



Islamabad POST

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 25

Claudia Goldin wins Nobel prize for economics

Detailed News On Page-07

Wang hopes US-China ties to return to track

Detailed News On Page-08



Pak coach backs top order ahead of SL clash

Detailed News On Page-06



Electricity, water supply cut

Israel orders siege of Gaza

The Zionist enemy's military targeting and bombing of homes inhabited by women and children in Gaza amount to war crimes

NEWS DESK

GAZA: Fears of ground invasion are growing as Israel is escalating measures against the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip to a "total blockade" including a ban on admitting food and fuel. Defence Minister Yoav Gallant on Monday described the move as part of a battle against the Palestinian group as Israel's troops were still battling on Monday to clear out Hamas gunmen more than two days after they burst across the fence from Gaza on a deadly rampage, and the army said it would soon go on the offensive after the biggest mobilisation in Israeli history. Fighting raged at several locations inside Israel where the fighters were still holed up after killing 700 Israelis and seizing dozens of hostages in a raid that shattered Israel's reputation of invincibility. Israel's chief military spokesperson said troops had re-established control of communities that had been overrun, but that isolated clashes continued as some Palestinian gunmen remained active. "We are now carrying out searches in all of the communities and clearing the area," chief military spokesperson Rear-Admiral Daniel Hagari said. Earlier, another spokesman, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Hecht, acknowledged that it was "taking more time than we expected to get things back into a defensive, security posture". The shocking images of the bodies of hundreds of Israeli civilians sprawled across the streets of towns, gunned down at an outdoor disco and abducted from their homes were like nothing seen before in the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israel has already responded with its heaviest-ever bombardment of the Gaza Strip, martyring some 500 people so far, and could be contemplating an

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74,000 Palestinians displaced: UNRWA

NEWS DESK

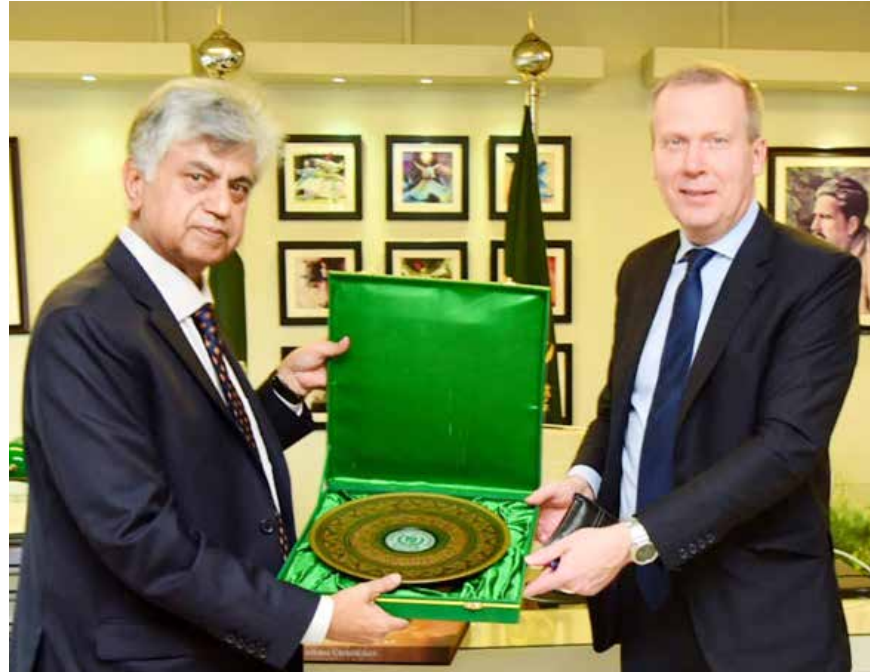
GAZA CITY: Thousands of Palestinians have been displaced from their homes in the Gaza Strip amid ongoing Israeli airstrikes, the UN relief agency for Palestine refugees on Monday. "Nearly 74,000 displaced people are now in 64 UNRWA shelters," the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East said in a statement. The UN agency said a school sheltering more than 225 Palestinians was damaged on Sunday in an Israeli strike. No casualties were reported. "Civilians must be protected at all times, including during fighting," UNRWA said. "Schools and other civilian infrastructure, including those sheltering displaced families, must never come under attack." The situation escalated across the Gaza Strip on Saturday following a multi-front Hamas attack on Israeli towns near the Palestinian territory. Hamas said the attack was in response to Israeli violations in the flashpoint Al-Aqsa Mosque complex in occupied East Jerusalem and increased settler violence. Israel retaliated with a series of airstrikes on the Gaza Strip. More than 1,100 people were killed in the conflict, including 700 Israelis and over 430 Palestinians.

Major among 2 martyred, 5 terrorists killed

Security forces of Pakistan are indebted & proud of our brave men and pay homage to their chivalry and sacrifices for the motherland

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: On night 8/9 October 2023, security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in general area Sambaza, Zhob District, on reported presence of terrorists. During the conduct of operation, terrorists were surrounded and after intense exchange of fire, five terrorists were sent to hell. However, in ensuing exchange of fire, Major Syed Ali Raza Shah (Age 31 years, resident of Sargodha District), who was leading the operation from the front, and Havaldar Nisar Ahmed (Age 38 years, resident of Vehari District), having fought gallantly, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat. Security forces of Pakistan are indebted & proud of our brave men and pay homage to their chivalry and sacrifices for the motherland, which further strengthens our resolve to uproot the menace of terrorism from the country. Sanitization of the surrounding areas is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Murtaza Solangi presents souvenir to the Ambassador of Russian Federation Danila Ganich. - DNA

Russian envoy meets Info Minister Solangi for boosting coop with Russia in diverse fields

Russia wanted to cooperate with Pakistan in other spheres of life besides media, said the ambassador

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday underlined the need for boosting cooperation with Russia in various fields including media, drama, films, joint productions and training programmes. The minister, in a meeting with Russian Ambassador to Pakistan Danila Ganich, also stressed that a formal invitation would be extended to his Russian counterpart for his visit to Pakistan. During the meeting, cooperation between the two countries in diverse fields including media and the modalities regarding the Russian information minister's visit to Pakistan were also discussed. Possible signing of agreements between APP and TAAS News Agency, PTV and Russian Television and Russian Radio and Radio Pakistan during the visit of the Russian Minister also came under discussion during the meeting. Both Solangi and the Russian Ambassa-

dor expressed the commitment of the two countries to strengthen relations in various fields including security, economy, education, culture and tourism. Pakistan valued its relations with Russia and it was desirous to expand cooperation with Moscow in the fields of media, drama, and films, the minister said. They also discussed matters pertaining to organizing a ceremony in Islamabad on the completion of 75 years of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Russia. Solangi said both countries enjoyed long-standing ties and the business community and people of Pakistan were keen to strengthen the bilateral relation and find ways to achieve common goals. "We are confident that our bilateral relations will continue to grow towards a bright future with the changing global scenario," Murtaza Solangi remarked. The Russian Ambassador said Pakistan and Russia were cooperating with each other in every

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

PTI's former aide appointed as SAPM

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A former aide and donor of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has been appointed as Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar's special assistant on investment. Muhammad Tahir Javed, a Texan-Pakistani businessman has been handed the investment portfolio and, with immediate effect, has joined the cabinet, according to a notification from the PM's office. He has also been granted the same benefits and privileges as the minister of state by PM Kakar.

Khaqan Abbasi not to contest elections

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister and senior PML-N leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has said that he will not contest the upcoming elections. He said he had told Nawaz Sharif that it was not possible for him to take part in the elections. He further said that only Nawaz Sharif was his leader. He was not ready to work under Shehbaz Sharif or Maryam Nawaz.

Parliament passes law with good intentions, CJP Faez Isa observes

Addressing Zuberi, both CJP Isa and Justice Ahsan delivered back-to-back and contrasting remarks regarding the Parliament's powers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has observed that parliament passed the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023 - the law seeking to regulate discretionary powers of the country's top judge - with "good intentions". The CJP's remarks came as the Supreme Court's full court resumed hearing the petitions against the SC law on Monday. The hearing of the case is being broadcast live on state-run PTV. During the hearing, the CJP expressed displeasure after a petitioner cited the US court's verdict as precedent to challenge the amendments in the SC law. CJP Isa-led full-court bench consists of 15 judges of the Supreme Court including Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Sayyed Maza-har Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Jamal Khan

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IHC issues notice to Bajwa, Faiz



COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday issued notices to former army chief General (retired) Qamar Javed Bajwa and ex-spy chief Lt Gen (retired) Faiz Hameed on a petition seeking action against them for allegedly violating laws pertaining to retired servicemen by distorting facts of various events during

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Newly appointed CNS calls on PM

The meeting discussed the administrative and professional matters pertaining to the Pakistan Navy

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: The newly appointed Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar here on Monday, the PM Office said. The meeting discussed the administrative and professional matters pertaining to the Pakistan Navy. The prime minister expressed confidence that under the supervision of the new naval chief, the Pakistan Navy would play an effective role in the defence of the country.

Pakistan condemns UP Chief Minister statement

Instead of nurturing hegemonic and expansionist ambitions, Indian leaders should resolve disputes

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday condemned the "highly irresponsible" remarks made by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh about taking back 'Sindhu' - the region around the Indus River in Southern Pakistan, saying that the provocative remarks were inspired by the gratuitous assertion of 'Akhanda Bharat'. "We condemn the highly irresponsible remarks made by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, a key member of India's ruling dispensation and a follower of the bigoted Hindutva ideology, at the National Sindh Convention in Lucknow. It is equally condemnable that the so-called reclamation of the 'Ram Janmabhoomi' has been cited by the Chief Minister as a template for reclaiming the region that constitutes part of Pakistan," Foreign Office spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch said in a statement. She said that history bore witness that a Hindu supremacist mob had brazenly demolished the historic Babri Mosque on 6 December 1992 to take back the claimed birthplace of Lord Rama in Ayodhya. She said clearly the

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Zainab exits India citing security concerns

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI: World Cup 2023 presenter Zainab Abbas left India on Monday after an Indian lawyer accused her of making "Anti-Hindu" comments on her social media accounts in the past. A spokesperson for the International Cricket Council (ICC) confirmed to Geo News that the presenter had left the country due to "personal reasons" and dismissed deportation reports. An Indian lawyer had reportedly approached the police for the registration of a complaint against Abbas for allegedly issuing statements against India and Hinduism. Abbas was announced as one of the presenters for this year's World Cup earlier this month. The presenter was really excited about

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REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

21

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Pakistan Post marks World Post Day

ISLAMABAD: The Directorate General Pakistan Post on Monday held a flag hoisting ceremony here to mark the World Post Day. World Post Day was celebrated on October 9 every year to commemorate and celebrate the establishment of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1874. The message of the Director General UPU was read out in the ceremony while the Director General Pakistan Post highlighted the achievements of the Pakistan Post. Similar celebratory events took place at the offices of Postmasters General, Unit Offices, and General Post Offices (GPOs) nationwide, reaffirming the commitment of Pakistan Post to serving the nation. The theme of the World Post Day this year was "Together for trust: Collaborating for a safe and connected future". The theme emphasizes the importance of governments and their postal services in fostering the growth of a unified digital single postal territory that complements the extensive physical network established over many centuries.—APP

06 illegal arm holders held

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested six illegal arm holders and recovered arms, and ammunition from their possession during crackdown here on Monday.

According to police spokesman, Gujjar Khan police held Muhammad Hassan and recovered 12-bore rifle from his possession and 01 pistol 30 bore was recovered from Ashraf. Similarly, Rawat police recovered 01 pistol 30 bore from Sajid. While, Westridge police nabbed Abdullah and recovered 01 pistol 30 bore from his custody. Following operation, R.A Bazzar arrested Azhar and recovered 01 pistol 30 bore from his possession. Taxila police recovered 01 pistol 30 bore from Saqlain. Police have registered separate cases against all of them and further investigation was in progress. SSP Operations Faisal Saleem appreciated the performance of police teams said that strict action will be continued against those possessing illegal weapons.—APP

Overcharging on eatables to not tolerate: DC

DNA

SUKKUR :Deputy Commissioner (DC), Sukkur, Fayyaz Hussain Mahesar on Monday said that due to an effective price control mechanism and the measures taken by the district administration, prices of essential items have stabilized to some extent. He said that overcharging of even a single penny will not be tolerated in the price of flour, pulses, vegetables and other eatables. He directed that special attention be paid to maintaining a balance between supply and demand of essential items as well as stability of the prices and no effort be spared in the provision of high-quality food items to the masses at fixed rates. He said that besides heads of concerned departments will also be accountable in this regard. He said that he will personally preside over the meeting of the District Price Control Committee for monitoring the prices of essential commodities and their supply and demand on a daily basis. He said that the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Assistant Commissioners (ACs) and Mukhtarkars should pay regular visits to the markets and concerned departments should perform their duties efficiently to show results. He was presiding over a meeting of the price control committee to review prices of essential items. The Deputy Commissioner directed the District Officer of Agriculture to submit an effective plan for increasing the area of cultivation of pulses as well as safeguarding the production of farmers.



