



# Islamabad POST

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**Israel should not be given 'free licence to kill' in Gaza: Qatar**

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**'Malaysia is with Palestine' Anwar Ibrahim**

Detailed News On Page-06



**Saim creates history in Quaid-e-Azam Trophy**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Army Chief urges world to rise against Zionists

# Israeli brutalities must come to an end: Gen Asim

Meets with Ambassador of Palestine Ahmed Rabei; extends Pakistan's whole-hearted support

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT / DNA

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir met with Ambassador of Palestine to Pakistan Ahmad Jawad Rabei at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi on Tuesday to express condolences on the loss of Palestinian lives in Gaza. He expressed grave concern over unabated violence and the willful, indiscriminate killing of innocent civilians by the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) in the ongoing war, according to a statement released by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). Earlier today, the Palestinian health ministry said at least 5,087 Palestinians have been killed in two weeks of strikes, including 2,055 children, the health ministry said. Israel pounded hundreds of targets in Gaza from the air on Monday as its soldiers fought Hamas fighters during raids into the besieged Palestinian strip where civilians are trapped in harrowing conditions. "Incessant attacks on the civilian population, schools, universities, aid workers, hospitals and the forced exodus of Palestinians from Gaza are the manifestation of crimes against humanity," stated the military's media wing. The COAS reiterated the call for an immediate cessation of hostilities and the opening of a humanitarian corridor in Gaza. He stressed on the protection of civilians besides adherence to the International Humanitarian Law in the ongoing crisis. Moreover, the COAS reiterated Pakistan's principled support for an independent, viable and contiguous state of Palestine established on the basis of pre-1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. "Pakistan believes that the fresh spat

## UN chief calls for immediate ceasefire

NEW YORK CITY: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday alleged violations of international law as Israel pounds Gaza, and urged an immediate humanitarian cease-fire to bring in relief. "I am deeply concerned about the clear violations of international humanitarian law that we are witnessing in Gaza. Let me be clear: No party to an armed conflict is above international humanitarian law," Guterres told a Security Council session, without explicitly naming Israel. - DNA

of violence in Gaza is the result of unabated repression, continued human rights violations and state-sponsored sacrifice of Al Aqsa mosque," said COAS Munir. "Conflating this war with terrorism would be naive; taking a narrow and self-serving view of the issue as an isolated attack, obscures brutal oppression spanning decades that has led to this outcome," he added. "At this critical juncture, it is imperative that the international community mobilizes to put an early end to the unfolding human tragedy due to disproportionate and unlawful use of force by IDF and desist from encouraging them to continue perpetrating atrocities in violation of all norms of civility and humane conduct," the army's media wing quoted him as saying.



RAWALPINDI: COAS General Syed Asim Munir meets with Ambassador of Palestine to Pakistan Ahmad Jawad Rabei at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi. - DNA

## Pakistan successfully tests Ghauri Weapon System

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan today successfully conducted Training Launch of Ghauri Weapon System aimed at testing the operational and technical readiness of Army Strategic Forces Command. The launch was witnessed by Commander Army Strategic Force Command (ASFC), senior officers from the strategic forces, scientists and engineers of strategic organization. Commander ASFC appreciated the standard of training and operational preparedness of Army Strategic Forces, which was reflected by proficient handling of Weapon System in the field and achievement of operational and technical objectives. He also appreciated the scientists and engineers for their contributions towards enhancement of

Continued on Page 06

## SC disposes of plea seeking same-day polls

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday disposed of the plea seeking same-day elections on the grounds of withdrawal. A three-member bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, heard the case. Shah Khawar Advocate appeared in the court on behalf of the petitioner Sardar Kashif and told the court that he wanted to withdraw the petition. "At that time, an effort was made to create a consensus regarding the elections," Shah Khawar Advocate said. "Now the court is hearing the case regarding the elections across the country," he added. "I don't understand, what are you talking about?" the CJP questioned Shah Khawar.

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## PM Kakar reiterates resolve to ensure 'polio free' Pakistan

The prime minister said by opposing the polio vaccine, the anti-vaxxers, intentionally or unintentionally, were partnering with the forces of darkness

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday, vowing to resist the individuals propagating against the polio vaccination, resolved to achieve the dream of a polio-free Pakistan by carrying forward the journey with unshakable commitment. "I can assure that we gonna have it. We will realise this dream. We will never step back, may be an inch, may be a foot or may be a mile. This will always be a forth-going journey," the prime minister said addressing a ceremony to mark the World Polio Day. The event was organized by the Pakistan Polio Programme to pay homage to the resilience and dedication of frontline workers on the World Polio Day, which is commemorated on October 24 every year. Federal Health Minister Dr Nadeem Jan, Federal Health Secretary Iftikhar Ali Shallwani, representatives of polio partners Rotary, World Health Organisation and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and frontline workers and their families were in attendance. The prime minister said by opposing the polio vaccine, the anti-vaxxers, intentionally or

Continued on Page 06

## Govt drops gas bomb

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The government on Monday finally okayed a massive hike in gas tariff, giving a massive blow to the inflation-weary masses that is likely to add to their miseries. The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet, which met in the federal capital with Finance Minister Dr Shamsud Akhtar in the chair, gave approval for the hike in the gas tariff up to 193% starting from November 1, 2023. The development comes ahead of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) review scheduled later this month that had asked Pakistan to cut the ballooning circular debt in the energy sector. As per the approved summary, the fixed monthly charges for protected consumers were revised upward from Rs10 to Rs400 and for non-protected from

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## Briefs

### JI announces Gaza march outside US consulate

DNA

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Sirajul Haq Haq announced to stage the Gaza march outside the US consulate on October 29 (Sunday). Addressing a press conference in Lahore on Tuesday, Haq urged the people to attend the Gaza march in connection with showing solidarity with the Palestinians. He stated, "The United States is supervising Israel to subject the people of Palestine to violence. It is up to the international community to play its role in stopping the Israeli atrocities."

### SC ruling laudable: PTI

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: PTI spokesperson highly appreciated the SC five-member bench decision declaring the trial of civilians in the military courts as void ab initio and unconstitutional, which put a stamp on the PTI's stance in this regard. PTI spokesperson, in his reaction to the landmark decision, said that the historic judgment of the apex court was an important step towards the supremacy of the constitution and upholding of the rule of law in the country. He stated that the SC bench testified PTI's stance through its important decision, adding that the survival and development of Pakistan.

## To appear in IHC on 26

# Nawaz gets bail in Toshakhana case

Punjab government suspends Nawaz Sharif's sentence in Al-Azizia reference

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Former three-time prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday surrendered to the accountability court in Islamabad in connection with the Toshakhana reference and succeeded in securing bail in the case. Approving PML-N Quaid's bail plea, Accountability Court Judge Muhammad Bashir directed Nawaz Sharif to submit million-rupee bail bonds in the court. Nawaz Sharif appeared before the court after a gap of four years - the years which he spent in self-imposed exile in the United Kingdom. Nawaz's pleader Muhammad Irfan appeared in the court. The atmosphere in the court was amicable. Seeing so many people in the court, the judge passed light remarks saying that 'it's fun to see so many people in the court'. The entire courtroom burst into laughter. During the hearing, the NAB prosecutor told the court that since Nawaz Sharif had surrendered to the court, his perpetual arrest warrants could be cancelled. The court issued notice to the NAB on the application submitted by Nawaz seeking the release of his property in the Toshakhana case. The court sought arguments in the case on

Continued on Page 06

## IHC rejects Imran's intra-court appeal

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday rejected Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's intra-court appeal against his jail trial in the cipher case. A two-member IHC division bench comprising Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Saman Rafat presided over the hearing. PTI chief's counsel Salman Akram Raja contended before the bench that the federal government did not have the authority to issue a notification for holding Khan's trial in prison. He said it was the domain of the Islamabad commissioner to issue jail trial notification which he said was an administrative matter. Counsel Raja said a single bench of the IHC had declared that the federal government had the prerogative to appoint a judge of its choice. "They are judicial officers.

Continued on Page 06

# Israel pledges 'unrelenting attacks' as death toll passes 5,087

The Israeli government's decision to cut off food, water and electricity to a captive civilian population threatens not only to worsen a growing humanitarian crisis

NEWS DESK

GAZA: Israel's military said it was preparing for "unrelenting attacks" to dismantle Hamas while former US President Barack Obama warned that "any Israeli military strategy that ignores the human costs could ultimately backfire." The Palestinian health ministry said at least 5,087 Palestinians have been killed in two weeks of strikes, including 2,055 children, the health ministry said. Israel pounded hundreds of targets in Gaza from the air on Monday as its soldiers fought Hamas fighters during raids into the besieged Palestinian strip where civilians are trapped in harrowing conditions. Hamas on Monday freed two Israeli women among the more than 200 hostages taken during its Oct 7 assault. They were the third and fourth hostages to be released. Israeli Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Herzli Halevi issued a statement suggesting that Israel had no intention of curbing its strikes on the densely populated Gaza Strip and hinting that it was well prepared for a ground assault. "We want to bring Hamas to a state of full dismantling," Halevi said late Monday. "The path is a path of unrelenting attacks,

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## Haneyya slams West for not stopping Israel

DOHA: Ismail Haneyya, head of Hamas's political bureau, has said that "the Zionist occupation will not enjoy peace and security until our people and children can have security, freedom and sovereignty over our blessed land." In a press statement at dawn Tuesday, Haneyya said: "These criminals do not differentiate [between fighters and civilians]. They kill children, women and the elderly. They are committing the most awful massacres throughout the Gaza Strip. In so doing, they write a page of shame on their blood-stained history." "Our heroic resistance fighters will pursue them. Their strongholds will be destroyed and they will not enjoy security no matter how long it takes until our people and children enjoy security, freedom and sovereignty over our blessed land", he reiterated. Addressing leaders of the Arab and Islamic countries,

Continued on Page 06

REPARATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

6 DAYS

06



# APFEA seeks KCCI's help in dealing with raids by customs

He also advised APFEA members to densely participate in KCCI meetings and events by becoming members of numerous subcommittees which have been making rigorous efforts to get the taxation, law and order, utilities and a host of other issues promptly resolved

NAZIR SIAL

KARACHI: Members of a delegation from All Pakistan Furniture Exporters Association (APFEA), while expressing deep concerns over rising number of raids being conducted by customs authorities, stated that the upsurge in customs raids at the furniture markets of the city including the most recent one in Nursery Furniture Market, were terribly tarnishing the reputation and integrity of legitimate shopkeepers who have to be saved from unbridled harassment by customs authorities.

Instead of conducting raids by bringing along hundreds of individuals which triggers a lot of panic in the entire market, the customs authorities should come up with any other appropriate strategy to deal with any issue with a view to avoid panic and save shopkeepers from going through an embarrassing situation, said APFEA members, while requesting KCCI to intervene in this matter so that all such raids being conducted to harass shopkeepers could be controlled. Exchanging views during their visit to Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), APFEA delegation further mentioned that hundreds of laborers being engaged by customs authorities during raids were often involved in stealing other valuable items and cash etc. from shops by taking

advantage of the panic situation which causes more losses to perturbed shopkeepers. Chairman APFEA Rana Waheed requested KCCI to take up the pressing matter of raids with customs authorities at the earliest possible time so that relief could be provided to perturbed shopkeepers who despite facing so many challenges were somehow trying their best to keep businesses running in the ongoing era of inflation wherein the business activities were almost stagnant. He also appreciated all the efforts by KCCI, particularly Chairman BMG Zubair Motiwala which resulted in exit of furniture industry from Tier-I retailers' category for sales tax collection. He further said that despite numerous economic challenges, furniture exports have been rising every year since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. "Furniture industry has great potential to grow and boost furniture exports to US\$ 1 billion but it has to be provided an enabling business environment with reduced cost of doing business so that we are able to efficiently compete in the international markets." Earlier, President KCCI Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh, while welcoming APFEA delegation, assured full support and cooperation in dealing with numerous issues being faced by businessmen associated with furniture businesses, particularly the issue of raids being conducted by customs authorities. "I'll immediately

approach Directorate of Intelligence and Investigation (DIT) to seek time for a meeting so that this issue could be discussed and amicably resolved", he added while requesting APFEA to share details of at least two to three cases wherein unjustified raids were carried out and also give two nominations of APFEA representatives who could also join the said meeting with DIT officials. He advised the shopkeepers to always ensure availability of GDs in case they were dealing in imported goods and Sales Tax invoices in case of locally manufactured goods so that they could efficiently advocate their case if a raid is conducted. "GDs and Sales Tax invoices should not only be available at business premises but also when the goods are being transited which would save businesses from getting into any kind of trouble", he added. Iftikhar Sheikh said, "KCCI's doors remain open to facilitate and help out anyone who is facing hardships in dealing with numerous departments as it has always been the prime objective of KCCI to dedicatedly and honestly serve the members of business community without any discrimination." He also advised APFEA members to densely participate in KCCI meetings and events by becoming members of numerous subcommittees which have been making rigorous efforts to get the taxation, law and order, utilities and a host of other issues promptly resolved.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani visiting the newly-established ASEAN Corner at the ISSI-DNA

## Health Minister announces anti-polio drive in Karachi from Oct 30

DNA

KARACHI: Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Saad Khalid Niaz said in view of the emergence of fresh polio case in the city, another week-long anti-polio drive will be launched in Karachi from October 30.

