



Islamabad POST

Thursday, October 05, 2023

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 25

Thai PM vows action on guns after deadly mall shooting

Detailed News On Page-07

Turkey threatens to expand cross-border strikes

Detailed News On Page-08



Shaheen Afridi climbs ICC ODI ranking

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Usman Dar leaves PTI

Says Imran Khan behind May 9 events

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: PTI leader Usman Dar said that the planning of May 9 events was done in Zaman Park under the Chairman PTI Imran Khan. Usman Dar while speaking to private news channel program said that in case of arrest of Chairman PTI, instructions were given to target sensitive installations. Usman Dar further said that the long march was done in October 2022 to stop the appointment of General Asim Munir as the Army Chief, the purpose of the May 9 attacks was to put pressure on the army and remove General Asim Munir from office. Usman Dar further alleges that Chairman PTI Imran Khan used human shield to avoid arrest, Chairman PTI prepared the mind of workers to avoid arrest, what happened in Judicial Complex Islamabad and Zaman Park was the same.

Ahsan vows to peaceful Pakistan

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and former minister Ahsan Iqbal has said that the party will make Pakistan a peaceful country again. Addressing a press conference in Model Town on Wednesday, he said Nawaz Sharif is due back on Oct 21. "He became premier in 2013 when the country was in turmoil; lawlessness was at its peak and foreign investors had left," he added. The PML-N had ended inflation, load shedding and unemployment till 2017. Nawaz was disqualified under a conspiracy and the country had to pay a heavy price of this act, Ahsan continued. The former minister said a person who did not run the affairs of a union council, was put at the helm of affairs of the country. "We warned when the PTI chief was signing agreement with the IMF that he was putting the poor and future at stake. We cautioned that the agreement would cause worst inflation in the country," he stated. He said the country was facing consequences of the agreement signed by the PTI chief.

Imran Khan disappointed with Alvi

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan is deeply disappointed and unhappy with the President Dr Arif Alvi, Aleema Khan told reporters on Wednesday following a court appearance in Lahore. Aleema, who was accused in the May 9 riots case, appeared before an Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC), where the court extended her and former finance minister Asad Umar's interim bails until October 16. The judge directed lawyers to present their final arguments in Jinnah House attack case.

Tensions at border

Two killed in Afghan sentry fire

The ISPR said the incident occurred at the outbound gate located on the zero line

DNA

ISLAMABAD: At least two people, including a 12-year-old child, were killed on Wednesday when an Afghan sentry opened "unprovoked and indiscriminate" firing on pedestrians at the Chaman border in Balochistan, the military's media affairs wing said. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), a child was also injured during the firing. "On October 4, at 1600 hours, an Afghan sentry employed at Friendship Gate of Chaman Border Crossing along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in Balochistan opened unprovoked and indiscriminate firing at pedestrians moving from Pakistan to Afghanistan," it said. The ISPR said the incident occurred at the outbound gate located on the zero line. "Own troops exercised extreme restraint and avoided any exchange of fire in the presence of innocent passengers to avoid collateral damage," it stated. The ISPR said the bodies have been shifted to the Chaman District Headquarters Hospital and the injured child, who was immediately evacuated by security forces, is under treatment. "Afghan authorities have been approached to inquire the reason for such irresponsible and reckless act, apprehend and hand over the culprit to Pakistani authorities," the statement said. It added that

Continued on Page 06

Taliban oppose Pak ultimatum

NEWS DESK

KABUL: Afghan Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid on Wednesday said Pakistan's decision to expel undocumented Afghan nationals was "unacceptable" and urged authorities to revisit the policy. The statement comes a day after the caretaker government gave an ultimatum to all undocumented immigrants, including Afghan nationals, to leave Pakistan by October 31, or risk imprisonment and deportation to their respective countries. The decision was taken in an apex committee meeting headed by Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar and attended by the army chief, among others. The committee also decided that movement across the border would be subject to passports and visas, while electronic Afghan identity cards (or e-tazkiras) would only be accepted until Oct 31. After the passage of the deadline, the authorities would kickstart an operation targeting

Continued on Page 06

ECP issues Code of Conduct for int'l observers, media

The code of conduct instructs international observers to rigorously adhere to local laws

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan has issued a concise 30-point Code of Conduct for international observers and media during elections, emphasizing impartiality, respect for local laws and culture, responsible reporting, and security and violations may lead to accreditation withdrawal by the Commission. The code of conduct instructs international observers to rigorously adhere to local laws, and show respect for Pakistan's sovereignty and cultural norms. It forbids actions that might sway voters, acceptance of gifts from political entities, and making personal remarks about the election. Additionally, it provides guidelines for responsible reporting and underscores the significance of security measures. Any individual or member of a local group or international election observation mission, who is observing and reporting on the electoral

Continued on Page 06

Former allies step up rhetoric

DNA

PESHAWAR: The Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (JUI-F) on Wednesday stepped up the rhetoric and called out former ally PPP for its narrative of timely polls, saying that the party's demand was actually "an excuse to run away from elections". The statement, issued by JUI-F spokesperson Aslam Ghauri, comes two days after PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari criticised the former for endorsing a delay in polls. After publicly criticising the PML-N multiple times over the past few weeks for allegedly accepting a delay in general elections beyond three months, Bilawal had

Continued on Page 06

Nawaz' Sharif return in country's interest, says Shehbaz Sharif

Reiterates and confirmed his brother's homecoming on Oct 21

ABBAS HASHMI / DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif has reassured that party supremo Nawaz Sharif is coming back to the country not taking "revenge but in fact to rescue the country out of crisis". Addressing a political gathering in Lahore on Wednesday, Shehbaz once again reiterated and confirmed his brother's homecoming on October 21 and said that Nawaz is coming back to serve the people of Pakistan and to once again recommence the journey towards prosperity. Nawaz, the three-time prime minister, has been in self-imposed exile in London since November 2019 owing to health reasons. He was disqualified for life in 2017 by the Supreme Court for not declaring a receivable salary. Asking the party workers to get ready to welcome Nawaz to highlight the injustice done to him, Shehbaz said that the people of Pakistan - due to the ouster of Nawaz - were "in fact deprived of progress and development". Commenting on the performance of the Nawaz-led PML-N government, the former PM said that his brother came into power at a time when the country faced long hours of load-shedding. In only four years Nawaz Sharif rooted out load-shedding, he added. "During Nawaz Sharif's tenure [as prime minister] flour was at Rs35 per kilogramme," the PML-N president said while

Continued on Page 06

PTI suggests to rename PML-N

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) spokesperson has blasted the PML-N for its political somersaults and advised the party to register itself with new name as a 'clique of clowns' since its entire leadership including the absconder leader were busy in political acrobats because they do not have any narrative to face the public. Reacting strongly to the PML-N's volte-face on its narrative, PTI spokesperson said that the 'clique of clowns' started its narrative from accountability of judges and generals but now it's corrupt and convicted leadership decided to leave the matter of accountability to the divine justice. He made it clear that the PML-N did not have any political program, because it was not a political party but a group of clowns and self-centered greedy people who did not bother about the interest of the

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: 12th Round of Pakistan-Norway Bilateral Political Consultations were held in Islamabad. Pakistan delegation was led by Ambassador Muhammad Saleem, AS (Europe) while the Norwegian delegation was led by Mr. Vebjorn Dysvik, Director General, Department for Regional Affairs, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Norwegian Ambassador to Pakistan was also present. - DNA

COAS, Austin discuss 'regional developments'

This is the second time that Gen Munir and the US defense secretary spoke over the telephone



DNA

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir and US Defense Secretary Lloyd J Austin on Tuesday discussed "areas of mutual interest as well as recent regional developments", according to the US Department of Defense. In a brief statement, the US Defense Department noted that Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Munir and US Defense Secretary Austin, during a phone call, discussed "recent regional developments"

Continued on Page 06

Pak expects \$10 billion refinery deal with KSA

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is anticipating the long-awaited \$10 billion agreement with Saudi Arabia's oil titan, Aramco, for the construction of a refinery in Hub to reach its finalisation this year. Additionally, the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), a collaboration between the military and civilian authorities, is exploring options to secure approximately \$7 billion from Saudi Arabia,

Continued on Page 06

Open court hearing in cypher case: IHC

CJ Farooq says documents which are to be kept confidential will remain so after consulting with counsels

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) rejected on Wednesday the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) petition to hold in-camera proceedings of ousted premier Imran Khan's bail plea in the cypher case. IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq had reserved his decision on the FIA's plea earlier this week. Announcing the verdict, the court said that the matter will be heard before an open court. The documents which are to be kept confidential will remain so after consulting with the counsels, said CJ Farooq. The court fixed the bail application for hearing on October 9. The cypher case concerns a diplomatic cable, which reportedly went missing from Imran's possession. His party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had claimed that the cypher contained a threat from the United States to remove Imran from the Prime Minister's Office. Imran was ousted through a vote of no-confidence in April 2022. He has been arrested twice since, with the second arrest made on August 5, 2023, after a

Continued on Page 06

Imran will be exonerated in all cases

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf senior leader and former finance minister Asad Umar said on Wednesday that PTI chief would be exonerated in all cases and his party would actively take part in elections. Reacting to PML-N supremo's homecoming and Maryam Nawaz's public gathering in Lahore, former federal minister Asad Umar while talking to media persons outside an anti-terrorism court, said it was not a mass rally rather a small gathering of people. "It's not fair to call it a Jalsa (big gathering), it was a Jalsi (small gathering)," said Umar. He said thank God Nawaz Sharif was

Continued on Page 06

MURREE SPARKLETT'S
Bottled Drinking Water

WATER TASTES BEST IN GLASS!!

CARBONATED WATER ALSO AVAILABLE IN GLASS BOTTLE

For Sales & Supply Contact:

Rizi Abbas 03325599169	Kaiser Waheed 03325808422	Riaz Muhammad 0335 5111043
---------------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------

53rd PN staff course visits Pakistan Navy war college

He accentuated that the indigenous narrative cannot be propagated without reflection on present norms and without writing and talking about them. At the end of the event, the delegation thanked IPS officials on behalf of PNWC for hosting the delegates

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD : Participants of the 53rd PN Staff Course at Pakistan Navy War College (PNWC), Lahore, visited the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad, to gain exposure to independent think tanks and their role in the contemporary world and in enhancing strategic capabilities. The delegation of 79 officers, headed by Commodore Ehsan Ahmed Khan SI(M), comprised faculty members of PNWC and participant officers of the Staff Course. Vice Chairman IPS Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain introduced IPS, its mandate, and its research domains to the delegates, while General Manager Operations Naufil Shahrukh gave a detailed presentation about the Institute's activities to promote research, dialogue,

publishing, and human and technological development activities for policy and governance with particular reference to its maritime policy desk. While addressing the officers on the "Role of Think Tanks in the Contemporary World", Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman explained how the world and warfare have changed over the centuries. He described how building a case and justifying the cause of waging war has become necessary. He said that, unlike the past several centuries, along with physical might, the strength and propagation of indigenous narrative have also become a significant aspect of warfare in the contemporary world. In this regard, an effective role is performed by the research organizations and think tanks which filter information in this era of information overload and support indigenous opinions and analyses through participating in the

policy process and deriving insights from a pool of experts, intellectuals, and practitioners. He further emphasized that in today's world, where merit and morality are being sacrificed against money and the market, wars and conflicts will not stop happening. That's why the militaries and nations need to ensure preparedness through narrative and perception management as well. Speaking on the occasion, Commodore Ehsan stressed the importance of education and learning. He said that it is critical to know ourselves before the adversary in order to construct and promote indigenous narratives. He accentuated that the indigenous narrative cannot be propagated without reflection on present norms and without writing and talking about them. At the end of the event, the delegation thanked IPS officials on behalf of PNWC for hosting the delegates.



SSP distributes cheques among police veterans

LAHORE : On the special instructions of CCPO Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamayana, the process of distribution of welfare funds among police employees is going on. SSP Admin Atif Nazir distributed cheques of welfare funds among police veterans and parents of special children at the CCPO office here on Wednesday. Four million rupees have been distributed in the month of September, while the series which started from September 1 is still going on. Around 149 families have benefited from welfare funds in the month of September. The CCPO Lahore said that the welfare of special children of police employees will continue while all possible resources are being provided for the welfare of special children. The SSP (Admin) inquired about the problems from the parents and visitors of special children and issued instructions on the spot to solve them. Atif Nazir said that scholarships are being given to children of martyrs and veterans and special children of police personnel are being treated in the best medical institutions.—APP

LESCO recovers Rs 24.2m from 743 defaulters

LESCO Chief Executive Officer Engineer Shahid Haider said that the company is facing loss due to dead defaulters, and vowed to continue action against them

LAHORE : Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) in collaboration with Tehsildars (Recovery) has recovered Rs 24.2 million from 743 dead defaulters in all the five districts - Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara - on the 21st day of its recovery campaign. LESCO spokesman told media here Wednesday that on the 21st day, Chief Engineer O&M (T&G) Zafar Iqbal with the support of Tehsildar City Mujahid Zia and Tehsildar Shalimar Noreez Humayun recovered outstanding dues of Rs 4.82 million from 93 defaulters in Northern Circle and Rs 5.20 million from 63 defaulters in Eastern Circle respectively. Similarly, LESCO Manager (Material Disposal) Engineer Anwar Watto along with Tehsildar Model Town Rana Ahsan and Tehsildar Cant. Sajjad Qureshi recovered Rs 3.91 million from 109 defaulters in Central Circle and Rs 1.34 million from 43 defaulters in South Circle,

while Manager (Technical) Engineer Muhammad Farooq with the assistance of Tehsildar Nankana Sahib Muhammad Iqbal Rasheed and Tehsildar Sheikhupura Muhammad Aslam Gujjar recovered Rs 1.49 million from 80 defaulters in Nankana Sahib Circle and Rs 2.51 million from 76 defaulters in Sheikhupura Circle. He added that LESCO Manager E&S (PMU) Engineer Abbas Ali in collaboration with Naib Tehsildar Kasur and Okara Mirza Zahid Baig recovered outstanding dues of Rs 1.35 million from 108 defaulters in Okara Circle and Rs 3.59 million from 171 defaulters in Kasur Circle. Up till now during the recovery campaign, the LESCO with the help of Tehsildars (Recovery) recovered more than Rs 600.7 million from 18,363 dead defaulters in its all circles of operation. He elaborated that LESCO recovered outstanding dues of Rs 71.64 million from 2,582 defaulters in

Northern Circle; Rs 147.10 million from 2,041 defaulters in Eastern Circle; Rs 86.57 million from 2,284 defaulters in Central Circle; Rs 39.47 million from 1,174 defaulters in South Circle, Rs 37.47 million from 1,444 defaulters in Nankana Sahib Circle; Rs 78.68 million from 1,679 defaulters in Sheikhupura Circle; Rs 39.27 million from 2,698 defaulters in Okara Circle and Rs 100.51 million from 4,461 defaulters in Kasur Circle.

