



The deadline for issuing the notification for the appointment of the new Chief Justice of Pakistan is October 24

Minister for Law and Justice Senator  
**Azam Nazeer Tarar**

[/asian\\_telegraph](#)

[/theasiantelegraph](#)

[/company/theasiantelegraph](#)

[theasiantelegraph.net](#)

Price Rs 8 | Pages 4

## Oct 24 deadline to notify appointment of Chief Justice, says Law Minister

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Saturday said that the government will notify on October 24, that at which place the Chief Justice is to be sworn in. Talking to the media, the minister said that the deadline for issuing the notification for the appointment of the new Chief Justice of Pakistan is October 24. He said that the notification of the new Chief Justice is always issued a day or two before the appointment. The appointment notification of Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa was issued a little earlier in view of the arrival of the caretaker government, he said. Azam Nazeer Tarar said that a committee of legal experts has been formed in the sub-committee of the parliamentary body. The constitutional amendment can be introduced after October 25, and even after two months. He said that discussions are ongoing on four to five points in the committee. The law minister said that how is it too early. Now it has been a month and a half. Judges sometimes had been appointed by the Governor General, sometimes by the President and sometimes by the martial Administrator in the past, he said, adding that in U.S the President has the authority to appoint judges.

## Pakistan, US navies conduct bilateral exercise in Arabian Sea



KARACHI: US Navy Ship USS O' Kane visited Karachi and participated in a bilateral exercise at North Arabian sea with Pakistan Navy Ship BABUR. The exercise was aimed to enhance interoperability and demonstrate PN-USN resolve towards regional maritime peace, a Pakistan Navy news release said. During the visit, Commanding Officer of USS O' Kane met Commander Pakistan Fleet Rear Admiral Abdul Munib to discuss matters pertaining to interoperability of both Navies and tactical proficiency in Maritime Operations. The visit and bilateral exercise reflect Pakistan Navy's commitment towards regional peace, stability and maritime order in collaboration with seasoned global partners. These collaborations have proved befitting in countering menace of terrorism, piracy, narcotics and human trafficking in the region and beyond. Visit of US Navy Ship to Pakistan is a manifestation of deep rooted bilateral ties between both navies in general and nations in particular. PR



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visiting Jinnah Convention Centre to review preparations for the upcoming SCO Head of the Governments Summit. APP

## Governor Sindh, MQM delegation call on PM

PM visits Jinnah Convention Center to review preparations for upcoming SCO Summit

ISLAMABAD: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori and a delegation of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) on Saturday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. During the meeting, the current political situation in the country was discussed. The MQM delegation included Dr Farooq Sattar and Syed Aminul Haq, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The meeting was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Azam Nazir Tarar, Adviser to PM Rana Sanullah and Khawaja Saad Rafique. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday visited Jinnah Convention Center to review arrangements for the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of Government in Islamabad scheduled for October 15-16. On the occasion, the prime minister was briefed by the Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) and officials of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar and other relevant authorities also accompanied the prime minister. The prime minister expressed his satisfaction over the preparations made for the SCO meeting.

## Mohsin Naqvi calls for action against Islamabad's criminal mafias

ISLAMABAD: In a formal oath-taking ceremony held at the Ministry of Interior on Saturday, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi administered the oath to the newly elected officials of the Islamabad Crime and Interior Reporters Association.



The event brought together prominent figures from both journalism and the government, underscoring the vital role of crime reporting in safeguarding public interests. The association's key leaders included were Chairman Shakeel Qarar, Vice Chairman Naeem Janjua, President Qamar Al-Manawar, and Secretary General Zulqarnain Haider stood at the forefront, pledging their commitment to upholding the values of journalism and integrity. Other notable office-bearers who took the oath included Senior Vice President Adil Tanoli, Vice Presidents Naeem Asghar and Bilal Afridi, Information Secretary Nasir Butt, and Finance Secretary Saqib Syed. During his address, Minister Naqvi congratulated the new office bearers and praised the association for its critical role in bridging the gap between the media and the Ministry of Interior. "The Crime and Interior Reporters Association and the Ministry of Interior share a deep-rooted connection. We rely on your work to bring transparency and accountability to the public," Naqvi remarked. However, the minister's message was not just one of praise but also a call to action. He urged the newly appointed reporters to take a proactive role in identifying and exposing criminal mafias operating within Islamabad. "You are the eyes and ears of the city," Naqvi emphasized. "Your investigative work is essential in combating the growing menace of organized crime." Naqvi expressed hope that the association would continue to elevate the standards of professional journalism, ensuring that ethical practices remain at the core of every investigation and report. "I am confident that this association will lead by example in promoting fact-based, responsible reporting, which is crucial for both the security and awareness of our society," he said. With increasing challenges faced by reporters, especially those covering crime and corruption, Minister Naqvi reassured journalists that their safety would be a top priority. "We are committed to ensuring that every journalist, especially those in the field, has the protection they need to do their job without fear. You have my full support," he promised. The ceremony concluded with a renewed sense of purpose, as the journalists vowed to continue their mission of holding those in power accountable while shedding light on the darker corners of the city. With the backing of the Ministry of Interior, the Islamabad Crime and Interior Reporters Association aims to play a key role in shaping the future of investigative journalism in Pakistan. APP

## Muqam strongly rejected PTI's agenda of protest during SCO meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam's strongly rejected the Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI) anti state agenda as PTI announced for protest on the occasion of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) upcoming meeting. He said, "It is a proof of anti-nationalism. There is no doubt that PTI's agenda seemed to be anti-Pakistan because PTI has declared the protest on this important occasion". PTI once again showed its real face as the meeting of SCO was very important for Pakistan, he said. Muqam asked What type of image of Pakistan they wanted to highlight before the World? "First they postponed the visit of the President of China, now they want to sabotage the SCO meeting. In any case, protest cannot be allowed on this occasion and the declaration of protest is condemnable and very sad.

