



Islamabad POST

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Malaysia seeks UAE assistance in energy transition: PM Anwar

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Russia to consider de-ratifying CTBT

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Pak Shehroze Kashif summits Cho Oyu peak

Detailed News On Page-06



COAS vows action against 'spectrum of illegal activities'

COAS underscored the need for synergy among all relevant departments for the gainful effects of the landmark initiatives

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir was briefed on the 'repatriation of illegal foreigners' among other matters during a Provincial Apex Committee meeting on his Karachi visit on Friday, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said. The army chief was received by Commander Karachi Corps upon his arrival in the port city.

A statement released by the military's media wing said that matters such as the revised National Action Plan, operation in the Kacha (riverine) area, security of foreigners employed on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

(CPEC) projects in the province and other private schemes were discussed in the meeting, where Sindh Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar was also in attendance. According to the ISPR, the high-level huddle also briefed the army chief on foreign currency regularisation measures, Karachi Transformation Plan, Progress on the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) initiatives and Green Sindh initiatives.

On the occasion, COAS Gen Munir expressed resolve on the government and law enforcement agencies' (LEAs) behalf to curb illegal activities in the country. "LEAs and other government departments will continue the enforcement actions against a

spectrum of illegal activities with full force to deny pilferage of resources and economic losses that the country suffers due to these activities," the army chief said. He also underscored the need for synergy among all relevant departments for the gainful effects of the landmark initiatives. The participants affirmed that state institutions, government departments and people are united for the progress and prosperity of the province, the ISPR added. It is pertinent to mention that the caretaker government earlier this week had announced the November 1 deadline for the illegal "aliens" to leave the county voluntarily.

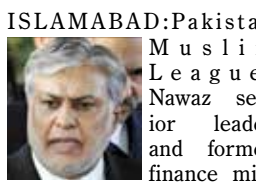
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Briefs

Nawaz needs no guarantee for return

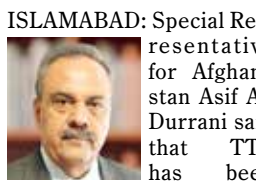
MEHTAB PIRZADA



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz senior leader and former finance minister Ishaq Dar said on Friday the return of party's supreme Nawaz Sharif was not a result of any guarantee. He told media that the PML-N supreme did not need any guarantee or assurance for his return. The process of bail, he said, would be completed upon his arrival. He stressed that the actual value of the dollar was Rs250 while emphasising that in September 2022, the dollar rate was less than Rs200.

Kabul must stop TTP attacks

ADIL SHAHEEN



ISLAMABAD: Special Representative for Afghanistan Asif Ali Durrani said that TTP has been carrying out terrorist attacks on Pakistan from Afghanistan and stated Kabul interim government must stop this process. Asif Durrani said that "the peace [Taliban] brought to Afg must also be brought to our borderlands."

Holiday Notice

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday.

- Editor

Pakistan begin WC with 82-run victory

Quick dismissals by the Green Shirts left the batters stumbling after a steady start

SPORTS DESK

HYDERABAD: Pakistan began their campaign at the World Cup 2023 with a bang as they claimed a 82-run victory over Netherlands at Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, India on Friday. Pakistan were completely back in the game as the bowlers put on a stranglehold on the Dutch, claiming back-to-back wickets. Quick dismissals by the Green Shirts left the batters stumbling after a steady start. Going deeper in the game, the Men in Green snapped a 50-run partnership between Bas de Leede and opener Vikramjit Singh, who played steadily since the start of his side's run chase, before being bowled and caught for 52 off 67 balls.

Pakistan bowlers took charge, sending opener Max O'Dowd and Colin Ackermann to dugout. Babar Azam's dream to post a 300-run total was shattered as the opponents restricted Pakistan to 286 by taking quick wickets. The national side's batting line-up continued to falter as the Dutch

bowlers dominated the innings despite Pakistan's all out efforts to post a maximum target. Harris Rauf smacked two boundaries and one sixer in his short stay before being stumped. Earlier, back-to-back dismissals of Hassan Ali and Shadab Khan, who tried to keep up the momentum for the Men in Green after the fall of sixth wicket, put the side in a precarious position.

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EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES DAY



ISLAMABAD: Chief guest Lt. General (R Anwar Ali Hyder, Federal Minister for Defence Production, Ambassador of Egypt Tarek Dahrouh, Defence Attache Staff Brigadier General Mohamed Saad listening to the National Anthems on the occasion of Army Day of Egypt. - DNA

Foreign debt ratio rises to 38.3%

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The dynamics of total public debt have witnessed an alarming development as the ratio of foreign debt has shot up from 36.9% in FY22 to 38.3% in FY23. The Ministry of Finance's Annual Debt Review and Public Debt Bulletin FY2023 shows that total public debt peaked at Rs62.88 trillion till the end of June 2023 against Rs49.2 trillion, indicating that the total public debt increased by Rs13.64 trillion during the last fiscal year 2022-23 in the tenure of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) coalition government. The total outstanding guarantees to public sector enterprises

Punjab, K-P risk 'financial shutdown'

DNA

LAHORE: The caretaker governments of Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) are heading towards a possible financial shutdown, as the period of one-time authorisation of the expenditure for four months will come to an end later this month. According to Article 126 of the Constitution, a caretaker government can only authorise four-month expenditures from the Provincial Consolidation Fund in any financial year, and that, too, for one time only.

Continued on Page 06

Illegal Afghans begin journey back home

To accommodate the returnees, authorities have assigned a parking area at the Torkham border, ensuring staff deployment for attending to them

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Afghan immigrants residing illegally in Pakistan have started leaving the country after Islamabad issued a November 1 ultimatum to them a private newspaper reported. The border officials, on Thursday, said more than 30 families comprising approximately 1,000 members have begun their journey back to war-torn Afghanistan following Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti's announcement that action will be taken against those staying illegally in Pakistan. To accommodate the returnees, authorities have assigned a parking area at the Torkham border, ensuring staff deployment for attending to them and registration completion. According to the officials, Afghan families in cities across the country have begun their departure to avoid being arrested and other consequences that could follow due to their illegal residence.

Continued on Page 06

Jilani defends Pak decision

DNA

TIBET: Interim Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani defended an order that all illegal immigrants, including 1.73 million Afghans, must leave, saying no other country allows illegal immigrants and the decision is in line with international practice. Earlier this week, the 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

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Palestinian killed in clashes with Israelis

Mayor Moin Dmidi told media that the Palestinian teenager had sought refuge on roof of his house

HUWARA: Palestinian Territories, Oct 6 (AFP/APP): A Palestinian was killed on Friday during clashes with Israelis in the occupied West Bank town of Huwara, where renewed violence during his funeral left nine others hospitalised. In the latest fatal incident, the Palestinian health ministry said 19-year-old Labib Dmidi "was shot in the heart by settlers". Mayor Moin Dmidi told AFP that the Palestinian teenager had sought refuge on the roof of his house, which was being attacked by settlers, when one of them shot him dead. Another resident of the town, Abderrahman Dmidi, said

the attack took place as settlers descended on Huwara overnight. "More than 200 settlers gathered in the middle of Huwara after midnight, shouting and dancing, some of them with covered faces," he told AFP. "They began throwing stones towards some houses, and then the young people... tried to defend their homes by throwing stones," he added. The confrontation came after the Israeli army said soldiers shot dead a Palestinian who had opened fire on a car stuck in traffic at a junction adjacent to Huwara late on Thursday, without hitting any of the Israeli civilians inside. - Agencies

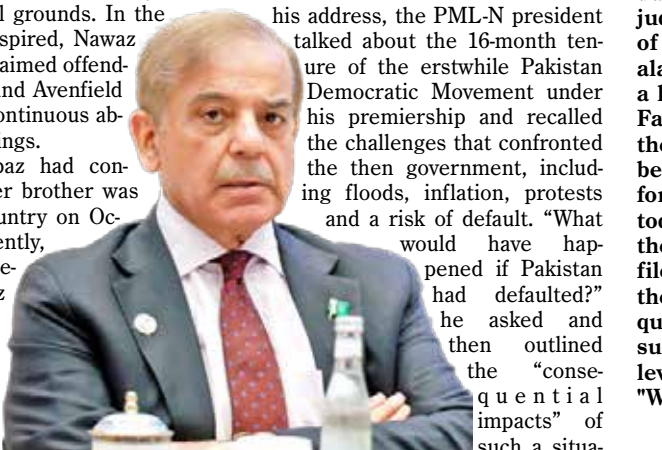
Nawaz Sharif's return on Oct 21 certain, says Shehbaz

Nawaz needs nonstop monitoring owing to residual cardiac disease symptoms: report IHC CJ grills PTI lawyer

ABBAS HASHMI

LAHORE: PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said his party's legal team has cleared former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's return to Pakistan on October 21, asserting that the elder Sharif would come back to face the law and Constitution. Nawaz, who has been in self-imposed exile since 2019, left for London in the middle of his seven-year jail term on medical grounds. In the four years that transpired, Nawaz was declared a proclaimed offender in the Al Azzia and Avenfield graft cases for his continuous absence from proceedings. Last month, Shehbaz had confirmed that his elder brother was returning to the country on October 21. Subsequently, the PML-N had declared that Nawaz was ready to face "all kinds of circumstances" upon his return from London. Earlier today, a fresh medical

report of Nawaz was submitted to the Lahore High Court. It stated that the PML-N supreme had "some residual anginal symptoms" which would require "frequent follow-up investigations" in London and Pakistan. In a media talk in Lahore in the afternoon, Shehbaz said: "As it is in your knowledge that Nawaz Sharif will, God willing, return on Oct 21. "I want to respectfully say that you shouldn't ask if he is coming or not, this is confirmed now." At the outset of his address, the PML-N president talked about the 16-month tenure of the erstwhile Pakistan Democratic Movement under his premiership and recalled the challenges that confronted the then government, including floods, inflation, protests and a risk of default. "What would have happened if Pakistan had defaulted?" he asked and then outlined the "consequential impacts" of such a situa-



tion. "But God helped us avert default and I am thankful to Nawaz for standing by us. "If our quaid told us to save our politics, I would have resigned, but he told us to take up the challenge and save the country instead," he said. Shehbaz elaborated on the elder Sharif's contributions to Pakistan, which included the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and making the country an atomic power, but lamented how a series of "painful events overturned Pakistan's journey of growth". "I want to clarify that in 2017-18 the PML-N won the elections but the results were changed in massive rigging and a pre-prepared model was introduced to ruin the country." But now, Shehbaz continued, the journey of prosperity would resume with Nawaz's arrival. "He will himself tell his plan to change the country's future at Minar-e-Pakistan on Oct 21. It is a programme that will expedite Pakistan's growth and change its fate." He added that Nawaz shared good relations with a number of foreign countries, such as Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye, and he would use these ties not to "take loans but to get investment".

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Irked by reports in the media regarding the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) reservations over its Chairman Imran Khan's transfer to Adiala jail, Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Aamer Farooq Friday asked if the party is dissatisfied with the court's relevant orders issued last month. The judge questioned Khan's lawyer, Sher Afzal Marwat, during the hearing of the plea filed for early pronouncement of reserved judgment on the PTI chairman's petition against his jail trial and change of judge in the cipher case. Khan was moved from the Attock jail to Adiala jail on September 25, a day after the IHC ordered his transfer during a hearing of a plea concerning prison amenities for the PTI chief. Justice Farooq had stated in the verdict that Khan was an under-trial prisoner in the cipher case, which was registered in Islamabad. Therefore, he should be held in custody at Adiala, not Attock, as he was held in the latter prison for the Toshakhana case, which remains suspended. During the course of today's hearing, the judge asked Marwat if there was dissatisfaction over the court's order on his transfer, reminding the lawyer that the petition was filed by his client for his transfer from Attock to Adiala jail. "Then why is there so much controversy from your side in the press?" the chief justice questioned the counsel. Responding to the judge's query, Marwat said no such statement has been officially issued by the party. Speaking about the level of facilities provided to the former prime minister, his counsel said: "We knew that B class would be given in Adiala Jail, but it was not given."

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ICCI urges pharma distributors to keep three months stock

President Chemist and Drug Association Islamabad Tariq Saeed, Prof. Dr. Aurangzeb Dean Preston University and Director Ch. Waqar Ahmed, General Manager Drug Services Ata Muhammad, other dignitaries and a large number of pharma business community were present in the award ceremony

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has conferred the Best Distributor Award on Muhammad Mehtab Hussain, General Manager, Premier Sales (Pvt.) Limited in recognition of his outstanding services and ensuring availability of needed medicines at pharmacies, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry gave the award to Muhammad Mehtab Hussain during a ceremony held at ICCI. Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry paid tribute to Muhammad Mehtab Hussain for his best distribution services, especially during Covid-19 pandemic when many distributors and pharmacies were facing supply chain issues. He said that the Premier Sales (Pvt.) Limited has embraced the modern distribution system, which is laudable. He stressed that the DRAP

should take measures to ensure at least 3-months stocks with distributors for regular supply of medicines at pharmacies. Muhammad Mehtab Hussain, General Manager, Premier Sales (Pvt.) Limited thanked ICCI for giving him Best Distributor Award, which is a great honor for him and his organization. He said that speed and response level matter a lot in distribution business for customer satisfaction and retail spread is his prime focus to serve the ailing humanity. Sardar Shabbir Ahmed, Senior Inspector of Drugs, Islamabad congratulated Muhammad Mehtab Hussain and Premier Sales (Pvt.) Ltd for receiving Best Distributor Award, which is a due recognition of their professional and positive approach in business. He stressed that every distributor of pharma products should focus on expanding its network and covering far-flung areas to ensure availability of medicines to the patients. Zafar Bakhtawari, Chairman, D.Watson Group and Secretary General UBG Pakistan said that Muhammad Mehtab Hussain is a role model for other distributors as he visits shop

to shop to ensure availability of medicines for patients. He termed pharmacy business as a great service to ailing humanity and stressed that patients should be treated as patients and not as customers. Rafique Jakwani, CEO, Premier Sales (Pvt.) Ltd said that ICCI Best Distribution Award is an award for the whole team of his organization. He said that ICCI is the first Chamber that has acknowledged the services of a best distributor. He hoped that ICCI would continue this good tradition that would promote competition and bring improvement in the whole industry. Qaiser Masood, Secretary General, Chemist and Drug Association Islamabad also lauded the initiative of ICCI for recognizing the services of a best distributor. President Chemist and Drug Association Islamabad Tariq Saeed, Prof. Dr. Aurangzeb Dean Preston University and Director Ch. Waqar Ahmed, General Manager Drug Services Ata Muhammad, other dignitaries and a large number of pharma business community were present in the award ceremony.