For the recovery campaign started on September 13, the Lahore Division's Commissioner had assigned additional charge of Tehsildar Recovery (from LESCO defaulters) to relevant Tehsildars, while LESCO Chief Executive Officer Engineer Shahid Haider has also designated four senior officers to assist them in the dues recovery from defaulters. LESCO Chief Executive Officer Engineer Shahid Haider said that the company is facing loss due to dead defaulters, and vowed to continue action against them.



ISLAMABAD: Mr and Mrs Skakil Ahmad hosted dinner for their son in law Safdar Parvez the ADB Country Director for China. A large number of guests hailing from various walks of life attended the reception.—DNA

Crackdown against profiteers continues

NAROWAL : District Officer (DO) Industries Narowal Zeeshan Niaz said that on the special orders of the Chief Secretary Punjab and on the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Narowal Muhammad Ashraf, the crackdown against adulteration, hoarding and overcharging was ongoing in Narowal district. According to a press release issued here on Wednesday, District Officer (DO) Industries said that 4,543 inspections were conducted by Price Control Magistrates during the last month. He said that during the campaign, 416 shopkeepers were found guilty of violation and were fined Rs. 1,839,500. At least, 13 cases were registered, 39 people were arrested and two shops were sealed.—APP

SNGPL disconnects more 133 connections

LAHORE : The Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL), in its ongoing crackdown against gas theft, disconnected another 133 connections in Punjab, KP and Islamabad, imposing fine worth Rs 17,048 million and 418 under billing cases processed. According to a spokesman for the SNGPL, teams continued raids in Lahore, and disconnected a connection on illegal use of gas and five connections were disconnected on the use of compressor, 38 under billing cases processed while imposing a fine of Rs 5.784 million booked against gas theft and Rs 0.021 million booked against under billing. In Bahawalpur 10, Multan 7 and Sheikhupura 17 connection were disconnected over violations. The teams also took action against 44 violators in Peshawar, seven in Rawalpindi and 11 in Mardan.—APP

PO arrested by Interpol

SARGODHA : A proclaimed offender (PO) was arrested through Interpol by the Federal Investigation Agency, who was wanted to Sargodha police in a murder case. According to a spokesman of FIA, the arrested accused, Amanat Ali, had fled to Saudi Arabia after committing the crime. Red notice was issued for the arrest of Amanat Ali.—APP

ISSI hosts int'l conference on peace and security

DNA

ISLAMABAD : The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with the United States Institute for Peace (USIP), is holding an International Conference on "Navigating Peace & Security in the Region & Beyond: Pakistan's Role" on 5-6 October 2023. The Conference is aimed at undertaking a strategic scan of the developments at the international level and in the adjoining regions of Pakistan. Today's world situation, as is quite evident, continues to be marked by extreme fluidity and even volatility in many places. Major-power competition, war, active and simmering military conflicts, trans-national terrorism, aftermath of pandemic, economic downturn, unresolved disputes, the existential threat of climate change, and a looming population explosion are but a few illustrations of what

countries across the globe are faced with. A visibly evolving global order, with its attendant consequences, is throwing up new challenges and making the quest for stability a strategic imperative. Regardless of their size or stature, nations recognize the compelling necessity and desirability of adhering to established international norms and fostering cooperative frameworks. Pakistan is no exception. Besides, Pakistan's pivotal geographic location places it at the crossroads of vast geo-economic opportunities, including connectivity, trade and energy flows, and developmental partnerships. As it tackles the complex geo-strategic landscape, and accentuates its own pivot to geo-economics, Pakistan has before it a range of opportunities in the political, diplomatic and economic domains, which it must seize and actualize with active and innovative external engagement. Within this backdrop, the ISSI (CAMEA) in collaboration with USIP, is bringing together a group of

eminent national and international speakers, academics and thought leaders to delve deeper into the various facets of changing global dynamics and the role Pakistan can play in navigating peace and security in the region and beyond. The Conference will also explore the opportunities for Pakistan and the United States to find new vistas for bilateral cooperation as well as collaboration on regional and international issues of mutual interest. The inaugural session of the Conference will be held on 5 October, featuring Remarks by DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood and Vice President USIP Dr. Andrew Wilder and a Keynote Address by Special Representative for Afghanistan Ambassador Asif Durrani. The various Working Sessions would focus on Afghanistan, the Middle East, Pakistan-U.S. relations, innovative approaches to non-traditional security challenges, global perspectives on regional peace and security, and cooperation on counter-terrorism.

BISP focuses on empowering marginalized communities

NOWSHERA : Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib has said that BISP is committed to serve the marginalized segments of society and actively working on an exit strategy for its beneficiaries, with a prime focus on equipping the children of beneficiaries with professional training related to IT and other valuable technical skills. He underscored that

this vision is an evidence of the program's long-term commitment to empowering vulnerable communities. While talking to media, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib shed light on the BISP's ongoing efforts to provide financial assistance to 9.3 million families across Pakistan. He reiterated the program's dedication to transparency in payment mechanisms and its promise of improving the welfare of those in need.

In a heartfelt plea to philanthropists, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib requested individuals and not-for-profit organizations to join hands with the BISP in its mission to uplift the 9.3 million registered families. He emphasized the authenticity of the BISP database and encouraged philanthropic contributions through transparent channels, believing that collective efforts are essential for societal progress.—APP

Religious scholar urges crackdown on smuggling

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD : The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a conference on Rehmat ulil Aalameen Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH). Sheikh Silsa Naqshbandiyya Owaisya and Head of Tanzeem Al-Ikhwan Pakistan Hazrat Ameer Abdul Qadeer Awan Madzala-ul-Aali was the chief guest. Speaking on this occasion, Hazrat Ameer Abdul Qadir Awan Madzala Al Aali shed light on the life of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) in detail. He said that Allah SWT had sent Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as a mercy and a source of guidance for the people of the whole world and by adopting the principles of his life, we can achieve success in this world and the

hereafter. He said that the birth and death of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) took place in the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal, so this month has special significance in Islamic history. He said that the life of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) is a book of guidance for the whole of humanity to achieve in this

world and the hereafter. He said that Islam has also given golden principles for the economy and emphasized on the circulation of wealth in the society so that the wealth does not accumulate in a few hands. He said that by adopting the system of Zakat and Ushar, Pakistan can get rid of debts. He said

that the example of the interest-based economy like filling water in a strainer, so by getting rid of interest-based financial system and adopting the system of Zakat and Ushar, the economy can be brought out of difficulties. He said that the prevention of smuggling is yielding

beneficial results for the economy and stressed that all immoral and illegal sources of revenue leakage should be plugged to improve the economy. He said that despite being an agricultural country, people in Pakistan are facing food inflation which is unfortunate. He stressed that government should provide unadulterated fertilizers and seeds to the farmers that would make significant improvement in agricultural productivity and reduce food inflation. He stressed for promoting industrialization to strengthen the Pakistan's economy. He said that by adopting the principles of Islam, non-Muslim countries have become developed nations today and Muslims are lagging behind in the race of development.



The Smooth Moving Connection

freeline MOVERS

PACKING, SHIPPING & FREIGHT FORWARDING







Our Services

- Packing
- Shipping
- Freight Forwarding
- Land, Sea & Air Freight
- Custom Clearance
- Relocations
- Office Removals
- Fine Art Handling
- Project Management
- Pet Relocation
- Warehousing
- Storage

Head Office

3rd Floor, Yasin Plaza, 74-West, Blue Area, Islamabad.

Tel: (+92 51) 2822471, 2274221, 2878029, 2272273, 2822711, 2874289 - Fax: (+92 51) 2825132, 2274227.

E-mail: moving@freelinemovers.com - Website: www.freelinemovers.com

Karachi

Room No. 14 & 15, 3rd Floor, Nankaiwan Mall, Main Tariq Road, T-11 Block-2, P.E.C.S. Karachi. Tel: (+92 21) 3432167, 3432179. Fax: (+92 21) 3432147. E-mail: karachi@freelinemovers.com

Lahore

F-4, Gulberg Centre, Main Boulevard, Lahore. Tel: (+92 42) 3578888, 3578785. Fax: (+92 42) 3571142. E-mail: lahore@freelinemovers.com

Peshawar

Office No. C4, 2nd Floor, Zameer Plaza, LAF Road, Ring Road, Peshawar. Tel: (+92 91) 2502779. Fax: (+92 91) 2502658. E-mail: peshawar@freelinemovers.com

Kabul

House # 4, Street # 4, Chahar Awar Road, Shah-e-Nawaz, Kabul - Afghanistan. Tel: +93 799621173, 93 79798 808, 93 77948 285. E-mail: kabul@freelinemovers.com

National Days and Armed Forces Days

OCTOBER

Oct 01/China National Day
Oct 01/Cyprus National Day
Oct 01/Republic of Korea Armed Forces Day
Oct 01/Nigeria Armed Forces Day
Oct 02/Guinea National Day
Oct 03/Germany Unification Day
Oct 03/Republic of Korea National Foundation Day
Oct 05/Indonesia Armed Forces Day
Oct 06/Egypt Armed Forces Day
Oct 09/Uganda Independence Day
Oct 12/Spain National Day
Oct 23/Hungary National Day
October 24/United Nations United Nations Day
Oct 25/Romania Armed Forces Day
Oct 26/Austria National Day
Oct 27/Turkmenistan Independence Day
Oct 28/Czech Republic National Day
Oct 29/Turkey Republic Day

Hotels & Restaurants



Serena Hotel.....111 133 133
Marriott.....051- 2826121
Monal.....0334-5421812



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15
Bomb Disposal.....15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.1122
& Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police...9266044
Motorway Police.9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi..5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111
MH.....5611116
Cantt Hospital...9270907-11
DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666



Departments

CDA.....9221334-43
CDA.....9208301-04
Met Office.....9250360-6
RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Students taking part in a Mehfil e Milad event held at The Educators G-10 campus.—DNA

Minister spells out strategy to meet energy requirements

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali has spelled out the government strategy to meet the future oil and gas needs in an efficient manner by stepping up hydrocarbon exploration activities in potential areas across the country. "We are coming up with a policy for tight gas, policy for shale gas, we have already announced bids for onshore exploration and in December for offshore exploration," he said in an interview with the Emirates News Agency (WAM) on sidelines of the ADIPEC Conference at Abu Dhabi. He said Pakistan has a strong presence at ADIPEC

this year, with around 10 companies from the exploration, oil marketing, and related sectors. "Indeed, it's a promising start, and on the very first day, we have seen a remarkable response. All our companies are actively engaged, and there's substantial interest in their offerings. The presence here is off to an excellent beginning," he said. Muhammad Ali laid emphasis on decarbonisation and electrification, saying that they were critical components of Pakistan's energy strategy for the future. "While these aspects may not have received sufficient attention in the past, there is now a strong focus on them. Initiatives include energy conservation, electrification efforts, and the re-purposing of

natural gas for power generation to electrify appliances and vehicles," he said. He said that on the decarbonisation front, the Climate Ministry was actively engaged in setting up carbon fund while the Energy Ministry was developing a comprehensive carbon policy. "The ultimate goal is to unite all stakeholders and maximize the potential of these initiatives," he added. He outlined three key priorities for the energy sector: First, addressing exploration challenges by improving data availability, removing payment barriers, and revising policies; second, expanding the natural gas supply; and third, focusing on the power sector, including transmission investments, promoting renewables, and re-



solving circular debt to ensure a stable power supply and payment resolution," he said. The minister said, "In the past, Pakistan has not focused as much on decarbonisation but now there

is a huge focus on this." He said Pakistan was working to develop renewable energy projects, improve energy efficiency, and reduce its reliance on fossil fuels. Pakistan was also looking to partners in the Middle East to help it achieve its decarbonisation goals, he said. He said, "The Middle East has very advanced technologies and players in the energy sector and Pakistan can benefit from their expertise." The Minister said ADIPEC was a major platform for collaboration between the global energy industry and governments. The event brought together decision-makers, experts, and investors to discuss the latest trends and challenges in the energy sector, he said.