It is a proof of anti-nationalism. There is no doubt that PTI's agenda seemed to be anti-Pakistan because PTI has declared the protest on this important occasion". PTI once again showed its real face as the meeting of SCO was very important for Pakistan

Protests and processions can be held at any other time," he said.

## DPM Dar, Prince Faisal discuss situation in Palestine



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday held a telephone call with Foreign Minister of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud. "They discussed the situation in Palestine and Lebanon and expressed their deep commitment and support for the people of Palestine and Lebanon," a post on X said.

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday held a telephone call with Foreign Minister of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud. "They discussed the situation in Palestine and Lebanon and expressed their deep commitment and support for the people of Palestine and Lebanon," a post on X said.

## 7th Pakistan-KSA Bilateral Defence Industrial Forum held at Riyadh



RAWALPINDI: The 7th meeting of Pakistan-KSA Bilateral Defence Industrial Forum was held at Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) on October 10th 24, where Pakistan tri services delegation was led by Chief of General Staff (CGS), Lieutenant General Muhammad Avas Dastgir, whereas, Assistant Defence Minister, Engr Talal Bin Abdullah Al Otaibi led the Saudi Arabian side. During the meeting, the CGS affirmed Pakistan's continuing support towards capacity building of Royal Saudi Defence Forces, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The dignitary from the KSA acknowledged Pakistan's achievements and sacrifices in war against terrorism and its valuable contributions towards regional peace and stability. The forum discussed challenges to global and regional security and their implications on Defence Forces. The forum noted that rapid advancements in modern technologies necessitated further enhancing defence industrial cooperation in critical capabilities between the two brotherly countries. In this context, progress of ongoing areas of collaboration was reviewed while new areas of collaboration were also agreed. PR

## Ahsan terms PTI's protest call as 'Political Terrorism'

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, here on Saturday strongly condemned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) protest call on October 15, labeling it as 'Political Terrorism', aimed at maligning Pakistan and stopping its development and economic progress. Addressing a press conference, the federal minister expressed disappointment at the timing of the protest, coinciding with a prestigious Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit being hosted in Pakistan, which he said was a great honor for the country. "Now there is no doubt, that terrorism in Karachi and political terrorism protest calls are similar," the minister said adding the scriptwriter was the same who on one hand has been using terrorists to carry out explosive attacks, and on the other, are using PTI to spread anarchy and undermine Pakistan's vital interests.



He urged PTI supporters who genuinely want change and development to recognize the harm caused by their party's actions. The PTI's dharmas (protest) back in 2014 delayed the Chinese President's visit to Pakistan, and their efforts to derail the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project have been detrimental to the country's progress. In 2018, CPEC was the primary target and serious allegations were made to PTI to spread anarchy and undermine Pakistan's vital interests.

Now that Pakistan has committed to CPEC Phase II with renewed enthusiasm, the PTI is attempting to undermine government's economic recovery efforts. It's crucial to acknowledge the damage caused by these actions and consider the consequences of supporting policies that hinder Pakistan's growth and development, he urged. The minister said, Pakistan cannot afford to indulge in destructive politics. Just because PTI's leader is jailed, doesn't justify chaos, he said adding we've faced imprisonment too, but never fought against the state. He said Benazir Bhutto was martyred and Zulfiqar Bhutto hanged to death, and Pakistan Peoples Party never fought against state. He expressed the hope that like in past, people of Pakistan would reject this negative politics. He said, the incumbent leadership's focus was on securing a brighter future for youth through economic

stability adding in 2047, when Pakistan celebrates its centennial, we want to hold our heads high. The minister said that it was proud moment for Pakistan to host the prestigious SCO heads of state summit on October 15-16, a significant diplomatic achievement for the country. The event will bring together prominent leaders from nine Eurasian nations, including the prime ministers of Russia and China, as well as representatives from Iran, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and India's foreign minister. This summit presents a unique opportunity for Pakistan to showcase its position on the global diplomatic stage and foster bilateral trade relations with participating countries. The Chinese Prime Minister's decision to extend his visit by one day to hold talks with Pakistan leadership underscores the importance of Pakistan-China relations. APP

## Chairman PMYP engages with Pakistani diaspora in Dushanbe

DUSHANBE: Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan engaged in a consequential dialogue with Pakistani students, academicians, and businessmen during his visit to Dushanbe, Tajikistan aimed to strengthen connections with the diaspora community, exploring opportunities for collaboration and mutual growth. Rana Mashhood emphasised the importance of empowering youth and fostering international partnerships. He highlighted the Prime Minister's Youth Programme's initiatives, such as the Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme, Skills Development Programme, and National Innovation Award, which aim to support young people's development and entrepreneurship. The Chairman's engagement with the Pak-



istani diaspora in Tajikistan demonstrates the government's commitment to building bridges with overseas communities and leveraging their expertise to drive progress in Pakistan. This visit marks a significant step towards deepening ties with the diaspora and exploring collaborative opportunities for the benefit of both Pakistan and Tajikistan.