ISLAMABAD: Motorists are on their way at Jinnah Avenue during sudden heavy rain fall in Federal Capital.—Online

Govt urged to promote religious tourism

He highlighted the need of Track-II diplomacy to promote peaceful relations with neighboring countries that would help promote Pakistan's regional trade and religious tourism

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Aneeq Ahmed, Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony said that the government is working hard to promote the religious tourism that would help improve the economy. He highlighted the need of Track-II diplomacy to promote peaceful relations with neighboring countries that would help promote Pakistan's regional trade and religious tourism. He said that the Prime Minister has approved the Hajj Policy 2024 that would offer two packages for payment of Hajj dues including payment in PKR and in US dollars and stressed that the intended members of business community should make payment of Hajj dues in dollars to help improve the forex reserves of the country. He said that those who would make payment for Hajj in US Dollars would be sent for Hajj without any balloting. He said that the business community is the backbone of the economy and it should play more effective role in strengthening the economy by promoting trade



and exports. He said this while addressing as Chief Guest at the Certificates Distribution Ceremony of Seerat-ul-Nabi Course at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that ICCI in cooperation with its Religious Affairs Committee has organized a course on Seerat-ul-Nabi to educate the members about the life of Prophet Muham-

mad (PBUH). He said that Pakistan has great potential to promote religious tourism and the government should take all possible measures to take exploit this untapped potential for the benefit of the economy. He said that the government should allocate a quota for chambers of commerce in Hajj Policy to facilitate the business community in performing Hajj. He stressed that the public and private sectors should work in collaboration to make

Pakistan a progressive and prosperous country. Mutfi Adnan Kakakhel, renowned religious scholar and Guest of Honor lauded the initiative of ICCI for organizing a course on Seerat-ul-Nabi for the education of the business community and desired that this practice should be continued in future as well. Faad Waheed Senior Vice President, Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI, Kanwar Qutbuddin former MNA, Zafar Bakhtawari former President

& Secretary General UBG Pakistan, Ajmal Baloch President All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajran, Muhammad Kashif Chaudhry President Tanzeem-e-Tajran Pakistan, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Zahid Maqbool, Tariq Nusrat Wani Convener ICCI Religious Affairs Committee, Rana Muhammad Aslam, Mehmood Ahmed Warraich and others were present on the occasion. The Chief Guest and the Guest of Honor distributed the certificates to 65 students who completed the Seerat-ul-Nabi course at ICCI.

Teachers urge PM, Education Minister to forward bill

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: More than two months have passed since the Senate had passed the Islamabad wedlock teachers' bill for their permanent absorption in FDE schools, but the bill is yet to see the light of the day as it has reportedly mysteriously gone missing in the corridors of the Prime Minister's Office and is yet to be sent to the Aiwane-Sadr for President's signature. "This is mysterious, shocking and quite irritating that at a time when a number of bills passed by the National Assembly and the Senate have been signed by the President and incorporated as Act of Parliament, a simple bill related to the 'welfare and protection of family life' of 300 teachers on deputation passed by the both the Houses is not yet signed by President Arif Alvi," said one of the

lady teachers under wedlock. Earlier, the Prime Minister's Office had sent the bill to the Ministry of Law for comment despite knowing that a bill is usually sent to the Law Ministry for comment before its passage, not afterwards. This delayed the bill and finally, the Law Ministry returned it to the PM Office with the observation that the bill was 'fine' and since both the houses of the Parliament had unanimously passed it there was no need for the Ministry's comment. Despite the Law Ministry's clear observation the bill was again kept and not routed to the President House. Meanwhile, the Caretaker Prime Minister left for the UNO. Now even more than a week after Prime Minister's return, the bill has not yet been sent to the President House and the teachers, mostly lady teachers working for years in Islamabad's schools on wedlock are keenly awaiting when it would finally

be sent to the President House as it is directly linked with their family life and future of their kids.

According to a senior official in the PM Office, the Prime Minister is not aware of what is going on and why the teachers of Islamabad have been suffering because of some bureaucrat or 'hidden hand' in his office. Had the Prime Minister or even Education Minister any knowledge of this unnecessary delay they would have taken serious action against those responsible, said the source. The interim government's Minister for Education Madad Ali Sindhvi is a kind-hearted man and has recently prioritized the issues of the daily wage teachers assuring them that they would not be removed. This was also echoed in Monday's meeting of Senate Committee on Education chaired by Senator Irfanul Haq Siddiqui.

President streamlines university senate meetings, vacancy fillings

The president further observed that universities should also commence timely process for recruitment on teaching and administrative vacancies, besides establishing new departments while keeping in view needs of the market

DNA

ISLAMABAD : President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday stressed upon the need of holding of regular meetings of senates of universities for timely decision making. He also directed for immediate filling of vacant posts of senate members in different universities. The president chaired 6th meeting of Senate of the COMSATS University Islamabad, at Aiwane-Sadr,

President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. The meeting was attended by executive director COMSATS, secretaries of ministries of IT and federal education and senate members. The president further observed that universities should also commence timely process for recruitment on teaching and administrative vacancies, besides establishing new departments while keeping in view needs of the market. Prior to starting of teach-

ing in new departments, an inquisitive analysis of the requirements of the markets should be made, he opined, adding that universities should impart education and skills to their students in conformity with the needs of the market. The president reiterated that while comparing with other countries of the region, the number of students seeking admissions in universities in Pakistan was very low

and emphasized upon the universities to utilize online education system for increasing numbers of qualified graduates. He also advised that universities should explore new avenues for generating their financial resources whereas for the research grants, they should seek assistance from professionals. During the meeting, the financial, administration, educational and employees' issues of COMSATS were discussed.

CM visits Govt School to inspect condition

DNA

LAHORE : Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid a visit to Government Pilot Higher Secondary School Wahdat Road on Monday.

During his visit, he personally inspected the classrooms and engaged with the students. He also made a significant decision, prohibiting teachers from engaging in other duties, including elections, during school hours.

CM Naqvi emphasized that teachers should solely focus on their responsibilities within school hours, ensuring that students receive uninterrupted education. To a request from the students, the CM announced plans to enhance the school's canteen facility. Additionally, he declared that students would be provided with discounted travel options through the Speedo Bus service.

Mohsin Naqvi issued directives for the enhancement of classroom conditions, as well as improvements to the school grounds and lawn. New appointments were made for teachers responsible for instructing students in the 11th and 12th grades, a move that was met with joy from the student body. Furthermore, he expressed his commitment to transforming the pilot school into a model educational institution. He also took the opportunity to review the implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for managing conjunctivitis.

During his inspection, he interacted with students in various classrooms, including Class 6C, where he inquired about their studies, particularly in Islamiyat. The students shared their enthusiasm for the subject and informed him about their upcoming Islamiyat examination scheduled for October 16, which they were diligently preparing for.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi personally examined the students' assignments, addressing any concerns they raised. The students took the opportunity to capture moments with Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, seeking autographs and photographs as keepsakes. In addition to classroom visits, Naqvi took time to inspect the computer lab and library. He also assessed the condition of the school's ground, directing the Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) to make necessary improvements. He promptly summoned the Secretary Communication and Works to the school, instructing immediate action to upgrade the classrooms and canteen facilities.

کیپٹل ڈویلپمنٹ اتھارٹی

(I-ڈائریکٹوریٹ آف اسٹیٹ مینجمنٹ)

حتمی نوٹس

سی ڈی اے بورڈ کے فیصلہ مورخہ 04.09.2023 کے مطابق پارک انکلیو فیرون، پارک انکلیو کے تمام سب I-15 ون (ایکسٹنشن)، پارک انکلیو فیرون اور پارک انکلیو فیرون تھری بشمول سیکٹر سیکٹرز (1,2,3,4) کے الاٹمنٹ کو سی ڈی اے بذریعہ خطوط آگاہی دینے کے علاوہ بذریعہ اشتہارات مطلع بھی کر چکا ہے اور وہ تاحال اپنے پلائس کے بقایا جات / واجبات بشمول ڈویلپمنٹ چارجز کی ادائیگی کرنے سے قاصر ہیں ان کو اشتہار ہذا کے ذریعہ حتمی طور پر مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ وہ اپنے پلائس کے تمام واجبات / بقایا جات اور ڈویلپمنٹ چارجز کی ادائیگی اشتہار ہذا کی اشاعت کے پندرہ یوم کے اندر اندر سی ڈی اے میں جمع کروائیں بصورت دیگر حتمی تاریخ کے بعد ان کے پلائس کی الاٹمنٹ منسوخ تصور ہوگی۔

مقصود احمد بریرو

I-ڈیپٹی ڈائریکٹر اسٹیٹ مینجمنٹ

رابطہ نمبر: 051-9252428

PID (I) No. 2200/23

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

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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15
Bomb Disposal.....15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.....1122 & Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police.....9266044
Motorway Police.....9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596
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MH.....5611116
Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11
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RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
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Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Pakistan's population growth crisis demands urgent reform

In his Opening Remarks, Air Vice Marshal Nasser ul Haq Wyne (Retd) underscored the intertwined significance of Water, Education, Economy, and Population as fundamental pillars influencing the well-being and security of a nation

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad, successfully concluded a seminar on 'Mitigating Pakistan's Population Challenges.' Distinguished speakers included Senator Dr Sania Nishtar and Ms Samia Liaquat Ali Khan, Director Impact, Tabadlab, Islamabad, Pakistan. Air Marshal Farooq Habib (Retd), Senior Director at CASS, delivered the Concluding Remarks; while Air Vice Marshal Nasser ul Haq Wyne (Retd) moderated the proceedings. Air Marshal Farhat Hussain Khan (Retd), Advisor on Aviation to the Caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan and President of CASS, presented mementos to the distinguished speakers.

In his Opening Remarks, Air Vice Marshal Nasser ul Haq Wyne (Retd) underscored the intertwined significance of Water, Education, Economy, and Population as fundamental pillars influencing the well-being and security of a nation. Drawing attention to the National Security Policy 2022, hailed as 'citizen-centric', he acknowledged its emphasis on human security. However, he expressed concerns over the existing gaps between policy creation and its subsequent implementation. Reflecting on Pakistan's demographic journey, he highlighted the country's exponential population growth, from 32 million



at its independence in 1947 to a staggering 250 million in the present year, marking an almost eightfold increase in 76 years. Senator Dr Sania Nishtar, in her in-depth address on Population Dynamics and Socioeconomic Impacts, underscored the pressing challenge of population growth as a pivotal factor in Pakistan's development trajectory, affecting vital sectors such as infrastructure, economy, and security. Highlighting the exponential growth in population, she illustrated that Pakistan had witnessed a growth rate that is notably higher than many

other Asian nations. A primary concern she broached was Pakistan's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) which, alarmingly, has remained stagnant since 2005 at 3.6. This statistic becomes especially concerning when juxtaposed with countries like Saudi Arabia, traditionally conservative societies that have nonetheless managed to significantly reduce their TFR. Dr Nishtar shared factors influencing fertility rates, spotlighting elements like female education, participation in the workforce, and societal standing. She fervently emphasised the urgency to engage with and

address these variables to devise effective strategies against rapid population growth. Shifting the focus to the crucial role of family planning services, she affirmed that their accessibility can greatly mitigate the challenges posed by population growth. She further championed the importance of robust family planning programmes, stressing underlining Pakistan's low Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR), especially when compared to countries like Iran. Reflecting on the past, Senator Nishtar reminisced about a time when Pakistan was at the

forefront of family planning initiatives, backed by dedicated budgets and institutions. However, she said that administrative issues and the devolution of powers to the provinces had adversely affected this infrastructure, resulting in the present-day problems. Despite these challenges, Dr Nishtar expressed optimism about Pakistan's future, emphasising its vast potential. She remarked on the hardworking, entrepreneurial, and resilient nature of its people and a society that's generous and supportive. Highlighting the demographic dividend, abundant natural resources, strategic strengths like comprehensive databases and telecommunication infrastructure, and a vast market, she conveyed a hopeful vision for the nation's progress. She underscored the urgency to institutionalise ethical conduct in the public sector, a profound respect for merit and integrity, and oversight of discretionary powers. Safeguards against conflicts of interest and fostering a culture of evidence-driven, transparent decision-making are vital. In her presentation on Pakistan's Population and Gender Dynamics, Ms Samia Liaquat Ali Khan shed light on pressing issues related to gender disparities, population growth, and economic development in Pakistan. She discussed multifaceted challenges women face, particularly in health, education, political empowerment, and economic opportunities.

