



Islamabad POST

Tuesday, October 31, 2023

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 25

Humanity demands an immediate ceasefire, says Angelina Jolie

Detailed News On Page-08

West seeking to expand war to Asia-Pacific

Detailed News On Page-08



Afridi condemns invasion of Babar privacy

Detailed News On Page-06



Death toll reaches 8,306

Fierce clashes as Israel expands ground offensive

Hamas releases video of captives demanding prisoner swap and criticising government for failing to protect people

NEWS DESK

GAZA: Fierce air and artillery strikes rang out in Gaza early on Monday as Israeli troops backed by tanks pressed into the Palestinian enclave with a ground assault that prompted more international calls for civilians to be protected. Israel's military said it had struck more than 600 militant targets over the past few days as it expanded ground operations in the Gaza Strip, where Palestinian civilians are in dire need of fuel, food and clean water as the war enters its fourth week. "IDF troops killed dozens of terrorists who barricaded themselves in buildings and tunnels, and attempted to attack the troops," a military statement said. Israel began a major push into Gaza on Friday and reiterated calls for civilians to move from the north of the tiny coastal enclave to the south as it tries to root out Hamas militants it says are hiding in a labyrinth of tunnels under Gaza City. In what appeared to be an effort to cut off the city, Israeli forces carried out dozens of air strikes on its eastern side, residents said, with some reporting the roar of tanks rolling in amid heavy exchanges of fire. To the west, where Israel on Sunday showed tanks on the Mediterranean coast, the north-south coast road was hit several times, residents said. Internet and phone connections remained largely cut off in the north, making communication difficult. Many Palestinians have remained in Gaza City, afraid to lose their homes and concerned by news of Israeli air strikes further south. Medical officials in Al-Shifa and Al-Quds hospitals said air strikes had hit near their buildings. The U.N. humanitarian office OCHR said 117,000 civilians are sheltering alongside thousands of patients and doctors in hospitals in the north.

Continued on Page 06

Pak Senate calls for immediate ceasefire

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Senate on Monday expressed concerns over Israeli atrocities against innocent people of Palestine, and called for immediate ceasefire and providing essential humanitarian aid to alleviate their suffering. The House reiterated the necessity for international bodies to uphold justice and support the establishment of a free Palestine. The special session was requisitioned to debate the current situation in Palestine. Taking part in the debate, Leader of the House Senator Ishaq Dar brought attention to the urgent Gaza issue, underscoring his proactive efforts to address the matter. He revealed that he had dispatched a letter on October 19, advocating for a Senate session dedicated to the Gaza crisis. The senator emphasised the pressing need for immediate action, urging all stakeholders, including the United Nations and other international agencies, to actively engage in resolving the conflict and supporting the people of Palestine. Highlighting the escalating humanitarian crisis, Dar stressed the importance of granting the people of Palestine the fundamental right to live in peace within an independent state. Expressing solidarity with the Palestine cause,

Continued on Page 06

ANNIVERSARY OF TURKIYE PROCLAMATION



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest Sarfraz Bugti, the Federal Interior Minister, Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori, Ambassador of Turkiye Mehmet Pacaci and others cutting cake to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic. - DNA

Pak-Canada agree to strengthen relations

Canadian Minister thanked Pakistan for allowing and facilitating the repatriation of Afghan refugees to Canada

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Canada have agreed to further strengthen their bilateral ties. The understanding to this effect was reached during telephonic conversation between Canada's Immigration and Refugees Minister, Mark Miller with Interior Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti today.

Continued on Page 06

Repatriation policy not centric to only Afghan immigrants

The prime minister said that Pakistan had entertained on its soil for decades those Afghans that had been registered as refugees

ABBAS HASHMI / DNA

LAHORE: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday reiterated that as per government's policy and relevant laws, they were sending back all the illegal aliens and foreigners from the soil of Pakistan as the set deadline of October 31 under the repatriation process draws nearer. He said that such policy was not

PICTURE ON BACK PAGE

centric to only illegal Afghan nationals that had been staying inside the country but encompassed all those undocumented and illegal foreigners. In an interaction with the students of Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) during a special session, the prime minister elaborated that Pakistan had hosted more

Continued on Page 06

FO spox rebukes UNHCR's statement

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Monday said the decision to deport the illegal foreigners residing in Pakistan was in line with the sovereign domestic laws and international principles. Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, in response to a statement by the United Nations High Commissioner (UNHCR), said the decision was "in exercise of Pakistan's sovereign domestic laws, and compliant with applicable international norms and principles." The UNHCR had appealed to the Pakistani authorities to suspend

Continued on Page 06

SBP holds interest rate at 22%

MCP leaves benchmark interest rate unchanged for the next one and half month

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Monday decided to hold the key policy rate at 22%, in line with the market expectations, with the next announcement on December 12. In a statement, the central bank said: "At its meeting today, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to maintain the policy rate at 22 percent." The committee noted that headline inflation rose in September 2023 (31.4%) as expected - a major

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

May 9 a plan of 'filthy individuals'

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Sheikh Rashid told the media in a formal interaction that May 9 was a program of some "filthy individuals", adding that he was with the Pakistan Army yesterday and will always remain so. After the hearing, the Awami Muslim League chief said Justice Waqas Rauf of the Lahore High Court Rawalpindi bench has given a historic decision, adding that he was innocent in all three cases. He further claimed he had lost 30 kilograms of weight, adding he was wearing a coat he last wore in college. He also said his health was not in a good shape and that his medical reports have just arrived.

Karachi has been roiled by corruption

DNA

LIAQUATABAD: MQM Pakistan Deputy Convenor Farooq Sattar has said that there has been looting and corruption in Karachi for the last 15 years. The Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) leader was addressing on Sunday night a public rally here held to mobilise the party workers and masses for upcoming general elections likely early next year. Dr Sattar said the people of Liaquatabad have given their decision in favour of the MQM-P. Regarding Karachi, he said the city would progress if the management was given in the hands of its people. He demanded that all victims of "forced disappearance" be recovered immediately.

Justice Mansoor's dissenting note Military officers, judges accountable under NAB law

In a majority 2-1 verdict, the apex court on September 15 annulled some amendments made to the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO), 1999

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court's Justice Mansoor Ali Shah issued a 27-page dissenting note on the NAB amendments verdict, observing that members of the armed forces and judges are accountable under the accountability laws. In a majority 2-1 verdict, the apex court on September 15 annulled some amendments made to the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO), 1999 during the tenure of the previous Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)-led government. Headed by then-chief justice Umar Ata Bandial, the three-member bench included Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Ijaz U Ahsan. In the dissenting note issued today, Justice Shah said during the course of over 50 dates of hearings in the case, the SC judge said a question was also raised as to whether the judges of the constitutional court and the members of the armed forces enjoy exemption from the NAB Ordinance. "We must, therefore, strongly shun the above

Continued on Page 06

CEC 'satisfied' with Punjab govt

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikander Sultan Raja has expressed satisfaction over the steps taken by the caretaker Punjab government to hold general elections in the province. The statement from the CEC came during a meeting with the interim Punjab cabinet held to discuss the matters related to elections expected to be held in the last week of January next year. A detailed briefing was given by the commission regarding the preparations for the general elections in the province. Provincial election commission members Nisar Ahmad Durrani, Shah Muhammad Jatoi, Ikramullah Khan and Babar Hasan

Continued on Page 06

Inzamam steps down as chief selector of Pak cricket team

There were allegations that Inzamam held shares in a company owned by players' agent Talha Rehmani

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan cricket team's Chief Selector Inzamam ul Haq Monday resigned from his post amid the World Cup 2023 after allegations surfaced that he was a partner in a company that manages players. "People speak without research. Questions were raised on me so I decided that it was better I resign," Inzamam said in a statement. There were allegations that Inzamam held shares in a company owned by players' agent Talha Rehmani. This disclosure sparked concerns regarding potential conflicts of interest, given that Rehmani represents several of Pakistan's leading cricketers, including Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan, and Shaheen Shah Afridi. Furthermore, there are additional queries surrounding whether Inzamam's dual role as both chief selector and a shareholder in a company that represents top cricketers might have an influence on player selection decisions. The development comes as the Pakistan team, on the verge of an

Continued on Page 06

Afghanistan down SL to record crucial win

SPORTS DESK

PUNE: Afghanistan carried on to their fantastic form and defeated Sri Lanka by seven wickets in a comfortable run chase in the 30th match of the ICC World Cup 2023 at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, Pune, India, on Monday. Hashmatullah Shahidi's men recorded back-to-back wins for the first time in the history of the tournament, as before this year's mega event, they had only one victory in two World Cups - 2015 and 2019. Just like their last victory against Pakistan where they chased down 282 with eight wickets to spare, the Afghans played with remarkable temperament and didn't play rash and sloppy shots. Even though they met with an early blow as in-form batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz was removed by Dilshan Madushanka in the first over,

Continued on Page 06

NDRMF's pledge: building Pakistan's climate resilience

DNA

KARACHI : In order to engage effectively with the Private Sector and other relevant stakeholders to further enhance its efforts of resilience building against natural disasters and long-term climate change adverse impacts, the National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) organized a seminar in Karachi. 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. 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 organizations, Corporate Sector Organizations and Business owners.

KHA boosts Pakistan UAE trade relations strongly

DNA

KARACHI : Prominent businessman Kafeel Husain inaugurated the KHA Business International Relations. The event featured the UAE Consul General Bakheet Ateeq Al-Rumaithi as a special guest. The event also saw the participation of various notable individuals, including former Ambassador to the UAE, Mr. Jameel Ahmed Khan, Consul General of the Sultanate of Oman, Eng. Sami Al Khanjari, Consul General of Turkey, Mr. Cemal Sangu, Consul General of Indonesia, Dr. June Kuncoro, President Karachi Business Forum and Think Tank, Mr. Rashid Ahmed Siddiqui, Chairman of Bulgaria Forum, Mr. Sheikh Mohammed Magoon, Ex-Presidents of KCCI, Mr. Majid Aziz, Mr. Tariq Yousuf, Chief Secretary of Sindh, Mr. Mumtaz Ali Shah, Consul General of Morocco, Mr. Ishiaq Baig, Consul General of Yemen, Mr. Ikhtiar Baig, President of Hyderabad Gymkhana, Mr. Agha Taj Mohammed, and other distinguished guests, including Mr. Tariq Mustafa, Mr. Afzal Chamdia, and Mr. Aftab Imam, Chief Commissioner of FBR.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari posing for a group photo graph along with the participants after an event "PRCS Fund raising" at local hotel in Federal Capital.—ONLINE

Germany stance on ME coincides with NATO

Germany has given 150 million dollars in aid to Pakistan and that Germany's balance of trade with Pakistan is favorable to both countries

NAZIR SAYAL

KARACHI: The German Ambassador, His Excellency Alfred Granas, addressing a meeting with the Karachi Council of Foreign Relations (KCFR) said that Germany has been maintaining diplomatic and investment relations with Pakistan for 70 years and that Germany considers this region a very important region. He added that Germany has given 150 million dollars in aid to Pakistan and that Germany's balance of trade with Pakistan is favorable to both countries. Germany has been collaborating in the electronics, medical, and environmental fields. There is no official position of the German government on CPEC but it's a good economic project for Pakistan. Unlike Pakistan which operates coal and nuclear plants, Germany is now closing down nuclear and shifting to renew-

able energy. Replying to a question he said supplying weapons to Ukraine is not against the German constitution. Germany is in NATO and that's its stance on Israel coincides with NATO's NATO stance. He said that there is no consensus on European Defense as proposed by the French president because Germany will have to forego its welfare support program and spend more money on defense expenditure. The Ambassador warded off the question that European leaders don't think for themselves and do what America tells them to do. The Ambassador also said that due to political uncertainty and unfavorable business environments, Siemens Coy and Deutsche Bank have left Pakistan; However, Pakistan has a lot of potential for future growth. Germany's point of view on Israel's statement that the United Nations is ending, the Ambassador

replied that the end of the United Nations can only occur when all of its members decide to leave it, which is something he did not see. The Ambassador was further asked about CPEC the Ambassador said that nobody could blame Pakistan for accepting the investment; however, the benefits and costs of the strings attached to it are for Pakistan to decide. In replying to another question as to how did the energy crisis when gas was cut off from Russia the Nord 1 pipeline was blown up or damaged. GED? He replied that a lot of efforts from their Ministry of Energy had been made by arranging LNG and alternate energy from neighboring countries. Also energy sourcing became more expensive than Russian gas and therefore it had affected their exports too. A question pointed out two important German Organizations that were assisting

Pakistan in development projects both in the social sector and also in infrastructure development. The Ambassador responded that both GIZ and KFW were still active and very active with some ongoing projects as GIZ promotes training, employment, and sustainable economic growth in Pakistan.