KARACHI: Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Bahrain, Mr Saqib Rauf, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Governor House.

CM orders excellent arrangements for 'Lahore Lahore Hay' fair

LAHORE : Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, during a meeting held here on Friday, ordered to make excellent arrangements along with holding unique programs in connection with "Lahore Lahore Hay" fair. The CM said that maximum participation of citizens in the programs should be ensured. The meeting was briefed that the celebrations will be held at the historical sites of Lahore. Programs in the field of sports, music, art, literature will be presented for the interest of the people. Music concert, theatre, pet show and art exhibition will be arranged in the "Lahore Lahore Hay" fair. Theatre competitions will be held between the universities. Seven-day book exhibition would be arranged at Alhambra under "Lahore Lahore Hay" fair. Prominent qawals and singers will display their performance. Night tent-pegging, Kabaddi and traditional sports will be arranged. Drone lights and laser show will be held at Jilani Park. Shows on History by Night and Punjab Through Ages will be presented. Heritage through Laser Show will be presented by the drone. Vintage Bike, Bicycle and other vehicle shows will also be arranged in the "Lahore Lahore Hay" fair. Culture of all the four provinces will be depicted at the Jilani Park. Food stalls in a unique manner will be established by the Punjab Food Authority at the Jilani Park. —APP

PICG and CDC launch central governance portal

ISLAMABAD : The Pakistan Institute and Corporate Governance (PICG) and Central Depository Company (CDC) are launching a corporate governance portal, e-Go, to protect the rights of minority shareholders and to educate and engage shareholders in governance related issues. The platform will be implemented as a joint venture of PICG and CDC, leveraging the domain expertise of PICG in the realm of corporate governance, the technical, operational expertise of CDC in implementing and operating state of the art national level digital platforms. In this regard Pakistan Institute and Cor-

porate Governance (PICG) and Central Depository Company of Pakistan Limited (CDCPL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the development and implementation of e-Go platform, a groundbreaking digital initiative aimed to empower and facilitate investors/shareholders with the necessary knowledge of their shareholder rights and corporate governance practices, said a news release issued here on Friday. e-Go platform initiative is in line with SECP's vision to have more informed and involved shareholders and to protect the rights of minority shareholders. This Corporate Governance digital platform

has been envisioned to equip shareholders of corporates and businesses with the necessary information, learning modules, and training resources to promote sound corporate governance practices. At the occasion, describing the features of the upcoming platform, CEO-CDC Badiuddin Akber said that "This platform aims to enrich the corporate governance practices in Pakistan by effecting their implementation in true letter and spirit while leveraging the power of technology to provide a convenient, informative and interactive medium for shareholders to learn about and engage effectively in sound corporate.—DNA

LWMC deploys additional staff

DNA

LAHORE: The Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) is taking practical measures to ensure the best sanitation situation in the provincial capital. Over 300 sanitary workers and 90 vehicles are working the night shift cleaning operation, said a spokesperson. On the instructions of LWMC CEO Babar Sahib Din, mechanical sweeping and washing is being conducted across the city in the night shift. The process was activity conducted on MM Alam Road, Canal Road, Khayaban-e-Firdousi, Khayaban-e-Jinnah, Gulberg Town, Jail Road, Ferozepur Road, Liberty Market, Punjab Assembly Road, Mall Road, Wapda Town roundabout and adjacent areas while the cleaning of commercial markets is also being ensured in the night shift. Along with the cleaning of roads across the city, special washing and cleaning of pedestrian bridges is being carried out.

SCCI urges business-friendly policies for growth

DNA

PESHAWAR :President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Fuad Ishaq stressed the implementation of business-friendly policies for industrial growth and stabilizing the national economy. He said the country's export was plunging consistently while the trade deficit was also widening gradually. Business community is highly worrisome amid the prevailing economic uncertain situation, says Fuad Ishaq while talking to Senator Nauman Wazir, former president Riaz Arshad, Adeel Rauf, Faiz Muhammad Faizi, Zulfiqar Ali Khan, Sherbaz Bilour, former senior vice president Engr Manzoor Elahi, the former vice president Shuja Muhammad, Taimoor Shah, former executive member and Khalid Sultan

Khawaja, Luqman Shah, SM-EDA provincial chief Rashid Aman, Aqil Ismail, Shahrukh Khan, Waqar Ahmad and others. The chamber's senior vice president Sanaulah Khan and vice president Ijaz Khan Afridi were also present at the meeting. Fuad Ishaq viewed that the economy can improve only by facilitating businesses and trade. He said SCCI is an efficient voice for the business community and vowed it will take their issues with relevant government authorities effectively. He urged the government to take proactive steps for the promotion of businesses and industrialization. Revamping and restructuring of business and commerce-related institutions are the dire need of the hour, the SCCI chief stressed. Fuad Ishaq called for bringing relaxation in policies and laws/regulations to ease difficulties of the business community because they have an enormous

contribution to economic development through paying various taxes. Furthermore, he emphasized economic policies should be crafted in consultation with chambers and relevant stakeholders. He urged government relevant institutions to take care of business community's dignity during the conduct of crackdowns for enforcement of policies, rules/laws and collection of various forms of taxes. The chamber's president demanded the introduction of reforms in the taxation system and the elimination of double taxation as well. He also called for ease in the process of filing tax returns. Earlier, members of the business community extended heartfelt felicitations to the SCCI's newly elected president and the rest of his cabinet and expressed hope that the chamber will continue serving the community under the leadership of Fuad Ishaq.

Punjab Police allocates funds for health care of officers

LAHORE : On the instructions of Inspector General Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, priority measures are being taken for the health welfare of police employees and their families, in continuation of which more than 12 lakh rupees were given to police officials and their families. According to the details, a meeting of the Welfare Management Committee was held on the direction of IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, in which funds were approved and issued for the medical expenses & health welfare of five officials and their families. According to details 01 lakh 45 thousand rupees were given to the

wife of Shaheed Constable Muhammad Azam of Lahore Police for the treatment of diabetes and other diseases. Traffic police stenographer Muhammad Rizwan Ullah was given 05 lakh rupees for his daughter's spine treatment. The wife of Shaheed ASI Gulfam Shahzad of Lahore Police was given 01 lakh 90 thousand rupees for eye treatment. 01 lakh 85 thousand rupees was given for the treatment of Constable Muhammad Ismail's son. 02 lakh rupees was given to the wife of late constable Nasir Mahmood of Punjab High Patrol for treatment. IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar ordered to continue the measures for the health welfare of the

police force and their families and said that more steps should be taken for the treatment of the constables and their families. IG Punjab said that by spending the income of police welfare projects on the welfare of the force, they are being given all possible relief. Welfare Management Committee meeting was presided over by Additional IG Welfare Muhammad Riaz Nazir Gara. DIG Welfare Ghazi Muhammad Salahuddin, DIG Ahsan Younas, AIG Discipline Ahsan Saif Ullah and AIG Welfare Naveed Ajmal and other senior officers attended the meeting. On the direction of Inspector General Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, the

police teams across the province, including Lahore, are conducting crackdown against dangerous fugitives and proclaimed offenders, wanted for serious crimes, in continuation of which 04 more proclaimed offenders from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have been arrested. A category proclaimed offender Amanat Ali wanted in case of murder got arrested from Saudi Arabia, whereas Masood Hussain from the United Arab Emirates. Muhammad Salim, wanted proclaimed offender in Robbery case, and Muhammad Umar Shahzad wanted in other crimes arrested and extradited from UAE. — DNA

COURT NOTICE

In the court of Mr. Muhammad Farooq, Azam Sahib Judge Family Court Gujrat. Case Title, Rukhsana Kousar V/S Shafeeq Ahmed etc. Notice to, Shafeeq Ahmed S/O Muhammad Rafeeq, Muhammad Rafeeq S/O Wali Muhammad caste Jutt Gondal R/O Majora Tehsil & District Gujrat. Present Living Abroad. Suit for, Recovery Of Dowry Articles etc. The above mentioned defended are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed that If the said defended with not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 11-10-2023 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte against you.

BRICS expansion allows Ethiopia to deepen economic coop with the emerging markets

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Pakistan Jemal Beker Abdula has said that joining of his country to BRICS would deepen its economic cooperation with the emerging markets of the world. Addressing a round table discussion on "Expanding BRICS and the New Alignments", the ambassador underscored that the BRICS expansion would be instrumental in Ethiopia's ten-year development plan, aligning with the economic reforms initiated by Ethiopian Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed. He said Ethiopia with the second largest population



in Africa, had become one of the fastest-growing economies globally, maintaining an impressive average growth rate for last several years even during the pandemic critical time. Ambassador Jemal Beker emphasized that Ethiopia's entry into BRICS would open new avenues for increased trade, foreign direct investment, and op-

portunities for technology transfer, knowledge sharing, and infrastructural development. He highlighted Ethiopia's commitment to diversify its exports in key sectors such as agriculture and agro-processing, manufacturing, mining, tourism, and information and communication technology (ICT). "With the addition of new






members like Saudi Arabia, Iran, and others, BRICS now represents nearly half of the global population and a quarter of the global GDP," he said, adding this actually positioned BRICS as an economic powerhouse that could not be ignored. He also underlined Ethiopia's vital role in the African Union, stating that Ethiopia brings not only

economic strength but also a deep understanding of regional dynamics to the group with its addition. "As the headquarters of the African Union, Ethiopia holds significant influence over regional affairs and aims to become a hub of connectivity and manufacturing in the African continent, offering BRICS a gateway to African markets," the ambassador remarked. He expressed his optimism that BRICS expansion would enhance south-south cooperation, fostering sustainable socio-economic development worldwide." Collaboration within BRICS will promote technology transfer, knowledge sharing, economic integration, environmental sustainability, and infrastructural development among member countries."

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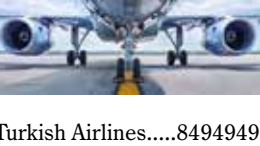
National Days and Armed Forces Days

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
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Hospitals

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- MH.....5611116
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- DHQ.....5556311-4
- RGH.....9290301-7
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- PIMS.....9261170-79
- Polyclinic.....9218300-09
- Shifa International 4603666



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- Met Office.....9250360-6
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- TMA.....5770886
- Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Water Tank

- Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Two Day ISSI (CAMEA) - USIP international conference

Pak must actively participate in multilateral forums: Speakers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The first working session, titled, Building Sustainable Peace in Afghanistan was moderated by Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA. The speakers included, Ambassador Mansoor Ahmad Khan, former Ambassador of Pakistan to Afghanistan, Ms. Nargis Nehan, Former Afghan Minister for Mines, Ambassador Omar Samad, Non Resident Senior Fellow Atlantic Council, Washington DC, Graeme Smith, Senior Consultant for Crisis Group's Asia Program, International Crisis Group and Asfandyar Mir, Senior Expert South Asia Programs, USIP.

The speakers were of the view that economic isolation, sanctions, the Taliban's ideological rigidity, large scale migration, and proliferation of terrorist groups are major challenges in the post-US/NATO Afghanistan. The great power competition, internal power struggles, regional fault lines, ethnic clashes, further aggravate these challenges. It was also said that peace is not only the absence of war, but also presence of development, prosperity and an open society, which are all absent in Afghanistan today. She also said that Afghanistan's conflict has domestic, regional and international dimension and for sustainable peace, there needs to be consensus for a political pathway. It was agreed that Pakistan and Afghanistan, could do more on the new and old issues by negotiations, bilateral talks and cooperation. It was further said that both states have issues that bind them together more than ever and on the economic side, connectivity, transit and other topics have broader scope. It was also emphasized that human life in Afghanistan has a greater value than politics. A really



fragile equilibrium has emerged as the Afghan economy stopped shrinking. Humanitarian organizations are disappointed due to the Taliban's refusal to compromise their heterodox vision of cultural and religious purity, especially on gender issues. Speakers also highlighted that the issue of terrorism lies at the intersection of both internal and external challenges to peace in Afghanistan. There are concerns and anxiety in Washington and Islamabad regarding the Taliban's growing alignment with terrorist groups, especially Al-Qaida and TTP. The second working session titled, "Building Regional Peace: Pakistan, The Middle East and Beyond" was moderated by Hamayoun Khan, Program Advisor, Fredrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Pakistan. Speakers of the session

included Dr. Sayed Kazem Sajjad Pour, Distinguished Fellow, The Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS), Iran, Dr. Muhammet Kocak, Professor, Social Sciences The University of Ankara Institute for Area Studies, Turkiye, Dr. Ali Bakir, Professor, Ibn Khaldon Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences, Qatar University Doha, Dr. Wafaa Alaradi, Associate Professor, Political Science Department, Kuwait University, and Ambassador Riffat Masood, Pakistan's Former Ambassador to Iran. Speakers emphasized the importance of Pakistan's engagement in managing its role amidst the changing global order. They stressed the need for Pakistan to adopt a regional approach and actively participate in regional multilateral forums and institutions to enhance its influence. The primary emphasis was on the fact that as the international system experiences substantial transformations, the interactions between regional players like Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, Pakistan, and India will not only impact the region but also the global landscape. Furthermore, the speakers acknowledged the diverse challenges, including traditional and non-traditional security concerns that regional countries are facing. The speakers underscored the responsibility of regional powers to play a pivotal role in bringing peace to the region, with a focus on addressing longstanding issues and fostering cooperation. Additionally, they recognized the economic, environmental, and social challenges that require attention and urged governments to align their policies with the pursuit of peace while advancing national interests. Lastly, Pakistan's unwavering commitment to promoting peace and stability, prioritizing economic development, and fostering positive relations with neighbouring countries in the context of a rapidly changing global environment was also stressed.