He appealed to the parents to get their children vaccinated against poliovirus during the upcoming drive which will be continued till November 05, 2023. Addressing a meeting to review anti polio campaign, the minister said Pakistan can be made a polio-free state only with the cooperation of parents with the polio teams. Dr. Saad Khalid Niaz said that the resumption of the anti-polio campaign in Karachi is inevitable after the diagnosis of the confirmed polio case and the positive samples obtained from the sewage.

He told the parents who immunized their children during last campaign, should again vaccinate them during the fresh polio drive.

Earlier, the minister was briefed about anti-polio campaigns and suggested that though the result of the recently held anti-polio drive was satisfactory but there was need of further vaccination in different areas.

## Pakistan's location ideal for regional connectivity

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan's geo-strategic location ideal for connecting Central Asian countries via sea routes for better and effective regional economic integration besides boosting trilateral trade.

Former president of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik stated this while talking to a delegation of industrialists led by Muslim Khan Buner here Tuesday. Malik said that Central Asia states are landlocked and Pakistan can provide a hassle-free shorter sea access to these

countries. He said Pakistan could also comfortably facilitate Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member countries in providing regional connectivity which would promote trade among member countries and even beyond. He said transport corridors and logistics infrastructure could benefit all member states leading to a win-win situation. He said the SCO is multi-dimensional organisation in terms of its scope and functioning and Pakistan can benefit from it. He said the SCO comprising 21 members with a mandate of enhancing economic cooperation

could usher in an era of prosperity, progress and development in every sphere of life in the region. Malik stressed the need for harnessing the potential of the SCO under the leadership of China for sustained regional economic growth. He said Pakistan as a trans-shipment and trade hub for the SCO countries could play a constructive role to further strengthening the organisation. He said private sector of Pakistan was always ready to move forward the SCO's development agenda aimed at accelerating the economic activities in the region, he concluded.

## Price review committee decreases prices of food items

DERA ISMAIL KHAN:

The district's price review committee met with Additional Deputy Commissioner Tariq Mehmood in the chair here on Tuesday decided to reduce prices of several food items by upto 40 percent following substantial decrease of fuel prices by the government. He said that meeting was convened in light of directives of the provincial government to trickle down blessings of policies such as reduction in petroleum prices, stability of rupee against dollars and crackdown against hoarders etc on grass-roots level. The meeting was attended by representatives of the traders association and relevant departments. He said that the committee reviewed prices of all essential food commodities thoroughly, deciding to introduce substantial reduction in prices of certain food stuff by 30 to 40 percent. - APP

## CTD arrests 'mastermind' in Amjad Sabri murder case

It must be noted that the convicts in Amjad Sabri murder case, Ishaq and Asim were handed two death sentences each in the court after it found them guilty in an imam bargah attack in Karachi

KARACHI: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of Sindh police on Tuesday claimed to have rounded up the 'mastermind' who planned the killing of renowned Qawal, Amjad Sabri. Amjad Sabri, aged 45, was traveling by car from his home in the Liaquatabad area to a television studio when a motorcycle pulled up alongside the vehicle and the attackers opened fire on June 22, 2016. The killing of one of

Pakistan's most loved qawwals and naat khawan saw the nation descending into shared sorrow, with an outpouring of grief the likes of which weren't seen before on Pakistani social media. Unmute According to a CTD spokesperson, an operative of Lashkare-Jhangvi, Qasim Rasheed was rounded up when he was activating his compliance after getting released from jail. CTD said Asim Capri and Ishaq Boby killed Amjad Sabri on the di-

rectives of Qasim Rasheed from jail. Rasheed has confessed to killing security officers and Amjad Sabri in his initial statement. Handgrenades and arms have also been recovered from the possession of Qasim Rasheed. It must be noted that the convicts in Amjad Sabri murder case, Ishaq and Asim were handed two death sentences each in the court after it found them guilty in an imam bargah attack in Karachi. -DNA



ISLAMABAD: Children are playing on the model of the train at Golra Railway Station in Federal Capital. -DNA

### Public Notice

برگاہ عوام الناس کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ میں  
سید شیریں کلاوٹ، اوپن ہاؤس کارڈ نمبر  
3740437271137 رقبہ تعدادی پانچ  
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مسات صوفیہ شیریں عجمی زوجہ توقیر عظیمہ عجمی سے  
مکان خرید کر رہا ہوں۔ اگر کسی کو اعتراض ہو  
توہر کہ مسات ایم کے اندر دروازہ کھینچی سے  
رابطہ کریں۔ بعد میں کسی قسم کا کوئی تدار  
اعتراض قبول نہ کیا جائے گا

## NDRMF committed to make Pakistan resilient against climate change impacts

KARACHI: The National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) in a seminar on the Carbon market's potential Tuesday expressed its commitment to further enhance efforts of resilience building against natural disasters and long-term climate change adverse impacts by engaging effectively with the Private Sector and other relevant stakeholders. The seminar, titled "Leveraging Carbon Markets to enable Private Investment," addressed critical topics such as the current state of climate change in Pakistan, the understanding of carbon markets, major challenges, Road map for future and the opportunities they present for the Private Sector, a news release said issued here. By identifying

potential sectors for carbon trading and exploring the role of the Private Sector, the event aims to bridge the gap in understanding the challenges, barriers, and international collaborations in the realm of carbon markets. The seminar invited participation from a diverse audience, including the Private Sector, Government officials, UN agencies, Project Developers, Industry leaders, Environmental organizations, Academics, and Climate change enthusiasts. Besides speeches, panel discussions were also organized on the topics of "Climate Change & Carbon Marketing" and "Carbon Market Potentials for Private Sector" in which representatives of national and international development sector organ-

izations, Corporate Sector Organizations and Business owners took part. Bilal Anwar, CEO NDRMF, said "The overarching objective of the seminar is to build understanding within the Private Sector regarding Carbon Markets, exploring their potential role, and devising a roadmap for timely engagement ultimately leading towards protection against adverse impacts of climate change". Highlighting the outcomes of such events, Anwar said "Carbon Markets are globally recognized mechanism for carbon financing and meeting mitigation action in a cost efficient manner. Pakistan can benefit from tapping into Carbon Markets, such as voluntary emissions trading schemes, which will enable Pakistan

to unlock private finance via carbon credits". Climate Change Specialist & NDRMF Board Director, Ali Tauqeer Sheikh applauded the role of NDRMF in conducting such events and said that for carbon markets to be successful, the issues must be addressed. Emission reductions and removals must be real and aligned with the country's Nationally Determined Contributions. There must be transparency in the institutional and financial infrastructure for carbon market transactions, and there must be adequate social and environmental safeguards to mitigate against any adverse project impacts and to promote positive ones, he added. Various organizations shared their initia-

tives and thoughts towards reduction in carbon emissions and leveraging carbon markets. Representatives from Engro Foundation, Shell, Serena Hotels, Pakistan Business Council, K-electric, iTecknologi, Daraz, National Insurance Company Ltd, Loreal Pakistan, Artistic Milliners, Baig group, Amreli Steels Ltd., Strategic Initiative, Control Union Pakistan, Pakistan Business Council and Utopia shared their initiatives and how are they leveraging Carbon Markets. Fawad Soomro, CEO Engro Foundation appreciated the role of NDRMF in providing such platform and stressed on the need of capacity building and research to effectively address the challenges in the carbon projects. -APP

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## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### OCTOBER

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

## Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



## Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15  
Bomb Disposal.....15  
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16  
Emergency Ambulance.....1122  
& Rescue Services.4451122  
Motorway Police.....9266044  
Motorway Police.....9270601-20  
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596  
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20

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



## Hospitals

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



## Departments

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

## Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Supporters of Pakistan Muslim League gathers around the Former Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif vehicles on his arrival at Accountably Court in Federal Capital. —ONLINE

## Technical training course on vacuum applications kicks off

This course is a demonstration of the dedication and commitment of the COMSTECH and PVS that we witness a wonderful gathering here to explore the fascinating world of vacuum science and technology and its applications in surface science

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH and Pakistan Vacuum Society (PVS) in collaboration with International Union for Vacuum Science Technique and Applications inaugurated three days international technical training course on "Vacuum Applications in Applied Surface Science" at COMSTECH on Tuesday. Prof. Dr. Ahmed Elmouna, Director General, National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation, Mauritania, and the chief guest of the inaugural session, said that this course is a demonstration of the dedication and commitment of the COMSTECH and PVS that we witness a wonderful gathering here to explore the fascinating world of vacuum science and technology and its applications in surface science. Prof. Elmouna said that vacuum science has played a paramount role in advancing the understanding about the physical and chemical properties of surfaces and enabled us to explore the properties of materials at the atomic and molecular levels, leading to groundbreaking discoveries and innovations that have transformed the world. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General COMSTECH, said that

the vacuum science and technology has played a central role in the development of science, technology and industry throughout the world. The applications of vacuum technology, in the modern industrial and R&D world are countless. Prof. Choudhary said that the current & future cutting edge technologies and associated advancement would not be possible without the use of vacuum technology. He said that the world is driven by the intellectual potential of nations and the difference between have and have not is the knowledge and its applications. Prof. Choudhary said that we are



focusing on to take vacuum technology to the different OIC member states. He said COMSTECH is working intensively to enhance S&T cooperation among the OIC nations. Prof. Dr. John T. Grant, head Applied Surface Science Committee, and the principle trainer of the course said that the goal of this training is to teach fundamentals of vacuum technology and its use because it is very important to understand the fundamentals of technology to develop new products, find solutions and analyze materials. Mr. Imtiaz Rastgar, Chairman of the board, Rastgar Group, said that there is a dire need to bridge the knowledge gap. He emphasized the need of gaining the ability to make business out of the knowledge. He said the role of vacuum technology is pivotal in the research and development. Mr. Rastgar also informed that some of Pakistani companies are providing equipment to the CERN. Dr. Javid A. Bhatti, President, PVS talked about the PVS's programs, activities and the progress, and the important of the training course. Participants from Guyana, Iran, Cameroon, Indonesia, Sudan, Kazakhstan, Northern Cyprus, Malaysia, Mauritania, and Pakistan attended the inaugural session.

## Experts see new momentum in CPEC after PM's China visit

ISLAMABAD: International relations experts have opined that the Prime Minister's successful visit to China would give new momentum to China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Talking in Radio Pakistan's current affairs programme Dr. Fazal ur Rehman, expert on CPEC said that during his visit to China, the Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to its friendship with China and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He said that the present government had charted a new course for CPEC and various sectors. Despite some challenges along the way, Dr. Fazal said the Chinese side remained resolute in their dedication to completing CPEC projects. Significantly, he added, infrastructure and energy-related projects had reached advanced stages of completion. In the upcoming phase of CPEC, Chinese companies were actively exploring opportunities to establish industrial zones within Pakistan, with the aim of generating employment for the Pakistani populace and enhancing their quality of life, he added. The expert opined that improved connectivity would not only benefit Pakistan but also foster increased trade, commerce, and people-to-people interactions between Pakistan and other nations. Another CPEC expert, Dr. Talat Shabbir said that PM's visit to China held significant importance in light of Pakistan's ongoing economic challenges. China, he added, had a deep understanding of Pakistan's current economic situation. During the Prime Minister's visit, a large number of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) related to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) were formally inked, that would give a new impetus to CPEC. He said that Pakistan and China were now entering in the industrialization phase of CPEC, and we were actively seeking China's partnership in relocating industries to Pakistan. This move is poised to reinvigorate our local industrial sector, boost exports, and lead to the creation of numerous new job opportunities. A key aspect of this endeavor, he said was the ML-1 project, a highly strategic initiative that would significantly enhance connectivity and logistics infrastructure.—DNA

## US Water Resources Expert calls on Chairman WAPDA

ISLAMABAD: US Water Resources expert Ms. Alexandra Campbell Ferrari Tuesday called on Chairman Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) Engr Lt Gen (Retd) Sajjad Ghani. The matters relating to overall water scenario, change in climatic pattern and its impacts on water resources of Pakistan were discussed at length during the meeting, said a press release. Speaking on the occasion, the chairman said that concerted efforts were needed globally to tackle the adverse impact of climatic change on water resources. He said WAPDA was pursuing green strategies in view of climatic change by developing water and hydropower projects for sustained economic growth in Pakistan. Acknowledging the US support for WAPDA in harnessing water and hydropower resources, the chairman expressed the hope that the visit of the US water resources expert would help explore opportunities for strengthening bilateral partnership on water management, environment and climate action. Later, Ms. Alexandra Campbell Ferrari attended a briefing about water and hydropower resources of Pakistan and the challenges and prospects in the wake of climate change. Member Finance, Member Water and Member Power were also present on the occasion. Briefing her about WAPDA's charter, the GM (Coordination and Monitoring) Water said that WAPDA's functions were aligned with a number of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs).—APP

## 23 New dengue cases reported in Rawalpindi on Tuesday

RAWALPINDI: As many as 23 new dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 2,163.