Both would be willing to look at viable projects if approached by the Pakistani authorities. In comparison, GIZ is currently more active with some ongoing projects as GIZ promotes training, employment, and sustainable economic growth in Pakistan.

IGP for strict security for anti-polio drive

KARACHI : Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Riffat Mukhtar Raja on Monday ordered police to ensure strict security measures for the five-day long anti-polio drive. He said all the security steps for the drive should be made stricter with coordination at police stations level, according to spokesman for Sindh Police. The provincial police chief said security should be provided to polio teams on the basis of inner and outer cordon in possible sensitive union councils. He said special responsibilities should be assigned to police commandos in all such union councils. Along with the concerned police and commandos, plain clothed personnel should also be deployed in sensitive union councils. Riffat Mukhtar said during random snap checking, picketing and patrolling, strict vigilance should be maintained, suspicious activities should be monitored properly. The IGP ordered that communication and information sharing should be ensured at all levels. District SSPs should monitor the security measures themselves.—DNA

Nawaz Sharif to chair PML-N's high-level huddle after 'almost four years'

The meeting will also mull over commencing of Nawaz Sharif's political activities, sources said, adding that a detailed consultation will be held on the party's election campaign and manifesto

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif will chair the party's high-level meeting today (Tuesday) after four years of self-imposed exile in London. Sources said that the three-time prime minister has summoned PML-N's high-level meeting at Jati Umrh, Raiwand.

The meeting - which will be attended by party president Shehbaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz, Hamza Shehbaz and others - will discuss matters related to country's political situation, general elections and other important issues. The meeting will also mull over commencing of Nawaz Sharif's political activities, sources said, adding that a detailed consultation will be held on the party's election campaign and manifesto. Furthermore, all the presidents at the provincial level will table the names of potential candidates for upcoming general elections. Nawaz Sharif arrived in Pakistan on October 21 after four years of self-imposed exile in London. The former prime minister reached Lahore's historic Minar-e-Pakistan monument, the venue for a grand rally of the PML-N to welcome the former premier, in a helicopter after landing in Lahore from Islamabad. PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif and former finance minister Ishaq Dar accompanied the former premier on the trip to Pakistan from the United Arab Emirates.

Global support bolsters Pakistan's Pre-COP 28 efforts


ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik has stressed the need for collective efforts to address the challenges of climate change, water security, and food security in Pakistan. "Citizens must take steps to protect water resources to achieve sustainable development," the minister said while addressing participants of a Pre-COP 28 conference on "Accelerating the Water-Food Climate Nexus Transformation Pathways for Pa-

kistan" organised by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in Islamabad on Monday. He mentioned that efforts were underway to implement laser land leveling technology to minimise water usage in irrigation while also promoting water safety. He also emphasized the need to raise public awareness about the significance of water and its safety. Dr. Kausar further highlighted the importance of water safety to improve agriculture, food systems, and economic development. He warned that failure to take immediate and bold measures could result in further deterioration of water security.

Mark Smith, Director General of IWMI, pointed out that although Pakistan only accounts for a negligible share of global emissions, the country bears a disproportionate burden of the impacts of climate change. In his inaugural address, Dr Mark identified that although Pakistan is responsible for less than 1% of the world's planet-warming gases, it is still ranked as the eighth most vulnerable country to the climate crisis. He explained that around 92% of Pakistan is classified as semi-arid to arid, and most of the population relies on limited water resources from rivers and aquifers. "We will support the Ministry of Climate Change in creating a position paper on water and climate change for CoP28. The government, policymakers, and provinces of Pakistan must work together to combat climate change," he added. On the occasion, British High Commissioner Jane Marriott OBE emphasized the importance of implementing climate resilience strategies in Pakistan, which is considered one of the topmost climate-vulnerable countries and ranks 32nd in preparedness. She highlighted the need to address the challenges of food and water governance.





ALLAMA IQBAL OPEN UNIVERSITY ISLAMABAD

INVITATION FOR BIDS NOTICE PROCUREMENT OF MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT

Activity Ref. No.	11/2023-24		
Procurement Method	Single Stage-One Envelope [1S1E]		
Date & Time for Submission of Bids	Date:	17-11-2023	Time: 1030 Hours, PST
Date & Time for Opening of Bids	Date:	17-11-2023	Time: 1100 Hours, PST

Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU), Islamabad has allocated funds for procurement of various goods & non-consulting services, planned during the financial year 2023/24 and is intending that part of the proceeds of those funds, will be used to cover eligible payments under the contracts resulting from the respective procurement activities.

The University now invites sealed bids from eligible Suppliers for deliveries of goods against following Lots at AIU Main Campus, Islamabad on **Delivered Duty Paid (DDP)** basis:

S/No	Name of Item	Quantity	S/No	Name of Item	Quantity
Lot-1			Lot-3		
(1)	Professional Laptop	15 Nos	(1)	Study Table/ Office Table	39 Nos
(2)	Network Printer	08 Nos	(2)	Study Chair, Cushioned	36 Nos
(3)	Printer	01 No	(3)	Office Chair	3 Nos
Lot-2			(4)	Double Bed	2 Nos
(1)	LED 50 Inches	03 Nos	(5)	Bed Side Table	25 Nos
(2)	LED 43 Inches	01 No	(6)	Single Bed Blanket	200 Nos
(3)	LED 32 Inches	29 Nos	(7)	Cushioned Metal Chairs for Visitors (3-Seater)	2 Nos
(4)	Biometric Device & Access Control System	05 Nos	Lot-4		
(5)	Photocopying Machine	01 No	(1)	Sound Proofing	01 Job
(6)	Air Conditioner 1.5 Ton (DC Inverter)	10 Nos	(2)	Conference System & Sound System	01 Job

The bidding shall be conducted in line with "Single Stage-One Envelope" procedure of the Public Procurement Rules 2004 and any Regulations, Regulatory Guides, Procurement Guidelines or Instructions issued by the Authority (from time to time) and is open to all potential bidders.

The interested eligible bidders may opt to submit bid(s) for individual or any number of lots, however, separate bid for each lot shall be required. A bidder may be awarded one or more lots if he submits the Most Advantageous Bid provided such bidder meets the aggregated qualification requirements for individual or more lots. Bidders wishing to offer discounts in case they are awarded more than one lot, will be allowed to do so provided those discounts are included in the Letter of Bid.

Bid(s) must be accompanied by a **Bid Security @ of 2%** of the total bid value in Pak. Rupees, in an acceptable form as given in the bidding document.

Bidding Document containing detailed terms & conditions of the bidding process, can be purchased from **Directorate of Purchase & Stores, Storage Building, Behind Block No. 3, AIU Main Campus, Sector H-8, Islamabad. Ph: 051-9250031, 9250035** on submission of written application, duly supported by copies of Income & Sales Tax Registration Certificates and on payment of non-refundable fee in shape of pay order/ demand draft/ call deposit in the name of Treasurer, AIU. The cost of bidding document is **Pak. Rs. 2000/-** (Pak. Rs. Two thousand only).

A **Pre-bid Meeting** shall take place on the date, time and place as follows:

Date:	09 th November 2023
Time:	1100 hours (Pakistan Standard Time)
Address:	Committee Room of Sir Syed Hall, Block No. 24, AIU Main Campus, Sector H-8, Islamabad

The original bid along-with one (01) copy, properly filled in, and enclosed in separate sealed envelopes, duly mentioning the Name & Ref. Number of the procurement activity and the lot(s) for which the bid(s) is being submitted, on the envelopes, must be delivered at the **Committee Room of Sir Syed Hall, Block No. 24, AIU Main Campus, Sector H-8, Islamabad** address by or before **1030 hours PST** on **November 17, 2023**. The bids will be opened at **1100 hours PST** on the same date in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend the opening at the aforesaid address. In case of submission of Bids through courier, the same must reach the Directorate of Purchase & Stores one day before the due date of submission of bids.

Bids received after the due date and time, either by hand or through courier, shall not be entertained in any case. Electronic submission is not allowed.

This advertisement is available at website of PPRA & AIU at www.ppra.org.pk and www.aiou.edu.pk/tender-notices, respectively.

AWAIS SALEEM
Director
Directorate of Purchase & Stores
Allama Iqbal Open University, Sector H-8, Islamabad
Phone: 051-9250031, 9250035

PID (I) No. 2606/23

National Days and Armed Forces Days

OCTOBER

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

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

Enquiry

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

Romania, Pakistan cooperation in defence field exemplary, says envoy

Ambassador Preda acknowledges the exceptional professionalism of the Pakistani Army, the deep patriotism of its men and women in uniform, sacrifices they made in fighting terrorism

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: Acting Ambassador of Romania Eduard Preda has said celebration of the Romanian Army Day has a special meaning, focused on the idea of respect for fallen heroes. Historically, the decision to celebrate the Romanian Army Day on October 25th was a long process that reflects the various stages of the Romanian Army development in the second half of the XX century as well as its contributions on various fronts of the First and Second World Wars. Therefore, the 25 of October is symbolizing the day in which the entire Romanian territory was liberated by the Romanian Army during the Second World War, on 25 October 1944.

He expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day of Romania. Air Marshal Irfan Ahmed of Pakistan Air Force was the chief guest. Ambassador Preda further said, Army Day crowns through its symbolism a whole series of anniversary moments, attended not only by those dressed in military uniform, but by all segments of our society. It became a date with special significance in the calendar of celebration days in Romania. "Today, Romanian Armed Forces, completely reformed and modernized up to the NATO and European Union standards, are assigned to foreign missions, contributing alongside with the allied and partner countries to the common effort of keeping peace and stability worldwide. In compliance with the commitments deriving from the international treaties, agreements and memoranda whose signing party is, Romania had contingents of different sizes from all services – Army, Air and Naval Forces – available to multinational coalitions authorized to carry on peace support operations, humanitarian assistance, within the framework of UN, NATO, OSCE and EU-led Observing, Monitoring, Liaison and Training missions'.

He said for the Romanian Armed Forces, these years of contribution to foreign missions meant the maintenance, almost continuously, of a military force of variable size, integrated into UN, NATO and EU missions carried out in Africa and Asia, in the theatres of operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and Western Balkans. Almost 40,000 Romanian troops took part in different operations and missions out of national borders, gathering a valuable professional experience extremely useful in the transformation and the cooperation enhancement process



of the Romanian Armed Forces with their NATO and EU counterparts. The contribution of the Romanian troops to the collective defence, peace keeping and restoration missions to enforce the UN Security Council Resolutions, of the international legislation and law reveals that the Romanian state complies consequently and in full faith with the commitments agreed with the allies and partners, according to the international legislation and treaties whose signing party Romania is, he added. He said, "Today, unfortunately, we are living in a very complicated security environment. The challenges we have to deal with every day, along with the war going on at NATO, EU and Romanian borders,

all these prove that we need to be ready to defend our common values and freedoms and grant security and stability'. He said, Ukraine's security means European and Euro-Atlantic security. In line with the NATO and European Union's policy, Romania stands in full solidarity with the people and government of Ukraine in the heroic defence of their country, helping Ukraine to uphold its fundamental right to self-defence with unprecedented levels of support as a response to the Russian Federation's full-scale, unprovoked and unlawful invasion of Ukraine. He said he was pleased to underline the excellent cooperation existing between Romanian and Pakistani Armed Forces

which have developed over the years into a true and mutually partnership. Since there is not enough time to elaborate on the multifaceted and complex character of the cooperation, I will only mention that the Pakistani Navy will soon receive their third patrol vessel built at Damen Shipyard Galati, Romania. These vessels will provide the Pakistani Navy with highly effective search and rescue capabilities that will allow it to play an important role in safeguarding international trade routes from piracy and other threats like drugs and human trafficking or terrorism. 'Also, this year, between February 10 and 14, Romania participated in the 9th edition of the multinational naval exer-

cise AMAN 2023, conducted by the Pakistan Naval Forces, held in the Arabian Sea, with 50 participating countries. The Exercise helped participating navies to exchange their experience and knowledge and provided a platform to the participants to nurture their maritime capabilities'. He acknowledged the exceptional professionalism of the Pakistani Army, the deep patriotism of its men and women in uniform, the sacrifices they made in fighting terrorism, their presence in multiple international coalitions authorized to participate in maintaining peace, humanitarian assistance and other operations meant to ease the sufferings of the people in different regions of the world.

Students of coastal areas can apply for HEC Scholarship

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Students of coastal areas of Balochistan province have been called to submit applications for the "Coastal Region Higher Education Scholarship Programme for Balochistan" being executed by the Higher Education Commission (HEC). "The outstanding students of Gwadar, Lasbela/Hub, Kech (Turbat) and Awaran District of Balochistan. The applicants must have completed 12 years of education with at least 50 percent marks in both Secondary School

Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) or equivalent. The applicant must have completed SSC and HSSC or equivalent from a college/institute located in any of the defined districts of Balochistan. Students already enrolled in any BS programme maximum of one academic year/session prior to the announcement of the scholarship are also eligible to apply. The age of the applicant should not exceed 22 years as on the closing date and those who are already

having of any other HEC/ Government scholarship are not eligible to apply for this scholarship. The applicant will have to meet HEC's and the relevant university's criteria for admission while result awaiting students are not eligible to apply. About the selection criteria, the official informed that the scholarships will be awarded on merit and district quota basis and the applicants will be short-listed on the basis of online information/data provided by the applicants.