The third working session titled, "Pakistan and the United States: Strengthening Bilateral Cooperation" was moderated by Hamza Ijaz, Senior Program Officer USIP, Pakistan. The speakers included Dr. Asad Majeed Khan Former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan; Michael Kugelman, Director of South Asia Institute at the Wilson Institute, Washington DC, Adam Weinstein, Deputy Director of the Middle East Program, Quincy Institute of Responsible Statecraft, Washington DC, and Dr. Daniel Markey, Senior Advisor South Asia Programs, USIP. The speakers elaborated upon challenges as well as strengths of US-Pakistan relations.

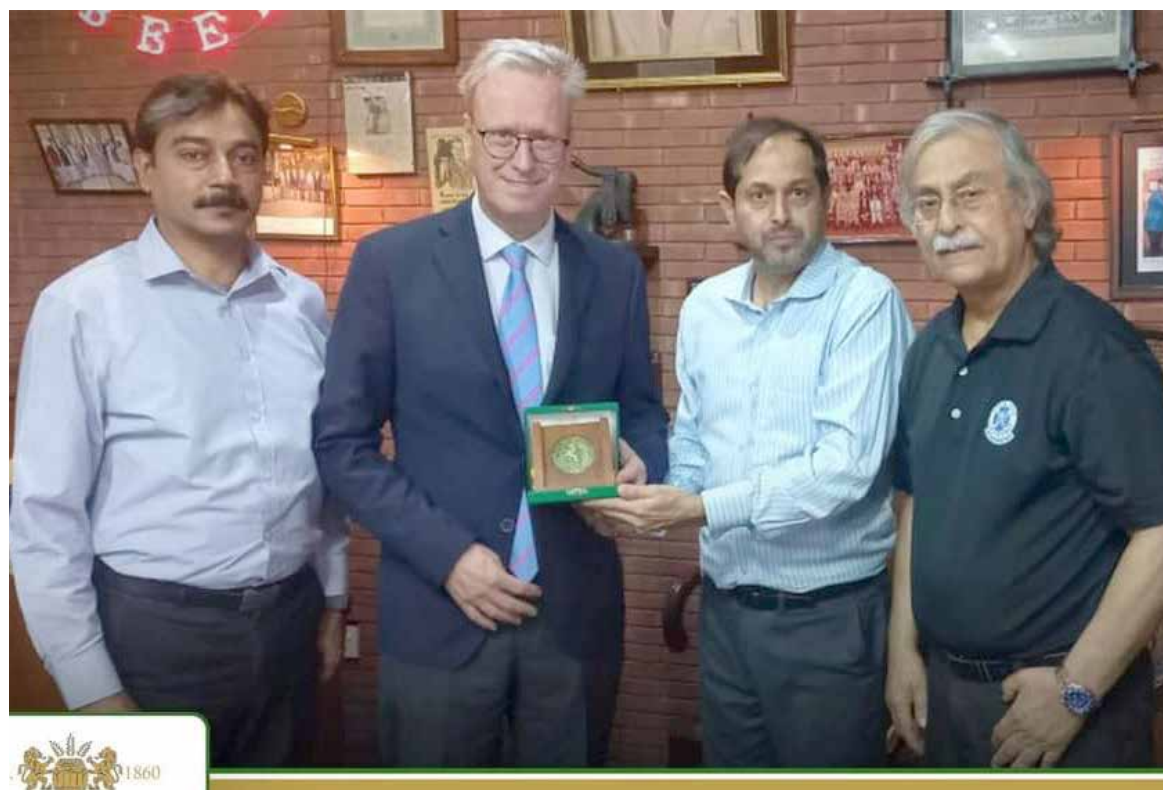
Pirwadhai police arrest two robbers

RAWALPINDI: Pirwadhai Police while conducting an operation managed to recover two robbers and recovered over Rs 2.5, mobile phone, motorcycle, weapons and other items from their possession, said a Police spokesman here on Friday. He informed that Pirwadhai police while responding to an information about a robbery at gunpoint near Chatti graveyard managed to net two robbers namely Umair alias Wodang and Suleman within a few hours and recovered looted over Rs 2.5 million, weapons, a motorcycle, mobile and other items from their possession. The motorcycle recovered from the possession of the robbers was snatched few days back from a citizen. He informed that the arrested accused were being shifted to jail for identification parade. He said, City Police Officer, Rawalpindi Syed Khalid Hamdani appreciated Superintendent of Police, Rawal, Faisal Saleem, SDPO City, and Pirwadhai police on successful operation and recovering snatched over Rs 2.5 million and other items from the possession of the robbers.—APP

Police arrest 27 for possessing illegal weapons

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district police on the directives of the Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations Rawalpindi conducted raids in different areas and netted 27 accused for possessing weapons, liquor, drugs and other items. According to a police spokesman, Race Course, Rattaamral, Wah Cantt, Bani, Dhamaal, Rawat, Kalar Syedan, Soddar Wah, and Taxila police rounded up Manzala bin Manzoor, Umar, Adeel Khan, Naveed, Bilal, Haseeb, Sharjeel, Sajid, Arshad, Nishad and others and recovered over 10 kg charras and 150 grams heroin. He further informed that in other operations, Bani, Westridge, Civil Lines, Sadiqabad and Pirwadhai police managed to net seven accused namely Arslan, Shahid, Haider Ali, Qasim, Tamoor, Javed and Umair and recovered 13 litres of liquor, five pistols 30 bores, and ammunition. He said Race Course police in their operation against proclaimed offenders managed to arrest Muhammad Shehzad, an accused wanted in a murder case registered in 2014. Rawalpindi Cantt police also held a proclaimed offender named Shahid Mehmood wanted in a case registered in 2021. The SSP said that strict action by the law was being taken against the lawbreakers and operations against drug peddlers, bootleggers, aerial firing, illegal weapon holders and other lawbreakers would continue.



RAWALPINDI: CEO Murree Brewery Isphanyar Bhandhara presenting a shield to the Ambassador of Belgium Charles Delogne during his visit to the Factory. — DNA

Central corporate governance portal to be launched by PICG, CDC

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute and Corporate Governance (PICG) and Central Depository Company (CDC) are launching a corporate governance portal, e-Go, to protect the rights of minority shareholders and to educate and

engage shareholders in governance related issues. The platform will be implemented as a joint venture of PICG and CDC, leveraging the domain expertise of PICG in the realm of corporate governance, the technical, operational expertise of CDC in implementing and operating state of the art national level digital

platforms. In this regard Pakistan Institute and Corporate Governance (PICG) and Central Depository Company of Pakistan Limited (CDCPL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the development and implementation of e-Go platform, a groundbreaking digital initiative aimed to empower and facilitate in-

vestors/shareholders with the necessary knowledge of their shareholder rights and corporate governance practices, said a news release issued here on Friday. E-Go platform initiative is in line with SECP's vision to have more informed and involved shareholders and to protect the rights of minority shareholders.

Weekly inflation goes slightly up by 0.11 percent

ISLAMABAD: The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.11 percent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on October 5, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 282.00 points as compared to 281.70 points during the past week, according to the PBS data. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 37.07 percent. The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 = 100 covers 17 urban centers and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs 17,732, increased by 0.49 percent and went up to 286.29 points from last week's 284.89 points. The SPI for consumption groups from Rs 17,732-22,888, Rs 22,889-29,517 and Rs 29,518-44,175 increased by 0.38 percent, 0.27 percent and 0.17 percent respectively whereas it declined by 0.03 percent for income group above Rs 44,175. During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 19 (37.26%) items increased, 16 (31.37%) items decreased and 16 (31.37%) items remained stable. The items, which recorded a decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week (WoW) included diesel (3.33%), chicken (2.78%), petrol (2.40%), pulse masoor (1.80%), pulse gram (1.73%), gur (1.14%), pulse moong (0.58%), pulse mash (0.33%), wheat flour (0.32%) and vegetable ghee (0.20%). The items that recorded an increase in their average prices on a week-on-week (WoW) basis, included tomatoes (12.45%), onions (11.96%), garlic (2.59%), potatoes (1.81%), cooked daal (1.27%), eggs (0.84%), beef (0.53%), bread (0.52%), LPG (3.11%), firewood (0.76%) and long cloth (0.51%). The commodities that witnessed a decrease in price on a year-on-year (yoy) basis included tomatoes (54.05%), onions (18.21%), pulse gram (2.67%) and mustard oil (0.16%). On a Year-on-Year (YoY) basis, the commodities which recorded an increase in their average prices included electricity charges for q1 (118.16%), gas charges for q1 (108.38%), cigarettes (94.69%), rice basmati broken (87.60%), chilies powder (84.84%), sugar (79.55%), rice irri-6/9 (78.69%), wheat flour (77.91%), gur (67.68%), tea packet (60.72%), gents sponge chappal (58.05%), salt powdered (56.48%), garlic (54.78%), gents sandal (53.37%), petrol (43.70%) and potatoes (42.99%). — DNA

SIFC - another hallmark after CPEC

CH. MUHAMMAD LATIF

The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is a significant, sincere and feasible effort to invite investment from our friendly countries, which will enhance economic activity on the one hand and at the same time bring close people to people relationship. At present we have ideal friendship with Saudi Arabia, Turkiya and China. The SIFC is a civil-military joint initiative. Therefore, it has taken rapid decisions in holding several meetings and concluding agreements with friendly nations. From inception it has commenced its activities as a mission, as a mandate for targeted investment. In its top level five meetings, so far held, mostly attended among others, by the Army Chief in person, who is in fact a kingpin in controlling curse of smuggling, dollars, menace of terrorism, above all he has rightly realize the explosive danger of Afghani nationals hidden in Pakistan, misguided by our enemies, the lurking mechanism of economic devastation by illegal Afghani residents in Pakistan. It is a bare fact that no investment could be viable without peaceful environment. "One window" and "Under one Roof"

are the old epithets well known to bureaucracy whose red tapism is like an epidemic posing severe impediment against any development or welfare project, beside, corrupt practices. In the current circumstances civil, military, as well as political leadership has been willified within and outside the country. In this scenario the SIFC is an effort to restore and retrieve the economy of the country. A thorough presentation has been delivered elucidating SIFC's multifaceted role as a single window platform dedicated to facilitating potential investors from friendly nations. It has been highlighted in meetings so far held with foreign business dignitaries that Pakistan recognizes the importance of providing attractive tax incentives with concession in revise visa policy through SIFC platform. These measures are aimed at ensuring that investment in Pakistan from friendly countries are not only lucrative but also efficient, contributing to thriving business enterprises. Our most reliable brother country Turkiya has sent delegation to examine the facilities and sureties guaranteed under the auspices of SIFC. Japanese delegation has also visited Pakistan to evaluate the facilities offered by SIFC. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have signed an agreement to cooperate in IT sector.

Notwithstanding the fertile efforts undertaken under the umbrella of SIFC, it should also be seriously contemplated as to why, after all, such admirable efforts were strangled and foiled in the past. The PIA, a monopolistic institution, a symbol of shining Pakistan, has been destroyed. Nobody cared that when the institution is going in loss, the facility of free trips local and abroad, to its staff should be stopped. The WAPDA underwent tremendous line losses due to inefficiency of the staff, still nobody stopped free supply of electricity to its staff costing annually 23 billion rupees. Railways going in loss but free ticket to staff is being enjoyed. Another woeful factor is the princely attitude of the Administrative Civil Service which also enjoys the powers of a majestrate. They are highly decorated, full of prestige and protocol, a symbol of colonial rule. Why did they fail to control smuggling, price hike, hoarding, street crimes etc. They enjoy flag which demands police guards under flag rules. A major chunk of police force is deployed for this service and the public at large is being looted in the open streets. They occupy, in addition to their cadre posts, ex-cadre post of technical departments which practice not only reserves in injustice to the promotion rights of

the technical cadres but also the developments schemes are not completed in time due to their inefficiency and funds are lapsed. It is also a bitter fact the Administrative Service has badly failed to control their lowest tier of service namely the Patwari who is a cause of major part of litigation before the courts. The head of services in provinces is the chief secretary, who is mostly taken from the Administrative Service and he is mostly inclined to this group and he fails to dispense justice to other group of service. In Azad Kashmir, as an example, the District Management Group has occupied 18 posts of secretary to government out of 23 total posts. The Chief Secretary, under the Rules of Business 1985, is supposed to maintain equilibrium among all classes of civil service. The DMG has also occupied all posts of decision making offices like the Prime Minister, the Chief Secretary and Secretary Services. The deplorable position of AJK government governance is apparent from the fact that constitutional institution of Public Service Commission has been lying vacant for several months. How commendable projects are sabotaged should also be checked. The government granted increased in salaries upto 30 % with full knowledge that they had no funds to finance liabilities.

Now to sabotage the CPEC and SIFC, the government has ordered the freeze of salary and pension of all employees. This decision goes against the interest of bureaucracy which is the only instrument to execute and implement the projects. If they are disgruntled their performance will be impaired. In the recent past, the NAB sent behind the bars jem officers of the bureaucracy who were later acquitted from all charges after going through the turmoil. The NAB crippled the initiative of bureaucracy. Chief Justice (Retired) Saqib Nisar humiliated a District and Sessions Judge, a Revenue Commissioner, A Vice Chancellor was in chains for granting admission to students, he humiliated a Medical Doctor of international fame who had volunteered from USA for service in his homeland Pakistan. These events demoralize the bureaucracy. The results of such events is that only 3 % candidates have qualified the examination of Central Superior Services of Pakistan due to lack of attraction in civil service. Justice demands to withdraw the undue perks and restore the due rights including the morale of bureaucracy. The writer is Retired Additional Chief Secretary of AJK and Advocate Supreme Court of AJK.

