



Islamabad POST

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Ilham Aliyev says, he fulfill Azerbaijani dreams in Karabakh

Detailed News On Page-07

Malaysian PM rejects attitude of the West

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Hurkacz beats Rublev to win Shanghai Mast

Detailed News On Page-06



PM Kakar in China

Pak committed to CPEC as 'corridor of economic growth'

Timeless Pakistan-China partnership and deep-rooted friendship serve the interests of both countries



BEIJING: Wang Zhigang, Minister of Science & Technology of China receiving Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar upon his arrival at Beijing. – DNA

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has expressed the country's commitment to jointly building the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), saying the project has transformed the socio-economic landscape of Pakistan. PM Kakar, who is set to participate in the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in China on October 17-18 which marks the completion of a decade of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), said Pakistan endorses China's vision of CPEC as a corridor of growth. As the flagship project of the BRI, he said, CPEC marks a milestone in Pakistan-China relations by placing "economic cooperation and connectivity at the very center of the bilateral agenda", making the two countries more interconnected. "We fully endorse China's proposal of developing the CPEC as a corridor of growth, livelihood, innovation, greenness, and openness - representing our two countries' preference for a human-centric approach, inclusivity, and green development," he said. The prime minister said Pakistan and China as close friends, strategic partners, and iron brothers, are moving forward toward a destiny of shared future. "The tale of China-Pakistan relations is not an ordinary one. It is an account of brotherhood, friendship, and trust, the foundations of

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Indonesian Ambassador to Pakistan, Adam M. Tugio called on Chairman Senate, Sadiq Sanjrani. The discussions revolved around matters of mutual interest, culminating in a commitment to strengthen bilateral ties, particularly in the areas of trade and investment. – DNA

Pakistan sending aid to Gaza

Govt is coordinating with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, relevant UN agencies

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: In the wake of indiscriminate Israeli aggression and siege of the Gaza Strip, the already oppressed people of densely-populated Gaza are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. In view of the human tragedy unfolding in Gaza, the Government of Pakistan has decided to immediately dispatch humanitarian relief assistance to Gaza, to alleviate

Continued on Page 06

1/3rd of Afghans face 'acute' food insecurity

WEB DESK

KABUL: About one-third of the Afghanistan population is facing acute food insecurity, which has been further aggravated by a recent series of earthquakes that struck the war-torn country's north-western region. According to the figures released by the World Food Program (WFP) on World Food Day, over 15 million people face acute food insecurity, with 2.8 million in emergency levels (one step away from famine). "We remind the world that in Afghanistan, 15 million

Continued on Page 06

Sanjrani, Indonesian envoy pledge to strengthen relations

Stressing the necessity to boost the trade volume between the two countries, he also emphasized the importance of reinforcing parliamentary ties

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Indonesian Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Adam M. Tugio called on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani today at the Parliament House. The discussions revolved around matters of mutual interest, culminating in a commitment to strengthen bilateral ties, particularly in the areas of trade and investment. Chairman Senate expressed his steadfast determination to deepen relations with Indonesia, emphasizing the historical support both nations have provided each other during challenging times. Acknowledging the intrinsic value of the Pakistan-Indonesia relationship, Chairman Senate highlighted the need to augment economic cooperation,

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'Pakistan to maintain positive credit rating'

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs DrShamshad Akhtar has reiterated Pakistan's commitment to transparency for fostering investor confidence and maintaining a positive credit rating in global financial markets. The minister's remarks came during a meeting held with a high-level delegation of Moody's, the global financial

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

PPP says Nawaz making mistake

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: PPP leader Khurshheed Shah lambasted former prime minister and PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif for what he said striking a deal with powerful quarters to return to power through a backdoor. Speaking on a TV show, the senior PPP leader cast aspersions on Nawaz's return to the country on October 21. "If Nawaz Sharif comes to power by dealing with powerful circles at this age then what would be left of his politics?" he said rhetorically. "The red carpet for his return is not being rolled out by the PML-N but by someone else," Shah added. Despite facing a lot of difficulties, the PPP leader said PML-N was still doing "backdoor politics".

Naqvi wants cut in prices

DNA

LAHORE: On the special directives of Punjab's Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, a decision has been made to promptly pass on the benefits of significant reduction in petroleum prices directly to the people of Punjab. In a pivotal meeting convened at the Chief Minister's Office and presided over by Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, a deadline of 48 hours was set for implementing price reductions. Additionally, the task of reducing transport fares by 10% was assigned, aligning them proportionally with the lowered petroleum prices.

IHC rejects Imran Khan plea challenging jail trial

The IHC CJ directed Khan to approach the trial court if he had reservations over matter

COURT REPORTER

Farrukh Habib joins Tareen's IPP

ABBAS HASHMI

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has found no malice in holding Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan's jail trial in a cipher case in view of security concerns. IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq announced the court's decision on the PTI chief's plea challenging authorities' move to hold his trial in Adiala jail in the case registered under the Official Secrets Act. The IHC CJ directed Khan to approach the trial court if he had reservations over the matter. The PTI chairman, whose government was sent home after a vote of no confidence was passed in the Parliament in April last

Continued on Page 06

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) senior leader Farrukh Habib Monday decided to part ways with Imran Khan and joined the Istekam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP), lamenting the ex-prime minister's policy of "violence". The IPP was formed on June 8 by estranged PTI leaders Tareen and Aleem Khan, who had left ex-PM's party due to severe disagreements, while

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf Saeed Al Maliki met with Ambassador of Palestine Ahmed Ameen. Both sides discussed the emerging situation in Gaza. – DNA

Egypt says Gaza aid stuck as Israel not cooperating

Israel, Hamas deny ceasefire reports as United Nations calls for 'urgent need' of aid

NEWS DESK

CAIRO: Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said on Monday that the Israeli government had yet to take a stance that allowed the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip to open. Egypt has aimed since the conflict broke out to keep the Rafah crossing operational, Shoukry said, calling the situation faced by the Palestinian people in Gaza "dangerous." The Egyptian-controlled border crossing into Gaza was earlier expected to reopen amid diplomatic efforts to get aid into the enclave that has been under intense Israeli bombing since the rampage by the militant group Hamas killed 1,300 people. UN aid chief Martin Griffiths said on Monday he would be traveling to the Middle East to support negotiations on getting aid into the blockaded Gaza Strip. Griffiths said his office was in "deep discussions" with Israel, Egypt and others. "I shall be going myself tomorrow to the region to try to help in the negotiations, to try to bear witness and to express solidarity with the extraordinary courage of the many thousands of aid workers who have stayed the course and who are still there helping the people in Gaza and in the West Bank," he said in a statement. "Rafah will be reopened.

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Jilani speaks to Iranian, Egyptian counterparts

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani on Monday telephonically spoke to his counterparts from Iran and Egypt and discussed the crisis in Gaza including the killing of civilians. The foreign minister, in the conversation with Iranian counterpart Hossien Amir Abdollahian also discussed the large-scale displacement of the Palestinians from their homes. Both sides agreed that urgent steps were needed to prevent conflict from escalating and the provision of humanitarian assistance. As part of efforts for a coordinated response to ongoing conflict in Gaza, Foreign Minister Jilani also spoke to the Egyptian FM Sameh Shukri. In the conversation, the stressed preventing conflict from escalating, protecting civilians from collective punishment, starvation and displacement. The foreign minister also assured of Pakistan's humanitarian assistance.

REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS
14 DAYS
FREE ACCOMMODATION

TURKISH AIRLINES
BEST PART OF THE JOURNEY
Stopover IN ISTANBUL
EASY VISA
FREE ACCOMMODATION
Economy Business

Turkish agency establishes operating room at Sindh NICH

KARACHI: The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (T KA) is proud to announce the opening of a cutting-edge operating room at the National Institute of Child Health (NICH), Pakistan's largest and only children's hospital in Sindh Province. The inauguration ceremony, graced by the presence of Sindh Health Minister Dr. Saad Khalid Niaz, and Dr. Mehmet Paçac, Turkish Republic Ambassador to Pakistan, marked a significant milestone in Pakistan-Turkey relations. Speaking at the grand opening, Minister of Health Dr Saad Khalid Niaz expressed his gratitude to T KA for its continuous dedication to enhancing the healthcare sector in Sindh. He praised T KA's commitment to equipping multiple hospitals with modern medical facilities, recognizing

the immense pressure that hospitals often face while striving for improvement. Dr. Niaz further extended his congratulations to T KA on the successful completion of the state-of-the-art Operation Theater, emphasizing the strengthening of Turkish-Pakistani friendship through these collaborative efforts. Ambassador Dr. Mehmet Paçac also took the opportunity to highlight the longstanding friendship and brotherhood between Pakistan and Turkey. He emphasised the unwavering support both nations have shown during challenging times and commended T KA for its charitable work in over 150 countries. Ambassador Paçac mentioned various ongoing projects, including Pak-Turk schools and colleges. T KA Karachi Program Coordinator Halil Ibrahim Başaran

revealed that T KA has undertaken over 80 healthcare projects throughout Pakistan. These endeavors have contributed to the development of Pakistan's healthcare sector, aligning with T KA's mission to support friendly and brotherly countries. Seven significant health projects were executed in different fields between 2019 and 2023 in Sindh Province alone, demonstrating T KA's dedication to Pakistan's progress in the health sector. Dr. Nasir Saleem Saddal, Director and Chief Medical Officer of the NICH, described the institution as the largest center for child treatment, with patients coming from all over the country. He praised the hospital's commitment to providing free-of-cost medical care, including oncology and endocrinology, despite the challenges posed by a high patient load. Following the speeches, Minister of Health Niaz and Ambassador Paçac jointly cut the ribbon, symbolizing the official opening of the new operating room established by T KA. This modern facility will serve Pakistani children in need of specialized medical care. After the ceremony, the esteemed guests visited the intensive care unit, where they brightened the day of young patients with gifts thoughtfully prepared by T KA. T KA's Remarkable Health Projects in Sindh Province The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency has carried out more than 80 health projects throughout Pakistan since 2010, with offices in Islamabad and Karachi.



Local govt representatives protest for rights

PESHAWAR: Local government representatives in Khyber district on Monday staged a protest and demanded their rights, expressing strong discontent for not releasing funds and providing offices structure. According to details, in all three tehsils of Khyber district, village chairmen and councilors gathered for a protest demonstration at the Jamrud Press Club. The representatives raised black flags and placards expressing their concerns about their rights. They stated that even though local government elections were held in December 2021 for the first time in merged districts, development funds have not been allocated for two years. This lack of funding affects not only local government representatives but also deprives the local population of essential services.—APP

Awareness session against plastic pollution held

PESHAWAR: An awareness session against plastic pollution was held in the Hangu district. Faraz Ahmad, a Teaching Excellence and Achievement program alumnus, conducted a "Plastic-Free Campus: Reducing Plastic Waste and Promoting Recycling" information session that was attended by a cross-section of the society. The seminar was part of a Pakistan-US Alumni Network small grants program. The program was aimed to raise awareness about environmental challenges through seminars at secondary schools and colleges.—APP

16th PODA annual rural women leadership conference in Islamabad

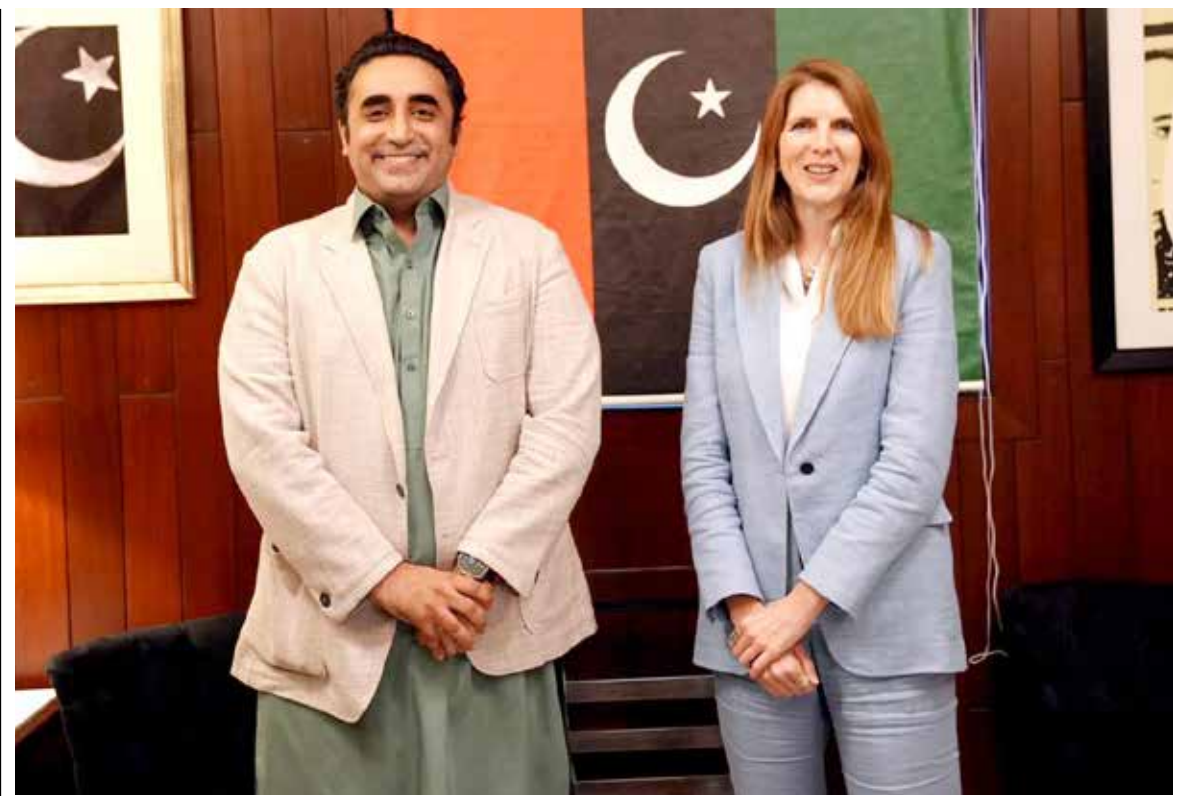
ISLAMABAD: The house unanimously supported the demand to raise the minimum age of marriage of girls to 18 years of age throughout Pakistan. Sindh is the only province in Pakistan where the minimum age of marriage for girls is 18 years. PODA organized a 3-day 16th Annual RURAL Women Leadership Conference in Islamabad which will culminate tomorrow (Tuesday, 17th October) on award ceremony to honor the rural women leaders who have been excelled in their regions while promoting human rights. PODA has started organizing the conference since 2008. It is one of the biggest platforms in the country through which specifically rural women representing all regions of the country voice their concerns