Sino-Pak Bio health Agri Park inaugurated

DNA

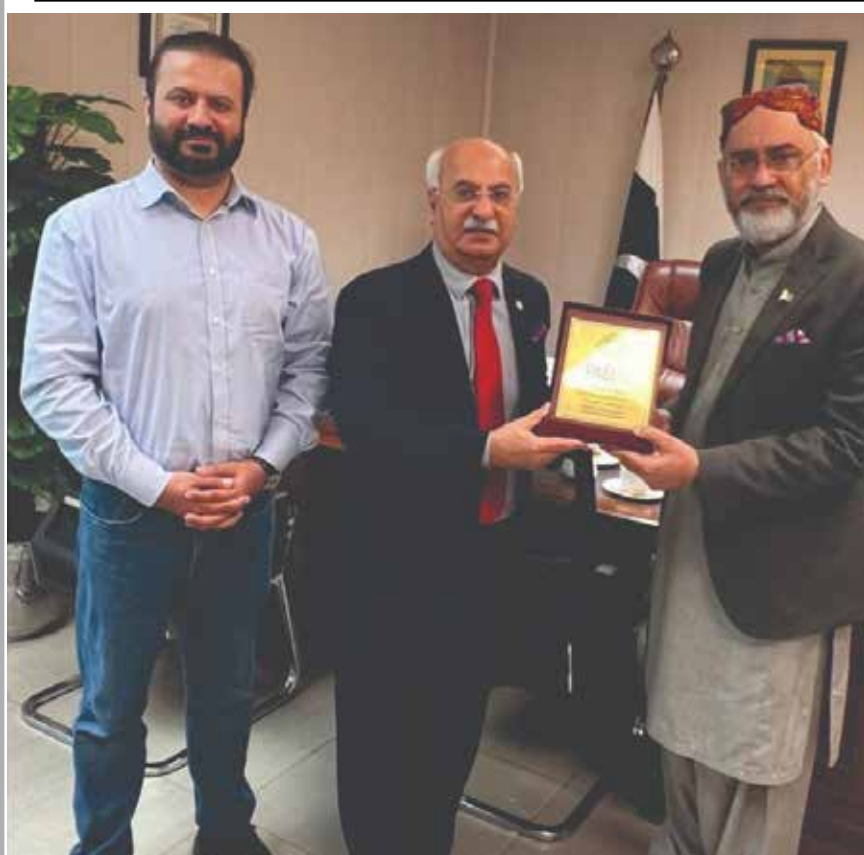
ISLAMABAD: Sino-Pak Bio health Agriculture Overseas Sci-tech Demonstration Park was inaugurated at the University of Haripur, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa last week. The bio health agriculture park is a cooperation between the University of Haripur, Pakistan and Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University Xianyang, China. "By sharing new technologies and crop varieties, the project aims to modernize Pakistan's agriculture, increase productivity, and lift more people out of poverty," Dr. Abdul Ghaffar, Postdoctoral fellow at North West A & F University told Gwadar Pro. He said, the cultivation of Chinese and local high yielding

varieties of different crops and vegetables remained a major area of cooperation. The park will be constructed in three phases. In the first phase, a demonstration area will be established to plant crops with low input and high value addition. In the second phase, more will be invested in high-tech agricultural products. Joint efforts will also be made on talent training and agricultural laboratory establishment. The third phase will focus on agricultural macro monitoring, management and big data. During the meeting, both sides agreed to extend cooperation in exchange for vegetables and other agricultural varieties through modern agricultural cooperation. They discussed many important aspects of the development of agriculture, especially how to increase

yields, the quality of vegetables, fruit and agricultural crops. The Chinese university delegation later also visited the University of Lahore to observe the field trials underway and the application of Nano biochar which proved effective in improving the yield of Okra, gourd, and eggplant. They carried the research research carried out including promotion of vegetable production through bio-healthy agriculture, physiological perspectives of salt tolerance in wheat, impacts of biofertilizers on salt stress tolerance and maize. Bio-health Nano fertilizers adoption and applications for sustainable and climate-resilient farming in Pakistan, production of bio-active oligosaccharides from cross seed mucilage through microbial bioprocessing was also observed.

Special anti polio drive kicks off

ISLAMABAD: A country-wide five-day anti-polio campaign is commencing from Monday (today) in three districts of KP and 10 districts of Balochistan where children under the age five will be administered the polio vaccine along with the supplementary dose of vitamin A. According to officials of Emergency Operation Center Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, during the 5-day campaign more than one point two million children up to five years of age will be administered anti-polio vaccine drops, private news channel reported. In Balochistan, polio vaccination campaign is being conducted in Awaran, Dera Bugti, Gwadar, Hub, Jafarabad, Naseerabad, Sohat Pur, Khuzdar, Lasbela and Usta Mohammad districts. Health officials said the challenge of polio still existed and emphasized the need for all to work together to eradicate the menace. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Khurshid Barlad presenting the shield to Tourism Development Corporation Managing Director Aftab ur Rehman Rana along with Fahad Barlas.—DNA

Clearing bank to promote awareness about utilizing RMB in Pak, China trade

ISLAMABAD: RMB clearing bank is to promote awareness and understanding within Pakistan's banking and business sectors about crucial factors involved in utilizing RMB in bilateral trade, Gwadar Pro reported. The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) Karachi Branch has hosted a "RMB Clearing Bank Grand Opening Ceremony", marking a significant milestone in China-Pakistan financial collaboration. The prime objective of the RMB clearing bank is to promote awareness and understanding within Pakistan's banking and business sectors about crucial factors involved in utilizing RMB in bilateral trade, enhance capital circulation quality, and foster seamless technology and talent exchange. The ceremony, attended by distinguished guests, showcased ICBC Pakistan's pivotal role as the first RMB clearing bank in South Asia, strengthening the enduring friendship between China and Pakistan. On the occasion, ICBC also inked strategic collaboration agreements, strengthening its commitment to fostering financial cooperation and innovation. GPA begins water supplying project to Gwadar Free Zone North Islamabad, October 30 (G): Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) has set into motion water supplying project to Gwadar Free Zone North spreading over the area of around 2221 acres. Completion timeframe is scheduled in January 2024. Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. Water will be supplied through two different sources. One source will be from 1.2 MGD seawater desalination plant recently completed on June 30 at Gwadar Port area. Second source will be from old Airport' water supply line network with storage capacity of 5.6 million MGD. The network is connected with Shadi Kor Dam and Sawar Dam. Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) already completed 158km pipeline from the Shadi Kor and Swad dams. With the completion of water distribution project, two industries including Agvon and Hangeng will receive 400 cubic meters water per day. Other beneficiaries will be upcoming industries in Gwadar Free Zone North.—DNA

Briefs

Nation pays tribute to 'Dildar Pervaiz Bhatti's on his 29th death anniversary

ISLAMABAD: Renowned TV and radio presenter Dildar Pervaiz Bhatti was remembered on his 29th death anniversary on Monday where social media users and people from all walks of life have paid rich tributes to his unforgettable services in the entertainment industry. He was born in Gujranwala on November 30, 1948, and got his early education in the same city. Dildar received many trophies by winning debating contests throughout his school and college days, the PTV news channel reported. Bhatti started his career as an English lecturer at Government College Sahiwal. After one year, he joined Historical Government College Lahore and started his new life. His career in the entertainment industry started with Radio Pakistan in the early 70s, when he hosted a programme 'Sohni Dharti'. He also worked in the Pakistan Television Corporation Lahore. Bhatti got an opportunity to host a university challenge-style TV show 'Takra', which made him a household name of that time. It was the first quiz programme in the Punjabi language. Bhatti also hosted the programmes 'Mela', 'Yadish Bakhair' and 'Panjnad' which gave him huge fame and respect worldwide. He died of a brain haemorrhage soon after performing at an event in New York on October 30, 1994, at a very young age.—APP

Death anniversary of famous filmmaker, music composer Kh Khurshid observed

ISLAMABAD: Death anniversary of renowned filmmaker, writer, director and music composer, Khawaja Khurshid Anwar was observed on Monday. Born on March 21, 1912 he was widely credited for his music for 227 films, six scripts, direction of three movies and production of six films. Khawaja Khurshid composed music for several famous movies including Intazar, Ghoonghat, Chingari, Hamraz, Mirza Jutt and Shireen Farhad. Khawaja Khurshid Anwar was also the founder of Radio Pakistan's signature tune. Khurshid Anwar was credited as being one of the most original and inventive music directors of his generation. He was also the Programme Producer (Music) at All India Radio in 1939. Before his return to Lahore from India in 1952, he had composed popular songs for films like Ishaara, Parwana and Singaar, a private news channel reported. Anwar formed a team which included Masud Parvez as director, Syed Imtiaz Ali Taj as writer, Qateel Shifai and Tanvir Naqvi as songwriters which produced movies like Intezar, Jhoomer and Zehr-e-Ishq from 1956 to 1958 which opened the industry to new ideas. In recognition of his achievements, he was awarded Nigar Award and Sitara-e-Imtiaz by the government of Pakistan. Khurshid Anwar died on October 30, 1984 in Lahore after a protracted illness and was laid to rest at Miani.—APP

Clean energy Pakistan's top priority, says Energy Minister

The ambassador appreciated the efforts of Pakistan for the transition of energy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali has said that clean energy was the top priority of Pakistan. He stated this while talking to the Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan Jacob Linulf who visited the Power Division here Monday, said a press release. The minister said that the world was witnessing a much-needed transition towards clean energy in the wake of climate change. Pakistan, being more vulnerable to impacts of the global climate change, has also to adapt to and mitigate the Climate Change at the country level, he said. He said that the government of Pakistan had recently approved the National Electricity Plan 2023 which provided guidelines, implementation mechanisms and tools for the realization of the National Electricity Policy goals for the power sector. The Plan 2023 targets to have a share of 40 percent from renewables (including hydropower) by 2025 and 60 percent by 2030, he told. The minister said that Denmark's support based on their expertise and experience would certainly be beneficial for Pakistan in making the transition towards cleaner and greener energy mix and in fulfilling Pakistan's commitments towards Climate Change targets and Sustainable Development Goals. The brief of the update on Danish Energy Transmission Initiative (DETI) project was also



discussed in the meeting. The ambassador expressed his aim to take the cooperation between the two countries to the next level. The minister discussed the possible plan to expand sustainable energy, particularly focusing on wind and solar energy. Power Sector plays an important role in Climate Change mitigation and accordingly the government is giving top priority to just energy transition in Pakistan. He said that the true success of the transition was to have the real impact in the area of sustainable energy. The aim is to gradually decrease the tariff and move towards utilization of indigenous resources, he

expressed. The minister stressed on the importance of mapping out a plan in collaboration with Denmark as it has already completed its energy transition. The updates of the DETI project, the government-to-government contact and the stakeholders were discussed in the meeting. There are two thematic areas of the project, one being energy planning and modelling, and the other being the integration of renewable energy. The agenda for the Conference of Parties (COP-28) meeting was also discussed. There will be two scenarios discussed in COP-28 with respect to DETI. The one scenario

will be the green scenario where the progress of wind and solar energy will be discussed and the other scenario will be the economic aspect. The grid constraints were also taken into consideration. The minister said that the agenda will be designed to attract maximum green investment in Pakistan. For future collaboration, it was decided that the analysis of the existing transmission and distribution network in order to identify the bottlenecks and recommend a way forward for induction of more renewable energy capacity, especially with regards to the Interconnection Ready Zones

(IRZs) identified in the Location Study carried out by the World Bank will be done. The DETI will provide advice and recommended measures to decrease the impact of seasonal demand variations (between summer and winter) in order to improve energy supplies while maintaining system stability, especially considering the impact of new VRE additions as per IGCEP 2022-31. The minister said that the power division aimed for progressive and extensive cooperation with Denmark to achieve its green energy milestones. The ambassador appreciated the efforts of Pakistan for the transition of energy.