Briefs

ANF seizes 212 kg drugs in nine operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting nine operations across the country recovered 212 kg of drugs and arrested nine accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday. He said that 76.8 kg hashish and 40.7 kg opium were recovered from a vehicle near M-1, Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad. During the operation, two accused residents of Islamabad were arrested. In another operation in Bahria Town Phase-1, ANF recovered 100 grams of cocaine from a resident going in a vehicle. On the plantation of the accused, two more facilitators were also arrested. In the third operation, 2.3 kg of hashish concealed in a car on GT Road Gujarat was recovered. During the operation, two accused residents of Nowshera and Swat were arrested. The spokesman informed that in the fourth operation, 200 grams of Ice drug was recovered from a resident near Sialkot University. An accused, resident of South Waziristan who was going to Sharjah by flight number PA-812 was arrested at Multan Airport. 115 grams of hashish concealed in the shoes and walnut shells was recovered. 240 Ecstasy tablets were recovered from a parcel at a courier office in Hayatabad. The recovered tablets were being smuggled to Multan by hiding them in a juicer blender. 5 kg hashish, 6 kg Ice and 80 kg crystals were recovered from a vehicle and a house in the Pasi area in Balochistan. Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against all the accused while further investigations are under process.—DNA

Iqra University holds 4-day workshop

ISLAMABAD: Iqra University's H-9 Campus in Islamabad proudly organized a comprehensive four-day training workshop aimed at Faculty Professional Development. Engaging faculty members from all six prominent departments - Business, Computer Sciences, Social Sciences, Art and Fashion Design, Media Studies, and Pharmacy - the workshop offered invaluable insights into teaching pedagogies, outcome-based objectives, and the latest assessment and evaluation techniques. Furthermore, the training extensively covered aspects of classroom contracts and effective student dealings. Beyond the foundational knowledge imparted, participants were equipped with practical tools to ensure the implementation of crucial concepts they learned throughout the workshop. The interactive nature of the sessions fostered an environment of active learning and collaboration among the faculty. Iqra University remains committed to the continuous professional development of its staff and ensuring an unparalleled educational experience for its students.

Efforts underway for registration of household workers

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have launched the "Knock the Door" campaign to facilitate the registration of domestic employees and bolster law and order in the federal capital. During the ongoing campaign, dedicated teams from the Islamabad Capital Police are taking to the streets and visiting residences to ensure the registration of both tenants and domestic workers. Additionally, they are addressing any concerns and issues raised by the citizens. Within the framework of this operation, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Islamabad has already compiled data on 201 domestic employees working in 492 houses within the jurisdiction of Sumbal Police Station.—APP

Italian envoy, Sanjrani discuss scope of bilateral ties

The meeting culminated with a mutual agreement to fortify parliamentary relations, aimed at fostering a deeper and more robust bilateral engagement

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese called on Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani here at the Parliament House on Friday. The focus of the meeting encompassed mutual interests, notably the prevailing regional dynamics and energy matters. Chairman Senate emphasized the amicable relations between the two nations and called for further cementing bilateral ties. He advocated for diversifying energy sources beyond conventional means, accentuating the untapped potential in solar and wind energy within Pakistan. Sadiq Sanjrani also highlighted the expertise of energy professionals in Italy, offering collaboration to explore alternative electricity generation in Pakistan. In light of the escalating impacts of climate change, the Chairman stressed the global imperative to



shift towards clean energy generation. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to bolster trade and economic ties between Italy and Pakistan. Furthermore, Sanjrani extended an

invitation to Italian enterprises to capitalize on the investment prospects available in Pakistan. He specifically pointed out opportunities within the mineral sector, especially in Balochistan, which

could prove favourable for Italian investors. Pakistan accords paramount importance to its relationship with Italy and aspires to enhance cooperation across various domains, particularly economic

collaboration, he stated. The meeting culminated with a mutual agreement to fortify parliamentary relations, aimed at fostering a deeper and more robust bilateral engagement.

ML-1 project to be launched soon: Cao Ke

Cao Ke emphasized the significance of Lahore as a pivotal city and lauded the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry for its commendable efforts in promoting trade and industry

DNA

ISLAMABAD: At the 74th founding anniversary celebration of the People's Republic of China, organized by the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), Acting Chinese Consul General in Lahore, Cao Ke, assured that the Mian Line 1 Project will be launched soon. The spectacular ceremony was attended among other by LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt, Vice President of the Pakistan (China) Shandong Chamber of Commerce Chen Qianjiang, Vice President of the Pakistan Chinese Federation He Yubing and Vice President

of the Pakistan Chinese Chamber Chen Qianjiang. According to Gwadar Pro, Cao Ke emphasized the significance of Lahore as a pivotal city and lauded the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry for its commendable efforts in promoting trade and industry. He expressed a strong desire for knowledge sharing and technology transfer between China and LCCI, highlighting the importance of mutual learning. Furthermore, Cao Ke noted that this year marks the 10th anniversary of both the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Belt and Road Initiative, along with the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. He underscored CPEC's transformative impact on

Pakistan's economy, with a substantial \$24.4 billion investment, and LCCI President Kashif Anwar extended warmest congratulations to all the Chinese friends who celebrated their National Day on 1st October 2023. This day signifies not only the birth of a great nation but also a reminder of their remarkable journey towards making excellent progress in almost all fields of life. "We applaud the achievements and advancements that China has made, serving as an inspiration to other nations across the globe," he said. The LCCI President said that the diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China began in 1950 which brought two countries very close as dependable strategic allies and trustworthy

neighbours. The enduring friendship between Pakistan and China is a cornerstone of our foreign policy. This friendship is based on mutual respect, trust, and a shared vision for social and economic prosperity. You all will agree with me that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has added great value to these mutual ties. He said that the 10th Anniversary of CPEC speaks itself about the collective vision of China and Pakistan whose prime aim is to shift the focus from geo-politics to geo-economics. Pakistan's strategic location as a crossroads between South Asia, Central Asia, China, and the Middle East is ideal to transform it into a regional hub for trade, commerce, manufacturing, and agriculture.

Railways to complete rehabilitation work of tracks

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways is putting maximum efforts to complete rehabilitation and reconstruction work on railway tracks, improving the speed of the locomotives to carry passengers to their respective destinations on time. The infrastructures, including the track and signalling system from Karachi to Peshawar, Main Line-I (ML-1) and doubling of track from Lahore to Peshawar (462.20 Km) are also being revamped, an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. The official noted that the length of the track was 1,726 kilometres and the department has planned to improve the speed up to 160 kilometres per hour in the project of up-gradation of ML-1 under the China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC). To improve the speed of the trains and ensure fixed timings, he said the procurement of 230 passenger coaches and 820 Capacity Wagons under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) project was also under process. The official said that around 46 Completely-Built-Up (CBU) passenger coaches had been procured up till now while the remaining 184 would be manufactured in the country and the coaches would be able to travel at the speed of 160 kilometres per hour.

He said that the rolling stock being procured under this project would be capable of running at a speed of 160 km/h whereas the department has a dedicated fleet of 55 diesel-electric locomotives of 4000-4500 HP for freight operation to cater maximum haulage at higher speed. "The installation of Computer Based Interlocking (CBI) system on 48 stations on ML-1 to improve the signalling and interlocking for higher speed and safety of train operation," the official added. To a question, he said that Pakistan Railways was a big organization comprising around 63000 employees and its network was spread throughout the country. The official said the employees were well cared for owing to having several welfare activities, including healthcare facilities through an intensive network of hospitals, dispensaries and child healthcare units. He said that the provision of government accommodation according to entitlement and priority list, staff benevolent funds, benefits and incentives provided through the Prime Minister's Family Assistance Package policy for deceased employees' families were part of these facilities.—APP

Gas theft attempt foiled in Bama town

ISLAMABAD: Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has successfully foiled a gas theft attempt in Bama Town by dismantling an illegal pipeline. According to a spokesperson of SNGPL, the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) Task Force in Islamabad had conducted a successful raid in Bama Town, preventing the unlawful network from being established. The underground illegal pipeline, stretching over 300 meters, was discovered and removed before it could connect to the distribution network, saving the department from irreparable damage. The action had been initiated on the gas theft in the area of federal and its adjoining areas on the directives of the General Manager of SNGPL Azhar Rashid Sheikh. During the operation, Task Force personnel disconnected illegal gas meters.—DNA

Various agri products put on display in Attock

QAZI SHOAIB KHAN

ATTOCK: The agricultural experts of Peanut Research Institute Attock and prominent landlords of inter provincial bordering district Attock while sharing their experiences to mark the National Peanut Festival, marked a significant event that highlighted the salient features of the production of peanut in Attock. The speakers at an event in connection with World Peanut Day said the country's cash crop peanut, often referred to as the 'golden kernel', has emerged as a crop of immense promise in Pakistan. The golden kernel has huge economic potential to boost country's foreign exchange reserves through collaborative efforts and in-

novations to enhance crop yield, they said. The experts highlighted at the 8th Annual National Peanut Festival in Attock that the agricultural revolution has the potential to inject billions of Dollars into Pakistan's economy, marking a significant development. The 8th Annual 'National Peanut Festival' Held in Collaboration with Agri Tourism Development Corporation of Pakistan Showcases the Impact of Festivals on Individual and Social Identity, a news release said. While its current production stands at a modest 8 to 25 mounds per acre, the Peanut Research Institute Attock has endorsed advanced peanut farming practices that can yield up to 50 mounds per acre. Progress-

sive farmers across different regions are already achieving impressive yields ranging from 35 to 40 maunds per acre. The National Peanut Festival, marked a significant event that highlighted the profound influence of festivals on the individual and social identity of the people involved, as well as the regions from which they hail. The event was organized with leading collaboration of Ghazi Brotha Tarageati Idara-GBTI and other partners including Agri Tourism Development Corporation of Pakistan, Groundnuts Research Station Attock, Barani Agriculture Research Institute (BAR), and National Rural Support Program (NRSF).

Charter of economy necessary to overcome problems

The higher interest rate is a major contributor to our debt woes; a quicker growth in the debt stock is due to its failure to contain its expenditures

ISLAMABAD: FPCCI's presidential candidate Atif Ikram Sheikh said on Friday that Pakistan needs a charter of economy so that all political forces can focus on economic recovery. Economic matters should be in capable hands to improve the economy which will also provide relief to the masses and the business community, he said. Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as VP FPCCI, Chairman PVMA and President ICCI said in a statement issued here today that continuity of policies should be ensured so that investors can breathe a sigh of relief and stop withdrawing capital from Pakistan to safe destinations. Speaking to the business community, he said that important decisions should not be delayed; otherwise, they would severely affect the masses and the currency and lead to a sharp rise in inflation. Atif Ikram said that agreements with the IMF and other institutions should be honoured, as breaching promises will result in displeasure with international institutions, which the country cannot afford at this critical juncture. We want economic managers with good economic understanding, experience, and foresight to resolve the country's problems. He demanded that the hike in electricity and gas tariffs be reversed and the infamous circular debt, which has become a threat to the economy, be reduced. State-run corporations should be sold, the cost of doing business for industry and trade should be reduced, and the business community should be treated well, he said. Higher policy rates are discouraging businesses and increasing government borrowing costs, driving higher financing needs. These financing needs are met through increased borrowing, he said. BThe higher interest rate is a major contributor to our debt woes; a quicker growth in the debt stock is due to its failure to contain its expenditures and boost its income by broadening the tax base, he added. He noted that production, exports, and remittances are going down, necessitating a strategy to reverse the trend.—DNA

French ambassador Galey extends best wishes to Pakistan Cricket team

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of France to Pakistan Nicolas Galey has wished Pakistan Cricket team a success as the Green Shirts take on the Netherlands in the world cup match, in India. In his video message the French ambassador said that the World cup is indeed a great cricketing event. He wished Pakistan and all other participating teams.

25 days left for illegal immigrants to leave Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Foreigners residing illegally in Pakistan have only 25 days left to leave the country and face deportation. Foreigners living illegally must leave Pakistan by October 31 or law enforcement agencies will ensure their arrest and deportation. It is worth a mention that in the meeting of the Apex Committee of the National Action Plan recently, it had been decided to take strict action against the illegal immigrants living in Pakistan and the trade and properties of illegal immigrants.—APP

Pakistan's exports to China increase by 5.16%

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's export of goods and services to China witnessed an increase of 5.16 per cent during the first two months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported. The overall exports to China were recorded at US \$350.297 million during July-August (2023-24) against exports of US \$333.077 million during July-August (2022-23), showing growth of 5.16 per cent, SBP data revealed. On a year-to-year basis, the exports to China also surged by 25.09 per cent from \$159.021 million in August 2022, against the exports of \$198.932 million in August 2023. Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to China rose by 31.42 per cent during August 2023 as compared to the exports of \$151.365 million in July 2023, the SBP data revealed.—APP



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HS2 cancellation: mind the north-south gap

Flying into Granada for the European political community summit, Rishi Sunak may have noticed that the Andalusian city is well served by high-speed trains. Granada is not alone. Spain now has the largest high-speed rail network in Europe, with more than 4,300km of track in operation and a further 1,370km under construction. Britain, by contrast, has 113km in operation and, before Mr Sunak's cancellation of the northern arm of HS2 this week, a further 220km under construction. High-speed rail is an infrastructural triumph for Spain, but a disaster for Britain. True, Spain is much larger and emptier; Britain is smaller, more crowded and more built-up. But the contrast in the governance and management of the respective projects matters too. Spain essentially gave its state railway infrastructure company the money to build the lines. Britain did not do the same. Instead, with HS2, it started, stopped, started, stopped, hesitated, re-examined, dithered, rethought, cut back and, finally this week, cancelled. It has been a systemic failure. It did not help that HS2 was started at the wrong end. Rather than beginning work in the north, where the project was principally aimed, it began in the south-east, where the most difficult and most expensive engineering was required in order to carve a route from the centre of London out through the Chiltern hills. One upshot of the cancellation is therefore that HS2 has become another project that will principally benefit the richest part of Britain. Instead of levelling up, HS2 extends the inequality gap. In his conference speech and interviews, Mr Sunak claims that this will benefit the north. He says spending "every penny" on a range of rail and road upgrades means a better deal than HS2 would have delivered. This is nonsense. The simple truth – as Spain illustrates – is that the two are not alternatives. As originally conceived, HS2 was part of a UK-wide transport modernisation, to be integrated with the so-called HS3 of new and upgraded rail lines in the north. The one depended on the other. But the upgrades announced by Mr Sunak on Wednesday as an alternative to HS2 are not confined to the north and Midlands. So the north will lose out twice. Mr Sunak tried to promote himself this week as a long-termist leader. The debacle over HS2 tells the opposite story. The cancellation is not merely a piece of short-term thinking, leaving the project half finished. It is also a choice made in a strategic vacuum. It leaves the transport capacity building that was the core reason for building HS2 high and dry – and unsolved. The result will be more crowded roads, more accidents, increased delays and worse pollution. Any benefits are likely to be years away. The cancellation exposes Britain's crippling lack of an industrial strategy, a term of which Mr Sunak positively disapproves. Its political and market consequences are likely to be dire. The decision is bound to deter future governments from promoting other infrastructure projects for fear of cancellation, and to discourage future investors from investing in them either. Just at the very time when other countries, most prominently the United States and China, are showing few qualms about building infrastructure for the future and attracting the investment that such plans require, Britain has again set itself apart.



