



# Islamabad POST

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**Pak wishes stronger ties with ASEAN countries, says FM**

Detailed News On Page-08

**Election delayed is election denied, says Bilawal**

Detailed News On Page-08

**Indian cricket legend Bishan Bedi dies at 77**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Section 2 (1) D of Army Act abolished

# Civilians trial in military courts unlawful: SC

A five-member apex court bench – headed by Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan, and comprising Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Justice Ayesha Malik – heard the petitions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: In a unanimous verdict, a five-member bench of the Supreme Court on Monday declared civilians' trials in military courts null and void as it admitted the petitions challenging the trial of civilians involved in the May 9 riots triggered by the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan in a corruption case. The five-member apex court bench – headed by Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan, and comprising Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Justice Ayesha Malik – heard the petitions filed by the PTI chief and others on Monday. The larger bench in its short verdict ordered that 102 accused arrested under the Army Act be tried in the criminal court and ruled that the trial of any civilian if held in military court has been declared null and void. The top court said the verdict is applicable to all those accused arrested in connection with the riots of May 9 and 10. In its decision, the bench concluded that

Continued on Page 06

## Meeting 90-day deadline for elections no longer possible: CJP

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa on Monday observed that it was "not possible" to meet the 90-day deadline for holding elections and lamented the lack of preparations of the petitioners. The CJP passed the observation while hearing the petitions seeking timely elections within 90 days of the dissolution of the assemblies. The CJP is leading a three-member bench comprising himself, Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Amin-Ud-Din Khan on the matter. The pleas were filed by the Supreme Court Bar Association, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and others to ensure that polls in the country are held within the stipulated time period. At the outset of the hearing, CJP Isa asked the SCBA when they had filed the petition and questioned why it was not listed for

a hearing at once. He also asked the lawyer to give his arguments based on facts and lamented the petitioners' lack of preparation. When SCBA lawyer Abid Zuberi started to speak about the 2017 census, the CJP observed that the counsel was not speaking on facts. He also said that if the lawyer had so many issues about the census then why did he not file a plea between 2017-2021, adding that he was now raising questions about the issue after the process was completed. However, the lawyer clarified that he was not taking a position that the 2023 census was wrong. On this point, Justice Minallah observed that those who were responsible for the delay in the census be held responsible and asked the counsel if he wanted polls in the country. "Yes, that's what we only want that elections be held in country," said the counsel.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Ambassadors of the ECO member states called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in Islamabad. – DNA

## Regional integration

# Pakistan keen to boost ties with ECO member states: PM

No major political party would be excluded from participating in the upcoming elections unless they were legally barred from doing so

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar met the resident Ambassadors of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Member States at the Prime Minister House over lunch earlier today. The Prime Minister highlighted the significance of the ECO for regional development. He emphasised that the ECO member states shared a common history and culture. Today, the region faces common challenges that need to be dealt with to create opportunities for collective growth and prosperity. In this regard, the Prime Minister highlighted connectivity, trade, energy and economic cooperation. While stressing on the significance of ECO, the Prime Minister said Pakistan was keen to further strengthen bilateral ties with each ECO member country. He looked forward to his meetings with the Heads of States of ECO Member countries on the margins of the 16th ECO Summit in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from 8-9 November, 2023.

Continued on Page 06

## Pakistan-China pledge support for each other

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have pledged unwavering support for each other on key issues, including the "One China" policy and the South China Sea. The resolve was expressed during a meeting between Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani and Chairman of the National Committee of the China's People's Political Consultative Conference Wang Huning in Beijing on Monday. The Chairman Senate emphasized the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China, citing it as the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy, which enjoys unanimous public and institutional support.

Continued on Page 06

## Briefs

### 'Law is above all'

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court's verdict declaring the military trial of civilians as null and void will strengthen the Constitution, democracy, and legal system, said Aitzaz Ahsan, one of the petitioners in the case. Ahsan made these remarks while talking to journalists outside the Supreme Court after the unanimous decision was announced. Sharing his opinion on the matter, Ahsan said the apex court judgment will have lasting effects. "An important case and an important verdict," he said, and added that today was a "historic day".

### Ishaq Dar acquitted

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An accountability court on Monday acquitted Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Ishaq Dar in an asset beyond means case. The former finance minister was acquitted after the court admitted his acquittal plea following a "clean chat" given by NAB. Following the Supreme Court of Pakistan's decision declaring amendments to the NAB laws null and void, the anti-graft watchdog had once again "re-opened" the assets beyond means case against Dar.

## Imran Khan, Qureshi indicted in cipher case

In line with the procedure, the court issued notices to the witnesses to appear on October 27 and adjourned the hearing till then



COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: A special court, formed to hear the cipher case registered under the Official Secrets Act, on Monday indicted Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan and Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi. The hearing of the case was held at the Adiala jail in Rawalpindi by special court judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain. Both the PTI leaders were indicted after they had moved a petition under CrPC 265-D to stop the indictment. The judge while rejecting

Continued on Page 06

## IHC forms bench to hear Nawaz's plea

FAISAL SHEIKHI

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday formed a division bench to hear applications seeking to restore appeals of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in two references. The two-judge bench comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Mianqul Hassan Aurangzeb will hear the pleas on Tuesday. Amjad Pervaiz Advocate, counsel for the former prime minister, filed the applications urging the IHC to restore his client's appeals in the Avenfield property and Al-Azizia Steel Mills references, and give its decisions after hearing arguments on merit. Nawaz Sharif, in his pleas,

Continued on Page 06

## 'Presenting Imran in ECP a risk'

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Interior and the Islamabad police have informed the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) that presenting the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan before the body would be a "security risk", sources said Monday. The election commission had last week issued production orders for jailed Imran in cases of contempt of the commission, with a charge sheet set to be filed against him when produced on October 24 (tomorrow). The police and relevant authorities were ordered to make necessary arrangements for producing the PTI chief. The sources told that

Continued on Page 06

## Israel-Hamas ground battle leaves more people dead in Gaza

Gaza death toll from Israeli airstrikes climbs to 5,087; Palestinian PM has accused Western nations of giving Israel a "licence to kill" in its war against Gaza

CENTRELINE REPORT

GAZA CITY: The Palestinian death toll from ongoing Israeli airstrikes on the Gaza Strip has climbed to 5,087, the Health Ministry in the blockaded enclave said on Monday. "The fatalities include 2,055 children, 1,119 women and 217 elders," ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra told a news conference in Gaza City. He said 15,273 people were also injured in the Israeli attacks. "The Israeli occupation committed 23 massacres in the past 24 hours that left 436 people dead, including 182 children," al-Qudra also said. The Health Ministry has so far received reports about 1,500 people, including 830 children, who are still trapped under the rubble. The conflict in Gaza, which has been under Israeli bombardment and a blockade since Oct. 7, began when Hamas initiated Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, a multi-pronged surprise attack that included a barrage of rocket launches and infiltrations into Israel by land, sea and air. It said the incursion was in retaliation for the storming of Al-Aqsa Mosque and growing violence by Israeli settlers against Palestinians. The Israeli military then launched Operation Swords of

Continued on Page 06

## 3rd aid convoy enters Rafah border crossing

NEWS DESK

CAIRO: A third convoy of aid trucks entered the Rafah crossing from Egypt on Monday bound for the besieged Gaza Strip, an aid worker and two security sources said. Humanitarian deliveries through Rafah began on Saturday after wrangling over procedures for inspecting the aid and bombardments on the Gaza side of the border had left relief materials stranded in Egypt. Rafah is the main crossing in and out of Gaza that does not border Israel. Since Israel has imposed a "total siege" of the enclave in retaliation for an attack by Hamas fighters on Oct. 7, Rafah has become the focus of efforts to deliver aid. On Saturday and Sunday 34 trucks passed through. The number of trucks in Monday's convoy was similar to each of those days, the aid worker and security sources said.

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## Kashif highlights furniture industry global aspects

ISLAMABAD: Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Kashif Ashfaq on Monday said Pakistan's furniture industry has a big potential to dominate global markets with innovative designs and can significantly contribute to exports if a lucrative package of incentives and facilitation is offered. Talking to a delegation of women entrepreneurs furniture manufacturers and designers led by Ms Nida Ejaz, he said unfortunately, the furniture sector remained badly neglected; it needs special attention of the federal and provincial governments for the training of woodworkers on modern lines, said a news release here. He said there is an urgent need to explore the international market to boost our exports as there is a lot of potential in Pakistani products, adding he said the value of furniture export was very nominal but the beginning had been made, and with aggressive marketing strategy the value of exports could be doubled in a short span. He said if the government extends its support to furniture companies, the volume of export could touch the figure of \$ 5 billion for the next five years. He urged the businessmen to work extensively to promote local industry in Pakistan. "Pakistan is blessed with abundant resources and our artisans are equipped with the best of skills that can help develop the country on modern lines," he added.—APP

## Police rewriting history with its blood

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfaraz Bugti said that police martyrs are rewriting the history of Pakistan, with their blood. Addressing the 49th CTP passing out ceremony of ASPs at the National Police Academy on Monday in Islamabad, Bugti said that Pakistan is facing serious threats like terrorism and the citizens, police and law enforcement agencies have made countless sacrifices to stop this wave of terrorism. "We must never forget that we have sacrificed thousands of lives to ensure the survival and bright future of Pakistan," said the minister. Apart from IG Islamabad Police, Commandant National Police Academy, foreign diplomats and families of passing out police officers participated in the ceremony. The Minister while congratulating the cadets who performed outstandingly during the training said that he was very happy to come to the passing out ceremony of the Assistant Superintendents of Police of the 49th Special Training Program. He said that the role and duties of law enforcement agencies are important for the stability and socio-economic development of our country. Police and law enforcement agencies are using modern technology to provide justice to victims and bring anti-social elements to justice, he added. "I hope that the police and law enforcement agencies are increasing the capacity of the police and law enforcement agencies as required over time to meet these challenges, improving their efficiency and professionalism in their prime responsibility," said the minister.—APP

## ECP reserves ruling on IPP's symbol

ISLAMABAD, Oct 23 (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday reserved its decision on the allocation of the electoral symbol 'eagle' to the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party, (IPP). A three-member ECP bench headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, heard the legal representative of the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party. The IPP counsel appealed to the Commission to allot the party the election symbol of 'eagle'. Upon this, the CEC asked him to provide alternative preferences.—APP

# Pak-Turkiye enjoy versatile defence coop: Amb Pacaci

Ambassador Pacaci said, "Two warships will be manufactured in Istanbul and two more at Karachi Shipyard. One has already been churned out into the high seas"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Republic of Turkey, Ambassador Mehmet Pacaci on Monday said versatility of defence cooperation had touched new heights with the production of four warships by Turkiye. He was addressing the Distinguished Lecture Series, titled 'Diplomatic Reflections' at Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) here titled "Pakistan-Turkiye Relations: An Enduring Partnership." Ambassador Pacaci said, "Two warships will be manufactured in Istanbul and two more at Karachi Shipyard. One has already been churned out into the high seas." He said that the bilateral relations were not only deep-rooted and time-tested, but rather had entered a new era of modern cooperation as both the countries were making new strides in technological cooperation and revitalizing geo-economics. He, however, regretted that the volume of trade between the



two countries was not up to the potential, as they were well behind \$1 billion mark. He hoped that the same should surpass well above \$5 billion, and urged upon the trade and commerce bodies to work together for greater integration and initiatives. He pointed out at the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed between the two countries, and was relieved that it was operational at the moment

and is making headway in renewed cooperation. Nonetheless, he saw hurdles in its way and the prime to obstruct are geopolitical fissures as the region is in turmoil. Ambassador Pacaci said that more than 50 Turkish companies were presently operating in Pakistan, and hoped that many more were in the pipeline as there was immense potential of trade and investment in industrial and other ventures. The learned scholar who holds a PhD in 'Tafsir and Hadith' and had worked relentlessly for Islamic solidarity and campaigned against Islamophobia, called for greater unity among the Muslim world, and hinted at reigniting a new spirit in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). To a question, he said that the proposed neo-alignment between Turkiye, Iran, Malaysia, Qatar and Pakistan for advocating a new forum of Islamic states was very much on cards and must be looked into as a mark of congenial cooperation without any divide. At the same time, he stressed the utility of OIC and pointed out the efforts presently being undertaken by it to address the imbroglio and massacre in Gaza. He hoped that the Foreign Ministers' moot in Cairo would be a success, and something positive would emerge out of it. He blamed the United States for Israeli transgression and said that it was acting as the biggest obstacle in resolving the Palestinian crisis. Ambassador

Pacaci said that similar cooperation in educational and cultural spheres were a landmark of commonality and added that more than 13,000 students were benefitting from seven schools and 10 Turkish campuses in Pakistan. Pointing out at the Istanbul-Tehran-Islamabad (ITI) railway network, he said that there were multiples odds to confront, such as the meter-gauge and broad-gauge issues. "With Pakistan still with the old gauge railway lines, the smooth movement comes to a halt," he observed. Likewise, he said that sanctions on Iran from the US and Europe act as an impediment in realising the trilateral railway feast. Talking about the refugee crisis, Ambassador Mehmet Pacaci observed that "terrorism is at the root-cause of all ills." He said that there was much to learn and share between Pakistan and Turkiye, as both were home to refugees' exodus owing to geopolitical upheavals. About the ongoing Israeli onslaught on Gaza, Pacaci observed.