PFA crackdown continues, imposes heavy fine to six outlets

RAWALPINDI: Authority (PFA) discarded 5,000 sachets of gutka and 350 litres of adulterated milk besides penalizing six food business operators with Rs74,000 cumulative fine over violations during different raids in the Rawalpindi division. PFA Director General Raja Jahangir Anwar said that acting on the tip-off, PFA's team raided a warehouse in Ganjmandi and recovered thousands of gutka packets, later discarded. The raiding team also imposed a fine of Rs 7,000 for violating the food regulations. He said that the sale of gutka is impermissible across the province after the PFA imposed a ban on it due to its negative impact on health. He further said that the PFA dairy safety team placed a screening picket in Jhelum and imposed a fine of Rs19,000 on two milk suppliers after proven contamination of polluted water in the milk during the Lactoscan test. A food safety team raided a beef shop on EidGah Road and penalized with a Rs10,000 fine due to stored meat and offal pieces together, found animal faeces in ready to mincing material, and not adopted personal protective equipment (PPE), he said. In Jhelum, a general store was slapped with a fine of Rs30,000 due to selling expired cold drinks and violating the 'First In, First Out' policy. Moreover, PFA took action against another general store in Machine Mohallah Sabri Market over multiple violations. Raja Jahangir said that PFA is utilizing all available resources to make the Safe City Project successful and to root out the adulteration in Punjab. He said that the utmost priority of PFA is to ensure the provision of healthy, safe, and standard food to the people at their doorstep.—APP

Speakers underline urgent need for sustainable waste management

ISLAMABAD: Speakers on Wednesday underlined the urgent need for sustainable waste management practices that became evident as most Pakistani cities struggled to handle the increasing waste volume, with waste collection rates hovering between 60 to 70 percent. This resulted in haphazard disposal in unscientific landfill sites, leading to greenhouse gas emissions and adverse impacts on soil and groundwater quality. The solid waste management has long been a pressing concern in Pakistan, with approximately 48.5 million tons of solid waste generated annually and a growth rate of 2.4 percent attributed to population expansion and urbanization. Organized by the Institute of Urbanism (IoU) in collaboration with Heinrich Böll Stiftung (hbs) and Peer Meher Ali Shah - Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), the 'Trash to Treasure' workshop featured an esteemed lineup of speakers, each offering unique insights into sustainable waste management. Dr. Ejaz Ahmad, Senior Program Fellow at IoU, extended a warm welcome to attendees, distinguished guests, and participants. Dr. Ahmad highlighted the long-standing concern of solid waste management in Pakistan and stressed the immediate need for sustainable solutions. Dr. Abdul Saboor, Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences (FoSS) at PMAS-AAUR, emphasized on the critical importance of addressing waste management challenges in Pakistan and the impact of waste-related illnesses on public health. Dr. Gulnaz, Assistant Professor of FoSS at PMS-AAUR, explored the urban waste management scenario in Pakistan, conducting a landscape analysis of solid waste management in Islamabad, offering a comprehensive overview of existing challenges and opportunities. Dawar Abbas and Muhammad Jabran, lecturers from the Pakistan Institute of Engineering & Applied Sciences (PIEAS), shed light on responsible waste management practices in Pakistan, drawing on their expertise in chemical engineering to provide practical insights. Arsalan Ayaz, CEO of Trash Bee, shared exciting potential and opportunities for youth in Pakistan's recycling industry. — DNA



ISLAMABAD: Editor Daily Islamabad POST, Former Secretary Information Ms. Shahera Shahid and Ambassador of Palestine Ahmed Rabei posing for a picture at a dinner hosted by Shakil Ahmed.—DNA

Embracing self-care through breast self-examination

DR. SHAZIA ASIM

Breast cancer is a significant health concern worldwide, and early detection is crucial for effective treatment and improved outcomes. Behind the statistics and risk factors lie countless personal stories of courage and resilience. By understanding the impact of this disease on both individuals and society, we can and should make continued efforts towards improved outcome of this disease by prevention and early detection. Firstly, it is essential to acknowledge the glaring statistics surrounding breast cancer. According to global estimates, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women, accounting for approximately one in four cancer diagnoses. In 2020, an estimated 684,996 women across the world died from breast cancer, out of which 56,366 were in Pakistan. These numbers are overwhelming and they emphasize the need for vigilance and awareness. These statistics are not just numbers; they represent mothers, sisters, daughters, and friends who have been touched by this disease. Disease like

various risk factors (being female, old age, dense breast tissue, genetic predisposition, etc) contribute to the development of breast cancer, early detection remains one of the most effective ways to combat this disease. The Role of Self Breast Examination (BSE): BSE is a proactive, hands-on approach for individuals to monitor their breast health. It involves regularly checking one's breasts for any changes or abnormalities. The goal of doing a breast self-exam is recognizing what's normal for you. Knowing how your breasts typically look and feel can help you notice a change (if one were to occur). Here's why BSE is crucial: Early Detection Saves Lives: Breast cancer, when detected at an early stage, is often more treatable, with a higher chance of complete recovery. Empowerment and Awareness: BSE empowers individuals by allowing them to actively participate in their own health. It fosters awareness of one's body and helps identify potential issues promptly. Cost-Effective: BSE doesn't require any special equipment or medical visits, making it a cost-effective method of monitoring breast health. Performing

Self Breast Examination: Here are the steps to perform a basic BSE: Choose a regular time: Pick a specific time each month to perform BSE, ideally a few days after your menstrual cycle ends if you menstruate. In front of a mirror: Stand in front of a mirror with your hands on your hips. Look for any changes in breast size, shape, or contour. Check for any skin changes, such as dimpling or redness. Examine the nipples for any discharge or inversion. Lying down: Lie down with a pillow under your right shoulder. Use your left hand to examine your right breast. Use the pads of your fingers (not tips), moving in small circles, to feel for any lumps or irregularities. Cover the entire breast, including the underarm area. Repeat the process for your left breast using your right hand. Upward motion: Sit or stand up. Repeat the examination for both breasts using an upward motion. Pay attention to any changes or abnormalities. Signs and Symptoms of Breast Cancer: It's important to be aware of the common signs and symptoms of breast cancer, as early detection relies on recognizing these changes: Lump or thickening: The most common symptom is a lump or thicken-

ing in the breast or underarm area. Changes in breast Shape or Size: Any unexplained changes in breast shape or size should be examined. Skin changes: Look for redness, dimpling, or puckering of the breast skin, which may resemble an orange peel. Nipple abnormalities: This includes nipple discharge (other than breast milk), inversion, or a change in nipple appearance. Breast pain: While not always a sign of breast cancer, unexplained breast pain or discomfort should be discussed with a healthcare professional. Swelling: Swelling or inflammation in the breast, especially if it's only on one side, should be evaluated. Rash or itchiness: Persistent rash or itchiness around the nipple or breast area requires attention. Nipple retraction: If your nipple becomes inverted or changes position, it should be examined. Enlarged lymph nodes: Swollen lymph nodes under the arm or around the collarbone could indicate breast cancer. Consult a Professional: If you notice any changes, lumps, or persistent symptoms during BSE, consult a healthcare professional for further evaluation. Breast self-examination is a vital tool for early detection of breast cancer. By

performing regular BSE and being aware of the signs and symptoms of breast cancer, individuals can take control of their health and increase the likelihood of detecting breast cancer at an early, treatable stage. Remember, if you notice any changes or abnormalities during BSE, don't hesitate to seek professional medical advice promptly. Early detection can save lives and improve the chances of successful treatment. Breast self-examination isn't just a routine task; it's an act of self-care. It's about acknowledging the incredible value of your own life and well-being. By regularly examining your breasts, you are not just checking for lumps or changes - you are affirming your right to a healthy future. In closing, I urge you to make breast self-examination a part of your regular routine. Encourage your friends, family members, and colleagues to do the same. Let's foster a culture of self-care and awareness, not just during Breast Cancer Awareness Month but throughout the entire year. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those we love and in our own lives as well.

—The writer is the Professor of pharmacology in a private medical college in Lahore.

Briefs

ANF recovers 39 kg drugs in five operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations across the country managed to recover 39 kg drugs and arrested nine accused including an Afghan national and three women, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday.

He informed that in an operation conducted near Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad, ANF recovered five kg charras from a car and netted two accused including a woman. In second operation, four suspects including two women residents of Bhakkar were arrested at Multan International Airport while a total of 1650 grams Ice drug was recovered from the bags of the accused, going to Saudi Arabia by flight number PA-870. In third operation, an Afghan citizen and a resident of Peshawar were arrested near Kot Abdul Malik Toll Plaza. 1030 grams heroin and 440 grams Ice were recovered from the vehicle of the accused.

In fourth operation, one kg Ice drug was recovered from the possession of a passenger, travelling in a bus stopped on Sheikh Sarwar Road DG Khan.

In fifth operation conducted in Nokundi area, 30 kg opium was recovered which was stored to supply to another group. Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered while further investigations are under process.—APP

Minister spells out govt strategy to meet energy needs

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali has spelled out the government strategy to meet the future oil and gas needs in an efficient manner by stepping up hydrocarbon exploration activities in potential areas across the country. "We are coming up with a policy for tight gas, policy for shale gas, we have already announced bids for onshore exploration and in December for offshore exploration," he said in an interview with the Emirates News Agency (WAM) on sidelines of the ADIPEC Conference at Abu Dhabi. He said Pakistan has a strong presence at ADIPEC this year, with around 10 companies from the exploration, oil marketing, and related sectors. "Indeed, it's a promising start, and on the very first day, we have seen a remarkable response. All our companies are actively engaged, and there's substantial interest in their offerings. The presence here is off to an excellent beginning," he said. Muhammad Ali laid emphasis on decarbonisation and electrification, saying that they were critical components of Pakistan's energy strategy for the future. "While these aspects may not have received sufficient attention in the past, there is now a strong focus on them.—APP

Pakistan has become a regular customer of int'l financial institutions

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Wednesday that Pakistan has become a permanent customer of international financial institutions. No one tolerates a customer who is unable to repay the loan for a long time, so being economically self-sufficient has become the only means of saving the country, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that some people are still not serious about reforms because their political interests are at stake. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the economy has been in the ICU for many years, and now the foreign doctors trying to treat it are getting frustrated.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Italy Andrea Ferrarese handing over documents to the winners of MAECI scholarships 2023-24. These brilliant students from Gilgit, Dir and Lahore will have the opportunity to pursue their higher studies at some of the best Italian institutes.—DNA

Farmers urged to adopt modern tech for high yield

Awareness is being given to farmers through farmer days and meetings. Farmers should use quality wheat seed with disease resistance. He further said that the farmers of the rain fed areas should complete wheat cultivation by October 20 to November 20, he added

QAZI SHOAIB KHAN

ATTOCK: Dr. Ishtiaq Hassan, Director General Agriculture (Extension) Punjab while addressing a gathering of farmers as a special guest in Hazro has urged upon the farmers to carry out modern agricultural technology which is imperative to achieve better yield of wheat leading towards self-sufficiency in wheat in Pakistan is the guarantor of the country's food security. He said the purpose of this gathering was to create awareness among the farmers to get better production of wheat. Addressing the farmers on this occasion, Director General of Agriculture Dr. Ishtiaq Hassan said that food management is a very important challenge for the growing population of the country at this time. Improved wheat production is

essential to meet this challenge. Dr. Ishtiaq Hassan, Director General Agriculture (Extension) Punjab further said that the time for wheat cultivation in rain fed areas is near and farmers should complete their preparations in this regard. The Punjab Agriculture Department (Extension) staff is standing by the side of the farmers. In this regard, the farmers should use the seeds of the varieties recommended by the Punjab Agriculture Department for better production of wheat in rain fed areas because better seeds are the primary need for better production. At present, the price of wheat is also quite good which can bring good income to the farmers.

Director General said that revolutionary measures are being taken by the Punjab government to increase the production of wheat this year. This year, fifteen hundred rupees subsidy is being provided on

disease free wheat seed bag and total 1.2 million bags will be provided to farmers. Ten thousand wheat demonstration plots will be planted and twenty thousand rupees for agricultural inputs will be provided on wheat yield.

This year prizes on wheat yield competition have been increased for the successful farmers in the wheat yield competitions. Across Punjab, the first position winner will be awarded a tractor worth 4.5 million, the second position winner a tractor worth 3.5 million and the third position winner a tractor worth 2.5 million will be provided. Similarly, at the district level, the farmer who won the first position would be given 6 lakh, the second position 4 lakh and the third position holder would be given 2 lakh rupees subsidy of billions of rupees is being given on potash fertilizers. Addressing the gathering Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif

Raza, participating as the guest of honor, said that the availability and quality of fertilizers and agricultural inputs are being ensured to achieve abundant production of wheat. Farmers should use balanced and appropriate agricultural drugs and fertilizers after soil analysis. He further said that Pakistan is facing food security threats due to climate change. By following scientific methods we can get better yield from our crops. Director Agriculture (Extension) Shahid Iftikhar Bukhari said that a vigorous campaign is being conducted to increase wheat production in Rawalpindi Division.

Awareness is being given to farmers through farmer days and meetings. Farmers should use quality wheat seed with disease resistance. He further said that the farmers of the rain fed areas should complete wheat cultivation by October 20 to November 20, he added.