Hottest Sept: the climate must be prioritized

Another month of smashed temperature records has left scientists searching for words with which to describe what is happening. "Gobsmackingly bananas" was the phrase alighted on by Zeke Hausfather of the Berkeley Earth climate data project. This was the hottest September on record, following the hottest August and the hottest July. It beat the previous September record by 0.5C, the largest jump in temperature ever seen. In the UK, where the summer was wet and many people have enjoyed unseasonably warm early autumn days, the disruption has not been anything like as destructive as elsewhere. But floods, fires and exceptionally high temperatures are becoming more and more frequent – with the overflow of Lhonak Lake in India, and the wildfires and baking heat in Tenerife among the latest emergencies. The countdown to the latest round of UN climate talks, which start in Dubai in late November, has begun. On Wednesday, Pope Francis issued an update to his 2015 encyclical – a document aimed at Catholics worldwide – warning that "the world in which we live is collapsing" and calling for "irresponsible" western lifestyles to change. More than 80 countries are pushing for a phaseout of fossil fuels to be on the Cop28 agenda. But leaders of the biggest-emitting countries, including Joe Biden and Xi Jinping, were absent from a summit convened by António Guterres, the UN secretary general, in New York last month. As Mr Guterres has warned, oil companies and states are lobbying hard against attempts to close down their businesses. Saudi Arabia's huge recent investment in football is part of a strategy aimed at increasing its influence and muting opponents. Last year, Saudi Aramco, which is largely state-owned, made a profit of \$161bn (£134bn) – the biggest ever recorded by an oil and gas firm. The actions of the oil companies and petrostates are one thing. But so far, the actions of governments across the rich world have failed to match their words on net zero. Even now, as scientists admit that they are stunned by the latest data, there is no guarantee that greenhouse gases will stop rising by 2025, as experts believe they must if there is to be any chance of limiting temperature rises to 1.5C. Under Rishi Sunak, the UK's ambitions have slipped. Last month, he watered down commitments on phasing out petrol cars and gas boilers, while ministers at his party's conference used inflammatory rhetoric to play up public fears that decarbonisation is unaffordable. But other governments too are showing a disturbing lack of engagement. With a recent proposal for a windfall tax on the oil and gas revenues of countries with the largest deposits, the UK's former prime minister, Gordon Brown, went further than the current leaders of any big western states have done recently. No wonder that the governments of some of the poorest countries, which are most threatened by global heating and have contributed least to the problem, are angry. As Pope Francis said, "we can keep hoping". The high temperatures are frightening, but could be used by responsible politicians to build the momentum that is needed for an accelerated green transition.

UN's campaign against Islam phobia an important move

Dr. Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg

A UN report in April 2021 found that suspicion, discrimination and outright hatred toward Muslims had reached "epidemic proportions." In many parts of the world, Islamophobia has been on the rise because it is cynically deployed in political campaigns, especially by extreme-right groups and political parties for electoral gain, with considerable success. It has also been weaponized to justify discrimination and violence perpetrated against Muslim minorities. A recent study by the Brussels-based European Center for Populism Studies documents how, in Europe, the rise of populism

This summer, the UN passed two major resolutions, one by the Human Rights Council and the other by the Security Council, on how to deal with bigotry and religious hatred around the world, including Islamophobia. Measured, balanced and nuanced, the new UN instruments could help in dealing with this growing phenomenon. A UN report in April 2021 found that suspicion, discrimination and outright hatred toward Muslims had reached "epidemic proportions." In many parts of the world, Islamophobia has been on the rise because it is cynically deployed in political campaigns, especially by extreme-right groups and political parties for electoral gain, with considerable success. It has also been weaponized to justify discrimination and violence perpetrated against Muslim minorities. A recent study by the Brussels-based European Center for Populism Studies documents how, in Europe, the rise of populism has been associated with a rise in Islamophobia, with "exponential increases in votes" for anti-Islam political parties, which falsely portray Islam and Muslims as existential threats. The study also found that Islamophobia has become a form of accepted racism, not only on the margins of European societies but also at the center. That populism-Islamophobia nexus has been observed in other parts of the world as well. It is paradoxical that the bigotry against Muslims is higher in societies where Muslims constitute very small minorities, as in some Eastern European nations, according to research cited by the center: "Islamophobia without Muslims has proven to be a blessing for right-wing populists," who have instrumentalized hatred against Muslims and deployed it successfully to win elections and enter government coalitions. A recent study documents how, in Europe, the rise of populism has been associated with a rise in Islamophobia. To meet this growing threat, the UN Human Rights Council in July adopted a resolution condemning any "advocacy and manifestation of religious hatred, including the recent public and premeditated acts of desecration of the Holy Qur'an." It stressed the need for "holding those responsible to account," consistent with international human rights law. It called upon member states to adopt national laws, policies and law enforcement frameworks that

address, prevent and prosecute acts and advocacy of religious hatred that constitute incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, and to take immediate steps to ensure accountability. The council urged the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and all relevant bodies, within their respective mandates, to speak out against advocacy of religious hatred. In June, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2686 to tackle another related aspect, expressing "deep concern" at instances of discrimination, intolerance and extremism, including in cases motivated by Islamophobia. It cited "instances of violence fueled by hate speech, misinformation and disinformation, including through social media platforms." Then, in 16 operational paragraphs, the resolution spelled out the steps to be taken by states to deal with this growing danger. The resolution stressed that hate speech, racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia can contribute to driving the outbreak, escalation and recurrence of conflicts and undermine initiatives to address the root causes of conflict and prevent and resolve conflict, as well as reconciliation, reconstruction and peace-building efforts. It urged countries and international and regional organizations to publicly condemn violence, hate speech and extremism motivated by discrimination, including on the grounds of race, ethnicity, gender, religion or language. It encouraged all relevant stakeholders, including religious and community leaders, media entities and social media platforms to speak out against hate speech and promote tolerance and peaceful coexistence. The UNSC called on states to encourage interreligious and intercultural dialogue and respect, promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of all individuals, and ensure equal access to justice and preserve the integrity of rule-of-law institutions. These new moves are important to stem the rising tide and tackle new forms of bigotry around the world. It encouraged states to prevent the spread of intolerant ideology and incitement to hatred through education – to promote tolerance, human rights and interreligious and intercultural dialogue – as well as openness, inclusion and mutual respect. The resolution instructed UN representatives, envoys, missions and peacekeepers to monitor

incidents violating these values and called on the secretary-general to report back to the council in June 2024 on this matter. To raise awareness about this phenomenon and help combat it, a number of countries and organizations have appointed special representatives to tackle it. For example, Council of Europe Secretary-General Marija Pejcinovic Buric in 2020 appointed the council's Director of Communications Daniel Holtgen to the new position of special representative on antisemitic and anti-Muslim hatred and hate crimes. Commenting on the appointment, Pejcinovic Buric said: "On Friday, it will be one year since the deadly antisemitic attack at a Synagogue in Halle, Germany, on the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur. In February this year, a far-right extremist killed 10 people, several of them with a Muslim background, in Hanau. These are no longer isolated events. We are witnessing an alarming increase in antisemitic and anti-Muslim attacks in many parts of Europe today, often incited and aggravated by hate speech online." In March 2022, the UN General Assembly declared March 15 of every year as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia to try to stem this tide. In January this year, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that he would appoint Amira Elghawaby as Canada's first special representative for combating Islamophobia to tackle the racism, discrimination and religious intolerance faced by millions of Muslim Canadians. In February, the European Commission appointed Marion Lalisse as its new coordinator on combating anti-Muslim hatred. Lalisse will work with member states, European institutions, civil society and academia to strengthen policy responses in the field of anti-Muslim hatred. In her new role, the coordinator will be the main point of contact for organizations working in this field in the EU. In an earlier era, the UN was instrumental in outlawing racial discrimination and slavery. These new moves are important to stem the rising tide and tackle new forms of bigotry around the world, especially Islamophobia. The UN secretary-general and the commissioner of human rights are now tasked with monitoring and reporting incidents of Islamophobia and the measures taken by UN members to combat this nasty form of nativism. sourced by Arab news

How diverse Lebanon can have a more inclusive government

Khaled Abou Zahr

Unfortunately, Belgium has become known for its political instability. In 2020, it finally formed a government after 652 days of caretaker and minority governments, following the collapse of the previous administration in December 2018 due to interparty tensions over migration. So, it is not only Lebanon that suffers from this disease. This marked a new record for Belgium's longest post-election period without a government, surpassing the previous record of 541 days after the June 2010 elections, which ended with the swearing-in of Elio Di Rupo as prime

Following a long stalemate, the Lebanese file was in June passed on from French President Emmanuel Macron to former Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian. His current mission is still to help Lebanon elect a president. But is this the right mission for the countries that are looking to help Lebanon? Should there not be a more impactful way to help Lebanon once and for all? To start with, this mission reveals how much the confessional system is hurtful for Lebanon. Indeed, the election or selection of any of the three key roles of the state – president, prime minister and parliament speaker – never seem to be related to all the people's affairs, but rather limited to each concerned community. Let me explain. Currently, with each position being reserved for a single community, the election by the parliament of a new president is, for example, viewed through the lens of the Christian/Maronite community. Just like the continued failure to name a prime minister is seen through the lens of the Sunni community. And the speaker of parliament, which is the only one of these positions that is currently filled, indicating where the power in the country lies, seems to be a Shiite affair. In all logic, this raises the question of an absence of a Druze head of state. What about the aspirations and fears of this community, which has given its blood and made sacrifices? Unfortunately, in today's Lebanon, the Druze would probably only have an "acting representative" or another empty seat. A federal council including all confessions would have representatives serving the country and not their respective communities. There is hence no country, just confessional minorities. I understand why some Maronites have fear because Michel Aoun was their last president. This fear can be applied to Sunnis and the prime minister. We can clearly see now how this system does not work and how it invites shady deal-making at the expense of the people, thanks to the exploitation of this exact fear. Any centralized system, such as a direct presidential election re-

gardless of confession, would make these fears explode into potential civil war. This is exactly why a system that has a centralized head of state for each community does not work. A federal system would solve many of these issues. But it would not be a magic wand. There are examples of federal systems that are dysfunctional. The clearest example that comes to mind is Belgium. It is a European federal constitutional monarchy in which the king is the head of state and the prime minister is the head of government in a multiparty system. Decision-making powers are not centralized but divided between three levels of government: the federal government, three language-based communities (Flemish, French and German-speaking) and three regions (Flanders, Brussels-Capital and Wallonia). Unfortunately, Belgium has become known for its political instability. In 2020, it finally formed a government after 652 days of caretaker and minority governments, following the collapse of the previous administration in December 2018 due to interparty tensions over migration. So, it is not only Lebanon that suffers from this disease. This marked a new record for Belgium's longest post-election period without a government, surpassing the previous record of 541 days after the June 2010 elections, which ended with the swearing-in of Elio Di Rupo as prime minister after a similarly complex negotiation period. The advantage is that, while there were problems at the federal level, people's lives were unaffected because what mattered to them was decided at the local level. Unfortunately, and here lies the risk, we are noticing today a growing demand for Flemish independence ahead of federal elections next year. Questions over migration and general policies are pushing this demand. This would strengthen the bonds between communities instead of pitting them against each other. This is why I once again use the example of Switzerland as a model for Lebanon, with its federal council when it comes to state-linked affairs. This is

the best example Lebanon should follow. The Swiss Federal Council is Switzerland's highest executive authority and serves as the collective head of state and government. This council has seven members, each representing a different political party, and it works on a consensus-based decision-making system. By overseeing the administration, proposing legislation and representing Switzerland in international affairs, it plays a significant role in the country's political landscape. The Federal Assembly, which is the country's bicameral legislature, chooses the members of the Federal Council, who each serve for four years. For more than a century, this unique and balanced governance system has been a hallmark of Swiss political stability. It has helped Switzerland become known as a model of direct democracy and federalism. In Lebanon, adopting a similar system would be a positive power-sharing solution. It could pave the way for more effective governance. A federal council including all confessions would have representatives serving the country and not their respective communities. Moreover, a member of the Druze community could be added alongside the representatives of all the other communities. Just as Switzerland's system ensures that the various linguistic, cultural and religious groups within the country are represented in the Federal Council, Lebanon could have a more inclusive government that reflects the nation's multifaceted identity. This would strengthen the bonds between communities instead of pitting them against each other. There is no doubt that, despite the current political vacuum and the failure to nominate the heads of state, the Lebanese people are in a de facto decentralized system. They have their own solutions, from banking and cryptocurrencies to having generators for electricity. Therefore, countries looking to help Lebanon should support the transformation toward a new political system and not a temporary solution to keep an archaic one alive. This needs to be done before secession becomes the only solution.

Briefs

COAS vows action against...

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The decision came days after a deadly suicide blast in Balochistan's Mastung, in which over 60 people lost their lives. In most of the recent terror incidents in Pakistan, Afghan nationals or soil was reportedly used. Today, Karachi Additional Inspector General (AIG) Police Khadim Hussain Rind revealed that Afghan citizens are involved in street crimes in Karachi. Afghan citizens have been found involved in various street crime activities especially those resulting in deaths, Rind said while speaking to Geo News. The senior police officer said that 225 Afghan citizens involved in street crimes in Karachi were apprehended in recent times of which some are in jail facing criminal cases.

Nawaz Sharif's return...

FROM PAGE 01
When asked about remarks regarding being the "establishment's man", Shehbaz said if that was true, "what benefits did I get?" and talked about how he and his elder brother spent months in jail. At one point during the media talk, the PML-N president was also asked about journalist Imran Riaz Khan, who returned home last month after being missing for four months. But Shehbaz said he wasn't aware of the matter and said, "I will look into it." "I am not in favour of this... I and Nawaz Sharif were missing for several months and our parents didn't know where we were. But we never complained, we didn't attack army installations or propagated this to our supporters," Shehbaz further stated, referring to the May 9 violence - when protests erupted across the country following the first arrest of PTI Chairman Imran Khan.