## Acting HC Sri Lanka, Augustine Ruban calls on RCCI President Saqib Rafiq



DNA

RAWALPINDI: Charge De Affair Augustine Christy Ruban, Sri Lankan High Commission called on Saqib Rafiq, President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) here on Monday. Matters related to the enhancement of trade relations, close cooperation in various sectors including Pharmaceutical and Tourism, information sharing,

chamber to chamber networking and strengthening of cooperation in all the sectors of investment of both countries were discussed during the meeting. RCCI President Saqib Rafiq gave a summary of current activities and future programs of the chamber. He said that trade relations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka are historic and there is a historical partnership between the two

countries. In addition, there is a need to provide a platform for the two countries to forge important trade links. People-to-people contact and religious tourism provide excellent platforms to further expand bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, he added. Charge De Affair Augustine Christy Ruban, in his remarks said that Sri Lanka considers Pakistan an important trade

partner in the region. Both countries have close and historical relations and there was wide scope to expand bilateral trade between Sri Lanka and Pakistan, he further added. Mr. U.L Niyas, Minister Counselor Sri Lanka, Senior Vice President Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, Vice President Mr. Faisal Shahzad and Executive Member Mudassar Maqbool, among others, were also present on the occasion.

## IIUI holds international conference

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) has hosted the "Less Talk, More Action: Changing the Course of Women's Academic Leadership" international conference. This transformative three-day event, held in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan, brought together a diverse assembly of academic luminaries, shedding light on the path to advancing women's academic leadership. Academic luminaries gathered for the opening ceremony of the international conference, setting the tone for what would be a transformative event. Dr. Samina Malik, the Rector of IIUI, emphasized the importance of inclusivity and collaborative discussions, which were the cornerstone of

the conference. The event went beyond mere paper presentations, incorporating voices from diverse backgrounds, including academics, organizations such as ILFABET and HRDN Pakistan, and international keynote speakers. The conference featured international keynote speakers who brought invaluable insights to the table. The University of Newcastle's Professor Penny Jane Burke, Director of the Centre of Excellence for Equity in Higher Education and the Global Innovation Chair of Equity, took the stage. Her address resonated with the praxis of justice in academic spaces. Professor Sara Aiston, Professor in Public Policy at Teesside University, uncovered the insidious ways of silencing in academia and the need to empower women to overcome unjust treatment. Robeela Bangash,

in her keynote address, stressed the importance of training that equip women to identify and combat both micro and macro inequities, including issues like cyberbullying. Dr. Samina Amin Qadir highlighted the necessity of not only imparting skills to women but enabling them to be influential and implement their decisions effectively. The conference featured panel and round table discussions that foregrounded critical issues, such as masculinization in academia and the passivity of women while emphasizing the need to overcome perceived vulnerabilities. They highlighted the importance of mutual support among women, debunking negative lobbying stereotypes, and promoting inclusivity and transparency. The participants stressed the importance of fostering the professional growth of both men and women based on merit and equality, with safeguards against slander and false accusations

of harassment. Addressing the need for academic rigour and originality in research, the conference committee had subjected the submitted papers to a rigorous peer-review. Out of 42 papers, only 14 were selected for presentation. Asma Aftab received the "Best Research Paper Award" for her paper titled "Women's Voices: At the Crossroads of Academy and Activism." Her work challenged traditional boundaries and highlighted the interconnectedness of academic and activist roles. The papers included in the conference underscored the underrepresentation of women in leadership roles, the impact on institutional outcomes, and the need to address issues like gaslighting while also offering insights into forging indigenous and decolonial models of academic leadership based on non-western intellectual insights and cultural values.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchanging views with Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan H.E Mr. Adam Mulawarman Tugio at Naval Headquarters.—DNA

## Full scale fire emergency exercise tests held at Bacha Khan Airport

PESHAWAR: Full scale fire emergency exercise tests conducted at Bacha Khan International Airport under the auspices of Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to train the staff and test fire vehicles and other equipments. Caretaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Finance, Excise and Revenue Ahmad Rasool Bangash was Chief guest, Chief Operating Officer Zia Ahmad welcomed while Deputy Manager Airport Muhammad Tariq briefed the participants on this occasion. All departments concerned including Pakistan Army Aviation, Pakistan Air Force, Rescue-1122 and ambulances of hospitals including Edhi, Fauji Foundation, Alkhidmat, Civil Defence participated in the drill to test the level of preparedness for an emergency and to tackle untowards situation in the airport. The exercise, held at different places brought together firefighters, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), and local authorities to simulate a real-life fire emergency situation. Rescue-1122 promptly responded to call and reached the emergency site. Ambulances successfully and quickly shifted the injured and provided their first aid. Fire extinguishers also extinguished the fire. The exercise aimed to evaluate the coordination and response capabilities of the participating agencies while adhering to safety protocols and minimizing actual risks. The exercise began with a distress call reporting a major structural fire, initiating a rapid response from the first responders. Firefighters deployed hoses, ladder trucks, and rescue teams to the scene, working in close coordination with EMTs to provide immediate medical assistance to simulated victims. This exercise allowed these professionals to practice communication, evacuation procedures, and fire containment tactics under controlled conditions. The mock scenario was designed to push the responders to their limits, testing their ability to adapt to challenging and evolving circumstances. Throughout the exercise, evaluators closely monitored the participants' responses, noting areas of success and opportunities for improvement. After the exercise concluded, a debriefing session was held to discuss the strengths and weaknesses observed, encouraging a collaborative approach to enhance emergency response protocols. Minister Ahmad Rasool Bangash emphasized the importance of such exercises, stating, "Conducting full-scale emergency exercises like this is crucial to ensure our first responders are well-prepared to handle any situation that may arise. We learn from each exercise, and it helps us identify areas where we can improve our response tactics and communication.—DNA

## Speakers for timely detection of breast cancer

PESHAWAR: An awareness session about breast cancer was conducted at Zakr Khan Shaheed Hospital in Matta, Swat on Monday. The session was attended by Medical Superintendent Dr. Muhammad Akram, Additional Assistant Commissioner Naimatullah Khan, doctors, paramedical staff, and journalists. The aim of the session was to address the rising number of breast cancer cases among women in Swat, often attributed to a lack of awareness about the disease. Despite breast cancer affecting both women and men, societal taboos in Swat often lead women to hide their condition, resulting in delayed diagnoses and more challenging treatments. The primary objective of the session was to raise awareness about breast cancer among both genders. Dr. Muhammad Akram stressed the importance of early detection, highlighting that Zakr Khan Shaheed Hospital provides initial treatment and various testing facilities. It is crucial for affected individuals to seek immediate medical attention.—APP

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### National Days and Armed Forces Days

#### OCTOBER

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

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Emergency Ambulance.....1122  
& Rescue Services.....4451122  
Motorway Police.....9266044  
Motorway Police.....9270601-20  
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596  
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



#### Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115  
PIA Flight Info.....114  
PIA Cargo.....9280979  
Railway Inquiry.....117  
Railway Exchange.....9270831-5  
WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489  
CAA.....9281092



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



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

#### Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# Pakistan, France discuss investment opportunities

**Tarar highlighted the country's democratic stability and bright future, while Galey expressed confidence in the Pakistani market and pledged to attract more French investment**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Caretaker Minister Shahid Ashraf Tarar met with French Ambassador Nicolas Galey on Monday to discuss issues of mutual interest, including investment opportunities in key sectors such as railways, motorways, and shipping. Tarar highlighted the country's democratic stability and bright future, while Galey expressed



confidence in the Pakistani market and pledged to attract more French investment. Shahid Ashraf Tarar further said that the democratic stability in Pakistan has continued since

2008 and its future is bright. Some of the specific investment opportunities discussed include: A new railway line from Kohat to Kharlachi to connect with Afghanistan, the Sukkur-Hyderabad

motorway M-6, and the expansion of the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation. The meeting is a positive sign of the growing economic ties between Pakistan and France. Alstom, a

leading French rail transport company, has already established a permanent representation in Pakistan, and Galey's assurance to bring more French investment is a welcome development.

## GITEX Global 2023: uniting tech innovators from 170 nations in Dubai

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a spectacular showcase of global technological advancement, the 43rd edition of GITEX brought together over 6,000 exhibitors and attracted the participation of 180,000 tech executives from an astounding 170 nations, concluding in the vibrant city of Dubai. The event held over an impressive 2.7 million square feet, in two mega-venues, sponsored by giants like Huawei, Etisalat and Salesforce, GITEX exhibited some of the most spectacular technology available worldwide. As the ideal platform for leading technology companies, decision-makers, and start-ups to reveal the latest developments and innovations in various pivotal and strategic economic

sectors, the exhibition was an important platform for partnerships in technology, digital economy, and artificial intelligence. AI was a constant theme of GITEX GLOBAL 2023, embedded throughout the show in what truly was "The Year to Imagine AI in Everything". Huawei launched the Intelligent Cloud Network to accelerate intelligent upgrades, which fully unleashes computing power with super-connectivity for unsurpassed AI productivity in the AI era. The cutting-edge solutions are driven by the emergence of large AI models meticulously trained on massive datasets - a fundamental shift that will shape the future of industries. The Super-Bridge Summit established connections and fostered unity among leaders from the world's most rapidly

expanding economies via advanced collaborations and enduring strategic partnerships. The Summit accelerated entrepreneurial innovation across government, business, society, and culture. Record numbers of MOUs were signed, as well as countless product launches from some of the biggest tech companies around, ranging from Huawei and etisalat by e& introducing RedCap - a revolutionary service that showcases the immense possibilities of 5G, to the Huawei-Masdar City agreement to promote the adoption of carbon-conscious ICT through Huawei's Net Zero Campus Framework. GITEX Impact brought global sustainability leaders together to accelerate climate tech and ESG strategies in the build-up to COP28 in Dubai while GITEX Future Urbanism brought together

the world's most influential urbanists, mega-city developers, and innovative sustainable technologies to the forefront. It featured a massive Pakistan pavilion and, according to Dr. Umar Saif, Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, showcased more than 80 start-ups from the country, one of the largest cohorts from any country. Pakistan has one of the world's highest youth populations, producing more than 30,000 STEM graduates a year. GITEX 2023 was a glimpse into the future of connectivity including universal connectivity, cloud-native solutions, sustainable 5G implementation, and more, featuring innovative approaches set to change the game for the tech industry and pave the way for a more advanced and connected future.