Zardar greets Namira

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Namira Salim, the first Pakistani astronaut to have entered space, thanked the former President of Pakistan and President Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians, Asif Ali Zardari for his continued support and patronage. Namira Salim expressed her gratitude to President Zardari for appointing her as the First Honorary Consul of Pakistan to Monaco and for conferring the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz on her.

Chinese envoy meets with Planning

Islamabad: Caretaker Minister for Planning and Development Sami Saeed has reiterated Pakistan's commitment to accelerate the implementation of projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Talking to Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong on Monday, the Planning Minister congratulated him on assuming the charge. During the meeting, both the sides have discussed CPEC projects and reiterated resolve to further strengthen relations between the two countries. It is noted that the second Phase of CPEC has already started as both the countries have been celebrating the decade of CPEC. Highlighting the ongoing development projects under CPEC, the Minister elaborated on their potential to transform Pakistan's infrastructure and economy. He underlined that these projects are not merely about physical connectivity but also aim to uplift the lives of the people and boost socio-economic development across the country. He further said that the interim government is committed to implement the CPEC projects while emphasizing the importance of the long-standing friendship between the two countries and reiterated the commitment to further strengthening the ties. Furthermore, the Minister highlighted the importance of the Gwadar Port, a strategic project under CPEC, which is set to become a key maritime gateway connecting Pakistan with the rest of the world. The development of Gwadar Port and its associated free zone is expected to attract foreign investment, stimulate economic activities, and create job opportunities in the region. Chinese Ambassador, Jiang Zaidong appreciated Pakistan's efforts to implement the CPEC particularly the second phase of CPEC. With the joint efforts of both sides, CPEC has achieved fruitful outcomes covering areas of industry, agriculture, IT, disaster prevention.—DNA

Football Match held to create awareness about breast cancer

ISLAMABAD: Urtasker Group of Companies proudly organized a captivating Football Championship for Breast Cancer Awareness in October, fondly known as "Pink Month." In an inspiring display of unity, 2 female and 5 male teams came together to raise awareness for a noble cause. This event was held in collaboration with the Leisure Leagues and World Group and showcased Urtasker's commitment to corporate social responsibility. The event was held at Zaraj Football Ground in Rawalpindi. The two formidable female teams battled fiercely on the field, representing Urtasker and Leisure Leagues. In a heart-pounding match, the Urtasker's female team emerged triumphant with a 1-0 victory, demonstrating their dedication to the cause. Meanwhile, in the male category, the New Yorkers showed their sportsmanship by winning against the Pindi Badshah with a score of 1-0 in the final. However, in the true spirit of fair play and unity, the New Yorkers gave the winning title to the Pindi Badshah team. There were 10 pool matches among 5 teams, and the qualifiers played the semifinals and final. The other teams included Jhelum Stallions, Urtasker Hawks, and Urtasker United. Zeeshan Riaz, Co-Founder & Chief Operating Officer of Urtasker and a key player in the New Yorkers team, shared his thoughts on the event, saying, "This tournament was about more than just football; it was about coming together as a community to support a crucial cause. We're proud to have played a part in raising awareness for breast cancer and promoting unity through sports." This Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Urtasker Group of Companies has celebrated the spirit of sportsmanship and contributed significantly to the ongoing fight against breast cancer. By organizing this impactful football championship, they have successfully combined passion for the game with an unwavering commitment to creating awareness and promoting unity in the community.—DNA

Electricity should be cheaper for people, industries in winter

The business leader said that electricity and gas have been made very expensive, due to which production costs and exports are affected

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Monday that the production capacity of electricity in the country is 40 thousand megawatts while consumption is only 10 to 12 thousand megawatts in winter. People and businesses are forced to pay even though some industries are shut down in the winter and do not use electricity. Mian Zahid Hussain said that instead of shutting down the electricity-generating plants during the four or five

months of winter, they should be operated, and this electricity should be sold to cover operating costs only. Speaking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that cheap electricity should be provided to the public, commercial establishments, and agricultural and industrial sectors to increase economic activity. Providing cheap power to industries will increase production, employment, and export earnings, improve foreign exchange reserves, and thereby provide additional resources to the government for capacity payments. Mian Zahid Hussain said that supporting the industrial sector will increase production and reduce the price of various commod-

ities, which will benefit the people. The government should finalize this matter as soon as possible and get permission from the IMF so that the same can be put into practice. The business leader said that electricity and gas have been made very expensive, due to which production costs and exports are affected. Implementation of this proposal will result in people benefiting from cheaper electricity in winter as natural gas is not available everywhere and LPG is very expensive. Mian Zahid Hussain further said that according to an estimate, by making electricity cheaper, its use will increase by 25% across the country and up to 35% in Karachi, and the demand for natural gas will decrease ac-

cordingly. He noted that efforts have been made to privatize electricity distribution companies for the past several decades, but there has been no success because, firstly, their size and losses are very high, and secondly, the employees are against privatization. There is a monopoly of these companies in the country, due to which there is a lot of incompetence and corruption in them. The only solution to these problems is to involve the private sector in this sector by providing specific areas for electricity supply. In this way, the private sector will enter the electricity market, and an era of competition will begin, which will reduce inefficiency and corruption and provide better service and affordable electricity to consumers.

Ijaz Khokhar hosts reception for Zubair Motiwala

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Trade Development Authority of Pakistan CEO Zubair Motiwala has stressed the need for more value-addition and exploring new markets in textile exports, besides focusing the Research and Development (R&D) to enhance the productivity and quality of the products. Addressing a reception hosted in his honor by the PRGMEA former chairman Ijaz A Khokhar, the TDAP Chief said that there is a need to search non-traditional markets, as there are multiple opportunities in the growing economies of African countries since China and India have already focused on these regions. The meeting was attended and addressed by TDAP Secretary Dr. Fareed Iqbal while Customs Collector Saima Aftab was also present along with the all stakeholders of SMEs hub of Sialkot, who are doing the highest value-addition in their business, including SCCL, PRGMEA, PHMA, Surgical, Sports goods, Glove and Leather Garments Associations. The heads of Sialkot Dry port, Tannery Zone and Air Sial were among the major participants of the high-level meeting. The TDAP CEO agreed with the views of the stakeholders and ensured them of resolving their issues, terming them one of the most crucial matters faced by the exporters of this great SMEs hub of the country. Zubair Motiwala observed that

the value-added textile exporters are front row soldiers of the economy and despite multiple challenges they are earning billions of dollars foreign exchange for the country. He appreciated the efforts of the Sialkot-based industry and said that they have made the highest value addition through R&D to improve the productivity and quality of the products. Zubair Motiwala said that the economy is facing a very tough time and cost of doing business is

increasing day by day. At the TDAP, we are ready to facilitate trade and industry to increase the country's exports, he added. He said that with an improved supply chain, industry can reduce their cost of business. On the occasion, IAF Chief and PRGMEA ex-chairman Ijaz A Khokhar highlighted the issues being faced by the industry particularly exporters and asked for the long-term economic policies with the consultation of all stakeholders to

ensure the stability. Inviting the attention of the Central Bank, he said that currently State Bank has allowed the travellers to carry only \$5,000, which is not sufficient for two-week travel and needs to be enhanced to at least \$10,000 as hoteling and transportation costs have gone up due to soaring inflation. He asked the FBR to ensure sales tax refunds within two weeks, because no industry can be survived on loans of extremely high interest.

"Ideally speaking, the government should restart the zero-rated policy to enhance exports, which is presently declining sharply," he added. He said that higher interest rates have badly hurt the cash flows of the industry and it should be reduced to facilitate the industry, as the exporters especially of Sialkot businessmen are facing severe liquidity crunch. He said that continuous fluctuation in exchange rate has made it difficult to quote to foreign buyers and this is

the major issue, which make reluctant to buyers, because nobody can quote rightly for future orders. "Industry wants Dollar rate may be fixed for at least 3-months." Suggesting measures for enhancement in exports, the PRGMEA former chief called for aggressive marketing strategy in line with the strategies of our competitors, by appointing Honorary Council General in all European countries, which will cost nothing. He also proposed to launch a regional task force of TDAP with all stakeholders taking on board and meeting on regular basis, so that the government officials could get ground realities from all sectors all across the country, appealing TDAP CEO to hold quarterly meeting with Sialkot business community during his visit to Lahore. Ijaz Khokhar asked the government to implement the Textile and Apparel policy of 2020-2025 on priority. He added that the TEX-PO should be organized in Dubai on the patron of other competitor countries of the region with a view to escalate exports. The PRGMEA leader suggested the TDAP CEO to sponsor a 'Made in Sialkot' product exhibition in Islamabad to get liaison with the foreign mission, besides establishing EXPO center in Sialkot, which is already approved by the Former Minister of commerce to facilitate to the business community of Sialkot, Gujranwala and Gujrat. He added that the participation of exhibitors is need to be enlarged to fetch more business.



Briefs

Industrial Zone to be established in surrounding area of Ring Road

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chatta has said that an industrial zone would be established in the surrounding area of Rawalpindi Ring Road. He informed that work on the Rawalpindi Ring Road project was progressing rapidly. The Commissioner said that the length of Rawalpindi Ring Road project is 38.3 km. There would be a total of five interchanges on the Rawalpindi Ring Road at Banth, Chak Beli Khan, Adiala Road, Chakri Road and Thalian. A railway bridge would also be constructed with five overpasses and 21 subways on the ring road, he added. Liaquat Ali Chatta said that the project would be completed in one year. The establishment of the industrial zone would help accelerate economic activities and provide employment opportunities at the regional level, he said. The Rawalpindi Ring Road project would improve the travel facilities for the public, the Commissioner added. Rawalpindi Ring Road project is of utmost importance for regional development, he said adding, the project would be a game changer for the people living in Rawalpindi and its suburbs. He directed the Revenue department to remain present at the ring road project site in different shifts.—APP

Pakistan to rush medical aid to quake-hit Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has decided to rush a team of senior doctors and male nurses to help assist in the rescue operations after a powerful earthquake claimed thousands of lives in Afghanistan. According to local media reports Monday, a 10-member medical team consisting of two neurosurgeons, two orthopedic surgeons and one general surgeon will be dispatched to the quake-affected areas of Balochistan. According to the Ministry of health, the team will also include five male nurses. Urgent medical supplies will also be provided to the affectees, the ministry added. The medical team is being sent to Afghanistan on the orders of the caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq. The federal government authorities have further disclosed that if need arises more medical personnel and medicines will be sent to Afghanistan.—APP

Court Notice

In the court of Mr. Naveed Abbas Civil Judge Gujrat.
Case Title, Tahir Mehmood. V/S Basharat Ali etc. Notice to, Basharat Ali S/O Muhammad Ashraf R/O Village Marrar Pur Tehsil & Distt. Gujrat. Present living Abroad. Suit for, Recovery Of Harjana Rs 9000000/ 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 12-10-2023 the proceedings will be taken ex-parte against you.

Low income groups start visiting flea markets

ISLAMABAD: The changing weather from summer to winter, and decreasing mercury level, has compelled the majority of residents, Rawalpindi and Islamabad, belonging to the low-income groups rush towards flea markets to purchase warm clothes. A huge rush of people can be seen at the flea markets in the twin cities to purchase warm clothes, woolies, caps, socks, jackets and hoodies to save them and their children from cold weather effects at a time when many of them are suffering from seasonal allergies, chest infection and influenza. Rising inflation has impacted all the sections of society by lim-

USAID-ERDA facilitating small & medium enterprises

Through technical and capacity building support, networking, and access to high-end markets, we can create a thriving ecosystem for MSMEs

ISLAMABAD: As part of its efforts towards private sector-led economic growth, USAID-ERDA has extended support to the Livestock and Dairy Development Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Livestock Farmers Welfare Association KP for organizing the International Livestock, Agri, Fisheries Exhibition 2023. The exhibition provided an opportunity and platform for MSMEs from across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and NMDs to showcase their products, meet potential customers face-to-face, and enhance their capacities in various aspects of

their businesses, including product presentation, packaging, and marketing, said a press release here on Monday.