IHC CJ grills PTI lawyer

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The judge assured Marwat that Khan would be provided with a better class after the court issued a relevant order following a petition filed by the PTI chairman's other lawyer, Latif Khosa. Meanwhile, IHC during the hearing also hinted that it would issue a verdict within two to three days on the petition. Marwat said: "The jail trial for the cipher case has started, but no decision has been made on our request." He added that the case is scheduled for a hearing in jail again on Monday. "I will expedite the matter. Not on Monday, but I will decide within two to three days," Justice Farooq said, responding to the lawyer. The court maintained that the decision on the request against the jail trial and the judge's appointment was already reserved. It should be noted that both Imran Khan and his party's Vice-Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi are behind bars on judicial remand till October 10 in the cipher case.

Illegal Afghans begin...

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He said although they possessed Afghan Citizen cards issued by the National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra), they were voluntarily returning to Afghanistan, as the economic and security situation in their country was better compared to Pakistan. Hasrat urged fellow Afghans to leave Pakistan, citing difficulties in paying utility bills and the lack of stable job opportunities and businesses. The Afghan citizens also requested financial assistance for those returning to Afghanistan, to enable them to rebuild their houses and start their livelihoods there. Previously, Pakistan had requested all illegal immigrants to leave the country voluntarily by October 30 and warned of arrests and deportations after the deadline's expiration.

PCB, Middlesex County to jointly launch T10 league

Both the sports bodies will be equal equity partners in this league subject to mutually agreed concepts, business plans, financial projections, and management structure

OUR CORRESPONDENTS

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and Middlesex County Cricket Club linked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to jointly launch a T10 league. Both the sports bodies will be equal equity partners in this league subject to mutually agreed concepts, business plans, financial projections, and management structure. They will also explore the possibility of organising exhibition matches in Pakistan and the UK between Pakistan Super League (PSL) teams and teams under the control of Middlesex County Cricket Club. Chief Executive Officer of Middlesex County Cricket Club, Andrew Cornish, Director of Middlesex County Cricket Club, Alan Coleman, and Middlesex County Cricket Club representative, Mohsin Wariach visited the PCB Headquarters and met Management Committee Chairman Zaka Ashraf, and other officials. They discussed a wide range of matters of mutual interest related to cricket, including promotion, growth, and development of the game. The Middlesex delegation also visited National Cricket Academy where they gave a presentation to PCB officials. After further discussion,



both parties signed an MoU. In the MoU, the parties expressed an interest in entering into a collaborative arrangement across several areas of mutual interest. Below are the key pointers from the MoU

are: Establishing a partnership between the parties to develop and jointly launch a T10 league. Both parties will be equal equity partners in this league subject to mutually agreed concept, business plan, financial projections and management structure. Exploring the possibility of organising exhibition matches in Pakistan and the UK between PSL teams and teams under the control of Middlesex County Cricket Club. Organising training and educational programmes, including but not limited to courses for coaches, analysts, umpires and curators/groundsmen with a focus on the latest technologies in such training and education. Middlesex will also work to develop and oversee training programmes for women's cricket teams operating under PCB, including the Pakistan national women's team. The signing ceremony was attended by the Chairman Management Committee Zaka Ashraf, PCB COO Salman Naseer, Director International Usman Wahla, and PSL Commissioner Naila Bhatti were also in attendance.

Iga Swiatek sets up Gauff semi-final at China Open



DNA

BEIJING: Iga Swiatek will play Coco Gauff in the China Open women's semi-finals, after the world's second- and third-ranked players both won in Beijing on Friday. World number two Swiatek came from a set behind to

defeat Caroline Garcia 6-7 (8/10), 7-6 (7/5), 6-1 in a match that hinged on two nail-biting tie-breaks. Gauff, the US Open champion, comfortably disposed of world number six Maria Sakkari 6-2, 6-4.

Swiatek endured a tense opening set that Garcia - ranked 10th - eventually stole with a vicious passing shot at the end of a marathon tie-break. The Pole was 4-1 up in set two but threatened a match-ending collapse against a stubborn Garcia, finally edging it when the Frenchwoman netted a limp backhand. From there, Swiatek took

control, notching a double break in the deciding set and finally taking match point at the fifth time of asking. "For sure, it was really intense. We played really fast," the four-time Grand Slam winner told a post-match news conference. "There was no time sometimes to think or analyse. I'm happy I used my intuition a lot," she said. "I just knew that she was risking, so... her mistakes could come." Gauff sailed through a rapid first set and made short work of her opponent in a dominant second, breaking serve in the fifth game. She took the match by thundering down a meaty serve that Sakkari could only return wide. The China Open is taking place for the first time since 2019 after Beijing ended strict zero-Covid travel curbs. The men's competition concluded on Wednesday, when Italy's Jannik Sinner beat world number three Daniil Medvedev in the final.

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Injured Messi named in squad for WC qualifiers

Buenos Aires: Argentina captain Lionel Messi was named on Thursday in the squad for the next two World Cup qualifiers despite an injury that has kept him out of action for his U.S. team Inter Miami. The 36-year-old forward has missed Miami's last four games due to a muscle problem sustained last month. Messi earned Argentina victory in their opening qualifier against Ecuador with a goal from a free kick, but did not play in the second game against Bolivia. The 34-man squad named by coach Lionel Scaloni did not feature the injured Angel Di Maria but fit-again Paulo Dybala was included. Argentina host Paraguay at the Monumental Stadium in Buenos Aires on Oct. 12 before facing Peru at the National Stadium in Lima. Squad: Goalkeepers: Juan Musso (Atalanta), Emiliano Martinez (Aston Villa), Walter Benitez (PSV) and Franco Armani (River Plate). Defenders: Nahuel Molina (Atletico Madrid), German Pezzella (Betis), Gonzalo Montiel (Nottingham Forest), Juan Foyth (Villarreal), Cristian Romero (Tottenham), Nicolas Tagliafico (Olympique Lyon), Nicolas Otamendi (Benfica) and Lucas Esquivel (Athletico Paranaense), Lucas Martinez Quarta (Fiorentina), Marco Pellegrino (Milan) and Marcos Acuna (Sevilla). Midfielders: Leandro Paredes (Roma), Rodrigo De Paul (Atletico de Madrid), Guido Rodriguez (Betis), Facundo Buonanotte (Brighton), Enzo Fernandez (Chelsea), Alexis Mac Allister (Liverpool), Ezequiel Palacios (Bayern Leverkusen), Bruno Zappelli (Athletico Paranaense) and Giovanni Lo Celso (Tottenham). Forward: Lucas Beltran (Fiorentina), Nicolas Gonzalez (Fiorentina), Lautaro Martinez (Inter Milan), Julian Alvarez (Manchester City), Alejandro Garnacho (Manchester United), Lionel Messi (Inter Miami), Carlos Alcaraz (Southampton, England), Thiago Almada (Atalanta United), Paulo Dybala (Roma), Facundo Farias (Inter Miami) and Lucas Ocampos (Sevilla). -Agencies

Jilani defends Pakistan decision

FROM PAGE 01

Kakar and attended by Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir, 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 will kickstart an operation targeting illegal properties and businesses owned by immigrants or those being run in collaboration with Pakistani nationals. The move had drawn a response from Afghan authorities, with Afghan Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid terming it "unacceptable" while urging authorities to revisit the policy.

Foreign debt ratio rises to 38.3%

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went up to Rs3.5 trillion in FY23 against Rs2.9 trillion in the last financial year FY22. During FY23, the government issued fresh/ rollover guarantees aggregating to PKR 584 billion or 0.7% of GDP. The guarantees issued to the oil and gas sector went up at a phenomenal pace as it increased from Rs52 billion in FY22 to Rs166 billion in FY23, indicating a massive surge in guarantees. However, the guarantees issued against commodity operations are not included in the stipulated limit of 2% of GDP as the loans are secured against the underlying commodity and are essentially self-liquidating. They are issued against the commodity financing operations undertaken by the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP), Pakistan Agricultural Storage & Services Corporation (PASSCO), and provincial governments. The outstanding stock of commodity operations was PKR 1,486 billion at the end of June 2023.

Punjab, K-P risk 'financial...'

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The said authorisation was used by the Punjab and KP caretaker cabinets in third week of June this year. That authorisation is dubbed as four-month budget that was approved under the Article 126 of the Constitution. It was claimed at that time that on the expiry of the four-month period the respective governments would bring a new four-month budget. Article 126 titled, "Power to authorise expenditure when Assembly stands dissolved" reads: "Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing provisions relating to financial matters, at any time when the Provincial Assembly stands dissolved, the Provincial Government may authorise expenditure from the Provincial Consolidated Fund in respect of the estimated expenditure for a period not exceeding four months in any financial year, pending completion of the procedure prescribed in Article 122 for the voting of grants and the authentication of the schedule of authorised expenditure, in accordance with the provisions of Article 123 in relation to the expenditure."

Pakistan begin WC...

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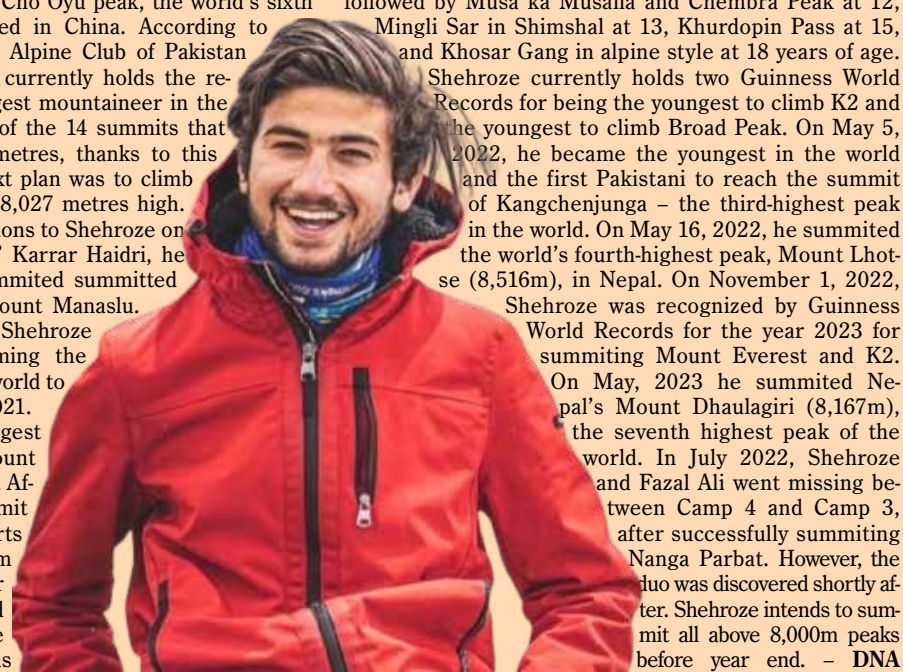
Ifthkar Ahmed was sent to the dugout for mere 9 runs after over a 100-run partnership between Saud Shakeel and Mohammad Rizwan was broken by the Dutch, denting Pakistan's effort to rebuild the innings following the quick dismissals of the top order. Top Pakistani batters Fakhar Zaman, Babar Azam and Imam-ul-Haq fell inside 10 overs with Pakistan at 38/3. Zaman was first to get out while the Pakistani skipper also scooped one on leg side and fell cheaply at 5. Later, Saud's and Rizwan's 120-run partnership took Pakistan to 162 before Netherlands Aryan Dutt dismissed Saud. At the toss, Netherlands after winning asked Pakistan to bat first. Earlier, Netherlands skipper Scott Edwards said he opted to bowl first as he believes it would be easier to bat under lights here at Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Hyderabad.

Pak bowling attack best in world: Mickey

HYDERABAD: As the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 kick-started today, Pakistan team Director Mickey Arthur on Thursday called Green Shirts' bowling attack "the best" in the world. Addressing a press conference, Arthur discussed various aspects of the team's readiness, development, and expectations, besides sharing his excitement about the upcoming challenges as the Green Shirts were ready for their opening fixture against the Netherlands during the mega event. Although Pakistan conceded close to 700 runs in warm-up games, Arthur rates Pakistan's bowling as the best in the world. Expressing confidence in his team's ability and readiness ahead of their opening match in the mega event, Arthur said: "I think our bowling attack is the best in the world. If we score runs, our bowlers can defend it." During the Asia Cup, the Men in Green opted to announce their playing XI one day before the game but now they will announce on the toss. "We have an idea of our team, and our 11 players are ready. When the toss happens, and our playing XI will be revealed." "The pressure of a World Cup is always massive. But I think our boys are in a really good place and part of the attraction for me is it's a very similar squad to what we had in 2019 and it's almost unfinished business," he said. "I felt in 2019 we were very, very close. These young boys have now become men. They've become very experienced. They've had another four years of experience. - Agencies

Pakistan's Shehroze Kashif summits Cho Oyu peak

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Shehroze Kashif accomplished a tremendous achievement on Friday by successfully summiting 8,188 metres Cho Oyu peak, the world's sixth highest mountain, located in China. According to Karrar Haidri, secretary Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP), Shehroze Kashif currently holds the record for being the youngest mountaineer in the world, having scaled 13 of the 14 summits that are higher than 8,000 metres, thanks to this accomplishment. His next plan was to climb Shishapangma, which is 8,027 metres high. "Our sincere congratulations to Shehroze on this amazing adventure," Karrar Haidri, said. Last month he summited Nepali's 8,163 metres Mount Manaslu. Born on March 11, 2002, Shehroze made history by becoming the youngest climber in the world to summit K2 on July 27, 2021. He also became the youngest Pakistani to summit Mount Everest on May 11, 2021. After the successful summit of Mount Everest, Sports Board Punjab made him the youth ambassador of Punjab. He summited Broad Peak at the age of 17, after which he was called 'The Broad Boy'. He started climbing mountains at the age of 11 with Makra Peak being the first one, followed by Musa ka Musalla and Chembra Peak at 12, Mingli Sar in Shimshal at 13, Khurdopin Pass at 15, and Khosar Gang in alpine style at 18 years of age. Shehroze currently holds two Guinness World Records for being the youngest to climb K2 and the youngest to climb Broad Peak. On May 5, 2022, he became the youngest in the world and the first Pakistani to reach the summit of Kangchenjunga - the third-highest peak in the world. On May 16, 2022, he summited the world's fourth-highest peak, Mount Lhotse (8,516m), in Nepal. On November 1, 2022, Shehroze was recognized by Guinness World Records for the year 2023 for summiting Mount Everest and K2. On May, 2023 he summited Nepal's Mount Dhaulagiri (8,167m), the seventh highest peak of the world. In July 2022, Shehroze and Faisal Ali went missing between Camp 4 and Camp 3, after successfully summiting Nanga Parbat. However, the duo was discovered shortly after. Shehroze intends to summit all above 8,000m peaks before year end. - DNA