LHC orders de-sealing of Lal Havelli

RAWALPINDI: The Lahore High Court (LHC) Rawalpindi Bench on Monday ordered the de-sealing of Lal Havelli on the petition filed by Sheikh Sidique in the ownership dispute case sealed by Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB). According to details, the LHC Justice Mirza Waqas Rauf while hearing the petition filed by the elder brother of the former interior minister Sheikh Rasheed remanded back the decision of ETPB and ordered to rehear the ownership case of Lal Havelli. Meanwhile talking to the media, Sheikh Rasheed said that Lal Havelli was a private property and the funerals of my parents and brothers took place here. Condemning the incidents of May 9, he praised the role of Pakistan Army for the stability of the country and said that Chief of the Army Staff General Asim Munir and DG ISI Nadeem Anjum were the pride of nation. Rasheed said that he will contest the next election on two national assembly seats from Awami Muslim League platform against PDM alliance. Earlier, Sheikh Sidique had challenged the sealing of Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed's Lal Havelli, by the ETPB on September 21.—APP

PTDC planning to establish TIC at Gwadar airport

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) was planning to establish a modern Tourist Information Center (TIC) at New Gwadar International Airport to facilitate the foreign and local tourists about their destination. Talking to APP here on Monday, a PTDC official said the establishment of TIC would provide comprehensive information to tourists thronging to Pakistan from various countries to enjoy the beauty of recreational sites of Balochistan province. An official said that TIC would not only play a pivotal role in promoting tourism globally but would also emphasize the need for state-of-the-art facilities. He highlighted the growing significance of Gwadar as a tourist destination, attracting visitors from across the country and around the world. He said that Caretaker Minister of State for Tourism Wasi Shah was committed to construct Tourist Information Center at Gwadar airport as soon as possible to provide all kinds of information and facilities to tourists. He further said that Wasi Shah made it clear that he would not tolerate any incompetence within his ministry.—APP

Pak earns \$136.880m by exporting transport services during July-August

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan earned US \$136.880 million by providing different transport services in various countries during the first two months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the corresponding period of last year. This shows a decline of 9.96 percent as compared to \$152.020 million earned through the provision of services during the corresponding months of the fiscal year (2022-23), the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

(PBS) reported.

During the months under review, the exports of sea transport services witnessed a decrease of 44 percent, going down from \$35.840 million last year to \$20.070 million during the months under review. Among the sea transport services, the exports of freight services dipped by 69.74 percent from \$28.120 million last year to \$8.510 million whereas the exports of other sea transport services however increased by 49.74 percent from \$7.720 million to \$11.560 million current year, the PBS data

revealed.

The exports of air transport witnessed nominal decline of 1.23 percent going down from \$112.050 million last year to \$110.670 million during July-August 2023. Among the air transport services, the exports of passenger services decreased by 1.77 percent, from \$73.340 million to \$72.040 million, whereas the exports of freight services dipped by 33.65 percent, from \$6.390 million to \$4.240 million, in addition, the export of other air transport services increased by 6.40

percent from \$32.320 million to \$34.390 million. Meanwhile, the exports of road transport services during the months under review witnessed a growth of 111.11 percent going up from \$2.520 million to \$5.320 million during this year, it added. Among the road transport services, the exports of freight services witnessed an increase of 3.57 percent from \$0.840 million to \$0.870 million, while the export of postal and courier services decreased by 49.07 percent, from \$1.610 million to \$0.820 million, the data revealed.

Global energy transition offers opportunity

ISLAMABAD: Despite solid growth, South Asia faces a risky outlook, says the World Bank (WB) in its latest regional economic update, urging countries to fully capitalize on the global energy transition to help boost growth. 'South Asia Development Update: Toward Faster, Cleaner Growth' says that constrained by slowing growth and fiscal challenges, South Asia's governments have limited room to help their economies make the most of the global energy transition. It says, the global energy transition presents an opportunity to boost productivity and investment, create jobs, cut air pollution, and reduce reliance on fuel imports. Even with limited fiscal space, countries can encourage firms to adopt more energy-efficient technologies through market-based regulations, information campaigns, broader access to finance, and the provision of reliable power grids. Improvements in energy efficiency could accelerate progress toward both economic and environmental goals in South Asia, it says adding the region uses twice as much energy as the global average to produce each unit of output. While South Asian firms are enthusiastic adopters of basic energy-efficient technologies, they lag in the adoption of more advanced technologies. According to the report, the energy transition would reshape South Asia's labor markets, adding almost one-tenth of the region's workers are employed in pollution-intensive jobs. These jobs are concentrated among lower-skilled and informal workers who are may struggle to adjust to job or income losses. While the energy transition can help create new jobs, it could also leave some workers stranded in declining industries. The report recommends a wide range of policies to protect such workers, including providing better access to high-quality education and training, finance, and markets.—DNA

Food Minister for creating awareness about water conservation

He said that in the new era of water risk, governments, businesses, water users and people from all sectors related to water must use all resources and effective measures to protect water

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for National Food Security and Research Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik on Monday emphasized the pressing importance of disseminating awareness regarding water conservation among the masses in order to achieve sustainable growth in the agricultural sector and bolster overall economic development. Addressing the inaugural session of "PRE-COP28 Accelerating The Water-Food-Climate Nexus Transformation Pathways for Pakistan", he said that every member of society has to play its due role in conserving precious water and its resources to maintain food safety and security in the country. British High Commissioner Jane

Marriott OBE, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Henny Fokel De Vries, Ambassador of Poland Maciej Pisarski, Deputy High Commissioner Australia High Commissioner Danielle Cashen, Mission Director USAID Kate Somvongsiri and Director General International Water Management Institute (IWN) Mark Smith were also present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Kausar Abdullah said that the government also worked on laser land leveling to utilize a minimum quantity of water in the irrigation sector. He said that it is the need of the hour to raise awareness among the public about the importance of water and water safety, water security

is the secret of our bright and successful future. Water is an essential component for all humans, forests, agriculture and other living things, but despite its paramount significance, many countries of the world are facing acute water scarcity and are among the water-insecure countries. Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik underscored the relationship between water security and climate security, highlighting the escalating global water risks as a consequence of the tightening grip of climate change on the planet's hydrological system. The minister said that water conservation is indispensable for improving agriculture, and food systems and for economic development.—APP

Business community's role, imperative for economic development

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday said the business community was playing a pivotal role in the development of economy with the promotion of business and enterprises in the country. During a meeting with office bearers of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), he said the economy was invigorated only with business and investment activities. The meeting deliberated upon multiple issues and initiatives including the promotion of business activities in the country. The caretaker government, the minister assured would ensure full support to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry in this regard. He said with the support of the Chamber, maximum cooperation would be provided by the government to resolve the major problems.—APP

2023 Korea-Pakistan Friendship Concert

DNA


ISLAMABAD: The 2023 Korea-Pakistan Friendship Concert, organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea was held at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts on the 27th of October, 2023. The 2023 Korea-Pakistan Friendship Concert was Non-Commercial/Non-Ticketed and open to public and was organized by the Embassy in the celebration and commemoration of the 40th year anniversary of the diplomatic ties between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea. Mr. Muzaffar Ali Burki, the Joint Secretary from the National Heritage and Culture Division, government of Pakistan joined the concert as the chief guest. The event was attended by the ambassadors and the deputy heads of




different embassies, students and faculty members from different universities and the general public. The artists that performed in the concert were two Korean groups

that came to Pakistan all the way from Korea called 'LAON' and 'MOCCOJI' both groups well-versed in playing and singing Korean folk music and giving Korean folk music

a modern touch. Khumaariyan, the very famous Pakistani band of musicians and the students from the National College of Arts, Lahore also performed at the concert. The ambassador of the Republic of Korea shared his optimism in regards to the relations between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea. H.E. laid emphasis on how music and culture has the potential of uniting people across borders. The ambassador of the Republic of Korea mentioned that this concert was more than just a musical event. It was the celebration of the deep-rooted friendship and cultural bond between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea. H.E. mentioned that beyond borders and differences, the universal language of music and culture can transcend barriers and bring people together in harmony.



10 Minutes Drive From The Monal



☎ 051 8770065 / 66 / 67 📞 0300 8881811 / 0300 5221018 / 0345 5555335
 UAN: 051 111 777 778 📱 @dinovalleypk 🌐 dinovalley.pk

G7: patents on hypocrisy and economic coercion

EVEN though they didn't mention it by name, the G7 trade ministers were widely perceived to be referring to China when they called for the removal of import curbs on Japanese food products. Meeting in Sakai, Osaka, on the weekend, they "strongly call(ed) for the immediate repeal of any such measures that unnecessarily restrict trade, including the newly introduced import restrictions on Japanese food products". China is the main economy to have introduced restrictions on imports of Japanese food products. By banning imports of seafood from Japan, China is seeking to protect its own 1.4 billion people. All the oceans are physically connected, while the inland lakes, rivers, and ponds are also linked by underground water channels and the vapor-water cycle. That means the world will pay a heavy price for Japan releasing the nuclear-contaminated water from the stricken Fukushima nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean. Rather than seeking to safeguard the health of the 8 billion people on Earth, the other G7 members have closed ranks with Japan in order to strengthen their "united front" against China. The other six members of the G7 club are tied to Japan's vendor cart of shame. On Wednesday, five staff members of Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings received treatment after having touched some nuclear-contaminated water, which means the six countries cannot plead ignorance of the dangers. The G7 club of Western countries is good at justifying itself. The trade ministers' disingenuous claim that the G7 is opposing "economic coercion" being a prime example of this. To quote the remark of a spokesman for the Chinese embassy to Japan, the G7 has a patent on economic coercion. The Japanese government has pressed ahead with the discharge of the nuclear-contaminated water into the sea, despite the grave concerns expressed by many countries and experts. Japan is passing the risks of the nuclear-contaminated water to the world. The countries have every right to respond to that and take concrete actions to protect public health. It is the G7 that has been threatening the stability of global supply chains by setting import barriers to developing economies' products and curbing exports of their own semiconductor technologies. It's the G7 countries that forget the responsibility they bear for their historical greenhouse gas emissions and disregard their obligations to help the people of developing countries address the risks of climate change. It's the same group of seven countries that is now putting its geopolitical calculations ahead of people's well-being by supporting Japan for the sake of their geopolitical game against China.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 05 Issue: 16

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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

Labor rethink on right to roam

URING a recent House of Commons debate on public access to nature, MPs on both sides of the aisle seized the opportunity to indulge in a spot of bucolic lyricism. William Wordsworth, John Keats, Laurie Lee, John Constable and Beatrix Potter were among those mentioned in dispatches. But the most significant intervention was made by the then shadow minister for nature, Alex Sobel. A future Labour government, said Mr Sobel, would introduce Scottish-style right-to-roam legislation in England, vastly expanding access to woods, rivers and grasslands. Labour would offer people "the right to experience, the right to enjoy and the right to explore". In a country where the right to roam currently applies to only 8% of land, this was an approach that was true to the party's long tradition of campaigning for wider access to the countryside. It is also one which has huge popular support. The news that a policy U-turn is apparently under way is therefore surprising and disappointing. Speaking to the Guardian last week, Labour sources referenced the importance of respecting the needs of landowners and avoid sweeping top-down reforms. It now seems likely that the party's election manifesto will focus merely on modest additions to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (Crow), introduced by New Labour in 2000. This would be a missed opportunity. As Lord Smith – a cabinet minister in that government – has pointed out, Crow was certainly an improvement on what went before. But the act does not include woodland or rivers, and excludes wild camping. It also created a sometimes incoherent patchwork of accessible areas – some of which can only be reached by trespassing on private land – and it failed to address social inequalities. The less well-off and people from a minority ethnic background are far less likely to have easy access to green space, and greenbelt land outside urban areas is generally off-limits. All these deficiencies could be addressed through adopting a Scottish-style presumption of a universal right to roam, with necessary exclusions built in to protect the interests of farmers, landowners and wildlife. As in Scotland, an accompanying and far better publicised countryside code of conduct should be part of a reset in relations between people and the land they live in. If a culture of responsible access to nature can be developed in Ayrshire and Aberdeenshire, the same can be true in North Yorkshire and Norfolk. The result would be a straightforward increase in human wellbeing. As plentiful research has indicated, greater immersion in natural environments comes with significant physical and mental health benefits attached. But in the midst of a biodiversity crisis which threatens one in six species in Britain with extinction, a wider ecological perspective should also be borne in mind. Opening last May's parliamentary debate, the Green MP Caroline Lucas quoted the American biologist Robert Michael Pyle, who asked: "What is the extinction of a condor to a child who has never known the wren?" As new generations are tasked with the stewardship of the Earth in a time of extreme environmental peril, forging a greater sense of connection with nature will deepen the desire to care for it.



US multilateral approach in Israel-Palestine Conflict

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The Biden administration must seize this moment to correct the situation. Although conventional wisdom has been that US presidents do not want to engage in Middle East peace talks in a presidential election year, shirking this responsibility is no longer sustainable.