Editor-in-Chief: Amna Munawwar Awan  
 Editor: Muhammad Hasam  
 Office # 408, 4th Floor, Evacuee Trust,  
 Agha Khan Road, F-5/1 Islamabad  
 Phone: + 92 51 8354964

## SCO as a gateway to regional prosperity

SARWAT RAUF

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), made up of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Iran and Belarus is one of the largest regional organisations in the world. The SCO has been expanding gradually since 2017, after the announcement of the Chinese-led China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). So far, 24 annual summits of heads of state of the SCO have been held. The 24th summit of the SCO, held in July in Astana, Kazakhstan, marked a major victory of China's diplomatic clout due to the first-ever European state's inclusion in the organization. The summit attracted widespread global attention and consolidated China's influence in Eurasia, Central and South Asia. Last year, Iran's inclusion in the SCO was regarded as a smart move of the organisation in which Tehran conceded the SCO as an important opening towards the breaking of the US diplomatic blockade. Similarly, the addition of India and Pakistan in 2017 was considered a significant milestone, as it brought two nuclear states, which are rivals too, into the organisation. The fast-growing enlargement highlights the SCO's significance in South Asia and its potential influence on regional geopolitics and geoeconomics. The expansion of the SCO also consolidates China's position as a major power in international politics. Some scholars speculate that China wants to showcase its ability to be a global hegemon through the SCO and for that purpose, the inclusion of more states has become indispensable. The fast-track expansion of the SCO and its changing role, evolving from a regional cooperative platform to a broader security and economic bloc has a direct impact on Pakistan's role in the organisation too since Pakistan is a key state for the BRI. This year Pakistan is hosting various meetings of the SCO in the capacity of chair of the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG), the second highest SCO forum that deals with economic, social, cultural and humanitarian issues as well as the personnel and budgetary matters of the organisation. As the host of the meeting, to be held next week, Pakistan has also extended the invitation to member states including India, which has accepted the invitation and publicised that Indian Foreign Minister S Jaishankar will attend the upcoming meeting. This visit by the Indian minister for external affairs will be the first such visit by an Indian foreign minister in a decade. The summer will mark one of the biggest meetings of top world leaders in Pakistan and is being regarded as an honour for the country. Being the chair of the CHG of the SCO, Pakistan is making sincere efforts for collective prosperity with dedication to the SCO Charter. Although the leadership role in the SCO is not new for Pakistan as it has already hosted the SCO Foreign Ministers' meeting in 2022, yet assuming the charge of chairman and holding meetings of the CHG is more inspiring. Pakistan has to demonstrate its skills in multilateral diplomacy. Moreover, the coming years are crucial for Pakistan in testifying its commitment and earnestness to regional stability and development as it will assume the role of chair of the SCO Council of Regional Antiterrorism Structure (CRATS) in 2025-26. It will also take up the rotational chair of the SCO Council of Heads of State (CHS) and SCO Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) in 2026-27. These leading roles of Pakistan require internal stability as well as its ability to manage its relations with great powers namely China, the US and Russia. Therefore, the upcoming years are decisive for Pakistan in shaping the organization's future path. The expansion of the SCO signifies the strengthening of Pakistan's relations with all the members of the SCO. The country will find new openings for economic cooperation within Eurasia. Pakistan's hosting of the SCO's meetings is a testimony of its essential role within the organization. Successful meetings would highlight Pakistan's pledge to foster cooperation among member states. Moreover, Pakistan's role will grow predominantly in improving connectivity and stability in the region. In different meetings of the SCO, Pakistan has always emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts to tackle security threats, especially in the context of the Afghanistan situation and its implications for regional security. Pakistan's priorities in the SCO include cooperation in countering terrorism and extremism, and collaboration in socio-cultural, economic, and humanitarian spheres. Pakistan has been facing the issue of cross-border terrorist attacks and has taken many steps to counter terrorism in Pakistan. It has shown interest in working with other member states of the SCO. In this regard, the SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure helps member states to share intelligence to deter terrorism. As a member, Pakistan participates in various security dialogues, focusing on counterterrorism and regional stability. This aligns with its domestic security needs and its strategic partnership with other states. Responsible roles for Pakistan in the SCO also provide it with certain opportunities to engage in multilateral diplomacy, even though there are multiple layers of complications including intricate relations between India and Pakistan. Since the SCO provides expert reviews of trade and investment cooperation, the leading role of Pakistan in this organisation will increase business engagement with SCO members. The SCO guarantees to supply greater economic opportunities and signifies the chances of increased trade, investment, entrepreneurship, and regional connectivity. The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) has become a permanent member of the Business Council of the SCO. The FPCCI aims to help Pakistani businesses connect with their counterparts in SCO nations, fostering collaboration across various sectors.