CDA planning to initiate residential scheme for Overseas Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) is planning to launch a new state-of-the-art residential scheme only for overseas Pakistanis at Mauza Kuri in the federal capital. "The new scheme, sprawling across 14,000 kanal of land along Kuri Road, adjacent to Park Road, will be reserved exclusively for overseas Pakistanis," an official in the CDA told APP. The official said that the plots within the scheme would be marketed and sold to overseas Pakistanis in US dollars, contributing to the country's foreign exchange reserves. He said that in the initial phase, the CDA has given the go head to the relevant authorities for the appointment of a design consultant, adding that the decision was made during a meeting chaired by CDA Chairman, Captain (r) Anwar ul Haque. The official said the designated consultant would be responsible for overseeing the scheme's execution and conducting various essential studies, including those related to environmental impact, traffic management, and hydrology.—APP

Railways charge officials to recover outstanding dues

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has charged its officials concerned to initiate the procedure to recover outstanding dues from the federal and provincial departments. The Ministry of Railways has asked the federal and provincial departments to pay their outstanding dues worth billion of rupees on account of using its land and other services, within the least possible time as the department was facing economic issues, an official in the ministry told APP. About the amount payable against the different departments, the official said that over Rs 8,375 million (over 8 billion) are payable by different departments on account of using its land and various services. He said the federal departments had to pay an amount of Rs 709.084 million, provincial departments Rs1980.217 million and autonomous and private bodies Rs 5685.736 million. To a question, he said Pakistan Railways has upgraded as many as 167 vulnerable un-manned level crossings to manned level crossings, out of 550 which are identified by the department over the entire railway network.—APP

President advocates women's role in Pakistan's economy



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday stressed the need for gender-responsive policies to ensure women's empowerment and said integration of the country's fifty percent population into entrepreneurship was important for a sustainable economy. "Women need to be given equal opportunities in education, employment, and political domains to help them secure adequate space in mainstream entrepreneurship," he said at an event themed "Rising Women 2023", organized by Women's Business Network (WBN). President Alvi called for devising demand-driven policies including a supportive institutional environment and a workplace free from harass-

ment to encourage women to pursue their businesses. The president highlighted making the information about entrepreneurship more accessible to women and pointed out that only five percent of women availed of the reserved quota of business loans from the State Bank due to a lack of guidance. He stressed the implementation of family-friendly policies for women, such as opportunities for doing business from home and providing them a welcoming environment when they rejoin work after maternity leave. The president emphasized providing household women with contemporary skill sets such as the use of internet to meet the current trends of the world. "We need to

train these women to adopt innovative entrepreneurial modes through the use of information technology to help them earn from their homes," he said. He mentioned that women could be turned into a productive workforce if provided with equal opportunities in all fields of life. He said the religion Islam and the country's constitution ensured equal rights for women and supported their progress. Despite this, he regretted that absurd cultural norms prevailed in the country where women were denied the right to inheritance. Ambassador of Austria in Pakistan Andrea Wickel spoke about the need to end gender discrimination and under-valuation of women's work. She said equal

pay, financial literacy, and legal protection were significant for women's economic empowerment.

Italy's ambassador Andrea Ferrarese expressed his country's shared commitment with Pakistan in achieving the goals of gender equality. He said with equal access to resources, women could bring a positive transformation in the society. Founder WBN Sam Ali Dada said her organization was helping rural women rise above challenges and create improvement in their own lives and their communities. She mentioned Khudkafel Initiative and Women's Sports Gala as the catalyst programmes in making the women in rural areas self-sufficient.—APP

Gold, valuables stolen from TV journalist's house

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The house of a senior journalist, Zaigham Abbas Naqvi, working with Express Media Group was looted Tuesday in broad daylight. According to details, both Naqvi and his wife, residents of Fazal Town, Phase II Rawalpindi (Gulzar-e-Quaid) were at their workplace, Naqvi in the field while his wife a teacher at the Islamabad model college, when two women appearing to be maidservants entered their house. Naqvi's parents were at home and the women told them they were hired a day earlier by their son. The elderly couple let them in and both the thieves took away 12 tola gold and Rs40,000 cash. "I was at an assignment when I received a phone call at around 2:00 p.m. by my wife that thieves had struck at our house and taken away gold and valuables," Zaigham told this correspondent. He had hired a woman as a maidservant only a day earlier and she was to submit their identity cards Tuesday, he further informed. A complaint has been lodged with the Airport Police Station and the investigation is underway. While talking to media, the IO said a complete forensic will be carried out and the police were collecting evidence. The accused would soon be nabbed.

Naqvi inaugurates display center for Women Entrepreneurs at RCCI

MEHTAB PIRZADA

RAWALPINDI: For the first time in history, the Chief Minister of Punjab Mohsin Raza Naqvi along with his entire cabinet participated in the ceremony at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Rawalpindi Ministers including Industries Minister SM Tanveer and Minister for Primary and Secondary Health Dr. Jamal Nasir, Minister Information and Culture Amir Meer, Dr. Javaid Akram Specialized Healthcare Department, Ibrahim Murad Local Government, Bilal Afzal Communications & Works and Excise among others, were also present at the ground breaking ceremony of display center for women entrepreneurs, SMEs and cottage industries. On this occasion, Chief Secretary

Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman, IG Punjab Usman Anwar, Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaquat Ali Chatta, RPO, CPO, Deputy Commissioner and others along with the government officials of Punjab administration along with a large number of local people participated.

The function was attended by office bearers of RCCI, former presidents of Rawalpindi Chamber, women and a large number of business leaders and members. President Saqib Rafiq said in his address that this is the first time in history that the Chief Minister of Punjab, including his entire cabinet, including advisers and administration, along with the Chief Secretary, IG Punjab and all administrative officials, visited the Rawalpindi Chamber, which not only motivates us but it also shows the seriousness to solve the problems of

the business community. He said that the one window operation facility will help solve the problems of the business community and it is encouraging that the Punjab government is taking suggestions from the chambers. He thanked the Chief Minister for starting work on the Ring Road, Safe City Project and for the grant of 2 billion to BBH and Holy Family Hospital. Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi said in his address that this is the first time that the cabinet meeting was held in Rawalpindi in which the progress of many projects was reviewed. He said that the efforts of RCCI for the business community of Rawalpindi region are commendable and appreciated the effective input of representatives of the business community. The

Chief Minister said that we want the government hospitals to be handed over to the public sector. If the Chamber of Commerce wishes, any government hospital can provide it. Caretaker Chief Minister said that he is considering the Rawalpindi Institute of Urology under PKLI. Mohsin Naqvi said that they are also starting window operations to save the business community from problems. If a businessman wants to do something, he will no longer go to 36 departments. Group leader Sohail Altaf also appreciated the efforts of the Chief Minister and his cabinet for the business community. Appreciating the actions of the Chief Minister, he also gave him the title of Mohsin Punjab.

DINO VALLEY

10 Minutes Drive From The Monal

051 8770065 / 66 / 67 | 0300 8881811 / 0300 5221018 / 0345 5555335

UAN: 051 111 777 778 | @dinovalleypk | dinovalley.pk

Malaria vaccines: desperately needed life-saving tools

After almost six decades of painstaking research, scientists have done what at times seemed almost impossible: the world now has not one but two malaria vaccines. The need is unquestionable. Malaria remains one of the world's most deadly infectious diseases, claiming around half a million lives a year, mostly of children under five. Although research for a vaccine began in the 1960s, the complexity of the challenge meant that the World Health Organization did not recommend a vaccine – RTS,S – until two years ago. That is being rolled out across multiple countries in Africa. Now the WHO has backed another. Critically, R21 is easier and cheaper to produce, vastly increasing the supply. Used in combination with other measures – such as insecticide-treated bednets – it will save countless lives. But it still requires four doses to give protection: no small ask when the same factors that tend towards malaria prevalence, such as poverty, poor infrastructure, poor health services and insecurity, are likely to make vaccine delivery difficult. It reduces cases by 75% in trial conditions in areas with seasonal malaria: in real life, that will be lower. Malaria had vanished from western Europe by the 1930s, and 21 countries have eliminated it since 2000. But 2015's ambitious target of reducing malaria cases and fatalities by 90% by 2030 now looks unachievable. Malaria cases have actually risen in recent years, from 232m in 2019 to 247m in 2021. The rise has many likely causes: disruptions to prevention and treatment services during the pandemic, insecurity, global heating, mosquitoes' ability to become resistant to insecticides, and the parasites they carry growing resistant to drugs. Another cause has been a shortfall in funding – only half of the \$7.3bn needed last year was achieved, says the WHO. Successes and failures in the fight against malaria have usually tracked investment. Had malaria still been blighting richer countries, a vaccine might have been found sooner; pharmaceutical firms tend to concentrate research where they foresee sizable profits. But investment also follows successful interventions. When donors see that measures work, they are more likely to pay for them. As experts have stressed, the new vaccine is not a magic bullet. It will not replace other measures, but must be employed alongside them. None of that takes away from its importance and its promise. To dismiss it would be to misunderstand how progress will best be made: through a multitude of complementary measures. At a point where the battle against malaria has looked dismaying, it offers hope. Scientists continue to work on a wide variety of interventions, including genetically engineering mosquitoes. And research will need to continue to develop vaccines providing better or longer protection, and against another form of malaria parasite. Both the existing vaccines target *Plasmodium falciparum*, which accounts for about 90% of deaths, but *Plasmodium vivax* also poses a significant threat. This week's awarding of the Nobel prize in physiology or medicine to Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman, whose work enabled the mRNA Covid vaccine, has highlighted again the extraordinary potential offered by this technology.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily
 Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
 Deputy Editor: Abid Raza
 Member APNS / ABC Certified
 Vol: 04 Issue: 359
 Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com
 Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960
 Off 11: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



Slovakia's election: ominous signal from central Europe

lections in Slovakia, a country of 5.5 million people on the eurozone's eastern flank, do not normally generate global headlines. But these are not normal times. Amid fears of growing cracks in western unity over Russia's war in Ukraine, the victory over the weekend of a pro-Putin populist committed to ending military aid to Kyiv sent an ominous signal. "Slovakia has bigger problems than Ukraine," said Robert Fico, in the wake of a win that will have been a cause for satisfaction in the Kremlin. His Smer-SD party, which ran a campaign targeting irregular migrants, LGBTQ+ rights and support for Kyiv, will now seek to lead a coalition government. For Mr Fico, who has been the subject of corruption allegations, and was ousted as leader in 2018 in toxic circumstances, this was a remarkable comeback. For most of Europe, it is one with worrying implications on a number of levels. The Hungarian prime minister, Viktor Orbán, who has hitherto been isolated in his opposition to European sanctions on Russia and the provision of military assistance to Kyiv, now has an ally for a neighbour. Slovakia's stocks of ammunition and spare weapons have already been diminished, to the extent that the impact of Mr Fico's planned U-turn on supplying them may be limited. It is also true that to govern he is likely to need the support of the social democratic Hlas party, which backs continued military support. Nevertheless, the long-term significance of Mr Fico's victory may be to complicate eventual attempts to bring Ukraine, and other non-EU eastern states, further into Europe's political community. For the EU, Mr Fico's triumph means an enlarged dissident core in central Europe, which will be further consolidated should Law and Justice win a third consecutive election in Poland later this month. In Budapest and Warsaw, and seemingly now in Bratislava, routine disparagement and rejection of EU norms and values – on minority rights, refugees and the rule of law – has become a winning template for socially conservative, nationalist parties that draw strength from a weaponised cultural Christianity. In a campaign move that came straight out of the Orbán "globalist" playbook, Mr Fico accused Slovakia's outgoing liberal president, Zuzana Čaputová, of being an American "puppet" and standing up for the interests of George Soros. Given Slovakia's membership of the eurozone, and need to access finance from the EU's Covid recovery fund, there will be a limit to how much trouble Mr Fico will want – or be able – to cause. As Slovakia's prime minister in the past, he has proved more pragmatic than his domestic political rhetoric implied. Nevertheless, his victory underlines a familiar message that Europe's progressive forces would be foolish to ignore. In swaths of central Europe and beyond, the inability of mainstream centre-left parties to forge coalitions of voters that include older, less well-off, less well-qualified voters has become marked. A series of seismic shocks, from the 2008 crash to the war in Ukraine, has unleashed economic insecurity on a grand scale. As with Law and Justice in Poland, Smer-SD's election pitch successfully combined illiberalism with a generous welfare offer that resonated outside the cities. The accumulating body of evidence suggests that to combat the kind of insular

Supreme Court is now live

Qamar Bashir



The Chief Justice, with a keen eye, adeptly guided the lawyers, preventing them from meandering and keeping them focused. At one juncture, he made an impromptu remark, highlighting the tendency to follow martial law unquestioningly and how all judges, whose portraits adorn the walls of the Supreme Court, acquiesce to the chief martial administrator during such times. Conversely, he pointed out that when Parliament enacts a law aimed at facilitating access to justice, objections arise across all levels of the judiciary, regardless of position or status. Similarly, Justice Minullah echoed