President Biden should announce that he will invite Israelis and Palestinians to attend, along with his key counterparts from the United Nations, European Union, United Kingdom, and Arab partners Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates

SINCE the horrific October 7 attacks by Hamas and Israel's subsequent punitive bombing campaign against Gaza, the US government has rapidly expanded its reach into the Strip of Gaza. President Joe Biden, Secretary of State Anthony Blanken and other senior US officials have made one or more trips to Israel and neighboring countries in recent weeks. The US Army has strengthened its deterrence position. American diplomats began working to coordinate the international response to the worsening humanitarian crisis. But as Israel prepares to launch a ground attack on Gaza and fears grow that the conflict will spill over into neighboring countries, the United States is making more efforts to respond to the war between Israel and Hamas and its broader regional repercussions. In the short term, America should focus to prevent the conflict from escalating, end the fighting as quickly as possible while minimizing civilian casualties, including locating and freeing hostages and ensure that humanitarian aid reaches Gaza freely so that Palestinian citizens have access to basic food, medicine and shelter. The United States must be clear with the Israeli leadership that Israel's right to self-defense is not a blank check to launch any military operation with reckless disregard for civilian consequences and that eliminating Hamas is acceptable. The price is unlikely to be an acceptable option. However, it should also be clear that Washington has failed to fulfill its responsibilities for decades. During successive administrations, the United States,

which seeks to monopolize mediation efforts, has described its willingness to engage in serious peace efforts as realistic, criticized the deteriorating situation in the Palestinian territories and ignored both the rise of the Israeli desire. Israel is determined to obstruct a peaceful transition to an independent Palestinian state. The Biden administration must seize this moment to correct the situation. Although conventional wisdom has been that US presidents do not want to engage in Middle East peace talks in a presidential election year, shirking this responsibility is no longer sustainable. President Biden should announce that he will invite Israelis and Palestinians to attend, along with his key counterparts from the United Nations, European Union, United Kingdom, and Arab partners Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. Morocco. To Washington to start a new process to resolve the outstanding issues of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The process will not be easy or quick, but delay would make clear to Israelis and Palestinians alike that a peaceful path that allows both sides to pursue their legitimate aspirations is no longer possible or acceptable. The United States needs to stay on the path to maintain a clear focus to pursue a course of action that serves what is best. Washington should ensure that Israeli and Palestinians remain confident that they have strong support from the United States and other like-minded democracies to take appropriate actions

to defend their people and sovereignty against threats to them.

The United States publicly and privately stress on Israel that it expects Israel to adhere to the rules of war, which means that military means must be avoided to use with the greatest protection of innocents lives. The United States should ensure that the robust humanitarian assistance needed reaches people in need in Gaza and throughout the region, including through aid deliveries and evacuations. Make every effort to contain the conflict and prevent it from turning into a regional conflict. In parallel, start planning next steps the next day with other like-minded people, including countries in the region as well as available Israelis and Palestinians. Planning for the next must take into account how Palestine will be governed initially and over time in post-war Gaza. How can the capacity and effectiveness of the Palestinian Authority in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip be improved and strengthened? And whether there are transitional measures under which the United Nations and or a group of regional states temporarily share governmental responsibilities on the basis of the commitment of the Israeli and Palestinian leadership to resume the path towards a two-state solution. Part of rebuilding this path will require developing and implementing measures that can improve the lives of Palestinians in a tangible and measurable way. Ultimately, the goal should be to create a safer environment.

Israel-Palestine conflict and pulse of public

Amina AG



ISB is in dire need for international collaboration, particularly with individuals of influence ("Gora's" or White people). This collaboration would bring more business, facilitating the development of skillsets and technological know-how. The need of the hour is to truly thrive in science and technology, we must exert efforts in research and development, prioritize education and skill development...

IN the wake of recent discourse regarding the ongoing social campaigns on boycotting Israeli products to support Palestine's quest for freedom, there are challenging times for both Israel and Palestine. Presently, Palestine is experiencing severe abuse of power by Israel, leading to bloodshed, terror, and crises for innocent Palestinians. It is imperative that we stand for justice and advocate for those who are suffering anywhere in the world. Palestine is facing an onslaught, and humanity is enduring profound hardship in the region. We express our solidarity with the people of Palestine during these times. However, considering the potential economic ramifications for a country like Pakistan, it's crucial to reconsider this approach. It's high time to shift away from this nonchalant mindset. If we are inclined to boycott, let's do it intelligently target their technology, medicines, esteemed authors, books, software, mobile phones, and even social platforms. However, the reality is, we can't take this route because we lack a foundation of our own. Amid a severe economic crisis, skyrocketing inflation, and a surge in extremism, the proposition to ban thriving businesses is counterproductive. Consider the multitude of branches of these international companies operate in Pakistan. Their entire workforce consists of Pakistanis, our own people. If they lose business here, the consequence is clear—they'll close their companies, akin to other major names like Honda, Suzuki, Toyota, and so forth. We'll be left grappling with heightened unemployment, inflation, and socio-economic tensions. Is that truly our desired outcome? The notion that one must burn their own home to save someone else's is flawed. We, ourselves, lack the capacity to aid other na-

tions. With nearly 40% of our population living below the poverty line and inadequate resources to meet basic human needs, our current plan seems oblivious to the escalating misery and tensions amidst our economic crisis. While we are in no condition to deter international aggression towards us. Humanity is facing tough times, where cruelty and abusive power reign unchecked. While our empathy for the innocent people of Palestine is strong, our approach is misguided. We must repair our own home before attempting to fix others'. Look closely at the plight of innocent Balochis, minorities, and women. Notice the collective struggle to put food on our tables and survive these challenging times. Introducing more unemployment into our home at this juncture could lead to a collapse. ISB is in dire need for international collaboration, particularly with individuals of influence ("Gora's" or White people). This collaboration would bring more business, facilitating the development of skillsets and technological know-how. The need of the hour is to truly thrive in science and technology, we must exert efforts in research and development, prioritize education and skill development, offer substantial support to tech startups and entrepreneurs, and advance infrastructure development. Fostering collaboration with the global scientific and tech community is imperative, involving partnerships with international research institutions, active participation in collaborative projects, and the exchange of knowledge and expertise. We cannot evade the responsibilities of tomorrow. Only when we have cultivated our own economy and are not reliant on other nations can we entertain the idea of boycotting their products. Until then, let's temper our emotions and utilize our intellect to bring prosperity and stability to our

socio-economic crisis. Speaking up for others is a human obligation, and we'll persist in doing so. The world needs to witness both sides of the picture, not just the one painted in white. Refusing to support humanity equates to racism. Let's hope for a unified global stance to champion the cause of innocent people and bring an end to war. When one corner of the world is bleeding, we're all affected, and it's our duty to advocate for the innocent. Failure to halt the war could result in its end being brought about by our collective demise. Islamabad should approach this issue with strategic thinking rather than emotion. It's a matter of humanity that demands our vocal advocacy. Employing diplomacy and forming alliances is crucial to collectively address and express concerns over the alarming situation in Palestine and Gaza on the international stage. In this era of humanity, the catastrophic conditions necessitate the use of legal international channels to bring the issue to the forefront and halt the brutality against the Palestinian people. The ongoing war must come to an end. Islamabad's position is unequivocal; emphasizing that diplomacy is the crucial key to halting the ongoing conflict. However, it is imperative to handle this situation with utmost wisdom. Injustice anywhere perpetuates constant tension, affecting not only Muslims but the entire global community. It is incumbent upon us to declare our solidarity with the innocent, firmly oppose war, and stand resolutely with those who are unjustly suffering. It's essential to recognize that standing against world powers requires a comprehensive strategy, incorporating diplomatic acumen, economic resilience, technological prowess, and a steadfast commitment to shared global values. [Email: amina.a.ghafoor@gmail.com](mailto:amina.a.ghafoor@gmail.com)

Briefs

Fierce clashes as Israel...

FROM PAGE 01
Israel has accused Hamas of locating command centres and other military infrastructure in Gaza hospitals, which the group denies. Air strikes could also be heard in the southern towns of Rafah near Gaza's border crossing with Egypt, the only one not blocked by Israel, as well as east of Khan Younis, where Palestinian media said Hamas clashed with Israeli troops. Phone and internet cuts which blacked out Gaza on Friday had eased and OCHR said on Monday services were "largely restored" although telecom providers have said some areas on the north were still down. Israel has said 1,400 people were killed when Hamas-led militants stormed through the south of the country on Oct. 7 and took 229 hostages. Hamas has released four so far and said 50 have been killed in retaliatory strikes.

Pak Senate calls for...

FROM PAGE 01
The senator condemned the relentless Israeli bombing, which had led to the tragic loss of over 8,000 lives. He lamented the recent bombing of a hospital that resulted in the devastating loss of more than 500 people, including patients and medical staff, and called it a stark violation of humanitarian norms. On his turn, Leader of the Opposition Dr Shahzad Waseem emphasised Pakistan's deep historical and religious affiliation with Palestine, condemning the atrocities committed against the innocent Palestinian populace. He echoed the sentiments of the global community, emphasising the need for unrestricted protests, both within Pakistan and abroad, to highlight the gravity of the situation.

Inzamam steps down...

FROM PAGE 01
Exit from the World Cup in India, is already facing criticism, and the board is also involved in a controversy after the PCB head leaked skipper Babar Azam's private conversation with a top board official. In the statement, Inzamam — who was appointed to the post in August — mentioned that he was available if the cricket board would initiate an investigation. "People are making statements without research. I told the PCB to do their research. I have no relation with the player-agent company," he clarified. Inzamam, who served in the same post from August 2016 until July 2019, said he was "saddened" by such allegations. "I told the board that if they had any doubts, they should investigate it."

Afghanistan down SL...

FROM PAGE 01
Rahmat Shah and Ibrahim Zardari provided the much-needed stability to their batting. Rahmat Shah was the key to Afghanistan's run chase as the right-handed batter played an important knock of 62 runs off 74 balls with seven fours. After Shah was removed by Kasun Rajitha, skipper Shahidi and Aizatullah Omarzi built a match-winning partnership of 111 runs and cruised their side to an important win. Shahidi scored 58 runs while Omarzi contributed 72 runs as they helped their side chase down the 242-run target in 45.2 overs.

Pak-Canada agree to...

FROM PAGE 01
The Canadian Minister thanked Pakistan for allowing and facilitating the repatriation of Afghan refugees to Canada from Pakistan which continues through various flights. He also invited the Interior Minister to visit Canada. Speaking on the occasion, the Interior Minister said Pakistan has been hosting Afghan refugees for decades and no action is being taken against legally staying Afghan nationals.

Bradburn banking on team, fate for semi-final berth

Bradburn refused to criticise umpire Alex Wharf for turning down a leg-before decision against South Africa's Tabraiz Shamsi off Haris Rauf with just eight runs needed for victory in the team's last game

SPORTS DESK

NEW DELHI: Pakistan coach Grant Bradburn on Monday shrugged off claims his players haven't been paid for five months, insisting the squad was determined to rescue their faltering World Cup campaign. Pakistan are on the verge of a group stage exit at the tournament and need to defeat Bangladesh on Tuesday to preserve any slim hopes of making the semi-finals. As well as four defeats in six games so far, Pakistan's campaign has been plagued by reports of no pay as well as delays in agreements over central contracts.

"In terms of the noise around the team, look, playing for Pakistan and working within this team is a huge privilege," said Bradburn on Monday. "To prepare ourselves and give our best are the things that we focus on, the things within our control and there are great expectations and we're desperate to make our nation proud." The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said that contracts have been sent to India and the players have signed. That should pave the way for payments to be organised, the PCB claimed. Former New Zealand all-rounder Bradburn said the team is hurting from their woeful World Cup where wins over the Netherlands and Sri Lanka have



Pakistan are on the verge of a group stage exit at the tournament and need to defeat Bangladesh on Tuesday. — DNA

been followed by defeats to India, Australia, Afghanistan and South Africa. "We're in a position that we didn't want to be," said Bradburn whose team also has a poor net run-rate of

-0.38. "We were determined at this stage of the tournament to be in control of our destiny but we're not. "That hurts the group and all we can do now is control what we can control, and that is prepare well for three remaining pool games and then allow fate to be hopefully leaning on us in terms of our semi-final hopes from there." Bradburn refused to criticise umpire Alex Wharf for turning down a leg-before decision against South Africa's Tabraiz Shamsi off Haris Rauf with just eight runs needed for victory in the team's last game. A review ended up declaring the decision as "umpire's call" before South Africa pulled off a heart-stopping one-wicket win in Chennai on Friday. "The simple answer to that (umpire's decision) is that we try to focus on the things we can control. And look, the umpires control the game and those things are unfortunate for us, but that's part of the game." Bradburn said Bangladesh will be a tough challenge even though the Tigers have lost five out of six and will definitely be eliminated if they lose again on Tuesday. "We respect Bangladesh hugely," said Bradburn. Pakistan have won 33 one-dayers and lost just five against Bangladesh. However, Bangladesh have won four of the teams' last six clashes. "They're a quality group of cricketers but we are well prepared for them," said Bradburn.