Despite multiple challenges, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) have emerged as a critical force in the region's economic recovery and rehabilitation. Recognizing the increasing need for private sector-led economic growth in the region, the USAID's Economic Recovery and Development Activity (USAID-ERDA) is implementing several impactful interventions to strengthen and promote micro,

small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and mobilize private sector investments in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Ghulam Akbar from Wana Waziristan exhibiting Olive Oil and other exotic products from his area, emphasized the pivotal role of MSMEs during crises and challenges. He expressed that MSMEs had shown resilience and the potential to drive economic recovery in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Chief of Party for USAID-ERDA, Shad Muhammad, commented on the need for much needed support. He said it was imperative to empower micro and small-scale

enterprises to unlock their full potential and contribute to sustainable economic growth in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Through technical and capacity building support, networking, and access to high-end markets, we can create a thriving ecosystem for MSMEs, he added. At the sidelines of the exhibition, USAID-ERDA organized a 'Market Linkages and Networking Session' that brought together over 100 participants, including 40 national-level private sector companies—i.e., inputs providers, technology providers, extension services providers, public

sector departments, farmers, and allied enterprises. The session aimed to foster market linkages, networking, and partnerships between farmers and allied MSMEs with the national level private sector companies to support boosting local economies and empowering MSMEs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and NMDs. Through these efforts, USAID-ERDA is committed to driving economic growth, fostering partnerships, and unlocking the immense potential that exists within Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and NMD



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Power Muhammad Ali called on Federal Minister for Privatization Fawad Hasan Fawad.—DNA

Mushaal urges world powers to play role in settlement of Kashmir

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Human Rights, Mushaal Mullick on Sunday urged the world powers to play their role towards the long-standing Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and Palestine dispute. Speaking at the annual event of Darbar Mohra Sharif, Mushaal Mullick

stated that the ongoing conflict in Palestine reflected the same adversities Kashmir faces under Indian subjugation, said a press release here on Monday. She pointed out that the Indian government is involved in promoting extremism and terrorism in occupied Kashmir, Israel is similarly involved in serious human rights violations

in Palestine. Just like in occupied Kashmir, Muslims in Palestine are subjected to harsh treatment, mosques are being desecrated and violence is being inflicted upon innocent people. India has unleashed a new wave of grave human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). However, the

unyielding resilience of the Kashmiris is often viewed as a divine blessing from Allah. She underlined that Islam teaches its followers to treat each other with brotherhood, empathy, altruism, sacrifice and love.—APP

Railways earn over Rs 6 million from saloons

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has generated revenue worth Rs 6,340,156 million through utilizing its 23 saloons and inspection coaches for commercial purposes, during the last three and half years. "At present, Pakistan Railways has only 23 saloons and inspection coaches with different dignitaries of the country who are entitled to use these saloons when needed," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. Giving the details, he said, "Two highly luxurious coaches have been allocated for the Prime Minister's Secretariat while four coaches have been allocated for the Minister for Railways, Secretary/Chairman of Railways, and another senior official in the ministry." The official said, "Only one saloon has been allocated to the federal government while one each has been allocated to the Governors of Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab, and the provincial governments." In addition, eight saloons had been allocated for the Railway Headquarters Lahore,

in which one each would be marked to Chief Executive Officer/General Manager (BS-22), Additional General Manager BS-21, Inspector General Railway Police, Federal Government Inspector, and four saloons were allocated for Principal Officers, he added. The official said six saloons had been allocated for Divisional Superintendents of Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Quetta, Sukkur, Lahore, and Karachi. He said that the Principal Officers of Pakistan Railways were entitled to travel at these saloons or inspection coaches only when they were on duty. Above all, they said luxury saloons were also available for private travel on a rental basis. The official said the saloons were very luxurious and had two rooms, a bath, a dining area, and a kitchen like a tiny house on wheels with the availability of every facility. He said some of these saloons were inspection coaches and their back wall was made of glass from where officers could view the track and surrounding area.

"Pakistan Railways officers are not entitled to use this facility other than duty and all these saloons are mostly 40-50 years old," he added. Electricity should be cheaper for people and industries in the winter. Running factories instead of shutting them down in the winter is a better option. Production, exports, employment, and revenue will increase. Mian Zahid Hussain (October-00-2023) Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Monday that the production capacity of electricity in the country is 40 thousand megawatts while consumption is only 10 to 12 thousand megawatts in winter. People and businesses are forced to pay even though some industries are shut down in the winter and do not use electricity. Mian Zahid Hussain said that instead of shutting down the electricity-generating plants during the four or five months of winter.

Govt initiatives appreciating rupee

ISLAMABAD: FPCCI's presidential candidate, Atif Ikram Sheikh said on Monday that the efforts of the government are continuously strengthening the rupee against the dollar, which is a great achievement. Due to the initiatives of the government, the prices of various commodities are decreasing in the market, which is giving relief to the public 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 while government efforts are laudable, the only way to stabilize the rupee on a permanent basis is to increase exports and discourage unnecessary imports. Remittances bring huge foreign exchange to the government, but they also encourage unnecessary consumption, he said. Atif Ikram Sheikh said that consumerism has also been on the rise for decades, and investors have been attracted to non-productive sectors rather than industries where profits are high. Our economic model is disproportionately dependent on consumption. Pakistan over the last ten years has been maintaining consumption in excess of 80 percent of GDP, and more recently, its contribution to GDP has been as high as 90 percent in FY-22 and 88 percent in FY-23. Reliance on consumption has led to a scenario where consumption is effectively driven by imports. GDP growth is fueled by consumption, which is inadvertently fueled by imports. The dollars required to fund these imports are provided by a mix of exports, remittances, and external debt. As consumption continues to take up a significant component of imports, sufficient resources are not available to utilize imports for investments, resulting in a slowdown. Unless the export sector is made the most profitable, investment in it will remain low, and foreign investment will also be less than desired. He said that the agricultural sector can be a cause of earning foreign exchange along with improving food security in the country.—DNA

HEC launches Scholarship Program for students from Gwadar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan has launched an initiative aimed at empowering the youth of Gwadar with contemporary education and essential skills. This program is designed to support exceptional students from Gwadar who aspire to pursue undergraduate studies (BS-4/5 years Program) at HEC-recognized public sector universities and degree-awarding institutions (DAIs) located in the provinces of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Sindh. This scholarship program is a government initiative designed to empower students from Gwadar with contemporary skills, enabling them to secure employment opportunities within the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects and other labor markets. Scholarships are being offered for the academic year up to Fall 2023, covering a wide range of academic disciplines, under the project titled "Scholarship Program for Students from Gwadar." The above-mentioned scholarship is specifically designed for the students holding residence or domicile certificates of the district of Gwadar and who have completed their 12-year education including FA/FSS/ICS, ICom, and DAE or equivalent, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. Students from Gwadar currently enrolled in 4-year BS programs at any public sector university in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), and Sindh, with a minimum of three years left in their academic session, are also eligible to apply for this scholarship. Selection of students will be solely based on merit, determined by their performance in an aptitude test administered by ETC-HEC and their academic records in SSC and HSSC. The scholarship will cover tuition fees, hostel fees, and other charges of the selected students.

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Urgent need to end Palestine-Israel conflict

With the deadliest Palestine-Israel conflict in half a century that began with a massive Hamas assault on Israel on Saturday entering the third day on Monday, the bloodshed, rising number of casualties and economic damage on both sides reveal the horrors of war. It is imperative therefore that both sides exercise restraint to prevent further casualties. For that, however, the international community has to play an impartial role and persuade the two sides to declare a cease-fire while ratcheting up efforts to address the decades-old conflict by reviving the Middle East peace process so that the vicious circle of tit-for-tat attacks ends once and for all. The Hamas attack coincided with the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah and brought back memories of the 1973 war which began with a surprise attack on Yom Kippur. On the surface, the militant group Hamas which rules the Gaza Strip started the ongoing conflict by launching a sudden, multi-pronged attack on Israeli targets on an unprecedented scale on Saturday morning. Hamas fighters even breached the border wall and entered Israeli territory to unleash mayhem in the southern and central parts of the country, and took some Israeli "prisoners of war". But the fact is, the Palestinians, both in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, have become desperate as an increasing number of Palestinian families have been forcibly evicted from their homes as Israel continues to expand the occupied territories. Not to mention the number of Palestinians, both militants and civilians, killed by Israeli forces in occupied West Bank is the highest in two decades. That Israel, which has a strong intelligence apparatus and a closely guarded border with Gaza, was caught unawares and defenseless against the first wave of attacks on Saturday has surprised many observers. But the massive counteroffensive Israel has launched on hundreds of targets in Gaza has resulted in heavy casualties on the Palestinian side. Given that Hamas is no match for Israeli military muscle, the imminent civilian casualties in Gaza in the wake of Israeli retaliation should raise global concern as more than 2 million Palestinians live in what is known as the world's most densely populated strip of land. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has already declared that his country is "in a state of war" and vowed to reduce to "rubble" Hamas hideouts in Gaza. As Western countries, led by the United States, have all thrown their weight behind Israel, Israeli fury could turn Gaza into an inferno. But the need of the hour is to prevent any escalation of the conflict. And since the current peace process in the Middle East appears untenable given the recurring conflicts, the only way to resolve the Israel-Palestine crisis is for the international community to come together and establish an independent state of Palestine.

World Cup Sport washing: troubling money talks

Nations have long sought to launder their unsavoury reputations by sponsoring sporting contests with global appeal. Such cunning is probably close to the mind of India's strongman prime minister, Narendra Modi. His re-election campaign will in effect be launched this week, when India, the hosts of the cricket World Cup, take on arch-rivals Pakistan. With home advantage, India are favourites to win the tournament. If the team are crowned one-day world cricket champions this year, Mr Modi may be tempted to call an early poll to capitalise on the celebratory fervour. Under Mr Modi, India has seen increasing violence against religious minorities and the criminalisation of dissent. But no cricketing nation wants to offend New Delhi. The country's cricket governing body dominates global decision-making and is run by Modi loyalists. When its cricket team refused to travel to Pakistan last year, the matches were moved to Sri Lanka. The Indian Premier League, featuring a TV-friendly three-hour version of cricket, is the world's second-most lucrative sport. The ruthless advance of commercial interests seems like progress in one sense but decadence in another. India controls one sport, but others are buying the biggest names in sports to exert control. In the English Premier League, Manchester City is majority-owned by the United Arab Emirates' deputy prime minister. Purchasing trophy assets is a way to exert soft power. Qatar's 2022 football World Cup was a sportwashing high point. Controversies over the host's poor human rights record and draconian anti-gay laws did not stop fans from turning out in droves. Staging today's 48-team competition single-handedly is considered too demanding for most nations. The next men's tournament in 2026 will be played in Canada, Mexico and the US. But holding the 2030 competition in South America, Africa and Europe sounds surreal. Spain, Portugal and Morocco have been named as co-hosts, yet the opening three matches will take place in Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay to mark the World Cup's centenary. Such a bizarre arrangement may lead to calls for a return to a single-country format. Despite its appalling human rights record, Saudi Arabia is in pole position to hold the 2034 World Cup. Like Mr Modi's India, Mohammed bin Salman's Saudi Arabia stands accused of assassinating its critics abroad. Buying into sport has helped to rehabilitate its image. A 2021 Saudi-led takeover of English football's Newcastle United was controversial, but local fans celebrated by waving the kingdom's flags. Its money talks: football's Cristiano Ronaldo plays in the Saudi Pro League for a reported £173m a year. The country stunned professional golf when its LIV Golf vehicle said it would invest \$1bn to merge with the PGA – despite the latter's concerns over Saudi Arabia's use of torture, imprisoning political activists and history of enforced disappearances. Cash is not everything. Formula One drivers threatened to boycott the country in 2022 after a missile strike near the racetrack. A ceasefire in the neighbouring Yemen war was called a month later. Realpolitik can't be overlooked. Respecting different cultures does not mean abuse is condoned. The lure of the arena ought not excuse a lack of moral responsibility.



Is Kashmir project done and dusted?

Imtiaz Gul



Why I posit these questions? Let us consider the following: Interim PM Anwarul Haq Kakar's speech to a near deserted hall at the United Nations General Assembly on September 22 reminded us yet again of the rusty thinking on certain issues that sit at the core of some key problems that Pakistan faces – the country's tainted image abroad because of its decades-old support to Kashmiri militancy which India successfully projected as abetment of terrorism

The legal status at the United Nations notwithstanding, is it time for Pakistan to wrap up the Kashmir project? Can it become a China to get for Kashmiris what Beijing got for Hong Kongers? Irrespective of the emotional attachment and Kashmiri Muslims' inalienable right to self-determination, do we need a cost-benefit analysis of the Kashmir policy pursued so far? Why I posit these questions? Let us consider the following: Interim PM Anwarul Haq Kakar's speech to a near deserted hall at the United Nations General Assembly on September 22 reminded us yet again of the rusty thinking on certain issues that sit at the core of some key problems that Pakistan faces – the country's tainted image abroad because of its decades-old support to Kashmiri militancy which India successfully projected as abetment of terrorism; and the "commitment" to the cause of Palestinians. Isn't it about time to wrap up the Kashmir project? Should our leaders not stop always begging for external support and instead look inwards to identify reasons for our present pathetic existence? What was the point in reminding the world of the Indian atrocities in Kashmir, or the post-flood "commitments" made at Geneva in November 2022 (when almost entire PDM cabinet had made it to the Swiss city)? Secondly, while climate change is a reality, many of its consequences flow from criminally reckless urbanisation and total disregard for the nature. The world – at least those familiar with Pakistan's fledgling and dysfunctional governance – know this too well; commercialisation of forest, agricultural lands and obstruction of natural waterways (that cause the flood water to submerge residential areas). Certain developments in (Indian) Kashmir since the abolition of the autonomy that it had enjoyed under the meanwhile deceased Article 370 until August 2019 offer some food for thought.