District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, said that, among the new cases, 13 patients had arrived from the Potohar town urban area, six from Municipal Corporation area and two of each from Chaklala Cantonment, and Potohar rural.

He said 83 patients were admitted to the city's allied hospitals, out of which 59 were confirmed cases while 2,103 were discharged after treatment. Dr Sajjad informed that the district administration had registered ten FIRs, issued tickets to 10, sealed three premises, and a fine of Rs 194,000 was imposed against the violations of dengue SOPs during the last 24 hours.

He added that dengue fever cases have registered a sharp decrease in the city during the last two days with changing weather condition as eight patients had been reported to the district health facilities on Sunday and 23 today while during the last month the number of daily patients were between 40 to 60. The health officer expressed hope that dengue cases would decrease further in the coming days, however he urged the residents to be careful during wee hours and in the evening as it is the suitable time for mosquito bite.

## ECP extends voter registration deadline to Saturday

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has extended the voter registration and voter information update deadline from Wednesday (October 25) to Saturday (October 28). This decision was made during a meeting chaired by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja. The Commissioner has called upon the general public to utilize this final opportunity to ensure their registration, transfers, exclusions, and vote accuracy by October 28, 2023.—APP

## Call to stop advertisements of illegal housing schemes

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) on the directives of Director General (DG) Muhammad Saif Anwar Jappa has directed the marketing companies to stop advertisements of illegal housing schemes. According to a RDA spokesman, the authority had issued notices to several marketing companies and directed to stop advertisements of illegal housing schemes. He informed that the Metropolitan Planning and Traffic Engineering (MP&TE) Directorate RDA had issued notices to the owners of YouTube channels and marketing companies and instructed to stop advertisements of illegal housing schemes on YouTube Channels and other social media platforms. He said illegal housing schemes were using YouTube Channels and other platforms for publicity of illegal projects and misleading the citizens.

The publicity campaign of illegal housing schemes which are not approved by RDA is illegal and violation of rule 46 (1) of Punjab Development Authorities Private Housing Scheme Rules-2021, he said adding, the DG had directed the marketing companies to stop illegal publicity campaign on "YouTube Channels" else strict action in accordance with the law would be taken against the rules violators. The DG had also asked the citizens not to invest in illegal housing projects and check their status on RDA website www.rda.gop.pk or visit RDA office to get information.—DNA

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## Briefs

## High cost of energy hampering production and exports

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Atif Ikram Sheikh, the presidential candidate for FPCCI, expressed on Tuesday that expensive energy is constraining production and exports while burdening the lower-income population. Electricity and gas tariffs should be reduced in a bid to revive economic activities and reduce inflation, he said.

Speaking to the business community, Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as VP FPCCI, Chairman PVMA and President ICCI said that the dysfunctional energy sector has contributed to the devastation of the economy. A lot of electricity is wasted therefore the circular debt is increasing day by day the IMF has asked Pakistan to increase the price of electricity, he said. The business leader said that the power sector has become a major threat to the economy and no one has been able to solve it on a sustainable basis.

The power sector is harming the country's economy and the World Bank claims that the finishing load shedding can benefit the people by four and a half billion dollars and businesses by about eight and a half billion dollars, he informed.

## PTCL Group Dispels False Speculations on U Microfinance Bank

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PTCL Group, the largest ICT services provider in Pakistan refutes all claims and rumors regarding the financial health of U Microfinance Bank (Ubank) its wholly-owned subsidiary. Ubank is Pakistan's fastest-growing microfinance bank and one of the key players in the banking industry, highlights a robust and unwavering financial structure and has a strong capital base.

PTCL Group ensures that the teams at Ubank, from the management to that on-ground, will continue to make progress, innovate, and endeavor to achieve the bank's core mission of financial inclusion for all segments of Pakistani society. Ubank's Gross Loan Portfolio is one of the highest in the industry as a result of the bank's sustainable growth strategy. Almost 54% of this portfolio is backed by gold, displaying the financial resilience of the bank against its lending practices. The diverse portfolio of Ubank also includes solar financing, agriculture including tractor financing, housing, and vehicle financing, etc. BUbank enjoys strong and positive backing from PTCL Group. The bank has a paid-up capital of PKR 4 Billion, PKR 1 Billion as additional Tier-1 capital and PKR 1.2 Billion as Tier-2 capital from PTCL. —APP

## Pak-China film award ceremony held

ISLAMABAD: Pak-China film award ceremony held here to promote cultural exchanges. Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Jamal Shah said on the occasion that the cultural bridge's impact is long-lasting. In a passionate speech delivered at the Pakistan Embassy, he shed light on the intrinsic power embedded within the nation's rich heritage and cultural tapestry, asserting its potential to foster unity and resilience in the face of modern challenges. Gwadar Pro reported About Pakistan's outstanding achievement in the culture awarding ceremony of Ba'Tie Girl, the first China-Pakistan co-production film, he said that Ba'Tie Girl is a feature film based on the friendship between the people of China and Pakistan which is co-produced by Hunarkada production and China Film Administration. —APP



ISLAMABAD, Malaysian High Commissioner Azhar Mazlan received a courtesy call by Colonel (Retired) Pengiran Kamal Bashah Pengiran Ahmad, High Commissioner-designate of Brunei Darussalam at the High Commission of Malaysia. Ambassador Azhar warmly welcomed Colonel Pengiran Kamal to Islamabad.—DNA

## ICCI delegation visits USA, Egypt to discuss business

The delegation invited the investors from Egypt to explore JVs and investment in tourism and other sectors of Pakistan's economy, which offer huge investment potential to foreign investors

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry led by Ameer Hamza, Convener, ICCI Delegations Committee visited USA and participated in the 3-days Florida International Medical Expo (FIME), Miami to explore opportunities for business collaborations with US counterparts and identify the potential for Pakistani healthcare products in the US market. Over 13500 health professionals from 116 countries participated in the Expo and over 1150 exhibitors showcased various healthcare products. The Expo provided a good opportunity to the ICCI delegation to network with the participants, exchange knowledge and see the breakthroughs and products being introduced in the healthcare industry.

Faseeh Ullah Khan, Imtiaz Abbasi, Ashfaq Hussain Chatha, Hamayun Kabir, Zia Khalid Chaudhry, Abdul Rehman Siddiqui and others were in the ICCI delegation. The delegation held meetings with the representatives of health-



care industry, manufacturers of USA and representatives of US Commercial Service to explore the possibilities of increasing bilateral trade between Paki-

stan and the USA. Ameer Hamza, Convener, ICCI Delegations Committee said that the exports of goods of USA in 2022 were over US\$

2 trillion and imports were over US\$ 3 trillion, but the bilateral trade between Pakistan and USA in 2022 was just around US\$ 7-8 billion, which is not in commensuration with the actual potential of both countries. He stressed that both countries should encourage frequent exchange of trade delegations to explore all untapped areas of bilateral trade promotion. He said that the visit of ICCI delegation to USA to attend the 3-days Florida International Medical Expo would help open up new avenues of business collaboration between the two countries. Another delegation of ICCI led by Ameer Hamza, Convener, ICCI Delegations Committee visited Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt to explore the Egyptian market for trade and exports. The delegation also met with the owner of the 5-star resort Parrotel Lagoon across the Middle East. The delegation discussed the prospects for promoting tourism cooperation between Pakistan and Egypt. The delegation invited the investors from Egypt to explore JVs and investment in tourism and other sectors of Pakistan's economy, which offer huge investment potential to foreign investors.

## Voters urged to verify voter status by texting 8300

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has asked all eligible voters to verify their registration status in the voter lists by texting their Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) to 8300 as voters' lists would be frozen after October 25. After sending SMS to 8300, an automated response will be generated, furnishing information such as the name of the electoral area, block code, and serial number. Each registered voter has the option to verify their details by visiting the District Election Com-

missioner's (DEC) office in their respective area, where the complete electoral roll is accessible, the ECP spokesman said. The addresses and contact information for the DEC's offices across the four provinces can be found on the Election Commission's website. He mentioned that voters had the option to download Form-21 (for voter registration or transfer), Form-22 (for raising objections or addressing omissions in voting), and Form-23 (for correcting personal details). These forms can then be submitted to the appropriate offices of Form Registration Officers and Assistant Registration Officers. He mentioned that

citizens could obtain information by dialing the ECP helpline at 051-8848888, where they will receive responses from a tele-computerized system. Facilitation desks operated by the Election Commission in both Islamabad and its district-level offices are actively engaged in accomplishing this assignment. The Election Commission invoked the Elections Act, 2017 to freeze the voter lists on July 20, 2023. In order to simplify the process for the public, the lists were then unfrozen from September 28 to October 25, 2023, allowing all eligible individuals to either register, withdraw, or rectify their information.

## Railways to lay fibre optics cable along railway tracks

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has been planning to lay fibre optics cables along the railway tracks across the country, in a joint venture with private sector investors to generate revenue for the department. "Pakistan Railways has around 7,791 kilometres railway network across the country which will not only help the department to improve its financial condition but also attract investors to invest," the official sources in the Ministry told APP. They said the matter also came under discussion during a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC). —APP

## NAB retrieves 1094 acres of forest land

ISLAMABAD: In compliance of the order dated 28.04.2020, passed by Honorable High Court of Sindh Bench at Sukkur in CP No. 1115/2009 wherein Chairman NAB & DG NAB Sukkur were directed to look into the matters of encroachment, illegal allotment and illegal mutations of Forest land of Sindh, an Inquiry against Officers / Officials of Forest Department Sukkur and others was authorized. During the course of exhaustive inquiry, relevant record was obtained from Revenue and Forest Department regarding illegal allotment of Forest land in favour of influential persons. NAB Sukkur engaged all the relevant Federal as well as departments of Government of Sindh to retrieve Forest land. Due to the untiring efforts of NAB Sukkur, 1094-00 acres of Forest land worth Rs.1,312,800 Million in Taluka Nara, District Sukkur was retrieved from 57 influential persons. The Revenue authorities have cancelled the allotment entries which were earlier allotted in favour of private persons & the said Forest land has now been entered in the record of rights in the name of Forest Department, Government of Sindh.—DNA

## Jeeyand Hoth from Gwadar clinches first position

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Nestled in the heart of the captivating Gwadar landscapes, the 5th Gwadar Off-Road Rally 2023 concluded with resounding success, highlighting the serene atmosphere and welcoming spirit of the local residents. Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) and Balochistan Motor Sports Association organized the event from October 17 to October 22 with the support of the Government of Pakistan and the Pakistan Army, according to Gwadar Pro. The concluding round of the "Prepared Category" unfolded on Sunday, featuring a vibrant mix of local and international racers. The competition unfolded along a challenging 250-kilometer track, weaving through awe-inspiring landscapes including deserts, mountains, and coastal areas, adding an extra layer of excitement



and adventure to the event. Jeeyand Hoth, a local racer from Gwadar, clinched the coveted first position, while a renowned racer secured the runner-up spot. During the initial stage of the rally, the first-place victory in the bike category of the "Prepared B Category" was secured by the Iranian biker Behram. In the "Prepared A Category," Zaighum Chuhan emerged

triumphant, claiming the top spot in an intensely competitive field. Their outstanding performances were rewarded with trophies and substantial cash prizes at the prestigious award ceremony held at the Mir Ghaus Bakhsh Bizenjo Stadium in Gwadar. Senator Kahuda Babar graced the occasion as the esteemed Chief Guest. Senator Babar emphasized

the burgeoning potential of Gwadar as a premier tourist destination, highlighting the city's transformation into a smart port city, which, in turn, is expected to attract a global influx of tourists. Stressing the importance of sustaining a diverse range of recreational and sports activities, he underscored the significance of fostering a vibrant and engaging environment.

## Pak-China alliance to combat soil heavy metal pollution

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Chinese experts from the Zhejiang Institute of Geosciences, Zhejiang University, and Zhejiang Academy of Agricultural Sciences visited Pakistan in the recent week. The visit aimed to promote the Pak-China joint research project on heavy metal tracing in cadmium-polluted rice fields and rice safety production technology. The project aims to address the issue of heavy metal pollution in agricultural soil with China's research findings and remediation experience to reduce pollution sources and control associated risks, Gwadar Pro reported. Innovative products such as soil conditioners and foliar inhibitors are also planned to be introduced to Pakistan. During the visit, the delegation engaged in discussions and exchanges with prominent Pakistani institutions, including the National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) and universities.