Rubiales given three-year ban by FIFA

SPAIN: Former Spanish football federation president Luis Rubiales has been banned from all football-related activities for three years by Fifa. Rubiales kissed forward Jenni Hermoso on the lips following Spain's Women's World Cup final win over England. The kiss, which forward Hermoso says was not consensual, sparked outcry, with Rubiales eventually stepping down from his role in September. Hermoso later filed a legal complaint against Rubiales. On Monday, world governing body Fifa announced the three-year ban for breaching article 13 of its disciplinary code. It confirmed the case concerned the "events that occurred during the final of the Fifa Women's World Cup on 20 August 2023, for which Mr Rubiales had been provisionally suspended for an initial period of 90 days".

"Fifa reiterates its absolute commitment to respecting and protecting the integrity of all people and ensuring that the basic rules of decent conduct are upheld," a statement read. It added that the decision remains "subject to a possible appeal". Article 13 of the Fifa disciplinary code relates to offensive behaviour and violations of the principles of fair play. Rubiales, 46, claimed the kiss at the post-match presentation ceremony was "mutual" but Hermoso has consistently said it was not. The incident overshadowed Spain's historic victory in Sydney, Australia. Last month, a hearing at the national court in Madrid considered a criminal complaint of sexual assault and coercion against Rubiales, who was subsequently banned from going within 200m of Hermoso. He has denied the allegations. Rubiales' actions drew widespread criticism, with a majority of the World Cup-winning squad boycotting the national team until changes were made within the football federation. World Cup-winning manager Jorge Vilda was sacked in September and is being investigated as part of the criminal case against Rubiales. Hermoso, who said her image had been tarnished by the kiss, returned to the national side in October and scored an 89th-minute winner against Italy. — Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Editor Daily Islamabad POST Ansar M Bhatti, Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov and Acting Ambassador of Romania Eduard Preda joined Nishtar Hockey Club for practice session, at the Naseer Bundha Hockey Stadium. — DNA

Shahid Afridi condemns invasion of Babar's privacy

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's cricketing community has been abuzz with a growing controversy over leaked WhatsApp messages involving Pakistan's cricket captain, Babar Azam. The controversy was ignited when former wicketkeeper of Pakistan, Rashid Latif, claimed that the head of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) management committee, Zaka Ashraf, had been neglecting Azam's attempts to contact him through calls and text.

In response to Latif's claims, Ashraf vehemently denied any direct contact with Azam. However, Ashraf's denial was accompanied by a controversial move, as he went to great lengths to substantiate his claim by sharing Azam's personal WhatsApp message during a live TV program

messages. In response to Latif's claims, Ashraf vehemently denied any direct contact with Azam. However, Ashraf's denial was accompanied by a controversial move, as he went to great lengths to substantiate his claim by sharing Azam's personal WhatsApp message during a live TV program. This revelation featured a conversation between Babar and PCB's Chief Operating Officer, Salman Naseer. Amidst this controversy, former Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi expressed his strong disapproval while talking on a local sports channel, calling the act as "disgraceful" violation of trust and ethics. "Sorry to say, but this is a disgraceful act. You don't do that. You don't defame your own country. You don't defame your own players. How can you leak someone's private messages? That too of our captain, Babar Azam?" Afridi questioned. Afridi also made reference to Waseem Badami, a renowned Pakistani television host, who claimed that the PCB chief asked him to leak the private messages. Afridi's condemnation extended to the PCB chief should these allegations be proven true. "Waseem Badami is saying that the chairman asked him to leak the conversation? What kind of act is this? Even if the chairman has committed this act, then I am sorry to say, but it's extremely disgraceful," he further added.

Matthew Mott blasts Morgan's dressing room unrest claims

LONDON: England coach Matthew Mott on Sunday said the team remains an "incredibly tight-knit unit" despite a 100-run thrashing by India which condemned the defending champions to a fifth defeat at the ICC World Cup 2023. Mott's claims came after former England captain Eoin Morgan insisted that there were splits in the camp which were causing the champions to underperform during the ICC World Cup 2023. "I've never come across a sports team that has underperformed like this, given the level of expectation," 2019 World Cup winning skipper Morgan told Sky Sports. "There's something within the team that is definitely unsettled. I think there's something else going on — there has to be." However, Mott was quick to refute the claims. "I don't think that at all. I think anyone that's inside our tent at the moment would say that despite our results, we're an incredibly tight-knit unit," he said. "I can only say from my opinion the group's been incredibly strong in that part. If you see our training sessions, they're full of fun. People are putting their arm around each other, trying to help them." Pressed on the topic and Mott said: "Eoin's entitled to his opinion. He's obviously been away for a couple of weeks with the birth of his child. "He hasn't been in and around the rooms, but I'll certainly take that up with him and have a chat to him." Jos Buttler's England suffered a fifth loss in six games at the ICC World Cup 2023 to all but slip out of the semi-final race. Their bowlers kept India down to 229-9, but the batting once again collapsed to 129 all out against an Indian attack led by Mohammed Shami and Jasprit Bumrah. England's batting folded for 156 in their previous loss to Sri Lanka, but Mott said the team will not throw in the towel in their next three matches. "I think it's tough. I'm sick of coming up and speaking to you guys about the same thing, but that's what professional sport is," he said. "And we've got to keep pushing hard here. We've got a fair bit to play for to the back end of this tournament." — Agencies

Jessica Pegula beats Rybakina in WTA Finals opener

Rybakina 7-5, 6-2 in opening match of round-robin singles competition at WTA Finals

OUR CORRESPONDENTS

CANCUN: Jessica Pegula improved to 48-0 in 2023 when winning the first set, grabbing 10 of the last 12 games to beat Elena Rybakina 7-5, 6-2 in the opening match of round-robin singles competition at the WTA Finals. Neither woman had won a match previously at the season-ending championships for the women's tennis tour. Pegula went 0-3 in Fort Worth, Texas, a year ago, while Rybakina is making her debut appearance at the event for the top eight players in the world. Top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka, who lost the 2022 WTA Finals title match to Caroline Garcia, collected the first 11 games and overwhelmed Maria Sakkari 6-0, 6-1 in Sunday's other singles match. Sabalenka is trying to become the first player since Serena Williams in 2013-14 to reach the final in consecutive years. Sakkari is ranked No. 9 but moved into the field in Cancun when French Open finalist Karolina Muchova, who is No. 8, withdrew because of an injured right wrist. Pegula, who is ranked No. 5, trailed by a break at 5-3, and Rybakina served for the opening set there. But Pegula broke and

reeled off four games in a row to take that set. That put her in good position to win, given her success as a front-runner this year. This was the tour-leading 42nd victory on a hard court this season for Pegula, a 29-year-old American whose parents own the NFL's Buffalo Bills and NHL's Buffalo Sabres. Both women finished with 12 winners, and this was the key statistic: Pegula made only 16 unforced errors; Rybakina made more than twice as many, 35. Rybakina is ranked No. 4 after winning Wimbledon in 2022 and finishing as the runner-up to Sabalenka at

the Australian Open this January. The WTA announced in September that it would be holding this tournament in Cancun under a one-year agreement. Some players, including Rybakina, raised concerns this weekend that the temporary court was not ready for practice until too close to the beginning of competition. "This is something... I'm not happy with. I'm pretty sure the rest of the players also (are) not happy," Sabalenka said. "It's not great. I mean, usually we need like three to four days to kind of like adjust to the conditions. ... I hope that next year, WTA will do a better job," she said.

reared off four games in a row to take that set. That put her in good position to win, given her success as a front-runner this year. This was the tour-leading 42nd victory on a hard court this season for Pegula, a 29-year-old American whose parents own the NFL's Buffalo Bills and NHL's Buffalo Sabres. Both women finished with 12 winners, and this was the key statistic: Pegula made only 16 unforced errors; Rybakina made more than twice as many, 35. Rybakina is ranked No. 4 after winning Wimbledon in 2022 and finishing as the runner-up to Sabalenka at



Military officers, judges...

FROM PAGE 01
generally professed opinion and be clear that members of Armed Forces and the judges of the constitutional courts are fully liable under the NAB Ordinance, like any other public servant of Pakistan," the judge observed. Justice Shah observed that the courts should decide cases as per the law and Constitution even if the public sentiment is against them, highlighting the principle of "trichotomy of power," saying no state organ can claim superiority over the other. "Courts must rise above the 'hooting throng' and keep their eyes set on the future of democracy, undeterred by the changing politics of today. Courts unlike political parties don't have to win popular support. Courts are to decide according to the Constitution and the law even if the public sentiment is against them," wrote Justice Shah.

CEC 'satisfied'...

FROM PAGE 01
Bharwana also attended the huddle. During the session, the CEC assured that the elections will take place on their scheduled time and the electoral body would fully support the interim government to hold free and fair polls in the province. CEC Raja said delimitation of constituencies will be completed by November 30 and added that the ECP is ready to conduct transparent, free and fair general elections. "The Election Commission is completely satisfied with the steps taken by the Punjab government so far," Raja was quoted as saying. During the meeting, CM Naqvi said the caretaker government will cooperate with the electoral body for conduct of peaceful and transparent polls.

Repatriation policy not...

FROM PAGE 01
than 4 million Afghan refugees on its soil for the last 40 years under the Geneva Convention, despite the fact that it was not a signatory to that. He said more than 1 million foreigners had been categorized as illegal who had been staying in Pakistan without legal and valid documents. They were being encouraged to return back to their native countries, he said, adding if they wanted to return to Pakistan with the required legal documents and valid visas, there would be no restriction. Replying to a question regarding an incident involving Afghan nationals, the caretaker prime minister said that he had already given direction to the relevant authorities of the interior ministry to ensure dignity of the repatriated women and children as there might be vulnerable groups.

SBP holds interest...

FROM PAGE 01
factor in determining the key policy rate. However, the SBP said, it is projected to decline in October and then maintain a downward trajectory, especially in the second half of the fiscal year. The MPC expects inflation to decline significantly in October due to downward adjustments in fuel prices, easing prices of some major food commodities, and a favorable base effect. "The Committee also reaffirmed its earlier assessment that inflation will decline substantially from the second half of FY24, barring any major adverse developments," it added.

FO spox rebukes...

FROM PAGE 01
the deportations as a November 1 deadline looms. "We have seen the press statement by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan (IFRP) applies to all illegal foreigners residing in Pakistan, irrespective of their nationality and country of origin," she said in a statement. Baloch said all foreign nationals legally residing or registered in Pakistan were beyond the purview of this plan. "The Government of Pakistan takes its commitments towards protection and safety needs of those in vulnerable situations with utmost seriousness," she said.

Briefs

3 killed in
Filipino
village
polling

WEB DESK

MANILA: At least three people were killed in the restive southern Philippines on Monday as millions turned out to vote for village leaders following months of deadly poll-related violence. Security forces were on high alert across the country as the long-delayed nationwide vote for more than 336,000 council positions got underway. While villages are the lowest-level government unit, the council posts are hotly contested because they are used by political parties to cultivate grassroots networks and build a support base for local and general elections. More than 300,000 police officers and soldiers have been deployed to secure polling stations in over 42,000 villages. In the capital Manila, voters waited in long lines to cast their ballots at schools being used as polling venues. "This is important for the people... we need to be able to consult someone over our problems," said Rosemarie Garcia in the hard-scrabble neighborhood of Tondo. — Agencies

EU invests 60
million in
Uganda
power plant

KAMPALA: The European Union plans to invest 60 million euros (\$63 million) in upgrading one of the Uganda's largest hydropower plants, helping partially plug a financing gap for the country's ageing energy infrastructure, a top diplomat said on Monday. The Nalubaale and Kiira hydropower plant complex located at the source of River Nile at Jinja in Uganda's east produces about 380 megawatts (MW) and is Uganda's oldest power plant, commissioned in 1954. South African power giant Eskom ran the plant under a 20-year concession that ended early this year, after which the government retook control. "We'll be investing some 60 million euros ... in the rehabilitation of Kiira and Nalubaale hydropower plant in order to provide reliable energy for Uganda's industrialisation," Jan Sadek, the EU's ambassador to Uganda, told a mining conference in the capital Kampala. He did not say when the works would begin or whether the funding would be a grant or credit.