## ANF seizes 33 kg drugs in six operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations across the country managed to recover 33 kg drugs and arrested seven accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that 13 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused, a resident of Peshawar rounded up on National Highway Hyderabad. In another operation, three kg hashish was recovered from two accused, residents of Ghotki, netted at City Bus Stand, Sukkur. In the third operation, 300 intoxicated tablets were recovered from the passenger's trolley bag at Jinnah International Airport. The accused, a resident of Karachi, was leaving for Dubai by flight number EK-603.91 Ice-filled capsules were recovered from the possession of a passenger at Bacha Khan International Airport. The accused, a resident of Khyber, was leaving for Doha by flight number PK-285. During an operation in Hayatabad, six kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle. Two accused residents of Khyber were arrested during the operation. The spokesman informed that in the sixth operation, 10 kg hashish concealed for smuggling was recovered from an uninhabited area of Khyber. Cases have been registered against all the accused under the Anti-Narcotics Act while further investigations are under process.—APP

## Five drug peddlers netted with over nine kg charras

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers conducted raids in different areas and rounded up five accused on recovery of over nine kg charras. According to a police spokesman, Saddar Baroni Police held Umar Shahid for having 3600 grams charras while Gujjar Khan police rounded up Zarkar Ali with 1240 grams charras. Jatl police recovered 1600 grams charras from the possession of Rizwan, a drug peddler. He further informed that Sadiqabad police held Ro-hail for possessing 1600 grams charras while Rattaamral police netted Jan Muhammad and seized 1400 grams charras. 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 law-breakers, he added.—APP

## Islamabad police arrest 131 absconders during last week

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police have arrested 31 absconders involved in serious crimes over the last week and further accelerated the efforts to curb activities of anti-social elements. The police said that this achievement was a result of the dedicated efforts of the police force and the special tasks assigned to senior officials to capture proclaimed offenders and absconders associated with major criminal activities. Under the directives of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, various police stations including Aabpara, Secretariat, Kohsar, Margalla, Karachi Company, Goira, Tarnol, Sangiani, Shalimar, Ramna, Shahzad Town, Bani Gala, Koral, Kirpa, Sihala, and Lohi Bher were actively involved in the crackdown.—APP

## NCSW chairperson stresses implementing laws

ISLAMABAD: The chairperson of the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), Nilofar Bakhtiar Monday called for creating public awareness of the implementation of laws on women's rights and highlighting women's participation is crucial for making informed choices within families. "It is a collective responsibility of society to discourage negative attitudes and promote positive trends of equality and tolerance", she emphasised while talking to a Private news channel.

"Women always played a fundamental role in the development of countries and ending sexual violence was the need of the hour", she mentioned.—APP

## Pak Railways plans cross-border network to Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Railways Shahid Ashraf Tarar revealed on Monday that Pakistan Railways has strategic plans to develop a railway network connecting Kohat to Kharlachi, promoting connectivity between Pakistan and Afghanistan. During a meeting with French Ambassador Nicolas Galey, the minister expressed that the Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway M-6 also represents a compelling investment prospect for France. Pakistan National Shipping Corporation is actively broadening its scope, providing further investment avenues. The caretaker minister, Tatar, noted that the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) is undergoing expansion, offering extensive investment possibilities, including opportunities for French investors. The French ambassador highlighted the longstanding history of relations and cooperation between France and Pakistan. He also mentioned the interest of French investors in Pakistani projects, emphasizing the diverse investment possibilities available for French investors in Pakistan. Tarar said Pakistan has maintained a democratic government since 2008, and its future holds great potential. Alstom, the French transport company, is solidifying its long-term presence in Pakistan, marking a significant move towards expanded investments. Ambassador Nicolas Gillie conveyed his intent to boost French investments and inject substantial capital into Pakistan.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Amb.-at-Large for Int'l Religious Freedom Rashad Hussain called on FM Jalil Abbas Jilani. FM reiterated Pak's commitment to protection & promotion of human rights at home & abroad. FS shared policy undertaken to uphold human rights & freedom for all citizens.—DNA

## Mobile Registration Centers of BISP to be operational by November

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Mobile Registration Vehicle Centers to facilitate the registration process for the intending beneficiaries of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), belonging to the remote areas of the country, are likely to be operational by the month of November. The Mobile Registration Centers will enable the deserving women residing in the far-flung areas to access the registration facilities through mobile vehicles. According to the Secre-

tary Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Amer Ali Ahmad, the process of induction of Mobile Vans, started in the month of August, has entered into its last stages. A total of 25 Mobile Vans is being included to serve as Mobile Registration Centers of the National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER) which will facilitate those who were unable to access registration facility. He informed that as many as 19 Mobile Registration Centers are being established in the remote areas of Balochistan, five in Sindh and one in

Islamabad in this phase. "The Mobile Registration service is likely to be operational by the month of November to facilitate registration process of the beneficiaries residing in the far-off areas of the country", Secretary BISP said. It is pertinent to mention here that the BISP identifies the deserving beneficiaries through NSER and enroll them in the programme while it is for the first time in the country's history that people with special abilities and Transgenders have been included in the programme and can register.

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## Briefs

## Sanjrani reaches Beijing on four-day visit

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, has reached in Beijing alongside a high-level delegation for a four-day visit. The delegation included Senators Dilawar Khan, Faisal Saleem Rahman, Rana Mahmood ul Hassan and Mohammad Abdul Qadir. Upon their arrival at the airport, the Pakistani Ambassador to China extended a warm welcome to Chairman of the Senate and the delegation. During his visit, Sanjrani will hold significant meetings, including one with Wang Yang, the Chairman of China's National Committee for People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). The chairman's visit to China is part of a special invitation from the Chinese Foreign Minister, and the delegation is engaging in a comprehensive tour of the country. Sanjrani, bearing the title of "Friendship, Diplomacy, Mutual Interests, and Inclusiveness with China," will participate as a special guest in a symposium that marks the 10th anniversary and will address the gathering.—DNA

## NRL receives exploration license for minerals in Chagai

DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Resources Limited (NRL) has received an exploration lease for minerals in Chagai district, Balochistan. NRL, which is a subsidiary of YB Pakistan Limited, Reliance Commodities (Pvt.) limited and Liberty Mills Limited has been leased out an area of 500 Sq. km in Chagai area. NRL had applied for lease in early 2022 and the lease has been issued after fulfilling all legal and other formalities, said a news release issued here on Monday. The project when materialized will attract major investment in mining and will also generate direct and indirect employment opportunities for people in Pakistan especially Balochistan. Subject to feasibility, NRL will attempt to refine the product locally before being exported. NRL has received NOCs from Environmental as well as Forest & Wildlife department enabling it to start the exploration activities. NRL board has approved exploration plan and currently exploration resources are being hired to start the physical activities soon. NRL spokesman said the company planned to hire all its human resources from within Pakistan especially from Balochistan. "We also plan to hire a major foreign consultancy firm to supervise the entire exploration activities. Foremost assignment of this foreign consultancy will be to train the local engineers to make them capable of handling such exploration activities on their own" he added. NRL is confident that this award will encourage many other Pakistani domestic companies to venture into mining sector. Mining Sector has been picked up as one of priority areas to revive our ailing economy and SIFC has developed a road map to revamp and streamline.—APP

## Passing out parade of ASSP held at National Police Academy

The minister said that the role and duties of law enforcing agencies is of pivotal importance for the stability and socio-economic advancement of our country. He also said that the whole nation is indebted to police for its sacrifices in the war against terrorism

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An impressive Passing out Parade of the ASSP (UT) of 25th ICC/49th STP was held at National Police Academy (NPA) Islamabad. Honorable Minister for Interior, Mr. Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, was the chief guest on the occasion. The chief Guest congratulated all the graduating officers on the successful completion of their basic training. He appreciated the role of NPA in training the officers of Police Service of Pakistan.

He said that the role and duties of law enforcing agencies is of pivotal importance for the stability and socio-economic advancement of our country. He also said that the whole nation is indebted to police for its sacrifices in the war against terrorism. He reiterated government's commitment to fulfill the requirements of police and promised to meet demands of NPA at earliest. Earlier, Mr. Salah-ud-Din Khan, Commandant NPA in his welcome address expressed his gratitude to the Chief Guest for sparing time for NPA and the graduating officers and said that the passing out batch consisted of 35 officers, including 08 lady officers and one PAF Officer.

This occasion marks the culmination of a rigorous 18 month calendar which incorporates extensive academic syllabi including various aspects of police management, criminal justice administration, law enforcement, community policing, crime management and policing by objective, physical training as well as acquainting the officers with real time policing. It has been the endeavour of the National Police Academy to incorporate the latest research in its curriculum so that the officers are abreast of latest policing trends.

The officers have also been sensitized about the subjects of public dealing, police media relations and security and safety of vulnerable groups. The course also in-



cludes anti-terrorism training for Assistant Superintendents of Police. The Commandant also stated that the NPA's mission is to impart best possible training not only to the Assistant Superintendents of Police but to all segments of law enforcement irrespective of the fact that they belong to Police or not. This is done keeping in view the complex developments and challenges being faced in the context of the overall crime picture as well as law and order.

We have developed capacity building courses for all law enforcement agencies including Frontier Constabulary, FIA, Intelligence Bureau, Punjab and Sindh Rangers etc. He also expressed his extreme gratitude to the International Criminal Investi-

gation and Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) run by the Government of the United States, British High Commission, ICRC, UNODC, NCA, Islamabad based N.G.O in the finalization of these courses. He said that these agencies have supported us generously and there is no hesitation in saying that they are true friends of National Police Academy.

The Commandant in his concluding remarks said that the officers graduating today were selected on absolute merit by the Federal Public Service Commission and surely they are the best persons for the assigned job. He was confident to say that they will be a source of pride for the nation and would contribute positively to

its well being. The Chief Guest reviewed the smartly turned out parade and awarded trophies to the best in different categories. 1. Mr. Muhammad Saad Bin Ubaid Best in Parade 2. Mr. Ali Abdullah Khalid Best in Firing 3. Capt. (R) Abdullah Shaheryar (Male) Best in Physical (Male) 4. Ms. Shazia Ishaq (Female) Best in Physical (Female) 5. Mr. Tayyab Wazir Best in Riding 6. Ms. Nayyab Ramzan Best in Academics 7. Mr. Adnan Gul Best in Discipline 8. Ms. Nayyab Ramzan All Round Best A large number of serving and retired police officers, representatives from other government departments, foreign diplomats, and relatives of the passing out officers witnessed the parade.

## Health minister leads advocacy walk

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Children are our future, and the Government of Pakistan will leave no stone unturned to ensure that the disability-causing poliovirus does not remain a threat to their wellbeing, Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan has said. The minister led an awareness walk in Islamabad to end polio on Sunday as part of a series of events marking World Polio Day, which is observed on October 24 every year.

The walk brought together hundreds of participants from the Ministry of Health, students, civil society, the leadership of the Pakistan Polio Programme and polio eradication partners such as Rotary, WHO, UNICEF and BMGF and featured a speech from Senator Quratulain Marri, a polio survivor. Senator Marri spoke about the everyday challenges of living with polio and polio regressive syndrome. "Ten years ago, I didn't need a crutch, 10 years after maybe I'll be on a wheelchair.

This is a debilitating disease." "A child less than five years does not have the ability to share the pain they feel, but let me tell you, it's a very very painful disease." Dr Nadeem Jan said: "This walk is a testament to our commitment and the tireless efforts and resilience of our healthcare heroes who continue to immunize children, even in the most challenging circumstances. It's a powerful statement that together, we can achieve a polio-free Pakistan."

## Judiciary and Human Resource Management in Universities

The average cost of litigation varies from PKR 50,000 to 200,000 per person for lower scales (BPS 1 to 16) and from PKR 150,000 to 500,000 per person for higher ranks (BPS 17 and above)

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) conducted a research study titled "Judiciary and Human Resource Management in Universities" to investigate the average number of court cases and their nature, registered by faculty members and other staff against university administrations, as well as the average cost of litigation to resolve these cases.

According to the press release issued by PIDE, the study revealed that, on average, 105 court cases were filed by faculty members against the administration. Of these cases, 50 were from relatively younger universities, while 160 cases belonged to the older uni-

versities. The universities were classified into two broad categories in the research: older universities (established before 2005) and younger universities (established after 2005). In examining the cases filed by faculty, the study found that 58 percent were initiated by academic faculty members, while 42 percent were filed by non-academic staff. Additionally, the majority of these cases related to promotion (65%) and permanent positions (22%), respectively.

The cost of litigation involves both direct and indirect expenses. The direct cost is determined by lawyer fees, which vary based on the nature of the case and the scales and groups of applicants. For lower scales (BPS 1 to 16), the average cost of litigation

ranges from PKR 50,000 to 200,000 per person, while for higher ranks (BPS 17 and above), it varies from PKR 150,000 to 500,000 per person. The indirect cost pertains to time, with each case taking, on average, six months in service tribunals. This duration can be extended if the losing party escalates the matter to higher courts, including high courts or supreme courts. This conflict detrimentally impacts the working environment, particularly among faculty members, ultimately affecting the institution's overall performance.

The study recommends the implementation of a proper penalty system against the losing party to discourage the unnecessary escalation of matters to court. Additionally, it suggests the es-

tablishment of an effective and inclusive internal conflict resolution mechanism within institutions. Furthermore, the study identifies one of the main reasons people frequently resort to the courts as the absence of significant penalties in the event of losing a legal case. To address this issue, the study proposes two potential solutions: the development of a structured penalty system, particularly in cases of frivolous or defamatory litigation, and the adoption of more effective and inclusive conflict management mechanisms based on successful models and best practices. These recommendations are designed to promote fair and responsible legal actions while alleviating the burden on the legal system.

