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CJP hints at taking up pleas on polls, military court trials

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Azerbaijan Study Center & Aliyev Corner enriched

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Salah condemns Israeli brutality in besieged Gaza

Detailed News On Page-06

9 killed in West Bank raids

Israeli barbarity claims more lives

As Israel's genocide in the Gaza Strip continues, the death toll climbed to over 3,700 victims, mostly women and children

NEWS DESK

GAZA: Dozens were killed and many others injured today in the Israeli strikes at homes and buildings in various areas of the Gaza Strip. Palestinian media reported an occupation aircraft fired missiles at the Odeh house east of Jabaliya refugee camp killing a number of people and wounding others who were transferred to the Indonesian hospital. A number of the injured are still under the rubble, and paramedics, rescuers and people are trying to extract them. Several others were killed and others were injured in an Israeli bombing that targeted a house belonging to the al-Hassi family in the town of Jabaliya in the northern Gaza Strip. A number of people were also killed and others were injured in the bombing of a house for the Hassouna family in the Shujaiya neighborhood, and another for the Muhaisen family in the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza City. The Israeli occupation warplanes also targeted two homes for the Mukhaymar family in Khan Younis and its camp in the south of the Gaza Strip, leaving a number of people killed and wounded. Palestinian media reported several people were killed and others were injured in an Israeli bombing of a house belonging to the Duhair family in the city of Rafah, while others from the al-Zard family were killed shortly after a warplane bombed a house on al-Wahda Street in the center of Gaza City. He pointed out that the Israeli warplanes targeted a house in the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood, north of Gaza City, which led to the death of a number of those inside it. One person was also killed and others were injured in the bombing of the Abu Sido family, northwest of Gaza City, and the bombing of a house for the Abu Sbitan family in the town of Beit Lahia, which led to the death of a number of people and the injury of others. Israeli occupation aircraft also destroyed the 14-story al-Andalus Tower in the Karama area northwest of Gaza, in addition to three residential towers in al-Zahraa City in the south. The Israeli occupation planes, boats, battleships, and artillery continue to bomb civilian

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Pak "disappointed" over outcome of UNSC's meeting

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday expressed its disappointment over the results of the emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) held on Wednesday and called for an immediate end to the bombardment and inhumane blockade of Gaza. "We are nationally disappointed by the results of the UNSC debate. The Security Council should play its designated role to bring an immediate end to the bombardment and blockade leading to a humanitarian catastrophe," the Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in her weekly press briefing. The spokesperson was referring to the use of veto power by the United States at the UN Security Council to block a resolution calling for Israel to allow humanitarian corridors into the Gaza Strip, a pause in the fighting and the lifting of an order for civilians to leave the north of the besieged territory. China, Russia and the UAE had convened the meeting to discuss the worsening situation in Gaza. The resolution, sponsored by Brazil, had wide support and would have also condemned all violence against civilians. The vote in the 15-member Council was 12 votes in favour to one (United States) against, with Russia and China abstaining. She said Pakistan did not believe in escalation but rather wanted a ceasefire and cessation of hostilities and called upon the international

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BEIJING: Caretaker PM Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets with Chinese President Xi Jinping. - DNA

6 terrorists killed, 4 soldiers martyred

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Six terrorists including a high-value target named Hazrat Zaman alias Khawarey Mullah have been killed by security forces in an operation at general area of Gharyoum in North Waziristan district, ARY News reported quoting ISPR. According to the Inter Services Public Relations, the ringleader was actively involved in multiple terrorist activities in the area and was highly wanted by the law enforcement agencies. However, three military personnel including Lance Naik Tabbasum UI Haq, Sepoy Naeem Akhtar and Sepoy Abdul Hameed also embraced shahadat while fighting gallantly against terrorists. In another operation at general area of Asman Manza in South Waziristan District, Sepoy Farman Ali also embraced shahadat in the line of duty. Sanitization is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area. In a statement, the ISPR said that security forces are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve. Earlier, two Pakistan Army soldiers were martyred and as many terrorists killed in separate gun battles in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's North and South Waziristan districts. According to a statement issued by Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), two separate gun battles took place between Pakistan Army soldiers and the terrorists in North and South Waziristan districts.

PM Kakar hails Pak-China relations as 'made in heaven'

"Pakistan will not take an inch back when it comes to our relations with China," he remarked as the two leaders met to discuss the bilateral and regional matters

DNA

BEIJING: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday, calling the bilateral partnership made in "heaven", said that Pakistan blindly trusted China and that the country would not allow anything to undermine the bilateral strategic partnership. The prime minister, in his opening remarks while meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, said Pakistan firmly supported One China policy and would show it through its actions, not mere words. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the Third Belt and Road Forum, attended by leadership and representatives of around 140 nations. "Pakistan will not take an inch back when it comes to our relations with China," he remarked as the two leaders met to discuss the bilateral and regional matters. President Xi warmly received the

prime minister as he arrived to hold the meeting accompanied by his delegation members, including Shamsah Akhtar, Sarfaraz Bugti, Gohar Ejaz and others. The prime minister thanked the Chinese leader for inviting him to attend the "historic" Belt and Road Forum and also congratulated him for the "resounding" success of the event. He said President Xi's address at the Forum was "profound, deep and visionary", which offered a lot of opportunities for the countries like Pakistan. "I used to hear the phrases of (Pak-China friendship) 'sweeter than honey' and 'iron clad brotherhood', but I realise that this moment is for Pakistan when you say 'when China does well, the rest of the world does well.' "This is the moment for Pakistan to come and seize the opportunity," he remarked. He said eight proposals President Xi had put forth at

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Briefs

SM Zafar passes away at 93

DNA

LAHORE: Renowned lawyer and former federal law minister S.M. Zafar passed away after a protracted illness on Thursday. He was 93. S.M. Zafar was the father of known advocate and Senator Barrister Ali Zafar. The late Zafar also remained a senator. Born on Dec 6, 1930, in Rangoon, Burma, S.M. Zafar was a senior advocate and a former law minister. He was also an accomplished author and penned numerous books. He contributed articles on both national and international matters in local and foreign publications.

'Murder of justice and law': PTI

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: PTI outright rejected the IHC and the Accountability Court's acceptance of pleas granting protective bail to the fugitive, liar and convicted PML-N supremo in the country's biggest graft cases by trampling the constitution and laws. PTI spokesperson termed the courts' decision of granting protective bail to the certified corrupt Nawaz Sharif as the 'darkest day'.

Nawaz's arrest warrant suspended in Toshakhana case

The IHC announced the verdict, restraining the authorities from arresting Nawaz on his return to country on Saturday (October 21)

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: All the legal hurdles were removed on Thursday in the smooth return of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif after he was granted protective bail in two graft cases while his arrest warrant in the Toshakhana case was suspended by an accountability court. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo had approached the Islamabad High Court (IHC) for bail in Al-Azizia and Avenfield references which approved the pleas, granting bail till October 24. The IHC announced the verdict, restraining the authorities from arresting Nawaz Sharif on his return to the country on Saturday (October 21). The high court said the

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Nawaz touches down in Dubai

ALI FURQAN/VOA

DUBAI: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif has landed in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), ahead of his much-anticipated return to Pakistan. The three-time prime minister is set to return to Pakistan on October 21 (Saturday) after spending four years in self-exile in London after being allowed to travel despite being sentenced to prison. His arrival comes after a few hours of delay as he was held up in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, for an important

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Alvi calls for ceasefire, visits Palestine embassy



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi visited the Embassy of Palestine here on Thursday and expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people who are being subjected to indiscriminate killings by Israel. The president urged the international community to condemn Israel's brutalities and its dis-

proportionate reaction which claimed lives of thousands of innocent people. Dr Alvi called for an immediate ceasefire and the opening up of a humanitarian corridor to send aid to the people lacking food, electricity and water. The president met Palestinian Ambassador in Islamabad Ahmed Jawad Rabei and expressed solidarity with the

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Aerial exercise Indus Shield-2023

Army Chief lauds PAF professionalism

Air Chief all praise for the utmost support extended by General Syed Asim Munir

CENTRELINE REPORT

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M) Chief of Army Staff (COAS), visited an operational air base of Pakistan Air Force to witness the on-going aerial exercise Indus Shield-2023. The Air Chiefs of Türkiye, Azerbaijan and Hungary were also among the distinguished guests who witnessed PAF's 14 nation mega air exercise. On his arrival, COAS was received by Air Chief Marshal, Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air

Force. Later, he was introduced to the foreign dignitaries and Principal Staff Officers of Pakistan Air Force. Chief of Army Staff, along with esteemed foreign dignitaries, received a comprehensive briefing on the training facility of the Air Power Center of Excellence and the extensive scope of the exercise which is aimed at consolidating modern concepts of aerial warfare, fostering mutual cooperation and enhancing interoperability among the participating air forces.

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REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

11 DAYS

FDA to auction 199 domestic

DNA

FAISALABAD : The Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA) will auction its 199 domestic and commercial properties here on October 25. These properties included 99 mohalla shops, 47 plots in commercial center in Ahmad Nagar, 8 shops in commercial center in Millat Town, 6 plots measuring 3.5-marla and 6-marla in A and C blocks of Millat Town. At least 19 shops in upper ground floor, 16 shops in lower ground floor of Gulistan Plaza, Millat Road Gulistan Colony and 9.3-kanal land adjacent to hockey stadium will also be leased out on the same date. The plots allocated for utility purposes - health and education facilities measuring 1 to 6 kanal in 14 different housing schemes will also be auctioned.

LESCO chief reviews progress

DNA

LAHORE : Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Engineer Shahid Haider has examined the O&M (T&G) Department's performance review report on system up-gradation and strengthening of LESCO transmission system. During the review meeting here at LESCO Headquarter on Thursday, the CEO said that reforms are ongoing across the region to improve the electricity transmission system so as to provide better facilities to customers. In this regard, the GSO (Grid System Operation) teams under the supervision of the Chief Engineer O&M (T&G) are carrying out numerous tasks to keep the system fully stable and robust apart from annual maintenance and development works.

The teams of GSO circle completed the repair work of 132 kV system of LESCO in October this year. These works included replacement of CT, battery bank, relay, outgoing panel, and repair of thermo vision hot-spots at 63 places; checking of kWh meters of B-4 connections; installation of one new power transformer; one power transformer was upgraded; fire fighting rehearsal and safety seminar were conducted; washing of disc insulators, replacement of bad disc insulators, replacement of jumpers, repair and replacement of conductors; identifying and rectifying faults most important on transmission line and transformers; cleaning the control room and its panels. Apart from these works, the meeting was informed that notices were also sent to the houses which are illegally constructed under 132kV line. Chief Engineer O&M (T&G) said that system improvement work is going on, and the LESCO management appreciates the performance of all the field staff. CEO Shahid Haider said that LESCO is working hard towards its target of eliminating all the obstacles facing the system and LESCO has taken many concrete steps to make the system more robust and better, due to which customers were being supplied uninterrupted electricity.



ISLAMABAD : Girls Activists of Muslim Tulba Mahaz holds placards and Palestinian Flags during protest rally from Aabpara Chowk to United Nations Office for showing solidarity with the oppressed Muslims of the Philistine and to shake the dead consciousness of Muslims Ummah.— ONLINE

PEC hold contests among CERT teams

FAISALABAD : The Punjab Emergency Service (Rescue-1122) organised inter-union council competitions among teams of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) here on Thursday. According to a spokesperson, Rescue-1122 imparted training to community teams about how to cope with the situation in emergency or natural calamities. The contests included medical trauma, fire fighting, dead body management, search and rescue and water rescue. Rescue Safety Officer Muhammad Shahid supervised the contests while Emergency Officer Operations Engr Tariq Mahmood and others were also present on the occasion. Earlier, such competitions were held at tehsil level. The winning teams later took part in the contest held at rescue head office Faisalabad.—APP

Exports increase by 25.54% to over Rs 2 trillion in Q1

ISLAMABAD: The exports from the country in the rupee term witnessed an increase of 25.54 percent during the first quarter (Q1) of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. Exports during July-September (2023-24) were recorded at Rs.2,013,533 million as against Rs.1,603,869 million during the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 25.54 percent, according to provisional data released by PBS. On a year-on-year basis, the exports during September 2023 increased by 31.27 percent and were recorded at Rs. 737,295 million compared to the exports of Rs.561,643 million in September 2022.—APP

Delegation of Sikh pilgrims calls on CM Naqvi

The Sikh pilgrims thanked CM Mohsin Naqvi on looking after religious places of the Sikh community at Lahore

DNA

LAHORE : A delegation of Sikh pilgrims coming from America and other countries met with Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi at CM office here on Thursday. The Sikh pilgrims thanked CM Mohsin Naqvi on looking after religious places of the Sikh community at Lahore, Nankana Sahib, Hassan Abdal and Kartarpur. The CM while taking to the delegation of Sikh pilgrims said, "We are trying to provide visa on arrival to the Sikh pilgrims on arriving

to Pakistan. I have talked with the federal government in this regard and will give you good news soon." A community centre will be established for the Sikh community at Nankana Sahib, he added. He said, "We are introducing a special tours package in Punjab for the Sikh pilgrims," adding that Tourism department is giving a final shape to this package in this regard. He said that the Sikh pilgrims can avail on-line booking of this package. "I am pleased that youths are also part of the delegation of Sikh pilgrims, he said and added that Sikh pilgrims will be fully taken care and will be

provided great hospitality. The CM said that Sikh pilgrims can come to Pakistan whenever they feel like and will not face any sort of difficulty or problem. The water of the Janam Asthan of Baba Guru Nanak at Nankana Sahib will be given to the Sikh pilgrims after packing, he said and added that the number of days which the Sikh pilgrims stay, "we will provide them love and care". Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Aktar Zaman welcomed the delegation of Sikh pilgrims with the slogan "Gee Ayan Nou". He stated that executive tours are being

arranged for the Sikh pilgrims in Punjab. The Sikh pilgrims presented a traditional chadar to CM Mohsin Naqvi. Darshan Singh said that one can hardly imagine the respect and love which is given to them in Punjab. The delegation of Sikh pilgrims while expressing their views on this occasion said that they cannot forget the love and care which they received in Punjab. They could never imagine that the Punjab government would give them such an amount of love and care.