on issues which affect them most. This year the theme of the conference i.e. "Stop Child Marriages for Sustainable Development, Climate and Democracy" was set with the input of the women leaders who are the primary custodians of the platform of the rural women conference. This year, PODA brought representatives from over 150 districts of the country, including ICT, Islamabad and regions of AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan. Rural women in hundreds were present during the 2nd day of the conference to call upon the policymakers, legislators and all segments of the society to work for the protection of the rights of a girl-child who is not able to voice for her own rights, who wants to play, wants to live a healthy life, wants to get education and lead a dignified life as a full-fledged citizen of the country and who wants to exercise all the entitlements written in the Constitution of Pakistan. "We

are working specifically in 41 districts of Punjab, involving and engaging all concerned including communities and government officials to work together to increase the minimum age of marriage of girls to 18 years through a legal amendment. However, it is high time to introduce same age defining who is child in all laws to have a unanimity not discrepancies at national level," said Sameena Nazir, PODA Executive Director. "The enforcement mechanisms of child marriage prevention are weak and insufficient and the role of the police needs clarity and direction legally and institutionally. Political parties need to commit to increase the minimum age of marriage to 18 years. Rural women will present on the ground situation about child marriages and share what are the key obstacles for prevention of child marriages and what strategic action is needed to protect the human rights of girls."

Speakers emphasize local climate resilience solutions in Pakistan

KARACHI: The Speakers on Monday at a panel discussion on climate action urged the government and departments concerned to join hands for collating and collaborating indigenous knowledge-based solutions for enhanced resilience of the country against adverse impacts of climate change and environmental degradation. The Sustainable Development Policy Institute convened a panel discussion titled Climate Action Panel discussion at the launch of Four thematic Policy Position Papers with members of the academia, civil society, journalists and business community. Opening the panel discussion, Deputy Executive Director, SDPI, Dr. Shafiqat Munir Ahmad briefed the participants on the Four thematic Policy papers discussing the country's position on climate finance, institutional capacities for climate action, policy frameworks and the Loss and Damage that had been created at the global to provide a platform for reparations to the most impacted countries through climate catastrophes. Dr Shafiqat Munir said the crisis of climate change had no boundaries and it impacted all the nations without any distinction. However, the country was lagging in terms effective implementation of its convincing policy instruments established to cope with the climate disasters. He underlined that the country had separate ministries of subjects that were equally impacted due to climate change and demanded an intricate and integrated approach. "We need to align and develop coherence in existing system and ministries to address climate change. The country will also have to maintain technical climate human resource expert on the subject," he added. He also pointed out that amid growing vulnerability of the country due to climate change it was needed to revise the national disaster risk reduction (DRR) Policy to set targets and key areas like risk understanding, governance, financing and overall framework for collaboration. Former VP FPCCI, Member Board of Governors SDPI, Eng MA Jabbar felicitated the institute for successfully compiling the policy papers. He mentioned that the increase in migration towards urban centers was burdening the existing capacities of those cities leading to economic impact driving climate and financial crisis. Climate change affecting tools in the country, he said were the power generation plants that had the capacity of 41,000 megawatts (MW) whereas India got 413,000 megawatts plant installed yesterday. He compared the India and Pakistan coal to energy potential and mentioned that Pakistan had \$183 billion coal reserves which was one of the highest in the world.—DNA



KARACHI: British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jean Marriott met with Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at Bilawal House. — DNA

Commissioner arranging data of illegal foreigners by 31st OCT

DNA

PESHAWAR: Commissioner Peshawar Division, Muhammad Zubair on Monday issued a directive for compiling up the complete data of all foreigners including Afghans living illegally in the division by 31st October. He further directed for constituting committees at police station level in all the five districts of the Peshawar Division, these committees besides arranging the data of illegal foreigners, will also identify the assets owned by them. The departments concerned were directed to provide the names of the focal persons in this regard to the office of the commissioner positively within 24 hours. The Commissioner was presiding over a meeting with regard to dignified repatriation of the illegal foreigners from all the five districts of the Peshawar Division as instructed by the provincial government. The meeting decided to establish temporary camps at Azakhel, Chamkani and Haji Camp for the illegal foreign residents. The deputy commissioners of five districts were directed to submit a report in this regard within 24 hours. The meeting decided to implement the provincial government instructions in letter and spirit.

World Food Day FAO Pak, PepsiCo promote sustainable agri

PESHAWAR: As part of World Food Day 2023 celebrations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (FAO) KP Office in collaboration with PepsiCo Pakistan, a leading global food and beverage corporation, hosted a cross-sectoral panel discussion at University of Agriculture in Peshawar. The panel discussion focused on the Living Indus Initiative, highlighting the theme, "Water is life, Water is food. Leave no one behind," aiming to raise awareness about food security, sustainable agriculture, and the fight against global hunger and poverty. Senior representatives from World Food Programme, UN Women, PepsiCo, and the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as well as academics, were in attendance. This theme harmoniously aligns with the goals of the Living Indus Initiative, a collaborative venture between the Government of Pakistan

and UN agencies, dedicated to repairing and restoring the ecological health of the Indus River Basin, especially in the face of pressing climate challenge. Mr. Farukh Toiro, FAO's Head of Office in KP, highlighted the nexus between the mighty Indus River and the region's agricultural prospects. He emphasized the importance of water for agriculture and food security. He stressed the need for responsible and efficient water management to support sustainable agriculture through initiatives like the Living Indus Initiative. This approach helps build resilience in the face of climate challenges and ensures access to balanced and nutritious food for all. Haseeb Malik, Director of Agriculture Operations at PepsiCo Pakistan, discussed the company's efforts in the panel. He focused on restoring the Indus Basin, promoting sustainable agriculture, and supporting farming

communities, particularly women. Malik highlighted PepsiCo Pakistan's commitment to sustainable water management, equipping farmers with knowledge and technology for sustainable water use. He also mentioned their dedication to water conservation in company operations and communities. He also added that the scope of the Living Indus Initiative aligns with PepsiCo's global pep+ (PepsiCo Positive) sustainability agenda and aspirations for creating a more resilient agricultural system that benefits both people and the planet. Dr Rizwan Ahmed Registrar Agriculture University Peshawar moderated the panel discussion. While other panelist included, Dr Abdul Bari, DG Agriculture Research, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dr Jan Mohammad, Director General, Agriculture Extension and Zainab Qaiser Khan, Head of UN Women, Sub Office in KP and Louis Sowe.—APP

LESCO recovers Rs 8.7m from 405 defaulters

LAHORE: Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) in collaboration with Tehsildars (Recovery) has recovered Rs 8.7 million from 405 dead defaulters in all the five districts - Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara - on the 33rd day of its recovery campaign. LESCO spokesman told media here Monday that on the 33rd day, Chief Engineer O&M (T&G) Zafar Iqbal with the support of Tehsildar City Mujahid

Zia and Tehsildar Shalimar Noreez Humayun recovered outstanding dues of Rs 1.81 million from 71 defaulters in Northern Circle and Rs 1.80 million from 57 defaulters in Eastern Circle respectively. Similarly, LESCO Manager (Material Disposal) Engineer Anwar Watto along with Tehsildar Model Town Rana Ahsan and Tehsildar Cant. Sajjad Qureshi recovered Rs 1.31 million from 39 defaulters

in Central Circle and Rs 70,000 from 02 defaulters in South Circle, while Manager (Technical) Engineer Muhammad Farooq with the assistance of Tehsildar Nankana Sahib Muhammad Iqbal Rasheed and Tehsildar Sheikhupura Muhammad Aslam Gujjar recovered Rs 0.61 million from 42 defaulters in Nankana Sahib Circle and Rs 1.15 million from 59 defaulters in Sheikhupura Circle.

Arid university celebrates World Egg Day

'World Egg Day' has been celebrated at Arid University, Rawalpindi in partnership with Sadiq Group of Industries, with an aim to create public awareness about the nutritional value of eggs and its importance in human diet

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Today 'World Egg Day' has been celebrated at Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi in partnership with Sadiq Group of Industries, with an aim to create public awareness about the nutritional value of eggs and its importance in human diet. A seminar on importance of eggs was organized while a cooking competition was also held on the occasion. Shields and cash prizes were distributed among the participants of the competition. The seminar was attended by Health Experts, industry leaders and renowned professionals. Eggs are one of the few foods that should be classified as "superfoods." Dr. Habib Ur Rehman, the keynote speaker, said at the occasion. They are

loaded with proteins and other essential nutrients, some of which are rare in the modern diet. Eggs can combat common nutrient

deficiencies that often go unaddressed but are crucial for optimal health and performance while improving our immune system,

he continued. Studies have proven that it helps cognitive function like visual and verbal memory and improve our heart health, he




further added. Saad Sadiq, MD Sadiq Group announced merit scholarships at the event & vowed "we know our customers are increasingly interested in knowing more about their food and where it comes from, which in turn guides our company's broader commitments on eggs quality and sourcing. We are fully cognizant of the modern practices which are helping us to produce high quality eggs, he further committed. World Egg Day is a brilliant opportunity to make sure everyone in the world knows that eggs are an excellent, affordable source of high-quality nutrition, with the potential to help feed the world. The participants enjoyed the ceremony and appreciated & thanked Sadiq Group of Industries for organising such an informative and enjoyable event.




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National Days and Armed Forces Days

OCTOBER

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

Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15
Bomb Disposal.....15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16
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Motorway Police...9266044
Motorway Police.9270601-20
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Rawalpindi.....9270601-20

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Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Women are looks an artist making truck art on pots during 16th annual Rular Women Leadership Conference, in connection with International Day of Rural Women, at Lok Virsa in Federal Capital. —ONLINE

Poultry prices increase by 35 % in twin cities

According to the survey, the price of live chicken in the twin cities was between Rs360 and 380 per kg from the last week of this month of October. Similarly, chicken meat is sold at Rs580 to 650 per kg in the market of both cities

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The prices of poultry items have increased by 35 percent in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi during the last eight months that has created huge volatility in the market.

According to the market survey conducted by media here Monday, during the last eight in the twin cities, a 35 per cent increase was witnessed in the price of chicken in the last 8 months, while as same as 33

per cent increase in the price of poultry eggs in same period.

According to the survey, the price of live chicken in the twin cities was between Rs360 and 380 per kg from the last week of this month of October. Similarly, chicken meat is sold at Rs580 to 650 per kg in the market of both cities. During this time, it was also found that poultry eggs used to be sold at Rs310 to Rs 320 per dozen in the market of both cities. Meanwhile, talking to APP, the Chairman Pakistan Poultry Association (PPA), Chaudhry, Muhammad Ashraf

said the increase in the current prices of poultry is due to demand and supply issues.

He said that the increase in poultry business inputs and cost of doing business was seen across the country due to which the market was in crisis. He said that many people related to the chicken business in the country were affected by the current crisis and especially small businesses and poultry farms were closed, adding the poultry business in the four provinces including Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa is suffering from the current economic crisis.

Chaudhry Ashraf said that the country's economic conditions are also an important issue and the poultry feed ingredients imported from foreign countries are very expensive, in which soybean is important. He said that many soybean ships have stopped at Karachi port, which has an inevitable impact on poultry prices. Pakistan Poultry Association (PPA) has also called for a further increase in the prices of chicken and there was an increase observed in the prices

of poultry items in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. On this occasion, poultry feed industrialist and Senior Vice President of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Hamza Sarosh said that soybean is included in the basic ingredients of poultry feed. He said that at present, the import of soybeans has stopped and several ships of soybeans are stopped at Karachi port and one ship has been released yet.

Hamza said that soybeans for poultry feed were imported from America, Brazil and Argentina.

Jan Achakzai praises China's vision

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Information Minister Balochistan Jan Achakzai Monday said that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor is a way forward for timely completion of ongoing projects and highly praised China's vision for safeguarding regional peace and stability.

"China's support to Pakistan has always been meaningfully aimed to support the country in overcoming the challenges", he said while talking to PTV news channel.

CPEC is a game changer for Pakistan and many projects under this mega project have already been completed while the work on the rest of the projects is underway, he added.

He said that the pace of work on the CPEC projects will be further expedited in the coming days, and the cooperation between the two countries is being enhanced in various areas including agriculture, special economic zones, information technology, and exploration of mineral resources. He also thanked the Chinese government for supporting Pakistan during the financial crisis, adding, CPEC project has brought "peace, prosperity and development opportunities not only to Pakistan but also to the entire region".