Not a single country condemned India for abolishing Kashmir's autonomy and annexing it into its union on August 5, 2019. None even demanded the reversal of that action that technically is still subject to resolution at the United Nations. Realpolitik and a sense of hopelessness, it seems, has mellowed down resistance to and moderated rejection of annexation. Change, under the burden of circumstances, may also be in the air in Kashmir itself. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq's release after over four years should be seen in this context. His first speech from the pulpit of Srinagar's historic Jamia Masjid after walking out of detention probably provided first signs of that change. In this emotional address to the Friday congregation on September 22, Mirwaiz called himself a "realist resolution-seeker" and rejected his branding by New Delhi as a "separatist or peace-disrupter". "Kashmir must find a path to resolution through dialogue, as we have consistently advocated. It is regrettable that we have been labelled as separatists and anti-national elements. Our role is to represent the sentiments of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said while disproving the revocation of the special autonomous status for Kashmir. Mirwaiz also reiterated his dream of a united Kashmir. But he is also conscious of the new bitter realities. There is little outsiders – including the United Nations – can do to help Kashmiri Muslims for realising the dream of self-determination for a united Kashmir. This – as of now – is more a pipedream overshadowed by geopolitical expediencies than an achievable goal – however legitimate. Nor will India ever relent control of the valley. Should the staggering changes in the Middle East since the Abraham Accords three years ago serve as the guide? "Subsequent partnerships such as the Negev Forum and I2U2 partnership of India, Israel, the

UAE and the US strengthen shared capabilities and foster the collaboration necessary to meet today's pressing challenges and opportunities," said a State Department statement (September 15) to marking the third anniversary of the signing of the historic Abraham Accords. The Abraham Accords were concluded on September 15, 2020 between the UAE, Bahrain and Israel, followed by similar agreements between Israel, Morocco and Sudan. Ahead of Secretary of State Anthony Blinken's Middle East tour, National Security Council spokesman John Kirby indicated on the last day of September while talking to reporters that "all sides have hammered out a basic framework for what we might be able to drive at." Qatar and Saudi Arabia are the next targets of the American diplomacy anchored in the Abraham Accords. Both are reluctant to embrace Israel. Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, the Prime Minister of Qatar, told a conference in Singapore (August 27) that his country still "believes the best way forward is 2001's Saudi-led Arab Peace Initiative, which offered normalization between Israel and the Arab world if Israel withdrew from the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights and allowed the establishment of a Palestinian state with a capital in East Jerusalem." But Mohammad bin Salman, the de facto ruler of Saudi Arabia, it seems is looking at the Accords as an opportunity to win back the US support. A normalisation agreement between Israel and Saudi Arabia, therefore, will not only be the crowning of the US efforts to minimise hostile relationships within the Middle East but also a boon for Saudi Arabia's current astounding economic development. Will our leaders take any cue from the rest of the world, including China and Turkey, embrace pragmatism or remain frozen in decades-old dogmas that are totally irrelevant to a world driven by geo-economic interests alone?

World must help resolve Sudan's refugee crisis

Dr. Majid Rafizadeh

One of the countries to have received a large number of Sudanese refugees is Chad. Other refugee-receiving countries include South Sudan, Egypt, Ethiopia, the Central African Republic and Libya. Those who make it to one of Sudan's neighboring countries go through a harrowing and difficult journey. World Food Programme Chad Country Director Pierre Honnorat in July described the situation while speaking to journalists via Zoom from the Zabout refugee camp in Goz Beida.

The war that erupted in Sudan in April between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces continues to rage with no resolution in sight. This kind of protracted conflict often has long-term consequences, which can be catastrophic and cause an existential crisis not only for the country affected but also for other countries in the region. This is why it is critical for media outlets, scholars, politicians and policy analysts to raise awareness about the severity of the issue. The armed conflict has caused more than 5 million people from all of Sudan's 18 states to become displaced as they try to flee the violence. According to the latest statistics, more than 4 million people are internally displaced, while more than 1 million have fled the country. The highest concentrations of people leaving their homes are from the following states: River Nile (15 percent), Northern (11 percent), North Darfur (9 percent) and White Nile (9 percent). But it is also important to point out that, before the current conflict began, Sudan was among the world's top 10 countries in terms of hosting refugees. These people were from countries including Ethiopia, Syria and Eritrea. As a result, not only is the armed conflict forcing Sudanese to leave their homes, but it will most likely also force asylum seekers and refugees from other countries to leave as well. This will make the refugee crisis in the region much more severe. One of the countries to have received a large number of Sudanese refugees is Chad. Other refugee-receiving countries include South Sudan, Egypt, Ethiopia, the Central African Republic and Libya. Those who make it to one of Sudan's neighboring countries go through a harrowing and difficult journey. World Food Programme Chad Country Director Pierre Honnorat in July described the situation while speaking to journalists via Zoom from the Zabout refugee camp in Goz Beida. He said: "We can see that they have suffered, many lost family members, and we don't even dare ask them,

"Where are the men?" The answer from the mothers is often that they were killed. So, you just see many women, many children." In such a large-scale displacement and refugee crisis, women, children and the wounded are among the most vulnerable groups. They need medical attention and basic needs such as food, water and shelter. According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, almost 90 percent of the Sudanese arriving in Chad are women and children. And an analysis from August by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification showed that more than 6 million Sudanese are currently one step away from famine. This means that if the funding to provide basic necessities is not provided by the international community, there could be a humanitarian disaster potentially impacting societies and countries for generations to come. The countries that Sudanese refugees are fleeing to are struggling with their own socioeconomic crises. Global assistance in the areas of food, nutrition, primary healthcare, mental health and child health services are critical to prevent deaths, suffering and more cases of infectious diseases and other illnesses. "Every week, children are dying at the nutrition centers; this is a reality. The malnutrition rate for children now is just too high and we need to be extremely quick in prevention to make sure that those who are under what we call moderate to acute malnutrition can urgently get what they need so they don't fall into severe malnutrition," Honnorat said. In other words, for Sudanese refugees, fleeing the conflict and making it to a neighboring country does not mean that their problems are over. The countries that Sudanese refugees are flee-

ing to are struggling with their own socioeconomic crises. For example, although Chad is welcoming Sudanese refugees, many of whom come from Darfur, it has its own multifaceted crisis and financial woes. Chad is one of the poorest countries in the world and it was already hosting more than half a million refugees from Sudan before the conflict erupted in April. Most of the Sudanese refugees in Chad are living in refugee camps and host communities. The level of underdevelopment in the country is alarming, which makes the situation much worse. As the US Agency for International Development has pointed out: "Only about 6 percent of the population has access to electricity and only 8 percent has access to basic sanitation. Adult literacy is 22 percent. Life expectancy is only 53 years. Around three-quarters of all births take place without the attendance of a skilled health professional." Countries such as Chad and Egypt will likely face more political and economic strain if they are not prepared for this crisis due to the fact that refugees can have a significant impact not only on the economy of the host nation, but also on its social, political and even environmental landscapes. This is why it is critical that the UN, in cooperation with the African Union, assists the Sudanese refugees when it comes to providing nutrition, primary healthcare, mental health and child health services. Helping the host countries that lack the resources to deal with the influx of refugees is also paramount. In summary, it is incumbent on the international community to make it a priority to help the Sudanese refugees and their host nations.

—Sourced by Arab news

Briefs

Israel orders siege of Gaza

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unprecedented ground assault on the territory it abandoned nearly two decades ago. Hagari said 300,000 reservists had already been activated in just two days. "We have never drafted so many reservists on such a scale," Hagari said. "We are going on the offensive." Hamas says the attack is justified by the plight of Gaza under a 16-year blockade, an Israeli crackdown in the occupied West Bank that has been the deadliest in years, and a far-right Israeli government that talks of annexing Palestinian land. Israel and Western countries say nothing justifies the intentional mass killing of civilians. The violence jeopardises US-backed moves towards normalising relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia - a security realignment that could have threatened Palestinian hopes of self-determination and hemmed in Hamas's backer Iran. Hamas fighters were continuing to cross into Israel from Gaza, the military said, adding that between 70 and 100 gunmen have been killed in the Beeri area since Saturday. Fighter jets, helicopters and artillery struck over 500 Hamas and Islamic Jihad targets in the Gaza Strip overnight, with targets including Hamas and Islamic Jihad command centres and the residence of a senior Hamas official, RuhuMashtaa. "The price the Gaza Strip will pay will be a very heavy one that will change reality for generations," said Defence Minister Yoav Gallant in Ofakim, one of the towns where a battle with Hamas fighters who stormed through it, killing civilians and leaving with hostages.

Pakistan condemns UP Chief...

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chief minister's provocative remarks were inspired by the gratuitous assertion of 'Akhand Bharat' (undivided India). "These remarks manifest a revisionist and expansionist mindset that seeks to subjugate the identity and culture of not only India's neighbouring countries but also its own religious minorities. They also reflect a perverse view of history," the spokesperson remarked. She said it was a matter of grave concern that such ideas were being increasingly peddled by individuals belonging to the BJP-RSS combine to further their divisive and parochial political agenda. Instead of nurturing hegemonic and expansionist ambitions, the Indian leaders should resolve disputes with neighbouring countries, and work with them to build a peaceful and prosperous South Asia, she added.

Zainab exits India citing security...

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the opportunity to travel to India when the announcement was made. Taking to X, formerly known as Twitter, the presenter had said that she was "humbled" by the idea of joining the star-studded line-up of commentators and presenters for the mega event. The presenter said she was always intrigued to discover what lies in India. India and Pakistan are neighbours but not many cultural exchanges take place due to strained ties between the two countries. "There was always intrigue on what lies on the other side, more cultural similarities than differences, rivals on the field but camaraderie off the field, the same language and love for art and a country with a billion people, here to represent, to create content & bring in expertise from the best in the business," said Zainab. The presenter added that she was humbled to present in India during the World Cup for the ICC again. "A journey away from home of 6 weeks starts now," she said. It is important to note that India has yet to grant visas to Pakistani fans and journalists despite many reminders by the Pakistan Cricket Board.

FIBA Basketball for Good third phase Program concludes

FIBA Foundation's "Basketball for Good program" concluded on Monday with a resounding success, leaving a positive impact on the lives of over 90 girls from diverse schools held at Liaquat Gymnasium, Pakistan Sports Complex

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: The third phase of the FIBA Foundation's "Basketball for Good program" concluded on Monday with a resounding success, leaving a positive impact on the lives of over 90 girls from diverse schools held at the Liaquat Gymnasium, Pakistan Sports Complex, Islamabad. The two-days event aimed to promote sports, teamwork, and empowerment among young girls held under the vigilant supervision of Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) Associate Secretary and Federal Basketball Association (FBBA) General Secretary, Ouj E Zahoor, the "Ball In Street" event marked the third segment of the FIBA Foundation's Basketball for Good program, following successful events in Multan and Lahore. National Coaches, Riaz Malik and Umer Mahmood, took the lead with their exceptional coaching skills. They were joined by



an illustrious team of coaches, including Naveed Ahmed, Yasir Ghafoor, Yasir Mujtaba, and Prem Shehzad, who conducted informative sessions on coach-

ing skills, training, modern techniques, and basketball games, inspiring the young participants to pursue their basketball dreams. The concluding ceremony wit-

nessed esteemed guests, with Chairperson of Karim Khan Afridi Welfare Foundation (KKAWF) Cristina von Sperling Afridi, and President Federal Basketball

Association (FBBA) Ejaz Rafi Butt, serving as the chief guests. Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) Associate Secretary Ouj E Zahoor, National Basketball Team Coach Riaz Malik, PBBF Director Media Azam Dar, and other dignitaries also graced the event with their presence.

As a symbol of achievement and encouragement, certificates were distributed among all the participants at the end of the coaching workshop. Additionally, basketballs were presented to the participating schools, fostering a continued love for the sport among the youth. The third phase of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) Basketball for Good program in Islamabad exemplifies the transformative power of sports, promoting gender equality and empowerment among the younger generation. The organizers and participants alike hope to carry forward the spirit of unity, teamwork and dedication instilled during this memorable event.