They felt familiar and comfortable after coming to Punjab. CM Mohsin Naqvi and his team greatly looked after us and showed us a warm hospitality, they added. "We thank CM Mohsin Naqvi and his team for taking proper care of the Gurdwaras." Provincial Ministers Azfar Ali Nasir, Amir Mir, Chief Secretary, IG Police, Additional Secretary Home, Secretaries of Tourism, Aqauq, Information, Commissioner Lahore, DGPR, Deputy Commissioner Lahore and concerned officials were also present on the occasion.



ISLAMABAD : Tahir Javed, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of State, meeting with Turkish Ambassador, Mehmet Pacaci, for bilateral investment talks at the BOI office.DNA

Long absent teachers shouldn't serve education : DC

DNA

HYDERABAD : Teachers absent from their duties for long periods have no right to serve in the education department, this was stated by Deputy Commissioner Zahid Hussain Rind while chairing a meeting of the District Education Reform Oversight Committee at Darbar Hall. DC instructed officials of the education department to initiate strict legal action against such teachers and

staff and take steps to spare them from jobs so that eligible teachers could be given jobs to capable teachers. DC said that absent teachers are doing jobs in other counties and are drawing salaries from here and their salaries should be stopped. DC said that absent for long periods teachers should be spared from jobs and a letter in this regard shall be written to the Secretary Education. DC said that steps be taken to facilitate schools lacking necessary basic facilities. He said

that taluka Education Officials shall bound all headmasters of their tehsil schools to spend SMC funds on schools on a merit basis. He said that in case obstacles are created by any person any teacher of the concerned school can lodge a complaint against him for registration of a case. DC said that registration girl and boy students of government schools shall be carried those who are not receiving scholarship amount as announced by Sindh Government. DC warned that in case of negligence in this

regard the headmaster would face action. He said that the Chief Monitoring Officer and Assistant Commissioners of all tehsils would visit schools on a daily basis and would check the attendance of teachers and students with the standard of education of the school and facilities provided there. DC said that Temporary Literacy Centers would be set up where school buildings are damaged or in dilapidated condition to prevent the education process from deteriorating.

\$100 billion climate pledge unmet: SDPI

LAHORE : Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) Deputy Executive Director Dr Shafiqat Munir said on Thursday that the Global North had pledged to mobilise US\$100 billion for climate action for the developing countries by 2020, but the pledge remains unfulfilled yet. With climate change affecting countries indiscriminately, climate financing from the Global North has become a far-fetched dream. "In this situation, the developing countries must take responsibility of their own future, harness indigenous solutions and mobilize local funding to combat the climate crisis," he stressed. He expressed these remarks while shedding light on the climate financing issues during a concluding panel discussion here at a local hotel on Thursday. The panel debate was organised by the SDPI, in collaboration with Oxfam Pakistan, on "Increasing Climatic Resilience in Punjab and Launch of Research Studies on Climate Issues." Discussing national policy instruments on climate action, Dr Shafiqat Munir urged that National Adaptation Plan must be referred while PC1 projects are developed for concerted national climate action and bridge the financing gap by leveraging local financing. He further added that the Action Plan identifies financing avenues linking it to the mid-term budgetary framework.—DNA

RAWALPINDI WOMEN UNIVERSITY

INVITATION FOR BIDS

IFB/Tender No. RWU/P&S/2023-24/07

Rawalpindi Women University (RWU) invites sealed bids on bulk, package wise basis from reputable firms, registered with relevant Registration Authorities and Tax Department for Income Tax and Sales Tax (GST/PST) purpose with active taxpayer profile and having adequate experience for supply & installation of below mentioned item(s). Bids shall be received/processed on Single Stage Two Envelope bidding procedure.

Sr.	Description	Estimated Cost Rs.	2% Bid Security
1	Supply & installation of IT Equipment for Wi-Fi System (Turnkey Solution)	30,000,000	600,000

Bidding Documents are immediately available w.e.f. the date of publication and can be downloaded from websites of Rawalpindi Women University (www.rwu.edu.pk) and PPRA (ppra.punjab.gov.pk). For participation, bidding documents can be purchased during office hours on submission of a written request on company's letter head upon payment of tender fee of Rs. 2,000/- (Non-Refundable), in the form of Pay Order/Demand Draft/CDR in favor of Rawalpindi Women University. [FTN: 9022136-5].

Technical Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security (in the form of CDR/Demand Draft/Pay Order), in favor of Rawalpindi Women University.

Sealed bids (prepared in conformity with instructions of bidding documents) should reach to the addressee below, no later than 10:30AM ON 21-NOV-2023.

Bids shall be opened on the same day at 11:00AM in the presence of bidders or their representatives, who may choose to be present, having a valid authority letter from their respective organization.

University shall not be responsible for delays & non delivery caused by courier firms/post office etc. regarding issuance of bidding document & receiving of bids etc. In the case of an official holiday on the day of submission, the next day will be treated as closing date.

The University Management may reject all bids at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid, as provided under Rule-35 of Punjab Procurement Rules 2014.

Addl. Director Purchase & Store
Room No. 244, BS Block,
Rawalpindi Women University
6th Road, Satellite Town, Rawalpindi
purchase@rwu.edu.pk
Ph: 051-9291646

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The Rawalpindi Women University
Rawalpindi

IPL No 8724

Pakistan at the crossroads of history

This is the only solution if we have to improve the lives of our 26 Crore Pakistanis, otherwise the conditions of the country will deteriorate from bad to worse with no one else to blame but our empowered people

NUSRAT KHAN



The situation in Pakistan at the moment requires improvement on an urgent basis, every informed Pakistani

knows that the country is facing not one but many crises, the biggest crisis being the economic one. The irony is that those in power are unwilling to assess the seriousness of the situation or their ability to improve the country, in fact they seem unwilling to learn anything from history. For example, the common man from Khabeer to Karachi is asking whether the problems of this country will be solved after Mian Nawaz Sharif becomes the Prime Minister for the fourth time. Why are we ignorantly denying

this fact? Who does not remember the performance of Shahbaz Sharif for about 16 months, can anyone tell me when Nawaz Sharif made Pakistan an ideal state when he was the prime minister for three times. Today the people of Pakistan will know exactly who has been running Pakistan for decades, the way the former prime minister is in jail and the people of his party are being isolated is an open secret. The wonder is that we keep repeating the same experiment and expecting different results. The fact is that the

development of Pakistan is related to a democratic system that is free from all forms of oppression, why are we not thinking that India and Bangladesh are developing rapidly due to true democracy. On the other hand, the world situation is getting worse, the continuous bombing of Gaza by Israel has created anxiety and anxiety in the world, no one knows when the third world war will start in the Middle East. In this background, it is very important that we promote political consensus and unity in our country, let

our true rulers know that economic stability only comes as a result of political stability. Therefore, if there is an attempt to get favorable results in the upcoming general elections, there will be no economic stability in the country, it is time to give up important personal and group interests. This is the only solution if we have to improve the lives of our 26 Crore Pakistanis, otherwise the conditions of the country will deteriorate from bad to worse with no one else to blame but our empowered people.

National Days and Armed Forces Days

OCTOBER

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

Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



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CAA.....9281092



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MH.....5611116
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DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666



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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

CJCSC witnesses PAF's 14-Nation Air Exercise-2023

He highlighted the significance of the 14 nation Exercise Indus Shield which in addition to boosting the operational readiness of PAF, would also prepare the participants for contemporary warfare challenges

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, visited an operational air base of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) to witness the ongoing aerial exercise Indus Shield-2023 on Thursday. On his arrival at the base, the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee was received by Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, a PAF news release said. The Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee was briefed on the Air Power Center of Excellence training facility as well as the scope of the exercise which aims to project cooperation between the participating air forces and consolidate upon modern concepts of aerial warfare. The Air Chief appreciated the utmost support extended by General Sahir Shamshad Mirza and lauded his efforts in the promotion of tri-services synergy. He highlighted the significance of the 14 nation Exercise Indus Shield which in addition to boosting the operational readiness of PAF, would also prepare the participants for contemporary warfare challenges. He further reiterated that the exercise employing cutting-edge niche technologies and high-tech fighters not only offers a unique opportunity for participating air



forces to bring their unparalleled skills and operational capabilities to the spotlight but will also deepen mutual understanding between the participating contingents to foster connectivity and cooperation. Speaking at the occasion, the Chief of the Air Staff said, "The current global security situation coupled with the changing dynamics of warfare calls for enhanced partnership among armed forces. Exercise Indus Shield offers an invaluable learning experience of aerial warfare employment tactics to the air and ground crew through simulation

of real-time war scenarios and varied combat missions". Interacting with the participants of the exercise, the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee accentuated the paramount importance of multinational air exercises in the pursuit of common objectives amidst the ever-evolving dynamics of air warfare. He lauded the professionalism of the participants of the exercise and appreciated the efforts of the Air Power Center of Excellence in orchestrating this monumental exercise, which would not only fortify the existing partnerships

among key allies but would also enhance interoperability among the participating Air Forces. The visiting dignitary also admired the dynamic leadership of the Air Chief, whose firm resolve and relentless efforts paved the way for this exercise to be one of the mega aerial exercises of the region. Exercise Indus Shield-2023 is witnessing participation from 14 esteemed Air Forces including Pakistan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE, Egypt, Oman, Bahrain, Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Morocco, Uzbekistan, China, and Hungary.

The exercise offers a unique opportunity for participating air forces to bring their unparalleled skills and operational capabilities on a single platform. Likewise, the meticulous planning and execution of Exercise Indus Shield serves as a testament to the vision of the esteemed Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, in recognizing the pivotal role played by PAF in advancing technology, modernizing its capabilities and deploying contemporary combat tactics to effectively address shared challenges in aerial defence.

Early diagnosis crucial to save 35,000 breast cancer deaths

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday said more than 100,000 women in Pakistan were diagnosed with breast cancer every year, of which 35,000 could not survive due to detection of the disease at late stages. He said the diagnosis of breast cancer at stage 1 had higher survival rates compared to stages 3 and 4 of the disease. In an interactive session with journalists of print and electronic media here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the president along with his wife Samina Alvi stressed breaking social taboos about breast cancer and importance of the media's role in sensitizing the general public. President Alvi emphasized a preventive rather than curative approach as the

government lacked ample resources to bear the unaffordable costs of medical treatment including the scanning and oncology procedures of breast cancer. He called for educating women on how to conduct monthly self-examinations to locate an abnormal nodule and not to hesitate to seek urgent medical help. President Alvi recalled that last year, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority on his suggestion relayed 120 million call-waiting messages about breast cancer. He urged the journalists to join the cause of fighting breast cancer by highlighting the topic in their write-ups and television programmes. The president mentioned that he

and Samina Alvi for the last five years had been raising consistent awareness campaigns on breast cancer from the platform of the Presidency. He stressed continuity in policies on health and education despite changes in governments to ensure a healthy and balanced society. He also emphasized focusing on health courses of short duration to produce a larger number of health-care workers to cater to needs of the population. Begum Samina Alvi lauded the media for effectively highlighting the subject in their television programmes and newspapers. She said the campaign should not be restricted to the month of October and be continued throughout

the year. She also urged sensitization of the male members of the family to enable them realize the sufferings attached to the disease and support women to get proper medical care. The session also highlighted the importance of awareness about other health issues including mental health. President Alvi said as per research, 24 percent of the country's population suffered from mental health issues whereas there were only 550 psychiatrists and 1,200 psychologists available for them. The President and Begum Alvi also responded to the questions of the journalists pertaining to the national-level efforts related to breast cancer and mental health.—APP

ICCI calls for cyber security policy for SMEs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Faad Waheed, Acting President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that SMEs are the backbone of the economy and are now increasingly moving towards automation and digitization to improve their productivity, efficiency & cost-effectiveness. He urged that the government should focus on formulating a specific cyber security prevention policy for SMEs to save them from business losses due to cyberattacks. He said this while talking to a delegation of Chinese Cybersecurity solution providers during his visit to ICCI led by Ammar Jafri, former DG FIA and founder of Digital Pakistan. Faad Waheed said that many SMEs are now going online to expand their outreach to wider markets and improve their business prospects. He said that Pakistan's National Cyber Security Policy 2021 also encourages promotion of online businesses, however, the policy is lacking in strong defence measures to protect the SMEs from cyber risks and threats. He stressed that the Ministry of Information Technology & Telecom in consultation with stakeholders should develop a specific Cybersecurity Policy for SMEs to facilitate them in going digital. He said that Chinese IT companies providing cybersecurity solutions have great prospects in the Pakistani market and they should take advantage of this untapped market, especially for SMEs by investing in Pakistan. Ammar Jafri, former DG FIA and Founder of Digital Pakistan said that Pakistan is gearing up for the 5th generation industrial revolution and stressed that the government should develop a strong digital infrastructure to enable businesses to flourish and compete effectively in the international market. He said that the focus of Digital Pakistan is to promote connectivity, improve digital infrastructure, increase investment in digital skills and promote innovation & tech entrepreneurship. He said that cooperation of ICCI with Digital Pakistan would be helpful in promoting digitization in SMEs. The Chinese delegation members said that their company is one of the top cybersecurity solution providers with offices in Asia, South Asia and East Africa. They said that they want to introduce their cybersecurity solutions in Pakistan for business enterprises to save them from business losses due to cyberattacks. Maqsood Tabish Acting Senior Vice President and Faizan Shehzad Acting Vice President ICCI said that SMEs are vulnerable to cyberattacks in Pakistan as they don't have strong technological defenses in place and hoped that the Chinese IT companies would invest in Pakistan to provide sustainable cybersecurity solutions to these businesses and assured that ICCI would fully cooperate with them in such efforts.