Replying a question, he said China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), is 'a win-win economic initiative which has opened vast opportunities for all investors around the world. China had always proved to be a reliable partner and a trusted friend, he added.—APP

Motorbikes, three-wheelers sale drops 9%

ISLAMABAD: The sale of motorbikes and three-wheelers in the country witnessed a decrease of 9.85 per cent during the first three months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to sales of the corresponding months of the last year. During the months under review, as many as 268,990 motorbikes and three-wheelers were sold against the sale of 298,405 units in July-September (2022-23), according to the Pakistan Automobile Manufacturing Association (PAMA). The sale of Honda motorcycles dipped by 7.19 per cent from 250,132 units to 232,139 units whereas the sale of Suzuki motorcycles witnessed a decrease of 62.27 per cent from 10,007 units to 3,775 units during the months under review. Similarly, the sale of Yamaha motorbikes also went down from 3,726 units to 2,555 units witnessing a decline of 31.42 per cent while the sale of Road Prince motorbikes witnessed a sharp decline of 55.59 per cent from 9,273 units to 4,118 units. However, the sales of United Auto motorcycles witnessed an increase of 7.04 per cent from 20,369 units to 21,803 units. Meanwhile, the sale of United Auto three-wheelers dipped from 412 units to 218 units while the sale of Sazgar three-wheelers however witnessed an increase of 31.14 per cent from 2,193 units to 2,876 units.—APP

People welcome relief in POL prices

ISLAMABAD: People from different walks of life on Monday welcomed the government's decision to substantially reduce petroleum prices, viewing it as a much-needed relief to counter the adverse effects of high inflation on their daily routines. In the past, they said whenever petroleum prices increased it resulted in a surge in the prices of essential commodities, public transportation fares, and shipping costs, negatively impacting the common man. Now, with the government's ample reduction of Rs40 per liter in petrol prices and Rs15 in high-speed diesel, people expect this to have a trickle-down effect on the prices of everyday items, goods transport, and public transportation fares. Khurram Shahzad, a government employee who commutes daily from Qasim Market Rawalpindi to Islamabad, expressed his concern that public transporters had not lowered their fares despite a significant reduction in petroleum prices. They had increased fares by almost 300 percent over the past six months, which he said should be revised and brought down. He urged the Regional Transport Authority to revise and regulate the public transport fares to align them with the reduced petroleum prices. He also called for the display of revised fare charts in public transport vehicles to provide maximum relief to the common commuters between the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. The business community also commended the government's decision to reduce petroleum prices, considering it a positive step in combating inflation and providing much-needed relief to the common man throughout the country. They attributed the positive indicators to the government's zero-tolerance policy against the illicit trade and smuggling of essential commodities and the dollar mafia. These measures led to the strengthening of the local currency against the dollar, which also facilitated local trade and businesses. President of the Islamabad Industrial Association, Muhammad Ahmad, appreciated the government's move to significantly reduce Motor Spirit Oil (Petrol) and High-Speed Diesel prices; anticipating it to help reduce transportation costs for industrial goods and essential commodities. He pointed out that as the local currency gained momentum against the dollar, steel prices decreased by Rs 60,000 per ton, and edible oil prices also considerably dropped.—DNA

COURT NOTICE

In the Court of Mr. Khizar Hayat Bhatti, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue)/ District Collector Gujrat. Suit for Amended Appeal Revenue. Title: Sarfraz Hussain etc. VS Irshad Hussain etc. Notice through newspaper to the present successors/heirs of late Irshad Hussain: 1.a-Nargas Begum widow 1.b-Ali Sufian son 1.c-Mishal Begum, 1.d-Gul Snober daughters of the deceased Irshad Hussain 1.e-Zunaira Begum minor daughter of the deceased, accompanied with her mother Nargas Begum 2-Muhammad Idrees, son 3-Saleem Bibi, daughter of Sardar Khan 4-Abdul Rauf 5-Manzoor Hussain sons of Allah Ditta 6-Javed Iqbal s/o Amanat Ali 7-Muhammad Arif s/o Muhammad Alam 8-Javed Iqbal 9-Masud Pervez 10-Aurangzeb late, present successors/heirs 10.a-Munir Akhtar widow 10.b-Waqar Zaib, son 10.c-Saima Zaib 10.d-Naila Zaib 10.e-Mehwish Zaib 10.f-Sehrish Zaib daughters of Aurangzeb deceased 11-Abdul Hameed, son 12-Shahida Naseem 13-Vains Begum, daughters of Muhammad Sharif 14-Khalid Latif s/o Sarwar Khan 15- Mian Zaib, son 16-Asma Saleem 17-Afshan Saleem daughters of Muhammad Saleem 18-Sikandar Hayat s/o Muhammad Khan 19-Muhammad Naseem s/o Shah Muhammad 20-Mudassar Rafiq s/o Muhammad Rafiq 21-Irshad Begum, wife 22-Rabia Bibi, daughter 23-Muhammad Najeem 24-Muhammad Sharif sons of Fateh Ali 25-Muhammad Ghaznafar 26-Talib Hussain 27-Khalid Hussain 28-Muhammad Anwar 29-Muhammad Ameen 30-Muhammad Nadeem sons of Khan Malik 31-Shoukat Ali s/o Feroz Khan cast Chibb residents of Khair Gufsar, Tehsil Kharian, Distt. Gujrat. Whereas the petition under the above-mentioned title the respondents are noticed through the newspaper advertisement to appear before this court on 18th October, 2023 at 8:00 am in person or through their counsel. Otherwise ex-parte proceeding shall be initiated against you. Given under my hand and seal of the court.

Sabiha Khanam remembered

ISLAMABAD: Leading lady of the Pakistani cineworld of 1950s and 1960s Sabiha Khanam was remembered on Monday on her birth anniversary. Born on October 16, 1935 in Gujrat, her real name was Mukhtar Begum. She ruled the Pakistani cinema with superhit movies, including Kaneez, Mukhra, Anokha, Tehzeeb, and many others.—APP

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Briefs

NTDC plans to set up Rs 31.820 bln 500 kV grid station

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC) has planned to set up 500kV Grid Station in tehsil Daska, district Sialkot with an estimated cost of Rs 31.820 billion. Official sources told APP here that it would comprise 2x750 MVA 500/220 kV auto-transformers and 3x250 MVA 220/132 kV transformers, which would be connected to the National Grid through 01 No. 500 kV and 02 No. 220 kV transmission lines. The PC-1 of the project has already been approved while AFD- the French Development Agency would provide financing for it. The NRDC had already acquired 736 Kanal 13 Marla land for construction of the grid. The acquisition of land was completed at a total cost of Rs 337.4 million, they said. The project is of vital importance for the strengthening of the power system in the region. The project is aimed at improving the voltage profile, eradicate load shedding and facilitate the evacuation of power from cost-effective hydel power plants in the north to the load centers of Punjab in the future. Moreover, the project will contribute to reduce loading in the 220 kV & 132 kV system and improve the power supply position of the Gujranwala Electric Power Company (GEPCO). NTDC's aim through this project is to meet the increasing demand for electricity and ensure a reliable operation and smooth power supply to industries, businesses and domestic consumers across Pakistan.

ANF seizes 108 kg drugs; arrests three

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations across the country managed to recover 108 kg drugs and arrested three accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that 24.8 kg hashish was recovered from an accused, resident of Kohat arrested on Super Highway Karachi. On the pointination of the accused, a co-accused, resident of Karachi was also arrested. In another operation at Jinnah International Airport, Karachi Courier Office, ANF recovered 180 grams Ice drug from a parcel booked for Dubai. 30 kg hashish concealed in doors of a vehicle was recovered on Sibi Road Quetta. During the operation, an accused, resident of Naseerabad was arrested. Drugs concealed for the purpose of smuggling were recovered in Chagai and Kach districts. 25 kg hashish, 8 kg heroin, 1 kg opium, 30 grams ice drug and 20 kg prohibited materials were recovered. Separate cases have been registered against the accused under Anti-Narcotics Act while further investigations are underway.

WBAF Forum: HEC explores opportunities for students

The participating Vice Chancellors appreciated the efforts of HEC and acknowledged the need for working together to uplift the economy of Pakistan through entrepreneurship development and incubation opportunities for young and promising startups

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan held a meeting with Executive Chairman World Business Angel Forum (WBAF), Mr. Babarys Altuntas to explore opportunities for students and faculty under the WBAF Financial Inclusion Programme.

Chaired by Chairman HEC Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, the meeting was attended by Vice Chancellors/Pro-Vice Chancellors of leading public sector universities including MNS University of Agriculture Multan, National Textile University Faisalabad, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, National University of Modern Languages Islamabad, Institute of Management Sciences Peshawar, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, DOW University of Health Sciences Karachi, National University of Science & Technology Islamabad. CEO IGNITE Mr.

Asim Hussain, Director General R&I HEC Hazrat Bilal, Director R&I HEC Ms. Noshaba Awais, and representatives of universities' Business Incubation Centres, also attended the meeting. The meeting was held in continuation of the recent collaboration established between HEC and WBAF, in March 2023 on the sidelines of the 5th Vice Chancellors Forum. WBAF, an international organization, aims to ease access to finance for start-ups for generating jobs in the world economy. Through the collaboration, the capabilities of entrepreneurs, start-ups, students, and faculty members of Pakistani universities will be strengthened via network-building with global investors and providing them with quality knowledge. WBAF under its, Financial Inclusion Programme, provides angel investment courses for students, accrediting entrepreneurship clubs, supporting incubation centres, access to Financial Inclusion Centre to all students and faculty, etc. In his opening re-

marks, Chairman HEC stated that HEC is committed to strengthening collaboration with international partners to open new avenues and opportunities for students and faculty. He added that HEC is putting efforts to play its part for development of an entrepreneurial ecosystem in the country facilitating startups to contribute to wealth creation and to generate more job opportunities. Ms. Noshaba Awais shed light on the HEC-WBAF collaboration and the Financial Inclusion Programme. Apprising the university representatives of the objectives of LoI, she said that the agreed program of activities under the LoI pertains to the inclusion of Pakistani universities in the Financial Inclusion Programme being offered by WBAF and 15 universities have already given their consent for the programme. She briefed that the programme is divided into two phases, the Phase-I includes providing access to students and faculty to the Financial Inclusion Centre,

while the Phase II includes angel investor course for BICs, academic support, assessment of BICs, and formation of university Business Angels Network, etc. Mr. Babarys Altuntas underlined that WBAF is an affiliated partner of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPIFI), adding that it is collaborating globally to empower the economic development of the world. He briefed in detail the Financial Inclusion Programme to the Vice Chancellors and Pro-Vice Chancellors who attended the meeting and having consented for the programme. He noted that governments around the world have understood the importance of angel investment for boosting their economies. The participating Vice Chancellors appreciated the efforts of HEC and acknowledged the need for working together to uplift the economy of Pakistan through entrepreneurship development and incubation opportunities for young and promising startups.

Arbaz Khan extends best wishes to minister

ISLAMABAD: Film star Arbaz Khan met with Interim Federal Minister Jamal Shah to express good wishes and admiration for his vision in reviving the art and culture sector in the country. During the meeting, Jamal Shah stressed that the National Heritage and Culture Division is actively involved in the preservation of cultural heritage at the local, national, and global levels. He mentioned that their efforts are focused on enhancing the creative economy, uniting cultural and heritage assets, and mobilizing communities. The minister emphasized that promoting national heritage and culture among the people is the key to preventing social issues such as hatred and intolerance, ultimately contributing to peace and stability in society.—APP

FJWU organizes three-day capacity building training program

DNA

RAWALPINDI: In a commendable stride towards promoting academic excellence and fostering a culture of quality assurance, the Quality Enhancement Cell for Affiliated Colleges (QEC-AC) at Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU) has organized a comprehensive three-day Capacity Building Training Program. This event was conducted under the aegis of the Higher Education Development Program (HEDP) and brought together prominent stakeholders in the education sector.

Distinguished guests at the opening ceremony were Asad Khan, Head/Program Specialist of the Post-secondary Education Reforms Unit (PERU), HEDP, HEC, and Dr. Arshad Bashir, Consultant Academics, PERU, HEDP, HEC, Islamabad. Both luminaries addressed the significance of the HEDP project's Component-2, a strategic initiative aimed at enhancing the quality of teaching and

learning in affiliated colleges (ACs). They acknowledged and commended the establishment of a dedicated QEC-AC unit within FJWU's QEC, designed to facilitate ACs in their ongoing journey of academic enhancement. The opening ceremony was graced by Dr. Saima Hamid, Former Vice Chancellor of FJWU, who shared the remarkable progress achieved during her four-year tenure, positioning FJWU as a leading institution in women's education. Dr. Hamid expressed deep appreciation for HEDP, HEC, in catalyzing the establishment of the QEC-AC unit at FJWU, instrumental in implementing a holistic approach to a culture of academic quality. The program featured a series of technical sessions led by distinguished professionals in the field. Dr. Khushbakht Hina, Director of QEC at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad, illuminated the challenges of Self-Assessment Report (SAR) preparation and the HEC Revised Policy on An-

ti-Plagiarism for 2023. Dr. Shaheryar Naveed, Additional Director of the Centre for Learning Excellence at FJWU, expertly guided the participants in Integrating High Impact Teaching Practices in the Classroom. Waqas Ahmed Malik, Additional Director of QEC at the Institute of Space Technology (IST), Islamabad, introduced participants to the philosophy of Outcome-Based Education. This was followed by a session led by Ms. Nosheen Naz, Deputy Director of QEC at FJWU, who highlighted the Usage of Turnitin Software and emphasized the paramount importance of academic integrity in alignment with the HEC Anti-Plagiarism Policy Version 2. Dr. Huma Ayub, Additional Director of QEC at FJWU spoke on Quality Assurance Practices, the Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism, and the Implementation of HEC's Undergraduate Education Policy for 2023 at FJWU. A group discussion involving representatives from FJWU's Registrar, Admission, and Examination

office, as well as academic figures, deliberated on the challenges and future prospects for quality assurance in affiliated colleges. The event reached its zenith in a closing ceremony graced by Prof. Dr. Uzaira Rafique, Vice Chancellor of FJWU, who distributed certificates among the participants. Dr. Huma Ayub extended her heartfelt gratitude in a closing address, marking the culmination of this enlightening Capacity Building Program. This training program stands as a testament to FJWU's unwavering commitment to nurturing academic excellence and promoting quality assurance practices within Pakistan's educational landscape. It serves as a significant milestone towards empowering the next generation of educators and students, while concurrently elevating the standards of teaching and learning in the affiliated colleges. FJWU, through its QEC-AC initiative, is making a tangible impact on the educational sector, paving the way for a brighter future for students and institutions alike.

