



Islamabad POST

Friday, October 27, 2023

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Detailed News On Page-08

Pak committed to SCO spirit for, says FM Jilani

Detailed News On Page-08



Hasan Ali ruled out of SA clash

Detailed News On Page-06



IHC restores Nawaz's pleas in Avenfield, Al-Azizia references

NAB informs IHC division bench led by CJ Aamer Farooq it has no objections to revival of Nawaz's pleas

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Thursday restored Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif's appeals against accountability courts' conviction verdicts in the Avenfield and Al-Azizia cases. Nawaz, a thrice-ousted prime minister, appeared in person before an IHC division bench — led by Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and comprising Justice Miangul Hasan Aurangzeb — which heard his pleas against the sentences awarded to him in the two graft cases. The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) informed the bench that it has no objections to revival of Nawaz's pleas. When asked if NAB would defend the judgments against Nawaz in its arguments upon the restoration of appeals, the anti-corruption body said that it will review the case and evidences before giving its arguments. The capital's high court had granted a protective bail to the PML-N supreme on October 19, allowing him to return safely to the country and appear before the court on October 24. Then, on October 24, after the anti-graft watchdog told the court that it had no objections to the pleas filed by Nawaz, the three-time deposed premier's bail in the Avenfield and Al-Azizia cases was extended till October 26. Moreover, Punjab government approved suspension of Nawaz's sentence in Al-Azizia reference on that same day. The ousted prime minister was handed down a 10-year jail sentence in the Avenfield properties corruption reference for owning assets beyond known income in July 2018 and a year for not cooperating with the anti-graft watchdog — both of the sentences were to be served concurrently. In the Al-Azizia Steel Mills corruption reference, Nawaz was sentenced to seven years in jail on December 24, 2018, and then taken to Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail from where he was shifted to Lahore's KotLakhpat jail the next day. The elder Sharif was released from jail in March 2019 and traveled to London for medical treatment in November 2019 after permission from the Lahore High Court. Later, the IHC declared him a proclaimed offender in both cases in December 2020.

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IHC rejects Imran's plea in cipher case

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday rejected PTI Chairman Imran Khan's petition challenging his indictment in the cipher case. IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq disposed of the former premier's plea but directed that Imran be provided a "fair trial". The cipher case pertains to a diplomatic document that the charge sheet claims was never returned by Imran. The PTI alleges that the document contained a threat from the United States to oust Imran from office. The PTI chief was convicted and sentenced to three years in prison in the Toshakhana graft case on Aug 5. The IHC suspended his sentence on August 29 but he remained in jail because he was on judicial remand in the cipher case. On Sept 30, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) had submitted a challan — a charge sheet — in a special court established under the Official Secrets Act naming PTI leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Imran as the principal accused in the case. On Monday, both the PTI leaders were indicted in the case. According to sources, the two PTI leaders pleaded not guilty and subsequently, the judge summoned the witnesses on Oct 27 and asked the prosecution to place evidence to substantiate the allegations. Subsequently, Imran petitioned the IHC against his indictment, saying that the judgment was passed in "sheer haste". It also urged the court to declare the exercise of framing of charges to be "illegal, unlawful and against the settled principles of the

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NATIONAL FOUNDATION DAY OF KOREA



ISLAMABAD: Sami Saeed Caretaker Minister for Planning and Development along with Murtaza Solangi, Caretaker Information Minister, Governor Sindh, Kamran Tessori, Ambassador of Korea, Park Kijun and others cutting the cake on the occasion of the National Foundation Day and the Armed Forces Day of Republic of Korea. — DNA

Qatar sentences 8 Indian Navy ex-officers to death

They are involved in selling military secrets to Israel

DNA

DOHA: A court in Qatar has handed death penalties to eight former Indian Navy officers, who were working for a Qatari company, for selling military secrets to Israel — sending New Delhi on a diplomatic roller-coaster ride as it has vowed to challenge the verdict. The Indian foreign ministry, while deeming the judgment "shocking," acknowledged the confidential nature of the