The writer is an associate professor of international relations at the National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad.



Dr Naazir Mahmood

It was in 1990 that I managed to get my first teaching job as an English language teacher at the Pakistan American Cultural Centre (PACC) in Karachi. I was 26 years old and already working as a copywriter at an advertising agency. Still unmarried and without a vehicle, travelling from my home in Malir to Clifton by bus was an arduous task. Wanting to buy a car, I was looking for a second part-time job that the PACC offered and I gladly accepted. The PACC was also my alma mater where I had completed numerous courses of English proficiency so that an Urdu-medium student like me could manage to read and write in the language that nearly all jobs demanded. It was in the faculty room of the PACC that I first came across an announcement about an academic session for teachers. Abbas Husain was the trainer and the Society of Pakistan English Language Teachers (SPELT) was the organiser of the academic session. Curious to learn more about English language teaching I attended the session and found Abbas Husain to be one of the best teachers I had ever listened to. That was my first introduction to SPELT and I immediately decided to become a member. Abbas Husain with his ever-smiling face encouraged this young teacher to attend more academic sessions to hone teaching abilities. Then it became my life-long passion to keep acquiring new skills in learning and teaching. The story of SPELT's formation is instructive and interesting. In 1983, the erstwhile University Grants Commission organised a conference for English language teachers from across Pakistan in Islamabad. Seventeen teachers from Karachi met again in 1984 at the same venue and decided to organise themselves as a pioneering body of English language teachers in Pakistan. Upon their return to Karachi, they gathered to formalise their association and

## Forty years of SPELT

as dedicated teacher educators. Over the years, many active Spelters became inactive and others joined with new zeal. But the single most significant contribution to SPELT's growth came from Prof Zakia Sarwar whose home became a second home to me and many others. Always open to English teachers and other friends, ever ready with food and snacks for student teachers and colleagues who could barge in without warning. I remember innumerable days that I spent at her home working on the SPELT journal, proofreading, preparing for workshops, checking student assignments, and taking help from Prof Zakia Sarwar on my own numerous certificates and diploma courses that I did in the 1990s. Zakia's husband Dr M Sarwar was a renowned student leader in the 1950s leading a resistance movement from the platform of the Democratic Student Federation (DSF). By the 1990s, he was a senior leftist and progressive stalwart in Karachi whose home had hosted nearly all progressive poets and writers for decades. Beena Sarwar followed in the footsteps of her parents and all SPELTers always felt so comfortable with the entire Sarwar family that played such an unforgettable role in the development of the organisation, offering home hospitality to many of the speakers at SPELT conferences. After Dawood Public School, it was the PACC that offered its hall for regular academic sessions for years. When SPELT managed to buy its own office, these sessions were regularly held there. In the past 40 years, SPELT has organised nearly 500 academic sessions that are free for all participants. SPELT activists and officeholders are mostly volunteers who do not receive any salary or remuneration. This inimitable voluntary spirit has helped the organisation survive for that long. It has never missed a conference or an academic session, come what may. From the 2020 Covid days, academic sessions have moved to an online format which has increased participation from around the world. SPELT conducted over 300 short courses in the past four decades benefiting thousands of English Language teachers from across Pak-

istan. It has also offered over two dozen Practical Teacher Training Courses (PTTC) that run for 12 months for English language teachers. For 31 years SPELT offered Cambridge University's Royal Society of Arts (RSA) Certificates for overseas teachers of English (COTE). This year SPELT will organize its 40th international conference in November on English Language Teaching with an expected participation of over 3,000 teachers with facilitators from Pakistan and across the world. SPELT has also been publishing quarterly SPELT Journal since 1985 and in July 2018 initiated an e-bulletin for all its members and other teachers. There was a time when in Pakistan English language teaching (ELT) mostly used the grammar-translation method but thanks to SPELT's efforts over the past 40 years, ELT has advanced substantially to a more communicative approach to language teaching. The number of those who benefitted from SPELT may be in the hundreds of thousands and no history of English language teaching in Pakistan will ever be complete without the mention of SPELT and its pioneers such as Abbas Husain, Fauzia Shamim, and Zakia Sarwar. SPELT has directly or indirectly been involved in developing quality textbooks for the Sindh Textbook Board for grades I-XII, since the late 1980s. In the 1990s, several subject-specific associations were formed with funding and logistic support for the Institute of Educational Development (IED) of the Aga Khan University, Karachi. After remaining a non-hierarchical organization for 35 years, SPELT had to comply with the new laws governing such associations and now it has Mohsin Tejani as its president and Fauzia Shamim as its vice-president. But in their approach, they are still non-hierarchical and that is the spirit behind its continued success. There are not many voluntary organisations of teachers that can claim the level of success SPELT has achieved.