It was an thrilling experience to witness the live telecast of a pivotal public hearing in the wake of a significant but contentious legal development: the passage of the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act of 2023 by the outgoing truncated parliament. This legislation addressed several critical aspects, with particular focus on two controversial provisions. Firstly, it redistributed the power to invoke suo moto powers, transferring it from the Chief Justice alone to a committee led by the Chief Justice and comprising the two most senior judges. Secondly, it introduced the right to appeal for individuals convicted as a result of Supreme Court decisions. Previously, such decisions were considered final, and victims could only file limited review petitions, restricted to typographical errors or the emergence of new evidence that directly impacted the cases. This Act marked a departure from established jurisprudence by extending the right of appeal to convicts, a notable shift in legal precedent. Both of these provisions raised concerns about potential conflicts with the explicit provisions of the constitution and were the focal point of today's hearing. My heartfelt sympathies go out to the courageous lawyers who faced a barrage of intricate and challenging questions from the esteemed judges of the full bench of the Supreme Court. This proceeding conveyed a profound message: the Supreme Court was resolute in its commitment to efficiency. It made clear that it would not squander the valuable time of the court, litigants, or itself. The court was determined to expedite even the most intricate and complex cases, involving nuanced interpretations of the constitution and an array of laws and procedures, within hours or, at most, days. The Chief Justice, with a keen eye, adeptly guided the lawyers, preventing them from meandering and keeping them focused. At one juncture, he made an impromptu remark, highlighting the tendency to follow martial law unquestioningly and how all judges, whose portraits adorn the walls of the Supreme Court, acquiesce to the chief martial administrator during such times. Conversely, he pointed out that when Parliament enacts a law aimed at facilitating access to justice, objections arise across all levels of the judiciary, regardless of position or status. Similarly, Justice Minullah echoed the Chief Justice's stance, repeatedly questioning how a parliamentary law designed to enhance access to justice could be construed as conflicting with the separation of powers among the three pillars of the state. This session underscored the judiciary's resolve to streamline processes and maintain a sharp focus on matters of constitutional and legal importance. The arguments put forth by the remaining judges were highly critical of the law, particularly its provisions pertaining to the Supreme Court's authority to establish laws and regulations governing the court's procedures. Their perspective emphasized that any law conflicting with the explicit provisions of the constitution necessitates a constitutional amendment, which, in turn, demands a majority for approval. The issue of the right of appeal was thoroughly deliberated upon during the proceedings. Justice Minullah expressed strong support for granting the right of appeal to individuals affected by suo moto decisions. Justice Ijaz, on the other hand, advocated for adhering to the constitutional provision of Article 184(3), which does not inherently provide for an appeal and, therefore, did not favor granting such a right. Chief

justice argued and many other judges supreme argued that the supreme court had made many aggressive decisions which apparently was miscarriage of law and to add fuel to fire the victims are deprived of even the right of appeal. Justice Ijaz however stuck to his earlier argument that according to the constitution, decisions by the supreme court are substantive provisions of the constitution and cannot be overturned by any subordinate law. Both the Chief Justice and Justice Minullah presented a different perspective, contending that lawyers should provide examples where rules established by an unelected Supreme Court could serve as grounds to nullify legislation enacted by an elected parliament. They argued that the right of appeal, as stipulated in the contested law, aligns with the principle of ensuring access to justice. This implied that laws serving the greater good of the people might be enacted, even if they seemingly contradict the constitution. Justice Ayesha raised a pertinent query, highlighting that the impugned law had established a constitution of a full court, which, once rendering a decision, effectively closes the door to any further appeals. She questioned the justification of this approach in terms of ensuring access to justice for the affected party, prompting a thoughtful examination of the law's provisions and their implications. During the proceedings, one judge pointed out that the court has the authority to rectify and address errors made by the Supreme Court. He cited the Asma Jilani case as an example in which the court reviewed its own previous decision, acknowledging it as incorrect and labeling the associated law as flawed. The Chief Justice voiced concerns about the Supreme Court's recent trend of disregarding the constitution under external pressures and making decisions based on personal inclinations. He asserted that the judiciary possesses the courage and authority to openly criticize and declare Supreme Court decisions as erroneous when necessary. The debate surrounding Article 191 was intense. Article 191 begins with a statement that the Supreme Court can formulate rules, subject to the constitution and the law. Since both the constitution and the law are created by Parliament, it was argued that the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure (SCPP) law appeared to be constitutionally valid. One distinguished judge contended that even after the enactment of the impugned law, the Supreme Court retains the authority to establish rules that adhere to any new legislation, underscoring the court's ongoing rule-making power within the framework of the law. Judge Ijaz presented a starkly contrasting perspective, asserting that Article 191 signifies that the Supreme Court can establish rules subject to both the constitution and the laws existing at the time of the constitution's formation, without being bound by any laws passed subsequently. They argued that rules devised by the Supreme Court pursuant to Article 191 cannot be repealed by any subsequent legislation. This viewpoint maintained that acknowledging Parliament's authority to enact laws governing the Supreme Court's rules and procedures would open a Pandora's box, potentially leading to parliamentary control over the Supreme Court, thereby contravening the fundamental principles of the constitution, which explicitly advocate for the separation of powers among the three pillars of the state. Justice Ijaz emphasized that any rules formulated by

the Supreme Court are in accordance with the powers vested in it by the constitution, and as such, cannot be curtailed by ordinary legislative acts. This proceeding underscored a significant challenge: the presence of numerous judges, each with their own perspectives on the issues under consideration. This multitude of viewpoints made it exceedingly difficult for the lawyers involved to respond effectively to the barrage of questions posed by the 15 judges. Consequently, the proceedings became more intricate and bewildering. Had the bench been smaller, the discussion might have centered more on objectivity rather than each judge attempting to assert their viewpoint. In the current scenario, it seemed as if the lawyer was placed in a challenging position, akin to a punching bag or a candidate facing a rigorous job interview, with each member of the evaluation panel attempting to scrutinize the interviewee. Even the honorable judges acknowledged the challenging position of the lawyer and expressed their sympathies for the predicament faced during the proceedings. A lawyer representing PTI (Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf) contended that while Parliament holds the authority to enact laws, this power is bound by specific provisions outlined in the constitution, particularly as delineated in Article 175(2) and Article 142. He introduced an intriguing perspective, asserting that in accordance with Section 142, Parliament is empowered to create legislation solely concerning the federal legislative list, which notably excludes the authority to formulate laws pertaining to the Supreme Court. In response, the Chief Justice posed a thought-provoking question: If it is accepted as a fact that Parliament is restricted from legislating on matters related to the Supreme Court, how can the legislature effectively address emerging subjects such as artificial intelligence, social media, and other developments across various fields? The lawyer argued that legislative lists encompass subjects and domains of a considerably broader nature, and emerging topics would inherently fall within one of these categories, allowing for their effective regulation and oversight. An intriguing observation was raised during the proceedings, highlighting a unique aspect of the law concerning the Supreme Court: there are two pillars, the Supreme Court itself and the Parliament, both possessing the authority to simultaneously enact laws. The constitution grants legislative powers to both these entities, leading to considerable confusion and ongoing debate. Clearly, the constitution could not have intended to sow confusion and chaos, implying that it should also offer a solution to this matter. However this question remained unaddressed. At the outset, the Chief Justice made a clear declaration that the full court would issue a verdict on the impugned case on the same day. He advised the lawyers to conclude their arguments swiftly and efficiently. He emphasized that the Supreme Court was determined to expedite the resolution of pending cases, ideally on that very day, given the significant backlog of cases awaiting attention. Regardless of the nature of the case, the Supreme Court pledged to allocate proportional time to each matter, aiming to address the issue of pending cases in Pakistan's Supreme Court. However, it was anticipated that this particular case would likely result in a divided decision.

—The writer is Former Press Secretary to the President Former MD, SRBC, Former Minister Press, Embassy of a and to France

Strengthening diplomatic ties with SA in a changing world

Michael Kinds grab

On our national day, Oct. 3, we celebrate German reunification. After the end of the Second World War, a war – and this is something we will never forget – started by Nazi Germany and accompanied by unprecedented atrocities, war crimes and crimes against humanity, our country was divided into East and West, separated by the infamous "wall," a guarded concrete barrier. During the decades that followed, the wall stood as

On the occasion of German Unity Day, I find myself reflecting on the significance of this day, particularly in the context of our diplomatic relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It is the first national holiday I celebrate during my time in Saudi Arabia, and it is a privilege to celebrate it at a time when our two nations are growing closer together, in a world where the need for security and stability is increasing. On our national day, Oct. 3, we celebrate German reunification. After the end of the Second World War, a war – and this is something we will never forget – started by Nazi Germany and accompanied by unprecedented atrocities, war crimes and crimes against humanity, our country was divided into East and West, separated by the infamous "wall," a guarded concrete barrier. During the decades that followed, the wall stood as a symbol of the Cold War, a global rivalry between the "West," led by the US and the "East," led by the Soviet Union, dominated by its biggest member, Russia. In November 1989, the wall fell and on Oct. 3, 1990, Germany was officially reunified. The date stands for one of the happiest days in our nation's history. Like the symbol of the Cold War, the Cold War itself came to an end, and with it, or so it seemed at that time, the threat of another war on the European continent with global repercussions. The developments were a historical milestone, met with joy and relief in all corners of the world. Today, war has returned to the European continent through the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. The invasion shook Germany and

its European friends to the core. It seemed like a bad dream from the times of the Cold War had become reality in the 21st century – a century of an increasingly globalized, multipolar world. The Russian war of aggression has an effect on the whole world's stability and security, be it through increased gas prices or a shortage of grain. Stability and security are central to our foreign policy. This is why Germany published its first national security strategy this year. The strategy recognizes the changing global landscape caused by the Russian war of aggression, the rise of multipolarity and a growing systemic rivalry in international relations. Within this framework, the concept of our security encompasses multiple dimensions. For Germany, security means a close partnership with friends who, together with us, advocate for an international order based on the UN Charter. In this regard, Saudi Arabia stands as a key partner. First of all, we will always defend our borders and those of our allies against external threats, and we will invest whatever it takes to deter and, if necessary, fight any potential aggressor. But security also involves the diversification of our energy sources to ensure resilience. Security means addressing the threat posed by the climate crisis through the reduction of greenhouse gas emission and at the same time counteracting the current effects with adaptation strategies. For Germany, security means a close partnership with friends who, together with us, advocate for an international order based on the UN Charter. In this regard, Saudi Arabia stands as a key partner. Our partnership with Saudi Arabia has flourished, as demonstrated by the numerous high-level visits between our countries last year. Both Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Foreign Minister An-

nelena Baerbock have been to Saudi Arabia since September 2022, and numerous high-level meetings in between have reaffirmed our commitment to strengthening relations. Esteemed Saudi ministers, including Khalid Al-Falih, Ahmed Al-Khatteeb, Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, Prince Badr bin Abdullah bin Farhan and Bandar Al-Khorayef, have reciprocated this commitment through visits to Germany, highlighting their keen interest in enhancing collaboration. Germany's commitment to global security and stability persists through our role in international crisis management. Saudi Arabia has played a pivotal role in the efforts to solve the crisis in Sudan and provided a safe haven for German citizens and citizens from around the world. We are sincerely grateful for this support. The climate crisis does not end at our countries' borders. Saudi Arabia and Germany have a shared interest in security and stability in the field of energy, in particular in hydrogen technology. As we anticipate a substantial demand for clean hydrogen imports by 2030, Saudi Arabia plays an important role in this endeavor, with German companies actively engaged in various energy projects within the Kingdom. By celebrating our National Day, we celebrate German unity, a historical event that would not have been possible without the support of our Western allies and also the former Soviet Union. Today, we celebrate our National Day in a world that is undergoing fundamental change. In a world where, in order to overcome global challenges, every country needs allies and key partners who share the goal of a peaceful, secure and prosperous world. I look forward to working with our Saudi friends and partners on a positive agenda under which our relationship will achieve its potential to contribute to our shared goals.

—Sourced by Arab news

Briefs

Two killed in Afghan sentry fire

FROM PAGE 01
the interim Afghan government was expected to "exercise control over its troops and impart discipline to act responsibly in order to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future". "Pakistan remains committed to contributing towards peace, prosperity and development through positive and constructive bilateral relations, however, such unpleasant occurrences have the potential to harm the sincere intent and purpose," the ISPR statement concluded. Last year, six people were killed and 17 others sustained injuries in firing by the Afghan Border Forces at the Chaman border. The incident was widely condemned by the then-government, Foreign Office and diplomats.

Taliban oppose...

FROM PAGE 01
illegal properties and businesses owned by immigrants or those being run in collaboration with Pakistani nationals. In a statement posted on social media platform X (erstwhile Twitter) in both Urdu and English today, Mujahid said the treatment of Afghan refugees in Pakistan was unacceptable and authorities should revise their policy in this regard. "Afghan refugees are not involved in Pakistan's security problems," he stated, adding that as long as they leave Pakistan voluntarily, "that country should tolerate them". The Pakistani Foreign Office has yet to issue a statement on this matter.

Nawaz' return in...

FROM PAGE 01
comparing economic indicators and inflation during Nawaz's previous term as premier with that of now. "I will work with Nawaz Sharif [...] to put the country back on track for development and growth." Recalling the PML-N supremo's achievements, Shehbaz said that his brother — despite then-US president Bill Clinton's telephone call — conducted six nuclear tests in response to India's atomic tests. The country's progress and development were halted, Shehbaz said while terming the 2018 general elections as "rigged".

PTI suggests to rename...

FROM PAGE 01
country and its people but just came to the country to rule. PTI spokesperson stated that it could be judged from the fact that the entire party's leadership including the cowardly fugitive were involved in staging dramas under the guise of new narrative ahead of the homecoming of the convicted fugitive to gain public attention because they had nothing to offer people to run their campaign in the next general elections. Therefore, he suggested that PML-N should better to register itself with new name as a "group of jokers" since its leadership did not have any political program but they were well-versed in political somersaults.

COAS, Austin...

FROM PAGE 01
and "areas of mutual interest" between the two countries. The Inter-Services Public Relations, Pakistan military's media wing, has yet to report the development. Terrorist activities have alarmingly surged in Pakistan, as according to a recent report by the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS), an independent think-tank, at least 271 militant attacks took place during the first half of 2023, claiming the lives of 389 people and wounding 656 others. It may be mentioned here that this is the second time that Gen Muneer and the US defense secretary spoke over the telephone. The first time the Pakistan army chief and the US defense secretary spoke was in January. The US defence secretary had called the Pakistan army chief to congratulate on assuming the charge then.

10 Captains 01 Goal



NEW DELHI: Captains of cricket teams participating in The 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup are posing with trophy. — DNA

Zaka wishes Pakistan team luck ahead of World Cup

Zaka Ashraf extended his support to the team and urged the players to focus on playing great cricket rather than worrying about winning or losing

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Management Committee chairman Zaka Ashraf on Wednesday, extended best wishes to the Pakistan Men's cricket team upon their participation in the ICC World Cup 2023 in India. Zaka Ashraf extended his support to the team and urged the players to focus on playing great cricket rather than worrying about winning or losing. "I extend my support and best wishes to the Pakistan team. I am confident that our team has the potential to achieve remarkable feats. They should focus on playing competitive cricket and delivering an excellent performance in the tournament. Watch ICC World Cup 2023 Live on ARY ZAP "I believe they will be victorious and will bring the trophy home to us. The players just need to trust in their abilities and rest assured, the entire nation is firmly supporting them." Pakistan team will begin their quest for the ICC World Cup 2023 on October 6th when they take on the Netherlands at Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium.