## Metro-bus goes out of control, several suffer minor injuries

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Several passengers received minor injuries as the driver of Metro-bus had lost control and drove the bus over the boundary wall near Faiz Ahmed Faiz metro bus station here on Tuesday. According to details, eye-witnesses said that the metro bus moving towards Rawalpindi to Islamabad when accident occurred, in result several persons being injured, a private news channel reported. Sources said that the authorities have decided to register a case and initiate legal proceedings against the driver for what is being considered 'criminal negligence of driver'. The bus windshield, body and bumper were also partially damaged in that incident.

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## Life on earth under 'existential threat'

Climate change poses an "existential threat" to life on Earth, prominent scientists warned on Tuesday, in an assessment of this year's avalanche of heat records and weather extremes that they said are hitting more ferociously than expected. With expectations that 2023 will be the hottest year on record, regions across the planet have been scorched by deadly heat waves. Others have been hit by floods, or in some cases, have suffered both extremes in quick succession. "The truth is that we are shocked by the ferocity of the extreme weather events in 2023. We are afraid of the uncharted territory that we have now entered," said an international coalition of authors in a new report published in the journal *BioScience*. Their stark assessment: "Life on planet Earth is under siege". They said humanity had made "minimal progress" in curbing its planet-heating emissions, with major greenhouse gases at record levels, and subsidies for fossil fuels soaring last year. The damning assessment comes just a month ahead of UN COP28 climate negotiations to be held in the oil-rich United Arab Emirates. "We must shift our perspective on the climate emergency from being just an isolated environmental issue to a systemic, existential threat," the authors said. The study on the state of the climate looked at recent data on 35 planetary "vital signs" and found 20 of these were at record extremes this year. 'Off the chart' Just roughly 1.2 degrees Celsius of temperature rise above pre-industrial levels has triggered a range of calamitous and costly consequences. This year has also seen the beginning of a warming El Nino weather phenomenon. The European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service has said that the three months to September were the hottest period ever recorded, and likely the hottest in approximately 120,000 years. Many climate-related records were broken by "enormous margins" in 2023, the report said, particularly temperatures in the oceans, which have absorbed almost all the excess heat caused by human carbon pollution. Co-author Johan Rockstrom, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, said recorded sea surface temperatures "go completely off the chart" and scientists are not yet able to fully explain why.

The potentially serious impacts include threats to sea life and coral reefs and an increase in the intensity of large tropical storms, the report said. People across the planet have faced heatwaves and droughts this year, while severe flooding has struck in the US, China, India and beyond. In Canada, record wildfires partly related to climate change released more carbon dioxide than the country's total 2021 greenhouse gas emissions, the report said. Before 2023, days with global average temperatures more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels were a rarity, the authors said. This year had already registered 38 such days by mid-September. The more ambitious Paris Agreement target of 1.5°C will be measured over decades. But lead author William Ripple, professor at Oregon State University, said we are likely entering a period where annual temperatures will reach that level or higher, risking danger from climate feedback loops and tipping points. "Once crossed, these tipping points could change our climate in ways that may be difficult or impossible to reverse."



## Albanese's US visit tests China policy

Anthony Albanese, the prime minister of Australia, arrived in the US on Sunday for a four-day visit. Although Albanese and US President Joe Biden have had multiple bilateral encounters in various nations and areas, Albanese's first official visit to the US holds significant importance for both administrations. At the same time, Australia announced Albanese's November visit to China. Australian observers and media tend to liken Albanese's China trip to Gough Whitlam's historic visit to China 50 years ago, thinking that now is a critical moment in defining the future of China-Australia relations. Albanese's consecutive visits to the US and China have provided an opportunity to evaluate his China policy and determine if he can maintain a balance between major powers in the increasingly complex setting of the China-US competition. The implementation of AUKUS and critical mineral cooperation would be the topics of major concern during the US-Australia talks, according to Reuters. In March, the leaders of the US, the UK and Australia jointly announced the roadmap for the development of AUKUS at the US Navy base in San Diego, California. As a plan spanning several decades, the submarine cooperation alone costs over \$200 billion. Due to questions from some members of Congress regarding funding and construction capabilities, the US has yet to legislate on the submarine cooperation of AUKUS. Advancing the implementation of AUKUS as soon as possible is one of the main goals of Albanese's visit. In addition, Australia, as a major energy and mineral producer, plays an increasingly important role in the global supply chain. The competition over the supply chain system is currently one of the main focuses of the China-US rivalry. How to deal with the economic ties with the US and China will be a considerable challenge for Albanese during this visit.

On the one hand, China-Australia bilateral commerce has quickly recovered after tensions between the two countries were reduced, and the majority of trade disputes have been settled, paving the way for further economic cooperation between the two countries. On the other hand, the US is forging exclusive cliques in the supply chain industry under the guise of supply chain resilience in an effort to sever the economic connections between China and Australia by roping the latter in. Canberra should be clear about whether it intends to sacrifice its own economic interests for the sake of US hegemonic ambitions or continue to pursue mutually beneficial win-win cooperation with China. For more than a year, Australia has shown a friendly stance in its policy toward China, despite being under the influence of the US' strategic competition with China. Since the IISS Shangri-La Dialogue in 2022, ministerial-level talks between China and Australia have resumed. This year, a number of Australian politicians have visited China. In addition, a senior defense official will participate in the upcoming 10th Beijing Xiangshan Forum from October 29 to 31, suggesting that China and Australia have continued to engage on security issues. It is clear that the Albanese administration has not blindly followed the US in its relations with China and has shown a certain level of strategic autonomy. Compared to the Morrison administration, whether it be in terms of specific implementations of its China policy or its stance toward the international community, senior officials in the Albanese administration have rarely challenged China in terms of its core interests.

## Supreme Court upholds fundamental rights

Qamar Bashir



24 of 2023, and any others similarly situated with regard to the events of May 9th and 10th, 2023, will be subject to trial by competent Criminal Courts as established under the ordinary and special laws of the land for any offenses they may be accused of. Furthermore, the Court has clarified that any actions or proceedings under the Army Act pertaining to the aforementioned individuals or anyone else in a similar position, including but not limited to Court Martial trials, are deemed legally ineffective. This Supreme Court decision had been widely anticipated, with expectations that it would find favor among civil

In a concise and direct ruling, the Supreme Court of Pakistan declared that Clause (d) of subsection (1) of Section 2 of the Pakistan Army Act, 1952 (including its subclauses (i) and (ii), as well as subsection (4) of Section 59 of the same Act, are unconstitutional and without legal validity. As a result, the Supreme Court has ordered that civilian and accused individuals, approximately 103 in number, as identified in the list provided by the Attorney General for Pakistan through CMA No. 5327 of 2023 in Constitution Petition No. 24 of 2023, and any others similarly situated with regard to the events of May 9th and 10th, 2023, will be subject to trial by competent Criminal Courts as established under the ordinary and special laws of the land for any offenses they may be accused of. Furthermore, the Court has clarified that any actions or proceedings under the Army Act pertaining to the aforementioned individuals or anyone else in a similar position, including but not limited to Court Martial trials, are deemed legally ineffective. This Supreme Court decision had been widely anticipated, with expectations that it would find favor among civil society groups and the legal community. Conversely, there was a strong sense that the military, known for its historical interference in Pakistani politics, might resist the ruling. Intriguingly, during prime-time TV discussions, it was not the army or its official communication channels but rather members of civil society, including politicians, analysts, and media figures, who vehemently voiced their concerns. They spared no effort in portraying the decision as contravening the constitution, violating the law, and undermining the safety and unity of the nation. Opponents of the Supreme Court's decision argued that there is a palpable apprehension that the ruling might inadvertently bestow unchecked authority upon civilians in matters that pertain to the military and could be seen as an affront to the honor and dignity of the armed forces, a sentiment deeply rooted in the veneration of the military within the national psyche. They argue that the decision seems to run counter to the constitutional framework and established legal norms, leading to a profound sense of dissonance and perplexity regarding the Supreme Court's decision-making process. In their view, the ruling appears to challenge the very essence of the constitution and the rule of law that underpins the nation's democratic foundation, provoking a fervent debate on the boundaries of judicial authority and interpretation. The pivotal question at the heart of this debate centers on whether cases related to the attacks on military installations should be subjected to military courts. The consequences of both implementing or abstaining from this decision loom large, casting a shadow over the legal landscape. Simultaneously, there is a growing concern about the Supreme Court's consistency, with historical instances of decisions being disregarded, potentially eroding the public's faith in the judiciary's capacity to ensure justice. However, in contrast, an anchorperson, seemingly expressing the stance of the establishment, passionately reacted to the Supreme Court's decision. The establishment strongly characterized this ruling as an affront to the

armed forces, stating that it was not just an insult to individual soldiers but a blow to the institution of the army. According to their perspective, the military had already initiated trials for the 102 civilians involved in the events of 9 May, and this decision has disrupted an ongoing and expedited legal process. Their contention suggests that the Supreme Court might have considered alternative avenues, such as referring the cases of these 102 individuals to special courts, rather than striking down the entire amendment, a move deemed by some as extreme and contentious. Amidst the varied opinions surrounding the Supreme Court's decision, several voices emerged in strong support of this pivotal ruling. A prominent legal expert articulated a compelling argument, asserting the unequivocal abolition of all military courts established for civilian cases. He emphasized the urgency for the military to promptly transfer all civilian cases back to civilian law enforcement agencies, ensuring their immediate relocation to civilian prisons, with trials conducted within the purview of civilian courts. This demand for the seamless transition from military to civilian jurisdiction carried a sense of urgency and fairness. In a parallel narrative, others viewed the situation through an ethnic lens, highlighting concerns of ethnic bias in the application of the Army Act. Notably, a significant proportion of those tried under this legislation were perceived to be from Pashtun and Baloch backgrounds. Such observations accentuated the need for equitable and non-discriminatory justice for all citizens, transcending ethnic boundaries. Another critical perspective underscored the incongruity of having civilians tried under the Army Act by military personnel, particularly when these officers lacked expertise in civilian laws. It was posited that this practice ran counter to the foundational principles of the constitution, challenging the essence of justice and the rule of law in Pakistan. An insightful analyst characterized the decision as the annulment of a 76-year-old law, marking it as a historic milestone that would serve as a catalyst for awakening within the establishment. This characterization lent a sense of historical significance to the ruling, suggesting that it would lead to a transformative shift in the nation's legal landscape. Moreover, a highly regarded lawyer emphasized that this ruling finally eradicated a longstanding "black law" that had encroached upon the fundamental rights of the Pakistani people. An astute analyst forcefully contended that military court trials stand in stark violation of the fundamental rights granted to the citizens of the country. These trials, shrouded in secrecy, take place behind closed doors, where no one, not even the media, is permitted to bear witness to the court proceedings. Furthermore, the involvement of army officers, who often lack proper training and experience in civilian legal matters, as judges in these trials is a matter of grave concern. Decisions are rendered with arbitrary brevity, often without the formalities of charge sheets, evidence presentation, legal deliberations, or reference to past legal precedents. This approach, devoid of due process, undermines the right to a proper defense and fair trials, ultimately failing to uphold the rights of the accused. Another perspective framed the existence of military

courts, particularly in countries like Myanmar and Pakistan, as an unfortunate anomaly. These tribunals are commonly associated with hardcore terrorism cases, and some argue that they should never be extended to civilian matters. It's crucial to underscore that even under military rule, the army typically lacks the authority to arrest civilians, further emphasizing that civilian trials should be conducted within the established civilian legal framework. This assertion encapsulates the prevailing view that military courts are an exception, not the norm, and are primarily intended for addressing the most extreme cases, rather than civilian matters.

In a momentous press talk, a distinguished and elderly senior lawyer aptly characterized the day as a historic milestone in the nation's annals. He hailed the Supreme Court's decision as not only a landmark but also as one of the most remarkable in the country's judicial history, predicting that it would be etched in golden words. This decision, pertaining to a case of great importance, was deemed a pivotal moment that would fortify the pillars of democracy, the constitution, and the entire legal and justice system of the nation. He illustrated this point with a poignant anecdote: When a King once asked an archbishop, asserting his sovereignty, the archbishop's response was resounding. He reminded the King that it was the law that had elevated him to his position, and without the foundation of law, there could be no King. This story encapsulates the enduring principle that all institutions, regardless of their power, must now acknowledge that they operate within the framework of the law. They are obligated to honor and uphold the law and constitution, affirming the primacy of these principles over any individual or institution, and thereby securing the rule of law in the country.