Saudi Arabia makes bid for 2034 World Cup



RIYADH: Saudi Arabia has taken the next step in its bid to host the 2034 World Cup and presented a letter of intent to FIFA on Monday. The Kingdom first announced their intentions to host the storied competition after it was announced by the sport's governing body that only bidders from Asia or Oceania would be considered for 2034. In the same announcement, FIFA president Gianni Infantino revealed the host of the 2030 centenary iteration

of the competition, and the decision to split hosting duties between six different countries. Spain, Morocco, and Portugal will be the main tournament host, but in honour of the special anniversary, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Argentina will all host opening matches. Saudi - whose investment in football and development of their own Pro League over the past 12 months has been astronomical was initially tipped to bid for the 2030 World Cup. That

bid involved Greece, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia co-hosting the tournament, but plans were dropped, and Saudi are aiming to be the sole hosts in 2034. But Mail Sport reported that the state's bid was all but a 'done deal', with the nation moving at pace to secure football's marquee competition. 'Last week we announced our ambitions to host the 2034 FIFA World Cup, and this official submission continues our journey to make the dreams of our people a

reality,' Yasser Al Masehal, President of the Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF) said in a statement on Monday. 'We are extremely committed to presenting the most competitive bid possible that will also help unite the world through football.' FIFA are looking to move quickly in deciding the 2034 host: formal interest must be expressed by October 31, and a signed bidding agreement must be tabled by November 30. FIFA members will then have the opportunity to rubber-stamp the 2030 and 2034 hosts in late 2024. The federation claims that 'over 70 FIFA Member Associations from across different continents have publicly pledged their support for the Kingdom.' Saudi Arabia's bid received the backing over the weekend of Sheikh Salman of Bahrain, the president of the Asian Football Confederation, who said that 'the entire Asian football family will stand united in support of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's momentous initiative'. -Agencies

PCB provides update on Ihsanullah, Hasnain, Naseem

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Monday, provided an update on pacers Ihsanullah, Mohammad Hasnain and Naseem Shah's injuries and rehabilitation process. Ihsanullah, who has featured for Pakistan in one ODI and four T20s, suffered an elbow injury. The 20-year-old has been ruled out from international cricket since playing for Pakistan in the ODI series against New Zealand at home this year in April. Meanwhile, the PCB shared that the lanky pacer underwent surgery here in the first week of September and was placed in an elbow brace for four weeks. "Ihsanullah had to undergo surgery in a private hospital in Lahore. A doctor was flown in from England to operate Ihsanullah in the first week of September," PCB stated. "After the operation, the fast bowler was placed in an elbow brace for four weeks, with a doctor and physio attending him on a daily basis. "His condition is satisfactory and the brace will be removed at the end of fifth week. Afterwards, he will proceed with rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy in Lahore." For the unversed, another right-arm pacer Mohammad Hasnain sustained an ankle injury during the Lanka Premier League (LPL) in August and has been out of action since then. "23-year-old Hasnain sustained an ankle injury while playing in the Sri Lanka Premier League in August," said PCB. "He travelled to England from Sri Lanka and had an MRI. The scans revealed the fast bowler requires rehabilitation for his ankle, which is under process since 13 September in England." The PCB also provided an update regarding Pakistan's first-choice pacer Naseem Shah, who was ruled out of the ICC World Cup 2023 in India due to a shoulder injury, which he sustained during the ACC Men's Asia Cup 2023. He was then replaced by experienced pacer Hasan Ali in Pakistan's squad for the World Cup. "20-year-old Naseem got injured during Asia Cup, ruling him out of the ICC World Cup 2023," PCB stated. "Following the injury, the fast bowler underwent shoulder surgery earlier last week. During the operation, he remained absolutely stable and was discharged from the hospital the next day. - DNA

Pak coach backs top order ahead of SL clash

HYDERABAD: Pakistan's head coach Grant Bradburn has backed the team's top-order batting ahead of the Green Shirts ICC World Cup clash against Sri Lanka, despite an unimpressive run in recent games. Addressing a press conference ahead of the match against Sri Lanka in Hyderabad, Bradburn highlighted that the team's focus on continuous improvement. "We're becoming confident as a group and as a coaching staff. We're very keen on critiquing our performance, especially when we win," the head coach said. "Not only when we lose, which is obviously common, but we're really searching for our formula and what happens consistently when Pakistan wins games of cricket," he said. He acknowledged that the team's batting in the power play had not met expectations, but Bradburn expressed confidence in his top-order batsmen. "We've got full faith in our top order. They will click at some stage. And we're open and honest to say that we're not getting what we would like out of the Powerplay as yet." "Our full faith is with all of our players that could take up that position. We've got four to five options that we could put out at the top of the order and we'd be very confident that they can deliver not only the runs but the tempo that we want to play at." "We want to create a tempo for the middle order and the back end of our innings to build from. We're not getting that at the moment, so those are discussions that we're having, but we've got full faith in all of our options at the top," the coach said. Bradburn added: "We're certainly very happy with other phases of our game which have kicked into gear and did enough the other night to get over the line and create two points for us coming out of that dressing room which was the ultimate goal. - Agencies

Barca stages Granada comeback but slips

GRANADA : Barcelona came back from two goals down to share a thrilling 2-2 draw with Granada but lost ground in the La Liga title race. Bryan Zaragoza sent the hosts two goals ahead but Lamine Yamal and Sergi Roberto's goals preserved the champions' record as the only unbeaten team in La Liga. However the Catalans are now third and sit three points behind leaders Real Madrid, and one behind neighbours Girona, who both won on Saturday. Zaragoza struck twice in the first half, breaking the deadlock after only 17 seconds - the fastest goal Barcelona have conceded in the 21st century. Yamal pulled Barcelona back into the game just before half-time, becoming La Liga's youngest ever goalscorer in the process at 16 years and 87 days. Xavi Hernandez's side levelled with three minutes remaining when substitute Sergi Roberto turned home, but they could not find a late winner in a high-octane finale. It was the third comeback they have made in recent weeks, beating Celta Vigo from two goals down and Celtic falling behind at Mallorca in another

2-2 draw. "I think we totally dominated, we created chances, we deserved more, but (we drew) because of our own mistakes, we can't start off in that way," Xavi told DAZN. "We take away a point, which for us, is not enough." Barcelona's night was also marred by a knee injury to Jules Kounde, with the Catalans already tending to Robert Lewandowski, Frenkie de Jong, Pedri and Raphinha in the treatment room. Xavi deployed Ferran Torres as a false nine to replace Lewandowski, while he handed Fermin Lopez his first start for the club in midfield. The coach left Oriol Romeu on the bench, starting without a pure defensive midfielder and dividing the role up between Ilkay Gundogan and Gavi. The latter turned into trouble immediately, with Granada stealing the ball from the young midfielder in the build-up to the first goal. Lucas Boye fed Zaragoza, who fired across Marc-Andre ter Stegen, who might have done more to keep the shot from finding the bottom corner, although the ball appeared to bobble before passing the Barcelona

goalkeeper. Gavi forced a save at the other end and Joao Felix fired wide as Barcelona hunted for the equaliser. Zaragoza doubled the hosts' lead at the Nuevo Los Carmenes stadium with a brilliant individual goal, leaving Kounde wobbling before finishing sublimely with the outside of his boot into the top corner. "He's a player who is not easy to stop when he's sprinting," admitted Xavi. Barcelona found a route back into the match in first-half stoppage time when Felix prodded the ball into Yamal's path just a couple of yards out and he rolled home to break yet another record. However there was no time for Spain's youngest ever player and goalscorer, to celebrate. Barcelona sought the equaliser, with Gundogan forcing a good stop from Andre Ferreira and Ronald Araujo hammering inches wide. Eventually it came through Sergi Roberto, who turned home Alejandro Balde's low cross, while Granada complained about a collision earlier in the move they wanted called as a foul. - Agencies

Parliament passes law with good intentions...

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Mandokhel, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha A. Malik, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Shahid Waheed and Justice Musarrat Hilali. After hearing today's arguments, the CJP adjourned the hearing till 11:30am tomorrow and asked the lawyers to keep their arguments concise. Can parliament correct CJP's mistake? At the outset of the hearing, the CJP told the petitioners' counsels to conclude their arguments early as the top court wanted to conclude proceedings of the case today. "At least cite the decision of the US Supreme Court. Our standards have stooped so low that we are now citing a verdict of a New Jersey court," the CJP remarked after Supreme Court Bar Association President Abid Zuberi quoted a verdict to defend his objections to the law. "This is not even a decision," CJP Isa added. CJP Isa asked if the parliament could correct a mistake made by the country's top judge. The CJP directed his question toward the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) President Abid Zuberi, while he presented his arguments pertaining to one of the pleas today on behalf of the association. "If a Supreme Court chief justice made a mistake, can the Parliament correct it or not?" CJP Isa asked. Responding to the chief justice, Zuberi said he was just coming to Article 184 (3) and agreed that it continues to be misused. The CJP asked Zuberi if Article 184 (3) was used in the right or wrong way in the past, responding to which he said it had been misused and there should be an appeal against it. The chief justice said that the court is hearing the current case under the same article. "If the Supreme Court expands the scope of Article 184 (3) in cases, it is right, but it is wrong if the Parliament does the same?" CJP Isa asked. Justice Mandokhel asked Zuberi regarding the fundamental rights that were being affected by the law.

IHC issues notice to Bajwa, Faiz

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media interviews. Besides the former military officials, IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq also issued notices to journalists Javed Chaudhary, Shahid Maitla and Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pembra) on citizen Atif Ali's petitions. The petition alleged that the journalists wrote two articles based on the interviews of the retired generals for viewership which had a "negative impact" on the society. The petitioner further alleged that under the guise of freedom of speech, a "criminal act" was committed and a request was filed for the registration of a case but no action had been taken yet. The plea sought the IHC's direction to the authorities to register a case. The petitioner claimed that former generals Bajwa and Faiz tainted the national events by portraying them in a false and fabricated manner. In order to gain traction, the news articles presented a negative image of the state institutions under the garb of journalism. It further said that the ongoing campaign in the context of these incidents is an attempt to create distrust between the people and the state institutions. Earlier this year, the former army chief reportedly discussed various matters including PTI chief Imran Khan's ouster from power, civil-military ties and other issues in interviews with the journalists.

Solangi for boosting coop with...

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sphere of life including the media sector. Russia wanted to cooperate with Pakistan in other spheres of life besides media, said the ambassador. He said that Pakistani television dramas were very popular in Russia.

PCB 'extremely disappointed' over delay in Indian visas

The mega cricket event began on October 5, but the Indian authorities are yet to issue visas to Pakistanis for attending the World Cup, leaving them in uncertainty

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Monday once again expressed dismay over the delay in the issuance of Indian visas for Pakistani fans and journalists despite nearly a week into the World Cup 2023. The mega cricket event began on October 5, but the Indian authorities are yet to issue visas to Pakistanis for attending the World Cup, leaving them in uncertainty. In a statement, the board said PCB Manage-

ment Committee Chairman Zaka Ashraf called upon Pakistan Foreign Secretary Syrus Sajjad Qazi and raised serious concerns and alarm over the delay in fans' and journalists' visas for India to cover the World Cup. The PCB mentioned that Ashraf also requested the foreign secretary to take up the issue with India's Home Ministry through the Pakistan High Commission Office in New Delhi. In line with ICC law, the host country has to issue visas to fans and journalists for covering the events, but

India has turned a deaf ear to Pakistan's hue and cry.

The statement said that the board is extremely

disappointed to see that journalists from Pakistan and fans are still facing uncertainty about obtaining an Indian visa to cover Pakistan games in ICC World Cup 2023. In the meantime, PCB again reminded ICC and BCCI of their respective obligations and terms and conditions stipulated in the Host agreement to guarantee visas for fans and journalists of participating teams. The PCB, the statement said, has also taken serious notice of security threats being reported in Indian

media and requested the government to evaluate players' security in India. Ashraf, during his conversation with the foreign secretary, emphasised that the well-being and safety of the Pakistan squad were of paramount importance. In a recent interview, caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar stressed keeping politics away from sports. "We would have issued visas to Indians if the World Cup was held in Pakistan," the premier said. Sports, he added, should be kept aloof from politics.