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Petrol prices likely to be increased

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The petrol prices in Pakistan are likely to be increased by Rs2.43 per litre as the oil price in the international market are moving upward. The prices of oil in the global market reached \$90.72 per barrel that was being sold at \$87.74 per barrel 15 days ago. Conversely, the prices of diesel were going to be reduced by Rs5.65 following a decline in the diesel prices from \$114.65 per barrel to \$112.53 per barrel in the international market. The refinery cost of diesel has been decreased from Rs231.38 to Rs225.74.

No chance of delay in election: ECP

The election schedule will be announced after publication of the delimitation of constituencies, assures spokesperson

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday ruled out the possibility of a delay in the polls and assured that a schedule will be issued after the process of delimitation of constituencies is completed. "After the publication of the delimitation of constituencies, the election schedule will be announced. There is no chance of a delay in the elections," said a spokesperson in a statement. The official added that all the preparations have been completed for the elections. The spokesperson said that the first phase of the delimitation process has been completed and the second one will conclude once the objections to the preliminary delimitations are filed. The official said the ECP would start hearing objections on the delimitation from October 30-31 and a final list will be published on November 30. "The election schedule will be

Continued on Page 06

PTI leaders meet Maulana Fazlur Rehman

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders, headed by AsadQaiser, called on JamiatUlema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) President MaulanaFazlurRehman and discussed the country's overall 'political situation', ARY News reported on Thursday. The delegation of PTI leaders — which included bigwigs AsadQaiser, Ali Mohammad Khan, Junaid Akbar and Barrister Saif — condoled the MaulanaFazlurRehman's mother-in-law. During the meeting, sources told

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Briefs

US envoy calls on PM

DNA

ISLAMABAD: U.S. Ambassador Donald Blome met today with Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar to discuss a broad range of critical bilateral issues, including the safe and efficient processing of Afghan citizens eligible for resettlement to the United States, upcoming national elections, and regional issues.

Parvez Elahi remanded in ACE custody

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: Former Punjab minister Parvez Elahi has been handed in custody of the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) on two-day physical remand in illegal recruitments case. Judicial Magistrate Imran Abid announced the reserved verdict on Thursday. The court accepted the ACE petition seeking physical remand of the PTI president. The Lahore ACE on Wednesday requisitioned an anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad for transitory remand of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Punjab president. ATC judge Abul Hasnaat Zulqarnain, while granting one-day transitory remand, gave Parvez Elahi in Lahore ACE custody.

Israel pummels Gaza as 3,000 children killed

Palestinian resistance movement Hamas has called for mass protests in the coming days to demand the opening of the Rafah border crossing and an end to the Israeli regime's genocide against Palestinians

CENTRELINE REPORT

GAZA: Israel continued its brutal bombardment of the Gaza Strip as it prepared for a ground invasion it says is aimed at annihilating the Palestinian resistance group Hamas as Russia warned the conflict could spread beyond the Middle East. The Palestinian death toll from the Israeli airstrikes on the Gaza Strip since Oct. 7 rose to 7,028, the Health Ministry in Gaza announced on Thursday. The ministry spokesperson Ashraf al-Qedra said during a press conference: "The death toll from the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip has reached 7,028, including 2,913 children, 1,709 women, and 397 elderly individuals. In addition, 18,484 citizens have been injured since Oct. 7." He said the Israeli forces committed 43 massacres in the past 24 hours, killing 481 people, the majority of whom were displaced to the south of the Gaza Strip, an area that Israel claims to be safe. "The Israeli occupation

Continued on Page 06

Israel's war could spread beyond ME

DNA

MOSCOW: Russia's President Vladimir Putin has warned that Israel's war in Gaza could spread well beyond the Middle East, saying it was wrong that innocent women, children and old people in the Palestinian enclave are being punished for other people's crimes. "Our task today, our main task, is to stop the bloodshed and violence," Putin said at a Kremlin meeting with Russian religious leaders of different faiths on Wednesday, according to a Kremlin transcript. The Russian president,