The Supreme Court's decision stands as a monumental milestone in Pakistan's legal history, one that extends far beyond the realm of jurisprudence. By striking down the controversial amendment allowing military courts to try civilians, this ruling reaffirms the supremacy of law and the constitution. In doing so, it safeguards fundamental rights, securing the very essence of a democratic society. But the significance doesn't end there; this decision carries a profound impact on the social and economic well-being of the people, promoting an environment where justice, fairness, and equity can thrive. Moreover, it has the potential to elevate the reputation and rating of the judiciary, fostering a renewed sense of trust in its ability to uphold justice. Paradoxically, this decision indirectly bolsters the armed forces, relieving them of a role that has, at times, blurred the lines between civilian and military authority. It allows the military to concentrate on their core objectives, ensuring the nation's defense and security, while reinforcing their image as the guardians of the constitution. In essence, this is a decision that echoes far beyond the courtroom, resonating throughout the entire fabric of the nation, underlining the importance of the rule of law, justice, and the enduring strength of democratic principles.

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

## The changing dynamics of the Ukraine-Russia ar

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



This was surprising because the former defense minister had been in the role for quite some time, even before the Russian invasion of Ukraine began. It might seem odd to change the defense minister at this point, but there's a more

President, Vladimir Zelensky, made a surprising announcement recently. He replaced the person in charge of the country's defense, the defense minister. This was surprising because the former defense minister had been in the role for quite some time, even before the Russian invasion of Ukraine began. It might seem odd to change the defense minister at this point, but there's a more significant reason behind this move. Ukraine finds itself in a critical moment in its ongoing conflict with Russia. In fact, the situation is so important that a group of senior American military leaders met with their Ukrainian counterparts on the border with Poland. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss whether there were enough American forces in Ukraine. This is a bit complicated because there are no American troops actually stationed in Ukraine. However, the United States has been providing support in terms of logistics (which means helping with supplies and transportation) and offering strategic advice to Ukraine. This change in the Ukrainian defense leadership came along with other changes in the U.S., including the appointment of a new Secretary of Defense. All of these moves suggest that there is recognition that Ukraine's current strategy in the war is not working and that a new approach is needed. President Zelensky seems to have taken this advice seriously. Now, let's talk about

Ukraine's strategy in this war. In the early stages of the conflict, Ukraine adopted a clever strategy. Instead of trying to block the Russian army's advance with one big, centralized force, Ukraine divided its military into smaller units. Each of these units was given a lot of independence to make decisions on the ground. The idea was to focus on the small-scale tactics of the war rather than trying to create one large, unified force. This strategy actually frustrated the initial Russian attack. By deploying massive troops and gradually wearing them down with smaller Ukrainian units, Russia couldn't defeat the Ukrainian military as quickly as it had planned. The Ukrainian soldiers knew the terrain they were fighting in very well, which allowed them to find and engage Russian forces and then disappear quickly. The hope was that Russia would get frustrated and rethink its campaign. But that didn't happen. Instead, the Russian army spent a year trying to capture cities rather than destroying the Ukrainian army. This played into Russia's strengths with its massive forces and heavy artillery. In theory, it was also supposed to break Ukrainian morale, but that didn't work as expected. Now, things have changed. The Russian General Staff, the people who plan Russia's military operations, has taken control. They are returning to their old strategy, concentrating their forces to force the Ukrainian military to fight and, theoretically, lose. They've learned from Ukraine's tactics and believe

they have a better chance of winning now. The American military leaders, on the other hand, see things differently. They think it's time for Ukraine to change its strategy. The Ukrainian army has become more experienced and well-armed, and they believe it's time to concentrate their forces into one or two powerful offensives. With access to artillery, drones, superior intelligence, and combat-ready forces, they believe this is the moment to push back against the Russian offensive, close any gaps in their defenses, and disrupt Russian logistics (which means their supply lines). They're advocating for a new approach. This change in strategy might seem a bit desperate, but it's essential to remember that Ukraine is fighting on its home turf, defending its homeland. This could give them an advantage, even though both sides are tired. It's a bit like the Vietnam War, where there was an effort to train the Vietnamese to fight more like Americans, with a focus on coordination and mobility. But the Ukrainians are more eager to fight for their homeland than the Vietnamese were. As for the meeting between the American and Ukrainian military leaders on the border, it's hard to know exactly how it went. But it's safe to assume that they didn't need to be told how to behave. They likely discussed the ground situation and the need for a change in approach to the conflict. And it's probable that the new Ukrainian defense minister will follow through with this new strategy.

## Briefs

## Israel pledges 'unrelenting attacks' as death toll passes 5,087

FROM PAGE 01  
damaging Hamas everywhere and in every way. "We are well prepared for the ground operations in the south," he added, referring to southern Israel, which abuts Gaza. "Troops who have more time are better prepared, and that is what we are doing now." In public, the United States has stressed Israel's right to defend itself but two sources familiar with the matter said the White House, Pentagon and State Department have stepped up private appeals for caution in conversations with Israelis.

## Haneyya slams West for not stopping Israel

FROM PAGE 01  
Haneyya said: "How much blood and massacres would be enough in order to get you move to take a stand that confronts such massacres of Gazan children, women, and elderly? The West Bank too is not away from those crimes, he highlighted. In his speech, the Hamas leader also stressed: "while they claim to protect human rights, the West is immersed in the blood of our innocent people." "With your positions supportive of the genocide taking place in Gaza, you have fallen for ever from the record of humanity. You have created a barrier between you and the Arab and Islamic peoples, which would never be bridged," Haneyya concluded. Where, Israeli forces closed on Tuesday afternoon Al-Aqsa Mosque in Occupied Jerusalem denying Palestinians their right to worship and prayer.

## PM Kakar reiterates...

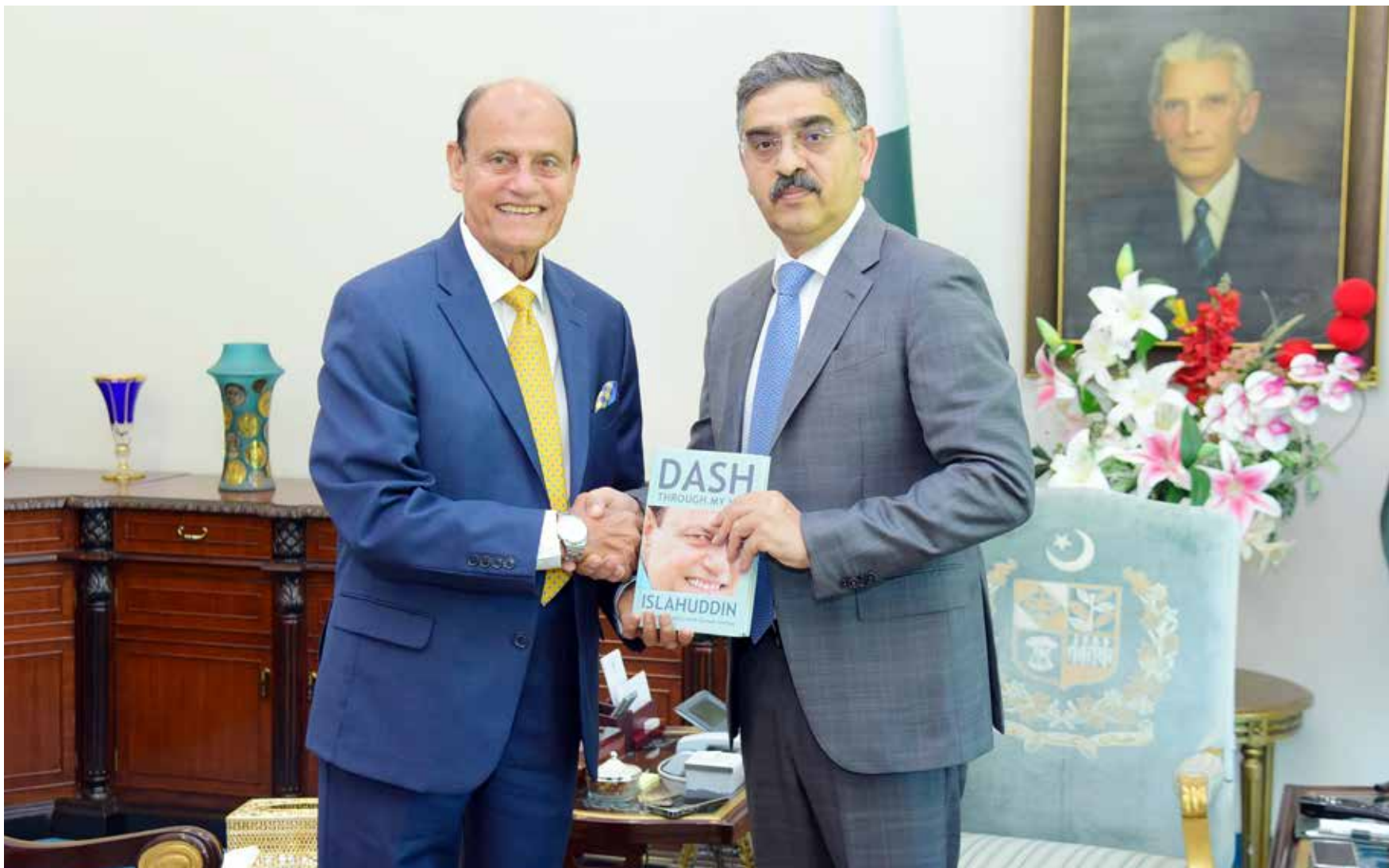
FROM PAGE 01  
unintentionally, were partnering with the forces of darkness. He emphasised the role of faith leaders and the society to make such people realise that they were actually partnering with the destroyer of the humans. "This is unacceptable. We will resist this," he resolved. He expressed his gratitude to the global partners who continued to supporting Pakistan in its endeavour of polio eradication. Recognising the sacrifices of the polio workers and the security personnel guarding them, the prime minister said they had paid the highest price for the cause.

## Govt drops gas bomb

FROM PAGE 01  
Rs460 to Rs1000 and for higher slabs up to Rs2000. The government has hiked the local gas tariff up to 173% for non-protected domestic consumers, 136.4% for commercial, 86.4% for export, and 117% for the non-export industry. The exporters have managed to get maximum benefit as their tariff will go up by 86% with effect from November 1, 2023. Earlier, it was proposed to hike the average tariff from October 1, 2023, but the ECC granted its approval with effect from November 2023. According to the Ministry of Finance, the meeting considered various agenda points and summaries submitted by different ministries.

## Pakistan successfully tests Ghauri Weapon...

FROM PAGE 01  
Pakistan's strategic capability. The President, Prime Minister of Pakistan, CJCSC and Services Chiefs congratulated the participating troops, scientists and engineers on successful conduct of training launch.



ISLAMABAD: Hockey legend, former Captain of Pakistan National Hockey Team, Islahuddin Siddiqui presenting his book titled "Dash Through My Life" to Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar. - DNA

## PM directs facilities to hockey players

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to provide hockey players with all kinds of facilities to prepare them for international competitions. The prime minister issued the directive as Islahuddin Siddiqui, the former captain of the Pakistan hockey team and champion of the Hockey Asia Cup and the World Cup, called on him here at the PM House. The prime minister said the national hockey team for many decades brought laurels to the country. However, he pointed out that the current situation of the national sport of hockey in Pakistan demanded focus and attention. Kakar hoped that hockey once again would regain its lost glory in the country. He termed hockey legends such as Islahuddin Siddiqui the 'real heroes of Pakistan'. The government will take all possible measures to promote hockey, he added. Islahuddin Siddiqui presented his autobiography titled 'Dash Through My Life' to the prime minister.

## Misbah, Malik slam Babar for ruining bowlers' confidence

Pakistan bowlers failed to defend 283-run target as Afghanistan registered eight-wicket victory over Pakistan in ICC World Cup on Monday in Chennai

DNA

LAHORE: Misbah-ul-Haq expressed his disappointment with Babar Azam's captaincy, attributing it to the decline in Haris Rauf's bowling confidence, particularly during the powerplay. According to Misbah, Rauf struggles to find his rhythm in the early overs, leaking 18-20 runs and losing confidence. "We can see that whenever Haris Rauf is given the ball to bowl in the powerplay, he is struggling. He is low in confidence, he is leaking 18-20 runs in his first over. We have spoken after the last match against Australia as well, how New Zealand bring Mitchell Santner in the eighth or the ninth over. It is an attacking option, since it is the last over of the powerplay, batsmen tries to take risk. It is a gamble, you can take wicket as well. "It would have been good for Haris's confidence if captain would have given the ball



after the powerplay, when there are four fielders in the deep. Then he can bowl his bouncers. If he is bowling short of length outside the off stump, he will have

a sweeper cover. Now what's happening is that he is getting hit four boundaries in the first over and he is done for the whole game. "We know that Gurbaz and Ibrahim

Zadran play the pace bowling well. If we could have brought the spinners early and forced them to attack, they could have got in trouble," said Misbah. Shoaib Malik interjected, highlighting the struggles in the spin department and criticizing the lack of innovative thinking from the captain. "Sorry to interrupt Misbahbhai! our spin department is also struggling. Our captain don't think out of the box. Saud Shakeel is there, he can bowl you don't give him the ball." Misbah agreed with Malik and cited instances where captain Babar Azam opted for off-spinner Iftikhar instead of Saud in situations where the latter's left-arm spin could have been more effective. Misbah recalled Saud's success against England in England, where he provided breakthroughs. He also mentioned a spell where Saud was hit for six boundaries by Harry Brook but argued that this shouldn't deter his usage in the future.