Briefs

Fears over future of Armenian culture in Nagorno-Karabakh

BAKU : Most ethnic Armenians have fled the breakaway enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh since last month's lightning offensive by Azerbaijan, and some fear that the territory's culture is under threat. Azerbaijan took control of the mountainous region, considered by Armenia to be its people's ancestral home, in September after a one-day offensive that sparked a mass exodus of the ethnic Armenian population. It was part of Muslim-majority Azerbaijan since the end of the Russian Empire, but it is dotted with several hundred churches, monasteries and tombstones, some dating back to the 11th century. Its ethnic Armenian Christian inhabitants attempted to break away after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 - making a unilateral declaration of independence that failed to achieve international recognition. Some of the religious sites have unique features and are carved with armed knights dating back to the Mongol Empire of the 13th and 14th century, said Patrick Donabedian of the Laboratory of Medieval and Modern Archeology in the Mediterranean in France.—Agencies

10,000 people displaced due to deluge in Myanmar

BANGKOK: Flooding triggered by heavy monsoon rains in Myanmar's southern areas has displaced more than 10,000 people and disrupted traffic on the rail lines that connect the country's biggest cities, officials and state-run media said Monday. A senior official at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Lay Shwe Zin Oo, said constant rainfall in the Bago region that began last week caused flooding in the low-lying areas of its capital, Bago township. She said there were no casualties reported so far, but that more than 10,000 people had to abandon their homes. Bago township recorded 7.87 inches (200 millimeters) of rainfall, its highest level in 59 years, Myanmar's Meteorological Department said Sunday. Rain or thundershowers were forecast for across the country until Monday evening. One of the leaders of an emergency rescue team in Bago told The Associated Press that the flooding was at least 7-8 feet (2.44 meters) deep in low-lying areas and 3-4 feet downtown.—APP

Germany airport suspends flights after terror threat

BERLIN: Germany's Hamburg airport suspended flights as police, acting on a threat of an attack sent via an email, searched a plane with 198 passengers from Tehran that had landed in the northern city, a federal police spokesperson said. On Monday, the spokesperson described the measures, which included interviewing passengers, as normal procedure when a threat is classified as serious. All flights from Germany's Hamburg airport are temporarily suspended due to a security threat. No take-offs or landings are possible because the airport fire brigade is involved with the search, the spokesperson added. "Due to an ongoing police operation, takeoffs and landings are currently not possible," the airport operator said in a statement on social media. The Hamburg airport warned that flight delays may ensue due to the measures and did not give an estimate of when they could resume. The German Press Agency first reported on the police response to the threat. The news came on the first day of a special meeting of the German and French governments in Hamburg, with Chancellor Olaf Scholz and President Emmanuel Macron both attending.—DNA

Pakistan values its ties with Spain: Gohar Ijaz

Spanish Ambassador stressed importance of a mindset shift to boost exports, drawing from Spain's own successful experience. He highlighted Spain's support for its businesses to expand abroad, particularly in South America, and emphasized that Pakistan needs to emulate this policy to assist businessmen in going global

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Spanish Ambassador H.E. Jose A. de Ory called on the Minister for Commerce and Industry, Dr. Gohar Ejaz at the Commerce Ministry today. The meeting was convened to discuss bilateral trade and investment relations. Minister Ejaz expressed popularity of football in Pakistan, with a particular interest in La Liga, and support for renowned clubs like Real Madrid and FC Barcelona. He emphasized Pakistan's growing sports industry and importance of Pakistani branded sports goods exports to Spain. Minister Ejaz appreciated Spain support for EU GSP Plus. Spanish Ambassador Jose A. de Ory stressed importance of a mindset shift to boost exports, drawing from Spain's own successful experience. He highlighted Spain's



support for its businesses to expand abroad, particularly in South America, and emphasized that Pakistan needs to emulate this policy to assist businessmen in going global. Ambassador de Ory proposed facilitating trade by providing Pakistan with a list of essential Spanish imports, allowing Pakistani businesses to focus on meeting those demands effectively. Minister Ejaz shared Pakistan's interest in collaboration with Spain to establish solar manufacturing facilities in Pakistan, given Spain's leadership in solar technology. Furthermore, the Ambassador encouraged Pakistan to explore renewable energy opportunities, citing Spain's expertise in wind power. Spanish Ambassador invited Minister Ejaz to lead a business delegation to Spain to further strengthen bilateral trade and economic ties.

UN: Russia's war on Ukraine sparks rights violations

GENEVA: "Blatant and unabated violations of human rights" continue in Ukraine as the country's war with Russia continues, the UN's deputy high commissioner for human rights said on Monday. Nada Al-Nashif's remarks came during an interactive dialogue about the OHCHR's findings of the periodic reports on Ukraine by the Human Rights Council in Geneva. The 36th report on the human rights situation in Ukraine revealed that within a span of just six months from Feb.1 to July 31, another 4,621 civilians became victims of the conflict, with 1,028 killed and 3,593 injured, Al-Nashif said. She noted that most of these casual-

ties occurred in territory controlled by Ukraine, adding that the actual figures are likely higher. The report prepared by the mission paints "a disturbing picture of civilian suffering and rights infringements," she said, adding that the arbitrary detention and incommunicado detention of civilians continued. "Between February and July 2023, we also documented that the pattern of arbitrary detention and incommunicado detention of civilians continued in Russian-occupied territory of Ukraine, with a recorded 35 men and eight women arbitrarily detained by Russian armed forces," she said. Since February 2022, she said, the mission documented that Russian forces

arbitrarily detained almost 1,000 individuals, 85 of whom were found dead with signs of violence, and 463 still in detention. According to Al-Nashif, six cases of arbitrary detention by Ukrainian security forces were also documented. Russia not ensuring accountability Referring to a new law adopted in June, which "effectively grants amnesty to Russian servicepersons for an overly broad range of crimes, reinforcing an atmosphere of impunity," Al-Nashif said Russian authorities have taken "no discernible steps to ensure accountability for violations committed by their own security forces." Ukrainian authorities, on the other hand, have launched investigations into allegations against their own forces, she said,

adding that it was still imperative to see concrete results. On the grain deal, Al-Nashif warned that "devastating long-term effects will also be felt by the collapse of the Black Sea Grain Initiative." Following Moscow's withdrawal from the agreement, the OHCHR's mission witnessed a surge in Russian attacks impacting grain export infrastructure, she stressed. She added that some of these attacks have led to harm to nearby civilian infrastructure and Odesa's historic landmarks. "These strikes will likely significantly affect the livelihoods of persons working in the agricultural sector, with compound effects on the right to adequate standard of living in rural communities."

Scholz's coalition weakened by 'disastrous' far-right gains

FRANKFURT : German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's beleaguered coalition was counting the cost Monday of heavy losses at two state elections halfway into its term, which also saw the far right make strong gains. All three parties in the coalition - Scholz's centre-left SPD, the Greens and the liberal FDP - saw support fall Sunday in the southern region of Bavaria, the country's biggest state, and Hesse in the west. The main conservative opposition won in both polls, as expected, while the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) gained more ground, causing fresh concern about their growing appeal. Nearly 14 million people were eligible to vote in the states, almost one in five of Germany's electorate. The polls were seen as a crucial indicator of the population's mood, with surging immigration and economic woes among key topics. "It is clear who won the vote: populism," said news weekly Der Spiegel while the top-selling Bild said a whopping 80 percent of Sunday's voters were calling for a change in migration policy, citing polling institute Infratest dimap. Two years after coming to power, the polls were a kind of "interim report card" for Scholz's coalition, Der Spiegel said. "The results are disastrous," it went on. "The coalition needs a reset if it wants to be re-elected in two years." For the anti-immigration AfD, the votes were the latest sign of growing momentum and showed their appeal was extending beyond their traditional strongholds in the ex-communist east.—APP

2022 was Spain's hottest summer: Scientists

OVIEDO: Scientists have confirmed that Spain last year experienced its hottest summer in 700 years, the Spanish National Research Council said on Monday. That summer was marked by record-breaking heat due to the frequency and strength of hot air masses coming from the Saharan desert. Looking at historical weather data from as far back as 130 years, researchers found that the average sea surface temperature was 3.3 degrees Celsius (5.9 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than average. On land, the 2022 summer was 2.1C (3.78F) hotter than the average. "Although the summer of 2022 was an extreme anomaly in the country's climate history, there is a pattern of increasingly hotter summers since the beginning of the 21st century that increases the likelihood that this anomaly will be repeated every few years," researcher Ernesto Tejedor said in a press release. To look back even further, the scientists analyzed tree rings from North-eastern Spain, which contain important data about weather and precipitation. According to the analysis, researchers say it is "highly probable" that 2022 was the hottest summer since 1322 and the driest in the last 279 years. The country's drought was also dramatically exacerbated by hot temperatures, which sucked more moisture from the land through evaporative demand.—DNA

OPEC sees oil demand growth continuing

PARIS :Despite mounting efforts to limit climate change, the OPEC oil cartel said Monday it expects demand for crude to continue to grow for the next two decades. In its 2023 annual report, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries forecasts demand for crude to reach 116 million barrels per day (mbd) by 2045 under its main scenario, a 16.5 percent increase from the 99.4 mbd in 2022. That is an increase of 6 mbd from its estimate last year. Oil demand has "the potential to be even higher", said OPEC chief Haitham Al Ghais. "What is clear is that the world will continue to need more energy in the decades to come," he emphasised in the forward to the report - which comes just eight weeks before the next UN climate conference, COP28, in Dubai. At the conference dozens of countries will try to impose the adoption of the objective of an end to the use of fossil fuels like oil, natural gas and coal.—APP

Landslide in Cameroon kills at least 23

DNA

YAOUNDE: At least 23 people have been killed in a landslide caused by heavy rain in Cameroon's capital Yaounde, firefighters said on Monday. Landslides are frequent during the rainy season in Yaounde, where houses are sometimes built precariously on the city's many hills. The latest incident occurred late Sunday in the district of Mbankolo, northwest of Yaounde, which is home to nearly three million people. "Yesterday we pulled out 15 people who had died and this morning we have found eight. We are still looking," the fire service's second in command David Petotoa Poufong told reporters. Torrential rains caused a levee holding back an artificial lake sitting on higher ground to rupture, according to public broadcaster CRTV. Images broadcast on TV showed an entire section of a hill had collapsed and what remained of houses apparently constructed out of wood, dried earth bricks and metal sheeting. "There was a landslide after heavy rain. The water swept away everything in its path," Daouda Ousmanou, a local administrative official announced on public radio. In November, at least 15 people died when a landslide engulfed members of a funeral party in Yaounde's working-class district of Damas, on its eastern outskirts.

Harvard's Goldin: 3rd woman wins economics Nobel

WASHINGTON : The Nobel Economics Prize was awarded to Claudia Goldin, a professor at Harvard University, for research that has advanced the understanding of the gender gap in the labour market. Goldin is only the third woman to win the prize, which was announced by Hans Ellegren, secretary-general of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, in Stockholm on Monday. "Understanding women's role in the labour market is important for society. Thanks to Claudia Goldin's groundbreaking research, we now know much more about the underlying factors and which barriers may need to be addressed in the future," said Jakob Svensson, chair of the Committee for the Prize in Economic Sciences. It follows the awards in medicine, physics, chemistry, literature and peace that were announced last week. She has studied 200 years of women's participation in the workplace, showing that despite continued economic growth, women's pay did not continuously catch up to men's and a divide still exists despite women gaining higher levels of education than men. The economics award was created in 1968 by Sweden's central bank and is formally known as the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel. Last year's winners were former Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke, Douglas W. Diamond and Philip Dybvig for their research into bank failures that helped shape America's aggressive response to the 2007-2008 financial crisis. Only two of the 92 economics laureates honoured have been women. A week ago, Hungarian-American Katalin Karikó and American Drew Weissman won the Nobel Prize in medicine. The physics prize went Tuesday to French-Swedish physicist Anne L'Huillier, French scientist Pierre Agostini and Hungarian-born Ferenc Krausz. U.S. scientists Moungi Bawendi, Louis Brus and Alexei Ekimov won the chemistry prize on Wednesday.—DNA



ISLAMABAD : Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong meets with Caretaker Planning Minister for Development and Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed.—DNA

Turkiye eliminates more than 150 terrorists in Syria

DNA

ANKARA : New videos of Turkish counterterrorism operations abroad emerged on Monday as the country's top defense official gave the number of "neutralized" (eliminated) terrorists of the PKK since early October. Videos shared by the Defense Ministry showed tanks and mortars pounding targets in Syria's north, accompanied by a message, "We tirelessly continue hitting terrorist targets as part of our self-defense efforts." Addressing an event for a new school year for the country's top military schools, Defense Minister Yaşar Güler said that they carried out "comprehensive and efficient air operations" flanked by "fire support" from land forces against terrorists. He said that more than 150 terrorists were neutralized in operations

in Iraq's north on Oct. 1, 3 and 4 and Syria's north on Oct. 5, 6 and 8. He noted that successful operations destroyed "facilities and places (where terrorist groups earn their revenues)." Türkiye announced that security forces were authorized to target everything owned or controlled by the PKK terrorist group in Syria and Iraq, from infrastructure to energy facilities. The escalated crackdown followed the Oct. 1 attack in the capital, Ankara, where two terrorists attempted to storm the headquarters of the Turkish National Police on the day of the start of a new term of Parliament a few hundred meters away. Güler said Türkiye was committed to launching operations against "legitimate targets" in Iraq and Syria, signaling more operations against the terrorist group. Media outlets reported on Monday that a Turkish airstrike killed

20 terrorists in al-Malikiyah, an area controlled by PKK/YPG in northeastern Syria, though the strike or the number of terrorists killed was not confirmed by Turkish authorities. Since 2016, Türkiye has carried out successive ground operations to remove the PKK/YPG on its immediate border with Syria. Recently, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan signaled another land offensive against the group that is responsible for the Ankara attack and another attack that killed six in Istanbul in November 2022. The PKK/YPG is also responsible for killing civilians living on the Turkish side of the border through rocket attacks. Türkiye is concerned over the infiltration of PKK/YPG terrorists into the country through a lengthy border to carry out attacks. The Defense Ministry announced that warplanes hit six PKK/YPG targets in north-

ern Syria late Sunday. The air operation destroyed the targets, which included an oil facility used by the terrorist group, as well as shelters where terrorists were believed to take refuge, the ministry said in a statement on X. Several terrorists were "neutralized" during the aerial operation, it added. Precautions were taken during the operation to ensure innocent civilians, friendly forces, historical and cultural assets, and the environment were not harmed, the ministry said. Since 2016, Ankara has launched a trio of successful anti-terror operations across its border in northern Syria to prevent the formation of a terror corridor and enable the peaceful settlement of residents: Euphrates Shield (2016), Olive Branch (2018) and Peace Spring (2019). In its more than 40-year terror campaign against Türkiye, the PKK - listed as a terror organ-

ization by Türkiye, the U.S. and the EU - has been responsible for the deaths of more than 40,000 people, including women, children and infants. The YPG is its Syrian offshoot. On Sunday, Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya announced that they had captured 2,554 fugitive suspects as part of a nationwide counterterrorism operation against the PKK since the Oct. 1 attack. Yerlikaya said on social media platform X the fugitives were caught as part of a nationwide initiative dubbed "Operation Heroes." "We will not allow fugitive criminals to roam our streets. We are determined to catch and hand them over to justice," he said. Authorities had been searching for 12 of the fugitives for over 10 years, Yerlikaya said, while 91 have been sought for 5-10 years and 2,451 for fewer than five years.