Universities urged to advance research on dream analysis

He stated that prioritizing dream research has enormous potential for improving mental health treatment and deeper study of dreams should be an important goal for the field of psychology

ISLAMABAD: Clinical psychologist Professor Dr. Asghar Ali Shah has urged the universities to advance research on dream analysis as it would be significant progress in psychology and mental health treatment. Talking to APP here on Thursday, Dr. Asghar explained that dreams can provide valuable insights for addressing psychological issues. He noted that patients often find it easier to share dreams with therapists rather than actual events. He said that therapists can then more easily identify issues based on dream symbols and meanings. "Dream analysis allows patients to open up about inner thoughts freely, without guilt," he added. He highlighted the long history of studying dreams, noting Muslim scholar Ibn Sirin's work on dream interpretation in the 7th century and later Sigmund Freud's identification of dreams as representing the fulfillment of repressed wishes. Dr. Asghar stressed the need for clinical psychologists to develop advanced skills in interpreting dreams and their symbols. He stated this expertise could greatly assist psychological therapy. Universities have a key role to play in advancing research methodologies for analyzing dream content, Dr. Asghar said adding that multidisciplinary research engaging scholars of psychology, and religious studies can lead to progress in evidenced-based models. He stated that prioritizing dream research has enormous potential for improving mental health treatment and deeper study of dreams should be an important goal for the field of psychology.

APM launches web-based application for recovery of dues

He appreciated the management of OPF for developing a web-based application for expediting the disbursement of dues to families of Overseas Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) for overseas Pakistanis Jawad Sohrab launched the OPF web portal for the recovery of dues of overseas Pakistani workers to facilitate the Pakistani diaspora. This service expedites the disbursement of dues such as salary, death & disability compensation and other allowances of the workers, according to a press release here on Thursday. Addressing the formal launch of the web-based application for Outstanding Dues Management of overseas Pakistani workers at Overseas Pakistan Foundation (OPF) which was completely developed in-house,

the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Overseas Pakistanis, Jawad Sohrab Malik emphasized upon maximum utilization of technology to improve service delivery to Overseas Pakistanis. He said the Internet has revolutionized the service delivery paradigm as it has transformed the way businesses operate worldwide. Moreover, it has also led to the development of new technologies, thus, providing an opportunity to better manage business processes using state-of-the-art technology. The implementation of a web-based system has significantly enhanced the efficiency of OPF officials in processing outstanding

dues cases of overseas Pakistanis. Now, all applications are directly entered into the system at their point of origin, which are the offices of the CWAs in Pakistan missions abroad. This eliminates the previous need to send hard-copy applications to OPF for manual data entry, a process that used to take approximately 30 days. With the new system in place, this cumbersome transfer of applications in physical form has been reduced to a few minutes only. Furthermore, the entire application workflow has been streamlined through automation. The new system provides real-time access to applications, allowing

for seamless movement within different departments. The web-based online system also allows all stakeholders to access up-to-date information on pending dues cases, worker details, payment disbursement status, document verification, etc. Additionally, it empowers senior management to track applications online and monitor the progress of incoming applications. The SAPM stated that in line with the vision of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development is striving hard to extend maximum facilities and assistance to

overseas Pakistanis who have a strong bond with their homeland and the present government is on its threshold to explore all avenues to facilitate them. While highlighting the significance of web-based software applications, the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Overseas Pakistanis said; "In today's internet-driven society, web-based applications provide immediate access to services on a 24/7 basis. He appreciated the management of OPF for developing a web-based application for expediting the disbursement of dues to families of Overseas Pakistanis."

Police net over 835 drug dealers on recovery of over 771 kg charras

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district police have arrested over 835 big drug dealers in a grand operation launched on the special directives of Chief Minister Punjab, said City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi, Syed Khalid Hamdani. In the crackdown, over 771 hashish, over eight kg heroin, Ice drug and more than 1640 liters alcohol were recovered during 50 days, he said and appreciated the efforts of police teams for clearing the drug pockets from their respective areas. He informed that about 300 drug addicts held from the drug pockets of Nulla Lai and its surroundings were shifted to the hospital for medical treatment. Along with the arrest of drug dealers, the treatment of drug addicts is also important, he added. "Efforts are also being made to make the drug addicts a useful part of the society and we thank the district administration for their support," the CPO said. The drug supply network was broken, he informed. The CPO also urged the citizens to come forward and play a role in the elimination of the drugs.—APP

15 drug peddlers netted with 11 kg charras

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers conducted raids in different areas and rounded up 15 accused on recovery of over 11 kg charras. According to a police spokesman, Saddar Wah police held Amir for having 3010 grams charras while Hassan was sent behind bars on recovery of 520 grams charras. Mandra police recovered 1400 grams charras from the possession of Imran and 320 grams charras from Hanif. Airport police also netted Yaqoob for carrying 1250 grams charras, Younas with 560 grams charras and Muazzam for having 530 grams charras. Similarly, Waris Khan, Naseerabad, Taxila, and Dhamial police conducted raids and rounded up Awais, Iftikhar, Shakeel, Khalid, Zahir Shah, Waqas, Babar, and Zulfiqar and recovered a total of 4110 grams charras from their possession. Separate cases have been registered against all accused while further investigations are underway. City Police Officer, Rawalpindi had directed the police officers to accelerate ongoing operations against drug peddlers, bootleggers and other lawbreakers, he added.—APP

20 more dengue cases reported in 24 hours

RAWALPINDI: As many as 20 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 2,061 in the district. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, Thursday said that, among the new cases, 14 cases had arrived from Potohar town urban and two of each from Municipal Corporation Rawalpindi, Chaklala Cantonment and Potohar rural areas. He said 109 patients were admitted to district hospitals of which 87 were confirmed cases while 1,973 were discharged after treatment. Dr Sajjad informed that the district administration had registered 29 FIRs, issued tickets to 11, sealed one premise, and a fine of Rs 279,000 was imposed against the violations of dengue SOPs during the last 24 hours. During indoor surveillance, in the last 24 hours, the teams checked 13,782 houses and larvae were found in 509 homes. Similarly, he added that while checking 5,439 places, the teams found larvae at 140 sites during outdoor surveillance.—APP

Briefs

Pakistan's earns \$448 million from IT services' export

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan earned US \$448.971 million by providing different Information Technology (IT) services in various countries during the first two months of the current fiscal year 2023-24. This shows a growth of 5.15 per cent as compared with the US \$427.000 million earned through the provision of services during the corresponding months of the last fiscal year 2022-23, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. During the months under review, the export of computer services grew by 4.65 per cent as it surged from US \$345.470 million last year to US \$361.518 million during July-August 2023. Among the computer services, the exports of software consultancy services witnessed an increase of 196.04 per cent, from US \$0.328 million to US \$0.971 million this year while the export of hardware consultancy services also increased by 4.60 per cent, from US \$121.733 million to US \$127.329 million. The export of repair and maintenance services decreased by 3.74 per cent from US \$0.187 million to US \$0.180 million whereas the export and imports of computer software services witnessed an increase of 10.17 per cent, from \$96.529 million to \$106.350 million. Meanwhile, the export of information services during the months under review dipped by 27.94 per cent from US \$0.680 million to US \$0.490 million. Among the information services, the exports of information-related services decreased by 4.05 per cent, from US \$0.222 million to US \$0.213 million whereas the exports of news agency services also declined by 39.52 per cent, from US \$0.458 million to US \$0.277 million. The export of telecommunication services increased by 7.56 per cent as these went up from US \$80.850 million to US \$86.963 million, the data revealed. Among the telecommunication services, the export of call centres services increased by 3.47 per cent during the months as its exports increased from US \$34.770 million to US \$35.977 million whereas the export of other telecommunication services also increased by 10.65 per cent, from US \$46.080 million to US \$50.986 million during this year, the PBS data revealed.—DNA

AI vital in driving efficiency, innovation, and growth

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Meher Kashif Younis on Thursday emphasized the significance of artificial intelligence (AI) in boosting efficiency, innovation, and growth in various industries. Talking to a delegation of industrialists led by Faran Shahid, he said by harnessing AI technologies effectively, businesses can gain a competitive edge, create new revenue streams, and contribute to economic development, said a news release here. "It plays a significant role in shaping the economy by providing various opportunities and driving innovation across industries", he added. Meher Kashif said by using AI-powered systems and robots, companies can streamline their operations, reduce costs, and deliver products and services faster. He said AI technologies can process and analyze vast amounts of data quickly and accurately. This ability empowers businesses to gain valuable insights, make data-driven decisions, and identify patterns and trends that were previously difficult or impossible to detect, Meher Kashif said. He said this, in turn, enhances strategic planning and operational efficiency adding that AI-powered technologies can lead to the development of entirely new industries and transform existing ones. By unlocking new possibilities and addressing complex challenges, AI encourages entrepreneurship and attracts investment.—APP

IPS-FJWU hold moot on 50 years of constitution

Stakeholders urged to harmonize differences post-18th amendment

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Harmonizing post-18th amendment scenario among federating units and all constitutional stakeholders, which is marred with differences creating numerous governance challenges, in tandem with ensuring timely elections for democratic continuity, remains indispensable for reconciling and preserving the spirit of the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan for a stable and prosperous future of the country. This was highlighted by veteran statesmen, jurists, and constitutional experts during the inaugural session of the two-day conference on "The Constitution of Pakistan: Lessons for Next 50 Years" co-organized by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad, and Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU), Rawalpindi. The conference was addressed, among others, by Justice Jawad Hassan, Judge, Lahore High Court, Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, Muhammad Akram Shaikh, senior advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan, Hamid Khan, senior advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan & author, Haroon-ur-Rashid, vice chairman, Pakistan Bar Council, Ahmer Bilal Soofi, senior advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan & former federal minister of law, Riffat Inam But, secretary, Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan, Justice Dr Syed Muhammad Anwer, Federal Shariat Court, Dr Tamara Sonn, Georgetown University, Washington DC, Barrister Zafarullah Khan, senior advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan & former special assistant to PM on law, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS and Professor Dr Fakhru-Allah, advisor research IPS and former DG, Pakistan Study Centre, University of Peshawar. "Pakistan's constitution is one of the best," remarked Justice Jawad Hassan in his speech as the chief guest of the inaugural session. He noted that the strength of the constitution is rooted in the will and empowerment of people as enshrined in various articles such as Article 4, 'the protection of the law' as the right of the individual, Article 5, the obedience of constitution as 'the inviolable obligation of every citizen,' and Article 189, decisions of Supreme Court are binding on other courts. He further said that, as a guardian of justice and democracy, the 1973 Constitution continues to evolve and adapt to the needs of the nation, and through the role of the judiciary, ensures its people remain empowered and



protected. Khalid Rahman talked about the empowerment of people as a prerequisite to governance. He said that the struggle for empowerment should be against elites and for that education and political awareness must be embedded in national life. Ahmer Bilal, in his keynote speech, maintained that Pakistan's constitution serves as a finely balanced institution that united four provincial units and all other diverse groups and regions of the country. This consensus, followed by voluntary following, is an achievement. However, new challenges emerged after the 18th amendment, emphasizing the need for a more comprehensive and dedicated approach to its enforcement. To address this issue and ensure the continued integrity of the constitution,

he stressed that concerted efforts are required to make the 18th amendment work effectively. Following the inaugural, three sessions were held on three major themes: 'Constitution and National Integration,' 'Democracy and Public Representation,' and 'Operationalizing the Constitution: The Role of Executive', in which multi-disciplinary researchers from more than eight national and three international universities presented 25 papers on various research topics related to the constitution. Senior statesmen, and constitutional and legal experts addressing the sessions emphasized that providing protection and benefit of fundamental rights through state policies and rules are guarantees for national integration. However, there is a need to

make procedural rules to ensure the protection that the law provides. Equally significant is social inclusion in national integration and the consideration of the societal implications of decisions in light of fundamental rights and Principles of Policies. Furthermore, to ensure the efficient operationalization of the constitution, integration, and the rule of law, state institutions, and executive authorities must practice within their limits as delegated by the constitution. The speakers also emphasized the importance of the constitution with regard to international relations as it sets the policy guidelines and direction for treaties, agreements, and foreign policy. This is especially important in today's highly polarized world.