## 'Malaysia is with Palestine'

## PM: We will be fearless to condemn Israeli aggression

"Thank you Malaysia for all your support... The day will come where we will host you in Al Aqsa," Palestinian ambassador to Malaysia Walid Abu Ali said

KUALA LUMPUR: Thousands of protesters gathered in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday in Malaysia's biggest display of solidarity with Palestinians since the beginning of the deadly Israeli onslaught on Gaza. Malaysians have been taking to the streets since the escalation began over two weeks ago. Wearing traditional Palestinian scarves and carrying Palestinian flags, they have been calling for "Solidarity with Palestine," and chanting "Save Palestine," "Stop genocide in Gaza," and "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free." The protest on Tuesday, dubbed the "Malaysia is with Palestine" rally, took place at Axiata Arena Stadium in the south of Kuala Lumpur, and was the biggest so far, with the 16,000-seat venue full as Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said Malaysia will not be cowed in its condemnation of the Israeli aggression and occupation of Palestine. In a fiery speech at the Solidarity with Palestine rally Axiata Arena Stadium, here, Anwar said the West stood to learn from Malaysia in respecting other races and religions. "I am being criticised now, starting to be attacked by some circles in Europe, the United States and of course Israel. I said, as long as I am given a mandate by the people, I do not accept threats. We will still fight.



"I tell them, don't ever dream of threatening us. Malaysia is a fiercely independent country. We decide what is right, we understand the meaning of freedom. "Malaysians have been there (for Palestinians) until today. And we will continue without fear. Don't ever threaten Malaysians. We have our rights to express ourselves. We condemn aggression, and still stay as a sovereign country," he said. "It is Malaysia that the United States of America and Europe must learn (from). We talk about humanity, justice, human rights for the Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, and Christians. We respect them as they respect us," he added. He also called out the apparent selectiveness of Western countries in defending human rights. "The level of aggression has reached the level of insanity. Women and children are butchered, hospitals and schools have been bombed. Where is the justice, humanity, and democratic rights that the West is talking about? "Palestinians need to be treated as human beings too!" he said. - Agencies

## Saim Ayub creates history in Quaid-e-Azam Trophy

KARACHI: Saim Ayub became the first cricketer to score a hundred and a double-hundred in a Quaid-e-Azam Trophy final in the showpiece clash for the 2023/24 edition. Opening the batting for the Karachi Region Whites, Saim Ayub had made 203 in 259 balls in the first innings after the Faisalabad Region opted to bowl at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore. Ayub added 379 for the second wicket with Shan Masood (180) to help Karachi Whites amass 543. Mir Hamza (5-44) and Shahnawaz Dahani (4-50) then bowled out Faisalabad for 124. Despite the 419-run lead, Karachi Whites captain Sarfaraz Ahmed chose to bat again - perhaps because there were well over three days left in the match. This time Ayub made 109, becoming the first to follow a double ton and a ton in the final of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy. Pakistan cricketers to score a double hundred and another hundred in the same first-class match: 256 and 102\*: Salahuddin, Karachi v East Pakistan (Karachi 1968/69), 216\* and 156\*: Zaheer Abbas, Gloucestershire v Surrey (The Oval 1976), 230\* and 104\*: Zaheer Abbas, Gloucestershire v Kent (Canterbury 1976), 205\* and 108\*: Zaheer Abbas, Gloucestershire v Sussex (Cheltenham 1977), 141 and 222: Saadat Ali, Income Tax Department v Multan (Multan 1977/78), 214\* and 104: Talat Ali, Pakistan International Airlines v Punjab (Lahore 1978/79), 129 and 217\*: Shafiq Ahmed, National Bank of Pakistan v Muslim Commercial Bank (Karachi 1978/79), 215\* and 150\*: Zaheer Abbas, Gloucestershire v Somerset (Bath 1981), 210\* and 110: Qasim Umar, Muslim Commercial Bank v Lahore City (Lahore 1982/83), 139 and 217\*: Rizwan-uz-Zaman, Pakistan International Airlines v Pakistan Automobiles Corporation (Lahore 1989/90), 205 and 102\*: Mohammad Ramzan, Faisalabad v Sardogha (Faisalabad 2000/01), 106 and 202\*: Younis Khan, Yorkshire v Hampshire (Southampton 2007). - Agencies

## IHC rejects Imran's...

FROM PAGE 01

The federal government does not have any authority to 'pick and choose' [judges], he added. Responding to this, Justice Aurangzeb said: "In this way, the executive will interfere in the judiciary's domain." The division bench said the IHC chief justice might form a new bench on the matter after a file referred to him after removing objections. "[But] right now we cannot give you any interim relief," Justice Aurangzeb said adding that whether the petition is admissible or not will be decided later. Earlier this month, an IHC single bench found no apparent malice behind conducting Khan's jail trial in the cipher case, the court's verdict read and directed him to approach the trial court if reservations persist.

## SC disposes of plea...

FROM PAGE 01

"At that time, the Supreme Court had issued an order to hold elections in Punjab on May 14," Shah Khawar told the court. "Then we filed a petition to hold elections across the country on the same day," he added. "That's what the problem is. Was any order of the court issued at that time? If there is a difference of opinion on a case, an order of the court is issued," the CJP said. "There was no such order of the court," Shah Khawar told the court. "You should have filed a petition over the violation of the order of the Supreme Court," Justice Athar Minallah said to the lawyer. "Did you not try to violate the Constitution by filing this petition?" he added. "Does the court have the authority to issue such a verdict?" the CJP questioned.

## Seminar on Pak, Korea "40 Years of Friendship today"

## Curtain Raiser

SEMINAR on "40 Years of Friendship- Past, Present and Future between Republic of Korea and Pakistan", 25 October 2023. The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Korea (ROK), is holding a Seminar on "40 Years of Friendship- Past, Present and Future between Republic of Korea and Pakistan", on 25 October 2023. Pakistan and the Republic of Korea have forged a strong partnership, marked by strategic cooperation, economic collaboration, and cultural exchanges. The two nations have witnessed a steady expansion in bilateral relations, with a focus on mutual development and peace in the region. South Korea's robust investment in Pakistan, particularly in infrastructure, technology, and manufacturing sectors, has greatly contributed to Pakistan's economic growth and modernization. Bilateral cooperation extends beyond economics, as both countries have engaged in educational and cultural initiatives, strengthening the ties between the two peoples. As South Korea's "New Southern Policy" and Pakistan's "En-

gage East" strategy converge, this partnership is set to become even more pivotal, not only for the countries involved but also for the broader Asia-Pacific region. The Pakistan-ROK relationship, founded on shared values and aspirations, exemplifies the potential of international collaboration. Pakistan views South Korea as a valuable ally in its quest for economic development and technological advancements, while South Korea recognizes Pakistan as a strategic partner in the region. The two nations have demonstrated their commitment to global peace

and security by cooperating closely in various international fora, including the United Nations. As both countries continue to work together, they not only elevate their own positions on the global stage but also contribute to the stability and prosperity of Asia. The Pakistan-Korea partnership stands as a testament to the power of diplomacy, trade, and cultural exchanges in forging stronger ties between nations across the globe. Within this backdrop, the ISSI in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, is organizing a seminar to mark 40-year

journey of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Korea and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. This event brings together distinguished diplomats, academics and practitioners from both countries who will share their accounts on the historical journey of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Korea and Pakistan and discuss ways and means to further strengthen this relationship and diversify their cooperation. The Seminar will highlight key success stories, showcasing the immense progress made in areas such as trade, investment, technology, education, and cultural exchanges. The opening ceremony will feature keynote address by Mr. Muhammad Ali, Federal Minister of Energy, Power & Petroleum and it will include welcome remarks by Ambassador Park Kijun, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, and welcome remarks by Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, DG ISSI. During the two working sessions, distinguished speakers will give retrospective reflections of the historical relationship, and experts from both countries will share their insights on the historical journey of relations between South Korea and Pakistan. Dr. Talat Shabbir will moderate seminar.



## Briefs

Germany  
reassures  
Ukraine of  
continued  
support

BERLIN: The escalation of the Middle East conflict will not alter Germany's support for Ukraine, Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Tuesday. "Our support to Ukraine will in no way be affected while we have been looking at Israel and the Middle East with greater concern," Scholz said at the German-Ukrainian Economy Forum. "Our unbreakable solidarity goes to both countries Israel and Ukraine," he stressed. His remarks came amid growing worries in Ukraine about the Israel-Hamas conflict, and concern that this would divert attention from the Russia-Ukraine war, and redirect resources to Israel. Scholz underlined that Germany and its partners will continue to provide economic, financial and military support to Ukraine, in order to help Ukrainians defend their country. "Our promise stands. We will support Ukraine for as long as necessary. Together with our partners from the EU, G7, and many other countries, we leave no doubt about our determination and perseverance," he said. —DNA

Gaza  
hospitals  
in 'total  
collapse'

GAZA CITY: The healthcare system at hospitals in the Gaza Strip has totally collapsed, the Health Ministry in the blockaded enclave said Tuesday. "Hospitals in Gaza have totally collapsed due to the Israeli war," ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra told a news conference in Gaza City. He said 65 medics have been killed and 25 ambulances have been destroyed in Israeli strikes since Oct. 7. "Twelve hospitals and 32 healthcare centers were forced out of service," al-Qudra said. "We are afraid that many more will stop operations in the coming hours due to lack of fuel." According to the spokesman, Gaza's death toll from the ongoing Israeli airstrikes climbed to 5,791 people. "The victims include 2,360 children, 1,292 women and 295 elders," he said, adding that 16,297 people were also injured. "Children, women and elders make up around 70% of the victims," al-Qudra said. The spokesman also said around 1,550 people are reported to be trapped under the rubble, including 870 children. "The Israeli occupation committed massacres against Palestinian families in past hours that left 305 children, 173 women and 78 elders dead," he added. The conflict in Gaza, which has been under Israeli bombardment and a blockade since Oct. 7, began when the Palestinian group 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. —DNA

Iran calls for  
emergency  
meeting of  
UNHRC

TEHRAN: Iran's Judiciary has urged the United Nations Human Rights Council to hold an emergency meeting on the Israeli atrocities in the besieged Gaza Strip, calling for a resolution against the Tel Aviv regime. Speaking at a news conference on Tuesday, Iran's Judiciary spokesman Masoud Setayeshi said the crimes committed by Israel in Gaza and the occupied West Bank are defined as "war crimes and crimes against humanity, according to many international documents, including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court." In this regard, he noted that Tehran sent a letter to the UN secretary-general, the President of the Human Rights Council, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, calling for a meeting on the Israeli crimes in Gaza and an anti-Israel resolution. The letter, sent by Kazem Gharibabadi, secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights and the Judiciary chief's deputy for international affairs. —APP

3+3 meeting: Iran anchor  
of stability in region: FM

Meanwhile, Turkish Foreign Minister discussed regional developments with Iran's President Raisi

NEWS DESK

TEHRAN: Contrary to the United States, which is promoting war in the region through its support for Israel, the Islamic Republic is "the pillar and anchor of stability" in the region, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman says. In an X post on Tuesday, Nasser Kan'ani cited Tehran's hosting of the second 3+3 regional platform meeting, dubbed Time for Peace, Cooperation, and Progress in the South Caucasus, as an example of Iran's efforts towards collective security in the region. "While the United States and some of its allies are escalating war-mongering, instability and insecurity in the region by lending unwavering support to the villain Zionist regime, Tehran was host to the second meeting of the 3+3 regional platform," he wrote. "Iran remains the pillar and anchor of stability and security in the region on the basis of indigenous collective security doctrine." Kan'ani also noted that Iran believes that the regional countries have the power to resolve their problems and ensure sustainable security and stability in line with common interests and collective progress. "Such a strategy could



lead to more benefits and sustainable development for our region only when all our countries pursue a similar approach without the profit-seeking interference of trans-regional players," he added. Fidan emphasized the significance of the initiative in showing the international community how regional countries can solve their own problems, the ministry said

on X. He also stressed Türkiye's commitment to resolving regional issues through dialogue towards lasting peace, and voiced satisfaction that hurdles to cooperation and friendship in the region are being removed. He said the path to regional peace and stability goes through the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement between neighboring Azerbaijan

and Armenia. Fidan also stressed that the opening of regional transportation connections would accelerate normalization and peace processes. The 3+3 consultative platform, comprising the three South Caucasus countries of Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan plus Russia, Turkey, and Iran, was established in an attempt to settle regional issues without

foreign interference. The first 3+3 meeting was held in Moscow in December 2021 at the level of deputy foreign ministers and without the presence of Georgia. The second meeting was held in Tehran on Monday, with the participants emphasizing in their final statement "the importance of peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity, inviolability of internationally recognized borders, non-interference in internal affairs, prohibition on the threat or use of force and respect for human rights." Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan discussed regional developments with Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi in Tehran Monday, the ministry said. The foreign minister met the Iranian president on the sidelines of the 3+3 format for the establishment of permanent peace and stability at the South Caucasus summit in Tehran. No further details were provided about the meeting. Meanwhile, Fidan also met with his Armenian counterpart Ararat Mirzoyan on the sidelines of the summit. The meeting in Iran comes in the wake of dramatic developments in the South Caucasus' Karabakh region last month.