PDMA starts work on winter contingency plan 2023-24

DNA

PESHAWAR: The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), under the guidance of the Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, is actively working on its Winter Contingency Plan for the year 2023-24, said the spokesperson on Monday. In an essential pre-winter planning and orientation meeting, Inayat Ullah Wasim, Secretary Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa presided over the gathering of Additional Deputy Commissioners Relief and HR. Secretary Relief emphasized, "This comprehensive contingency plan aims to mitigate potential losses resulting from winter-related natural hazards, including extreme low temperatures, fog/smog, snowfall, rainfall, landslides, flash floods, and seismic activity in the mountainous north and west." Inayat Ullah Wasim praised the dedication and pivotal role played by the district administration during rescue operations and the Relief and Rehabilitation phases during times of crisis. He also highlighted the essential role of Additional Deputy Commissioners (ADCs) Relief and HR as the "eyes and ears" on the ground, responsible for monitoring and reporting on disaster situations. He stressed the importance of understanding and adapting to prevailing climatic conditions, acknowledging their impact on disaster preparedness and response. Secretary Relief emphasized the significance of proactive planning to mitigate the effects of disasters, reinforcing that preparedness is crucial in reducing potential damage. He also stressed the importance of effective interaction with medical staff and healthcare facilities to ensure the availability of medical resources during disaster situations. He further emphasized the need for a robust pre-planning and coordination mechanism to ensure that all stakeholders work seamlessly together during emergencies. He also addressed the importance of tourist preparedness, ensuring that the local tourist industry is adequately prepared to deal with potential disasters while prioritizing the safety of tourists. Director General of PDMA, Janat Gul Afridi, outlined the Winter Contingency Plan's approach, which stratifies districts based on Vulnerability and Risk Assessments, ranging from very high to low vulnerability levels. Each distinct weather pattern will have its tailored contingencies. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's unique geography, topography, and natural resources make it susceptible to various climate-related challenges throughout the year, be it in summer or winter. Comprehensive data collection tools have been developed and shared with stakeholders. These tools encompass information related to district/sector-specific hazards, vulnerability profiles, hazard impacts, damage assessments, compensation details, resource mapping, needs assessments, and coordination efforts. Iqbal Wazir, Director of Disaster Risk Management at PDMA, elaborated on the proactive preparedness measures being implemented in line with guidelines stipulated by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

'Tackling land-grabbing mafias remains top priority'

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Police's Tarnol unit recently apprehended a notorious land grabber, confiscating weapons and ammunition during the operation, police said. Under the directive of Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP), a vigorous crackdown on land grabbers in the federal capital has been initiated to eradicate this menace. Employing advanced technology and manpower, the Tarnol police successfully arrested an individual involved in the illegal seizure of citizens' properties and other related transgressions. The perpetrator, identified as Wali Khan, was found in possession of weapons and ammunition, leading to his immediate detention. Cases have been filed against the apprehended individual, and investigations are underway. Expressing zero tolerance for land grabbing, ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan emphasized the continuation of stringent measures against those unlawfully occupying others' properties. He instructed all zonal police officers to escalate the crackdown until the complete eradication of land grabbing within the federal capital. Citizens are urged to promptly report any such activities to the police helpline, Pucar-15.

A significant drop in fuel prices is warmly appreciated

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 big reduction in the price of petrol is very welcome as it will bring relief to the people. In a fortnight, the prices will be reduced for the second time, which will positively affect the entire population, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the reason for this decrease is the fall in the price of oil in the international market and the increase in the value of the rupee. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that if the dollar continues to fall, it will be possible for the government to provide more relief to the people. He said that the price of petrol has been reduced by 40 rupees per liter and the price of high-speed diesel by 15 rupees per liter. The price of diesel has not been reduced much, while the petroleum levy on diesel has been increased by Rs 5. The business leader said that a reduction in the price of diesel was not possible be-

cause the government has to fulfil the budget targets and also implement the agreement made with the IMF. According to the deal, the government has to raise Rs 869 billion from the petroleum levy this year. A decrease in the price of petrol will reduce the travel cost of cars and motorcycles; travel in taxis and rickshaws will become cheaper; and the effect of a decrease in the price of diesel will be less because it is used in heavy transport, trucks, buses, railways, and agriculture. Mian Zahid Hussain further said that till now, zero sales tax has been collected on petroleum products and added that apart from the stability of the rupee, good news is also coming from many sides. Cotton production is improving, and 12 million bales are expected to be produced this year; wheat production is up 12 percent; the auto industry, which was devastated, is now getting orders; and the stock market is also improving, he said. He said that banks are also making huge profits, remittances are picking up again, and rice exports are expected to exceed three billion dollars this year. Electricity thieves are being punished, and planning is being done to prevent illegal profiteering in the sale of commodities and vegetables.

IRSA releases 99,600 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 99,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 69,000 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1528.93 feet and was 130.93 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 39,300 cusecs and 40,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1212.90 feet, which was 162.90 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 8,100 cusecs and 38,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 60,400, 57,900, 50,900 and 20,200 cusecs respectively.—APP

From river to the sea

ZAHRA ALI



Amid the gnarled ancient olive groves that whispered secrets to the wind, in their leaves and roots lie the stories of generations, each one a testament to the indomitable spirit of a land that refuses to be forgotten. Beneath the watchful gaze of the Palestinian sun, a land of poets and prophets, carries within its soil a tragic tale that unfurls struggle, resistance, a spirit unconfined, the echoes of a people who have endured the burdens of occupation for far too long, a land scarred by the weight of history. In the beleaguered enclave of Gaza in the beleaguered enclave of

Gaza, the tear-soaked soil, where sorrow knows no end, where mothers weep for children lost, their hearts unable to mend. The wailing of the sirens, the echoes of despair, A symphony of anguish, a melody of prayer, where the sea meets the sorrowful shore, the tears of mothers, fathers, and children form rivers that flow ceaselessly. Each drop tells a story of loss, of shattered dreams, of lives cut short. The haunting wail of sirens punctuates the air, a relentless reminder of the ever-present threat that hangs like a dark cloud over this besieged land. Beneath the canvas of a star-studded sky, Palestine's children gaze upwards, their eyes reflect galaxies, their hopes etched in the night. As they search for a tomorrow bathed in the softest light. Their hearts filled with longing. The night sky becomes a tapestry of dreams, as if the stars themselves weep for the aspirations of a people yearning for a brighter tomorrow. Their eyes reflect the galaxies. Their eyes reflect the galaxies, carrying with them the hopes and dreams of a nation. Each night brings a symphony of whispered prayers, a plea for liberation from the shackles of despair. The stars, they weep in silent song, a melody of grace, for the

promise of a homeland, for a brighter, offering a glimmer of hope in the darkest hours. In the shadows of refugee camps, generations bear witness to the painful legacy of displacement. Homes and homelands, forever lost, become fragments of a distant memory. The longing to return, to reclaim what was taken, is etched in the faces of those who carry the weight of their history. The diaspora spans continents, yet their hearts remain tethered to the land they call home, a land that eludes their grasp. Concrete barriers, stretching across the landscape, stand as stark symbols of division and confinement. They separate families, severing bonds forged through generations. These walls bear witness to the indignities suffered by a people denied the most basic human rights. They stand as a physical embodiment of a system that seeks to subjugate and suppress a testament to the resilience of a population undeterred by the obstacles before them. Amidst the rubble and the dust, where homes and dreams collide, Palestinian hearts beat on, with hope as their guide. They sing a song of steadfastness, a symphony of grace, a melody of resilience that time cannot erase. For in the face

of adversity, their spirit knows no bounds, they rise like suns at dawn, dispelling night's dark shrouds. Their cry, a call to justice, reverberates through time, a testament to a people, whose spirit is sublime. Palestine's sons and daughters rise, their spirits unyielding in the pursuit of justice. Stones cast in defiance, voices raised in protest; each act of resistance is a testament to the unwavering courage of a people unwilling to bow to oppression. The price of their defiance is steep, yet they endure, fueled by a belief in the righteousness of their cause. As the world bears witness to their struggle, this is an appeal to the conscience of humanity. Let it also bear witness to their unwavering resolve, and may it stand in solidarity with those who seek justice, equality, and the right to self-determination for all. Let not the world be deafened, let not the conscience sleep. To the plight of Palestine. For in the face of darkness, a beacon shines afar. A call for love, for empathy, for a just and lasting spar. For indeed, the war will end. The leaders will shake hands. But Did you see who paid the price?

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Gaza ground invasion: Fears of escalation

Already thousands of Palestinians have been killed as Israeli jets and artillery pound the Gaza Strip. What started as a horrific attack against civilians last week – when Hamas massacred more than 1,300 Israelis – is bringing horrible devastation to the coastal enclave. UN facilities have come under fire, journalists have been killed and hospitals bombed. Israel has also acknowledged hitting targets without any warning, as was offered in the past. According to the country's leading human rights group, B'Tselem, Israel's bombing and blockade amounts to "a criminal policy of revenge". With a ground invasion imminent, many Palestinians have fled their homes in response to Israel's demand that Palestinians in the north move south of the Wadi Gaza riverbed. But most of Gaza's hospitals are in the north, prompting the World Health Organization to say the order is a "death sentence" to patients. The temporary removal of civilians in war zones can be lawful. Egypt, reportedly, is being offered a debt write-off if it accepts refugees – risking Cairo being complicit in forcing Palestinians out of Gaza for good. As Jan Ege-land, secretary of the Norwegian Refugee Council, said, without guarantees of safety or return, the evacuation order "would amount to the war crime of forcible transfer". The worry is that Israel's call is less about protecting civilian lives and more an attempt to give itself diplomatic cover for Palestinian deaths. Shuttle diplomacy appears to be moderating its war plans. Southern Gaza will get water, though it remains without food, fuel and electricity. Humanitarian corridors have allowed Gazans to head south. But the bombing of 70 civilians along a designated safe route, very probably by Israeli munitions, has undermined faith in a secure flight. Israel has the right to defend itself. International law allows for necessary and proportionate force in self-defence. It does not permit collective punishment. Belatedly, Joe Biden has spelled out that the overwhelming majority of Palestinians had nothing to do with the massacres. Both the UK government and Labour agree and aren't willing to censure Israel – yet – for its plans or its behaviour. It should not be hard to condemn Hamas and name its actions as evil, while also condemning war crimes committed by Israeli forces. More Palestinians have been killed in Gaza in one week than in the six-plus weeks of war in 2014. About half are women and children. While some of those who have lost the most call for peace and understanding, in Britain others not directly affected, sickeningly, seek to spread hate. There have been sharp rises reported in antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents. Things could spiral out of control. Hezbollah is bombing Israel's northern border. Haaretz says "settlers are trying to drag Israel into war in the West Bank". A ceasefire is needed. Hamas should free the hostages – or face its leadership being wiped out at terrible human cost, as Israel will probably use more force than is needed to address its threat. The hurt that Israelis must feel cannot be underestimated or minimised. But military overreaction will only deepen the hatred between two peoples. The current path is a bloody road to nowhere.



No reason for Canberra to not boost relations

Some Western media outlets describing as worrying the possible thawing of Sino-Australian ties, as indicated by the Australian government's announcement that a senior defense official will attend the Beijing Xiangshan Forum, an international security forum, from Oct 29 to 31, suggests the United States-led West doesn't want the normalization of Beijing-Canberra relations. The fuss they are making over Canberra's openness to security exchanges with Beijing exposes their anxiety, as if an Australian defense official's presence in the forum – which Australia took part in before 2019 since when it had been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic – means betraying the "cause" of the US-led anti-China schemes to which Australia is a party. Australia is a member of the US-led security partnerships and alliances such as Quad (along with the US, Japan India) and AUKUS (with the United States and the United Kingdom), the Five Eyes intelligence council, as well as the anti-China economic alliance – the "Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity". To some diehard anti-China politicians in the US, Australia being the only non-US member in all the four partnerships should mean a quadruple insurance of Canberra's loyalty to Washington's China-containment strategy, making it the least likely country in the US camp to get close to China. As such, the efforts of the US and its allies to dissuade Australia from normalizing relations with China will intensify. Those making a fuss about Australia's decision to attend the security dialogue, which Australian Defense Minister Richard Marles said last week is important to understand each other and make "sure there's no miscalculation", should know that avoiding misjudgment accords with the interests of all parties. And importantly, defense and security exchanges in different forms and at different levels between China and the US, as well as other US allies including India and Japan, have not been halted all these years. An important reason why the Anthony Albanese administration is seeking a new equilibrium between China and the US is that the path chosen by the preceding Scott Morrison administration is not sustainable, simply because Washington cannot find Canberra a new trading partner of the size of and as reliable as China. Also, if Prime Minister Albanese visits China this year, a trip he said he was looking forward to, Sino-Australian relations will further stabilize. As China's ambassador to Australia Xiao Qian said at a regional development forum in Melbourne last week, "China regards Australia as a friend. There is no reason for Australia to see China as a threat." Similarly, there is no reason for the two sides to not further expand their mutually beneficial cooperation. While doing so, they should properly handle their differences and not allow them to hinder the pace of their collaboration.