Afghanistan stun Pak to reach Asian Games final

Afghanistan beat Pakistan by four wickets in the Asian Games 2023 Men's Cricket second semi-final played at the Zhejiang University of Technology Cricket Field in Hangzhou

SPORTS DESK

HANGZHOU: Afghanistan beat Pakistan by four wickets in the Asian Games 2023 Men's Cricket second semi-final played at the Zhejiang University of Technology Cricket Field in Hangzhou, China on Friday. After being put into bat first, Pakistan were bowled out for 115 in 18 overs. The target was achieved in 17.5 overs by Afghanistan. Omair Yousuf (24, 19b, 2x4s, 1x6) was the highest scorer for Pakistan, followed by Aamir Jamal (14, 11b, 1x4, 1x6), Arafat Minhas (13, 14b, 1x4) and Rohail Nazir (10, 15b, 1x6). Pacer Fareed Ahmed returned with three wickets while giving 15 runs in the three overs he bowled. Spinners Qais Ahmed and Zahir Khan grabbed two wickets each. In return, on the backs of Noor Ali Zadran (39, 33b, 4x4s, 2x6s) and Gulbadin Naib (26 not out, 19b,

1x4, 3x6s), Afghanistan secured the final berth at the 19th Asian Games. Pakistan spin attack gained much success during the

innings; Qasim Akram and Sufiyan Mueem got a wicket each, while Usman Qadir and Arafat Minhas returned with two wick-

ets each. In the first Asian Games 2023 semi-final, India outclassed Bangladesh by nine wickets and 64 balls to spare, thanks to a com-

bined bowling effort, followed by Tilak Verma's unbeaten half-century. Put into bat first, Bangladesh could post a meagre total of 96/9 on the board. Wicketkeeper batter Jaker Ali (24 not out) top-scored for Bangladesh in their dismal show with the bat, followed by opener Parvez Hossain Emon (23) and Rakibul Hasan (14) while the rest of their batters failed to make it into the double figures. In response, India comfortably knocked off the winning runs, courtesy of an unbeaten 97-run partnership between Ruturaj Gaikwad and Verma. Verma remained the top-scorer for India with an unbeaten 55 off just 26 deliveries while Gaikwad scored 40 not out in as many balls. Pakistan next face Bangladesh for the Asian Games 2023 bronze medal at the same venue tomorrow. The match will begin at 0600 local time.



Briefs

UNICEF:
Climate
disasters
displace 43m
children

WASHINGTON : Nearly 43.1 million children have been displaced by climate change-induced catastrophes globally between 2016 to 2021, according to the U.N. Children's Fund.

In a sweeping report on the issue released Friday, the U.N. agency detailed the heart-wrenching stories of some of the children affected, and co-author Laura Healy said the data only revealed the "tip of the iceberg," with many more likely affected. "We moved our belongings to the highway, where we lived for weeks," recounts Sudanese child Khalid Abdul Azim, whose flooded village was only accessible by boat. In 2017, sisters Mia and Maia Bravo watched flames engulf their trailer in California from the back of the family minivan. "I was afraid, in shock," Maia says in the report. "I would stay up all night." Statistics on internal displacements caused by climate disasters generally do not account for the age of the victims. But UNICEF worked with the nongovernmental organization (NGO) Internal Displacement Monitoring Center to unpick the data and reveal the hidden toll on children. "Moving may have saved their lives, but it's also very disruptive," Russell said.—Agencies

Russia says
downed 8
Ukrainian
drones

MOSCOW: Moscow said Friday it had destroyed eight Ukrainian drones in western Russia, following a deadly Russian strike on a village across the frontline. The Russian defense ministry said the attempted drone attacks on Belgorod and Kursk took place late Thursday. "Kyiv regime's attempt to carry out a terrorist attack by an aircraft-type UAV on objects on the territory of the Russian Federation was thwarted," it said on Telegram. It said one drone was destroyed over Kursk at around 8:30 p.m. (1730 GMT), and seven were shot down over Belgorod and the surrounding region a few hours later. Belgorod governor Vyacheslav Gladkov initially spoke of six drone strikes in his region, saying on Telegram that "according to preliminary data, no victims." "Operational services are clarifying information about the consequences on the ground," he wrote. Since Ukraine launched its counter-offensive in June, Russia has weathered waves of drone attacks that have sporadically damaged buildings, including in Moscow. Russian officials have downplayed their significance. On Wednesday, Russia said it downed 31 Ukrainian drones in the same region, as well as in Bryansk, further north.—APP

US to resume
deportation
flights to
Venezuela

Washington: The United States said Thursday it will resume deportation flights to Venezuela after a deal with Caracas, as President Joe Biden, seeking reelection, comes under pressure to halt border crossings. Washington has for years halted sending migrants back to Venezuela due to instability in the South American nation and still maintains sanctions against the government of President Nicolas Maduro. But Venezuela, one of the main countries of origin for surging numbers of migrants crossing the southern US border from Mexico, agreed to take back its nationals, the US said. "Today the United States is announcing the resumption of removal flights to Venezuela," a senior Biden administration official said. "This comes following a decision from the authorities of Venezuela to accept back their nationals." The first flights will resume "in the next few days." They will affect Venezuelan migrants who have arrived in the United States illegally since July 31.—APP

EU summit in Spain: migration enlargement discussions

Hheads of state, government prepare for difficult discussion on controversial migration reform, enlargement

NEWS DESK

BRUSSELS : EU leaders are set to have difficult debates on migration policy as the informal EU summit kicked off on Friday in the Spanish city of Granada. Hosted by the Spanish government that assumed the rotating presidency on the Council of the European Union in July, the EU heads of state and government are holding an informal meeting to discuss the most pressing current issues and the bloc's long-term strategic priorities. The reform of the EU's migration and asylum policy is expected to be the most difficult topic on the agenda.

On the way to the summit, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said migration is a "multi-dimensional problem" that "affects all policies" of the EU's external action. He stressed the EU must "attack the root causes of migration," and should consider the deployment of "advisory border controls" in North Africa and the Sahel region. For her part, European Commission



chief Ursula von der Leyen said leaders will review options to structurally improve the EU's migration policy, including "comprehensive partnership with the countries of transit or of origin, investment in these countries, and also the establishment of legal pathways and humanitarian corridors." Stressing that the EU must ob-

serve its international obligations, she explained that the bloc needs to get a "stricter" approach to the "return of those who are not eligible for asylum." After the deal of EU member states on a new EU legislation on migration crises, Von der Leyen expressed hopes that the bloc's long-awaited migration reform will pass. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Or-

ban, however, ruled out accepting the deal on migration reform. He argued Budapest has been "legally raped" to accept it, referring to the fact that EU member states secured the agreement with a qualified majority vote despite the opposition of Hungary and Poland. The controversial draft allows EU countries to request solidarity contributions from

other EU countries, including financial support, relocation of asylum-seekers, or taking over the procedures, when a great number of unexpected asylum-seekers arrive at their borders. Enlargement The EU leaders will also discuss EU enlargement at the summit after several top leaders called for speeding up the process and granting EU membership to candidate countries by 2030. Von der Leyen stressed that the bloc must also do its "homework" to become able to welcome new members.

There are currently eight official candidates waiting to join the EU, including Türkiye. She stressed the EU has benefited from the previous rounds of enlargement, and underlined that it brought "tremendous benefit" for old and new members. Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo called the enlargement a "political necessity" and said the EU needs to set clear criteria for the candidates. Asked about Ukraine's EU membership perspective, Orban said it needs discussions as there are "many doubts" due to the country currently being at war.

Nigeria's president faces new challenge to election victory

WEB DESK

ABUJA: Nigeria's main opposition said it will present new evidence to support its court challenge seeking to overturn this year's presidential election, saying it can show the declared winner provided faked academic credentials to authorities. President Bola Tinubu forged a diploma from an American university that he presented to Nigeria's election commission before the February vote and should be removed from office, first runner-up Atiku Abubakar and his lawyer alleged in a briefing

with reporters. They cited records obtained from the university in a US court hearing and shared with The Associated Press. Abubakar previously has argued Tinubu should not be president because the election commission did not follow due process in announcing the winner and Tinubu was not qualified to run, citing allegations of dual citizenship and of a criminal indictment in the United States.

Tinubu has denied those claims. He did not comment on the new allegation, but his spokesman denied it. "A man cannot forge the academic records he possesses," Temitope Ajayi, Tinubu's media aide, wrote

on X, formerly known as Twitter. The challenge is being closely watched by many Nigerians following a divisive election that saw Tinubu win with less than 50 percent of the votes, a first in Nigeria's history. Abubakar is one of three candidates who are in court seeking to void Tinubu's election victory. Kalu Kalu, Abubakar's lawyer, said they are set to present "fresh evidence" in the case pending before Nigeria's Supreme Court. "A party at fault cannot be allowed to enjoy the fruit of his illegality," Kalu said. No presidential election in Nigeria has ever been voided. In advancing his court challenge,

Abubakar secured an order from the US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois directing Chicago State University, which Tinubu attended, to release his academic records. In a transcript of a deposition this week given to AP by Abubakar's lawyers, and which has not been made available by the court, Caleb Westberg, registrar of the university, confirmed the school "has the original record of Bola Tinubu." But he said he could not confirm the authenticity of the diploma that the Nigerian leader presented to the election commission indicating he graduated in 1979.

Philippines raises bomb alert at 42 airports

MANILA : The Philippines placed all its commercial airports on heightened alert after an anonymous warning that bombs could go off on planes headed out of Manila, including to several tourist hotspots, its civil aviation authority has said. "Immediate enhanced security measures" were being implemented at 42 commercial airports across the country, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) said on Friday in a media advisory, adding the warnings were being verified. The warning had been sent by email to air traffic services about a threat to flights out of the capital Manila headed to Davao, Bicol and the popular tourist regions of Palawan and Cebu. "While the information is currently under validation, immediate enhanced security measures are being implemented across all airports," CAAP said. On Friday, the aviation regulator released to media an Oct. 4 memo of the order given to airport security managers to beef up security, thoroughly inspect baggage and conduct round-the-clock surveillance after receiving the email threat. The Oct. 4 memo included a screenshot of what it said was the threat.—Agencies

Libya flood survivors grapple with mental health

TRIPOLI : Nearly a month after floods hit Derna in eastern Libya, survivors are struggling to overcome the psychological toll, with many grieving the loss – or still without news – of loved ones. Extreme rainfall from hurricane-strength Storm Daniel caused two upstream dams to burst on September 10, sending flood waters that have been likened to a tsunami crashing through the middle of Derna. The deluge razed entire neighbourhoods, dividing the port city and sweeping many people into the Mediterranean and to their deaths. "Derna, today, is broken in two. It's a reflection of what its inhabitants feel," said Mayssam Hasedi, who lost more than 20 relatives in the flash floods. More than 4,000 people have been reported dead and thousands more remain missing in eastern Libya, according to authorities. After days of clinging to the hope of finding survivors, Derna's inhabitants now despair watching the continuous arrival of lifeless bodies recovered at sea. "Almost everyone in the city is in mourning and suffering," said Michel-Olivier Lacharite, the head of emergencies at the medical charity Doctors Without Borders. "Some children refuse to drink water for fear of drowning," he said, after meeting flood survivors in Derna. "Patients complained of flashbacks, of not being able to sleep between 2:30 am and 5:00 am – the time when the deadly wave engulfed the city."—DNA

Zimbabwe's central bank launches new currency

HARARE : Zimbabwe's central bank introduced on a gold-backed digital token as an additional payment method for domestic transactions. The value of the digital currency, known as the Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG), "will be at par with the value of the physical Mosi-oa-Tunya gold coin and will remain informed by the international gold price," the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe said in a statement. Zimbabwe launched gold coins named Mosi-oa-Tunya in 2022 to control the inflation in the country. "Banks will maintain dedicated ZiG accounts and intermediate transactions in ZiG in the same way they intermediate transactions in local and foreign currency," the central bank said. After purchasing the ZiG, the holder will have a ZiG account denominated in milligrams of gold in addition to their existing bank accounts, it added.—APP

US and Mexico enhance migration, drug control

MEXICO City : The United States and Mexico pledged Thursday to step up efforts to tackle flows of drugs and migrants, setting aside signs of friction over a US plan to extend a controversial border wall. Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador criticized the announcement by Washington that it would add to the barrier that was a signature policy of Donald Trump, calling it a "set-back." "It does not solve the problem. We must address the causes" of migration, he told reporters shortly before meeting Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the National Palace. Blinken was accompanied by a delegation including Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and Attorney General Merrick Garland for the high-level security talks. The synthetic opioid fentanyl "continues to devastate families on both sides of the border," Blinken said. "We have an obligation to do everything in our power to combat this scourge," he added. On migration, the top US diplomat said the scale of the challenge "demands that we redouble our efforts" through measures such as modernizing border security, increasing legal migration pathways and addressing the root causes. Mayorkas said the two countries were committed to expanding "safe, orderly and lawful pathways for migrants" but with "strict.—APP

Turkiye launches operations against Daesh

ANKARA : Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya announced Friday that 92 people were arrested over their suspected links to terrorist group Daesh. The minister said suspects were rounded up in simultaneous counterterrorism operations in 26 provinces across the country. It is one of the biggest nationwide sweeps against Daesh in recent memory. "We will not let terrorist organizations and their collaborators breathe," Yerlikaya vowed in a social media post. "I want our beloved nation to know that: Our struggle will continue with determination and resolve until the last terrorist is neutralized," he added. Turkish security forces have been quite busy with counterterrorism operations this week following Sunday's terror attack by PKK in the capital Ankara. Dozens have been detained in operations against PKK since Monday. Daesh remains the second biggest threat of terrorism for Türkiye which is embattled with security risks from multiple terrorist groups. In 2013, Türkiye became one of the first countries to declare Daesh a terrorist group. The country has since been attacked by the terrorist group multiple times, with over 300 people killed and hundreds more injured in at least 10 suicide bombings, seven bomb attacks, and four armed attacks. In response, Türkiye launched anti-terror operations at home and abroad to prevent further attacks. Terrorists from Daesh and other groups such as the PKK and its Syrian wing, the YPG, rely on a network of members and supporters in Türkiye. In response, Ankara has been intensifying its crackdown on the terrorists and their links at home, conducting pinpoint operations and freezing assets to eliminate the terrorist groups by their roots. Since its formal defeat in Iraq in 2017 and significant loss of territory in Syria since 2015, Daesh fighters have been leading their operations underground besides losing their leaders to military operations. The group's last three leaders, all Iraqis, were killed in Syria in recent years outside areas it once purported to rule. The last Daesh leader, Abu al-Hassan al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, the successor of Abu Ibrahim al-Hashemi al-Qurayshi who committed suicide during a U.S. raid earlier in 2022, was killed in mid-October last year by the Free Syrian Army (FSA) in southern Syria, as confirmed by the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM).