CPEC generated 236,000 jobs in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Data from the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan shows that till the end of 2022, CPEC has generated a total of 236,000 jobs in Pakistan, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday. It has been a decade since China unveiled the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Ten years on, what has the mega project brought to the people of the countries along the BRI route, and what can we expect from BRI in the days to come? Pakistanis working on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a massive project under BRI to capitalize on Pakistan's geographical importance and improve Pakistan's socio-economic conditions, shared their views. Pakistan is a country facing a severe power shortage. According to Ktrade Research, the percentage of the population in Pakistan that has access to electricity in 18 years increased by only 1.1 ppts. However, 9,740MW in capacity created by CPEC had fueled the number rose by 3.8 ppts in just 4 years. CPEC power plants are providing

cheaper electricity by utilizing coal reserves, which reduced Pakistan's oil and gas bill burden. Inside the Thar Block-1 Integrated Coal Mine Power Project, an open-pit coal mine with an annual lignite output of 7.8 million tons and a total capacity of 1,320MW, is providing the most cost-effective energy to millions of Pakistani households. Gul Hassan, a mining engineer with Sino Sindh Resources (Pvt.) Ltd. (SSRL), told China Economic Net (CEN), "The Thar Block-1 project has been instrumental in transforming the lives of people in Thar." Furthermore, renewable energy projects of water, wind, etc. under CPEC are also optimizing the country's energy structure. Peerzada Zain ul Abideen, O&M manager of PowerChina HDEC Engineering Company Limited Pakistan, proudly said that the 12 projects in Jhimpir of his company have generated 1888.29 GWh of electricity so far. In Gharo, Sindh, Muhammad Saleem Munshi, Chief Financial Officer of Hydrochina Dawood Power (Pvt) Limited told CEN that the wind speed in the area is up to 7 meters per second. If properly developed, it can meet 5%-10% of

the nation's power demand. Data from the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan shows that till the end of 2022, CPEC has generated a total of 236,000 jobs in Pakistan. Azim ul Haq is a HSE Engineer working at the 1263MW Punjab Power Plant in Jhang to ensure the project personnel's safety and health standards are met. "Earnings from this job provide comfortable living for my families. Although living away from family and my newborn daughter is difficult, given that the power project's location is far from my home town, the company provides me with all kinds of benefits and allows me to take vacations as needed," he said. "Locals find learning and working opportunities here. Most of the engineers, managers, and workers are from nearby areas", Peerzada Zain ul Abideen said, adding, "I myself have also been offered a job that my family and friends are proud of and a good salary". Muhammad Waqas, Director Finance of the UEP 100MW wind farm in Jhimpir said the most worthwhile thing he ever did was to choose wind power as his career while he also holds certificates in com-

puter programming, teaching, and accountant. "I can learn state-of-the-art technologies of one of the most promising sectors. Chinese brothers are transferring the advanced mechanism to Pakistan", he said, adding, "Before the pandemic, I went to China every year to learn about power-related technologies and business know-how". Mir Arslan Ali, Assistant Duty Officer of the Control and Protection Department, Matiari to Lahore +660kV HVDC Transmission Line project, is training junior engineers to grasp the state-of-the-art power transmission technology from China. [Photo provided to CEN] With total funds of \$25 bn that have been invested in energy, IT, transport, etc. under CPEC so far, local social and economic conditions are being greatly improved. "Since the start of construction, the project has actively contributed to the local construction of Thar, and its development is changing with each passing day," Mazhar Ali Khan said. "I believe that the Thar Project will bring more vitality to the local social and economic development after its commercial operation date."

Pak joins newly-launched Beijing initiative

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a major development of the concerted efforts towards a green future, the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) of Pakistan joined the Beijing Initiative for Belt and Road Green Development as a founding member. The initiative was launched in Beijing today at the High-Level Forum on Green Development. The Forum is part of the two-day Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation that ended today. The Green Investment and Finance Project (GIFP) of BRI partners was kicked off in tandem. Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, executive director of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), told reporter from China Economic Net (CEN) that green financing is the solution to climate-friendly economic growth. "Our institution will continue to work

closely with Chinese partners to address common climate concerns". Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, Chief Executive Officer of Asian Institute of Eco-civilization Research and Development, said in an interview with CEN that as Pakistan is facing both economic and environmental challenges, green financing will help the country mitigate both problems, reducing poverty and providing climate-compatible infrastructure. Shariq Shaikh Muhammad, chief representative of the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) Beijing Office, said, "Green development is the future. NBP is also striving to enhance its capacity to facilitate the generation of green energy. We will also turn the office in Beijing into an operation branch to cement collaboration with China". Zhang Jianyu, executive director of BRI International Green Development Institute, which is one of the organizers of the forum and is

also carrying out climate change mitigation and adaptation projects in collaboration with Pakistan, told CEN that climate commitment, integration with digitalization and information technology, and exquisite but impactful projects for communities hold the key to efficient, sustainable green BRI development in the future. The forum was addressed by UN Secretary-General António Guterres, who stressed that Green Silk Road can help step-up the global efforts for green future in two key areas. "First, investments flowing from the Green Silk Road are an important opportunity to fast-track sustainable and climate-resilient development to protect lives and livelihoods. Second, we must ensure that any new infrastructure investments through the Green Silk Road turbocharge a just and sustainable transition away from planet-wrecking fossil fuels towards renewable energy".

Exports increase by 25.54% to over Rs 2 trillion in Q1

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The exports from the country in the rupee term witnessed an increase of 25.54 percent during the first quarter (Q1) of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. Exports during July-September (2023-24) were recorded at Rs.2,013,533 million as against Rs.1,603,869 million during the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 25.54 percent, according to provisional data released by PBS. On a year-on-year basis, the exports during September 2023 increased by 31.27 percent and were recorded at Rs. 737,295 million compared to the exports of Rs.561,643 million in September 2022. On a month-on-month basis, the exports increased by 6.06 percent when compared to the exports of Rs. 695,136 million in August 2023.

Malik commends passionate fans at Jinnah Stadium

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) Normalisation Committee Chairman Haroon Malik has paid a heartfelt tribute to the fervent football fans whose unwavering passion transformed the FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifier match between Pakistan and Cambodia into an unforgettable and remarkable spectacle. With over 13,000 enthusiasts in attendance, the Jinnah Stadium in Islamabad bore witness to an electrifying clash that captured the hearts of fans from across the nation. These devoted supporters remained engrossed in the game from the very first whistle until the final moments, savouring every instance of thrilling football, said a press release. In recognition of the incredible dedication displayed by Pakistani football fans, Haroon Malik remarked, "The atmosphere during the Pakistan vs. Cambodia Qualifiers match felt as if the local fans were relishing a FIFA World Cup showdown on their home turf. Their spirits were sky-high, and their extraordinary love and enthusiasm for the game of football added an unparalleled significance to these historic moments." He said, "Many football aficionados travelled from remote corners of the country to witness their football heroes in action. The result they witnessed, which marked the first-ever victory of the Pakistan football team in World Cup Qualifiers history, will be etched into the annals of Pakistan's footballing history. "The jubilation was not limited to the national team and high-ranking government and federation officials; it extended to the exuberant crowd present on this momentous occasion. Undoubtedly, these were the most extraordinary moments in Pakistan's football history, and we are committed to delivering more such moments of delight to our nation in the future," he said. The NC Chairman expressed his deep appreciation with heartfelt thanks to the Government of Pakistan, particularly the IPC Ministry and the Pakistan Sports Board Director General Shoaib Khoso, Sports Minister of Balochistan Nawabzada Jamal Raisani and the PFF team for their exceptional dedication and tireless efforts in realizing this historic moment. "All the stakeholders worked tirelessly to meticulously prepare the Jinnah Stadium for hosting this monumental event in Pakistan's football history, making it a truly historic and unforgettable occasion. I am confident that the same group of professional individuals will make the best efforts for the forthcoming home-leg matches of the World Cup Qualifiers, showcasing Pakistan's hospitality, deep-rooted love and passion for football to the visitors and the entire world," Malik said.

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Kyiv stands strong, but others are faltering

As temperatures fall and a second winter of war approaches, Ukraine fears that the international enthusiasm for its cause that followed Russia's invasion is cooling too. Slovakia halted military aid after pro-Russian Robert Fico's party took power. Poland, one of Ukraine's staunchest allies, had already suspended weapons transfers following a dispute over Kyiv's grain exports – though things may well improve after the opposition unexpectedly claimed victory in last week's elections. Now US attention is consumed by the Middle East, and Russia will be keen to keep it there. Volodymyr Zelenskyy was quick to voice his support for Israel last week following the atrocities by Hamas. But the Ukrainian president also warned that "there is only a certain amount of military support to share". There may be direct competition for some weaponry. Mr Zelenskyy also acknowledged that next year's US presidential election brings uncertainty. Last month, aid for Ukraine was stripped from a government funding package to ensure its passage through Congress. Hardline Republicans are increasingly vociferous in their opposition to supplying further aid, and are gaining traction, not least due to the battle to become House speaker. Some are exploiting the Israel-Hamas war to cynically argue that the US can't afford to back Ukraine too, although Kyiv's supporters hope it may be possible to push through a joint Israel-Ukraine package. While US deliveries will continue for now, Kyiv could start rationing its use of arms if it cannot count on timely resupplies. Earlier this month, European leaders, including Emmanuel Macron, assured Ukraine that their support would not flag. But as Josep Borrell, the EU foreign affairs chief, pointed out, Europe cannot fill a US gap. In part, this is a question of logistics as well as willpower, with arms inventories still running low. Ukraine's first use of US-supplied long-range ATACMS missiles to strike airbases in Russian-held areas on Tuesday may have offered a small fillip to morale. But its counteroffensive has failed to make significant progress, Moscow is finding fresh sources of manpower, and the White House says that North Korea has now shipped weapons to Russia. Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin's meeting in Beijing on Wednesday, at the belt and road initiative forum, also underscored that China is maintaining its staunch economic and diplomatic support. Russia believes that simply grinding on will not only sap Ukrainian morale, supplies and troops, but will also improve its odds as the mood in the US shifts. The danger is not only that Russia holds and retakes territory. It is also that it will probably launch a renewed attack on Ukraine's power grid to freeze the country into submission. Despite the extraordinary efforts of engineers, the system has not fully regained its prewar capacity. At a time when maintaining solidarity with Ukraine is essential, diplomats say that unconditional western support for Israel's assault on Gaza has caused significant damage. Russia launched an unprovoked invasion. Israel is responding to the massacre of at least 1,300 of its citizens by Hamas. Nonetheless, Joe Biden's initially unqualified backing and EU commission president Ursula von der Leyen's passionate denunciation of Russia targeting civilian infrastructure in Ukraine, but silence on civilian infrastructure in Gaza, have been particularly noted. The "global south" is not an entity but a loose description of multiple players with their own agendas.



West false champion of human rights

The speeches made by representatives of a number of countries at the Third Committee of the 78th United Nations General Assembly in New York should be a wake-up call to some Western countries to refrain from groundlessly accusing China of "human rights abuses" in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. These countries have clearly seen through the Western countries' scheme of weaponizing human rights issues so as to make them an excuse to interfere in other countries' internal affairs. In trying to impose the alleged values of the United States-led clique as the sole standards for judging human rights, the United Kingdom, as the representative of that clique, attempted to divide the UN General Assembly. The UK representative will be no doubt well aware himself that the so-called Xinjiang "human rights issues" he was trying to hype up are nothing more than fabrications from the fertile and furtive minds at the CIA. These have become the basis for a burlesque directed, funded and promoted by Washington with the aim of smearing China and estranging it from the rest of the international community. It is a shame that those countries, including the US, represented by the UK, wasted the valuable time of the UN meeting, in which the main focus should have been on the Israel-Palestine conflict. These Western countries are by no means the owners of the intellectual property rights to the concept of human rights. Nor are they in any position to lecture other countries, mainly the less-developed ones, on human rights issues. Few of them talk about their own human rights situation. And they maintain a studied silence on the humanitarian crises they have created around the world, such as in Afghanistan and Iraq, which they now leave unattended. For these Western countries, devastation and suffering are deemed to be the necessary costs for the latecomers to become as "civilized" and "democratic" as they are. Thus they have no qualms about overthrowing foreign regimes, starting wars, inciting "color revolutions", and emboldening separatists. China condemns the continued fabrication of lies by a handful of Western countries including the UK and the US on Xinjiang-related issues. And it firmly opposes and sternly rejects their insistence on provoking confrontation and interfering in China's internal affairs under the pretext of human rights in total disregard of the truth. The so-called assessment report on China's Xinjiang is full of false information and is totally illegal and invalid. These self-proclaimed human rights champions should know that their attempts to politicize and weaponize the human rights cause are doomed to failure.