The writer holds a PhD from the University of Birmingham, UK. He tweets/posts @NaazirMahmood and can be reached at: mnazir1964@yahoo.co.uk

Disclaimer: Views expressed by writers in this section are their own and do not necessarily reflect The Asian Telegraph's point-of-view

## Today in History

### Pakistan

In the 1920s, the frequency of communal riots was unprecedented. Several Hindu-Muslim unity conferences were held to remove the causes of conflict, but, it seemed nothing could mitigate the intensity of communalism. In the light of this situation, the Muslims revised their constitutional demands. They now wanted preservation of their numerical majorities in the Punjab and Bengal, separation of Sindh from Bombay, constitution of Balochistan as a separate province and introduction of constitutional reforms in the North-West Frontier Province.

It was partly to press these demands that one section of the All-India Muslim League cooperated with the statutory commission sent by the British Government under the chairmanship of Sir John Simon in 1927.

The other section of the League, which boycotted the Simon Commission for its all-White character, cooperated with the Nehru Committee, appointed by the All-Parties Conference, to draft a constitution for India. The Nehru Report had an extremely anti-Muslim bias and the Congress leadership's refusal to amend it disillusioned even the moderate Muslims. Several leaders and thinkers, having insight into the Hindu-Muslim ques-

tion proposed separation of Muslim India. However, the most lucid opposition of the inner feeling of the Muslim community was given by Allama Muhammad Iqbal (1877-1938) in his Presidential Address at the All-India Muslim League Session at Allahabad in 1930. He suggested that for the healthy development of Islam in South-Asia,

To be continued....

## Blake Lively struggles to maintain positive image amid 'It Ends With Us' drama

Blake Lively seeks redemption amid 'most hated' label



Blake Lively is proactively working to shed her negative image and rebuild relationships, leveraging her influence and that of her husband, Ryan Reynolds, to secure projects and navigate challenges. According to a Life and Style magazine, "Blake has now had the biggest direct hit of her career with It Ends With Us, but she's not going to let herself be permanently painted as the villain every project she does going forward." The source added, "In fact, she is pushing back against that strongly and making sure her real allies know just how much they are valued."

Lively's reputation took a hit amid rumours of a feud with her It Ends With Us co-star Justin Baldoni, which sparked during filming. Resurfaced interviews further fueled her "mean girl" image, showcasing her making snarky remarks when a journalist congratulated her on her pregnancy. Determined to rectify her public image, Lively is strategically focusing on nurturing meaningful relationships and showcasing her genuine side. The source suggested that Lively's renewed efforts aim to showcase her authentic personality, moving beyond the negative perceptions.

## Showbiz

## FAA gives nod to SpaceX Falcon 9 return to flight after mishap probe

WASHINGTON: The US Federal Aviation Administration said on Friday it had approved the return to flight of the SpaceX Falcon 9 vehicle after the agency reviewed and accepted the SpaceX-led investigation findings and corrective actions for the mishap that occurred on September 28. The FAA said on September 30 that SpaceX had to investigate why the second stage of its Falcon 9 malfunctioned after a Nasa astronaut mission, grounding the launch vehicle for the third time in three months. The malfunction caused the booster to fall into a region of the Pacific Ocean outside of the designated safety zone the FAA approved. The FAA also said Friday it closed the SpaceX-led investigations for the Falcon 9 mishaps that occurred with Starlink missions in July and August. On Sunday, the FAA said SpaceX's workhorse Falcon 9 rocket could return to flight solely for a mission on Monday for the European Space Agency's Hera spacecraft from

CEO Elon Musk harshly criticises FAA for proposing \$633,000 fine against SpaceX over launch issues

Florida. Separately, Reuters reported this week the FAA could approve a license for the launch of SpaceX's Starship 5 as soon as this month. Starship 5 is the fifth test launch of the company's rocket which it calls Starship. The Starship spacecraft and Super Heavy rocket are a fully reusable system designed to carry crew and cargo to Earth orbit, the Moon and beyond. Last month, the FAA said it did not expect a determination on a license before late November. SpaceX said Monday Starship's fifth flight test could launch as soon as Sunday, pending regulatory approval.

## Tech

## Blood type A linked to higher risk of early stroke study finds

Study has revealed that individuals with blood type A are more likely to suffer a stroke before the age of 60. Blood types represent different chemical markers present on the surface of our red blood cells. The most well known blood types are A and B which can be combined as AB. Individually they are identified as A or B and if neither is present the blood is classified as type O. Within these major blood types small varia-

tions occur due to mutations in the genes that determine them. In a 2022 study genomic researchers discovered a significant link between the A1 subgroup and early stroke risks. In the latest study published in the journal Neurology researchers gathered data from 48 genetic studies. This study analyzed approximately 17,000 individuals who had suffered a stroke and nearly 600,000 individuals who had not all aged between 18 and 59.

Genomic research identified two loci strongly associated with early stroke risks. One of these loci was where the genes determining blood type are located. A further analysis of specific blood type genes revealed that individuals with a genome coded for the A blood group had a 16% higher risk of suffering a stroke before the age of 60 compared to those with other blood types. Participants with the O1 gene had a 12% lower risk of stroke.

## Health





## Consensus on constitutional amendments within reach: Senator Irfan Siddiqui

Says govt's draft, which includes suggestions from legal community & bar associations finalized

ISLAMABAD: PML-N senior leader Senator Irfan Siddiqui, on Saturday, said that the committee was close to reaching a consensus on constitutional amendments, with key political parties aligning on major points.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that the primary goal of the special parliamentary committee was to reach a consensus on a unified draft of constitutional amendments. This draft, once finalized, will be presented to the government, passed through the cabinet, and then turned into a bill requiring a two-thirds majority in the assembly, he said.