Pakistan squad for ICC World Cup 2023:



Babar Azam (c), Abdullah Shafique, Fakhar Zaman, Imam-ul-Haq, Iftikhar Ahmed, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Shadab Khan, Mohammad Nawaz, Usama Mir, Haris Rauf, M

Wasim Jnr, Hasan Ali, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Saud Shakeel, Salman Ali Agha. Travelling reserves: Mohammad Haris, Abrar Ahmed, Zaman Khan

Pakistan's warm-up matches schedule:

September 29 — vs New Zealand in Hyderabad
October 3 — vs Australia in Hyderabad
October 6 — vs Netherlands in Hyderabad
October 10 — vs Sri Lanka in Hyderabad
October 14 — vs India in Ahmedabad
October 20 — vs Australia in Bengaluru
October 23 — vs Afghanistan in Chennai
October 27 — vs South Africa in Chennai
October 31 — vs Bangladesh in Kolkata
November 4 — vs New Zealand Bengaluru
November 11 — vs England in Kolkata

The day matches will start at 10:00 am Pakistan Standard Time (PST) while all other matches will be day-night fixtures, starting at 01:30 pm (PST).

POA honors Asian Games silver medalist squash team



AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) hosted a reception to honour the Pakistan squash team who won the silver medal in the team event in on-going 19th Asian Games at Hangzhou, China. President Pakistan Olympic Association Lt. Gen (R) Syed Arif Hasan was the chief guest at the occasion who encouraged the young athletes with cash prizes while Secretary General POA Muhammad Khalid Mahmood, Dr. Asad Abbas and other officials were also present on this occasion. President POA Lt. Gen. (R) Syed Arif Hasan also encouraged the players and said that despite the limited resources, reaching the Asian Games final with good game shown excellent skills of the players, adding that it is sad to lose final during close encounter but I am hopeful that squash team will give better performance in future. India beat Pakistan by 2-1 in the final of Men's squash team event final as India won the gold medal in the event.

Naseem Shah undergoes shoulder surgery

DNA

LONDON: Pakistani pace sensation Naseem Shah on Wednesday underwent surgery on his injured shoulder in London, which ruled him out of the ICC World Cup 2023, scheduled to commence tomorrow in India. Notably, Naseem Shah walked off the field, leaving the 46th over of India's innings midway on the reserve day organized for the much-anticipated Pakistan-India clash. Later, the PCB confirmed that Naseem Shah has been ruled out of the Asia Cup 2023 and Zaman Khan was added to the Pakistan squad. Consequently, he was ruled out of the ICC World Cup 2023 and was replaced by Hasan Ali in Pakistan's squad. Pakistan will be kicking off their World Cup campaign against the Netherlands on October 6. Pakistan squad for ICC World Cup 2023.

Gill trails Babar, Shaheen climbs ICC ODI rankings

Shaheen Afridi (632) climbed higher among the leading ODI bowlers, up two spots to sixth while swapping places with Mitchell Starc (628) who dropped to eighth

OUR CORRESPONDENTS

DUBAI: Pakistan skipper Babar Azam (857 ranking points) holds onto top spot ahead of Shubman Gill (839), who lost eight ranking points after missing the third ODI against Australia. Shaheen Afridi (632) climbed higher among the leading ODI bowlers, up two spots to sixth while swapping places with Mitchell Starc (628) who dropped to eighth. India quick Mohammed Siraj and Australia right-armers Josh Hazlewood share top spot in the ICC Men's ODI Bowling Rankings after the latest update on the eve of the 2023 World Cup. The two fast bowlers are level on 669 ranking points after Siraj dropped 11 points during the third ODI of the recent series between India and Australia to finish equal with Hazlewood. Afghanistan spin twins Mujeeb Ur Rahman (third place with 657 ranking points) and Rashid Khan (fourth, 655) are next best in the ODI bowling rankings. The left-arm strike bowlers are set to face-off in an enthralling clash when Pakistan and Australia meet at the World Cup on 20 October. Mohammad Nabi (621) and

Kuldeep Yadav (616) also swapped spots with the Afghanistan off-spinner moving up one place and into the top-10 of the ODI bowling rankings.

India's Kuldeep Yadav also dropped one spot and moved out of the top ten bowlers in the ICC ODI Rankings with 611 points and was replaced by Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi with 621 points. Moreover, Australian opening batter David Warner jumped two places in the ICC Men's ODI Batting Rankings to become joint-fourth alongside Ireland's Harry Tector with 729 ranking points. David Warner scored three fifties in three games and was the second-highest run scored with 161 runs in the series against India. Australia's Glenn Maxwell on the other hand climbed 10 places to grab the 11th spot in ICC Men's ODI All-rounder Rankings after he returned with figures of 4-40 in the third ODI against India, marking his return to ODI cricket after being sidelined due to an injury. There has been no movement in the top-10 of the MRF Tyres ICC Men's ODI All-rounder Rankings, with Bangladesh stalwart Shakib Al Hasan still in top spot on 349 ranking points ahead of Nabi (302 ranking points).

Right to play empowers girls through volleyball

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A 2-day under-18 Community Girls volleyball tournament was organised by Right To Play at Hamidi Hall, Pakistan Sports Complex, Islamabad. The tournament included 10 teams who played against each and the teams with most wins went on to play the final. The teams included both private clubs, Federal directorate schools and orphanages. The aim of the event was to provide girls a safe environment and give them an opportunity to participate in an event which included girls from different backgrounds. On the final and 2nd day, PSB staff, County Director Right To Play, Ali Khayam, Mohammad Akram, Secretary Islamabad volleyball federation, Cristina von Sperling Afridi, Chairperson of Karim Khan Afridi Welfare Federation also graced the awards distribution ceremony. The 1st position went to Defenders Volleyball club A who defeated Saba Volleyball academy B team. Speaking at the event, Right To Play, County Director, Ali Khayam congratulated the team who got the 1st position and hoped that the girls enjoyed the event and will hopefully continue playing the sports and continue to break the barriers.



ISLAMABAD: Girls players of the Defender Team and Saba Team are trying their best to win the final match of the "Community Girls Volleyball Tournament" at Sports Complex in Federal Capital. — Online

Open court hearing in...

FROM PAGE 01
district and sessions court sentenced him to three years in prison in the Toshakhana case. The sentence was later suspended by the IHC but it emerged that he had been sent on judicial remand in the cypher case. The PTI chief faces over 150 criminal cases. On September 26, the judicial remand of Imran and former interior minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, who is also implicated in the cypher case, was extended till October 10. On September 30, both the PTI leaders were declared principal accused by the FIA in its challan submitted before a special court established under the Official Secrets Act.

Imran will be...

FROM PAGE 01
successful in getting some medicine for his disease after three years. "He (Nawaz) should have come back much earlier. He should be sent to jail upon his return," said Umar. Earlier, a special court set up under the Official Secrets Act had accepted the pre-arrest bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Asad Umar against Rs50,000 surety bond in the cypher case. Special Prosecutor Shah Khawar intervened when Asad's lawyer Salman Safdar was arguing the case and told the court that there was no evidence of his involvement in the case. So his arrest was not required in the case.

ECP issues Code of...

FROM PAGE 01
process must thoroughly read and comprehend this Code of Conduct. They are also required to sign a pledge that is attached to this Code. International observers and media personnel visiting Pakistan are required to follow the visa application procedures outlined by the government and must not exceed the authorized visa duration. Their conduct should respect Pakistan's sovereignty and the fundamental rights and freedoms of its people.

Former allies step...

FROM PAGE 01
taken exception to a statement issued by JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, wherein he had questioned the possibility of elections in the winter season. In an address in Karachi on Monday, the former foreign minister had said: "One [PML-N] says that fresh delimitation is crucial for the next elections and the other [JUI-F] questions the possibility of polls in January and February due to harsh winter. The people of Pakistan now should know and identify all those who are running away from elections."

Pak expects \$10bln...

FROM PAGE 01
granting the kingdom stakes in the Reko Diq project. Sources have confirmed that the necessary policy incentives have been green-lit under the Greenfield Refinery Policy 2023, aiming to attract investment from Saudi Arabia. "It is also expected that Saudi Arabia might procure stakes in the \$7 billion Reko Diq project through a feasible transaction model with the help of Saudi Wealth Fund," said a top official. The agriculture corporate farm lease of 85,000 acres of land to potential foreign investors is also on cards, sources told The News on Tuesday. The SIFC will be developing a transaction pipeline to expedite investment in critical infrastructure.

کورت نوٹس
ایوانت چاب غلام محمد مرزا صاحب سول سٹیج
فیملی کورٹ راولپنڈی ڈویژن داد پانے فریج تان و
نقد عنوان مقدمہ فرخندہ گروہ غیر مہم سید نجف
ملفوظی ولد سید کریم استملی شادمان کن مکان سبر 7
کورٹ رولڈیٹان سزین لین نمبر 2 چکلا اسکیم
نمبر 111 راولپنڈی کینڈ برگرہ مقدمہ عنوان بالا
سید مدعا علیہ کی حقین سن سے ہونی مشکل ہے لہذا
بذریعہ اخبار شہزاد ظہیر کیا پاتا ہے کہ آپ احسان
وکانا مورچہ 07 اکتوبر 2023 پوٹ 8 سٹیج
مادعہ عدالت آویں ورنہ کاروائی کیفرڈل میں
الائی جائے گی۔

Briefs

US sanctions on Chinese firms

BEIJING : Two women who described using drugs, including fentanyl. One wears sunglasses and a blue t-shirt and is holding a cigarette. The other wears sunglasses, a long black coat, and a red bandana.

The US has announced sanctions on 25 China-based firms and individuals allegedly involved in the production of chemicals used to make fentanyl. Fentanyl, a potent opioid used as a painkiller or sedative, plays a major role in the US drug crisis. Attorney General Merrick Garland said the drug's supply chain "often starts with chemical companies in China". China criticised the imposition of sanctions, saying the fentanyl crisis was rooted in the United States itself.

"We firmly oppose the United States' sanction and prosecution against Chinese entities and individuals, and the severe infringement of the lawful rights and interests of the relevant enterprises and persons," the Chinese foreign ministry told AFP news agency. "The Chinese government has been strictly cracking down on drug crimes... and we deploy the harshest control on precursor chemicals. "Imposing pressure and sanctions cannot solve the United States' own problems. It will only create obstacles in the China-US co-operation on drug control," it said. In April, a spokesperson for the Chinese foreign ministry said there was "no such thing as illegal trafficking of fentanyl" between China and Mexico. — Agencies

Netflix plans to raise prices

LONDON: Netflix is planning to raise the price of its ad-free service after the ongoing Hollywood actors' strike ends, the Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday, sending the streaming company's shares up more than 3 percent. Netflix is discussing raising prices in several markets globally, but will likely begin with the United States and Canada, the WSJ reported, citing people familiar with the matter. It was not immediately clear how much Netflix will raise prices by or when exactly the new prices will take effect, according to the report. Netflix declined to comment on the report. Talks between the SAG-AFTRA actors' union and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP), which represents the studios, are ongoing, with their next meeting scheduled on Wednesday.

The writers' union struck a tentative deal with the AMPTP last week after five months of failed negotiations. Netflix cut prices of its subscription plans in some countries in February. In the same month, it laid out a plan to crack down on password sharing by subscribers that was rolled out in over 100 countries in May. — Agencies

US fines dish network for space debris

WASHINGTON : The US government has issued its first ever fine to a company for leaving space junk orbiting the Earth. The Federal Communications Commission fined Dish Network \$150,000 (€125,000) for failing to move an old satellite far enough away from others in use. The company admitted liability over its EchoStar-7 satellite and agreed to a "compliance plan" with the FCC. Space junk is made up of bits of tech that are in orbit around the Earth but are no longer in use, and risk collisions. Officially called space debris, it includes things like old satellites and parts of spacecraft. The FCC said that Dish's satellite posed a potential risk to other satellites orbiting the Earth at its current altitude. Dish's EchoStar-7 - which was first launched in 2002 - was in geostationary orbit, which starts at 22,000 miles (36,000km) above the Earth's surface. Dish was meant to move the satellite 186 miles further from Earth, but at the end of its life in 2022 had moved it only 76 miles after it lost fuel. — DNA

Thai PM vows action on guns after deadly mall shooting

Russian tourist Alexander Samylin, 35, told AFP he was not worried about safety "It's very safe here in Thailand, this could happen anywhere," he said at the mall

BANGKOK: Thailand's prime minister on Wednesday vowed "preventive measures" after a shooting at a Bangkok shopping mall left two people dead and raised fresh questions about the kingdom's gun control. Shoppers returned in dribs and drabs as the Siam Paragon mall reopened less than 24 hours after the shooting - Thailand's third high-profile deadly gun attack in four years. The shooting at one of Bangkok's biggest, most upmarket malls will come as a fresh blow to Thailand's efforts to rebuild its vital tourism industry after the pandemic.

Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin joined a minute's silence at the mall before

offering the government's condolences to the families of the two female victims - one Chinese and one from Myanmar. "I am confident Siam Paragon and government officials did their best to minimise the casualties and damage," he said.

"Let this be the only time this happens. My government insists we will give priority to preventive measures," he added, without giving details. Police have charged a 14-year-old suspect with premeditated murder, attempted murder, carrying and firing a gun in a public place and owning an unlicensed firearm.