Belt and road forum, reinforcing Pak-China ties

Qamar Bashir



The overarching aim of the BRI is to foster economic connectivity, trade, and infrastructure development spanning the vast expanse of Asia, Europe, and Africa, bolster collaboration among nations by constructing an intricate web of roads, railways, ports, and diverse infrastructure projects. Beyond physical connectivity, it encompasses financial cooperation, cultural exchanges, and the nurturing of people-to-people relationships. It encompasses the pursuit of fresh markets for its goods and services, addressing overcapacity in sectors such as construction and steel production, and augmenting its geopolitical influence on the global stage. Concurrently, it endeavors to stimulate economic growth in less-developed regions within China while championing the global expansion of Chinese enterprises. The visit of the Pakistan Prime Minister is notable because the China-Pakistan bilateral relationship is among the strongest globally. This relationship is often described as an "all-weather strategic cooperative partnership" and with phrases like "Higher than the Himalayas, deeper than the ocean, sweeter than honey, and stronger than steel. It is characterized by a high level of trust and cooperation, and encompasses diverse areas of shared interests, including trade, security, and regional cooperation. China values Pakistan's strategic location, which bridges South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East, making it crucial for China's efforts to expand its influence in these regions. Pakistan's large and growing economy, coupled with its youthful population, presents an attractive market for Chinese goods and services. Additionally, both countries share common interests in regional security, including countering terrorism and extremism. This reinforces the multifaceted importance of the China-Pakistan relationship in the current global context. China is indeed Pakistan's largest trading partner. In the fiscal year 2020-2021, the bilateral trade volume between China and Pakistan reached approximately \$17.5 billion. China has consistently ranked as Pakistan's top source of imports. China has historically supported Pakistan on international issues, particularly concerning the Kashmir dispute. Pakistan, in return, has supported China's positions on sensitive matters such as Xinjiang, Tibet, and Taiwan. This mutual support enhances the countries' influence on the global stage. The two nations have fostered strong people-to-people ties. An increasing number of Pakistani students study in China, facilitated by Chinese scholarships and training for Pakistani teachers. Additionally, a growing Chinese communi-

ty in Pakistan further cements these connections. China shares its technological expertise with Pakistan in critical fields, including artificial intelligence, renewable energy, and space technology. This collaboration contributes to Pakistan's technological development and industrial growth. As members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), they work together to promote regional security and cooperation in Central Asia. They also cooperate within the G77, a forum for developing countries to advocate their common interests on a wide array of international issues. Pakistan and China collaborate and support each other's positions within the OIC. The upcoming visit of the Prime Minister holds great significance, as the Prime Minister will be interacting with other world leaders attending the forum to pursue both bilateral, multilateral and international cooperations. This includes engaging with various global leaders to articulate Pakistan's perspective on international issues and conflicts, such as the Russia-Ukraine War, Hamas-Israel conflict and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. More importantly, it will allow Pakistan to showcase the success of CPEC, a flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative, and a cornerstone of China's broader vision of expanding its economic and strategic influence on the global stage. This could potentially encourage other participating countries to follow a similar path, CPEC offers numerous advantages to both China and Pakistan. Specifically, it provides China with a more efficient route to the Arabian Sea, significantly enhancing its connectivity and trade options. Meanwhile, Pakistan stands to gain substantial economic growth and development through CPEC. CPEC addresses critical issues, such as energy shortages, trade facilitation, and regional connectivity. By doing so, it holds the promise of generating employment, promoting industrialization, and fostering economic collaboration in Pakistan. The motorways and other road networks built under CPEC have enhanced connectivity within Pakistan and with neighboring countries. Under this project, approximately 888 kilometers of new motorways and highways have been constructed, with another 853 kilometers of high-quality roads currently under construction. Several completed motorways, such as the Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (Multan - Sukkur Section), Hakla - D.I. Khan Motorway, and the Orange Line Metro Train in Lahore, have already been operational. Furthermore, initiatives like the Main Line-I (ML-I) railway upgrade project and developments in Gwadar, including the New Gwadar International Airport, the Pak-China Friendship Hospital, Gwadar East Bay Expressway, and the Gwadar Technical & Vocational Institute, have further enhanced regional connectivity and economic prospects. Gwadar, Pakistan's deep-sea port on the Arabian Sea, is a key component of CPEC and has the potential to become a major regional trade and transit hub. Extensive investments in Gwadar port and associated infrastructure, including roads, railways, and pipelines, are increasing connectivity and facilitating trade with neighboring nations, such as China, Iran,

and Afghanistan. CPEC has already achieved remarkable progress in the energy sector, with the completion of eleven power projects totaling over 6,370 MW. This includes the installation of 880 km of transmission lines, with additional projects expected to be completed by 2023-2024, ensuring a much-needed power supply for socio-economic and industrial growth. Furthermore, CPEC investments have created approximately 192,000 jobs and their secondary effects have contributed to economic development. CPEC is now in its second phase, focusing on socio-economic development, science and technology, agricultural cooperation, and industrialization. Of the 27 agreed-upon socioeconomic development projects, 17 fast-track projects have been initiated, with seven already completed and five in progress. This illustrates the continued commitment to strengthening economic and strategic ties between China and Pakistan. Valued at approximately \$37 billion and predominantly funded by China, his phase encompasses the development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), attracting foreign investment, reducing tariffs to boost trade, and enhancing agricultural productivity, along with investments in social welfare, infrastructure, and facilitating trade and investment between Pakistan and China, as well as with other nations through trade exhibitions and business forums. In future, both BRI and CPEC are likely to continue development and expansion. The BRI is expected to continue expanding into more regions and countries. China has expressed its intent to strengthen economic ties with nations along the BRI routes, further deepening economic cooperation and connectivity. China has shown interest in addressing concerns related to debt sustainability, transparency, and environmental impacts, aiming to improve the reputation of the initiative. In future, BRI may expand from infrastructure, trade, and economic development to digital infrastructure, green energy, and technological cooperation. The relationship between Pakistan and China stands as a beacon of strategic collaboration and shared interests, exemplifying the profound significance of their all-weather friendship. Their unwavering support for each other on international platforms, particularly on issues such as the Kashmir dispute and Xinjiang, underscores the strength of this partnership. The resounding success of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) highlights the transformative potential of their cooperation, fostering economic growth, energy security, and regional connectivity. As Pakistan takes part in the Belt and Road Forum (BRF), it seizes an invaluable opportunity to not only project CPEC as a model of accomplishment but also to further contribute to the global objectives of the Belt and Road Initiative. This forum serves as a platform for Pakistan to amplify its voice on international matters and advocate for multilateralism, ultimately enhancing the prospects of not just bilateral success but global cooperation and prosperity.

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

Pakistan needs to take a clearer position on Israeli aggression

Zahid Hussain

The Palestinians, India has declared its support for Israel. For Islamabad particularly, rising tensions in the Middle East carry political as well as economic consequences with the elections approaching. Thousands of Pakistanis took to the streets in several parts of the country to protest Israel's siege and fierce bombing on the Gaza Strip. Islamabad has responded

Israel's declaration of war on Gaza will have far-reaching implications for the Middle East and beyond. There is no sign of the war ending soon; in fact, there is a danger of it sweeping the entire region. South Asia may not be directly affected but the escalating war will have serious implications for the sub-continent. While Pakistan is standing with the Palestinians, India has declared its support for Israel. For Islamabad particularly, rising tensions in the Middle East carry political as well as economic consequences with the elections approaching. Thousands of Pakistanis took to the streets in several parts of the country to protest Israel's siege and fierce bombing on the Gaza Strip. Islamabad has responded to the Israeli war with an unusually measured tone. Instead of blaming the conflict squarely on Israeli policy, Pakistan has so far taken a softer approach, and has simply expressed concerns over the escalating situation. The public outrage is likely to increase with the worsening plight of besieged Palestinians, thus increasing the pressure on the government to take a tougher position in support of Gaza. Islamabad has responded to the Israeli war with an unusually measured tone. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has threatened the Israeli response will change the Middle East. Indeed, the ongoing war is already changing regional geopolitics. The war has already extended along Lebanese borders with Hezbollah getting involved in the conflict. Last week's assault led by Hamas may have come as a surprise to Israel and its West-

ern allies but its roots lie in the long occupation of Palestinian land and the ongoing atrocities carried out by the Israeli forces. There has been a constant expansion of Israeli settlements, displacing the Palestinian population. Gaza which has been termed the world's "largest open-air prison" has borne the brunt of Israeli atrocities over the past five decades. Among the world's most densely populated areas, Gaza is described by the UN secretary general as a "hell on earth". It has been in a constant state of blockade, making the territory a picture of humanitarian crises. Children have been major victims of the constant Israeli bombardment and blockade. Israel's latest aerial strikes have turned a large part of the territory into rubble. Now the hapless population of Gaza is bracing for a ground invasion by Israel after it ordered over a million residents of northern Gaza to evacuate as a ground invasion of the besieged territory by Tel Aviv is imminent. But the grim truth is that Gaza's bloodied and brutalized population has nowhere to go, as Israel has sealed the strip, while Egypt has closed its borders. As the UN has noted, the Israeli evacuation order is impossible to carry out, while the UN relief body has said Gaza is "on the brink of human catastrophe." All these miseries of a long-colonized people have not shaken the conscience of the West. It looks away from Israel's apartheid policies. Israel's use of brute military force. Not surprisingly, the US and other Western countries have backed Israel's brutal actions. Israel's latest war has dealt a huge blow to US sponsored peace negotiations

between Israel and Saudi Arabia. There seems to be no possibility now for the resumption of peace negotiations in the current atmosphere of heightened tensions and the danger of the war turning into a wider regional conflict. Unlike past US presidents, Biden has made no direct effort to foster peace talks between the Israelis and Palestinians. Keeping the Palestinians out of the process will not bring long-term peace to the Middle East. Pakistan has historically supported the Palestinian struggle against Zionist occupation and their right to statehood. Pakistan frequently provides various forms of humanitarian aid to the Palestinian Authority. The Pakistan Air Force sent a group of its fighter pilots to engage the Israelis in combat during the 1967 Six-Day War and the 1973 Yom Kippur War, greatly bolstering the Palestinians who were suffering repeated defeats to the Israel Defense Forces. Pakistan remains a staunch supporter of the proposal for the creation of an independent Palestinian state, and in line with its pro-Palestinian doctrine, does not recognize the state of Israel. Islamabad's stated position is that it will recognize Israel's sovereignty if the latter withdraws its forces from the Israeli-occupied territories and allows an independent Palestinian state to be established. While in the present circumstances Pakistan can play a limited role in resolution of the current crisis, its moral and political support from the OIC platform is critical. It must take a clearer position on Israeli war against people of Gaza.

—Sourced by Arab news

Briefs

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which were laid more than 70 years ago," he said. Kakar said the timeless Pakistan-China partnership and deep-rooted friendship serve the interests of both countries and remain the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy. He said Pakistan and its people, with absolute confidence, value the relationship greatly, and proudly call China as best friend. It is heart-warming that in China, the term "Ba Tie" meaning Iron Brother is reserved only for Pakistan, he added. He termed the historical evolution of the Pakistan-China relationship amid the evolving regional and global developments as an "exemplary model of inter-state relationship". "The unique relationship of more than seven decades, underpinned by the rationale of strong political support, mutual trust, and all-round practical cooperation, has matured into a strong strategic partnership," he said.

Egypt says Gaza aid stuck...

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We're putting in place with the United Nations, with Egypt, with Israel, with others, a mechanism by which to get the assistance in and to get it to people who need it," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said after a meeting with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi on Sunday. Blinken did not give a specific time for the crossing to reopen. Veteran US diplomat David Satterfield, appointed on Sunday as a special envoy for Middle East humanitarian issues, will arrive in Egypt on Monday to work out the details, Blinken said. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office on Monday denied reports of any temporary Gaza cease-fire to allow foreign nationals to flee the enclave to neighboring Egypt.

Sanjrani, Indonesian envoy...

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focusing on trade, culture, and tourism. During the meeting, the favorable investment climate in Pakistan was underscored, with Chairman Senate encouraging Indonesian businessmen to explore investment opportunities. Stressing the necessity to boost the trade volume between the two countries, he also emphasized the importance of reinforcing parliamentary ties and fostering economic diplomacy. The parties delved into the intricate situation in Palestine, advocating a resolution aligned with UN resolutions. Chairman Senate urged world powers to exert pressure on Israel, emphasizing the need to halt the suffering of innocent Palestinians. In addressing the global challenge of Islamophobia, Chairman Senate emphasized the significance of unity and consensus among Muslim nations.

'Pakistan to maintain positive...

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services company, while she is on a visit to Morocco to attend the World Bank and International Monetary Fund's annual meeting. The interim financial minister had earlier underscored the cash-strapped nation's commitment to further economic prosperity and global financial cooperation. The minister also participated in a high-profile meeting of the Managing Director International Monetary Fund, Kristalina Georgieva, with the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan (MENAP) finance ministers and state bank governors in Morocco, where the discussions encompassed key global economic issues and collaborative efforts to strengthen financial stability. Meanwhile, Dr Akhtar met with the Minister of State for Financial Affairs of UAE Mohamed bin Hadi Al Hussaini and discussed matters relating to the mutual interests.