Kazan review of Afghanistan situation

Khalid Iqbal

Afghanistan's problematic security landscape arising out of handiwork of numerous terrorist outfits, was viewed with utmost concern. Afghan government was urged to take effective measures to address this issue. It was articulated in the meeting that the international community was taking ineffective actions and that the ensuing complacency needed to end. But no concrete proposals were put forwarded to the international community regarding ways and means to extend a helping hand to the Afghan government. Also, no tangible plan of action

The fifth round of the 'Moscow Format Consultations on Afghanistan' was held on 29 September 2023. It carried out a comprehensive review of Afghanistan situation since the US troops' withdrawal, completed about two years ago. The forum emphasised that all terrorists' safe havens in Afghanistan should be destroyed and human rights should be upheld. Afghanistan's problematic security landscape arising out of handiwork of numerous terrorist outfits, was viewed with utmost concern. Afghan government was urged to take effective measures to address this issue. It was articulated in the meeting that the international community was taking ineffective actions and that the ensuing complacency needed to end. But no concrete proposals were put forwarded to the international community regarding ways and means to extend a helping hand to the Afghan government. Also, no tangible plan of action was recommended to the international community for strengthening Afghanistan's economy. As of now, Afghanistan stands abandoned by the international community, to let it rot. Numerous tangible obstacles have been fielded in the pathway of Afghanistan's political and economic stability. On top of the list is confiscation of Afghan government's money deposited in the US treasury and banks. Though stabilising the post US withdrawal Afghanistan is a shared responsibility of the international community; the onus, primarily, lies on the US and the UN. All-encompassing multilateral cooperation shall only be possible if the US-led Western coalition, whose actions over the course of 20 years or so, have led to the current crisis in Afghanistan, acknowledges and accepts its responsibility for post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghan government and society. The initial steps should be freezing of the Afghan national assets, the World over, and immediate lifting of sanctions of all shades. Unless a cooperative enabling hand

is extended to the Afghan government, nothing worthwhile is likely to accomplish. During the conference, Afghan government was prompted to undertake a meaningful, constructive, and result-driven discussion with the representatives of different ethno-political groups with a view to speedily conclude a viable political process, and expeditiously establish a fair, inclusive, broad-based, accountable, and responsible government in the country. This demand and the flashing urgency wasn't realistic. The Kabul government has already nominated individuals representing different Afghan ethnic groups. It will be expecting too much from a war winning side to pick up such representatives to the liking of former warlords who fought alongside the US occupation forces against Taliban. This may only be possible, say, in distant future as and when the tempers cool down to a level permitting, at least, a functional working relationship amongst the rivals. Forum took exception to Afghan government's attempts at politicizing humanitarian assistance. Importance of continuing humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan was reaffirmed by the forum, which was a good gesture. Another welcome step by the conference was expression of interest for expanding international community's engagement with the current Afghan authorities in the areas of culture, sports and education, this could go a long way in bringing Afghan people back to their regional moorings. The forum noted, with deep concern, Afghanistan government's colossal failure with regard to flow of terrorist bands to the adjoining countries and their committal acts of terrorism in those countries with an uptick frequency and intensity. Afghanistan was urged to take charge of the issue and produce tangible end results which should be reflected in the form of sharp reduction in the incidents of cross-border terrorism originating from Afghan soil. It was also stressed that time had come to deconstruct, remove, and prevent the establish-

ment of all types of terrorist organisations in Afghanistan, and choke the in-flow of logistics to such outfits. Pakistan is suffering the most at the hands of these rogue elements, operating from Afghan soil. Due to reorganization of TTP, IS, and Al Qaeda remnants in Afghanistan, terrorism the southern regions of Afghanistan and north-western region of Pakistan has increased phenomenally. Afghan terrorist entities have established strong cross-border links with their Pakistani counterparts. There is hardly a terrorist incident free day in Pakistan. The joint statement commended the Afghan government for its stern resistance against Daesh, and it was advised to tackle all other terrorist entities in a similar way. The issue of defanging terrorist entities in Afghanistan needs deft handling at regional level. All six immediate neighbours of Afghanistan need to put their act together with regard to effective border management with Afghanistan to choke the logistics of these undesired terrorist militias. Certainly, the Afghan government has a responsibility to discharge. Having transitioned from a war fighting militia to the level of political masters of Afghanistan, the Taliban run Afghan government has a set of obligations towards the international community. Afghan government needs to step up cooperation with its neighbours in its fight against terrorism and drug-trafficking. It ought to provide necessary conditions to enhance the wellbeing of the Afghan people, avoid their further emigration and offer circumstances for voluntary homecoming of its refugees; it also needs to reassess the tenability of regressive limitations placed on women employment and girls' education. **The writer is Air Commodore Khalid Iqbal (Retd) is Director National Security at Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS), Lahore Pakistan. He may be reached at info@casslhr.com**

The unending cycles of history

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



This metamorphosis is frequently referred to as progress, but it is far from an effortless victory; rather, it's a painful struggle with the intricacies of reality. Often, the hardships and trials of development prompt people to lay blame on other groups or nations for the disruptions and alterations, rather than examining their own actions. The origins of this current era can be traced back to the early 1990s in Europe when the Soviet Union disintegrated

The world is currently undergoing a profound transformation, a phenomenon that occurs only once in a few generations. This transformation is not orchestrated by those in power, and it cannot be easily thwarted. It commences with economic and political pressures within countries, which can escalate into military conflicts as internal systems strive to regain stability. Some nations manage these changes as challenging yet normal occurrences, while others teeter on the brink of instability or find themselves under attack. This metamorphosis is frequently referred to as progress, but it is far from an effortless victory; rather, it's a painful struggle with the intricacies of reality. Often, the hardships and trials of development prompt people to lay blame on other groups or nations for the disruptions and alterations, rather than examining their own actions. The origins of this current era can be traced back to the early 1990s in Europe when the Soviet Union disintegrated, and the Maastricht Treaty was signed to unite the continent. In 2001, the United States experienced the September 11 attacks, and in 2013, Xi Jinping assumed the presidency of China. In the grand tapestry of history, a decade or two represents a relatively brief span of time. The initial objective of the Soviet Union's dissolution was to foster a more efficient region. The unification of Europe under the European Union was intended to diminish the prospects of conflict and promote prosperity. The U.S. response to the 9/11 attacks aimed to mitigate the threat of terrorism. Xi's ascension in China was envisioned to propel the nation toward substantial prosperity. None of these aspirations can be deemed outright failures. The disintegration of the Soviet Union brought prosperity to many former Soviet states. European unification enjoyed a period of relative productivity. The U.S. response effectively prevented another large-scale attack akin to 9/11. Meanwhile, China continued its economic expansion. As with previous cycles,

these leaders' objectives were not utter failures, at least until the next cycle took hold. A generation has passed since the commencement of the last major transformation, and the deficiencies of the preceding phase are now manifesting. Russia has been diligently working to reestablish its influence since the Ukrainian conflict. The European Union is grappling with deep-seated divisions, to the extent that Germany and France have proposed formalizing this schism. Recently, Islamic fundamentalism has resurfaced in the wake of attacks by Hamas on Israel. The United States, having successfully evaded another major terrorist attack, has entered the foreseeable final phase of its cycle, with social unrest manifesting along political, racial, religious, sexual, and other fault lines. These trends are likely to dominate the years ahead, and China's economic growth has generated economic vulnerabilities and political friction. Two fundamental points emerge from this scenario. First, nations are composed of millions of individuals, each with their own perspectives and judgments. When things go awry, there is a natural inclination to seek scapegoats, often resulting in leaders bearing the brunt of blame. Secondly, and perhaps more significantly, the predicaments of the new era often stem from the solutions implemented in the previous era. Thus, we find ourselves in a new era that originated from the last, with the recurrence of wars, economic challenges, and mutual resentments. These are universal realities that can occasionally usher in joy but are more frequently tragic in nature. The Greeks, with their deep sense of history and cyclical thinking, may well have perceived the world in a similar light. The question arises: can humanity break free from these cycles? It would be comforting to think so, but as history has shown, such attempts

have met with limited success. The cycle of change and turmoil appears to be deeply ingrained in the human experience. However, understanding the cyclical nature of history can provide valuable insights into our current challenges. To break free from these cycles, it is imperative that nations and leaders take a more proactive approach to addressing the root causes of these recurring issues. Instead of resorting to blame and finger-pointing, a more constructive and collaborative approach is needed. This entails a greater focus on diplomacy, conflict resolution, and global cooperation. It requires a concerted effort to address the underlying economic, political, and social factors that contribute to instability and conflict. Moreover, it is essential to learn from past mistakes and successes. History is a rich source of knowledge and experience that can guide us in making more informed decisions. By studying the patterns and trends of previous eras, we can better anticipate and navigate the challenges of the present and future. Breaking free from these cycles also requires a shift in mindset. It demands recognition that the world is interconnected and interdependent. The challenges we face, whether they be economic, political, or social, are not isolated to individual nations. They have global repercussions. Therefore, a more holistic and cooperative approach is necessary to address these challenges effectively. The world is indeed undergoing a significant transformation, one that is deeply rooted in the cyclical nature of history. The challenges we face today are not isolated incidents but are part of a larger pattern of change and upheaval. While it may be difficult to completely break free from these cycles, it is not impossible. By taking a more proactive, collaborative, and informed approach, nations and leaders can work towards a more stable and peaceful world. Understanding the past can illuminate a path to a more harmonious future, where progress is achieved with less pain and struggle.

Briefs

Israeli
barbarity
claims...

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homes and apartments throughout the Gaza Strip for the 13th day in a row, causing civilian casualties and massive destruction to homes, public property, and infrastructure. Meanwhile, Hamas Movement said in a statement that the Israeli occupation forces (IOF) "rabid" arrest campaigns in the West Bank will not deter the Palestinian people from continuing to support resistance. The growing arrest campaigns of Hamas cadres and ex-prisoners, the demolition of martyrs' homes and the destruction of infrastructure in cities, villages and refugee camps in the West Bank will not dissuade the Palestinian people from supporting resistance and defending their lands and holy sites, Hamas affirmed. It said that the West Bank would remain the strong supporter of Gaza and the Al-Aqsa Flood battle, calling on the West Bankers to organize popular committees in all cities and villages to repel the IOF attacks.

Pak "disappointed" over...

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community to work together to ensure peace. Asked whether Pakistan intended to send its troops to Palestine under any mandate, not to fight against Israel rather for maintenance of peace, the spokesperson said that Pakistan had no such plan. She said Pakistan had a peaceful posture and never started a war with any country and always called for dialogue to seek resolution of the issues. She reiterated Pakistan's condemnation on Israeli atrocities in Gaza particularly the recent attack on a hospital. She said the a deliberate attack on civilians constituted to war crimes. Spokesperson Mumtaz Baloch told the media that a chartered plane carrying 100 tons of humanitarian assistance including medical supplies, tents and blankets would leave later on the day for Egypt for their onward transportation to Gaza for the suffering Palestinian population.

Alvi calls for
ceasefire,
visits...

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Palestinian people on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan. "On behalf of the Pakistani people, we condemn the brutalities happening in Gaza, the disproportionate reaction of Israel, and the apartheid for the last 30-40 years. We condemn that people are being brutalized and killed. In fact, the hospital in Gaza was bombed and more than 500 people died. All this creates more bitterness," the president stated. Dr Alvi said that Pakistan would always stand by Palestine and would only accept a solution that was acceptable to the Palestinians. The president said that the United Nations should debate the atrocities that happened in Palestine, and the UNSC should pass a resolution to stop Israeli atrocities. He said that such brutal actions created more possibilities of hatred leading to more wars, adding that the Organisaion of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) should raise a strong voice in support of Palestine.

PM Kakar
hails...

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The Forum were actually a roadmap for not just physical connectivity but also an important stabilising factor in international order. Prime Minister Kakar said the Belt and Road Initiative was a "pragmatic" and "practical" answer to the global political, economic and civilisational challenges faced by many nations. He said China's unprecedented progress was a role model which transformed the lives of the millions of its people, also having no parallel in the world history. He told the Chinese president that across the whole political structures in Pakistan, there was no dissenting view about China.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Palestine Ahmed Rabei speaking on the occasion of All Parties Conference on Palestine. Representatives from PML Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, PTI Ali Mohammad Khan, Jamaat-e-Islami Mian Mohammad Aslam and others attended the conference. Uzma Gul organized the conference. – DNA

ICC World Cup 2023

Pakistan geared up for
Australia challenge

Babar Azam, are all set for yet another major challenge amid their ICC World Cup 2023 campaign as they take on five-time champions Australia

SPORTS DESK

BENGALURU: Pakistan men's cricket team, led by Babar Azam, are all set for yet another major challenge amid their ICC World Cup 2023 campaign as they take on five-time champions Australia on Friday. It is the maiden contest of the ICC World Cup 2023 at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium and the battle of the two cricket powerhouses promises to deliver thrill and excitement to the fans in the stands and around the world. This is the Babar Azam-led side's fourth match in the tournament and they are placed fourth on the 10-team points table with two wins from three matches. They have had five days to rejuvenate since their arrival in the city. Over the last two days, the team has practiced under lights and in the afternoon, in their bid to acclimatise to the conditions. "I think the first impressions from everyone was cool, it is a pretty small venue. Boundaries are short here and the conditions for the game look very good," Pakistan head coach Grant Bradburn told PCB Digital in the lead-up to the game. "We have done our homework on the venue – it is quite a high scoring venue that probably relates more to the boundary



size, which is 63-64 meters. The batters really enjoyed the opportunity to get on some true surfaces and the bowlers enjoyed it too as there is a fair bit of bounce. "It is going to be a venue where the batters are going to really enjoy getting in on and the bowlers are also going to be really asked some serious questions. I do not think there is going to be a lot of margin for error on this wicket ... As a bowling at-

tack, you know, we haven't been quite as accurate as we would like to be in recent times and this venue is going to demand some discipline and accuracy." Though the match against India at Ahmedabad did not produce favourable results, Bradburn believes that it provided some crucial learnings from which the team will benefit in the tournament. "There is always pressure on the team to win. When we do not, we cri-

tique our performances very, very closely and we've done that over the last couple of days, too. I think the experiences from Ahmedabad were fantastic.

"It was a great opportunity to learn and grow from the whole experience of playing in front of a very large, hostile crowd. It is unusual to play in front of a crowd, which is pretty much, you know, solely there for the opposition. However, it was nice to hear some silence as well at times when we were batting well. "We had some really good honest conversations yesterday as a group talking about how we wanted to take the game on more and we did have an opportunity to be a little bit more assertive with the bat earlier on. "As a result, we put ourselves under a little bit of pressure and then you know, we just didn't get enough to really put pressure on in the second innings. That, however, doesn't take away from the fact that as a group, we've also acknowledged that we didn't put enough balls in good areas. "We have also had some wonderful insights about the venues too – the ball is scuffing up quite quickly and looks like it is dog chewed after about 20 overs. It obviously means the ball becomes a little bit softer, which makes it difficult to score in the later stages.