## Nawaz will bring equilibrium to political climate

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that the business community is pinning high hopes on the return of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

His return will result in balanced politics, which will result in political stability that will help the people and the economy, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that in spite of jail, exile, and other difficulties, the former prime minister did not try to incite the public in his speech, nor did he talk about any kind of revenge, which is a proof of his political insight. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the former prime minister did not make any tall claims or vowed to jail the opponents, which shows that he does not want the politics of chaos in the country. The people and the business community have breathed a sigh of relief after his speech because the country cannot afford any more protests and politics of conflict, he added. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the former prime minister did not mention the armed forces and the judiciary despite complaints, which shows that he wants to forget the past and move forward. The business leader added that overall, Nawaz Sharif's address was serious, balanced, and thought-provoking, in which he made it clear that the politics of confrontation are pushing the country backwards. He no longer believes in such negative struggles against important institutions, which is harmful and must be avoided, he said, adding that he will now fight against poverty, inflation, insecurity, and injustice instead of politicians, bureaucracy, and institutions. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the political forces that are destroying Pakistan by claiming to make it a paradise should not poison the political atmosphere for their own interests and should not misguide the people because their past performance is not a secret. Mian Nawaz Sharif is aware of his political and economic mistakes, and he is determined to get the country out of its current problems. If he moves in the right direction and announces a viable economic program, he will have the full support of the public, the business community, and all major institutions. All the stakeholders have realized that saving the country and reviving the economy are top priorities without which we have no future.—DNA

## Chery to build green ecology as per Pakistan's sustainable future vision

BEIJING: Pakistan Chery Pakistan is planning to collaborate with local organizations to build a green ecology that is aligned with Pakistan's vision for a sustainable future. Pakistan is an important market for Chery in the South Asia region, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. Meanwhile, At the 2023 Chery International User Summit, Chery signed agreements with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) respectively to support global public welfare. On the one hand, this demonstrates Chery's commitment to addressing global children's education issues, while on the other, it signifies a dedication to the preservation of natural environments and the sustainable development of ecosystems. Since its founding, Chery Group has not only been committed to innovative development but also consistently seen social responsibility as a corporate duty. It actively engages in philanthropic endeavors, conducting a wide range of charitable activities such as environmental protection, targeted poverty alleviation, and educational assistance on a global scale. The two-year partnership worth \$6 million between Chery and UNICEF will support its global education programme and country-led education programmes in China, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey. This commitment aims to offer inclusive, healthy, and safe learning environments for children and adolescents in these countries, ensuring equal opportunities to learn and enhance their employability. At the signing conference, Yin Tongyue, Chairman of Chery Holding Group, said: "Chery's identity extends not only to a company that is dedicated to automotive R&D and manufacturing but also to a supporter of social responsibilities and historical significance. Chery will mobilize global resources, collaborate with partners from all sectors, and continue to contribute efforts to promote social progress and create a better way of life for all."—DNA

## PKM leads to revitalization of major cities in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (PKM project) Multan-Sukkur section in Pakistan, initiated by China State Construction Engrg. Corp (CSCEC), has been finished in three years, witnessing the unremitting efforts of the CSCEC team for more than a decade. It is a key project of the "Belt and Road Initiative" (BRI) and the largest transportation infrastructure project under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The friendship between China and Pakistan brought closer by PKM will stand the


test of time and grow with new vitality. Dreams and hopes are intertwined, allowing more people to embrace happiness and the future together, says a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Monday. The total length of the PKM (Multan-Sukkur) is 392 kilometers, with 6 lanes in two directions, the design speed is 120km/h, including 100 bridges, 1,522 structures, 11 mutual interchanges, 6 pairs of service areas, 5 pairs of rest areas, and 22 toll stations. Greening and smart transport systems have been set up along the entire route to achieve full coverage of video surveillance. Wang Yaodong, General Manager of CSCEC Pakistan and Exec-



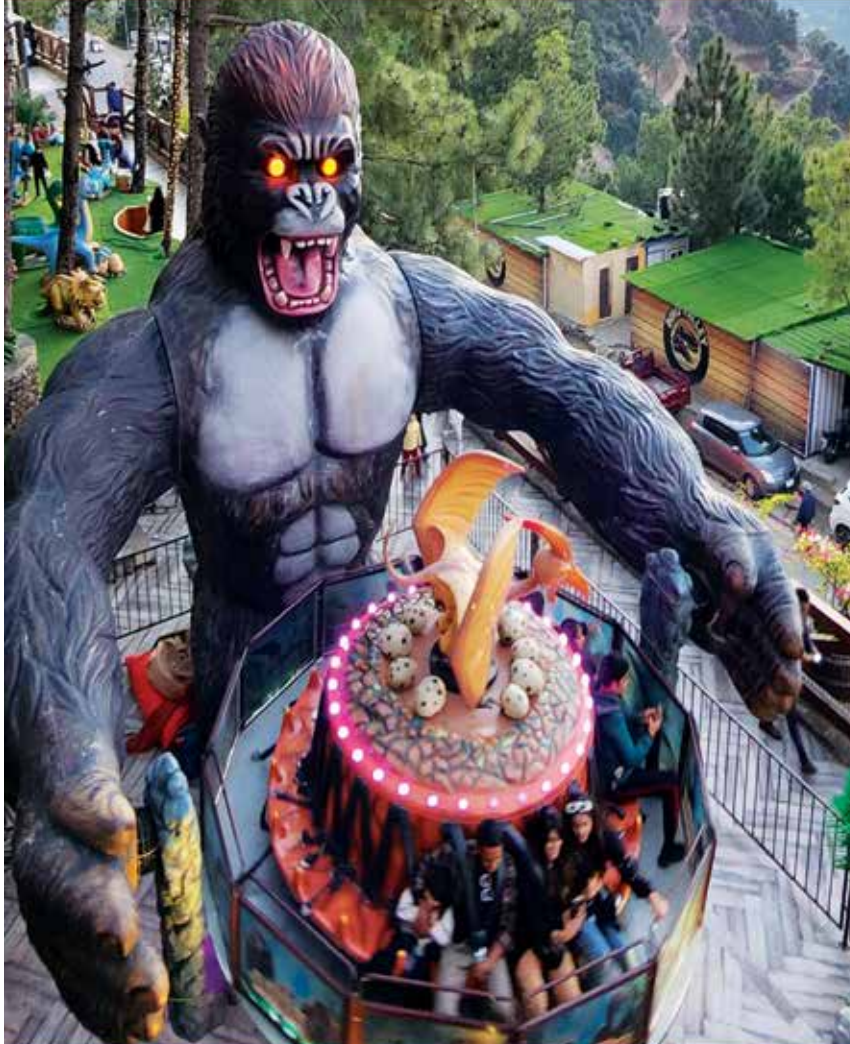
utive GM of PKM Project, noted that the intelligent toll collection system could reduce the transit time to two or three seconds. "The electronic signs can help

people reach their destination faster. Intelligent traffic management system can realize the monitoring of the entire road and comprehensively master the traffic

flow, event detection, and other road conditions," he added. Smart streetlamps light up all night long, illuminating every passenger's way home.



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Off 11: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad

## Is global warming real?

In recent years, global warming and climate change have been the subject of a great deal of political controversy, especially in the U.S. But as the science becomes clearer and consensus grows impossible to ignore, debate is moving away from whether humans are causing warming and toward questions about how best to respond. Evidence of rising temperatures is pervasive and striking: Thermometer records kept over the past century and a half show Earth's average temperature has risen more than 1 degree Fahrenheit (0.9 degrees Celsius), and about twice that in parts of the Arctic. That doesn't mean temperatures haven't fluctuated among regions of the globe or between seasons and times of day. But by analyzing average temperatures all over the world, scientists have demonstrated an unmistakable upward trend. This trend is part of climate change, which many people consider synonymous with global warming. Scientists prefer to use "climate change" when describing the complex shifts now affecting our planet's weather and climate systems. Climate change encompasses not only rising average temperatures but also extreme weather events, shifting wildlife populations and habitats, rising seas, and a range of other impacts. All of these changes are emerging as humans continue to add heat-trapping greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. How is climate change measured? Although we can't look at thermometers going back thousands of years, we do have other records that help us figure out what temperatures were like in the distant past. For example, trees store information about the climate in the place they're rooted. Each year trees grow thicker and form new rings. In warmer and wetter years, the rings are thicker. Old trees and wood can tell us about conditions hundreds or even thousands of years ago. Windows on the past are also buried in lakes and oceans. Pollen, particles, and dead creatures fall to the bottom of oceans and lakes each year, forming sediments. Sediments contain a wealth of information about what was in the air and water when they fell. Scientists reveal this record by inserting hollow tubes into the mud to collect layers of sediment going back millions of years. For a direct look at the atmosphere of the past, scientists drill cores through the Earth's polar ice sheets. Tiny bubbles trapped in the ice are actually samples from the Earth's past atmosphere, frozen in time. That's how we know that the concentrations of greenhouse gases since the Industrial Revolution are higher than they've been for hundreds of thousands of years. Computer models help scientists to understand the Earth's climate, or long-term weather patterns. Models also allow scientists to make predictions about the future climate by simulating how the atmosphere and oceans absorb energy from the sun and transport it around the globe. We are the reason Several factors affect how much of the sun's energy reaches Earth's surface and how much of that energy gets absorbed. Those include greenhouse gases, particles in the atmosphere (from volcanic eruptions, for example), and changes in energy coming from the sun itself. Climate models are designed to take such factors into account. For example, models have found that changes in solar irradiance and volcanic aerosols have contributed only about two percent of the recent warming effect over 250 years. The balance comes from greenhouse gases and other human-caused factors, such as land-use changes.



## Google Pixel's & AI manipulation debate

The camera never lies. Except, of course, it does - and seemingly more often with each passing day. In the age of the smartphone, digital edits on the fly to improve photos have become commonplace, from boosting colours to tweaking light levels. Now, a new breed of smartphone tools powered by artificial intelligence (AI) are adding to the debate about what it means to photograph reality. Google's latest smartphones released last week, the Pixel 8 and Pixel 8 Pro, go a step further than devices from other companies. They are using AI to help alter people's expressions in photographs. It's an experience we've all had: one person in a group shot looks away from the camera or fails to smile. Google's phones can now look through your photos to mix and match from past expressions, using machine learning to put a smile from a different photo of them into the picture. Google calls it Best Take. The devices also let users erase, move and resize unwanted elements in a photo - from people to buildings - "filling in" the space left behind with what's called Magic Editor. This uses what's known as deep learning, effectively an artificial intelligence algorithm working out what textures should fill the gap by analysing the surrounding pixels it can see, using knowledge it has gleaned from millions of other photos. It doesn't have to be pictures taken on the device. Using the Pixel 8 Pro you can apply the so-called Magic Editor or Best Take to any pictures in your Google Photos library. For some observers this raises fresh questions about how we take photographs. Google's new AI technology has been described variously by tech commentators and reviewers as potentially "icky" (The Verge), "creepy" (Tech Radar) and having the potential to "pose serious threats to people's (already fragile) trust of online content" (Cnet). Andrew Pearsall, a professional photographer, and senior lecturer in Journalism at the University of South Wales, agreed that AI manipulation held dangers. "One simple manipulation, even for aesthetic reasons, can lead us down a dark path," he said. He said the risks were greater for those who used AI in professional contexts but there were implications to for everyone to consider. "You've got to be very careful about 'When do you step over the line?'. 'It's quite worrying now you can take a picture and remove something instantly on your phone. I think we are moving into this realm of a kind of fake world.'" Speaking to the BBC, Google's Isaac Reynolds, who leads the team developing the camera systems on the firm's smartphones, said the company takes the ethical consideration of its consumer technology seriously. He was quick to point out that features like Best Take were not "faking" anything. Camera quality and software are key to the company competing with Samsung, Apple and others - and these AI features are seen as a unique selling point. And all of the reviewers who raised concerns about the tech praised the quality of the camera system's photos. "You can finally get that shot where everyone's how you want them to look - and that's something you have not been able to do on any smartphone camera, or on any camera, period," Reynolds said. "If there was a version [of the photo you've taken] where that person was smiling, it will show it to you."

## The great and the ordinary

Askari Raza Malik

To guard against nature's traps, truthful introspection is advised. But it often turns into wishful thinking.