Teachers protest delayed bill for family protection

FDE on Monday took to roads to register their protest against what they called 'mysterious' delay by the government in sending their bill to the President House for signature

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad's teachers working on deputation under wedlock in different schools of the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) on Monday took to roads to register their protest against what they called 'mysterious' delay by the government in sending their bill to the President House for signature. The bill "Protection of Family Life & Wedlock Bill 2023" was passed by both Houses of the Parliament—The National Assembly and the Senate—two months ago in August and was destined to land in the President House for President Dr Arif Alvi's assent in the same month. The bill aims at permanent absorption of around 300 lady teachers working under wedlock in various schools of FDE for last many years. However, since August 7 when the bill was passed by the Senate, it has not been sent to the President and is taking rounds from one section of the Prime Minister's Office to the other. While condemning this inadvertent delay on part of the PMO, these teachers, mostly women teachers, held protest outside the National Press Club and chanted slogans and regretted that bureaucracy proved more



powerful than the Parliament as a legislation passed by the Parliament is lying at its mercy. They had arrived with their families braving the cold wind and showers. They were holding placards and banners on which were inscribed slogans such as "Paliamant ko Izzat Do" "Ustaad ko Izzat Do" and "Don't Distrub Family Life of Teachers." The protesting teachers were even determined to march towards the Prime Minister's Office, however, the local administration with the help of the police and the FC stopped them requested them to postpone their march as they would arrange negotiations between them and the quarters concerned in the PM Office. One of the lady teachers while speaking on the occasion, said they were surprised why an ordinary bill related with the welfare and family life protection of the teachers was be-

ing withheld by the government's officials. "Kindly send our bill to the President and let him decide its fate," said she. Another teacher said it was unfortunate that bureaucrats sitting in the PM Office were undermining the wisdom of the Parliament. Our protest will continue unless reason prevails and our bill is forwarded to President House, said she. 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 gone missing in the corridors of the Prime Minister's Office and is yet to be traced and sent to the Awan-e-Sadr for President's signature, she said. "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 another protesting teacher. Despite the Law Ministry's clear observation, the bill was again kept and not routed to President House.

Hurkacz beats Rublev to win Shanghai Masters in thriller



DNA

SHANGHAI: Hubert Hurkacz saved a match point before defeating fifth seed Andrey Rublev 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (10/8) to win a thrilling Shanghai Masters final on Sunday. It was the big-serving Pole's second Masters triumph, to go with the one he won in Miami in 2021, and a seventh ATP title in all. "It was such a battle, especially emotionally," the

16th seed said after surviving a nail-biting third-set tie break in front of the watching Roger Federer. "I had a match point and Andrey hit an amazing serve and then he had a match point and then I had some match points. "It was back and forth and such a tricky match." Hurkacz had Rublev under pressure early and broke the Russian with a vicious whipped forehand that Rublev had no chance of returning to lead 4-2 in

the first set. The 25-year-old Rublev let out an angry roar in response and then Hurkacz easily held his own booming serve to go up 5-2. The Pole Hurkacz came into the final with a tournament-leading 77 aces and Rublev could not handle his blistering serve. Hurkacz sealed the first set in 31 minutes – and it was inevitably with another ace. He sent down 21 over the course of a topsy-turvy final. It was the first set

that Rublev had dropped in Shanghai. But Rublev, who won the Monte Carlo Masters in April, struck back to break his opponent's torpedo of a serve for a 2-0 lead at the start of the second set. A rejuvenated Rublev kept the 26-year-old Hurkacz at bay to send them into a deciding third set. Rublev on Saturday described his angry outbursts in his semi-final win over Grigor Dimitrov as "ugly" and he was struggling again with his emotions at times. In contrast, Hurkacz went about his business with quiet determination. Serving at 4-5 in a gripping third set, Rublev saved a match point – having been booed by the crowd moments earlier for aggressively approaching and shouting at court-side photographers. The battling duo went into the tie break, where Hurkacz finally prevailed. Hurkacz said that self-belief carried him through, even when he was down in the tie break and staring defeat in the face.

Waqar tells Shaheen to copy Bumrah WC blueprint

NEW DELHI: Pakistan legend Waqar Younis on Monday advised misfiring strike bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi to learn from India seamer Jasprit Bumrah if he wants to make an impact at the ICC World Cup 2023. Shaheen Afridi is struggling with his pace and fitness and has been unimpressive in all three games at the ICC World Cup 2023 where his four wickets have come at a cost of 139 runs. "I don't know if there is a problem with his fitness," Waqar, who is in India as a commentator, told AFP. "The missing link in his bowling is discipline and he is over trying to get wickets. "When you do the same thing again and again, like Shaheen is bowling to get his yorker going, then batsmen know that and they are ready for it." Waqar Younis suggested Shaheen Afridi should follow the example set by Bumrah who he described as a "top bowler." The Indian spearhead is the joint top wicket-taker in the ICC World Cup 2023 with eight wickets at just 11.52. New Zealand spinner Mitchell Santner and fast bowler Matt Henry also have eight victims each. India thumped Pakistan by seven wickets in Ahmedabad on Saturday, with Shaheen unable to help Pakistan defend a meagre 192-run target. In contrast, Bumrah dismissed Mohammad Rizwan and Shadab Khan with two well-executed deliveries to finish with 2-19 in seven overs. "Bumrah is creating pressure and his line is top of the off stump. He bowled so well against Pakistan and created pressure to get wickets," said Waqar. Shaheen, 23, has been leading Pakistan's new-ball attack since taking 16 wickets in five World Cup games in the United Kingdom four years ago. He has been likened to former great Wasim Akram who with 414 Test and 502 ODI wickets was regarded as one of the best left-arm pacers to have played cricket. But former India allrounder Ravi Shastri blasted the comparison during the Pakistan-India match, saying: "Shaheen is no Wasim Akram," claiming that the Pakistan star is "not special." – Agencies

Australia down SL to register first win in WC

SPORTS DESK

LUCKNOW: Australia defeated Sri Lanka by five wickets to register their first win in the ongoing ICC World Cup 2023 in Lucknow on Monday. Australia had suffered losses in their first two games of the mega event. However, Sri Lanka suffered their third straight defeat in the tournament with their semi-final qualification hopes hanging by a thread. Five-time champions Australia injected some life into their moribund World Cup campaign with the victory. Beaten by India and South Africa in the first two matches, Australia showed some urgency with the ball and bundled out Sri Lanka for 209 inside 44 overs with Adam Zampa leading the rout on figures of 4-47. At 157-1 near the halfway stage, Sri Lanka looked poised to reach the 300-mark before the wheels came off their innings and they had to settle for a below-par total. After strong winds delayed the start of their chase, Australia made heavy weather of a small target before Josh Inglis made 58 and Glenn Maxwell (31) stayed put to see them home with nearly 15 overs to spare. The Cricket World Cup will be played in the round-robin format with all teams playing against each other for a total of 45 league matches.

Cricket returns to Olympics, LA28 Inclusion: IOC

THE International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Monday, approving the inclusion of cricket in the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028 (LA28), paved the way for the sport to make its historic comeback to the Olympics after more than a century. It is pertinent to know that much less known to the public, cricket has actually been part of the Olympics when England took on France in a "one-off" match in Paris with the former winning the gold back in 1900. The IOC – choosing cricket's shortest T20 format – also gave a nod for the inclusion of baseball/softball, flag football, squash and lacrosse for the 2028 games scheduled to be held in the United States. The IOC's executive board last week accepted a proposal by LA organisers for the five sports to be included. During Monday's IOC session, only two delegates at the session voted against the new sports. Organisers have proposed a

six-team event, in both men's and women's sports. The United States is set to field sides as the host nation, but no firm decision has been made on the number of teams, or how they will qualify. It would tap into the lucrative South Asian market, attracting fans in countries such as India and Pakistan. The Indian Premier League, featuring cricket's global stars, has helped India become the unquestioned economic driving force of the sport, thanks to legions of fans and lucrative broadcasting deals in a nation where the game is almost a religion. Meanwhile, Major League Cricket, a professional T20 League, launched in the United States in July, with the US as the co-host of next year's men's T20 World Cup together with territories in the West Indies. "It's a win-win situation," International Cricket Council chairman Greg Barclay told reporters in Mumbai, of cricket's inclusion in the LA 2028 programme.

"We've got a global sport, what I think is the fastest-growing global sport, but getting onto the biggest sporting stage in the world, the Olympics, is a massive shot in the arm for the game." Explaining the push for cricket's inclusion, Los Angeles 2028 chairman Casey Wasserman, said: "It's a sport that is incredibly popular around the world, it's growing in the United States. The diaspora in the US is growing and engaged and exciting. "We think the opportunity to bring a sport that has 2.5 billion rabid fans to what we think is the greatest sports city in the world, it's a really powerful combination." IOC president Thomas Bach said the five new sports' additions would "showcase iconic American sports to the world while bringing international sports to the United States". Among the newly included US sports is flag football – a limited-contact form of American football. – Agencies

IHC rejects Imran Khan plea...

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year, requested the IHC that his trial be held in a court and not the jail. "The jail trial is in favour of the PTI chairman in view of his security," the court said, adding that Khan has repeatedly expressed his fears about his safety. Meanwhile, PTI Vice Chairman Vice Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi has also filed a petition in the IHC challenging his jail trial and requesting the court to annul the trial court's order of October 9 in which the special court said that both Khan and the senior politician will be indicted in the cipher case on October 17. 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. Qureshi's petition argued that the court restrained the trial court from indicting him. "My jail trial continues without notification. The court should stop the jail trial and direct an open trial," Qureshi pleaded in his petition. He also requested the court to conduct the hearing on the matter today. On the other hand, the IHC also heard Khan's another plea seeking dismissal of cipher case and stay of its trial.

Farrukh Habib joins Tareen's IPP

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several Imran loyalists have also joined hands with them. Habib, announcing the development during a press conference at the IPP's head office in Lahore alongside the party's top leadership, said the May 9 events were condemnable and he was taken aback by them. "It will be remembered as a dark day," he said. Habib, who was one of the pioneer members of PTI's student organisation, said: "I wasn't at my house for the past five months [...] and for the last few weeks, I wasn't even in contact with my family," the former state minister for information told journalists. "Since May 9, we did not face the law and were away from our houses. For the past few months, I was constantly pondering whether I joined politics for this reason?" he said. This setback to PTI comes weeks after two prominent leaders, Sadaqat Ali Abbasi and Usman Dar, parted ways with the former ruling party due to the May 9 events. PTI Chairman Imran was arrested in a graft case on May 9, triggering strong protests from the party across the country in which state installations were targeted.

1/3rd of Afghans face 'acute'...

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people don't know where their next meal comes from," the global body said in a statement on X on Monday. "That is 1/3 of the population," it added. Even before the powerful deadly earthquakes that jolted north-western Herat province which borders neighbouring Iran, nearly 29 million people – two-thirds of the Afghan population – needed humanitarian aid and protection in 2023. The number is up from 24.4 million in 2022 and 18.4 million in 2021. Since the Taliban returned to power over two years ago, Afghanistan has been facing grave economic challenges. It comes amid a blockade of around \$7 billion Afghan foreign reserves by the US since the Taliban returned to power in August 2021. "The Herat earthquake(s) is yet another disaster on top of an already dire humanitarian crisis. Afghans need urgent support," the WFP added.

Pakistan sending aid to Gaza

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the suffering of the Palestinian brothers and sisters. The Government is coordinating with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, relevant UN agencies, the Government of Egypt and Pakistan Missions abroad to finalize modalities of delivery.

Pakistan aims for history in FIFA 2026 Qualifiers

Pakistan will face Cambodia today with a big hope to win the first ever victory in the history of FIFA World Cup Qualifiers

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will face Cambodia today with a big hope to win the first ever victory in the history of FIFA World Cup Qualifiers in the home leg (second round) match of FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifiers at Jinnah Stadium, Pakistan Sports Complex Islamabad. Following the goalless first leg draw, both teams held indoor practice sessions due to rain and eyeing to win the important contest as Pakistan is hosting an international event after a long eight years with the support of Pakistan Sports Board (PSB). Since it first entered World Cup qualifying in 1990, the Pakistan football team has never won a qualification match; it has managed to

draw only three of 32 games, scoring 10 goals while conceding 124. Having the assistance of the recently-hired English coach Stephen Constantine, Pakistan also have seven overseas players in their ranks who will be part of the playing XI against a well-settled side being handled by Argentinian coach Felix Agustín Dalmas. Speaking to the media, Cambodian team head coach Felix Agustín Dalmas thanked Pakistani people and the organisers for the warm welcome on their arrival as well as sports facilities are very good here, adding that the first leg held at Cambodia was a tough one and Pakistan is the favorite to win this important match at home as they will have big audience support. He said that Pakistan team is a different team to compare 2019 FIFA



WC qualifiers where we won both matches but now Pakistan team improved their standard of playing game especially they added dual national players in the squad. On the other hand, Pakistan football team coach Stephen Constantine is also optimistic that Pakistan would perform better against Cambodia in the home league match of the FIFA Qualifiers, adding that we are hopeful that players will show their best in the match. Stephen Constantine said that after eight years, a big international match is going to take place in Islamabad and our focus is on winning against the Cambodian team. "Pakistan has not had an international game for a long time and the players are working very hard for the good game he said, adding that A professional football league is should be held in Pakistan to boost the football at international level as if there is no professional league then there will be no good future of football in the country". Responding to a question, he said that India has improved in the game due to the professional and

other football leagues but footballers with dual citizenship were not allowed to represent the Indian national team. "The Pakistan Football Federation has allowed the players of dual citizenship in the team. However, FIFA has not yet decided about Otis Khan's citizenship and he will be part of the team if the decision is made," he said. Pakistan Squad: Goalkeepers: Usman Ali, Salman-ul-Haq, Yousuf Butt; Defenders: Mamon Moosa Khan, Mohibullah, Sohail Khan, Junaid Shah, Ali Khan Niazi, Rao Umar Hayat, Abdullah Iqbal, Easah Suliman; Midfielders: Alamgir Ghazi, Ali Uzair, Rajab Ali, Nizamuddin, Harun Hamid, Rahis Nabi; Forwards: Waleed Khan, Mohammad Waheed, Yousuf, Faraed Khan, Abdul Samad, Otis Khan, Moin Ahmed, Shayak Dost.