Police Major General Nakin Sukontawit said the boy, a student at a \$4,000-a-term private school just metres

from Siam Paragon, was undergoing psychiatric tests to see if he would be fit to stand trial. Investigators said Tuesday the boy had been undergoing treatment for mental illness but had stopped taking his medication and reported hearing voices telling him to shoot people. UNICEF Thailand deputy representative Severine Leonardi said the incident should accelerate efforts to improve the kingdom's youth mental health services. Past promises - Samran Nuanma, Assistant National Police Chief, told a news conference on Wednesday that the weapon used in the attack was a blank-firing pistol.

"But the barrel was modified for live shooting," Sam-

ran said. "We will increase regulations and laws to control the use of firearms."

But past promises of tightening gun laws have not prevented tragedies.

The Siam Paragon shooting came just days before the anniversary of a massacre at a nursery in northern Thailand that left 36 people dead. And in 2020, a former army officer gunned down 29 people in a rampage at a mall in the northeastern city of Nakhon Ratchasima. By one estimate, Thailand has 10 million guns in circulation - one for every seven citizens, and one of the highest rates of ownership in the region. Many firearms are smuggled into the country, but Kritsanapong

Phutrakul, a former police officer and now academic, said internet sales were becoming a problem. "Only a small number of police officers have the knowledge, capabilities and experience to track the gun market online," he told AFP. After talks with the PM, National Police Chief Torsak Sukwimol said he had ordered specialist officers to investigate online gun sales.

Thailand is desperate to rebuild its tourism sector after travel restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic saw visitors dwindle. China - which sent around 10 million visitors a year to the kingdom before the pandemic - is a crucial market, but numbers are not returning as fast as Thai officials would wish.

This is partly because of fears in China about whether Thailand is safe, and the fact that one of the mall shooting victims was Chinese is unlikely to improve this situation. Srettha spoke to the Chinese ambassador Tuesday and issued a statement saying the government would implement "the highest safety measures" for tourists. At Siam Paragon on Wednesday, AFP reporters saw that security was stepped up in some places, with bags being searched - but not on all entrances to the sprawling mall. Russian tourist Alexander Samylin, 35, told AFP he was not worried about safety. "It's very safe here in Thailand, this could happen anywhere," he said at the mall.

Italy marks 10th anniversary of migrant boat sinking

ROME : Hundreds of people gathered on the Italian island of Lampedusa on to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the sinking of a migrant boat that claimed 368 lives. Commemoration ceremonies were held on Lampedusa where the fishing boat, which set off from Libya with more than 500 irregular migrants from Africa to reach Europe, capsized on Oct. 3, 2013 off the island's coast. The first ceremony was held at 03.15 a.m. (0115 GMT), the time the boat sank. Representatives of non-governmental organizations, international organizations and students attended the ceremonies. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, who shared a written message on the anniversary of the tragic accident, said she commemorated the disaster with deep sorrow and noted that since then, many such tragedies have occurred involving attempts by migrants to reach the shores of Europe.

"It is our absolute duty to put an end to this ongoing massacre by preventing the departure of makeshift boats," Meloni said. — APP

BMP nominates M. Ali for FPCCI presidential election 2024

DNA

KARACHI: The Businessmen Panel (BMP), the ruling group of the FPCCI, has nominated the noted businessman and FPCCI former vice president Muhammad Ali Sheikh from Islamabad as its presidential candidate for the Federation elections for 2023-24 in view of his great performance as apex body's VP as well as GCCI SVP in the past. The decision was taken in the Core Committee meeting of the BMP under the chairmanship of Mian Anjum Nisar, the chief of Businessmen Panel. In a high-profile meeting held here, the group acknowledged the performance and accomplishments of three consecutive presidents of FPCCI from BMP for the collective good of business, industry and trade community of the entire nation. Addressing the ceremony, Mian Anjum Nisar highlighted the BMP leaders' struggle and achievements over last four years, as the

ruling group of FPCCI, and said that despite several issues representatives of the ruling group have performed well in the country's largest trade body and most issues of business community were resolved through the platform of FPCCI. The FPCCI's new presidential candidate Muhammad Ali Sheikh, on this occasion, expressed his profound confidence that the environment in the business community across Pakistan is such that his group would clean sweep the upcoming elections; as they have earned the reputation of the true representatives of trade, industry and services across all sectors. The BMP would win FPCCI elections for the fourth consecutive time with a big margin on the basis of its best possible performance amid worst economic crisis negative effects on trade and industry, he claimed. He said that the Businessmen Panel team regularly pursued the government including the Prime Minister and got many critical issues

resolved, which include expediting processing of tax refunds, he claimed. He said that during past four years not only all departments of the federal government recognized the FPCCI, but the Prime Minister also met the president FPCCI many times to discuss issues of the business community. FPCCI Presidential candidate said that the BMP is the representative group of the business community of the country and we will participate in the next elections to the best of our ability and ensure the success of our group. He said that the strongest groups of various chambers have joined the BMP, saying that the group has already started the election campaign. Muhammad Ali Sheikh said that Islamabad and Rawalpindi have been key players in the political, cultural and social life of the country and now the Islamabad Chapter would play an active role within the BMP. He said that during the past tenure, the members of the rival group had

ruined the FPCCI, while the BMP has not only improved its finances but also contributed millions to the exchequer of the federation during the last four years. FPCCI Presidential candidate resolved to make the best use of this supreme trade forum for the good of the country by promoting trade and industry through getting solved all their genuine issues to ensure a level playing field and make Pakistan's private sector cost competitive. Muhammad Ali Sheikh mentioned that by holding various important positions on different business forums, including as ex-senior vice president of Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI), he fought and got settled many important issues confronting trade and industry in the country.

Through further policy and structural reforms, he would make FPCCI as the real national business platform with a strong voice and influence in the formulation of economic policies of the country, he added.

EU breakthrough: migration policy reform deal reached

BRUSSELS : EU member states have reached a breakthrough deal on reforming the bloc's migration and asylum policy, the Spanish EU presidency. "EU Ambassadors have reached an agreement on the regulation addressing situations of crisis and force majeure in the field of migration and asylum," the Spanish government, which holds the rotating presidency of the Council of the EU, announced on X. The agreement is considered a breakthrough towards reforming EU asylum and migration policy, as EU member states have been strongly divided over how to handle crisis situations when an EU country comes under heavy migratory pressure upon the arrival of a large number of unexpected asylum seekers. Details of the deal have yet to be announced. Earlier on Wednesday, Margaritis Schinas, EU Commission vice-president in charge of the migration and asylum pact, warned that the bloc is "running out of time" to reform the migration policy, and called on EU members and lawmakers to greenlight the new EU migration and asylum pact. The European Commission proposed the so-called New Pact on Migration and Asylum in 2020 to break the legislative deadlock that the bloc had been struggling with since 2016, since after it reached a migration deal with Türkiye. The legislative package, among other measures, would set up a common EU border procedure with a fast check to see if migrants are eligible for international protection before entering the bloc, and speed up return procedures for those whose claim is refused. It would also impose mandatory solidarity obliging EU member states to take over asylum seekers if a fellow EU country comes under heavy migratory pressure. The pact also focuses on setting up partnerships with countries of origin and transit. Calling the deal "the final component of a common European asylum and migration policy," the Council of the EU said in a statement that the new legislation would allow EU countries to "apply specific rules concerning the asylum and the return procedure" in a situation of crisis or force majeure. — DNA

5 wounded in shooting at Morgan University

ANKARA : Five people were wounded in a shooting on the campus of Morgan State University in Baltimore, the most populous city in the US state of Maryland, local media reported. Police Commissioner Richard Worley said the victims - four males and one female - are between the ages of 18 and 22 and that their injuries were not life-threatening, according to NBC News. Four of the five are students at the university, campus police chief Lance Hatcher said. "It's believed there were three shooters firing into the crowd, none apprehended or ID'd at this time," Ryan Dorsey, Baltimore city council member, said on X. Students were leaving a coronation ceremony and were headed to a student center when the shooting happened, University President David Wilson said. The coronation ceremony was part of the school's homecoming week. "An active investigation is currently underway related to a report of shots being fired on or near campus. Please stay clear of the area surrounding Thurgood Marshall Hall and the Murphy Fine Arts Center and shelter in place," Morgan State University said on X. — APP

21 people die in bus crash

ROME : At least 21 people including several children have died after a bus crashed off a flyover near Venice and burst into flames, officials say. The electric bus broke through a barrier and plunged almost 15m (50ft) near railway tracks in Mestre, which is connected to Venice by a bridge. Five Ukrainians, one German and the Italian driver were among the dead, city prefect Michele Di Bari said. Venice Mayor Luigi Brugnaro said a "huge tragedy" had taken place. "An apocalyptic scene, there are no words," he said on social media. One rescuer spoke of a "tragedy of young people, if not very young people, except for a few adults". Three children including a baby were among the dead, emergency services said. Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi said that the toll could rise. Fifteen people are known to have been injured, five of them seriously. Venice officials said they included Ukrainians, Austrians, Spaniards and other foreign tourists. Among the injured were two 16-year-olds and two younger children, the local governor said. Two German brothers, aged seven and 13, were being treated for broken bones in hospital in nearby Treviso. Their parents were killed in the accident and the boys were being given counselling. The bus, carrying 39 people, crashed at around 19:45 (17:45 GMT) on Tuesday. It had apparently been rented by a local company to pick up tourists from the historic centre of Venice to a campsite in the nearby. — APP

Taiwan cancels flights, shuts schools ahead of typhoon

TAITUNG: Taiwan canceled flights and closed schools in parts of its southern region ahead of Typhoon Koinu's expected landfall, the second major storm to make a direct hit on the island in a month. Taiwan experiences frequent tropical storms from May to November but last month's Typhoon Haikui was the first to slam into it in four years - unleashing torrential rains, high winds and forcing nearly 8,000 people to evacuate from their homes. Experts say climate change has made the paths of tropical storms harder to forecast while increasing their intensity, which leads to more rains and flash floods. Ahead of Thursday's expected typhoon, more than 100 international and domestic flights have been canceled, while ferry services to Taiwan's outlying islands have also been halted. More than 200 people were evacuated for fear of landslides in the south of the island, and waves lashing the coast could reach up to seven meters (22 feet) high, authorities said. Fishing boats were crammed into a fishing harbor in Pingtung county on Wednesday to shelter ahead of the typhoon, while primary schools in the agricultural region of Taitung allowed children to go home early. "It's barely a month, and we have another typhoon," 65-year-old Yang Pi-cheng lamented said, as she waited to pick up her grandchildren from Dawang Primary School. A major highway along the coast has also been closed as a precaution. Koinu - which has been charting a jagged course for Taiwan's southern tip - is currently just 200 kilometers (125 miles) east of the island, moving toward it at 10 kilometers per hour. The typhoon has already brought heavy rains to the mountainous northeast regions of Yilan and New Taipei City. "We forecast that its center will pass through the Hengchun Peninsula at the southern tip of Taiwan tomorrow morning," said Lu Kuo-chen, head of Taiwan's Central Weather Administration. After making landfall in Taiwan, Typhoon Koinu is forecast to move toward the eastern coast of China's Guangdong province, said the weather observatory in nearby Hong Kong. The Chinese territory - which last month was skirted by another typhoon before being flooded by the heaviest rainfall in 140 years days later - will issue its lowest typhoon signal on Wednesday evening. — Agencies



Kuwait City : Amb. Malik Muhammad Farooq met Chairman Kuwait Society of Engineers (KSE), H.E. Faisal Duweih Alatel. The two discussed possible collaboration in various fields of engineering, enhanced cooperation between Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) & KSE alongside exploring possibilities of additional recruitment of Pakistani Engineers in Kuwait. —DNA

Azerbaijan President snubs EU meeting over Turkiye

Ilham Aliyev had requested Turkish representation during proposed talks in Spain but France and Germany objected

MOSCOW : Azerbaijan president Ilham Aliyev has decided against attending an EU-brokered meeting in Spain after France and Germany opposed his request for Turkish representation at the talks. Aliyev had been considering taking part in a five-way meeting in Granada, Spain, on Thursday with leaders of France, Germany, Armenia and EU Council President Charles Michel. It would have been his first face-to-face talks with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan since Baku took back full control of Karabakh

in a 24-hour anti-terror operation launched on September 19.

The five were due to discuss the future of the Karabakh region and review the progress of the long-running but troubled peace talks between Azerbaijan and Armenia. It said Aliyev had wanted its all-weather ally Türkiye to be represented at the meeting, but that France and Germany had objected, and said that Baku felt "an anti-Azerbaijani atmosphere" had developed among the meeting's potential participants. In particular, APA cited what



it said was discontent in Baku around a statement made by Michel and what it regarded as "pro-Armenian statements" by French officials and France's decision, announced on Tuesday, to supply Yerevan with military equipment. APA said that Azerbaijan would not attend any future talks which included France, but remained potentially open to possible three-way meetings with the EU and Armenia. The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry on Wednesday said that "efforts to supply Armenia with weaponry in every possi-

ble way and the instigation of this country for another aggression and military adventure by France are unacceptable". It also condemned the "unfounded allegations" made against Baku by French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna during her visit to Armenia on Tuesday. Colonna's claim that Armenian residents were forcibly displaced was "without any proof" and "intended to mislead the international community", the ministry said. Baku says Armenians had left the enclave voluntarily. — DNA

Briefs

Serena Hotels, French embassy hold fund raiser

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotel in collaboration with the Embassy of France hosted the enchanting Melodies De Piano Fundraising Gala, featuring the world-renowned piano virtuoso Maxime Zecchini, on 4th October at Islamabad Serena Hotel. This exceptional evening of classical music not only captivated the audience with mesmerizing performances but also served a noble cause. All the proceeds from this event were dedicated to environment protection and climate resilience initiatives, supporting efforts to combat climate change and conserve our natural resources.