India beat Bangladesh
to stay perfect at WC

PUNE: India registered their fourth consecutive win during the ongoing ICC World Cup 2023 by beating Bangladesh by seven wickets. Virat Kohli's unbeaten century sealed his side's win in four World Cup matches. The star batter reached his century and ended the match in style with a six against spinner Nasum Ahmed when he needed three runs to complete his century and India required two more runs to reach a target of 257. They got there with more than eight overs to spare, finishing on 261-3. Kohli faced 97 balls, including six fours and four sixes, with this century his third score in excess of fifty in four innings following contributions of 85 and 55 not out in recent pool wins over Australia and Afghanistan. But for Bangladesh, a third defeat in four matches left them with an uphill struggle to qualify for the semi-finals. The stage was set for Kohli by an opening partnership of 88 between India skipper Rohit Sharma (48) and Shubman Gill (53). Rohit signalled India's intentions with a second-ball cover-driven four off Shoriful Islam as Bangladesh bowling coach Allan Donald, the former South Africa spearhead, looking on from the boundary edge. Rohit, fresh from scores of 131 and 86 against Afghanistan and Pakistan respectively, hooked Hasan Mahmud for a huge six only to hole out when trying to repeat the shot next ball. Kohli, however, was soon into his stride with a four – off a free hit – and a sublime straight six from successive Mahmud deliveries. Gill's exit, as he just failed to clear the rope for a third time, made little difference to the run-spre. Earlier, spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja sparked a top-order collapse against a Bangladesh side who had won three of their four previous ODIs against India. The Tigers were held to 256-8, having been well-placed at 93 without loss, after stand-in Tigers skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto won the toss on a good batting pitch. Jadeja took a miserly 2-38 from his 10 overs and Yadav 1-47. Tanzid Hasan, whose 51 was the left-hander's maiden ODI fifty, and Liton Das (66) shared a fine opening stand while facing Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj only for Bangladesh to slump to 137-4. The 22-year-old Tanzid, whose highest score in eight previous ODIs was 16, completed a 41-ball fifty before he was lbw to left-arm wrist-spinner Yadav. – Agencies

Mohamed Salah
condemns
Israeli brutality
in Gaza

LIVERPOOL football star Mohamed Salah has made a heartfelt plea for an end to the "massacres" in Gaza, urging humanitarian aid to be allowed into the region. Salah released a video statement on his social media accounts, marking his first comments on the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, which has seen heavy casualties. The Gaza health ministry has reported at least 3,478 Palestinians killed and 12,065 injured in Israeli air strikes since October 7th, following an attack by Palestinian militant group Hamas on Israeli towns. Egyptian trucks carrying aid to Gaza are moving closer to the border, but it's uncertain when, or if, they'll be allowed to cross due to security concerns. – DNA

SA wants to
host Women's
WC tournament

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia wants to host the 2035 Women's World Cup, says the technical director of the country's women's team. The Gulf kingdom has already lodged a formal bid to host the 2034 men's World Cup. "I believe it's a bright future (for the women's and girls' game in Saudi Arabia)," said Monika Staab at the Leaders Week conference at Twickenham. Saudi Arabia has been accused of human rights abuses and criminalises same-sex relationships. Many women's football players are open about their sexuality with several critical of plans for tourism authority Visit Saudi to sponsor the 2023 World Cup in Australia and New Zealand. Those plans were eventually abandoned by Fifa after the host nations expressed their disappointment with the idea. Amnesty International Australia campaigner Nikita White said in February: "It would be quite the irony for Saudi's tourism body to sponsor the largest celebration of women's sport in the world when you consider that, as a woman in Saudi Arabia, you can't even have a job without the permission of your male guardian." Why is Saudi Arabia's involvement in sport controversial? Saudi Arabia is already in the running to host the AFC Women's Asian Cup in 2026 with Australia also bidding for the tournament. "I told (the sport's administrators) it takes time to go to the World Cup. I know they want to host the men's World Cup - why not host the Women's World Cup in 2035?" said Staab. – Agencies

Nawaz's
arrest
warrant...

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National Accountability Bureau (NAB) did not raise any objections to the protective bail sought by the PML-N supremo in corruption cases. Earlier, an accountability court suspended the arrest warrant issued against him in the Toshakhana case. A two-member IHC bench comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb heard the Nawaz's bail petitions. Reacting to the verdict, PML-N President and former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif welcomed the IHC decision, saying his elder brother was disqualified based on a "fictitious and fabricated story". "The elected Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, was disqualified based on a fictitious and fabricated story. He was implicated in absurd cases and subjected to mistreatment," he wrote on X. "Any fair hearing would have established his innocence. Bail is a fundamental right, and we welcome the IHC decision in this regard, hoping that justice will prevail, InshaAllah," the PML-N chief added. A day earlier, the IHC issued a notice to NAB on Nawaz's petitions seeking protective bail in corruption references. The NAB Rawalpindi Bureau had nominated Rafay Maqsood to appear before the IHC bench as a prosecutor. The three-time former prime minister was declared a proclaimed offender by the IHC in Avenfield and Al-Azizia cases over non-compliance after he went to London for medical treatment with the court's permission in November 2019.

Nawaz
touches
down in...

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meeting, sources told Geo News. He was given "special protocol" on arrival at the Dubai airport. Nawaz will be meeting a selected group of people during his two-day stay in Dubai and will leave for Pakistan on Saturday morning – first to Islamabad and then to Lahore. Nawaz will be accompanied by around 150 people on his return to Pakistan in a chartered plane. Journalists, politicians and activists have booked the ticket for Pakistan's return. All the legal hurdles were removed earlier in the day in the smooth return of the former prime minister after he was granted protective bail in two graft cases while his arrest warrant in the Toshakhana case was suspended by an accountability court. The three-time premier reached London on November 19, 2019, when he fell critically ill in prison. It was alleged by the family that the Imran Khan-led government and his "backers" had tried to poison Nawaz. He was treated at the Harley Street Clinic and London Bridge Hospital for four months. Nawaz had been diagnosed with an immune system disorder and doctors in Pakistan recommended that he should go abroad for treatment as his condition continued to deteriorate despite the best possible care in the country.

Army Chief
lauds PAF...

FROM PAGE 01
Speaking at the occasion, the Air Chief lauded the utmost support extended by General Syed Asim Munir in the pursuit of PAF's modernization drive and appreciated the whole hearted participation from the 14 allied countries, which will pave the way for military-to-military co-operation in the backdrop of futuristic aerial warfare. Highlighting the significance of the exercise, the Air Chief emphasized that exercise Indus Shield offers a unique opportunity for participating air forces to showcase their unparalleled skills and operational capabilities. He commended the dynamic role played by PAF's Airpower Center of Excellence in successfully orchestrating this mega exercise, ensuring meticulous supervision, conduct, analysis and assessment of aerial warfare missions. Chief of the Air Staff highlighted that the Centre's state-of-the-art infrastructure and resources have played a pivotal role in ensuring the successful execution of this significant air exercise.

Generation Gap: Emerging issue in 21st century SE Asia

MARYAM USMAN

IN the 1960s, generation gap gained attention in a sociological theory. Generation gap is the age gap and the difference in cultural views leading to lack of understanding between people belonging to different age groups. As defined in the Cambridge dictionary "a situation in which older and younger people do not understand each other because of their different experiences, opinions, habits, and behavior" (dictionary.cambridge.org, 2020) The generation gap is not widely recognized as a significant issue on a global scale due to parallel language constraints, creating a communication barrier. However, the issue remains unacknowledged, despite its presence, in society and restricts people from different geographical backgrounds from easily assimilating into new environments, primarily due to differences in customs and rituals. One might often wonder why the never-ending debate over which culture is best persists. The answer lies in the generation gap, and if no action is taken, it might lead to problems at an international level. Issues can also arise within a nation as individuals from different schools of thought, often with significant age differences, no longer see situations in the same

light, leading to opposition even when neither party is inherently wrong. "Generational differences fuel much of current social and political tension in Western Europe and the United States over globalization, nationalism and immigration, according to an in-depth analysis of results from the Pew Global Attitudes surveys." (Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project, 2004) Very few research works and surveys have addressed this issue, which is increasing day by day, and despite its significance, little attention is given to the matter. The goal of this research paper is to create awareness about the growing generation gap in our societies. Different countries hold varying views on the generation gap. I have observed that substantially developed countries see it as an issue while the underdeveloped countries do not believe its existence. As when I tried to find more about the gap and ask people around me about it the most common response I received, from people mostly in their late thirties or above, was that no such thing as the generation gap exists and regarded it is a made up phenomena to justify themselves saying that the trends have changed while everything is still the same. However, teenagers and people in their twenties agreed that customs and traditions have changed thus creating the gap. Even though the

younger generation believed in this gap they did not give it much importance to think of ways to overcome it. In today's families' the number of conflicts is increasing and there is lack of understanding between parents and children due to age and perspective differences. Since people from different religions and beliefs are living in the same society, they tend to gradually adapt each others as it is a part of human nature and that is where variances start to develop between households and individuals. The relationship between parents and children has also become frail as working parents are overburdened at work and rarely find the time and energy to sit and talk with their children one-on-one. Parents cannot be solely held responsible for this gap, instead it is a two-sided problem as teenagers and children enjoy the company of gadgets more than interacting with their parents. The thinking of today's generation is quite different from that of someone from two three decades ago. The Southeast Asia is the area which had a conservative society but with the passage of time it has evolved, and the coming generation holds views opposite of those of their ancestors. Today, women are encouraged to speak up for justice, which clashes with traditional gender roles. "Distance, cultural norms, and bias against girls' education have a serious impact on

the participation of girls in education, especially at the middle school level and above. The issue is particularly acute in Diemer, and to some extent in Astore, that perform poorly on girls' education due to a more pronounced gender bias." (THE STATE OF CHILDREN IN PAKISTAN, THE STATE OF CHILDREN IN PAKISTAN, 2015) The generation gap is also increasing not only because of the lack of communication but also because the coming generations are losing respect for their elders as they think their knowledge is superior to that of their parents and elders. Rapid changes in mobility and society also contribute to the gap, as individuals from previous generations struggle to adapt to new technologies and ways of life, a common human trait that resists change. There are many other factors that contribute to the widening generation gap, but the main reason is the difference in ideology between older people and the younger generation. Most people in the Southeast Asia traditionally hold conservative mindsets and do not approve of the younger generation's independence and their ability to make decisions for themselves without consultation. The consequences of the generational and cultural gaps are far-reaching as they affect households and leave their mark on generations to follow.

Briefs

Marcos to address food security at GCC

MANILA: President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said that he would focus on priority issues for the Philippines such as food security and energy at the upcoming summit in Riyadh of the GCC and Association of Southeast Asian Nations. A political and economic union of 10 states in Southeast Asia, including the Philippines, ASEAN has in recent years been increasing its engagements with members of the GCC – Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and the UAE. Top leaders of the two blocs are scheduled to meet in Riyadh for their first summit on Friday.

"This is a particularly important conference because this is the first interaction between ASEAN and the GCC, both of whom are very vibrant regions in terms of economic development for the globe," Marcos told reporters at the Villamor Airbase in Pasay City, before his departure for Saudi Arabia. "It gives us the Philippines a unique opportunity to advance our priorities in ASEAN under the ASEAN-GCC framework ... This summit will serve as an important platform for the Philippines to highlight the need for cooperation in energy and food security, logistics, supply chains, digital, the free flow of goods, people, and services, as well as the enhancement and protection of the rights, of course, of our overseas workers." Half of nearly 2 million overseas Filipino workers live and work in GCC countries, mainly Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Often referred to in the Philippines as "modern-day heroes," their remittances have in the past decade contributed an average of nearly 10 percent of the country's gross domestic product. —DNA

Sweden arrests 2 for intelligence breach

STOCKHOLM: Sweden's security service said that two people have been arrested in connection with a suspected intelligence breach, with media identifying them as a former member of the military and an intelligence agency employee. The pair was arrested in a raid Tuesday by the Swedish Security Service (Sapo). "We have conducted an operation and two people have been arrested," Karin Lutz, press officer for Sapo. She said they were suspected of "aggravated unauthorised use of classified information," describing it as a "serious crime." Newspaper Expressen reported that the suspects were a married couple, and the husband had a "long career within the Swedish Armed Forces" and was currently employed in the public sector.

MENA firms urged to embrace sustainability

RIYADH: Businesses in the Middle East and North Africa region need to recognize that the sustainability transition can unlock unique opportunities while reducing headwind risks, a global report has urged. The study, conducted in collaboration between Bain & Co. and the World Economic Forum, has revealed that companies in the region are trailing behind their global counterparts in adopting sustainability practices. Additionally, it added that consumers tend to underestimate the unique environmental vulnerabilities specific to the MENA region.