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Government finalises plan for repatriation of 'illegal' immigrants

Bugti also clarified that the crackdown is only against illegal immigrants and those willing to visit Pak with valid visa will be welcomed



FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti has reiterated that no compromise will be made on the decision to expel illegal immigrants, saying that a plan has been finalised in this regard as the November 1 deadline approaches. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, the interior minister said centres have been set up in various cities across the country to keep the illegal immigrants, while those leaving voluntarily will be helped to leave Pakistan.

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan's action in line with law: FO

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Thursday said Pakistan's action against illegal foreigners on its soil, including their deportation, was in accordance with the law of the land. Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch at a weekly press briefing said the implementation of these laws was being carried out for the safety and security of the country. She said Pakistan was in touch with the interim Afghan government over the return of illegal Afghans as the repatriation plan comes into effect on November 1. "We explained to them that this policy doesn't pertain to Afghans only and extends to all nationalities without valid documents to stay in Pakistan," she said. Asked if Pakistan intended to appoint a full-fledged ambassador in Afghanistan, she said Ubaidur Rehman Nizamani as the current Head of

Continued on Page 06

REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

04

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Pakistan welcomes innovative Polish water technologies

Ambassador of the Republic of Poland HE Mr Maciej Pisarski gave a brief overview of the participating companies operating in Poland

DNA

LAHORE : The Embassy of the Republic of Poland hosted an event entitled "Polish Water Technologies" on the sidelines of Pak Water & Energy Expo being held in Lahore. The event has gathered a large number of participants including representatives of the Polish companies as well as well-known Pakistani experts with excellent background in water environment and management. In his opening remarks Ambassador of the Republic of Poland HE Mr Ma-

ciej Pisarski gave a brief overview of the participating companies operating in Poland. His Excellency elaborated on persistent water issues mainly including flooding, polluted water and related aspects. He emphasized as to how Polish firms can bring their innovative ideas into the Pakistani water infrastructure and mechanisms. The Polish companies namely: Symbion, Pietrucha, Meli-orex and Nanoseen actively participated and shared their ideas with respect to the Pakistani water conditions and its future impact on the Pakistani environment. Guest speak-

ers included Water and Climate Governance Specialist Dr Fazlida Nabeel, Dr Azeem Ali Shah of International Water Management Institute and Mr Syed Zahid Aziz, CEO of AAB-E-PAK Authority shared their bright insight with regards the water conditions in the country. They also shared their ideas on how the Polish technologies can be applicable and prove to be revolutionary in the Pakistani water industry. The event ended with an interactive session with the respective speakers and the representatives of the Polish companies.



ISLAMABAD : Defence analyst and security expert Ikram Sehgal called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.—DNA

SCCI urges govt to withdraw gas price hike

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) president Fuad Ishaq urged the government to withdraw the recent unprecedented increase in prices of natural gas to flourish the national economy, businesses and industries and put the country toward sustainable economic growth and prosperity. The chamber president also called for reviewing agreements with the Independent Powers Producers (IPPs) and providing electricity to domestic, commercial and industrial consumers on subsidized rates. He sought special incentives and schemes should be announced for the business community and investors to create further investment and employment opportunities in the province. Fuad Ishaq demanded the allow-

ing trade with Afghanistan, Iran and China in Pakistani rupee and granting status of Most-Favoured Nations (MFNs) to these countries. He made these demands while addressing a delegation of small factory owners and representatives, which was headed by Small Industrialists Association Kohat Road Peshawar Wahid Arif Awan here at the chamber's house on Wednesday. The association senior member and former SCCI president Engr Maqsood Anwar Perwaiz, office bearers and owners and representatives of small manufacturing units were amongst the delegation. Fuad Ishaq said the increase in electricity and gas prices are unfavorable for the country's economy, business and industrial growth and urged the government to take back its decision and provide special relief to the business community by