He expressed optimism about the ongoing discussions with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F), noting that while there had been some setbacks earlier, recent meetings have brought a positive outlook. He said that the government's draft, which includes suggestions from the legal community and bar associations, has been finalized.

The PPP has also submitted its draft, and Maulana Fazlur Rehman presented his version, he added. The MQM has submitted a separate draft focusing on local government reforms, although they agree with the broader constitutional amendments.

"PTI is the only party that has not submitted anything in writing," Siddiqui said, pointing out that while they raise objections, they have not provided any specific document for consideration. He urged PTI to bring forward any solid recommendations if they may have. Responding to a question, senator said none of the proposed amendments are person-specific, and no individual's name has been considered so far.

He criticized PTI for their habit of objecting without offering constructive alternatives. Regarding the recent meeting between Nawaz Sharif and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, he said it was held in a cordial atmosphere.

Bilawal appreciated Mian Nawaz Sharif's efforts in strengthening democracy and discussed the points in the Charter of Democracy that have yet to be implemented.

On PTI's call for protests, he shared that the committee had urged PTI to reconsider its stance, given the potential damage to the country's reputation during an important international event. However, PTI has not given a clear response.

"PTI need to decide whether they are a democratic political party that values national interests or a group aligned with disruptive forces," Siddiqui said. He said that Pakistan's political history has never witnessed such behavior and urged PTI to think carefully about its actions. SABAH



SIALKOT: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif addressing the business community while congratulating the newly elected officials of the Chamber of Commerce, including President Ikram ul Haq. APP

## Critical food aid lifelines into war-hit northern Gaza severed: UN

UNITED NATIONS: The UN World Food Programme (WFP) Saturday warned that escalating Israeli attacks in northern Gaza is having a disastrous impact on food security for thousands of Palestinian families, noting that the main crossings into the north have been closed and no food aid has entered since Oct. 1.

Food distribution points, as well as kitchens and bakeries in North Gaza, have been forced to shut down due to airstrikes, military ground operations and evacuation orders.

The only functioning bakery in North Gaza, supported by Rome-based WFP, caught fire after being hit by an explosive munition.

"The north is basically cut off and we're not able to operate there," Antoine Renard, WFP Country Director for Palestine, said.

"WFP has been on the ground since the onset of the crisis. We are committed to delivering life-saving food every day despite the mounting challenges, but without safe and sustained access, it is virtually impossible to reach the people in need."

At UN Headquarters in New York, UN Deputy Spokesperson Farhan Haq said the situation in the south is also "at breaking point". No food distributions are taking place, while bakeries are struggling to secure wheat flour, putting them at risk of shutting down any day.

"Aid entering Gaza is at its lowest level in months. No one has received food parcels in this month due to constrained access of aid supplies," he said.

WFP said it's last remaining food supplies in the north — including canned food, wheat flour, high-energy biscuits, and nutrition supplements — have been distributed to shelters, health facilities and kitchens in Gaza City and three shel-

ters in North Gaza. If the conflict continues to escalate at the current scale, it is unclear how long these limited food supplies will last and the consequences for fleeing families will be dire.

The rapid deterioration in the north comes as aid entering Gaza overall is at its lowest level in months, and commercial goods are barely trickling in. WFP said it has been able to bring in only four percent of the food needed to sustain a million people in Gaza this month.

As a result, no one in Gaza this month has received the more substantial WFP food parcels typically distributed. These parcels — containing pasta, rice, oil and canned meat — are a lifeline for many families.

"If we cannot get more aid into and across Gaza, we won't be able to deliver food parcels to more than a million Palestinians in Gaza," said WFP's Renard. "People have run out of ways to cope, food systems have collapsed, and the risk of famine is real."

As winter approaches, Gazans find themselves without adequate shelter, no fuel and very little aid, and WFP said it urgently needs safe and sustained access to deliver life-saving food assistance. This requires more crossing points open to move food into Gaza, and security for our staff and partners who are working tirelessly to safely deliver food to those in need.

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said sudden displacement orders in the north are once again affecting tens of thousands of vulnerable boys and girls. OCHA warned that most displacement is now occurring in the north, where no tents are available to support families that have been newly uprooted.

The latest developments in North Gaza governorate have forced the suspension of protection

services, the closure of malnutrition treatment services, and the shutting down of five temporary learning spaces, affecting hundreds of children, while the Kamal Adwan Hospital is seeing an influx of trauma injuries.

UN humanitarian officials have continued to warn that the situation for civilians is getting worse as the Israeli military renews its push into the north, where some 400,000 people face evacuation orders.

"Over the last week, the Israeli military has intensified operations in north Gaza, further severing the area from the rest of the Gaza Strip and risking the lives of civilians in the areas," said Ravina Shamdasani, spokesperson for the UN human rights office, OHCHR.