As it examined the challenges posed by climate change to the nature, economies, and businesses in the region, the report put forward several recommendations. These included advocating for the adoption of science-based targets, promoting the decarbonization of operations, emphasizing the need for resilient planning, and encouraging the mobilization of sustainable financial resources. Policymakers are urged to take action by establishing clear climate regulations, facilitating access to technology and infrastructure. —APP

Mushahid given Silk Road award at BRI forum

In acceptance speech, Senator condemns West's double standards & complicity in Gaza Genocide

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In recognition of his longstanding role on CPEC, Senator Mushahid Hussain was presented with a Special Award during the Media Cooperation Forum on Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) being held in Beijing. The Award Ceremony was held on the sidelines of the 3rd Belt & Road Forum, and the Award was conferred by Li Shulei, Chief of Media, Information & Communication of the Communist Party of China and also member of the Party's top policymaking Political Bureau. In his acceptance speech, Senator Mushahid Hussain said he was 'humbled & honoured' to be given this prestigious first ever 'Silk Road News Award', adding 'this is an honour for not just myself but for Pakistan and its people'. Two other Awardees were chosen from Uganda and Russia, and the 3 Award winners were chosen from amongst 4485 participants from 80 countries. Mushahid thanked China for its consistent



and enduring support to Pakistan, particularly investment in CPEC projects. Referring to the speech of President Xi Jinping at the Belt & Road Forum, he said 'BRI is a new platform for international economic cooperation' terming the BRI as the 'most significant development and diplomatic initiative in the 21st Century'. He said core of the BRI and, indeed,

Pakistan-China relations, is the people-to-people connectivity, especially role of media, think tanks, academia, youth and NGOs to build a more 'open, inclusive and interconnected world'. Quoting Chairman Mao that 'an idea becomes a material force when it is grasped by millions and millions of people', added Senator Mushahid, that 'BRI is today a ma-

terial force in the world', bringing benefits and opportunities globally. Referring to the international situation, Senator Mushahid Hussain said in the Middle East, 'we are witnessing a genocide in Gaza, where the West is complicit in Israeli crimes as they are supporting Israel' and all their talk of human rights and democracy is 'hypocritical based on double

standards'. He termed the Gaza situation as a 'struggle between the oppressed and oppressors' and 'we are with the oppressed & heroic Palestinians'. He termed the BRI as the way forward based on connectivity and cooperation and said 'CPEC is guarantor for a better tomorrow for Pakistan and people of Pakistan, taking ownership of CPEC, will take CPEC forward towards successful conclusion'. Finally, Senator Mushahid Hussain termed fake news, falsehoods and fiction as the 'biggest challenge to BRI' since Information Warfare was being waged against BRI. He urged a collective and cooperative approach of BRI countries on the media front as a 'collective voice' will be a force multiplier. Vice Ministers for International Communication from the Publicity and International Departments of the Communist Party of China were present at the ceremony, which was hosted by 'People's Daily' at its headquarters and President and Editor-in-Chief of People's Daily, party organ of CPC, were present alongside 200 journalists from over 60 countries.

Azerbaijan study center & Heydar Aliyev corner enriched

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Azerbaijan in Pakistan renewed & enriched the Azerbaijan Study Center & Heydar Aliyev Corner operating in the National Library of Pakistan. At the event organized on this occasion, Ambassador Khazar Farhadov spoke about the great work done by the National Leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev for the protection of independence and development of Azerbaijan, the visionary policy of President Ilham Aliyev, and the liberation of our territories from Armenian occupation under his leadership, as well as the Azerbaijan-Pakistan relations and Western Azerbaijan Community.



Global silence regrettable: Pak envoy on Gaza

NEWS DESK

PARIS: Pakistan's Ambassador to France Asim Iftikhar Ahmad on Thursday termed 'unfortunate' the silence over repeated and flagrant violation of international humanitarian law against innocent civilians in the occupied Palestinian territories. Speaking at the 217th session of the UNESCO Executive Board on Palestine, he said the 15-year long illegal blockade of Gaza had emboldened the perpetrators of such crimes. "It is the silence, and unwillingness to call out the aggression and illegal occupation – for over seven decades – that is at the core of this dispute," he said. The ambassador said Pakistan had publicly pronounced its position and strong condemnation of the air strike on the Gaza hospital. He said the government was also taking necessary measures to dispatch humanitarian assistance to Gaza. He said the silence was intellectual bankruptcy and needed serious introspection to do justice. "We call on the international community to take urgent measures to bring an immediate end to the Israeli bombardment and siege of Gaza," he said. He said the international community must also work in concert for a just, comprehensive and lasting peace with a viable, sovereign and contiguous State of Palestine on the basis of pre-1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

Tech revives endangered native American languages

BLOOMINGTON: Linguistics experts are turning to cutting-edge technologies to revitalize threatened Native American languages – and rejuvenate generations of Indigenous tradition – through new approaches such as children's books and smartphone apps. In one such endeavor, three Native American women rack their brains as they gather around a computer, trying to remember – and record – dozens of Apache language words related to everyday activities such as cooking and eating. They are creating an online English-Apache dictionary, just one of several projects working to preserve endangered Indigenous languages in the United States. The women are working with Rapid Word Collection (RWC) software, which uses an algorithm to search Apache text and audio databases for so-called forgotten words. The words are then defined, translated into English, and their pronunciation recorded, so the dictionary's users will know how to say them properly. Teacher Joycelene Johnson and two of her colleagues validate the definition of the word Apache word "kupas," which means potato in English. "The applications in the written language are good for (a) non-speaker – at least they'll have a museum of it where they can go to for reference," said Johnson, a 68-year-old who teaches Apache vocabulary and grammar. According to her, the bilingual school on her reservation has about a thousand students – but only one, an eleventh-grader, is fluent in Apache. Johnson spoke at just one of several workshops at the International Conference on Indigenous Language Documentation, Education and Revitalization (ICILDER) last weekend at the University of Indiana. Representatives from around 40 Indigenous groups from around the world gathered in the college town of Bloomington just days after the United States – which counts about 6.8 million Native American residents, or about two percent of the population – marked Indigenous People's Day.

Indonesia, Malaysia boycott Frankfurt fair over Palestine

JAKARTA: Writers from Indonesia and Malaysia have stood in support of their countries' decision to withdraw from the largest international book fair in Frankfurt following the organizer's public support for Israel. Both countries were ready to participate in the fair that started on Wednesday when an awards ceremony to celebrate Palestinian writer Adania Shibli was called off last week. Shibli was going to be honored with the prestigious LiBeraturpreis for her novel "Minor Detail," which tells the true story of the rape and murder of a Palestinian girl by Israeli soldiers in 1949. The cancellation of the award ceremony coincided with the ongoing Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip, which started after the Gaza-based militant group Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7. Juergen Boos, director of the Frankfurt Book Fair, published a statement detailing plans "to make Jewish and Israeli voices especially visible" during the literary event and expressed "complete solidarity on the side of Israel." For Indonesians, the stance was "like reading only one book to feel like you understand the whole world," the Indonesian Publishers Association said in a statement on Monday, as it rejected "the Frankfurt Book Fair's stance of supporting and giving a wider stage to Israel at this year's exhibition while denying the Palestinian people's right to independence." Malaysia's Education Ministry followed suit hours later, saying it would "not compromise on Israeli violence in Palestine." The decisions found widespread support in literary circles. Malaysian writer Faisal Tehrani told media reporters he was saddened by the book fair's decision to sideline Shibli, whom he believes "will get the Nobel one day." With Malaysia's support for Palestine, which transcends political differences, it would be "unthinkable" to participate in the Frankfurt

fair, he said, adding that its organizer's approach completely disregarded the situation in Gaza, where 3,400 people, mostly women and children, had been killed since the beginning of the Israeli onslaught. "FBF gathers literary figures and authors. Literature is about humanity," Tehrani said. "What FBF did is baffling truly." Indonesian novelist Laksmi Pamuntjak, who won the LiBeraturpreis in 2016, issued a statement in support of her country's decision to withdraw. The Frankfurt Book Fair's decision to side with Israel "shows that this book fair no longer represents the voice of the world, where all nations and countries have the right and deserve a platform to voice their own truths," she said, adding that organizers should have set the stage also for Palestinian writers, instead of "shutting down their voices." Indonesian writer Andina Dwi Fatma has declined an invitation to speak at a literary event associated with the Frankfurt Book Fair after the organizers announced their position. "I've been following the news with a broken heart. And after I saw what FBF posted ... I told them that I can't attend the festival now that they made clear that they stand in complete solidarity with Israel," "I think everybody must do something within their means ... This is not a bilateral problem between Israel and Palestine; it's a genocide, a humanitarian tragedy. So, declining that invitation is the least I can do as a writer." For novelist Okky Madasari, Indonesia's decision not to participate in the fair was valid as it was important for writers, publishers and intellectuals to remind the world "that such a support disregarding the context and history can provide Israel with justification to kill more people and do more violence." She told that events such as the Frankfurt Book Fair are seen by many as a noble medium to advance human knowledge and understanding.

Russia's FM hails deeper ties in N.Korea visit

Lavrov's visit is seen as setting the stage for a visit by President Vladimir Putin, who has stepped up cooperation with politically isolated North Korea

FOREIGN DESK

SEOUL: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has met North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, Russia's foreign ministry said as the two countries forge closer ties in the face of what they see as a hostile and aggressive U.S.-led Western camp. Lavrov, who arrived in Pyongyang earlier than expected, thanked North Korea for backing Russia's military actions in Ukraine and pledged Moscow's "complete support and solidarity" for Kim, Russia's foreign ministry said. Lavrov's visit is seen as setting the stage for a visit by President Vladimir Putin, who has stepped up cooperation with politically isolated North Korea. Speaking at a reception hosted by the North on Wednesday, Lavrov said Moscow strongly valued Pyongyang's

"unwavering and principled support" for Russia in the Ukraine war, which it calls a "special military operation". "Likewise the Russian Federation extends its complete support and solidarity with the aspirations of the DPRK," Lavrov said, according to the transcript of the speech released on his ministry's website. DPRK are the initials of the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. After talks with North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui, Lavrov later told reporters that increased military activities by the United States and its allies Japan and South Korea were a cause for concern, Russia's state-run RIA news agency reported. The U.S. and South Korean navies on Thursday joined those of four other countries – Canada, Belgium, New Zealand and the Philippines – for

an anti-naval mine exercise off South Korea's south coast, the South Korean defence ministry said. A U.S. B-52 bomber made a rare landing in South Korea on Thursday to underline the two countries' alliance against North Korea's rising nuclear threats, South Korea's military said. In his comments, Lavrov said North Korea, China and Russia were pursuing a policy of seeking to ease regional tensions. North Korea state media said Lavrov's visit would mark a "significant occasion" in further consolidating relations between Pyongyang and Moscow. Photos released by the Russian foreign ministry showed Lavrov being greeted by people holding flowers and flags of the two countries upon arrival. INCREASED CONTACTS Lavrov's two-day visit comes a month after North Korean leader

Kim made a rare trip to Russia, during which he invited Putin to Pyongyang and discussed military cooperation. Russia's TASS news agency said Lavrov might also brief North Korean leaders on the results of Putin's visit this week to China. A U.S. think-tank said on Tuesday that satellite images showed continued activity around a North Korean port near Russia, indicating at least six trips by sea between the two countries since late August. The shipments between the port of Rajin and Russia's Duna are possibly related to the transfer of North Korean munitions to Russia, the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) said. Separately, a North Korean cargo-passenger ferry that had carried foreign tourists from Japan or South Korea was seen at a drydock at

the same port this month, most likely for maintenance, CSIS said. It was not clear whether the vessel would be used to supplement trade activity between Russia and North Korea, it said. The White House said last week that North Korea had recently provided Russia with a shipment of weapons in what it called a troubling development. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the Western allegations were not based on evidence. South Korea and the United States have expressed concern about increased exchanges between Russia and the North, and the allies have stepped up military drills together with Japan in response to the threat from North Korea. South Korea has urged Russia to comply with United Nations resolutions in its exchanges with North Korea, a South Korean foreign ministry spokesperson told a briefing on Thursday.

Court Notice

In the Court of Muhammad Farooq Azam Judge Family Court Gujrat

Title: Taryaba Majeed. Versus Qasim Sajjad Notice to: Qasim Sajjad S/o. Muhammad Sajjad R/o. Kula Chor P/o. Jalalpur Jattan Tehsil & District Gujrat. Suit for Dissolution of marriage with dowry article etc. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 23-10-2023, otherwise case will be decided ex parte.

Court Notice

In the Court of Muhammad Amir Sultan Kalachi Civil Judge Gujrat

Title: Zaheer Abbas. Versus Muhammad Akhtar etc. Notice to: Muhammad Akhtar S/o. Nawab Khan Cast Ansari R/o. Mohallah Noorpur Sharqi Gujrat. Suit for Permanent Injection Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 24-11-2023, otherwise case will be decided ex parte.

Shift in Türkiye's economic policies attract investors

ANKARA: The French bank BNP Paribas was the latest in the row to back Türkiye's economic policies drive in its report published Wednesday noting that normalization in policies along with easing in risk premiums have restored confidence among investors and rating agencies. "Official foreign exchange reserves consolidated over the summer, the Turkish lira is much more stable and risk premiums have eased," the bank said. "Economic growth remains resilient despite the slowdown in domestic credit, and the budget deficit is much lower than expected given pre-election promises," it noted. Following elections, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan named a new economic team of technocrats with Wall Street experience and broad support among foreign investors to embrace more conventional economic policies, including monetary tightening. Since June, the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye (CBRT) hiked rates by a combined 2,150 basis points to rein in inflation and vowed to deliver further tightening if needed. The central bank is due to announce its latest decision on the interest rates during its meeting scheduled for next week.