Sadek said the funding would be advanced under the EU's global gateways strategy, which is designed to help meet the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Uganda's energy infrastructure is underfunded and the ageing of parts of the network has caused widespread outages and sometimes breakdowns. Uganda has an installed capacity of about 1,400 MW of power, mostly from its hydro dams, and that will rise to 2000 MW when a Chinese-built plant, Karuma, also on River Nile is commissioned this year. — APP

German
economy
shrinks

FRANKFURT: German output shrank slightly in the third quarter, official data published Monday showed, as Europe's largest economy continued to battle high interest rates, elevated energy costs and a manufacturing slowdown. The economy contracted by 0.1 percent quarter-on-quarter, federal statistics agency Destatis said in preliminary figures. The performance was better than expected, with analysts surveyed by FactSet predicting a contraction of 0.2 percent. More surprisingly, Destatis said revised data showed the economy stagnated in the first quarter and did not shrink as previously thought, meaning Germany dodged a technical recession of two consecutive quarters of contraction around the turn of the year. The agency also updated its second-quarter figure, saying output grew by 0.1 percent instead of showing zero growth as earlier data had suggested. — APP

Azerbaijan's enchanted lakes
offer breathtaking views

The Land of Fire is blessed with so many natural attractions, such as mountains, valleys, rivers, and lakes. Azerbaijan's Masazir and Goygol lakes stand out for their splendid views

DNA

MASAZIR LAKE: Masazir Lake is surely a staggering piece of beauty. Considered to be one of the rare pink lakes in the world, it changes color depending on the season, time of day, and weather conditions. There are 9 pink lakes in the world, 8 salt lakes, and one with fresh water, located in Canada. Masazir has a reddish color due to the high concentration of chloride and sulfate. This true marvel of nature is located 20 kilometers from the capital of Azerbaijan, Baku. Since 1813, the salt has been extracted from the reservoir - its reserves are approximately 1,735 million tons. The lake was once used for health purposes - people took mud baths here to treat bronchitis, nervous system dis-

orders, and skin and joint diseases. The best time to visit Masazir is early in the morning when the first rays of the sun turn the lake waters into a soft pink. Goygol Lake Goygol Lake is another wonderful gift of nature that always enchants everyone without exception. Also known as "Blue Beauty", the lake appeared after an earthquake that hit the area in the Middle Ages, by collapsing the mountain that blocked the path of the river. The flow of water created a lake of pure mountain water on top of the Caucasus Mountains. The banks of the lake are covered with forests and rich of flora and fauna. Over 423 types of trees, shrubs, and medicinal plants grow here. In the surrounding forests, you can meet wolves, foxes, deer, jackals, bears, lynx, and many other animals.

Sudan talks offer no
respite for Darfur

WEB DESK

WAD MADANI: Sudan's rival generals have returned to the negotiating table in Saudi Arabia, but the fighting shows no sign of easing as they wrestle to control the country's second-largest city. In six months, the war of attrition between army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), has killed more than 9,000 people and displaced nearly 3 million. Despite the carnage, neither side has managed to seize a decisive advantage. In Khartoum, the air force has failed to dislodge the RSF, which still controls the capital's streets while the army holds the country's east. On Thursday, peace talks resumed in the Saudi city of Jeddah, which Riyadh and Washington said Sunday were aimed only at securing a ceasefire deal and the delivery of humanitarian aid. "The talks will not address broader political issues," statements from both the

Saudi foreign ministry and the US State Department added. To break the stalemate at the exact moment negotiations restarted, the RSF claimed it had captured Nyala, the South Darfur state capital and the largest city in the massive western region of Darfur - the RSF's traditional stronghold. With much of Sudan's already fragile infrastructure destroyed in the war, Nyala - with an airport, railway and a key highway intersection - could be essential for resupplying forces in the area. Strategic importance he paramilitaries have held the Om Dafoug border post with the Central African Republic for the past three months and have reportedly taken control of additional supply routes to Khartoum, 1,000 kilometres (620 miles) to the northeast. Nyala is also "the largest military centre in the three states of South Darfur, Central Darfur and East Darfur", a former army officer told AFP, requesting anonymity because he was not authorised to speak to the media. In taking the city, the RSF would cement its hold on Darfur, where ethnically motivated

killings by the RSF and allied militia have triggered a new probe by the International Criminal Court. The ICC has since the 2000s been investigating war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide in Darfur, committed by the forerunner of the RSF, the Janjaweed militia. Beyond its military strategic importance, Nyala is also the economic heart of Darfur - a region the size of France that is home to around a quarter of Sudan's 48 million people. The city "has economic ties with Chad, the Central African Republic and South Sudan, extending even as far as Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo" which has a consulate in the city, local journalist Ezzeldin Dahab told AFP. On Thursday, as representatives from both sides met with US and Saudi mediators in Jeddah, the RSF released footage of Daglo's brother and deputy Abdelrahman Daglo - on whom the United States has imposed sanctions - leading troops into Nyala. "Heavy losses" The paramilitary force immediately announced the city and its army infantry division had fallen. However,

the army responded that the 16th infantry division had repelled the attack and inflicted "heavy human and material losses" on the enemy. According to residents, the RSF fighters have spread out across the city. "RSF fighters are deployed everywhere and we haven't seen the army since Wednesday," resident Adam told AFP from the Al-Wadi neighbourhood, asking to be identified only by his first name for fear of reprisal. Ali, who lives in another district of Nyala, said the two forces had held different parts of the city since the war began, and that the RSF "takeover was done in stages". After months of skirmishes, the latest stage came last week, when "the RSF attacked the 16th division with 300 armoured vehicles", an army source told AFP. Previous US and Saudi attempts to mediate in the war yielded only brief truces, and those were systematically violated. Analysts said they believed Burhan and Daglo had opted instead to wage a war of attrition, seeking to extract greater concessions at the negotiating table later.

EU-Australia
free trade
talks collapses

SYDNEY: A free trade deal between the European Union and Australia has unravelled despite early optimism, with Canberra saying that it could take years until negotiations resume. Since 2018 the painstaking discussions have picked through everything from chemicals to cosmetics, but have repeatedly come unstuck over market access for Australian products such as beef and sheep meat. Australian agriculture minister Murray Watt said EU negotiators had refused to budge during the latest round of talks, held on the sidelines of a Group of Seven (G7) meeting in Japan. "Unfortunately we just didn't get the movement on the EU side that was required," he told the media reporters. Watt said it was unlikely talks would resume during "this current term of parliament" - indicating the Australian government may not return to the negotiating table until after the 2025 general election. "I think it will be quite some time before any Australian government or any EU leadership is able to negotiate a deal. And that's a bit of a shame," Watt added. A European Commission spokesperson said it had been optimistic about striking a deal in Osaka, but that Australia had "re-tabled agricultural demands that did not reflect recent negotiations". "The European Commission stands ready to continue negotiations," the commission said in a statement. French trade minister Olivier Becht late last week flagged a "number of very positive advances", raising hopes that an agreement would be reached. The two sides have tussled over how far Europe should open its markets to Australia's sheep meat, beef and sugar exports. At the same time, Europe wants better access to Australia's rich deposits of "critical minerals", easing its reliance on Russia and China for the key ingredients in clean-energy products such as wind turbines and electric car batteries. In July, the two parties failed to reach a deal during talks in Brussels, with Australia saying it had not been guaranteed "significant" access to the European market for its agricultural products. —DNA

UK job
postings fall,
indicating
cooling
market

LONDON: Britain's jobs market is showing more signs of cooling with online vacancies and pay offers falling, according to data from job search website Adzuna which will be noted by the Bank of England before this week's interest rate decision. Online job adverts fell by 1.6% in September from August, bucking the usual end-of-summer bounce in job postings, and advertised salaries fell by the same amount, Adzuna said. "September traditionally sees a surge in job market activity but the figures we're seeing this year could signal a cooling off of the job market, which had shown signs of resilience earlier in the year," Adzuna co-founder Andrew Hunter said. The BoE, which is widely expected to leave interest rates at their 15-year high of 5.25% on Thursday, is trying to gauge how much inflationary heat remains in the jobs market. Its task has been complicated by problems at Britain's official statistics office in conducting its surveys of the workforce. The Office for National Statistics said earlier this month its measure of job vacancies fell to a two-year low of 988,000 in the three months to September.

Thousands of
Ukrainians run to
honor war victims

KYIV, UKRAINE: Around 2,000 Ukrainians ran a one-kilometer race in Kyiv, wearing bibs displaying the name of a person instead of a number. Each runner chose one person to whom they dedicated their run. Spouses, children, friends, siblings, neighbors, and colleagues ran for someone they knew who either was killed, taken captive or injured during Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine. The crowd cheered the runners, and many in the audience wept while waiting for participants at the finish line. Amid the lively backdrop of Ukrainian songs, joy and sorrow intermingled in the air as life carried on despite the war. The organizers of the run called it the "World's Longest Marathon" - "because no race has lasted as long as Ukraine has been fighting for its freedom." Around 13,000 people across the world registered for the event. Those competing remotely could run any distance they wanted and were encouraged to post about it on social media. The race was hosted by Nova Post, Ukraine's most prominent private delivery company, with the dual purpose of honoring the defenders and raising funds to bolster Ukraine's air defense system. "We want to thank and support our defenders, doctors, rescuers, sappers, and volunteers - all the strong and resilient marathoners who do not stop even for a moment for the sake of each of us," said the project description. Nova Post has delivered starter kits to 65 countries across all continents, said Inna Popereshniuk, co-founder of Nova Post. She dedicated her race to six colleagues who were killed and 17 injured in a Russian attack on the Nova Post depot in the Kharkiv region on Oct. 21. —APP



Lahore: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab Mohsin Naqvi in Lahore. — DNA

15 People
Shot at
Halloween
party

CHICAGO: At least 15 people were shot, including two who were critically injured, when a gunman opened fire during a Halloween celebration in Chicago. The victims, as reported by Chicago police in a news release, consist of six women and nine men aged between 26 and 53. Two of them are still in critical condition. Shortly after 1 am (local time), Chicago officers responded to a report of gunfire and found a man firing a weapon into the location where a gathering was taking place, as stated in the news release. "The offender fled on foot and was placed into custody by responding officers a short distance away," police said. The alleged shooter was found in possession of a handgun when he was apprehended by the police and was subsequently taken in for questioning. The release mentioned that detectives are continuing their investigation into the shooting, and as of Sunday morning, "there is no further information" available. Earlier on Sunday, at least one person was killed and two more were left injured after a shooting incident in Laurel, Delaware in the US, informed the police. This came after the shooting rampage in Maine on October 26, which left at least 18 dead and 13 wounded. Robert Card, the suspect in the incident, was found dead 48 hours later on Friday night. —APP

Opposition triumphs over petro in Colombian elections

Petro, a 63-year-old economist who was elected in August 2022 as the first leftist president in Colombia's history

NEWS DESK

BOGOTA: Colombian opposition candidates largely swept elections for mayors, governors and regional lawmakers, dealing a defeat to President Gustavo Petro's leftist coalition in votes that analysts called a referendum on his government. Petro, a 63-year-old economist who was elected in August 2022 as the first leftist president in Colombia's history, has low poll ratings, and

Sunday's outcome is expected to influence the 2026 presidential election. Petro cannot seek re-election. In the capital of Bogota, the ruling coalition's candidate, Gustavo Bolivar, came in third place for mayor, one of the top government positions after the presidency. In accepting the loss, Bolivar called the result a "punishment vote" over disappointment with Petro's government. Political analyst Sergio Guzman, director of Colombia Risk Analysis, said Bolivar's loss sends

"a very strong message," in spite of insistence from Petro's government that the vote is not a reflection on the president. Carlos Fernando Galan, of the New Liberalism Party, won the Bogota mayoral election with nearly half the vote. Petro congratulated the winning candidates and said he planned to work together. "We will work to articulate their campaign proposals so that we can build together a country that fights corruption, injustice, and faces the climate change crisis,"

he said in a televised address. "It is our duty as rulers to respect the voice of the people." Most candidates are backed by coalitions involving several parties or by signatures from citizens which allow them to run as independents. Voters in Colombia's other two biggest cities, Medellin and Cali, elected as mayor politicians who are strong critics of Petro. Many of the winning candidates had vowed to improve security and promote projects that will create jobs with private sector support. Almost 39 million Colombians were eligible to vote, and the ballots included more than 125,000 candidates. Although campaigning was marked by deteriorating security and threats to candidates, voting largely proceeded without incident. The National Registrar's Office reported two municipalities where voting was suspended due to incidents of violence. Reporting by Luis Jaime Acosta; Writing by Daina Beth Solomon; Editing by Lincoln Feast and Stephen Coates.

Briefs

SA calls for UN force in Gaza

DNA

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa on Monday called for the United Nations to deploy a rapid protection force to protect civilians in the Palestinian enclave of Gaza from further bombardment as Israel steps up its retaliation for a deadly attack by Hamas. South Africa has long been an advocate for peace in the region, likening the plight of Palestinians to its own under the apartheid regime that ended in 1994. In calling for a protection force, South Africa has gone further in its support for the Palestinians than most nations, some of which have called for a ceasefire or the opening of a humanitarian corridor to allow aid into Gaza.