reducing electricity and gas rates. The SCCI chief linked the country's progress with economic prosperity which can only be made possible by providing facilities and special incentives to the business community. Mr Ishaq urged the government to initiate steps for provision of electricity to industries on wheeling charges while demanding the elimination of fixed power charges and electricity rates should be charged as per load consumption. He continued to say that high electricity prices have made it hard for industrialists to run their manufacturing units and closure of industries is generating unemployment in the province. Commenting on the provincial constitutional rights on natural resources, the SCCI chief stressed that the constitutional right to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that had been given under article

158-A of the constitution of the country should be ensured with true letter and spirit. Fuad Ishaq informed that SCCI would devise a concrete strategy to take up electricity and gas related issues with relevant government department/authorities at central and provincial level. He vowed the chamber will play its effective role in protecting rights of the business community and provision of all facilities and incentives to them. The chamber president assured that the chamber will make vigorous efforts for attaining funds through Export Development Funds for promotion of small businesses and industries and completion of Expo Centre Peshawar Project. He said the electricity rates should be charged to all businesses and sectors on equitable grounds.

All set to observe Kashmir black day

MIRPUR : All is set by Jammu and Kashmir people living on both sides of the line of control, AJK and Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIO-JK) besides rest of the world to observe black day on Friday, October 27 to mark strong protest and indignation against the continual forced and unlawful Indian occupation of Jammu and Kashmir for the last 76 years since this bleak day of October 27, 1947 when New Delhi had forcibly landed her occupational armed military troops in occupied Srinagar. The day marks world-wide protest by Jammu and Kashmir population against continual 76-year Indian illegal occupa-

tion of bulk of the internationally-acknowledged disputed Himalayan State of Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir people living either side of the LoC treat October 27 as the black day in the history of the disputed Himalayan state of Jammu and Kashmir when India had landed her armed troops absolutely against the aspirations and the wishes of the people of the state. The day is observed as black day by Jammu Kashmir people every year to mark extreme resentment and indignation over the continued unlawful and forcible occupation of bulk of Jammu Kashmir state by the Indian tyrannical forces. It was on this day in 1947 when Indian

armed troops invaded Jammu and Kashmir and occupied it absolutely against the wishes of the Jammu and Kashmir people and in the sheer violations of partition plan of the sub-continent denying all international norms and commitments. This year too the black day against continual illegal and forced Indian occupation was being observed at the time when the Kashmir freedom has reached at its climax following the massive continued anti-India protests by the people of the curfew-clamped and locked-down bleeding Indian occupied state of Jammu and Kashmir for the last over four years against the complete communication and information blocked by the Indian occupational forces—since furious Kashmiris, defying all restrictions take to anti-India street agitation against August 5 2019' Indian sinister action of scrapping special status of the disputed Jammu Kashmir State abrogating article 370 and 35-A of her constitution.—APP

FIA arrests illegal money exchangers, human traffickers

PESHAWAR : The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Thursday arrested three illegal money exchangers and recovered local and foreign currencies from their possession. According to the spokesman of FIA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Zone, three accused of Hawala Hundi identified as Umar, Shiraz and Jalal Ahmad were arrested from Swat and Abbottabad during a grand operation. During the first action of FIA, initiated by the Commercial Banking Circle Peshawar, three accused were arrested and Rs 3.5 million, 2900 USD, 1000 Japanese Yen, 100 Pounds, 50000 Saudi Riyal and 1800 UAE Dirham were recovered from them. The accused were running an illegal money exchange business and did not provide a satisfactory reason for the amount. The second action was initiated by Composite Circle in Abbottabad where two accused involved in human trafficking.—APP

A.D.C No. 49/2016/NTC/SA/SSR/2022
Government of Pakistan
National Tariff Commission