That is why shura or mutual consultation is emphasized. Consultation with subordinates on crucial issues could also be fatal. It has to be all inclusive encompassing the mainstream scholars, thinkers, experts and opinion makers. Some seek guidance from the holy book to judge their own actions or plans. This is often done without catering for the basics. General Zia-ur-Rehman of Bangladesh fell in to this grave error. He had according to his own statement done the istekhara (seeking guidance) from the Quran. In his understanding.

An old cliché reads: "Some are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them." There are a number of determinants that set them apart, the great and the ordinary.

In the Islamic truism it is not the lineage, social status, color, caste or creed that make one great. The character distinguishes one from the other. The human behavior in prosperity or adversity, while in power or having lost it, is one criterion. The nobility of character or its bankruptcy stands out.

To guard against nature's traps, truthful introspection is advised. But it often turns into wishful thinking. That is why shura or mutual consultation is emphasized. Consultation with subordinates on crucial issues could also be fatal. It has to be all inclusive encompassing the mainstream scholars, thinkers, experts and opinion makers. Some seek guidance from the holy book to judge their own actions or plans. This is often done without catering for the basics. General Zia-ur-Rehman of Bangladesh fell in to this grave error. He had according to his own statement done the istekhara (seeking guidance) from the Quran. In his understanding, the answer was in the affirmative. That's why he had gone about slaughtering thousands of West Pakistanis, including women and children. Guidance is sought from the Quran in legitimate matters not for committing sin or indulging in an unlawful activity. Zia-ur-Rehman was guilty of both. A great leader is true to himself, God, his cause and mission. Lust and greed destroy the soul. Ego kills the man and gives birth to the devil in him. A leader bids farewell to wisdom as soon as 'how dare you' enters his mind. According to Imam Ali (RA), "The fountainhead of merit is the overcoming of anger and the eradication of desire". Pride in one's ability to destroy the weak constitutes arrogance, that is direct defiance of the Almighty. It invites God's wrath and brings disgrace. Tempting fate too often ends in grief. The history brings to mind

the departure of Field Marshal Ayub Khan, the most successful ruler Pakistan has ever had. The people kicked him out shouting 'death to the dog Ayub'.

Great leaders have the ability to rise above the mundane. Living in the present is illusory. Dreaming the past is futile. A true leader places himself in the eye of the storm with a vision well into the future. That is how he excludes the routine hullabaloo, is able to concentrate and focus objectively. He has to imagine himself sitting on the fence. While in the midst, impulses, emotions and obsessions be-fog the judgement, mistakes abound and the soul gnawing remorse becomes inevitable.

God's consciousness is another essential. According to the last Mughal king, Bahadur Shah Zafar, "he is not to be considered a human being who ignores God in luxury and disregards the fear of God in anger". The Sovereignty belongs to Allah. The usurpation of power by force or fraud earns curses of the present and future generations. The ordinary are overwhelmed by overblown ego, power and greed. When power is usurped to oblige a foreign power, friend or foe, it becomes treachery. Those empowered by the people turning against the interest or will of the people are like the dogs in the animal kingdom turned against the lion king. There is no room for corruption in the realm of leadership. The corrupt should never be categorized as leaders. They remain thieves only wherever they might belong. In the world of Islam, it is called the betrayal of a trust which is inexcusable and unforgivable. The Prophet (PBUH) is also absolutely firm about the gifts received by a government official. All such gifts belong to the public exchequer. The recipients, big or small, are obliged to declare and deposit the gifts in the government treasury. The thieves steal from the government treasury, the rightful follow the procedures. Here is another difference between the ordinary and the great. The greats are endowed

with the gift of generosity. The ordinary continue to fall in the abyss of meanness. Pursuit of across-the-board justice is not meanness even if the criminals abound. Oppression, excesses and persecution of the innocent are meanness. The Prophet (PBUH) had forgiven all when they were completely at his mercy. He forgave his own enemies and those of his family including the killer of his dear uncle and friend Hamza and even the woman who had ordered mutilation of his dead body to chew his heart. That is the pinnacle of generosity, while Saddam executing his own sons in law in revenge is the nadir of disgrace. While Omer bin Abdul Aziz is known as a mujaddid of his century, Hajjaj bin Yusuf will remain as the icon of satanic force. The Constitution is the mother of all laws. Extra Constitutional acts are unlawful, shorn of God's grace and support. These acts bring shame, disrepute and eternal curse. The Constitution lays down individual and group responsibilities, obligations, rights and privileges. It is an umbrella that keeps all the segments of society together under its protective fold. It charters the course of political development and nurtures a political culture. When the Constitution is violated, it does not only disrupt the course of political development, it withdraws the umbrella leaving the society fragmented and prone to dismemberment. Pakistan's Constitution should be treated with utmost sanctity. The great do that with religious zeal. George Washington, when offered, flatly refused the third term as the US President. A great leader, like the chief judge, must base his judgement on the facts of law. He is responsible to God alone, in here and the Hereafter. The key word is Taqwa or God consciousness. When I meet my God, said Jinnah, I would want to hear, "well done Ali". All great leaders must aspire to hear the same. The ordinary do not have the brains to understand the subtleness of the idea.

—The writer has served Pakistan Army as Major General

## Moscow's balancing strategy towards Israel-Palestine War

Gul.i.Ayesha Bhatti



Putin expressed his concerns over the significant rise in Israeli and Palestinian fatalities during a meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani in Moscow three days after Hamas' attack. The Russian president seized the chance to reaffirm his government's stance that establishing a Palestinian state is "essential" while simultaneously criticizing...

In the heart of the ever-shifting geopolitical terrain, on October 7th, the Israel-Palestine war resulted in the deaths of numerous civilians. Israel's imposition of a comprehensive blockade on Gaza, which Human Rights Watch has denounced as "collective punishment" and a "war crime," poses a significant threat to the lives of the 2.3 million Palestinians confined within the beleaguered area. Israeli forces are continuously targeting innocent Palestinians in all possible inhumane ways. Russia, which has strong relations with Israel and engages in diplomatic discussions with Hamas without officially labeling it a terrorist organization, has responded to this extraordinary situation with caution and restraint. Moscow's strategy in this conflict is centered on maintaining equilibrium and fostering amicable relations with all parties involved. President Putin's government has criticized the use of violence by both Hamas and Israel and has attributed most of the responsibility to the United States' destructive approach which had ignored the need for an independent Palestinian state. Putin expressed his concerns over the significant rise in Israeli and Palestinian fatalities during a meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani in Moscow three days after Hamas' attack. The Russian president seized the chance to reaffirm his government's stance that establishing a Palestinian state is "essential" while simultaneously criticizing US policy and the UN role. He asserted that the U.S. has focused on providing economic "handouts" to the Palestinians while paying little regard to their fundamental challenges related to statehood. Putin described it as a manifestation of what he called an obvious failure of Washington's peacemaking efforts. On 13 October, Vassily Nebenzia, Russia's ambassador to the United Nations, urged for a "humanitarian ceasefire" and proposed a resolution to the UN Security Council. The resolution explicitly denounces all violence and conflicts targeted at people and any acts of terrorism. She also criticized the Western countries, accusing Washington of being accountable for the imminent conflict in the Middle East

and criticizing Brussels for disregarding the Israeli air force's assaults on civilian facilities in the Gaza Strip. The UN Security Council rejected the Russian-led draft resolution, with France, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States all voting against it. Russia attributed it to the "selfish intention of the Western bloc." Russian officials are engaged in discussions with their counterparts from Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, and Turkey regarding different aspects of this crisis. These discussions have included topics such as the potential hazards of the conflict spreading, efforts to reach a truce, and the difficult situation Palestinian refugees face. In essence, Russia's objective is to establish stability in the Israel-Palestine region and avert any additional loss of life. Moscow desires the implementation of a ceasefire and is advocating for a UN Security Council resolution that would explicitly require the parties engaged in the conflict to comply. Russia has shown interest in volunteering to mediate between Israel and Hamas, utilizing its connections with both parties. Moscow's assertion that a two-state resolution is vital for addressing the conflict in Israel-Palestine aligns with the agreement among Arab states and the international community. Therefore, Russia aims to demonstrate its global integration and assert its significant diplomatic influence and power in the Middle East. Russia is attempting to attract the countries in the Global South by positioning itself as the antithesis of the United States. Additionally, it aims to strengthen its influence in the Middle East and the Global South by portraying itself as a supporter of the Palestinian cause. Moscow is concerned about the possibility of this crisis spreading to other states in the Middle East, such as Lebanon and Syria. In the event of a full-scale conflict between Lebanon's Hezbollah and Israel, it is likely that a significant number of Hezbollah forces would have to withdraw from Syria and return to Lebanon. Given these conditions, the Assad regime's grip on authority may be compromised due to the multitude of economic challenges and social unrest afflicting Syria. This implies that Russia would assume a larger respon-

sibility in terms of supporting the Syrian regime. In the backdrop of the Ukraine war, Moscow does not desire such a burden. Russia has demonstrated its ability to maintain strong relationships with both Israel and Iran consistently over the years. One may legitimately question the potential impact of a direct military conflict between Israel and Iran on Moscow's ability to maintain positive relations with both Tel Aviv and Tehran. The Russians aim to avoid a scenario where they are forced to make a decision between their alliances with Israel and Iran. In the event of a larger clash between Israel and Iran, Moscow would have to closely monitor the potential repercussions of such a situation on the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations, particularly Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The Kremlin places great importance on peace and stability in the Gulf due to Russia's reliance on its relationship with Riyadh through OPEC Plus for its energy policies, as well as the significant role of the UAE, in helping Russia withstand economic pressure from the West. The potential consequences of an open conflict between Israel and Iran on the security of GCC states are unpredictable and might be significant. Moscow cannot disregard these concerns. Assessing the impact of the conflict in Israel-Palestine on Russia's national interests is challenging. It is difficult to anticipate whether the awful violence in the Israel-Palestine war will, on balance, benefit or hinder Russia's interests. However, Putin underscored that all efforts must be taken to swiftly terminate the war and pleaded with both the Israeli government and Hamas not to target civilians, warning that escalation would have serious implications. Questions regarding how the Hamas-Israel issue would affect Moscow and its foreign policy ambitions are tricky and will require more time to examine as the situation continuously evolves. Nevertheless, Moscow is ready to perform the role of mediator in the Middle East in an effort to find a long-term solution to the Palestinian cause.

Email: guleayeshabbhatti@gmail.com

## Briefs

Civilians  
trial in mily  
courts...

FROM PAGE 01  
Section 2(D)(1) was in contradiction with the Constitution. However, the verdict was 4 to 1 on this point but the rest of it was unanimous. The apex court had reserved the verdict earlier after Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan completed his arguments centred around the domain and scope of the military courts to try the civilians under the Army Act. At the outset of the hearing today, petitioner lawyer Salman Akram Raja told the bench that trials of civilians already commenced before the top court's verdict in the matter. Responding to this, Justice Ahsan said the method of conducting proceedings of the case would be settled after Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan completed his arguments. Presenting his arguments, the AGP said he would explain to the court why a constitutional amendment was necessary to form military courts in 2015 to try the terrorists.

Meeting  
90-day...

FROM PAGE 01  
However, CJP Isa stated that the SCBA's petition was based on the census issue. At this, Justice Minallah inquired when the 90-day time period would end. "90 day period will complete on November 3," responded Zuberi. "If we give orders to hold polls within 90 days will it be possible to hold the elections?" asked the CJP. Zuberi then conceded that if the top court gives the order even then it will not be possible to hold the elections within 90 days. The CJP then advised the lawyer to amend his petition, asking that if the president didn't give a date, should the court issue a notice to him.

Israel-  
Hamas...

FROM PAGE 01  
Iron against Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip. More than 1,400 Israelis have been killed in Hamas attacks since Oct. 7, according to Israeli authorities. Israel's military said on Monday its ground forces mounted limited raids into Gaza and airstrikes targeted Palestinian militants assembling to repulse any wider Israeli invasion, as each side prepares for the next stage of the escalating war. Palestinian group Hamas said on Sunday its fighters had engaged an armoured force infiltrating a southern area of Gaza and destroyed some Israeli military equipment before returning to base. There was no Israeli comment on such losses. How soon Israel might launch a full-scale invasion is not clear, and neither side can know exactly what to expect when it does. The Middle East's most powerful military faces a group that has built up a powerful arsenal with Iran's help, fighting in a crowded urban setting and using a vast tunnel network it has built that Israeli troops have dubbed the "Gaza Metro".