Israel has tightened its blockade and bombardment of Gaza since Hamas fighters stormed into Israel on Oct 7 and killed some 1,400 people. Palestinians in Gaza reported fierce air and artillery strikes early on Monday. "Entire generations of families have been wiped out in Gaza over the last three weeks," the foreign ministry said in a statement. A member of the Palestinian community in Johannesburg had 25 family members killed in an Israeli air strike on Monday morning, the statement said, while family members of a senior Palestinian diplomat in South Africa were killed in their apartment building the day before.

India: Deaths rise to 13 in train collision

DNA

NEW DELHI: At least 13 people were killed and around 50 injured when two trains collided in southeast India, officials said on Monday, updating an earlier toll of eight. The accident occurred late on Sunday after one of the passenger trains overshot a signal between the towns of Alamanda and Kantakapalle in Andhra Pradesh state. A preliminary investigation found that "human error" had led to the collision, the railway ministry said in a statement. "Thirteen passengers have been killed and 50 others are injured. Rescue operations are going on," top local government official Nagalakshmi S. told reporters. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he had spoken with the country's railway minister about the "unfortunate" derailment. "Authorities are providing all possible assistance to those affected," Modi wrote on social media. India has one of the world's largest rail networks and has seen several disasters over the years, the worst in 1981 when a train derailed while crossing a bridge in Bihar state, killing an estimated 800 people. In June, a three-train collision killed nearly 300 people in Odisha state. In August, at least nine people were killed when a coach parked in southern India caught fire as a passenger tried to make tea.

Iran arrests prominent lawyer

TEHRAN: Iranian authorities have arrested a prominent lawyer and human rights defender as she attended the funeral of a teenage girl who died after a disputed metro incident, her husband said Monday. The arrest of 60-year-old Nasrin Sotoudeh took place Sunday in Tehran during the funeral of 17-year-old Armita Garawand, who died a day earlier after nearly a month in intensive care. Sotoudeh, who was awarded the European Parliament's 2012 Sakharov prize for her human rights work, has been arrested several times in recent years. "My wife was arrested during the funeral of Armita Garawand along with others," Reza Khandan, Sotoudeh's husband, told AFP, saying she was "violently beaten" during the arrest. The teenager had been taken to Tehran's Fajr Hospital on October 1 after an incident on the metro which left her in a coma, with sharply diverging views over how she was injured. -Agencies



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting of the Caretaker Federal Cabinet. - DNA

'West seeking to expand Ukraine war to Asia-Pacific'

'NATO countries promoting arms race in region; increasing military presence and frequency, scale of military drills'

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said the West wants to expand the conflict in the Ukraine to the Asia-Pacific region, Russian state media reported, citing comments made at a Beijing defence forum on Monday. Speaking at the Xiangshan Forum, China's biggest military diplomacy event, Shoigu said NATO is covering up a build-up of forces in the Asia-Pacific region with an "ostentatious desire for dialogue". Russia's TASS news agency reported. Shoigu said NATO countries were promoting an arms race in the region, increasing their military presence and the frequency and scale of military drills there. US forces will use information exchanges with Tokyo and Seoul on missile launches to deter Russia and China, Shoigu said. He also accused Washington of trying to use climate change and natural disasters as an excuse for "humanitarian interventions". Shoigu said the emergence of new security blocs such as the Quad and AUKUS

Ukraine hit Russian air defense system in Crimea

KYIV (Ukraine): Ukraine said it had struck part of Russia's air defense system in annexed Crimea overnight, as Moscow said it repelled a major attempted missile strike on the peninsula on Monday. Kyiv has increased attacks on the Black Sea peninsula, annexed by Moscow in 2014, since it launched a counteroffensive against Russian forces earlier this year. "The Armed Forces successfully hit a strategic object of the air defense system on the western coast of occupied Crimea," the Ukrainian army's strategic communications unit said on social media. It gave no further details and Russia gave no official comment. Later on Monday, Russia said its air defenses had successfully shot down eight Ukrainian missiles fired at the peninsula. "On October 30, at around 13:00 (1000 GMT), an attempted attack by the Kyiv regime with eight Storm Shadow cruise missiles at targets on the Crimean peninsula was stopped," Russia's defense ministry said. "As a result of air defense systems repelling the attack, all missiles were shot down," it added. Storm Shadows are British-supplied missile systems with a range of over 250 kilometers (155 miles) that enable Kyiv to hit targets deep behind the frontlines in the east and south of Ukraine. One person was injured from falling debris, the Russian-installed governor of Sevastopol said. Russian military bloggers had overnight reported Ukraine was stepping up its attacks on the peninsula. The influential Rybar Telegram channel - which is close to the Russian army - said Kyiv had launched a "combined attack." - Agencies

undermined the role of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and nuclear non-proliferation efforts in the region. At the same time, he said, Russia's move to revoke its ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty did not mean the end of the agreement, and Russia was not lowering its threshold for the use of nuclear weapons. "We are only seeking to restore parity with the United States, who have not ratified this treaty," Russia's RIA news agency quoted Shoigu as saying. "We are not talking about its destruction." Shoigu said that Moscow was ready for talks on the post-conflict settlement of the Ukraine crisis on further 'co-existence' with the West, but that Western countries needed to stop seeking Russia's strategic defeat. Making clear the conditions for such talks were not in place yet, Shoigu said: "It is also important to ensure equal relations between all the nuclear powers and permanent United Nations Security Council members who carry special responsibility for upholding peace and global stability."

Sit-in outside Parliament to be addressed through negotiations

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Interior, Senator Sarfraz Bugti Monday emphasized the need for negotiations to resolve ongoing sit-in outside the Parliament, led by the political party BNP-M and civil society members. Speaking here at the Senate, he said that while the BNP-M had initially been granted permission for a press conference and a token protest at the Islamabad Press Club, they subsequently moved their demonstration to the Red Zone, where they continued to stage their sit-in. Bugti underscored the prominent role of seasoned Politician Akhtar Khan Mengal in the protest, considering his party's involvement in various governmental capacities over the last decade. Senator Raza Rabbani, addressing the issue during the Senate session, highlighted the protesters' concerns, particularly regarding the chronic problem of missing persons and alleged death squads operating in Balochistan. Rabbani emphasized the need for swift action to put an end to such issues, suggesting that Parliament should address the matter through legislative means. Furthermore, he brought attention to the recent appointments made by the Caretaker government in various key institutions, including NAB, NADRA and now in Federal Government Services Hospital (Poly Clinic), and Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS). He criticized the appointments, urging the caretaker government to focus on crucial daily affairs instead. In response, Minister Sarfraz Bugti emphasized the need for a comprehensive and objective debate in Parliament, specifically regarding the issue of missing persons, which he suggested was interconnected with incidents of self-disappearances. Bugti proposed that legislation be enacted within the next 2-3 months after elections to address these pressing concerns, highlighting the need to curb the activities of miscreants and insurgency in Balochistan. Reiterating the right to peaceful protest, he assured that the demonstrators, including experienced politicians and workers, would not face any form of mistreatment. He further emphasized the importance of seeking permission for protests staged outside the Parliament, underlining the government's commitment to resolving matter through constructive dialogue and discussion. - DNA

PTI President Elahi sent on 14-day judicial remand

LAHORE: A local court in Lahore on Monday approved a 14-day judicial remand of incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Parvez Elahi in a case relating to illegal appointments in the Punjab Assembly. After completion of his two-day physical remand, Elahi, who remains imprisoned in Rawalpindi's Adiala jail, was produced before the court of Judicial Magistrate Aamir Raza by the officials of the Anti-Corruption Establishment. The ACE, however, pleaded with the court to extend his physical remand for 10 more days to complete the investigations. Elahi was initially arrested on June 1 from outside his residence in a Rs70 million graft case related to the embezzlement of development funds allocated for the Gujrat district. Since then, the former Punjab chief minister has been released several times only to be arrested immediately in different cases. At the outset of today's proceed-

ings, the ACE's lawyer apprised the court that they had to recover the suspect's mobile phone. The lawyer maintained that Rs4.1 million were recovered from Elahi's house, adding that the ACE has to probe into the matter. On the other hand, Elahi's counsel argued that the interim government was lodging fake and baseless cases against his client. "The government is subjecting [Elahi] to political victimisation by arresting him [again and again] in fake and baseless cases," he said. After hearing the arguments from both sides, the magistrate rejected ACE's request and sent him to jail on a 14-day judicial remand. According to the details provided by an ACE spokesperson, Elahi made 12 illegal recruitments in the Punjab Assembly on grade 17 positions. The candidates were recruited in the provincial assembly by altering the records. "The illegal recruitments were made through fake testing services," said the spokesperson. -DNA

Jordan asked US to deploy Patriot air defence missiles, army says

Cites fears of Israel's relentless bombardment in Gaza spreading into a wider conflagration

AMMAN: Staunch US ally Jordan asked Washington to deploy Patriot air defence systems to bolster its border defence at a time of heightened regional tensions and conflict, the spokesperson for the country's army said on Sunday. "We asked the American side to help bolster our defence system with Patriot air defence missile systems," Brigadier General Mustafa Hiyari, Jordan's army spokesperson, told state television. US Patriot missiles were stationed in the kingdom in 2013 following an uprising in northern neighbour Syria where the kingdom feared a civil war could spill over and ignite a regional conflict. Jordan has been increasingly nervous that Israel's relentless bombing of Gaza since a deadly assault on Israel by Hamas from the enclave on October 7 could also spread into a wider conflagration, officials said. The Patriot, considered one of the most advanced US air defence systems, is usually in short supply, with allies around the world vying for it. Hiyari denied social media reports that the Pentagon was using its bases to transport some of the equipment and arms from its depots to Israel to bolster its defences in its war in Gaza. The Pen-

tagon has used Jordanian military installations in recent months, however, as Washington strengthened its military posture in the region, Western diplomats said. The United States has sent a significant amount of naval power to the Middle East in recent weeks, including two aircraft carriers, their support ships and added thousands to the number of troops in the region. Senior Biden administration officials including Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin have warned of the risk of major escalation in attacks on American troops in the Middle East and that Iran could seek to widen the Israel-Hamas war. The kingdom has hundreds of US trainers in the country and is one of the few regional allies who hold extensive exercises with US troops throughout the year. Jordan's army is one of the largest recipients of Washington's foreign military financing and runs in the hundreds of millions of dollars. The kingdom has also requested more aid to tackle drones used in a raging multibillion dollar drug war along the border with Syria, which Amman blames on pro-Iranian militias who hold sway in southern Syria. - Agencies

LHC orders unsealing of Lal Haveli

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Lahore High Court's Rawalpindi bench on Monday ordered unsealing of Awami Muslim League chief Sheikh Rashid's Lal Haveli. Justice Mirza Waqas Rauf of the LHC Rawalpindi bench conducted hearing of the case related to sealing of Lal Haveli. Former interior minister Rashid was present in court along with his lawyers Abdul Razaq and Sardar Shehbaz. The court ordered the authorities to immediately unseal Lal Haveli. The court also declared the decision to revoke ownership deed of Lal Haveli null and void. The court, while remanding the decision of Evacuee Trust Property Board chairman, issued directions to the Board to hear the Lal Haveli case afresh. The court said Rashid and his brother Sheikh Siddique's pleas should be heard again and the complainants should be given a fair chance to present their stance in the best interest of justice.

Qureshi moves IHC for post-arrest bail

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Monday moved Islamabad High Court for post-arrest bail in all cases registered against him. IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the plea with objections. Chief Justice Aamer Farooq said the petitioner had not attached documents in order which resulted in raising objection. He asked the lawyer to refile the application after arranging the documents in orderly manner.

Humanity demands an immediate ceasefire, says Angelina Jolie

CALIFORNIA: Fierce air and artillery strikes rang out in Gaza early on Monday as Israeli troops backed by tanks pressed into the Palestinian enclave with a ground assault that prompted more international calls for civilians to be protected. Israel's military said it had struck more than 600 militant targets over the past few days as it expanded ground operations in the Gaza Strip, where Palestinian civilians are in dire need of fuel, food, and clean water as the war enters its fourth week. Actor and philanthropist Angelina Jolie is another voice to have joined calls for immediate ceasefire amid intensifying humanitarian crisis. Sharing a carousel post on her official Instagram account, the Academy Award winner began, "Like millions around the world, I have spent the last weeks sick and angry at the terrorist attack in Israel, the death of so many innocent civilians, and wondering how best to help." She further expressed, "What happened in Israel is an act of terror. But that cannot justify the innocent lives lost in bombing a civilian population in Gaza that has nowhere to go, no access to food or water, no possibility of evacuation, and not even the basic human right to cross a border to seek refuge." - Agencies

MURREE SPARKLETTS
Bottled Drinking Water

WATER TASTES BEST IN GLASS!!

CARBONATED WATER ALSO AVAILABLE IN GLASS BOTTLE

330ml, 750ml, 3L

For Sales & Supply Contact:

Rizi Abbas 03325599169	Kaiser Waheed 03325808422	Riaz Muhammad 0335 5111043
---------------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------