Tesla quarterly results disappoints

NEW YORK: Tesla's results for the third quarter missed analyst estimates, as the Elon Musk-run company was hit by higher costs and the fallout from price discounts. The Texas-based electric vehicle giant said sales in the July to September period reached \$23.35 billion, lower than the \$24.19 billion forecasted by analysts polled by Factset. The company also saw net profits come in less than hoped for, at 66 cents per share instead of 73 cents forecasted. Musk has undertaken multiple price cuts throughout 2023 on vehicles, telling investors in April that the company has taken the view that pushing for higher sales is the right choice versus taking a bigger margin. —Agencies

Briefs

LHC gives police more time to recover Rashid

DNA

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court's (LHC) Rawalpindi bench on Thursday granted police more time till October 26 to recover Awami Muslim League chief and PTI ally Sheikh Rashid, whose whereabouts haven't been traced since his arrest last month. He was arrested from his residence in Rawalpindi on September 17 according to his lawyer Sardar Abdul Razzak Khan. "Men in plain clothes arrested Sheikh Rashid from his residence," the lawyer had said, claiming that the former interior minister had been moved to an "undisclosed location". The next day on Sep 18 Rashid's nephew had filed a petition in LHC's same bench seeking direction to the police to produce his uncle, a brother and two servants. On Sep 21, the Evacuee Trust Property Board had sealed Lal Haveli - the political office and public secretariat of Rashid Ahmed - after the board chairman cancelled the registry of the building. The LHC on Sep 22 summoned Rawalpindi Regional Police Officer (RPO) Syed Khurram Ali on September 26 regarding the former lawmaker's arrest.

IMF wants immediate raise in gas prices

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As the people in Pakistan are already fed up with the record-high and sustained inflation, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has conveyed its annoyance over not increasing the gas prices - a move that will only worsen the existing cost-of-living crisis. According to sources, the IMF says not raising the gas tariffs from July 1 is a violation of the \$3 billion agreement signed by Pakistan after the expiry of the previous programme on June 30. The current nine-month deal, which will end on March 31 next year, carries strict conditions including increase in fuel prices, gas and power tariffs, and let the market decide the dollar exchange rate without any government or State Bank of Pakistan intervention. As a result, the people are experiencing a sustained inflation rate which is increasing further amid the rising prices and rupee depreciation. However, the government crackdown on money markets has raised some hope that the inflation might be controlled in the longer-run. The IMF has told Islamabad, the sources in finance ministry say, that the two gas distribution companies - Sui Northern and Sui Southern - have faced a \$46 billion loss because the tariffs were not modified with effect from July 1.

Sunak likens Netanyahu to Churchill

TEL AVIV: Israeli forces continued their air assault on Gaza, while both British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and US President Joe Biden made visits to demonstrate support for Israel and discuss the ongoing conflict with Hamas. Speaking after a meeting with Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu, the PM said the Palestinian people were "victims of Hamas too". He repeated the UK supported Israel's right to self-defence, in line with international law. Borrowing a phrase from Britain's leader during World War Two, Sir Winston Churchill, Netanyahu said the Hamas attack was "our darkest hour" and "the world's darkest hour". Mr Sunak said: "I'm proud to stand here with you in Israel's darkest hour as your friend. We will stand with you in solidarity, we will stand with your people. And we also want you to win." - Agencies

INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDONESIA



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Food Security Kausar Abdullah Malik, Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio and others cutting cake to celebrate the 78th Independence Day and the Armed Forces Day of Indonesia. A large number of guests hailing from various walks of life attended the reception. - DNA

Taliban Minister says plans to formally join China's BRI

BEIJING: The Taliban administration wants to formally join Chinese President Xi Jinping's huge 'Belt and Road' infrastructure initiative and will send a technical team to China for talks, Afghanistan's acting commerce minister said on Thursday. Beijing has sought to develop ties with the Taliban-run government since it took over in 2021, even though no other foreign government has recognised the administration. Last month, China became the first country to appoint an ambassador to Kabul, with other nations retaining previous ambassadors or appointed heads of mission in a charge d'affaires capacity that does not involve formally presenting credentials to the government. "We requested China to

allow us to be a part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Belt and Road Initiative... (and) are discussing technical issues today," acting Commerce Minister Haji Nooruddin Azizi told Reuters in an interview a day after the Belt and Road Forum ended in Beijing. The Pakistan "economic corridor" refers to the huge flagship section of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Afghanistan's neighbour. Azizi said the administration would also send a technical team to China to enable it to "better understand" the issues standing in the way of it joining the initiative, but did not elaborate on what was holding Afghanistan back. Afghanistan could offer China a wealth of coveted mineral resources. Several

Chinese companies already operate there, including the Metallurgical Corp. of China Ltd (MCC) which has held talks with the Taliban administration, as well as the previous Western-backed government, over plans for a potentially huge copper mine. "China, which invests all over the world, should also invest in Afghanistan... we have everything they need, such as lithium, copper and iron," Azizi said. "Afghanistan is now, more than ever, ready for investment." Asked about the MCC talks, Azizi said discussions had been delayed because the mine was near a historical site, but they were still ongoing. "The Chinese company has made a huge investment, and we support them," he added. Investors have said security remains a concern.

The Islamic State militant group has targeted foreign embassies and a hotel popular with Chinese investors in Kabul. Asked about the security challenges, Azizi said security was a priority for the Taliban-run government, adding that after 20 years of war - which ended when foreign forces withdrew and the Taliban took over - meant more parts of the country were safe. "It is now possible to travel to provinces where there is industry, agriculture and mines that one previously could not visit... security can be guaranteed," Azizi added. Afghanistan and 34 other countries agreed to work together on the digital economy and green development on the sidelines of the Belt and Road Forum on Wednesday. - Agencies

Khan's lawyer scuffles with citizen outside SC

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's lawyer Sher Afzal Khan Marwat engaged in a scuffle with an ordinary citizen outside the gate of the Supreme Court. This is the second time in a month that Marwat got involved in a fight, as in September, a heated debate between him and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Dr Afnan Ullah Khan turned into a wrestling competition. A video of today's incident showed the two grappling with each other, while a man beat the citizen and a cop and another lawyer intervened in a bid to end the fight. Meanwhile, another video showed the same man beating the citizen, who was lying on the floor while Marwat was kicking him. The cop had somehow separated them after intervention and was trying to calm down the citizen when he said an abusive word to Marwat. This was when Marwat rushed and grabbed him while the first man started beating the citizen. Speaking about today's incident, the PTI lawyer claimed that the citizen had provoked him by hurling an abusive word. "He abused me without any reason. I didn't know the person," Marwat said and refused to comment any further. Last month, Marwat and PML-N Senator Afnan got involved in a brawl on a television show. The lawyer and senator were having a heated argument that ended up using abusive language when all of a sudden Marwat attacked the senator. At first, both pushed each other eventually resorted to slaps and started punching each other. It was only due to the TV show crew's intervention that both the politicians were separated. - DNA

CJP hints at taking up pleas on polls, military court trials

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa on Thursday hinted that the Supreme Court may take up the petitions seeking timely elections and challenging the trial of civilians in military courts soon. The CJP passed the remarks while discussing the adjournment of a case related to Pak Arab Refinery's employees when the lawyers for the petitioners asked the top judge to adjourn the hearing for 15 days. "Cases seeking timely general elections and trial of civilians in military courts will be fixed soon. Difficult cases are about to come in the Supreme Court and it will be tough to schedule other cases [during this period]," remarked CJP Isa. He further stated that they would fix the employees' case after two months. The Shehbaz Sharif-led government dissolved the National Assembly on August 9, while Sindh and Balochistan

assemblies were also prematurely dissolved to allow the electoral authority to hold elections in the country within 90 days. Had the assemblies been dissolved on time, the electoral body was constitutionally bound to hold polls in 60 days. However, the ECP decided against holding polls within the stipulated time as the Council of Common Interest (CCI), days before the dissolution of the assemblies, approved the 7th Population and Housing Census 2023. The CCI approval made it mandatory for the commission to hold elections following fresh delimitations in light of the results of the census. Subsequently, on August 17, the ECP announced the schedule of new delimitations to be carried out as per the new census approved by the CCI. But in September, the commission announced that general elections in the country would take place in the last week of January 2024. However, before the announcement, multiple petitions were filed in the Supreme Court against the delay in polls.

Jordan, Egypt reject policy of collective punishment

AMMAN: Jordan's King Abdullah and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi on Thursday reaffirmed their unified position in rejecting the policy of collective punishment, including siege, starvation, or displacement of people in Gaza, state media Petra has reported. The two leaders expressed rejection of any attempt at the forced displacement of Gazans into Jordan or Egypt during their talks in Cairo, and reiterated the call to immediately stop the war on Gaza, protect civilians, lift the siege, and deliver humanitarian aid to the people there. They also warned that if the war does not stop and expands, it threatens to plunge the entire

Egypt and Jordan were the first Arab states to normalize relations with Israel, in 1979 and 1994 respectively, and have since been key mediators between Israeli and Palestinian officials

region into a catastrophe. Both leaders reiterated that the Baptist Hospital bombing in Gaza was a dangerous escalation, reaffirming their condemnation of this heinous crime against innocent and defenseless civilians, Petra reported. The talks also covered the firm position of the two countries towards the Palestinian cause, and the need for the Palestinian people to attain their legitimate rights on the basis of the two-state solution, guaranteeing the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the June 4, 1967 lines, with East Jerusalem as its capital, Petra added. Egypt and Jordan were the first Arab states to normalize relations with Israel, in 1979 and 1994 respectively, and have since been key mediators between Israeli and Palestinian officials. - Agencies

Putin accuses IOC of 'ethnic discrimination'

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin accused the International Olympic Committee of "ethnic discrimination" ahead of the 2024 Paris Games, from which Russian and Belarusian athletes are banned from competing under their national flags. The IOC still has to make a final ruling on whether athletes from Russia and Belarus, a key ally for Moscow in its offensive on Ukraine, will be permitted to compete next summer. "Thanks to some heads of the modern International Olympic Committee we found out that an invitation to the Games is not an unconditional right for the best athletes, but some kind of privilege and you can get it not on sports results but by some political gestures," Putin said at a sports forum in the Urals city of Perm. "The Games themselves could be used as an instrument of political pressure towards those people who have nothing to do with politics, and as a gross - in reality - racist, ethnic discrimination." He added that: "Some sports officials have simply given themselves the right to determine who is covered by the Olympic Charter and who is not." Putin later said he believed new sporting bodies and leagues would eventually replace what he called an existing "monopoly" over international sport. "All kinds of (new) leagues, associations, clubs and so on ... They will certainly undermine the existing monopoly of officials over international sport," he said. The IOC last week suspended Russia's national Olympic body for violating the territorial integrity of Ukraine's membership by recognising regional organisations in occupied Ukraine. Russia launched a full-scale offensive against Ukraine in February 2022, with its neighbour Belarus allowing Moscow's troops to use its territory as a launchpad. - Agencies

Shujaat worried for well-being of Palestinian kids

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain on Thursday urged the Pakistan government to raise voice for the protection of Palestinian children in Gaza. In a statement released here, the PML-Q chief asserted that Pakistan should at least raise voice for the safety and protection of innocent children in Gaza, if it did not want to join the savage war. Drawing attention to the killing of thousands of innocent Palestinians, notably children and women, Shujaat stressed the need for evacuating the wounded Palestinians from the war zone for treatment, and added that they could be extracted using ships. Shujaat termed Israeli hospital bombing a great tragedy, noting that innocent Palestinians had taken refuge at the hospital.

Pakistan sends humanitarian aid for Palestinians via Egypt

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Thursday dispatched the first consignment carrying relief assistance to Gaza as Israel's indiscriminate bombardment continues on the Hamas-ruled strip, killing thousands and displacing millions. The relief assistance, carrying one thousand winter tents, four thousand blankets, and three tonnes of medicines, will reach Palestine via Egypt in a chartered aircraft, the Foreign Office said in a statement. Israel's unabated airstrikes on Gaza have claimed nearly 3,500 lives while thousands of others are injured. Entire city blocks have been levelled, water, food, and power have been cut off, and over one million people have been displaced. Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel has claimed more than 1,400 lives - and the conflict has set off a wave of fury across the Middle East against Israel and its Western allies. At the media briefing today, FO spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch said Pakistan remains deeply concerned about the situation of "our Palestinian brothers and sisters" in Gaza. "We strongly condemn the Israeli aggression and blockade, particularly the



recent attack on a Gaza hospital. Israel's actions violate international humanitarian and human rights law," she added. The FO spokesperson further said deliberate attacks against civilian targets constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity. "We call for an immediate ceasefire; an end to the siege of Gaza; and the facilitation of humanitarian corridors for unrestricted relief supplies."

The development came as Israel agreed on a deal for an initial 20 trucks carrying relief goods to cross the shuttered Rafah crossing from Egypt into Gaza, with the first deliveries expected Friday at the earliest. More than 100 trucks carrying aid goods have been queued for days on



the Egyptian side of the Rafah border crossing, the only entry or exit point to Gaza not controlled by Israel. Cairo has so far kept it closed, pointing to repeated Israeli strikes near the crossing and voicing fears that Israel may be hoping to permanently drive Palestinians out and into Egypt's Sinai desert. On the Gaza side, scores of people

were again waiting, desperate to flee, but careful to keep a distance of about 100 metres (300 feet) in case of new Israeli strikes. There are fears of worse to come if Israel launches its anticipated ground invasion aimed at destroying Hamas and rescuing Israeli and foreign hostages, whose known number Israel on Thursday revised up to 203.