-economic development within the region and the Muslim world are commendable.

## Adviser Law says: Pakistan set to become first parliament to recognize climate change as constitutional right

ISLAMABAD (APP): Adviser to the Prime Minister on Law and Justice, Barrister Aqeel Malik, on Monday said that inclusion of climate change as a constitutional right was the landmark step in the 26th Constitutional Amendment. In addition, the 26th Amendment will play a crucial role in strengthening the judicial system, he said while speaking to a private news channel.

"This will be the first parliament in the world to grant constitutional recognition to climate change," he said. He further noted that the amendment has been unfairly criticized, with its true meaning misunderstood and the government's real intent misinterpreted.

"He said that work on the 26th amendment has been ongoing since March and April.

Several meetings were held involving the Law Minister, Information Minister, and coalition partners to ensure broad consensus, he added.

In response to a question, he said that that Maulana Fazlur Rehman requested additional time to ensure broad consultation, which was agreed upon.

Consultations regarding the age-related provisions are ongoing, with a final decision expected after input from the legal community and other stakeholders, he said.

"This was the right approach as all stakeholders will now have a chance to provide their feedback. We expect recommendations from the legal community within a week, and after reaching a consensus with the opposition, we aim to present the amendment in the first week of October," he added.

## Housing ministry rebuts media report on 45% hike in rental ceiling

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Housing and Works Monday rebutted as "entirely incorrect and misleading" a news item published in a section of press regarding a 45% hike in the rental ceiling for government employees.

Referring to a media report "Govt employees get 45pc rent bump", the spokesperson said that the Ministry of Housing and Works had issued no such office memorandum.

It said that there was a fictitious and artificially generated office memorandum circulating on social

media on the basis of which the story has been reported.

Earlier, it was clarified from the office of the Public Relations Officer at the ministry that the said document was not true.

The Estate Office under the ministry is currently conducting a survey of market rent rates of residential accommodations at six specified stations including Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta that is not final yet and nothing has been notified so far.

## SC rejects petition against imposition of regulatory duty on raw material

We will not interfere in financial policy, Court remarks

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) while dismissing the petition against imposition of regulatory duty on raw material has remarked we will not interfere in the fiscal policy of the government.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah remarked federal government can impose regulatory duty. This is policy matter of federation. This has to be resolved by the federal government upon what material regulatory duty has to be imposed.

He gave these remarks while hearing the appeal pleas against imposition of regulatory duty on the raw

material imported from other countries for the packing of cloth.

The counsel for the petitioner remarked imposing regulatory duty on the raw material used for packing is discriminatory treatment.

Justice Ayesha Malik remarked our job is not to see financial policy.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah remarked federal government can impose regulatory duty. This is policy matter of federation. This has to be resolved by federal government regulatory duty has to be imposed on what material.

The counsel for the petitioner said there is another raw material of this nature upon which regulatory duty has not been imposed.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah remarked "ok then import that material upon which there is no regulatory duty. We will not interfere in financial policy. SC as court cannot hold talks regarding regulatory duty.

The court dismissed the appeal against high court decision. Earlier Sindh High Court had rejected petition against imposition of regulatory duty on raw material.

## IRSA releases 218,800 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 218,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 142,500 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1537.16 feet and was 139.16 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 83,400 cusecs and 130,000 cusecs respectively.

## Land record in capital to be digitalized on Punjab's pattern: DC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), Irfan Nawaz Memon on Monday announced that the Capital administration had decided to digitalize the sale and purchase of property and land record across the federal capital on the pattern of Punjab.

He made these remarks while chairing a meet-

ing here. However, the Deputy Commissioner lauded the district administration's decision to make all stamp papers online to facilitate the citizens.

The meeting was attended by officers of Punjab Land Revenue Authority who briefed the deputy commissioner on Online Registration System.



Qatar Emiri Naval Forces delegation offering Fateha at Mazar-e-Quaid during visit to Karachi.

## COMSTech-Mauritania to collaborate through joint S&T Capacity Building Program

ISLAMABAD (APP): COMSTech- the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation has announced research fellowships for students, scholars and institutions in Mauritania in order to strengthen the ties and build scientific capacity in Mauritania.

According to an official source, these research fellowships have been announced by the COMSTech and National

Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation, Mauritania under the Joint Science and Technology Capacity Building Program.

COMSTech shares a long-standing brotherly relationship with Mauritania and this program will further strengthen the scientific cooperation between the two countries. Under the COMSTech-Mauritania Program, Research Fellowships will be offered to young researchers and early

stage scientists/engineers in Mauritania to enable them to spend six months at a relevant center of excellence in many listed institutions of OIC member states, especially Pakistan. The purpose of these fellowships is to enhance the research and development capacity of promising researchers and engineers from Mauritania at the beginning of their research career, helping them to foster linkages for further collaboration in their fields.

## World-class Green-Tech Hub will transform Pakistan's energy into landscape: Romina Khurshid Alam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has announced that the first Green-Tech Hub (G-TH) will be launched soon as a state-of-the-art facility to transform Pakistan's energy landscape and reducing its carbon footprints by fostering green technologies, renewable energy solutions and eco-friendly innovations in the country.

Addressing a webinar on "Creation of G-TH" as a chief guest, organized by the PakLaunch.com in collaboration with the climate change & environmental coordination ministry, the PM's coordinator further said that the G-TH, an initiative backed by the Government of Pakistan in collaboration with private sector stakeholders, academic institutions, and international green technology leaders, aims to

position the country as a regional leader in sustainable innovation, according to a press statement issued on Monday.

During her address, she also revealed that efforts are also being made by the climate change & environmental coordination ministry to showcase highly innovative and impactful projects at the Pakistan Pavilion during the two-week UN-led global climate summit (COP29).

The climate summit is scheduled to begin from Nov. 11 in Baku, Azerbaijan, which is expected to be attended by 40,000 to 50,000 delegations from over 192 countries.

"Showcasing the initiatives at the upcoming UN-led global climate conference aims to attract potential global and local investors to finance the projects to help Pakistan achieve its environ-

mental sustainability and climate resilience goals," Romina Khurshid Alam said.

The global leaders at this year's annual global climate conference, which is the second largest gathering of head of states, international leaders and civil society members after UN General Assembly (UNGA), will strive to finalise the first enhanced transparency framework and establish a new collective quantified goal on climate finance, among other critical issues of adaptation, mitigation, transfer of technology and technical know-how. "We hope GTH would act as a strategic connector, linking Pakistani innovators around the globe with global investors to leverage climate finance for these innovative projects showcased at the Pakistan Pavilion during the COP29 meeting and attract



international, local investments for these climate resilience projects. Besides, MoCC&EC would facilitate alignment of these climate tech projects with Pakistan's both adaptation and mitigation priorities," Romina Khurshid Alam remarked. She emphasized that the future of technology is green, and the G-TH would represent the best of what Pakistan has to offer in terms of talent, ambition, and innova-

tion. "We are proud to be part of this journey and look forward to seeing the breakthroughs that emerge from this center in future," The PM's coordinator remarked.

Ms Alam said, "The hub will serve as an incubator for green startups, a research center for advanced technologies, and a collaboration space for innovators and entrepreneurs focused on addressing environmental challenges."