"Intense strikes, shelling, quadcopter shootings and ground incursions have occurred over the past days, hitting residential buildings and groups of people, causing numerous casualties and once again, mass displacement of Palestinians in the area."

As UN aid agencies and partners prepare to roll out the second phase of the mass polio vaccination campaign next week, the World Health Organization (WHO) Representative for the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Dr. Rik Peepkorn, underscored the impact of a chronic lack of humanitarian access to the enclave and, in particular, the north.

"Many of the hospitals in the north are running out of fuel. Most of the UN and humanitarian missions are not happening to the north. They're running out of a few specific medical supplies and we are one year in this crisis," Dr Peepkorn said, as he confirmed that three relief missions north of Wadi Gaza had not made it this week. APP

## Full force of state will be used to foil PTI agenda of chaos: Khawaja Asif

SIALKOT: Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif said that the PTI founder had always prioritized his interests over national interests and the party wanted to block the path of Pakistan's development.

Addressing a press conference at his residence in Sialkot Cantt, he said when the heads of 16, 17 countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) are coming to Pakistan, the PTI founder has given a call for protest, however, he warned that the country's interests will be protected at any cost.

Khawaja Muhammad Asif said the behaviour of the PTI had been the same since 2014 when their protests delayed the visit of the Chinese President. "A similar behaviour is being shown by PTI leaders when the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit is round the corner and the party is making an all-out effort to undermine Pakistan's international standing. The PTI is now attempting to sabotage the SCO summit," he added.

"The PTI has given a call for sit-in again on October 15, which is a bad move to influence the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) conference. PTI protests have always aimed to obstruct Pakistan's progress. The loyalty of the PTI and its leader, Inuran Khan, lies solely in maintaining authority rather than serving Pakistan's interests. Their desire for power has eclipsed their commitment to the nation," he added.

He said, "We will not be blackmailed by the PTI under any circumstances and would never allow anyone to spread chaos and anarchy in the country under the guise of protests. Soldiers are being martyred in the country daily but the PTI only wants to spread chaos. If the establishment works to bring them to power, then they are happy, otherwise they speak against it. Even today the PTI founder tweeted against it."

He recalled that Nawaz Sharif was not even allowed to speak in jail but alleged that the judiciary had provided all facilities to the PTI founder and asked the judiciary to take notice of his attacks on the integrity of Pakistan. "These people want to repeat May 9. These people want to spread chaos and anarchy in the country again. They do not want Pakistan to be respected at the global level and that is the reason they are spreading chaos and anarchy. However, we will not allow its nefarious objectives to succeed in any way and would use the full force of the state against those who attack the integrity of the country," he maintained. Khawaja Muhammad Asif said that PTI people had never condemned terrorists, instead they always supported them. "They do not even attend the funeral of our martyrs," he added.

In response to a question, he said that daily losses of billions of rupees are caused by PTI protests and sit-ins. "If they let the country run, this money can be spent on public relief and welfare." MPAs Muhammad Manshaullah Butt, Chaudhry Faisal Ikram, Shakeela Arthur, PML-N President Sialkot City Muhammad Rafique Mughal, General Secretary Women's Wing Nasrat Jamsheed were also present on this occasion. Earlier, Khawaja Muhammad Asif visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) and had a meeting with its president, Ikram-ul-Haq. The discussion were held on matters of mutual interest, including economic development, regional business challenges, and potential areas of cooperation between the business community and the government. APP

## Sialkot school trip tragedy: One student killed, several injured in Islamabad bus accident



The incident occurred when the bus, en route from Sialkot, veered off course at Shakarparian after the driver reportedly lost control of the vehicle.

All injured students were promptly transported to Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) and Polyclinic Hospital for medical treatment. The district administration confirmed that the students were receiving the necessary medical care.

The driver of the bus fled the scene following the accident. Authorities are currently investigating the incident and suspect driver's negligence. Efforts are underway to track down and apprehend the driver.

In the aftermath, transport arrangements have been made to safely return the remaining students to Sialkot. Officials stated that they are working closely with both the school administration and Sialkot district authorities to ensure the students' safe journey back home.

ISLAMABAD: A school trip took a tragic turn when a bus carrying students from Sialkot on Saturday involved in an accident at Shakarparian, Islamabad.

According to a spokesman for the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration, one student lost his life, and seven others sustained serious injuries in the crash.

## Pakistan to host 23rd CHG SCO meeting on Oct 15-16

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will host the twenty-third meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government (CHG) of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) from 15 to 16 October in Islamabad.

"In his capacity as the current Chair of the CHG, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif will preside over the upcoming CHG meeting," Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press statement on Saturday.

SCO member States will be represented by the Prime Ministers of China, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as well as the First Vice President of Iran and External Affairs Minister of India.

Prime Minister of Mongolia (Observer State) and Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Foreign Ministers of Turkmenistan (Special Guest) will also participate in the meeting.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will also hold important bilateral meetings with visiting heads of delegation on the sidelines of the meeting.

The CHG meeting will discuss ongoing cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, environment, socio-cultural linkages and review the performance of the Organization.

"The leaders will adopt important organizational decisions to further enhance cooperation among SCO member States and approve the budget of the Organization," it was further added. APP

## There is no fee for survey in BISP, 8171 is the only official BISP number, message from any other number is fraud, do report BISP: Rubina

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, visited the BISP Dynamic Registry Center and Payment Camp Site in Faisalabad.