Maxime Zecchini, celebrated for his extraordinary talent and musical prowess, graced the stage with a performance that promised to leave the audience in awe. His exceptional piano skills and emotive interpretations have garnered acclaim from audiences and critics alike, making him a standout figure in the world of classical music.

The Melodies De Piano Fundraising Gala is a testament to the Islamabad Serena Hotel's commitment to social and environmental responsibility. By channeling the power of music towards a cause, the event aims to raise funds for vital projects dedicated to environmental conservation and climate resilience. Guests had an evening filled with soul-stirring melodies, fostering a deep appreciation for the arts while championing the protection of our planet.

Attendees included the French Ambassador to Pakistan Nicolas Galey, members of corporate community, diplomatic missions, government institutions and general public. Addressing the guests CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani shared that Serena Hotels has been a patron of art and culture in Pakistan and always supports such cultural exchanges and this particular event makes it all the more special since it's a fundraiser and the proceeds will directly benefit the cause of Environment protection.

Sunak kicks off election season

LONDON: Battling gloomy polls and mounting doubts, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has urged sceptical voters and his own Conservative Party: Keep me in office and I'll offer you change. In his first – and possibly last – speech as leader to the party's annual conference before an election due in 2024, Sunak said on Wednesday he's not afraid to make tough choices and big decisions that will deliver "long-term success" rather than "short-term advantage." But one of his big decisions has divided the party and threatens to derail his agenda: scrapping much of an ambitious but overbudget high-speed railway line that was planned to link London and Manchester. Sunak said he was cancelling the rest of the embattled HS2 project because its costs have doubled and "the facts have changed." – Agencies

3rd poliovirus case detected in Bannu

DNA

BANNU: A new poliovirus case has been reported in the Ghora Bakka Khel union council of Bannu district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, bringing the total cases from Pakistan this year to three. The latest case involves a one-and-a-half-year-old girl who has been crippled by the virus, it is learnt after confirmation from officials. The total three cases, so far, have all affected children living in Bannu district, while environmental samples from the district have once again detected the presence of the poliovirus. At least 34 environmental samples have tested positive for poliovirus in Pakistan so far.

"Melodies De Piano" performance



ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels Management in collaboration with Embassy of France organized a musical performance "Melodies De Piano". Maxime Zecchini, the renowned French artists presented a mesmerizing performance. Ambassador of France Nicolas Galey and CEO Serena Hotels South and East Asia Aziz Boolani handed over proceeds of the event to environmental protection climate resilient initiatives. – DNA



CJCSC terms NASTP project of national, strategic importance

The National Aerospace Science and Technology Park is all set to serve as a hub for collaboration between academia, industry, and the armed forces in the pursuit of technological advancements

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, paid a momentous visit to the National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP), a strategic project led by Pakistan Air Force. The visit aimed to highlight the significance of this cutting-edge initiative and its potential to revolutionize the national landscape in the fields of aerospace, cyber and computing. On his arrival at the National Aerospace Science and Technology Park, the distinguished guest was warmly received by Air Chief Marshal Zaher Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force. Principal Staff Officers along with high level civil and military officials were also present at the occasion.

During his visit, the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee was given a firsthand glimpse of the state-of-the-art infrastructure, research & development centers, and innovation hubs dedicated to emerging & disruptive technologies. The Air Chief elaborated on the park's vision to become one of the world's premier Aerospace, Cyber, and Computing clusters, fostering an environment of cutting-edge design, research

and development. Speaking at the occasion, Chief of the Air Staff highlighted that National Aerospace Science and Technology Park under the patronage and support of the Government of Pakistan has evolved in a very short span of time through comprehensive planning, focused efforts and mutual collaboration. He extended his appreciation to General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, and General



Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff, for their invaluable cooperation, collaboration, and personal commitment, which played a pivotal role in bringing the true essence of the NASTP concept to fruition. Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee termed National Aerospace Science and Technology Park as a project of national and strategic significance that would reap multi-dimensional benefits for the country.

He emphasized that the NASTP project is poised to catalyze technological progress and enhance our national self-reliance. General Sahir Shamshad Mirza praised the efforts of Pakistan Air Force and its skilled personnel in the achievement of this unprecedented milestone in record time. He also admired the dynamic leadership of the Air Chief, whose firm resolve and relentless efforts paved the way for the project to be completed at an unprecedented pace. The National Aerospace Science and Technology Park is all set to serve as a hub for collaboration between academia, industry, and the armed forces in the pursuit of technological advancements. By leveraging the expertise and resources of the Pakistan Air Force, the project aims to drive innovation, nurture talent, and facilitate the development of indigenous aerospace capabilities. The visit of the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee to the National Aerospace Science and Technology Park marks a significant milestone in Pakistan's pursuit of excellence in the aerospace, cyber, and computing domains. It showcases the country's commitment to harnessing cutting-edge technologies, fostering research and development, and positioning itself at the forefront of technological innovation.

Trump's GOP revolution McCarthy became the latest victim

WASHINGTON: The now ex-speaker's historic ouster came only three days after he was forced to use Democratic votes to head off a damaging government shutdown that his own party's absolutism was about to trigger. This compounded his original sin, earlier this year, of blinking when House GOP hardliners threatened to cause a disastrous default on America's debts that could have thrown the economy into chaos and caused global panic. McCarthy's short speakership underscored how the Republican Party in the age of Donald Trump has turned into one of the great forces of instability in American life, and potentially the world, with the ex-president dominating the 2024 GOP primary as he takes aim at a wrecking ball second term. A party that once defined conservatism as preserving a traditional sense of steadiness and strength has evolved over the last three decades into a haven for chaos agents, stunt politics and a perpetual ideological revolution that keeps driving it to new extremes. The party's willingness to accept the outrageous was also on display Tuesday in New York, where Trump ranted in a corridor outside a courtroom hearing his fraud trial and was slapped with a gag order for attacking a judge's clerk on social media. McCarthy was no moderate and did little to check the GOP's turn away from democracy. But his defeat, at the hands of far-right rebels he complained last week want to "burn the whole place down," is an eloquent commentary on his party. His political assassin, led by Florida Rep. Matt Gaetz, toppled their leader with no plan for what comes next – leaving a hugely important wing of the US government paralyzed for at least a week. – DNA

Turkiye FM warns strike against Kurdish militants

ANKARA: Turkiye's foreign minister warned on Wednesday that Kurdish militants behind a suicide bombing in the Turkish capital face robust retaliation against their group's positions in Syria and Iraq. The outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, claimed responsibility for Sunday's attack outside the Interior Ministry in Ankara in which one attacker blew himself up and another would-be bomber was killed in a shootout with police. Two police were wounded in the attack. Turkish warplanes already have conducted two airstrikes against suspected Kurdish militant sites in northern Iraq following the attack, which came as Parliament prepared to reopen after a long summer recess. Meanwhile, dozens of people with suspected links to the Kurdish militants have been detained in a series of raids across Turkey. Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said during a news conference that Turkish intelligence officials have established that the two assailants arrived from Syria where they had been trained. He said Turkey would now target facilities in Syria and Iraq belonging to the PKK or its affiliated Kurdish militia group, People's Defense Units, or YPG. "From now on, all infrastructure, superstructure and energy facilities belonging to the PKK or the YPG in Iraq and Syria are legitimate targets of our security forces, armed forces and intelligence elements," Fidan said. "I advise third parties to stay away from the PKK and YPG and their facilities. Our armed forces' response to this terrorist attack will be extremely clear and they will regret committing such an act," Fidan said. The PKK has led a decades-long insurgency in Turkey and is considered a terror organization by the United States and the European Union. Tens of thousands of people have

died since the start of the conflict in 1984. Turkey's air force struck suspected PKK sites in northern Iraq, where the group's leadership is based, hours after the attack on Sunday, and again on Tuesday. The Defense Ministry said a large number of PKK militants were "neutralized" in the strikes. Meanwhile, Turkish intelligence agents killed a wanted Kurdish militant in an operation in Syria, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported on Wednesday. The militant, who was identified as NaboKeleHayri and went by the codename of Mazlum Afrin, was wanted for his alleged role in planning an attack last year on Istanbul's main pedestrian street, Istiklal. The attack left six people dead. Police arrested more than 1,000 people in raids across Turkey on Tuesday in a renewed crackdown after a suicide bomb attack in Ankara by the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, the PKK. About 90 people in 18 provinces across the country were detained over suspected links to the PKK. Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said an additional 928 people suspected of holding unlicensed firearms or being connected to firearms smuggling were arrested during the operation, and more than 840 weapons were confiscated. A PKK suicide bomber detonated an explosive device near an entrance to the Interior Ministry on Sunday, hours before President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was set to address parliament as it returned from its summer recess. A second bomber was killed in a shootout with police. Two police officers were slightly wounded in the attack. The bombers arrived at the scene inside a vehicle they seized from a veterinarian in the central Turkish of Kayseri after shooting him in the head. – Agencies

23 Indian troops missing after flash floods

DNA

NEW DELHI: Five people have died and 23 Indian Army personnel are missing in India's northeastern state of Sikkim after a cloudburst led to flash floods. The flooding happened in the Teesta River in Lachen valley, Sikkim, due to a "sudden cloudburst" over Lhonak Lake in the northern part of the state, the Indian Army said in a statement. A cloudburst is a very sudden and destructive rainstorm. River water levels rose very quickly, increasing to around 15-20 feet higher than normal, said the Army, which added that 41 of its vehicles were submerged under the resulting slush. Five bodies have been recovered, according to a statement by the government of Sikkim. A search and rescue operation is ongoing and three people have been rescued. At least three bridges have collapsed and about 420 people from two districts have been moved to relief camps, according to the government of Sikkim. Flooding is not unusual in Sikkim, a state in the Himalayas, but scientists are clear that extreme weather such as storms is becoming more frequent and more intense as the human-caused climate crisis accelerates.

CTD guns down four TTP terrorists

DNA

BUNER: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) on Wednesday gunned down four alleged TTP terrorists during an operation in Buner Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to the CTD spokesperson, the TTP terrorists were involved in the extortion of money, target killing and other terror activities. The spokesperson also claimed to have recovered four hand grenades, Pistols, bullets, six kg of explosive materials and other weapons from the terrorists' possession. Earlier, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) killed four alleged terrorists during an operation in Aghbarg area of Quetta. According to the spokesperson of CTD, the killed terrorists belonged to the banned organization. The spokesperson also claimed to have recovered suicide jackets, five hand grenades and explosive materials from the hideout of the terrorists. It was also stated by the spokesman that terrorists were involved in the killing of police and security personnel in Kuchlak. On September 7, the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) killed eight terrorists in separate operations in Balochistan. According to the spokesperson, the CTD raided a house in Basima – a town and tehsil headquarters in Washuk district on a tipoff. The CTD managed to seize a large quantity of weapons and ammunition as they searched the premises used as a hideout and are working on confirming the identity of the dead terrorists.

Trio wins Nobel Prize in chemistry for work on quantum dots

STOCKHOLM: Three scientists in the United States won the Nobel Prize in chemistry Wednesday for their work on quantum dots – particles just a few atoms in diameter that can release very bright colored light and whose applications in everyday life include electronics and medical imaging. Mounibawendi, of MIT; Louis Brus, of Columbia University; and Alexei Ekimov, of Nanocrystals Technology Inc., were honored for their work with the tiny particles that "have unique properties and now spread their light from television screens and LED lamps," according to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which announced the award in Stockholm. "Why does it matter, right, that we can make tiny particles that nobody can see, but they have colors?" Pernilla Witting Stafshede, a member of Nobel committee that awarded the prize. "This is actually used today both in medicine and technology... We have displays on TVs, in your cellphone, that use quantum dots inside to make just brighter colors." The suspense surrounding the academy's decision took an unusual turn when Swedish media reported the names of the winners several hours before the prize was announced. The advance notice apparently came from a news release sent out early by mistake.

WHAT DISCOVERY WON THE NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY? Quantum dots' electrons have constrained movement, which affects how they absorb and release visible light, allowing for very bright colors. The dots are nanoparticles that glow blue, red, or green when illuminated or exposed to light. The color they emit depends on the size of the particles. Larger dots shine red, and smaller dots shine blue. The color change is due to how electrons act

in more or less confined spaces. While physicists had predicted these color-change properties as early as the 1930s, creating quantum dots of specific controlled sizes was not possible in the lab for another five decades. Ekimov, 78, and Brus, 80, were early pioneers of the technology, while Bawendi, 62, is credited with revolutionizing the production of quantum dots "resulting in almost perfect particles. This high quality was necessary for them to be utilized

in applications," the academy said. "The community realized the implications in the mid-90s, that there could potentially be some real-world applications," he said. Judy Giordan, president of the American Chemical Society, said she was thrilled at the selection of the winners. "What we care about a lot in chemistry is being able to make and tailor novel structures and architectures to solve problems that help people and the planet," Giordan said. Swedish media reported hours before Wednesday's announcement that the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences had sent out a news release that identified Bawendi, Brus and Ekimov as the latest Nobel laureates. Public broadcaster SVT said the release said the trio were receiving the prize for the "discovery and synthesis of quantum dots." After officially announcing the three winners, Secretary-General Hans Ellegren said the Swedish academy would investigate how the information got out in advance. "There was a press release sent out for still unknown reasons. We have been very active this morning to find out exactly what happened," he said during the news conference where the award was announced. "This is very unfortunate and we deeply regret what happened."