Briefs

Nigeria's inflation rises to 26.72 in Sept

ABUJA : Nigeria's annual inflation rose to 26.72% in September from 25.8% in August, its bureau of statistics said on Monday. Food and non alcoholic beverages were the biggest contributors to the rise in inflation, the bureau said. President Bola Tinubu has been under pressure to ease economic hardship after scrapping a costly decades-old petrol subsidy that has tripled prices and allowed the naira to depreciate more than 50%, leading to soaring prices in Africa's top oil producer and most populous nation. Inflation in Africa's biggest economy has risen to double-digits since 2016, eroding incomes and savings, and prompting the central bank to hike interest rates to their highest level in nearly two decades. —APP

Tokyo stocks open lower

TOKYO: Tokyo stocks opened lower on Monday after falls in US tech shares. The benchmark Nikkei 225 index was down 1.05 percent, or 340.27 points, at 31,975.72 in early trade, while the broader Topix index slipped 0.82 percent, or 19.01 points, to 2,289.74. "Japanese shares are expected to start with falls following losses in US high-tech stocks" on Friday, Monex senior market analyst Toshiyuki Kanayama said. Wall Street stocks mostly declined on Friday as traders assessed bank earnings, inflation concerns and worries over the Middle East. The Dow Jones Industrial Average edged up 0.1 percent to 33,670.29, while the broad-based S&P 500 Index slid 0.5 percent and the tech-heavy Nasdaq plunged 1.2 percent. The dollar fetched 149.49 yen in early Asian trade, against 149.53 yen in New York on Friday. Masayuki Kubota, chief strategist of Rakuten Securities, said Japanese shares were supported by the "sound Japanese economy and corporate performances" but that worries over US interest rate were holding back gains. Looking ahead, investors are watching US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's speech on Thursday, said senior analyst Tapas Strickland of National Australia Bank. —APP

GITEX GLOBAL 2023 opens with Huawei center stage

DNA

DUBAI: At GITEX GLOBAL 2023, Huawei is showcasing its latest ICT innovations, reaffirming its commitment to empowering digital transformation through Artificial Intelligence (AI) across various industries to help them make the most of intelligence. The global ICT leader is demonstrating new industry solutions and use cases in the domains of cloud, advanced network capabilities, cybersecurity, and digital power technologies, according to a news release. Founded in 1987, Huawei is a leading global provider of information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure and smart devices. With more than 207,000 employees, operations in more than 170 countries and regions, and serving more than three billion people around the world, Huawei is the Gold Sponsor of GITEX GLOBAL 2023 and the lead sponsor for the event's cybersecurity program, Cyber Valley. Huawei is showcasing intelligent industry solutions designed to meet the specific needs of different industries, including public services, finance, oil & gas, electric power, transportation, and ISP. In the AI era, Huawei Enterprise Network delivers limitless computing power via ubiquitous connectivity, providing enhanced and more intelligent AI network services to global users. At GITEX, the company will launch Intelligent Cloud-Network to accelerate intelligent upgrades, which fully unleashes computing power with super-connectivity for unsurpassed AI productivity in the AI era.



ISLAMABAD : Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq, Hamid Abbas Lafta, calling on Chairman at Parliament house.—DNA

Tusk claims victory as ruling conservatives lose majority

Tusk declared the beginning of a new era for his country after opposition parties appeared to have won enough votes in parliamentary election

NEWS DESK

WARSAW : Polish opposition leader Donald Tusk declared the beginning of a new era for his country after opposition parties appeared to have won enough votes in parliamentary election to oust the governing nationalist conservative party. That party, Law and Justice, has bickered with allies and faced accusations of eroding rule of law at home in its eight years in power. It appeared that voters were mobilized like never before, voting in even greater numbers than when the nation ousted the communist authorities in 1989. Exit poll results pegged it at a record 72.9 percent. In some places people were still in line when polling officially closed, but all were allowed to vote. If the result predicted by the exit poll holds, Law and Justice won but also lost. It got more seats than any other party but fewer than in the previous election and not enough to be able to lead a government that can pass laws in the legislature. The Ipsos exit poll suggested that Law and Justice obtained 200 seats. Its potential partner, the far-right Confederation got 12 seats, a showing the party acknowledged was a defeat. It also showed that three opposition



parties have likely won a combined 248 seats in the 460-seat lower house of parliament, the Sejm. The largest of the groups is Civic Coalition, led by Tusk, a former prime minister and former European Union president. It won 31.6 percent of votes, the exit poll said. "I have been a politician for many years. I'm an athlete. Never in my life have I been so happy about taking seemingly second place. Poland won.

Democracy has won. We have removed them from power," Tusk told his cheering supporters. "This result might still be better, but already today we can say this is the end of the bad time, this is the end of Law and Justice rule," Tusk added. Law and Justice leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski acknowledged the ambiguous result. He told supporters at his headquarters that his party's result, at nearly 37 percent of the vote,

according to the exit poll, was a success, making it the party to win the most votes for three parliamentary elections in a row. "We must have hope and we must also know that regardless of whether we are in power or in the opposition, we will implement this (political) project in various ways and we will not allow Poland to be betrayed," Kaczynski said. If the result holds, and Law and Justice is the single party with the most

seats, then it would most likely get the first chance to try to build a government.

It falls to President Andrzej Duda, who is an ally of Law and Justice, to tap a party to try to form a government. Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said on Polsat News that Duda "will entrust the mission of forming the government to the winning party and in this first step we will certainly try to build a parliamentary majority." The question arose whether it would obtain the new parliament's approval.

Three opposition parties, Tusk's Civic Coalition, Third Way and the New Left, ran on separate tickets but with the same promises of seeking to oust Law and Justice and restore good ties with the European Union. Wlodzimierz Czarzasty, a leader of the Left party, vowed to work with the others to "create a democratic, strong, reasonable and predictable government." Katarzyna Pelczynska-Nalecz, the head of election campaign for Third Way, called it a "huge day for our democracy." Votes were still being counted and the state electoral commission says it expects to have final results by Tuesday morning. The high turnout also extended the count of Ipsos' late poll, based on findings from 50 percent of the voting stations, which was still not published in the early hours of Monday.

Macron calls for 'ruthless' govt response after teacher killed

WEB DESK

PARIS: France's president on Monday called for a "ruthless" government response to those with terrorist ideologies, days after a teacher was stabbed to death in what he has called an act of "Islamist terror." Emmanuel Macron wants his ministers "to embody a ruthless state toward all those who harbor hate and terrorist ideologies," a senior aide told reporters. He has called on police to comb through their files of radicals who could be deported from France to make sure no one was overlooked and has told the interior minister to take a "special approach to young men between the ages of 16-

25 from the Caucasus," the aide said. At 2pm, all schools across France will observe a minute's silence. The Gamba-Carnot high school in Arras, where the attack happened, was evacuated on Monday morning after a bomb alert. Police explosive experts arrived at the site as teachers and students were given psychological support before being allowed back into the building. The 20-year-old suspect, who was arrested at the scene, remained in police custody on Monday, and French media reported that he was not answering investigators' questions. Police named him as Mohammed Moguchkov, who was born in Russia's predominantly Muslim North Caucasus republic of Ingushetia and re-

portedly arrived in France at the age of five. He was on a French national register as a potential security threat and under electronic and physical surveillance by France's domestic intelligence agency, the DGSI. His father, who was also on the list, was deported in 2018. Macron said he wanted his ministers "to embody a ruthless state towards all those who harbour hate and terrorist ideologies", a senior aide told reporters. The president has called on police to comb through their files of radicalised people who could be deported from France to make sure no one has been overlooked. Macron had told his interior minister to take a "special approach to young men between the ages of 16 and 25 from the Caucasus".

The killing of a teacher inside a school has increased nervousness over security in France, which has large Muslim and Jewish populations and has been on the alert for violence since the attacks on Israel on 7 October. The prime minister, Elisabeth Borne, said on Monday: "We will not allow terrorism to bring our country to a standstill". Borne told La Tribune Dimanche this weekend that, although the investigation into the school killing was ongoing, "the attack against Israel could have been a trigger element". The interior minister, Gérald Darmanin, said there was "an atmosphere of jihadism" in France since the Hamas attack on Israel and the ensuing bombardment of Gaza.

Russia's top diplomat Lavrov in China

BEIJING :Russia's top diplomat Sergei Lavrov arrived in Beijing on Monday ahead of an expected visit by President Vladimir Putin to China, for a gathering of representatives of 130 countries that will be overshadowed by the Israel-Gaza war. This will be Putin's first trip to a major global power since the Ukraine invasion. The foreign ministry announced on social media platform X, formerly Twitter, that Lavrov was in the Chinese capital as part of a Russian delegation. Beijing is hosting representatives of 130 countries Tuesday to Wednesday to mark a decade of its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) — a key geopolitical project of President Xi Jinping to extend China's global reach. But all eyes will be on Putin, who last month told Beijing's Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Saint Petersburg he had "gladly accepted" Xi's invitation to visit China for the BRI talking shop. The Russian leader's strategic dependence on China has only grown since his invasion of neighbouring Ukraine thrust his country into international isolation. Putin last week voiced concern at the "catastrophic increase" in the number of civilian victims in Israel and the Gaza Strip. The Kremlin ambassador to the United Nations has called for a "humanitarian cease-fire" in the Gaza Strip and Israel, while blaming the United States for the ongoing conflict. This year, trade between China and Russia has soared to levels not seen since the beginning of Moscow's war in Ukraine, with Chinese imports of Russian oil offering Moscow a critical lifeline as international sanctions bite. China has refused to condemn the war in an effort to position itself as a neutral party. —DNA

Daesh fighter admits terror charges, beheadings linked

LONDON: A convicted British Daesh member allegedly linked to the notorious "Beatles" cell which staged grisly killings and beheadings pleaded guilty to terror charges in a UK court on Monday. Aine Davis admitted two charges of financing terrorism between 2013 and 2014 and one of possessing a firearm for a purpose connected to terrorism. The 39-year-old was arrested in Turkey in 2015 and sentenced in 2017 to seven-and-a-half years for membership of Daesh. The so called "Beatles" group, named for the members' distinctive British accents, tortured and beheaded victims and released videos of the gruesome murders. Davis was released in July last year and deported from Turkey to Britain the next month. He was re-arrested when he arrived at Luton airport. He entered his plea at London's Old Bailey criminal court via video-link from the high security Belmarsh prison. The admission of guilt means there will be no trial and Davis is due to be sentenced on November 13. He had early pleaded not guilty to the same charges in March. Davis was named as a co-conspirator in the US trials of El Shafee Elsheikh and Alexandra Amon Kotey, two members of the infamous group of hostage takers who grew up and were radicalized in London. Active in Syria from 2012 to 2015, the "Beatles" group was allegedly involved in abducting more than two dozen journalists and relief workers from the United States and at least 15 other countries. —DNA

Migrant boat sinking near Greek island

ATHENS : Two men reported missing after a migrant dinghy sank off the coast of an eastern Greek island Monday were found alive, Greece's coast guard said, bringing the total number of survivors to 10. The bodies of a woman and two men had been recovered earlier from the sea after the dinghy sank overnight off the coast of the small island of Symi, which lies near Turkey. Survivors told authorities the boat had been carrying a total of 13 people. Although no further people were reported to be missing, the coast guard said it would continue a search and rescue operation in the area for several hours as a precaution until all survivors had completed their testimonies. The nationalities of those on board were not immediately known. Greece lies along one of the most popular smuggling routes for people fleeing conflict and poverty in the Middle East, Africa and Asia and trying to get into the European Union. Many use small dinghies to head from Turkey to Greek islands near the Turkish coast while others use larger sailing boats, yachts or fishing vessels to make the longer crossing from either Turkey or north Africa to Italy, bypassing Greece. —APP

China reports moderate Q3 growth amid challenges

BEIJING : China's economy is expected to have seen moderate growth in the third quarter, according to a survey ahead of data this week, while experts warn that there were still significant hurdles for its recovery. Authorities have been seeking ways to reinvigorate activity in an economy grappling with a major property crisis and weaker consumption since Beijing abolished its strict zero-Covid policy last year. Analysts polled by AFP saw an average 4.3 percent on-year growth in gross domestic product in July-September, falling short of more ambitious projections of a sustained recovery. "Troubles in the property sector have spilled over into wider consumer activity and translated into consumers still spending a smaller share of their income relative to pre-Covid," Capital Economics' Sheana Yue said. —APP

President Aliyev says he fulfilled Azerbaijani 'dream' in Karabakh

Calling his country's flag flying in Karabakh as "historic", Aliyev says taking control of the region from Armenian separatists has been his "number one aim"

FOREIGN DESK

BAKU : Azerbaijan's president Ilham Aliyev has said he achieved a decades-long "Azerbaijani dream" by retaking Karabakh from Armenian separatists, as he raised his country's flag in the region's main city. Dressed in military attire, the longtime leader flew the blue-red-green flag in Khankendi on Sunday, cementing Baku's conquest after last month's offensive. It was the first time Aliyev had set foot in the city since it fell to Armenian separatists in the 1990s. "We achieved what we wanted. We fulfilled the dream the Azerbaijani people have lived with for decades," Aliyev said in a victory speech, adding that his country "waited 20 years" to see



Azerbaijani rule in Karabakh. "This victory will stay in our history forever," he said triumphantly. End of decades-long conflict Baku published images of the longtime leader in military attire on his knees, kissing the Azerbaijani flag before it was raised on a flagpole. It said he also visited a reservoir and an ancient fortress, as well as other towns. "Twenty years ago, when I began to fulfil my official duties as president, I set myself a number-one task," Aliyev said. "So that on all territories, on all lands, in all towns and villages that at the time were under occupation, the Azerbaijani flag would fly." Azerbaijan regained full control over its territory of Karabakh last month after taking counter-terrorist actions in the area.