During her visit, she addressed the women who had come for registration and collection of payments, reiterating that BISP does not charge any survey fee.

She emphasized that 8171 is the only official BISP number through which messages are sent to eligible women, and any message from a different number should be considered fraudulent. For complaints related to deductions or corruption, beneficiaries should contact the BISP Helpline at 0800-26477, she added.

Senator Rubina Khalid stated, "The purpose of my visit to Faisalabad is to understand the issues faced by eligible women." During her visit, she met with the women, listened to their concerns, and issued instructions to BISP staff for the immediate resolution of these issues. The women expressed their gratitude to Senator Rubina Khalid for addressing their concerns and taking prompt action. SABAH

## Azfar Ahsan meets Saudi investment minister to foster B2B investments

ISLAMABAD: Former Minister for Investment Muhammad Azfar Ahsan met with H.E. Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih, Minister of Investment for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in Islamabad on Saturday. They discussed the robust partnership between the private sectors of both countries, emphasizing that the private sector should be empowered to lead business-to-business (B2B) collaborations for finalizing productive investments. The conversation focused on fostering an ecosystem to strengthen the bilateral relationship, addressing key challenges faced by both countries, and outlining a strategic road-map for the future. A project centered on food security was highlighted as a critical area for collaboration, aimed at promoting stability and prosperity. They emphasized the need for consistency in partnerships to navigate complex geopolitical dynamics and foster regional stability.

Additionally, a visit to Riyadh by leading Pakistani business houses was agreed upon, where they will engage in B2B meetings with their Saudi counterparts to explore joint ventures and attract further investments into Pakistan. H.E. Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih and Muhammad Azfar Ahsan expressed optimism about the prospects for deeper cooperation and mutual prosperity. APP

## CM inaugurates new emergency block at Indus Hospital



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif inaugurated a new emergency block at Indus Hospital in Jubilee Town here on Saturday.

During her visit, the CM toured various departments, including resuscitation areas, CT scan facilities, nursing stations, information desks, and family medicine centers.

Addressing a woman's complaint about police inaction, she promptly summoned the DIG of Investigation, directing an immediate resolution. Maryam Nawaz also visited children in the emergency ward, offering prayers for their swift recovery.

The chief minister reviewed the hospital's treatment protocols and paperless dashboard sys-

tem, engaging with patients and their families to assess the quality of healthcare services.

The CM called for a collaborative plan to enhance government hospitals with support from the Indus Trust and agreed on joint efforts for pediatric heart surgeries.

Emphasizing her commitment to improving healthcare across Punjab, she noted that the province would benefit from the best practices of Indus Hospital. Maryam Nawaz highlighted the success of the air ambulance service in saving lives daily.

Punjab Information and Culture Minister Azma Zahid Bukhari, MPA Saania Ashiq, Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Secretary Health, and other officials were present.

## International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction reminds us that we must act collectively to safeguard our future: Gilani

Says this day serves as a reminder of vulnerability of nations like Pakistan to growing threats of climate change

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on the occasion of International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction said, "we join the global community in raising awareness about the importance of reducing disaster risks and building resilience in the face of natural calamities. This day serves as a reminder of the vulnerability of nations like Pakistan to the growing threats of climate change and environmental disasters."

He said Pakistan, a country with diverse geography and a rich cultural heritage, has been deeply impacted by the devastating effects of climate change, adding our nation has witnessed the tragic consequences of natural disasters, from floods that have displaced millions and destroyed livelihoods to earthquakes

that have shattered communities and infrastructure. He said each disaster has not only caused untold human suffering but also strained our economy and resources, underlining the urgent need for effective disaster risk management and climate resilience.

He said the increasing frequency and intensity of floods, particularly the catastrophic floods of recent years, have highlighted the critical importance of preparedness and adaptation measures. These challenges require coordinated action at both national and international levels, he noted.

He said the government of Pakistan is committed to implementing comprehensive strategies to mitigate the risks associated with natural disasters. He said, "We are working to strengthen early warning systems,

enhance disaster preparedness at the community level, and invest in resilient infrastructure that can withstand the challenges posed by climate change. However, this is not a task that the government can accomplish alone. It is crucial that we engage with local communities, civil society organizations, and the private sector to build a culture of awareness and preparedness."

He said, "On this day, I urge all Pakistanis to take active steps in learning about disaster risks and contributing to disaster reduction efforts. By educating ourselves and others, we can save lives and protect our communities from the worst impacts of natural disasters."

Let us also remember that climate change is not only a local problem but a global one, he said and added

Pakistan is among the countries that contribute the least to global greenhouse gas emissions, yet we are disproportionately affected by its consequences. Therefore, it is imperative for the international community to take bold and immediate action to reduce carbon emissions and support vulnerable nations like Pakistan in building resilience against the impacts of climate change, he added.

He said in conclusion, the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction reminds us that we must act collectively to safeguard our future. Together, through awareness, preparedness, and global cooperation, we can reduce the risk of natural disasters and ensure a safer, more resilient world for future generations. SABAH