Pakistan  
keen to...

FROM PAGE 01  
The Ambassadors reaffirmed their respective countries' desire to build stronger relations with Pakistan and also their collective commitment to ECO's vision and objectives of ECO. While, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar on Monday reaffirmed the commitment to an inclusive electoral process, asserting that no major political party would be excluded from participating in the upcoming elections unless they were legally barred from doing so. He said this while addressing a press conference to brief the media on his recent visit to China and to address pressing political developments in the country. The interim prime minister's statement comes days after recent police actions in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa against leaders of PTI, where homes were raided, leading to the arrests of former provincial ministers Kamran Bangash and Anwar Zaib. Similar raids were conducted against PTI leaders in Lahore.

Inter Division Basketball  
Faisalabad, Peshawar and  
Islamabad enter into semis

The most thrilling match of the day unfolded in the final showdown between Rawalpindi and Islamabad. After the first quarter, Rawalpindi held a nine-point lead, scoring 20 points to Islamabad's 11

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Defending champion Faisalabad, Peshawar and Islamabad divisions entered into the semi final round after winning the second consecutive pool round matches of ongoing Inter Division National Basketball Championship Grade A at Liaquat Gymnasium Pakistan Sports Complex Islamabad. The Federal Basketball Association (FBBA) continued to deliver an exciting spectacle on the second day of the Championship Grade A, as four highly anticipated matches unfolded, each showcasing the incredible basketball talent of Pakistan. President Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) Brig. (r) M. Ifkhar Mansoor, International Basketball Federation (FIBA) Referee Instructor Abdul Karim Shakeb, Federal Basketball Association (FBBA) Secretary General Ouj E Zahoor, Azam Dar and other dignitaries were also present on the



day of the championship. In the opening match of the day two, Faisalabad division once again demonstrated their prowess on the court by defeating Gujranwala

with a final score of 59-42 points. Rana Bilawal scored 19 and Hanan Khan scored 15 points for winning team. The most thrilling match of the day unfolded in the final show-

down between Rawalpindi and Islamabad. After the first quarter, Rawalpindi held a nine-point lead, scoring 20 points to Islamabad's 11. But as the game progressed,

the Islamabad team slowly clawed their way back into the match. In an electrifying showdown, Islamabad triumphed with a score of 66-54, stunning the crowd with their comeback. Ashrab Butt scored 19 points and Bakhtawar Taimour scored 10 points for Islamabad division. The third match witnessed Peshawar taking on Karachi. Peshawar's team outsmarted their opponents, securing a 77-63 victory with their exceptional game play with the support of Muhammad Bilal scored 24 points and Abdul Wahab 21 points. In the fourth match, Lahore showcased their dominance as they outclassed Hazara by a considerable margin, scoring 76 points against Hazara's 32. The day was a testament to the intense competition and the remarkable skill of the players in this championship. Fans and enthusiasts eagerly await the upcoming matches as the Inter Division National Basketball Championship Grade A continues to captivate basketball enthusiasts across the nation.

Wilder fight could  
be a 'mega card',  
says Joshua

AUSTIN: A fight between former world heavyweight boxing champions Anthony Joshua and Deontay Wilder could be part of a 'mega card' with an undisputed title clash in Saudi Arabia between Tyson Fury and Oleksandr Usyk, Joshua said on Sunday. Contracts have been signed for Britain's Fury and Ukraine's Usyk to fight for their combined titles on a date yet to be decided in Riyadh. "They want to put Usyk-Fury, Joshua-Wilder on the same night. That might not happen until April," Joshua told reporters ahead of the U.S. Formula One Grand Prix in Austin, Texas. "When Fury gets through Ngannou, it is going to be late October, early November, so I doubt he will now prepare for Usyk and fight in December, it's too short," said the 34-year-old Briton. WBC champion Fury is due to fight former UFC heavyweight champion Francis Ngannou in Saudi Arabia on Oct. 28 in a bout with professional boxing rules. Usyk holds the WBA, WBO, IBF and IBO belts and, like Fury, has an unbeaten record. "The next window (after that for Fury-Usyk) will probably be in March-April, so that's probably when the undisputed fight will potentially happen," said Joshua, who was in Austin after being announced last week as an investor in the Renault-owned Alpine team. "Then obviously what we are being told is they want to make it a mega card and they like the sound of Joshua versus Wilder on the same card." Wilder, 38, was WBC heavyweight champion from 2015 to 2020. Joshua, twice beaten by Usyk, said his next fight would be in December and likely in London against a 'non-championship' opponent yet to be decided. No date has been set for him to fight Wilder. "Some fighters want to maximise their revenue," said the Briton. "It is like, 'where can we get the most money for the fight?' And they want to go to Saudi Arabia so they are waiting for the undisputed fight." - Agencies

Hamilton disqualified  
as Verstappen wins

NEW YORK: Lewis Hamilton was disqualified from second place in the US Grand Prix after running Max Verstappen's Red Bull close for victory. Hamilton was just two seconds behind Verstappen at the flag but his car was later declared illegal for excessive wear on the underfloor skid blocks. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc suffered the same fate after finishing sixth. Hamilton's disqualification promoted McLaren's Lando Norris to second and Ferrari's Carlos Sainz to third. Verstappen was measured, slowly picking off the cars in front of him and then holding on for his 50th career win. Hamilton passed Norris for second in the final laps but ran out of time to catch Verstappen for the lead. Hamilton's disqualification meant it was difficult to draw conclusions from a race after which, before the late technical drama, hindsight had left Hamilton and Mercedes ruing a lost potential victory had they played the strategy differ-

ently. The skid blocks are in place to prevent teams running cars too low, which can be a potential aerodynamic advantage. The Red Bull did not have the pace off-set it has had so often this year and Norris and Hamilton made Verstappen work for the win. But Mercedes' inadvertent transgression confuses the picture of a race in which the team seemed to have made a step forward with an upgraded car. Mercedes tried to make a one-stop strategy work while Verstappen and Norris went for a two, but the decision backfired on them and cost Hamilton more time than the margin by which he eventually lost the race. Mercedes had to abandon the plan when Hamilton's tyres suddenly lost performance just two laps later. That forced Hamilton on to an off-set strategy, where he had to catch and pass both the McLaren and the Red Bull if he was to win. Hamilton managed to close in and passed Norris with

six laps to go to take second place. He went for the inside at Turn One with seven laps to go and Norris defended with a late move. The seven-time champion had to dive back to the outside and from there got the cut-back on Norris on the exit of the corner and passed around the outside into Turn Two and set off after Verstappen, not quite doing enough to challenge for the lead by the end of the race. The world champion had a five-second lead with six laps to go and, although he was managing brake problems that caused a series of exasperated and swear radio messages, was able to keep the Mercedes at arm's length to the flag. Charles Leclerc lost fourth place to team-mate Carlos Sainz in the closing laps after the team's choice of a one-stop strategy for Leclerc failed to work out. Leclerc was ordered to let Sainz by, a decision he questioned over the radio even though he acquiesced. But the reasoning was ob-

Pakistan-  
China pledge  
support...

FROM PAGE 01  
He commended the momentum of high-level exchanges and expressed gratitude for China's invitation to the Pakistan Prime Minister to the 3rd Belt and Road Forum. Sadiq Sanjrani expressed his pleasure at the warm hospitality extended to his delegation and congratulated Wang Huning on his appointment as the Chairman of the National Committee of the China's People's Political Consultative Conference. The Chairman Senate expressed sincere appreciation for China's generous support to Pakistan's economic stability and development. He emphasized the strategic significance of CPEC as the flagship of the Belt and Road Initiative and encouraged more Chinese companies to invest in Pakistan. Sadiq Sanjrani also stressed the importance of close communication in strengthening the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

Imran,  
Qureshi...

FROM PAGE 01  
The petitions stated that the hearing was fixed for indictment and went ahead with it. Once the charges are framed, the evidence of the prosecution is recorded and the case trial begins. Subsequently, the testimonies and statements of the accused are recorded by the court. In line with the procedure, the court issued notices to the witnesses to appear on October 27 and adjourned the hearing till then. According to sources, Qureshi and Khan have pleaded not guilty to the charges. In the last hearing on October 17, both the PTI leaders' indictment was deferred till today as the copies of challans submitted by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) against the PTI leaders were provided to the accused.

IHC forms  
bench...

FROM PAGE 01  
stated that he had not completely recovered from the illness, however, he decided to return to the country due to miserable economic conditions. He said that he was given imprisonment sentence by the accountability court in his absence on July 6, 2018. He had requested the trial court to delay the judgment as his wife was on ventilator in a London hospital, but his request was rejected. He came back to Pakistan, remained in jail and filed appeals against his conviction, he added. Nawaz said that his co-accused Maryam Nawaz and her husband had already been acquitted in the Avenfield property case.

Indian  
troops...

FROM PAGE 01  
The incarcerated leader mentioned singing of a devotional Hindu hymn in Srinagar and renaming of schools, colleges, roads and other landmarks having Muslim-rooted names, as part of New Delhi's bid to impose Hindutva ideology in the Muslim majority territory. Other APHC leaders, including Molvi Bashir Irfani, Abdul Samad Inqilabi and Chaudhry Shaheen Iqbal, in their statements made it clear that the Modi regime's evil tactics cannot stop Kashmiris from pursuing their just struggle for right to self-determination.

'Presenting  
Imran in...

FROM PAGE 01  
the ministry and the capital police have informed the commission about their stance, with just a day left to produce the PTI chief - who is imprisoned in the Adiala Jail in the cipher case. A four-member bench, headed by ECP Member Sindh Nisar Ahmad Durrani, released two separate but almost identical orders for Imran and Fawad Chaudhary, a former member of the PTI. Both are set to be indicted on October 24. However, in the case of Fawad, the commission also issued bailable warrants of arrest and directed the relevant IGP to serve them. At the hearing on October 11, Shoaib Shaheen, who had appeared before a four-member bench of the commission headed by Nisar Durrani.

AKF Pakistan  
sends aid to  
people of Gazan

## KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Al-Khidmat Foundation Pakistan has sent the first batch of 13 trucks of relief goods for Gaza-Palestine

victims, Central Secretary General of the welfare organization Syed Waqas Anjum Jafari while talking to the media said that the relief goods include food grains, delivery kits, medicines including hygiene kits and other basic necessities. We are sending these relief goods to Gaza through the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). He said that since October 7, Al-Khidmat Foundation has been providing relief in Gaza in collaboration with international partners, NGOs. The operation is in progress. Gaza is currently suffering from a severe humanitarian crisis where water, food and medical aid are in dire need. Al-Khidmat immediately started relief activities in collaboration with international humanitarian organizations in Gaza by utilizing the available resources and providing cooked food and protection from the weather to the patients being treated in hospitals and schools in the camps. The distribution of winter package is continuing, while dry rations have been provided to the local population and medicines have also been provided to the hospitals. Waqas Jafari said Al-Khidmat Foundation has provided aid worth 15 crores while another fund of 50 crore rupees has been allocated for Gaza victims. In the first phase, Al-Khidmat delivered relief materials to the victims from the available sources in Gaza, while Al-Khidmat delivered aid to the victims at the Rafah border through partner NGOs. As soon as the trucks of relief goods are opened, these relief goods will also reach the victims. Syed Waqas Jafari said that Al-Khidmat's services are valued all over the world, including Pakistan. At this time, the victims of Gaza are waiting for aid under the open sky despite the severity of the weather. Provide assistance.