PRAGUE : Pakistan Ambassador Ayesha Ali presented her credentials to President Petr Pavel. She was warmly received and matters of bilateral cooperation were discussed.—DNA

Malaysia seeks UAE assistance in energy transition

UAE will help Malaysia establish a renewable energy capacity of 10 GW by 2025, the Malaysian government announced on Friday during Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's state visit to Abu Dhabi

FOREIGN DESK

KUALA LUMPUR: The UAE will help Malaysia establish a renewable energy capacity of 10 GW by 2025, the Malaysian government announced on Friday during Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's state visit to Abu Dhabi. The Malaysian premier arrived in the UAE on a two-day trip on Thursday and witnessed the signing of a series of investment agreements. He was accompanied by Malaysian Foreign Minister Zambry Abdul Kadir, and Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Zafrul Abdul Aziz. Malaysia's Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry said that \$8.6 billion in investments

were committed to sectors such as aerospace and logistics, and renewable energy. The agreements include a commitment by Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company PJSC (Masdar) to invest up to \$8 billion to develop renewable energy projects with a 10 GW capacity in Malaysia, the ministry said in a statement. It said the Malaysian Investment Development Authority and the UAE International Investment Council also agreed to strengthen their collaboration to enhance Malaysia-UAE sustainable economic cooperation. Renewable energy and low-carbon solutions are "at the heart" of Malaysia's new target investments, the Malaysian investment minister said. The strategic collabor-

ation will help Malaysia pursue new technology that prioritizes low-carbon, green manufacturing and circular economy solutions, Tengku Zafrul said. Malaysia has set ambitious targets for its energy transition. Under the Malaysia Renewable Energy Roadmap, the government aims to reach 31 percent (13 GW) of the nation's energy needs by 2025 and 40 percent (18 GW) by 2035. In May, the Ministry of Economy committed to increasing renewable energy capacity to 70 percent by 2050. The target will require a 10-fold increase in its capacity from 2023 to 2050, which the government estimates will require an investment of \$143 billion into grid infrastruc-

ture, energy storage and network operations. Malaysian experts see the UAE – a major oil producer which in recent years has become a leader in developing renewable energy and green hydrogen technologies – as a natural partner to help the Southeast Asian nation reach its goal. "This is the government putting the plan into action," Adib Zalkapli, director at advisory firm BowerGroupAsia, told Arab News. "Obviously Malaysia cannot execute the energy transition plan on its own. Partnerships are vital to achieve such ambitious goals." Over the past decade, the UAE has taken numerous measures to establish itself as a regional leader on climate action, be-

coming the top Middle Eastern state in Yale University's Environmental Performance Index. It has also invested tens of billions in developing clean energy sources, and become the permanent host of the International Renewable Energy Agency headquarters. "The UAE probably sees Malaysia as a natural partner here. For example, the national oil companies of the UAE and Malaysia are signatories of the UN's Oil and Gas Methane Partnership 2.0," said Shahrman Lockman, senior analyst at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia. "This seems consistent with the UAE's emphasis on positioning itself as a responsible steward of the environment."

Briefs

Govt to increase gas tariff for fertilisers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to meet the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) key demand of ending circular debt, the government has decided to increase the gas tariff for fertiliser plants from this month, a private news channel reported. Officials, who spoke to Geo News on the condition of anonymity, shared that the ministries of finance, petroleum, and industries have started working on increasing gas prices for fertiliser manufacturers. As per the decision, the factories will be supplied gas at the rate of Rs580 per MMBtu compared to the Rs302 per MMBtu they are getting right now. Furthermore, fertiliser manufacturers for feedstock will get gas at Rs1,580 per MMBtu as the price of the commodity has been increased by Rs556 per MMBtu for them. The sources shared that the increase will come into effect before the first review of the IMF under the \$3 billion Stand-by Arrangement (SBA) loan which would start at the end of the current month – October.

Syria buries dead after drone attack kills dozens

DNA

DAMASCUS: Syria began burying its dead on Friday after a drone attack on a military academy graduation ceremony in Homs killed dozens, while Damascus pummelled opposition-held areas in response to the assault by "terrorist organisations". In one of the bloodiest single attacks on the army since the start of Syria's war in 2011, Thursday's assault came just after the ceremony attended by officers and their families, killing and wounding both military personnel and civilians. State media said on Friday that 89 had died, including 31 women and five children, with 277 other people wounded. Dozens of distraught victims' relatives gathered outside the Homs military hospital since the early morning, an AFP correspondent said. A woman in a black dress adorned with white flowers was overwhelmed with grief at the loss of her son. "Do not go, my beloved," she cried. "This sleep does not befit you." The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitor, reported a heavier toll of 123 dead, including 54 civilians, 39 of them women and children. It said at least 150 people were wounded.

ECP urges end to perks for ex-cabinet members

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The country's polls oversight authority has asked Sindh's chief secretary to withdraw all the facilities—perks and privileges—that former members of the provincial cabinet and "political appointees of equivalent status" are still utilizing. In the same letter, Secretary Election Commission Omar Hamid Khan has also asked Sindh Inspector General Police (IGP) Riffat Mukhtar to also withdraw the protocol and security provided to these former ministers, advisors and assistants. "It had been brought to the notice of the honorable commission [ECP] that former provincial cabinet members and political appointees of equivalent status are continuing to use protocol, security, and privileges accorded to them by virtue of their former offices," the letter dated Oct. 5 said. "You are hereby advised to withdraw protocol/security and perks and privileges from provincial cabinet members and political appointees of equivalent status," it emphasized.

ITALIAN PHOTO EXHIBITION



ISLAMABAD: A talented Italian photographer Marzia Reggiani briefs Ambassador of Italy Andreas Ferrarese and his wife about her photo exhibition, held at Islamabad Serena Hotel. – DNA

'Shahbaz's presser a collection of lies'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Spokesperson fired a salvo at Shehbaz Sharif for plunging Pakistan, which was on the path of stability and prosperity, into quagmire of destruction, chaos and lawlessness, saying that a national criminal was now trying to ensnare the state and the people in the net of deception with his fraudulent narrative and cunning conversation. In his strong-worded reaction to Shahbaz Sharif's press conference, PTI spokesperson said that the criminal's presser was nothing but a pack of lies, forgery and folklores.

26 militants 'neutralized' in Syria: Turkiye

HOMS: Family members of some of the victims of a deadly drone attack on a crowded military graduation ceremony that killed scores gathered outside a military hospital in the central city of Homs on Friday to collect the bodies of their loved ones, who died in one of Syria's deadliest single attacks in years. Thursday's strike on the Homs Military Academy killed scores of people, including more than 31 women and at least five children according to the health ministry. The death toll could rise as some of the wounded are in critical condition. Syria announced a three-day state of mourning starting Friday. Syria's military said in a statement Thursday that drones laden with explosives targeted the ceremony packed with young officers and their families as it was wrapping up. – Agencies

Modi regime using cheap tactics to muzzle Kashmiris' voice

ISLAMABAD: The Narendra Modi-led fascist Indian government is resorting to cheap tactics to muzzle the voice of the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) for their UN-acknowledged right to self-determination. According to Kashmir Media Service, in its latest nefarious move, the Modi regime has banned the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party, headed by illegally detained senior Hurriyat leader, Shabbir Ahmed Shah. The DFP has been advocating the settlement of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the Kashmiris' aspirations and relevant UN resolutions ever since its inception in 1998. The DFP leadership, particularly Chairman Shabbir Ahmed Shah, has to face India's wrath for opposing its illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. He has spent half of his life in Indian jails for championing the Kashmir cause and is presently lodged in New Delhi's Tihar jail. The Modi government has already confiscated the headquarters of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference in Srinagar besides banning the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front and Jamaat-e-Islami in the occupied territory. Almost the entire leadership of these representative organizations

Death toll rises to 40 in India flash flood

GUWAHATI: At least 40 people have died in flash floods inundating India's northeast, officials said Friday, as army teams plotted helicopter rescues for more of the thousands stranded in the deluge. Violent torrents struck the remote state of Sikkim on Wednesday after the sudden bursting of a high-altitude glacial lake in neighbouring Nepal. Climate scientists warn that similar disasters will become an increasing danger across the Himalayas as global temperatures rise and ice melts. Downstream search-and-rescue teams recovered more bodies overnight as waters cut a swathe through countryside towards the Bay of Bengal. "Nineteen bodies have been recovered" in Sikkim state, VB Pathak, its top civil servant, told AFP. Shama Parveen, a district magistrate in neighbouring West Bengal, said that an additional 21 bodies had been recovered in her state over past three days. – APP

of the Kashmiri people has been put behind bars by the BJP-led communal Indian government. The APHC leaders and civil society activists in their statements while strongly denouncing the ban on the DFP maintained that India's brutal measures cannot subdue the Kashmiris' resolve and they will continue their struggle till they achieve freedom from the Indian yoke. They urged the UN, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, and European Union to stop India from banning the political parties in IIOJK striving for settlement of the Kashmir dispute. The DFP in a statement said that Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognized disputed territory and the Indian government has no locus standi, whatsoever, to ban an organization or declare it as unlawful association merely for seeking a peaceful resolution of the lingering dispute. APHC-AJK chapter Convener, Mehmood Ahmed Saghar, in a statement in Islamabad also strongly condemned the ban on DFP by the Modi government. On the other hand, at least 6 Indian soldiers including three officers were injured after an Indian Army Major opened fire and lobbed grenades at them at Neeli post in the Thanamandi area of Rajouri district in Jammu region.

Jailed Iranian activist Narges wins Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO: Narges Mohammadi, an Iranian rights campaigner, was announced as the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for 2023 on Friday at the Norwegian Nobel Institute in Oslo. "The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize to Narges Mohammadi for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all," the committee said in its citation. Mohammadi is one of Iran's leading human rights activists, who has campaigned for women's rights and the abolition of the death penalty, Reuters reported. Berit Reiss-Andersen, the president of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, began her speech by repeating in Farsi the phrases for "woman, life, freedom" – one of the chants of the nonviolent demonstrations against the Iranian government – honouring Mohammadi as a "freedom fighter". Mohammadi was honoured "for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all," she said. "Freedom, [Mohammadi] fights for freedom of expression and the right to independence and against rules requiring women to remain out of sight and cover up their bodies," she added. – Agencies

Russia to consider de-ratifying CTBT

MOSCOW: Russia on Friday indicated it was moving swiftly toward revoking ratification for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty after President Vladimir Putin held out the possibility of resuming nuclear testing. A resumption in nuclear tests by Russia, the United States or both would be profoundly destabilising at a time when tensions between the two countries are greater than at any time since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. Putin on Thursday said Russia's nuclear doctrine did not need updating but that he was not yet ready to say whether or not Russia needed to resume nuclear tests. The Kremlin chief said that Russia should look at revoking ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) as the United States had signed it but not ratified. Just hours after Putin's words, Russia's top lawmaker, Vyacheslav Volodin, said the legislature's bosses would swiftly consider the need to revoke Russia's ratification for the treaty. "The situation in the world has changed," parliament speaker Volodin said. "Washington and Brussels have unleashed a war against our country." – Agencies

90% polio cases in Pakistan 'imported' from Afghanistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan continues to witness an increase in poliovirus, Interim Health Minister Dr Nadeem Jan has said 90 per cent of cases in the country were "imported from Afghanistan". His remarks come after two more samples tested positive for the poliovirus in the country, just a day after this year's third case surfaced. According to an official at the polio laboratory of the National Institute of Health (NIH), sewage samples collected from Dera Bugti, in Balochistan, and Peshawar had tested positive for the virus. Both viruses, found in sewage samples, are similar to Afghanistan's poliovirus. Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only countries where the polio virus remains endemic. According to authorities, the transmission of wild poliovirus has been restricted to seven districts in the south of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, namely Tank, Bannu, North Waziristan, South Waziristan Upper, South Waziristan Lower, Dera Ismail Khan and Lakki Marwat. In a report released in August, the World Health Organisation said that since January 2021, all reported cases were from the seven polio-endemic districts in southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Earlier this week, the total number of cases in Pakistan this year increased to five after three new cases were reported in Peshawar, Bannu and Balochistan's Dera Bugti.

The government has launched a five-day polio vaccination drive targeting around 44 million children across the country. Approximately 350,000 polio workers would participate in the drive to administer anti-polio vaccine drops to children aged 0-5 years. Speaking about the rising number of polio cases in an interview the health minister said: "Our surveillance is optimal. Of the 34 samples that we have received, 90pc have come from Afghanistan ... our own are even less than 10pc," he said. Dr Jan highlighted that this was dangerous and stressed the need for vaccination. "Otherwise, the imported virus will keep circulating and eventually become our own," he warned. Talking about the recent cases reported in KP, the minister said they were the result of refusal to administer polio vaccines. During the interview, Dr Jan also said that the government has commenced efforts to end the business of fake medicines. He stated that a system for checking barcodes of medicines had been prepared but there were certain challenges pertaining to its implementation. According to the minister, the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan and the Health Department were playing their part in preventing the sale of fake medicines. "There are some lapses ... but we have begun efforts to eliminate [the network of fake medicines] but the solution is to empower the public," he said, adding that crackdowns had begun on the malpractices.



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