Briefs

Azam Swati declared 'proclaimed offender'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A special court of Islamabad on Monday declared the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former federal minister, Azam Swati, a proclaimed offender in controversial tweets case filed by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) last year. The Special Judge Central Islamabad, Shahrakh Arjmand ordered that Swati should be arrested immediately and produced as soon as his whereabouts are ascertained, Express News reported. Earlier in May, the same special court issued non-bailable arrest warrants against the PTI leader at the request of the FIA. Then the warrants were issued after Swati failed to appear before the court for indictment in a case pertaining to his controversial tweets. Swati's lawyer told the court that he was not in contact with his client. The lawyer opposed Special Prosecutor Rizwan Abbasi's request for the issuance of non-bailable arrest warrants against Swati, arguing that the law for non-bailable arrest warrants "is very different". The lawyer for the FIA then told the court that Azam Swati did not appear before the court intentionally. Later, the court issued the warrants against Swati.

PIA operations in jeopardy

DNA

KARACHI: The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) is likely to suspend its usual operations due to unavailability of funds. In a letter written by the administration to the aviation division, it has been disclosed that Rs7.50 billion loans are immediately required to continue the airlines operations. The letter said the nominated banks had been lacking interest in extending the loans to the airlines against the government of Pakistan's guarantees. It was also informed in the letter the fuel supplies had been cut in Jeddah and Dubai while PSO had also denied the fuel supplies to the PIA. The letter said the membership of the International Air Transportation Association (IATA) could be suspended any time while the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) notices to section officer aviation were the additional issues. A PIA spokesman was contacted to confirm the news, however, he declined to comment.

11 journalists killed in Israeli strikes

GAZA: Eleven journalists have been killed in Gaza, with more than 20 injured and two missing since the start of the recent Israeli air strikes, a Palestinian journalists group said in a new report. According to the report released on Sunday by the Freedom Committee, affiliated with the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate, 11 Palestinian journalists have been documented as killed by Israeli air strikes since October 7.

A statement by the group provided "documentation of the targeting of journalists" from the start of the war in Gaza until the evening of Oct. 15. It also declared "the violent escalation in the targeting of Palestinian journalists." Over 20 injuries were also observed, the most serious of which occurred in Gaza. Following the announcement of the complete or partial shelling of approximately 20 homes belonging to journalists, the Israeli army escalated by targeting the residences of several journalists directly, according to the report. In addition, approximately 50 headquarters and media institutions were destroyed as a result of shelling, including Al Aqsa Media Network, Ma'an News Agency, Al Quds newspaper, Baladna Radio, Zaman Radio, Al Quran Radio, the Al Jazeera Network office, Palestine TV, and the AFP news agency offices, according to the report. - Agencies

Omani army commander lauds Pak efforts for regional peace

Pakistan enjoys close defense and economic ties with all members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), including Oman, and also regularly holds military drills with GCC countries

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Major General Matar bin Salim bin Rashid Al-Balushi, Commander Royal Army of Oman called on General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), COAS at General Headquarters, today. During the meeting matters of mutual interest were discussed. The visiting dignitary lauded Pakistan Army's achievements in fight against terrorism and continued efforts for regional peace and stability. Earlier on arrival at GHQ, Commander Royal Army of Oman laid floral wreath at Yagar-e-Shuhada. A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Army presented the guard of honour to the visiting dignitary. Pakistan enjoys close defense and economic ties with all members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), including Oman, and also regularly holds military drills with GCC countries. Last Sunday, Pakistan's air force launched Indus Shield 2023, a 14-nation exercise, at one of its operational bases in the country. The exercise brought together aviation experts from several Middle Eastern countries including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman.



Former Bank of China boss arrested on bribery charges

BEIJING: The former chairman of the Bank of China has been arrested over suspicions of bribery and giving illegal loans. Liu Liang, chairman of the state-owned bank from 2019 to 2023, had resigned from his position in March this year. Weeks later, authorities announced Mr Liu was facing corruption charges. The 62-year-old is one of the most senior bankers to be ensnared in Xi Jinping's anti-corruption probe into China's \$60 trillion (£49 tr) financial sector. The push to weed out corruption from the country's financial industry appears to be ramping up, with officials in April warning that the crackdown was far from over. Several high profile financial executives from state-owned banks have already been fined, jailed, or under investigation - with former chairman of China Life Insurance Wang Bin sentenced to life in prison without parole for bribery. - Agencies

Malaysian PM Anwar rejects West's 'pressuring attitude' to condemn Hamas

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has rejected Western pressure to condemn Hamas, saying his government will continue to maintain relations with the armed group. Anwar said that Western officials have repeatedly asked Malaysia to condemn Hamas in meetings but his government "does not agree" with their attitude. "I said that we, as a policy, have a relationship with Hamas from before, and this will continue," Anwar said on Monday in remarks to parliament. "As such, we don't agree with their pressuring attitude, as Hamas, too, won in Gaza freely through elections, and Gazans chose them to lead." Western governments have condemned

Hamas and called on other countries to stand with Israel after Hamas earlier this month carried out the deadliest attack on the country in decades. More than 1,400 people, most of them civilians, were killed when Hamas fighters attacked southern Israel by air, land and sea on October 7, according to Israeli officials. Israel's subsequent bombardment of Gaza has killed at least 2,750 people and wounded nearly 10,000 others, according to Palestinian officials. Another 1,000 people are believed to be trapped under rubble in the enclave. Malaysia, where about 60 percent of the population is Muslim, is a vocal supporter of Palestinian rights and does not have diplomatic ties with Israel.

Last week, Anwar criticised the international community for what he said was their one-sided stance on the Israel-Hamas conflict. "The international community continues to take one-sided actions regarding all forms of cruelty and oppression to the Palestinian people. The confiscation of land and property belonging to the Palestinian people is done relentlessly by the Zionists," he said on X. "As a result of this injustice, hundreds of innocent lives were sacrificed. Malaysia remains in solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people." The Malaysian leader's comments came as his country's foreign ministry issued a statement urging the United Nations

Security Council to call for a ceasefire. "There should be no disproportionate treatment and flagrant hypocrisy in dealing with any regime that practices apartheid and blatantly violates human rights and international law," the ministry said. On Friday, about 1,000 Muslims rallied in Kuala Lumpur to express solidarity with Palestinians, chanting "Free Palestine" and "Crush the Zionists" as they burned effigies draped with Israeli flags. Hamas leaders have in the past visited Malaysia and met with its leaders. In 2013, former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak defied Israel's blockade on Gaza and crossed into the enclave following an invitation from the group. - Agencies

Putin speaks to ME leaders on Gaza

MOSCOW: Putin entered the fevered diplomatic fray of the Middle East on Monday, speaking to five of the major players, including Iran and leading Arab powers, in an attempt to secure a ceasefire in the war between Israel and Hamas. Russia, which has relationships with Iran, Hamas, major Arab powers as well as with the Palestinians and with Israel, has repeatedly said the United States and the West have ignored the need for an independent Palestinian state within 1967 borders. Putin spoke to Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad by telephone, the Kremlin said. He also plans to speak to Egyptian Pres-

ident Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, it said. "We believe that the main thing right now in this situation is to immediately cease the fire and begin the process of a political settlement," Kremlin foreign policy adviser Yuri Ushakov was quoted by state news outlets as saying. "The Middle East conflict is old of character but now it is necessary to take active, sharp steps in order to stop this escalation which is unprecedented," Ushakov said. The results of the calls were unclear. TASS said Putin and Assad want humanitarian aid delivered to Gaza. Putin will meet Xi Jinping in China this week in a bid to deepen a partnership forged between the United States' two biggest strategic competitors. Putin, who says the West is seeking to cleave Russia apart by supporting Ukraine, says the current violence in the Middle East shows just how far US policy in the region has failed. - Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Naveed Ashraf exchanging views with ambassador of Saudi Arabia, Nawaf Bin Saeed Al Malkiy at Naval headquarters. - DNA

ECP serves notices to 'biased' caretaker ministers, advisers

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday declared petitions against caretaker ministers and advisers as maintainable. The ECP had reserved verdict on petitions against federal ministers and advisers over their political associations. The election commission has issued notices to Federal Minister for Privatization Fawad Hassan Fawad, Adviser Ahad Cheema and Principal Secretary to the PM Tauqeer Shah. Unmute The ECP while serving notices to the parties, has fixed hearing of the matter on October 26. Petitioner, Advocate Azizuddin Kakakhel had filed an application in the election commission, which had reserved its decision on it on October 10. Earlier in July, the ECP had asked caretaker chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to remove ministers who are involved in politics. The Secretary ECP in a letter to the caretaker CM sought the removal of caretaker ministers, advisers and special assistants over 'political associations'. The letter stated ECP has come to know about the appointments of caretaker ministers based on political affiliations and former caretaker minister Shahid Khattak is proof of political appointment. However, there are still several ministers who have expressed their political affiliation in media which is a violation of Election Act 2017. - DNA

Supreme Court nullifies LHC judgement on FCA

DNA

SC approves plea seeking SC staff details

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday overturned the judgement passed by the Lahore High Court (LHC) which had declared the collection of fuel price adjustment (FCA) applied to the monthly bills of electricity consumers illegal. In its order, the country's top court said the LHC verdict was impractical both constitutionally and legally and noted that the Appellate Tribunal of the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) was the appropriate forum to decide the matter. The three-member bench, headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, asked the petitioners to file an appeal before the Nepra's Appellate Tribunal within 10 days, which should fix matter for hearing and make a decision in 10 days. Consumer companies should file appeals against the fuel price adjustment within 15 days with the Nepra appellate tribunal, the SC stated in its decision, directing the appellate tribunal to fix the appeals for hearing within 10 days and decide on them within a legal timeframe as soon as possible. In February this year, a single bench of the Lahore High Court had declared the collection of the fuel price adjustment in electricity bills as illegal. The decision was subsequently challenged by the power transmission companies in the Supreme Court. Earlier, Advocate Salman Akram Raja, appearing before the court, argued

that the formation of Nepra was unconstitutional at the time the fuel price adjustment had been imposed in May 2022. Upon this, CJP Faez Isa remarked that if the formation of the Nepra was unconstitutional, then the LHC judge should have given a decision on it, observing that the single bench had given the decision beyond its authority that could not be maintained. The CJP observed that judges of the high courts forgot to read the Article 199 of the Constitution, questioning that how a high court judge could tell the bill for the consumption of 500 units of electricity. Expressing similar observation, Justice Athar Minallah added that no court, including the Supreme Court, could look after the technical matters of the Nepra. CJP Isa remarked that the Lahore High Court had given a decision that had been not requested in the petitions, adding that it would be better to raise the technical issues with the Nepra. Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Awan informed the bench that the Nepra and Discos (power distribution companies) had no objec-

tion to challenging the case in the tribunal. The Supreme Court ordered the power transmission companies to collect the fuel price adjustments, subject to the decision of the Nepra appellate tribunal after the Lahore High Court's decision. Later, the three-judge bench disposed of the 1,090 petitions. The Supreme Court had summoned arguments today (Monday) on the 1,090 petitions against the fuel price adjustment in electricity bills. Earlier this month, the Supreme Court had started hearing the appeal filed by the power distribution companies (Discos) against the LHC single-member bench's decision to declare the FCA illegal after a number of petitioners moved the provincial top court. In February, the single-member bench comprising Justice Ali Baqir Najafi had not only listed the FCA as illegal but also directed the federal government to provide subsidy to the domestic electricity consumers consuming up to 500 units. The petitions were jointly filed by Azhar Siddique - a Lahore-based lawyer who has remained part of the PTI legal team - and others. Meanwhile, the LHC judgment also touched the subject of energy mix by instructing the government to use alternate cheap sources for power generation. The judge asked Nepra not to charge exorbitant tariffs beyond the paying capacity of domestic consumers and fix the responsibility of overcharging on the basis of line losses and less efficient power plants. He added that the financial burden would also be shared by the companies under a rational proportion.

Committee formed to probe issuance of fake passports

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Interior Ministry has constituted a high-level five-member committee to probe the matter involving issuance of 12,096 fake passports from Pakistan. According to a notification released by the Interior Ministry, the committee will be headed by the Passport and Immigration director general, and will draw the FIA deputy secretary, a representative each from the Ministry of Interior, FIA and Nadra as its members. The probe body will investigate the matter of fake passports, including the issuance of passports and determining the complicity of the authorities. The committee will also submit proposals to prevent such issues in the future and will submit its report to the Interior Minister within 15 days. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Interior has formed a five-member committee to investigate issuance of fake Pakistani passports to over 12,000 Afghan nationals. The director general of immigration and passport will head the committee, comprising representatives of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra). Assistant director admin will work as secretary of the committee. The high-level committee would not only point out the loopholes in the system but also submit suggestions to prevent such threats in future. The ministry has given 15 days to the committee to submit its report.

Transporters bound to reduce fares, freight charges as govt cuts petrol prices

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Sunday said the transporters were bound to reduce fares and freight charges as the government had significantly decreased prices of petroleum products. The minister urged the provincial and district administrations to play their role in this regard in order to pass on relief to the masses. In a post on X formerly Twitter, Solangi said the government had reduced petrol and diesel prices by Rs 40 and Rs 15, respectively. "Whenever prices of these products rose, the transport sector increased freight charges and transportation fares. Now, they (transporters) are bound to provide relief to the masses by reducing them," the minister said in his post.

Court extends Bushra's bail in Toshakhana fake receipts case

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A District and Sessions Court in Islamabad on Monday extended the interim bail of former first lady Bushra Bibi in the case of Toshakhana fake receipts case till October 31. The court also adjourned the hearing of six cases against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan till October 24. Bushra Bibi appeared in the court along with her lawyer Salman Safdar. Additional Sessions Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra heard the cases. "I have appeared before the court for seven cases, six against the PTI chairman and one against Bushra Bibi," Salman Safdar told the court. "It was unfortunate that I had to appear before the duty judge at the last hearing," he said. "We had approached the IHC on nine bail pleas. Sardar Latif Khosa had read out the prime minister's oath before the court according to which the prime minister has the authority to put, whatever information he thinks is suitable, before the public," he argued.