'Everyone must  
'stand together  
against  
Islamophobia'

CANBERRA: The world must "stand together against Islamophobia," said Australia's foreign minister on Tuesday. Penny Wong's remarks came after two mosques in Adelaide, South Australia were hit by arson attacks last week, a development she said left her "appalled." "All of us, including every political leader, must stand together against Islamophobia," Wong wrote on X. "We all have a responsibility to call out discrimination, hate speech and prejudice wherever we see it." Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's government "is supporting Australian Palestinian, Muslim and other communities affected by the conflict as well as the Executive Council of Australian Jewry," she added. Ahmad Zreika, head of the Islamic Society of South Australia, said that the local community has witnessed acts of hate crimes since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas conflict earlier this month. —DNA

Russian  
airstrikes kill  
5 civilians  
in Idlib

IDLIB: At least five civilians were killed and seven others injured in Russian airstrikes targeting a tent camp in Syria's northwestern Idlib province, local sources said on Tuesday. A Russian warplane took off from the Khmeimim Air Base in Latakia city and carried out an air attack at around 12:30 a.m. local time (0930GMT) on a camp, where forcibly displaced civilians took shelter, near the Hamame village in western Idlib, according to the Syrian opposition aircraft observatory. The attack killed five civilians and injured seven others, including children, according to information obtained from the White Helmets civil defense organization. —APP

US ends  
assistance  
to Gabon

WASHINGTON: The United States on Monday ended assistance to Gabon over its August 30 coup but said it was ready to provide aid in return for concrete progress toward democracy. The United States, which had already paused assistance after the military takeover, said it had formally determined that a coup took place, which under US law requires an end to non-humanitarian aid. "We will resume our assistance alongside concrete actions by the transitional government toward establishing democratic rule," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said in a statement. "The United States stands with the Gabonese people in their aspirations for democracy, prosperity and stability." Unlike in Niger, another African country where the United States recently severed aid over a coup, US assistance has been minimal to Gabon, which is wealthy from oil and was run by the Bongo family for more than half a century. Gabonese military leaders overthrew Ali Bongo Ondimba just as he was proclaimed the winner of an election widely criticized for irregularities. —APP

China slams Israeli violence  
as 'beyond self-defense'

DNA

BEIJING: China has condemned the killing of civilians amid the Israeli onslaught in Gaza and rapped Israel's actions for being "beyond the scope of self-defense." According to reports by Chinese media on Tuesday, in a phone conversation, Foreign Minister Wang Yi urged his Israeli counterpart Eli Cohen to observe international law and protect civilians and condemn violence and attacks on civilians. "All countries have the right to self-defense, but they should abide by international humanitarian law and protect the safety of civil-

ians," he added. Tel Aviv and its Western allies label the ongoing war on Gaza that killed thousands of children and women as an act of self-defense in response to Operation Al-Aqsa Storm launched by Hamas earlier this month. China will do its utmost when it comes to contributing to Palestinian-Israeli reconciliation, Wang said. He also called on Israel to take effective measures to protect the safety of Chinese citizens and institutions in the Middle East. Wang stressed that Beijing will firmly support any resolution as long as it is conducive to peace. In a separate phone call with Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki,

Wang said he "deeply sympathizes" with the people of Gaza. Wang also said China calls for the convening of a "more authoritative, wide-ranging and effective international peace conference" soon. He stressed that the UN Security Council "should effectively shoulder its responsibility", and "countries outside the region, especially major powers, should be objective and impartial." That comes as the US has sent munitions and military equipment to Israel and deployed aircraft carriers to the Mediterranean Sea in a show of support for Tel Aviv. Israel launched the war on Gaza on October 7 after the Palestinian resistance movement Ha-

mas waged the surprise Operation Al-Aqsa Storm against the occupying entity in response to the Israeli regime's decades-long campaign of bloodletting and devastation against Palestinians. Since the start of the Israeli aggression, more than 5,000 Palestinians have been killed, most of them women and children. Some 15,000 others were injured. Tel Aviv has also blocked water, food, and electricity to Gaza, plunging the coastal strip into a humanitarian crisis. The Al-Aqsa Storm operation conducted by the Palestinian resistance killed at least 1,500 Israeli forces and settlers and injured more than 4,800 others.

World 'failing'  
on pledge to halt  
deforestation by 2030

LONDON: The world is "failing" on a pledge to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030, with global losses increasing last year, a group of NGOs and researchers warned Tuesday. In 2021, leaders from over 100 countries and territories - representing the vast majority of the world's forests - pledged to stop and reverse forest loss by 2030. But an annual assessment released Tuesday found global deforestation actually increased by four percent last year, and the world remains well off track to meet the 2030 commitment. "That 2030 goal is not just nice to have, it's essential for maintaining a livable climate for humanity," warned Erin Matson, a lead author of the Forest Declaration Assessment. Forests are not only key habitats for animal life but serve as important regulators of the global climate and carbon sponges that suck in the emissions human activity belches out. However, deforestation last year was over 20 percent higher than it should have been to meet the leaders' pledge, with 6.6 million hectares of forest lost, much of it primary forest in tropical regions. The assessment, overseen by more than two dozen environmental groups and research organizations, also warns that forest degradation remains a huge problem. Degradation refers to a wide range of harms, including wildfires and biodiversity loss, which affect a forest's overall health. —APP

Released Israeli  
woman says she  
was treated well

GAZA CITY: An elderly Israeli woman released Monday from captivity with Hamas said she was treated well during her two weeks with the Palestinian group. Speaking to journalists on Tuesday, Yocheved Lifshitz, 85, said Hamas provided her a doctor to monitor her health and worked to secure her medicine. She added that her Hamas captors took care of her needs. "We ate bread, white cheese and cucumbers, just like them." "They told us they believe in the Quran and wouldn't harm us," she also said. Asked why she shook hands with one of the Hamas members during her release, she said because they "treated us well and took care of all our needs." Late on Monday, Hamas' military wing the Al-Qassam Brigades said it had released two Israeli captives - Yocheved Lifshitz and Nurit Cooper, 79 - for "compelling humanitarian reasons." An Al-Qassam spokesman said the release came through mediation with Qatar and Egypt. The Israeli government did not comment on the development, the second release of a pair of captives since the conflict began on Oct. 7. The first release was of Americans. The brigades said in an earlier statement that it is holding some 200-250 people in captivity, including Israeli soldiers and civilians. The conflict in Gaza, under Israeli bombardment and 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 the Al-Aqsa Mosque and growing violence by Israeli settlers. The Israeli military then launched a relentless bombardment of the Gaza Strip, along with stepping up raids and arrests in the occupied West Bank. —DNA



BERLIN: Ambassador Saqlain Syedah formally presented her credentials to the President of Germany, Frank-Walter Steinmeier. Syedah is the 1st ever woman ambassador of Pakistan to Germany. —DNA

## Hamas puts Malaysia in a bind

JAMES DORSEY

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim is in a bind. He is caught between public support for the Palestinians, and for Hamas in significant quarters, opponents painting him as a Western and Israeli lackey, and the need to not be seen as enabling a militant organization that brutally targets civilians. Protesters clad in keffiyeh, the distinctive Palestinian scarf, and waving the Palestinian flag marched after last Friday's prayers towards the US embassy in Kuala Lumpur and briefly scuffled with police. "What we are protesting here today is the colonisation of Palestine, backed by America and Western powers," said activist Hishamuddin Rais. Mr. Rais insisted that the Gaza war was neither a religious battle between Jews and Muslims nor a war against Hamas. Instead, he suggested, it was in opposition to a Western-backed Israeli effort to deprive Palestinians of their rights. Mr. Rais echoed Mr. Ibrahim's insistence that Hamas' brutal October 7 attack on Israel in which some 1,400 people, mostly civilians, were killed would not alter Malaysian support for the group. Among Middle Eastern and Asian nations with a Hamas representation, Malaysia may be the most exposed Hamas host. Hamas leaders, including Khaled Meshal and Ismail Haniyeh, are based in Qatar. Qatar has long served as a welcome intermediary between Israel and the group

it once tacitly nurtured as an anti-dote to Palestinian nationalism. It was a policy tacitly endorsed by the United States, even though the US and various European countries, alongside Israel, have designated Hamas as a terrorist organisation. Last week, Qatar negotiated the release of two American hostages kidnapped by Hamas during its attack. A high-flyer, Qatar is seeking to get more of the approximately 222 Israelis and foreigners captured by Hamas liberated. Among the hostages are at least 26 Israeli military personnel. European leaders, including France's Emmanuel Macron and Britain's Rishi Sunak, hope Qatar can help them get their nationals freed. Nevertheless, Qatar's relationship with Hamas, is encountering headwinds with some pundits and Western officials taking the Gulf state to task. "There can be no more business as usual with Hamas," said US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken. Mr. Blinken thanked Qatar for getting the two American hostages released. Last week, the United States sanctioned ten Hamas operatives it said were involved in financing and facilitating Hamas in Gaza, Turkey and Algeria, including Ahmad Abd Al-Dayim Nasrallah, a senior Hamas official based in Qatar. Middle East analyst Hussien Ibish, a senior scholar at the Saudi and United Arab Emirates-funded Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington (AGSIW) suggested a reckoning with Qatar may only come once the hostage crisis is resolved. "After the hostage situation concludes—whether it ends in tragedy or with negotiated releases involving possible prisoner

swaps—Qatar is likely to face severe pressure and criticism," Mr. Ibish said. Turkey, another Hamas host country in which thousands have marched in support of Gaza, has sought to deflect criticism by playing a similar role, so far with less success. In a phone call with Mr. Haniyeh this weekend, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he was working to get humanitarian aid to Gaza and would welcome wounded Gazans for treatment in Turkish hospitals. For now, Lebanon, a failed state on the verge of collapse, in which Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed Shiite militia, threatens to open a second front if Israel pushes ahead with a ground offensive in Gaza, is a lost case from a US and Israeli perspective. Mr. Ibrahim, the Malaysian prime minister, lacks a veneer for his unabashed support for Hamas to counter likely US pressure. Speaking to parliament after the October 7 attack, Mr. Ibrahim insisted, "We, as a policy, have a relationship with Hamas from before and this will continue." The prime minister rejected unspecified foreign pressure to break with Hamas. "As such, we don't agree with their pressuring attitude, as Hamas too won in Gaza freely through elections and Gazans chose them to lead." Mr. Ibrahim was referring to Hamas' electoral victory in 2006, the last time Palestinians voted. Last week, Mr. Ibrahim pledged Malaysia's "unwavering support for the Palestinian people" in a phone call with Mr. Haniyeh. In recent days, Mr. Ibrahim also called for an immediate ceasefire and the creation of an independent Palestinian state in territo-

ries conquered by Israel during the 1967 Middle East war. Malaysia has no diplomatic relations with Israel. Mr. Ibrahim is likely to find maintaining his position increasingly problematic, particularly when Israel comes around to investigating its intelligence and operational failures in preventing a Hamas attack. Already, Malaysians are divided about their policy towards Hamas, even though criticism is expressed primarily behind closed doors. "With all that's happening, support for Hamas is far from unequivocal," said a well-placed Malaysian source. The source noted that the Hamas-controlled, Kuala Lumpur-based Palestinian Cultural Organization Malaysia (PCOM) organizes well-attended public events joined by prominent intellectuals, journalists, and civil society figures but rarely by senior officials. Even so, former prime minister Mahathir Mohammed invited Hamas leader Khaled Meshal to attend a 2019 Islamic summit in Kuala Lumpur. In addition, Mr. Mahathir met Hamas leaders on several earlier occasions in the Malaysian capital. Some analysts suggested that the government rather than changing its public stance could quietly distance itself from Hamas by not renewing the residency visas of the group's operatives. PCOM was co-founded in 2011 by Mr. Ibrahim's Rural and Regional Development Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and the prime minister's Home Affairs Minister Saifuddin Nasution Ismail.

## Briefs

### Durrani calls on Fazlur Rehman

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) supremo Maulana Fazlur Rehman and senior politician Muhammad Ali Durrani exchanged views on the country's political situation on Tuesday. Durrani called on Rehman in Islamabad. On this occasion, Durrani condoled the death of Fazl's mother-in-law. The two leaders also underscored other matters, including the general elections in the country. Few weeks back, Fazlur Rehman commended on Tuesday the role of the Islamic scholars in the running government affairs. Addressing the workers' convention in Multan, Rehman said: "The JUI-F has always struggled for the masses' rights. The JUI-F's Million March had proved the party to be one of the country's biggest political forces."