Briefs

Iran denies it had role in Hamas operation

TEHRAN: Iran on Monday rejected as unfounded allegations it had a role in the massive assault on Israel by the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas. "The accusations linked to an Iranian role... are based on political reasons," foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani told reporters. The Islamic republic, he said, does not intervene "in the decision-making of other countries, including Palestine." Palestinian militants from the Iran-backed Islamist group Hamas, which controls the Gaza strip, penetrated Israel at dawn on Saturday under the cover of a massive rocket barrage. More than 1,100 people have been killed in the conflict so far, with Israel reporting over 700 dead and the Palestinians putting their toll at 430. Iran, which does not recognize Israel and has made support for the Palestinian cause a centerpiece of its foreign policy since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, was one of the first countries to hail the Hamas assault. The Palestinians had "the necessary capacity and will to defend their nation and recover their rights" without any help from Tehran, Kanani said. "Talking about an Iranian role aims at turning public opinion (away from the facts) and at justifying the potential future actions" of Israel, the spokesman added. — Agencies

Trials of May 9 accused to be held in prison

LAHORE: The Punjab Home Department on Monday granted permission to conduct trials in prison for those accused of disrupting the country's law and order and attacking Jinnah House following the arrest of former premier Imran Khan on May 9. The trials of three cases related to the attack on Jinnah House, Askari Tower and Shadmam police station will be held within the premises of Central Jail Lahore. The cases implicate members of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) top leadership, workers, and social media activists. Special prosecutor Syed Farhad Ali Shah, speaking to The Express Tribune, explained that the special court presided over by anti-terrorism court (ATC) Judge Arshad Javed will oversee the jail trials for these cases. He clarified that the decision was made due to the substantial number of accused individuals involved in the cases, making it logistically challenging to transport them to and from other court premises. The aim is to expedite the trials, as per ATC rules, which mandate daily proceedings for the Jinnah House attack case.

Wang hopes US-China ties to return to 'healthy track'

"All these various challenges need to be addressed by international community, and China and the United States should play their due roles," Wang said

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi hoped that Washington and Beijing could manage their differences "more rationally" to help the bilateral ties to return to track of "healthy development". The China's top diplomat's statement came as he met with visiting senior American lawmakers. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer is the latest high-level American official to go to China as Washington seeks to ease tensions with Beijing, leading a six-person team reportedly seeking a meeting with leader Xi Jinping. Meeting with Schumer at Beijing's Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, Foreign Minister Wang Yi told the senate delegation he hoped their visit would help the two sides "manage existing differences more rationally, helping the relationship between the two countries return to the track of healthy development". He also said he hoped they would "more accurately understand China" after the trip, which comes as the world is in a "turbulent period of change". "The crisis in Ukraine has not yet subsided, and warfare has reemerged in the Middle East," he said. "All these various challenges need to be addressed by the international community,



and China and the United States should play their due roles," Wang said. Schumer, in turn, thanked the Chinese delegation for their hospitality, noting there were several issues of "great concern" he was seeking to raise during his visit. He said "a level playing field for American business and workers" was his delegation's "number one goal". "Holding accountable China-based companies supplying deadly chemicals fuelling the fentanyl crisis in

America" was another objective, he told Wang, as was "ensuring China does not support Russia's immoral war against Ukraine". "Advancing human rights" was an additional priority, Schumer said. But he also said he was "very disappointed" by a Sunday statement from Beijing's foreign ministry on the escalating violence between Israel and the Palestinians. Beijing called Sunday for all sides to show "calm" and "cease fire immediately".

It did not explicitly condemn a Palestinian attack that has left hundreds in Israel dead, instead urging the establishment of a two-state solution to end the violence. "The ongoing events in Israel over the past few days are horrific," Schumer said. "I urge you and the Chinese people to stand with the Israeli people and condemn these cowardly and vicious attacks." "The foreign ministry's statement... showed no sympathy or support for Israel during these tough, troubled times," he added. On Saturday, Schumer met with Chen Jining, the ruling Chinese Communist Party's chief official in Shanghai, according to a pool report, where he stressed that the United States "does not want to decouple our economies". Schumer is the latest high-level American official to visit China as Washington seeks to ease tensions with Beijing, which have flared in recent years over everything from trade to human rights. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Treasury and Commerce Secretaries Janet Yellen and Gina Raimondo, as well as climate envoy John Kerry, have all visited China this year. And President Joe Biden Friday said he may meet Xi in San Francisco in November, but added that nothing has been scheduled yet. Wang is expected to visit Washington ahead of the APEC summit.

Hamis thwarts greater Israel plan: Siraj

DNA

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami emir Sirajul Haq claims that the Hamas mujahideen have shattered the greater Israel plan. Addressing a gathering of sit-in outside the Karachi Governor House, he said "we are happy as we observed the Red Military is facing downfall which was earlier dubbed as the winner." He said Mujahideen in Afghanistan had also defeated the Red Military and now action by the Hamas mujahideen had shattered the dreams of Israel and its patrons. He said Hamas forced Israel to leave Palestine by firing 7,000 rockets and inflicted a colossal loss on Israel. He said the Palestinians were celebrating today although 400 Palestinian brothers were martyred. "Where are the intelligence departments and the Mossad of Israel? The JI emir asked. He said Mujahideen had proved that God is powerful. Responding to the reply of caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar, the JI emir said it's not a war between two states, it's a fight between the oppressor and the oppressed, it's a fight between right and wrong.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker minister for energy Muhammad Ali called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and discussed matters relating to energy and petroleum division's affairs. — DNA

Providing best education responsibility of govt

DNA

LAHORE: After visiting the Government Pilot School Wahdat Road, Lahore, Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi said Monday while talking to media that providing the best education to children at schools was the responsibility of the government. He stated that the government had been addressing the basic problems in government schools. "Institutions like Central Model School and Pilot School were examples in the past. Efforts are underway to raise the quality of education in institutions like Pilot School," he vowed. "There are 48 thousand schools in Punjab. It is not possible to fix all of them at the same time. A team has been formed to ensure improvement in government schools," he told the media. The government is also trying to establish a Centre of Excellence. Rs20 to Rs25 billion worth of funds are needed to make Lahore schools centres of excellence," he added.

"It may not be appropriate to spend Rs20 to Rs25 billion only on Lahore schools while ignoring the rest of the schools in Punjab. For improvement, the management and infrastructure of government schools are being given to private institutions," he further told the media. "A lot of improvement has been seen in government schools that were entrusted to private institutions. The government school, which had 300 students studying, now has 1,500 students after being handed over to educational NGOs," he claimed. "Schools are not being privatised. Teachers will be the same; funding will be the same," he declared. "Pilot School has bigger grounds than Aitchison College, but sports activities are zero," he stated. The caretaker chief minister also reviewed administrative affairs of the school including the appointment of a permanent principal. He also stopped the teachers from going on election duty during school hours.

Cipher case: Imran, Qureshi to be indicted on Oct 17

Imran Khan protests "poor" jail conditions

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan on Monday protested against the treatment meted out to him in Adiala jail during the hearing of the cipher case and asked he be treated like any other prisoner, said his lawyer Salman Safdar. Safdar was speaking to the media after attending a special court hearing of the cipher case held in the Adiala jail. "The chairman protested that he was provided with a room where it was difficult to live, it is also difficult to move or walk in the cell," said Safdar. He added that he felt that the PTI chief's blood pressure was high during today's hearing. "The PTI chief strongly protested during the hearing in the court," said Safdar. Moreover, the lawyer asked that the trial of the case be conducted in an open court so

where both leaders are locked up. The date for the indictment was set after the copies of the challan, submitted to the court by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), were provided to the counsels of the accused. After setting the date of the indictment, government witnesses were also issued notices by the court. Following this, the hearing was adjourned. In the last hearing, the special court had adjourned the case till today without any proceedings. Back then the PTI lawyers had raised objections to the hearing of the case in Adiala jail and implored the court to put off the hearing until Islamabad High Court (IHC) decides on its plea challenging the in-camera trial of their clients. The PTI legal team had also refused to receive a copy of the FIA challan (charge sheet). — Agencies

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World Cup: New Zealand ease past Netherlands

HYDERABAD: New Zealand continued their astounding form and recorded a crucial 99-run win against the Netherlands in the sixth match of the ICC World Cup 2023 at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Hyderabad, India on Monday. An all-round performance by the Black Caps strengthened their position on the top as after beating England in the World Cup opener, the Kiwis defeated the Dutch in a one-sided contest courtesy of Mitchell Santner's masterclass with the ball and the bat. Chasing the target of 323 runs, the Dutch were off to a bad start as their openers — Vikramjit Singh and Max O'Dowd — failed to give their side a considerable start. However, the experienced middle-order batter Colin Ackermann provided his side a much-needed breakthrough by scoring 69 off 73 but his heroics weren't enough as the Dutch kept on losing wickets at regular intervals and were soon all-out for 223 runs. Skipper and wicketkeeper-batter Scott Edwards was the second top-scorer for his side contributing 30 runs. Santner picked the first five-wicket haul of this World Cup, taking five for 59 in 10 overs, Matt Henry bagged three while Rachin Ravindra picked one. Batting first, the top-five batters of New Zealand — Devon Conway, Will Young, Ravindra, Daryl Mitchell and skipper Tom Latham — all contributed considerable runs and got their side in a dominating position. However, during the last 10 overs, the Kiwis lost two wickets in quick succession but Santner's late strikes led Black Caps to 322 runs in 50 overs. The 31-year-old scored 36 off just 17 deliveries which included five boundaries. — DNA

Rescue search continues in Afghanistan

"The operation is still going on, still some people are being pulled out of the rubble"

DNA

KABUL: Two days after the deadliest earthquakes to jolt the nation in years slammed the northwest city of Herat and its surroundings, rescue workers in Afghanistan raced to extricate survivors and the dead from the rubble. The quakes claimed at least 2,400 lives and injured many more, according to the Taliban government, proving to be among the deadliest in the world this year after tremors in Turkey and Syria, where an estimated 50,000 people died. Following the sorrowful situation in Afghanistan, neighbours Pakistan and Iran have offered to send rescue workers and humanitarian aid, while China's Red Cross Society offered cash relief aid. "The operation is still going on, still some people are being pulled out of the rubble," the spokesman of Herat's governor, Nisar Ahmad Elyas, told Reuters, adding that more than a dozen villages around Herat were also affected. Many buildings in Herat city were relatively unaffected, but the mediaeval minarets of its famous mosques sustained some damage, photographs on social media showed.

PM Kakar saddened by devastating earthquake

"On my instructions, in addition to the relief goods, all the requested items are being dispatched in the afternoon today, with more relief goods to follow"

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday expressed deep sorrow over the loss of precious lives and property in the devastating earthquake in Herat, Afghanistan. "Our hearts go out to the affected communities. We stand in solidarity with the Afghans during this difficult time. I have instructed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to send maximum support to the affected," he said in a post on X. He said the Afghanistan government had specifically asked for sending a medical team, a field hospital, 50 tents and 500 blankets. "On my instructions, in addition to the relief goods, all the requested items are being dispatched in the afternoon today, with more relief goods to follow", he added. — DNA

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