Indian cricket legend  
Bedidies at 77

NEW DELHI: Indian cricket legend Bishan Singh Bedi has died aged 77 after a prolonged illness. He was battling age-related illnesses and had undergone a few surgeries in recent years. Bedi, regarded as one of the world's finest ever spin bowlers, captained India in 22 of his 67 Tests and took 266 wickets. He made his debut against West Indies in 1966 and played his last Test against England at The Oval in 1979. Bedi also played English county cricket for Northamptonshire and finished his career with 1,560 first-class wickets, the highest by any Indian bowler. Bedi was an integral part of a famed quartet of India's world-beating spin bowlers in the 1960s and 70s, which included Erapalli Prasanna, Bhagwat Chandrasekhar and Srinivas Venkataraghavan. In 2021, Bedi was picked by readers for a place in BBC Sport's all-time India Test XI. Born in Amritsar in India's Punjab state, Bedi began playing cricket at school. When he turned 20, he became the 113th cricketer to represent India in Tests. Over a 12-year career his best bowling performance came in 1969 when he picked up seven wickets for 98 runs against Australia in Kolkata (then known as Calcutta), a Test match that India lost. In his trademark pink or bright blue turban, Bedi was a spin bowling purist's dream. With a languid run-up and a fluid action, bowling came naturally to him. A cricket writer described the left arm spinner as "stealthy, silent and deadly, a master of deception who conjured variations in flight, loop, spin and pace without any perceptible change in action". - APP

## Inauguration ceremony of CEPA held

Our team of experienced instructors and experts are committed to helping aspiring candidates excel in their CSS exams and achieve their career goals

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: A formal inauguration ceremony of CEPA (CSS Exam Preparation Academy) took place in Islamabad on October 22, 2023. CEPA academy is dedicated to providing exceptional mentorship, comprehensive training, and extensive practice for the CSS Exams. Our team of experienced instructors and experts are committed to helping aspiring candidates excel in their CSS exams and achieve their career goals. At CEPA, we understand the importance of thorough preparation and guidance, which is why we have designed a curriculum that covers all aspects of the CSS exams, including current affairs, essay writing, English composition, and more. If you are passionate about pursuing a career in the civil services and want to maximize your chances of success, join CEPA and let us help you unlock your potential!



## Briefs

## China, GCC to deepen cooperation

RIYADH: An economic and trade ministerial meeting between China and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) achieved positive results, with the two sides deepening exchanges and cooperation in areas including trade and investment, the digital economy, sustainable development and infrastructure, according to China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM). The meeting was held in Guangzhou, South China's Guangdong Province on Sunday. It was a concrete action to implement the economic and trade achievements of the first China-Arab States Summit and the China-GCC Summit, as well as to promote the deepening of China-GCC economic and trade cooperation under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The meeting was also the first time for the economic and trade departments of China and the GCC member states to carry out collective dialogue, experts noted. China's Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao, GCC Secretary General Jassem Mohamed Al-Budaiwi and heads of the economic and trade departments of GCC member states, including Oman, the UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait, attended the meeting. During the meeting, the two sides reached a broad consensus on topics such as jointly safeguarding the multilateral trading system, promoting two-way investment, deepening cooperation in the industry chain and supply chain, upgrading the level of connectivity and promoting energy transformation. — Agencies

## Turkish, Azerbaijani army showcase might

## FOREIGN DESK

BAKU: Named after the founder of the Republic of Türkiye and a week before the centenary of the Turkish republic, Azerbaijan is hosting the Turkish Armed Forces for a comprehensive military exercise. The "Mustafa Kemal Atatürk 2023" exercise began on Monday with the participation of thousands of troops and fighter jets. Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry announced that up to 3,000 troops would take part in the tactical drills, which involve dozens of artillery weapons as well. Türkiye's ATAK helicopters and soldiers from its Special Forces Command, known as the "maroon berets," will also participate in the exercise. Last week, Turkish fighter jets and troops arrived in the Caucasus country for the exercise. Türkiye and Azerbaijan already carried out a joint military exercise to mark the Turkish centenary and the centenary of the birthday of Azerbaijan's late leader Heydar Aliyev.—APP

## Senate chief leads delegation to China

## DNA

BEIJING: Senate chairman Sadiq Sanjrani has led a delegation to China on a four-day visit to the country. Senators including Faisal Salim Rehman, Dilawar Khan, Rana Mehmoodul Hassan and Abdul Qadir are part of the delegation. The Senate chairman will hold various important and bilateral meetings with the Chinese counterparts during the visit. The delegation is visiting China on a special invitation of Chinese foreign minister. The Senate chairman will be special guest in the symposium on China's friendly diplomacy and also address the gathering there. The Senate chairman has also greeted China upon its 74th Foundation Day and said Pakistan had long been cherishing brotherly relations with China which has always been there to support Pakistan in the hour of need. He hoped the ties would be further strengthened in the future.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting regarding Pakistan International Airlines in Islamabad.—DNA

## ICCI eyes great potential for promoting trade with Indonesia

ICCI delegation members also spoke on the occasion and shared useful ideas for further improving bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Indonesia

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) led by its Vice President Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar visited the Pakistan Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia and exchanged views with Faisal Fiaz, Acting Ambassador of Pakistan to Indonesia to further improve bilateral trade ties between the two countries. Muhammad Shabbir, Ch. Muhammad Ali, Hamayun Kabir, Ch. Javed Iqbal, Sheikh Muhammad Ejaz, Akhtar Hussain and others were in the ICCI delegation. Addressing the delegation, Faisal Fiaz, Acting Ambassador of Pakistan to Indonesia said that the economy of Indonesia is on a sustainable growth trajectory, therefore Pakistan has promising scope to develop close cooperation with it and get easy access to Indonesian and ASEAN markets. He said that Pakistan-Indonesia bilateral trade in 2022 was around US\$ 4.2 billion, which can be further improved by promoting business linkages between the



private sectors of both countries. He said that in 2013, Pakistan had signed a preferential trade agreement with Indonesia and stressed that the business community should take full advantage of it to promote trade and exports with Indonesia. He lauded the

ICCI delegation for participating in the 38th Trade Expo Indonesia Hybrid Edition 2023 and said that regular exchange of trade delegations is the best way to improve bilateral trade ties between the two countries. He assured that the Pakistan Embassy in Indone-

sia would fully cooperate with the business community of Pakistan in exploring new avenues of trade promotion with Indonesia. Speaking on the occasion, Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan and Indonesia are two important coun-

tries of the Muslim world and a lot of opportunities are available for private sectors of both countries to enhance cooperation in multiple fields. He said that the purpose of ICCI delegation to visit Indonesia is to explore untapped opportunities of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. He said that Pakistan can export many products to Indonesia including pharmaceuticals, surgical & medical equipment, footballs, leather products. He said that Pakistan and Indonesia can also cooperate in many fields including tourism, IT, pharmaceutical, textile, cooking oil, mines & minerals, leather, e-commerce and others. He said that the Pakistan Embassy in Indonesia should identify the demand of Pakistani products in Indonesia and share this information with chambers of commerce of Pakistan so that the business community could take advantage of them. ICCI delegation members also spoke on the occasion and shared useful ideas for further improving bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Indonesia.

## Romania divided over its bear population

COVASNA: It was a sight that stopped traffic. A brown bear seemingly asleep, its head on its paws, on a winding forest road in central Romania, some paper napkins by its side. "It's amazing," said Mike, a 72-year-old Israeli tourist. "I thought it might be dead." But the bear was just taking a rest after a sandwich, one of many thrown by tourists travelling Transylvania so they can get a great holiday snap. In Romania, home to Europe's largest brown bear population outside Russia, attacks are on the rise as the bears venture out of the forests looking for food, often brought by tourists or left in unsecured garbage cans. The problem is pitting herders and farmers against conservationists, with authorities dramatically upping the number

of bears that can be culled this year by 50 percent to 220. And some MPs want that number doubled. Those pushing for higher quotas paint the bears as a threat, and claim their numbers are surging, with the environment ministry estimating the population at 8,000. But experts counter that outdated, inaccurate methods are used to count the species protected by an EU directive to ensure their conservation. Results of a census using DNA to ensure roaming bears are not counted several times are still pending. Conservationists argue it is possible to better manage human-bear conflict rather than killing the animals. But several locals in the Carpathian Mountains told AFP they were alarmed by increased bear sightings.—Agencies

## Global primary health care conference opens in Astana

## NEWS DESK

ASTANA: Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and WHO Regional Director for Europe Hans Kluge delivered remarks at the opening of a landmark event in the global health calendar — an international conference on primary health care policy and practice in Astana on Oct. 23. The event is dedicated to the 45th anniversary of the Alma-Ata Declaration and the fifth anniversary of the Astana Declaration on Primary Health Care. In his opening remarks, Tokayev said that the historical Alma-Ata Declaration provided basis for a "socially just primary health model and has inspired

many countries to improve people's health by recognizing it as a fundamental human right." "It played a pivotal role in reducing maternal and infant mortality rates, as well as increasing life expectancy. Experts estimate that an effective primary health care system could potentially save 60 million lives and increase life expectancy by three years and seven months by 2030," said the head of state. The President stressed the role of the primary health care system in preventing and identifying the spread of infectious diseases worldwide. "As the COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us, primary health care also plays a critical role in the early identification of pandemics and in responding to unforeseen challenges. Primary healthcare organizations

have shown resilience and an ability to adapt quickly. Our health care systems must remain alert. I take this opportunity to thank all medical workers and appreciate the contribution to humanity's fight against COVID-19," he said. The primary health care in Kazakhstan, according to the President, is provided by nearly 6,000 organizations and 30,000 specialists. "The entire child population of the country is covered by preventive medical examinations. There are youth health centers in almost every major settlement. Every year, nearly three million adults undergo screenings and professional examinations. Since 2018, the number of primary care village clinics has grown threefold," said Tokayev. Digital technologies, such as telemedicine

and remote monitoring, are also introduced in primary health care development. "Digital technologies open up more possibilities for increased primary health care accessibility," he said. Tokayev proposed to create a coalition of countries on primary health care with the main task "to promote the principles of integration and healthcare, as well as to elaborate recommendations for the development of primary health care." In his speech, the WHO Director-General underlined that Kazakhstan is the "birthplace of primary health care with a special significance at a professional level." "Since its independence, Kazakhstan has made significant progress in improving the health and well-being of its population. This includes expanding access to medicine, developing health and care workforce.

## Hamas calls for permanent humanitarian corridor

GAZA: Hamas has called on Arab and Islamic countries and the United Nations to intensify efforts to open a permanent humanitarian corridor to Gaza Strip and to reject the Israeli policy of starving its population. Hamas stated in a press release on Monday that "the limited amount of aid that has been delivered to the Gaza Strip over the past two days does not meet the growing needs of our people in the face of the savage aggression and the ongoing blockade, which has led to a severe shortage of all essential food, medicine, and fuel supplies in all hospitals in Gaza." Arab and Islamic countries, as well as the United Nations and concerned parties, are urged to intensify efforts to urgently open a humanitarian corridor for the delivery of fuel, food, medicine, and medical supplies to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe," Hamas added. Since October 7, the Israeli occupation forces have been carrying out brutal massacres in the Gaza Strip, resulting in more than 5,000 martyrs.—Agencies

## Mass rallies held in US in support of Palestine

NEW YORK: Pro-Palestinian activists have staged rallies across the United States as the Israeli regime intensifies its deadly attacks against civilians in the besieged Gaza strip. American demonstrators took the streets over the weekend to demand an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. Thousands marched in support of Palestinians in Boston for the 'All Out For Gaza' protest on Sunday. The demonstrators marched through the city to the consulate general of Israel. Protesters also assembled in Las Vegas on Sunday to support Palestine as the relentless Israeli war rages on. The protesters voice their anger at the Biden administration's request for additional funding to support the Israeli regime. Co-founder of the Fifth Sun project Ertli Amaya said she does not want her tax dollars going to Israel. The activist said, "We need complete dismantling the system. We need them at this point, a complete abolish-

ment and a little bit less funding isn't going to make a difference. It's just it's just it's a small dent. We need to pull out completely." "I don't want my tax dollars going to the act of genocide to war. That tax money is for my kids, for all the kids we have here. We need a better future for our kids. We need to make sure that

we're building that, not killing a whole another population." Shaun Navarro, a community organizer, said, "These are the biggest Palestinian protests we've seen pretty much in the history of the United States. And you really see kind of a changing of public opinion on it. It's it's very clear that more and more people are sup-

porting Palestine, more people are making their voices heard. So it's extremely frustrating to see administration just give this very one sided opinion in support of Israel." He said, "I think it's the latest numbers like he (Biden) wants a \$12 billion to support genocide, basically. And I think it's going to be a huge issue for young people.