"We did not create obstacles for the power for which we were kept out of parliament," Rehman raved. He made it clear that his party will stage protests if there is rigging in the upcoming elections.

"We are not going to give away our rights if they are snatched," he added. Few days back, Rehman said on Saturday that it will be challenging to uplift the country's economy. Earlier this month, Rehman said on Saturday that it will be challenging to uplift the country's economy.

Addressing an event in Peshawar, Rehman said, "It would not be a matter of joy to see my opponents in jail while I am freed. I am of the view that every politician should be out of jail."

### World Cup: S. Africa beat Bangladesh

SPORTS DESK

MUMBAI: South Africa absolutely battered and bamboozled the Bangladesh cricket team by 149 runs in the 23rd match of the ICC World Cup 2023 at the Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai, India, on Tuesday. The Proteas have now recorded four wins in the ongoing mega event and most of their wins were big margins including a massive 229-run win against England.

Chasing the mammoth target of 383 runs, Bangladesh never looked in the game as they lost early wickets and were 31-3 in just 7.1 overs.

Not a single Bangladeshi batter could stand in front of the explosive South African bowling attack of Marco Jansen, Kagiso Rabada, Gerald Coetzee, Keshav Mahharaj and Lizard Williams as all the bowlers took at least a wicket. Despite losing wickets early on, Mahmudullah showed excellent composure and temperament as the 37-year-old scored his third World Cup hundred, scoring 111 runs off 111 balls with 11 fours and four sixes, but his heroics weren't enough as the target was too big.

Pakistan-Malaysia joint military exercise ends

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Bilateral Army Exercise Series was held between Pakistan and Malaysian Armed Forces. The exercise commenced on 9 October and culminated on 22 October 2023 in Malaysia. The exercise was based on 2 stages, namely Cross Training Exercise and Field Training Exercise. The exercise has greatly benefited both the Malaysian and Pakistan Army to strengthen bilateral relations and establish friendly relations amongst officers and members of both countries by exchanging ideas, knowledge and skills.

# Pakistan keen to further develop ties with Hungary

Hungary is grateful to the Pakistani diplomacy for supporting the cause of the Hungarian revolution in the United Nations: Ambassador Fazekas



ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Jawad Sohrab Malik, Prime Minister Special Assistant on Overseas Pakistanis has said Pakistan and Hungary enjoy excellent relations adding these relations are poised to grow further even in the days to come. Malik expressed these views while speaking as chief guest on the occasion of the National Day of Hungary. A large number of guests hailing from various walks of life attended the reception. The chief guest further said that Hungary

had supported Pakistan on all occasions especially on the issue of GSP Plus status. He hoped trade and economic relations would also be strengthened. Ambassador of Hungary Bela Fazekas in his speech said, on the 23 October 1956 a student protest in Budapest turned into a national uprising against Communist dictatorship. The joy of freedom lasted only two weeks when the Soviet military aggression crushed the heroic struggle of the freedom fighters. He added, it was only 33 years later Hungary regained its independence. After defeating the revolution of 1956 the so called

"Hungarian question" was still on the agenda of UN General Assembly for many years. Hungary is grateful to the Pakistani diplomacy for supporting the cause of the Hungarian revolution in the United Nations. In 1962 Sir Muhammad Zafrulla Khan the President of the General Assembly played an important role in forcing the Hungarian authorities to release hundreds of Hungarian freedom fighters from the prisons, he added. Ladies and gentlemen, although diplomatic relations between our two countries are only 58 years old, the people-to-people relations between Hungary and this part of

## 45 PIA domestic, int'l flights cancelled

DNA

KARACHI: At least 45 domestic and international flights of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) have been cancelled today as the national flag carrier has started fueling the planes based on the quota system. According to the PIA sources, the issue of the non-payment of the pending dues by the PIA to Pakistan State Oil (PSO) is yet to be resolved. According to the flight schedule, four Islamabad-bound flights from Karachi including PK300, PK301, PK368 and PK369 have been cancelled. Similarly, three Lahore-bound flights including PK302, PK303 and PK306 have also been cancelled. Two Turbat-bound flights including PK501 and PK502 from Karachi have also been cancelled. Two Sukkur-bound flights PK536 and PK537, and two Quetta-bound flights PK310 and PK311, from Karachi

have also been cancelled. Karachi-bound flight PK242 from Saudi Arabia's Dammam has been cancelled. Quetta-bound flights PK322 and PK323 from Lahore have been cancelled. Dubai-bound flights PK233 and PK211 from Islamabad have been cancelled. Two Abu Dhabi-bound flights PK261 and PK262 and four Gilgit-bound flights PK601, PK602, PK605 and PK606 have also been cancelled. Two Quetta-bound flights PK325 and PK326, and two Skardu-bound flights PK451 and PK452, have also been cancelled. Two Gilgit-bound flights PK605 and PK606, and two Sukkur-bound flights PK631 and PK632, have also been cancelled. Islamabad-bound flight PK288 from Doha has been cancelled. Riyadh-bound flights PK765 and PK766 from Multan, Dubai-bound flight PK221 and Multan-bound flight PK294 from Sharjah have been cancelled. Sharjah-bound flights PK209 and PK210 from Sialkot have been cancelled.

## Israel should not be given 'free licence to kill' in Gaza

NEWS DESK

DOHA: The emir of Qatar has called on the international community to restrain Israel in its fight against Hamas, saying Israeli forces should not be given a green light for unconditional killing in the besieged Gaza Strip. In his opening speech at the Shura council's annual session on Tuesday, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani also said the continuing war was a dangerous escalation that threatened the region. "We are saying enough is enough," he said. "It is untenable for Israel to be given an unconditional green light and free licence to kill, nor it is tenable to continue ignoring the reality of occupation, siege and settle-

ment." The emir went on to condemn the violence against innocent civilians on both sides, but also faulted the international community for "double standards" and "acting as if Palestinian children's lives are not worth to be reckoned with, as though they are faceless or nameless". Sheikh Tamim's latest comments on the conflict came more than two weeks after Israel launched a devastating campaign of air raids on Gaza after Hamas fighters carried out a surprise attack on southern Israel. More than 1,400 people were killed in the Hamas attack, mostly civilians, according to Israeli authorities. Israel has since bombed Gaza relentlessly, killing more than 5,000 people, 40 percent of whom are children, according to Palestinian officials.

## PRCS Chairman meets with Palestinian envoy

In a gesture of solidarity, the Pakistan Red Crescent will also contribute \$100,000 to IFRC and RCS for the aid of the Palestinian people



FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, visited the Palestinian Embassy and met with Palestinian Ambassador Ahmed Jawad Rabei. Discussions centered on the current situation in Gaza, expressing sorrow over losses in lives and property. During the meeting, Ambassador Ahmed Jawad Rabei highlighted the severe humanitarian crisis in Gaza, emphasizing the urgent need for water, food, and medical assistance. Chairman Shahid Ahmed Laghari assured that the Pakistan Red Crescent Society is fully aware of the situation in Gaza and pledged support. Chairman Laghari announced that the Pakistan Red Crescent through the National Disaster Management Authority, will dispatch 4,500 first aid kits, 3,500 hygiene kits, and 3,500 dignity kits. Additionally, a shipment of medicines will be sent through the NDMA.

He urged individuals willing to contribute cash donations PRCS to directly send them to Askari Bank G-8 Markaz Islamabad, account number 01771650501737, or to the Palestine Embassy's bank, Alfalh Bank, account number 0494-1003784913. For inquiries related to medical donations, Dr. Hashir Parvaiz, Red Crescent's Health Representative, can be contacted at 0333-5132452. In a gesture of solidarity, the Pakistan Red Crescent will also contribute \$100,000 to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for the aid of the Palestinian people. Ambassador Ahmed Jawad Rabei expressed gratitude for the support and acknowledged the significant role of the Red Crescent Pakistan at national and international levels. The meeting was attended by the Secretary General PRCS Muhammad Abaidullah Khan. On this occasion Chairman Laghari, shared his impressions in a commemorative book placed at the Embassy.

## China removes defence minister, ousts ex-FM from cabinet

BEIJING: China on Tuesday removed defence minister Li Shangfu and ousted former foreign minister Qin Gang from its cabinet, state media reported, as part of a major reshuffle of its top leadership. The news comes after months of speculation about China's cabinet, after Qin was abruptly removed from office without explanation in July, and with Li not having been seen in public for months. Both Qin and Li are believed by experts to have been personally selected for their roles by President Xi Jinping. On Tuesday state broadcaster CCTV announced the removals in its regular evening bulletin, but did not give reasons for the ministers' fall from grace. No replacement

for Li as defence minister was announced. Previously it had been reported that the US government believed Li was under investigation and had been stripped of his ministerial duties, but China had refused to comment on the matter. Li travelled to Russia in August to attend a security conference near Moscow on August 15. Two days later, the government of Belarus released handout photographs of Li meeting with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko in Minsk. But since then, he has vanished from public view. Li's now confirmed removal means there is no apparent host for China's regional security dialogue, the Xiangshan Forum, which takes place next week. The US Depart-



ment of Defense is due to send a delegation to the event. As well as being removed as defence minister, Li has also lost his position on the State Council, Chi-

na's cabinet. Former foreign minister Qin, who was removed from his post without explanation in July, has now also been stripped of his State Council position. The Qin was removed from office by Beijing's top lawmaking body after just 207 days in the job, following weeks of speculation that he had fallen out of favour. He has been replaced by Wang Yi, a veteran diplomat who served as foreign minister before Qin and who outranked him in the Chinese government hierarchy. Beijing has offered no explanation for Qin's dismissal. That opacity was also evident when China announced recently a new leadership for its Rocket Force, the army unit that oversees its nuclear arsenal, as media reported a corruption probe involving its former chief. The navy's former deputy commander Wang Houbin was named as the new commander of the force in a brief article by state news agency Xinhua reporting his promotion to the rank of general. His predecessor, Li Yuchao, had not been seen in public for weeks and the Xinhua article gave no explanation for his removal. CCTV also announced Tuesday that science and technology minister Wang Zhigang and finance minister Liu Kun had also been removed from their posts. They will be replaced by current Ministry of Science and Technology party secretary Yin Hejun and finance ministry party secretary Lan Fo'an respectively. - AFP

## Nawaz should hold Shehbaz responsible for inflation

DNA

LAHORE: Incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Parvez Elahi on Tuesday took a jibe at PML-N supremo Nawaz, who recently returned to the country after ending a four-year self-imposed exile in London, saying "Nelson Mandela" should first hold his brother Shehbaz Sharif responsible for skyrocketing inflation in the country. During its 16-month tenure, PM Shehbaz Sharif-led Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government had failed to meet the promises made to the masses and left behind a massive fiscal deficit and high inflation. During his interactions with journalists at Gujranwala and Islamabad courts, Elahi - while taking a jibe at Nawaz - said that the elder Sharif was trying to become "Nelson Mandela". Responding to a question, the PTI president said that the caretakers would have to hold elections, adding the PTI would prove its popularity in the polls. Blasting the former PDM-led government, Elahi said that people were compelled to commit suicides due to high inflation. "Elections" date will be announced due to the Supreme Court," he remarked.

## 'Don't become anyone's tool to come to power'

DNA

SUKKUR: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) senior leader Khurshid Shah on Tuesday once again hinted that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif had returned to the country via a backdoor deal and urged him not to come to "save Pakistan" through such a method. The former opposition leader in the National Assembly, while talking to the media in Sukkur, urged Nawaz to "save the country but not become anyone's tool" in the process. "I will appeal to Nawaz Sharif to save Pakistan but not come to [power] with anyone's help," said Shah. The PPP leader added that his party's "clear stance" was that the elections were not being held in the country within 90 days to accommodate Nawaz Sharif. "Nawaz Sharif should clearly announce that he is back and elections should now be held. If Nawaz Sharif comes via the wrong path, he will also be remembered in history as [selected]," said Shah. On October 21, the PML-N supremo landed in Pakistan - ending a four-year self-imposed exile in London - and addressed a massive power show at the Minare-e-Pakistan in Lahore. During his maiden speech after the homecoming, the elder Sharif, who had been issuing strong remarks against the establishment, announced that he had "no wish to take revenge".

## Senate session summoned over Gaza escalation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Senate session has been summoned on October 27 over the Gaza escalation. As per details, the session will take place at the Parliament House in Islamabad at 10:30 in the morning. Pakistan announced sending assistance for Palestinians reeling from Israel's relentless bombing. "A chartered aircraft carrying 100 tonnes of essential medical supplies, tents, and blankets will depart from Islamabad for Egypt this afternoon, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said at a weekly press briefing. From Egypt, these items will be transferred to the people of Gaza, she added. She also expressed its disappointment over the results of the emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) held on Wednesday, and called for an immediate end to the bombardment and inhuman blockade of Gaza.