It's going to be huge, huge issue for voters in general." In New York, people rallied in Hauppauge in Long Island, protesting against the Israeli war crimes and the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza. "We have to ask everyone to stand up and express yourself regardless of whether your political or ethnic affiliation," co-organizer of the rally Dr. Nasir Shaid said. More than a dozen mosques across Suffolk County in the US state of New York were represented at the rally following earlier demos in Brooklyn and Manhattan. On Saturday, protesters had gathered in Brooklyn to demand a ceasefire in Gaza. "We are calling for simply putting an end to the genocide. We are calling for an end to the siege, an end to the blockade, an end to the occupation," said one protester. According to local media, New York Police Department reported more than a dozen protesters were arrested on Saturday.—Agencies



## Five Eyes spreading lies about China

## DNA

BEIJING: The Chinese Foreign Ministry on Monday refuted the Five Eyes' remarks hyping the "China espionage threat." The so-called accusations are groundless, and full of slander and smears against China, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning at a regular press briefing on Monday. "China doesn't accept and firmly opposes it," Mao said. China attaches great importance to and is committed to protecting intellectual property rights, and safeguarding international security. The "Five Eyes Alliance" is the world's biggest intelligence association, which is accustomed to fabricating and spreading false information about China, Mao said. The US, with its technological advantages, unscrupulously conducts eavesdropping and spying on a global scale without distinction, even not sparing their own allies, Mao noted. The US is escalating its global campaign to hype the "China threat" in intellectual property and artificial intelligence (AI) development in a rare move of collusion with its allies under the Five Eyes to accuse China of intellectual property theft and using AI for hacking and spying against the nations. It is hoped that the relevant countries will abandon their Cold War mentality and ideological prejudice, viewing China in an objective and fair manner, and stop groundless smears and accusations against China, according to Mao.

## Israel committed 'political suicide'

TEHRAN: Israel has committed "political suicide" by its brutal attacks on Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, says Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani. Speaking in a phone call with Syrian Defense Minister Ali Mahmoud Abbas on Monday, Ashtiani denounced Israel's relentless airstrikes on Gaza as a "violation of all rules of war and human rights." They hurt the free consciences of all Muslim nations and awakened the world to the crimes of the bloodthirsty regime, he said. Israel waged the war on Gaza on October 7 after the Gaza-based Palestinian resistance groups launched Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, a surprise attack into the occupied territories in response to the Israeli regime's intensified crimes against the Palestinian people. According to the Palestinian Health Ministry, the Israeli onslaught on Gaza has so far killed over 4,740 Palestinians, including more than 1,900 children. Ashtiani said Israel knows no boundaries in its acts of aggression against the people of Gaza, which, he maintained, have been greenlit and supported by the United States and its Western allies.—APP

## Briefs

### FM to attend SCO meeting in Kyrgyzstan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani will lead the Pakistani delegation to the 22nd meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of Government (CHG) on October 26. The foreign minister's visit is taking place at the invitation of the Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, Akybek Japarov. The CHG Meeting will be attended by the Heads of Government of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, the Vice-President of Iran, and Foreign Ministers of Pakistan and India. SCO observer states including Belarus and Mongolia as well as guest state Turkmenistan will also attend the meeting. The CHG is the second-highest forum in SCO. It focuses primarily on the areas of economy, finance, commerce, and socio-economic cooperation. On 26 October 2023, Pakistan will assume the Chair of CHG SCO. The foreign minister will also hold bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the CHG Meeting.

### Iran FM reaffirms support for Palestine

DNA

TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian has reaffirmed the Islamic Republic's support for the oppressed Palestinian people, saying Israel must immediately stop its massacre of civilians. Amir-Abdollahian made the remark in separate phone calls with Hamas Political Bureau Chief Ismail Haniyeh and Islamic Jihad Secretary-General Ziad al-Nakhleh on Monday. He noted that Israel must open the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and Gaza to let desperately needed aid flow to Palestinians running short of basic needs and also stop the forced replacement of people in the besieged Strip. The leaders of the Palestinian resistance movements told the Iranian foreign minister that the enemy is unable to break the will of the resistance front as its heavy fight with the Israeli regime enters 18th consecutive day.

### ECP to enlist 1 mln staff for election duty

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is gearing up for the upcoming general elections and plans to enlist nearly one million individuals to fill essential roles for the elections. According to preliminary estimates, "there will be approximately 700,000 polling staff members and the count may increase to around 900,000 to one million. The final number will be confirmed once the Election Schedule is announced," ECP sources said on Sunday. - DNA

# ASEAN corner opened at ISSI

## Pakistan wishes stronger ties with ASEAN countries: FM

### Envoys of ASEAN countries suggest various ways and means to further solidify relations between Pakistan and ASEAN



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani along with envoys of the ASEAN countries opening the ASEAN corner at the ISSI. - DNA

ANSAR M BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani on Monday termed a peaceful and stable Asia Pacific a priority said Pakistan stands ready to work with the member states of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) for attaining the goals of confidence-building and conflict prevention. Speaking at the inauguration of the ASEAN Corner at the

Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), the foreign minister highlighted Pakistan's efforts in forging the future prospects of its relations with ASEAN. Jilani reaffirmed Pakistan's support for an international order based on peaceful co-existence, amicable settlements of disputes, win-win cooperation, and shared prosperity. He mentioned that Pakistan was fully supportive of the principles of ASEAN and was collaborating in a number of areas including

conducting courses on finance and banking. He regretted that the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) which was established on the same lines of ASEAN despite its potential had fallen victim to India's policies. The foreign minister said Pakistan was currently facing economic, demographic, and economic and climate change challenges besides the creation of jobs for the young population. He said Pakistan looked forward to mean-

ingful cooperation amongst countries across the globe and termed it incumbent upon to work towards putting Pakistan on the path of sustainable economic growth. For socio-economic development, he said peace and security were a fundamental requisite, hence Pakistan's priorities in foreign policy towards the neighbourhood, as well as region, was to make it conflict-free and development-driven. He stressed the need to avoid bloc politics and geo-political constructs that did

not align with the geographical historical and cultural realities of the distinct regions spanned by the Indian and Pacific Oceans. As a proponent of multilateralism, he said, Pakistan believed that commitment to the fundamental principles of the United Nations charter was the need of the hour. He emphasized Pakistan's consistent aspirations for a full dialogue partnership underscoring its continued commitment to ASEAN. Pakistan would remain a strong partner in all endeavours of peace, stability, and development of the region, he said. High Commissioner of Malaysia Mohammad Azhar Mazlan highlighted the importance laid by his country in strengthening the motives of ASEAN. He also stressed joint efforts by the member states to gain the mutual benefits of cooperation. Ambassador of Indonesia in his speech offered a three-pronged strategy to further cement Pakistan-ASEAN relations. He said both stakeholders have huge potential, which should be explored sooner rather later. Ambassador of Thailand also spoke on the occasion and said he would like to point out the most important fact about ASEAN which is they way we become ASEAN. He suggested three areas in order to further strengthen relations including political aspect; trade and investment and people to people contacts. Director General ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood spoke about the significance of the ASEAN in areas of regional cooperation. Earlier, the foreign minister along with other dignitaries unveiled the plaque of the inauguration of ASEAN Corner established at ISSI.

### Operation against illegal immigrants brought to halt

ISLAMABAD: The sensitive agencies and Islamabad police have temporarily brought to a halt their operation against the Afghan nationals illegally residing in Pakistan. The operation was halted on the intervention of global diplomatic sources. It is expected that the deadline given to the illegal Afghan nationals will be extended. The illegal immigrants have been asked to leave the country by October 31. Sources said that the illegal Afghans have been asked to enter their data by October 31. After the expiry of the deadline, only those Afghans could stay in the country whose documents would be complete. The authorities would launch a crackdown on those Afghans who would not stay in their allotted camps. Sources in administration further informed that the post-October 31 plan has not been revealed yet. They said that they would crack down on the illegal immigrants as per the orders of the government. Earlier, Islamabad has disregarded domestic and calls by the United Nations to not force out Afghans seeking refuge, warning it could expose many families to persecution and other abuse by the country's de facto Taliban rulers. On Thursday, the United States joined the international calls, stressing the need for Pakistan and other nations to uphold their obligations to help refugees and asylum-seekers. - DNA

### Election delayed is election denied, says Bilawal Bhutto

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party and the former Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing the 50th anniversary celebration of Pakistan's Constitution' hosted by the Supreme Court Bar Association said that he is grateful and honoured to be the first political leader to be addressing this forum in the Supreme Court's premises. We appreciate the role of the Bar in upholding the law, rule of law, constitutionalism and human rights in Pakistan. We appreciate that the Bar has played this role regardless of the political inclinations of individual members of the Bar and the office bearers of the Bar Association. The nation values this bipartisan struggle against dictatorship waged by the legal fraternity. This indeed raises our hopes in democracy and fighting dictatorship. We salute your courage and determination in the relentless struggle for the rule of law in Pakistan. This is the 50th anniversary of the Constitution of Pakistan that was given to the country by my grandfather, Quaid-e-Azam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto with the invaluable support of all political parties of the right, left and center, Chairman Bilawal said.



Whether of democratic and secular inclinations, or religious persuasions, the unanimous Constitution given by the political parties and leaders of the time also have backing of all the federating units of our federation. This consensus is no small achievement, let there be no doubt about it. Under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam, the political leaders of the time rose above political partisanship, a value that has since been systematically eroded over the years. One opposition political leader of the time was asked as to why he had agreed to the Constitution when he opposed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto so vehemently at every turn. In reply, the political leader is reported to have said that the opposition to Bhutto was a political necessity but making the Constitution was a national necessity. Such was the spirit at the time which looks like a dream today.

### Pak WC journey in tatters after Afghanistan loss

SPORTS DESK

CHENNAI: Afghanistan pulled off their second major shock of the Cricket World Cup on Monday when they sent Pakistan crashing to an eight-wicket defeat. Chasing 283 to win, Afghanistan rode on the back of impressive innings from Ibrahim Zadran (87), Rahmat Shah (77 not out), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (65) and skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi (48 not out) to reach their target with six balls to spare. Afghanistan, who stunned defending champions England earlier in the tournament, and Pakistan both now have two wins and three losses from their five group games. Chasing 283 to win, Afghanistan were 105-0 after 16 overs with Zadran having made his fifty off 54 balls with eight boundaries while Gurbaz reached his half-century from 38 deliveries, hitting nine

fours. Afghanistan came into the game with one win from four matches while 1992 champions Pakistan had lost their last two following back-to-back opening wins. Earlier, skipper Babar Azam and opener Abdullah Shafique put up half centuries before Afghanistan's teenage leg spinner Noor Ahmad struck twice to put the brakes on Pakistan's progress. Contributions of 40 runs each from Iftikhar Ahmed and Shadab Khan propelled Pakistan's total above 280, rescuing the Green Team from a minor collapse during the middle of their innings when they found themselves four down at 163 runs. By the end of the first innings, Pakistan scored 282 at the loss of seven wickets. The national team, with two wins and as many defeats in the previous four games, brought in Shadab Khan replacing fellow spinner Mohammad Nawaz who was ruled out with illness. Afghanistan, who have just one win from four matches, named left-arm spinner Noor Ahmad in place of fast bowler Fazalhaq Farooqi. Pakistan: Abdullah Shafique, Imamul Haq, Babar Azam (capt), Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Saud Shakeel, Iftikhar Ahmed, Shadab Khan, Usama Mir, Hasan Ali, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf Afghanistan: Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Ibrahim Zadran, Rahmat Shah, Hashmatullah Shahidi (capt), Azmatullah Omarzai, Ikram Alikhil (wk), Mohammad Nabi, Rashid Khan, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Naveenul Haq, Noor Ahmad.

### 'Education not an option but necessity': COAS



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir, while attending as the chief guest the inaugural "Master

Convocation Ceremony" at the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) on Monday, highlighted the imperative nature of education, emphasising that it is not a choice but a fundamental necessity, according to the military's official statement.

Gen Munir, who also holds the position of Chairman of the NUST Board of Governors, conferred medals upon those students who had achieved distinction, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement. In his address to the graduating students, General Munir underlined that this moment signifies the commencement of a new chapter in their lives, signifying a substantial change that calls for greater responsibility. He emphasised that this newly acquired responsibility should be reflected in their character and choices as they embark on their future journeys. The COAS stressed that it is now their duty to identify and analyse the challenges confronting the nation and employ their intellectual ingenuity to seek out solutions. The National University of Sciences & Technology commenced its annual convocation week at its main campus in Islamabad today. During the convocation week, students receiving Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD degrees from all NUST Schools in the seven core disciplines will be recognised. Over 3,500 graduates are set to receive their degrees during this event. In his interactions with the students, General Munir extended his warmest congratulations to the graduates, their parents, and the faculty. He commended NUST for creating an environment conducive to teaching and learning, one that nurtures bright minds ready to contribute to the nation. Upon his arrival at NUST, the COAS was welcomed by the University's Rector.

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