Notice of Conclusion of Sunset Review of Anti-Dumping Duties Imposed on Dumped Imports of Sulphonic Acid Imported from People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, the Republic of Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Korea and Chinese Taipei

The National Tariff Commission (the "Commission") under Section 58 of the Anti-Dumping Duties Act, 2015 (the "Act") and Chapter VI of Anti-Dumping Duties Rules, 2022 (the "Rules") has conducted a Review ("Sunset Review") of anti-dumping duties imposed on dumped imports of Linear Alkyl Benzene Sulphonic Acid ("Sulphonic Acid") from the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, the Republic of Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Korea and Chinese Taipei (the "Exporting Countries"). The Sunset Review was initiated on May 24, 2022 upon receipt of an application under Section 58(3) of the Act from M/s Tufail Chemical Industries Limited, Karachi and M/s Tufail Multichem Industries (Pvt.) Limited, Karachi (the "Applicants"), who are domestic producers of Sulphonic Acid. The Commission had imposed anti-dumping duties ranging from 10.57% to 21.59% with effect from May 25, 2017, for a period of five years on dumped imports Sulphonic Acid imported from the Exporting Countries.

In accordance with provisions of the Act and the Rules, the Commission has conducted and concluded the Sunset Review as follows:

Product under Review: The product for which this sunset review has been requested is Linear Alkyl Benzene Sulphonic Acid ("Sulphonic Acid") imported from the Exporting Countries. The major raw materials used in production of Sulphonic Acid are linear alkyl benzene, Sulphur and Caustic Soda. It is classified under Pakistan Customs Tariff ("PCT") No. 3402.3100. The major use of Sulphonic Acid is for sulphonation of many substances, such as paraffin in preparation of detergents. It is used in the production of detergent powder, dish washing liquid and other industrial cleaning applications.

Period for Review (POR): The Sunset Review has been conducted on the basis of information for the three years i.e. from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021.

Likelihood of Continuation or Recurrence of Dumping of Product Under Review from the Exporting Countries: Based on the review investigation, the Commission has determined that there is a likelihood of recurrence and/or continuation of dumping of the product under review from the Exporting Countries if antidumping duties imposed on dumped imports of product under review are terminated.

Likely Continuation and Recurrence of Injury to the Domestic Industry: Likelihood of continuation and/or recurrence of injury to the domestic industry has been determined by the Commission in accordance with Section 58 (3) of the Act. In this regard factors and indices listed in Chapter VI of the Rules for injury analysis have been analyzed. The Commission has determined that, in case the anti-dumping duties imposed on dumped imports of the product under review from the Exporting Countries are terminated, the domestic industry would be likely to suffer material injury on account of increase in volume of dumped imports, decline in production, capacity utilization, sales, market share, profits and productivity etc.

Continuation of Definitive Anti-dumping Duties: In view of the determination of likely continuation and recurrence of dumping of the product under review from the Exporting Countries and likely material injury to the domestic industry, there is a need to continue imposition of definitive anti-dumping duties on dumped imports of the product under review from the Exporting Countries. Thus, Commission has decided to continue anti-dumping duty on dumped imports of Sulphonic Acid from the Exporting Countries for a period of three years effective from May 25, 2022, at the following rates:

Antidumping Duties Rates

Country	Exporter / Producer Name	Antidumping Duty Rate (%)
(1)	(2)	(3)
China	All exporters from China	10.57
India	All exporters from India	11.25
Indonesia	All exporters from Indonesia	10.09
Iran	All exporters from Iran	20.24
Korea	All exporters from South Korea	21.59
Chinese Taipei	All exporters from Chinese Taipei	13.40

However, in accordance with Section 51(ea) of the Act, definitive antidumping duty will not be levied on imports of the investigated product that are used as inputs in products destined solely for exports or for use in the foreign grant-in-aid projects and are covered under any scheme exempting customs duties for exports or foreign grant-in-aid projects under the Customs Act, 1969 (IV of 1969).

The antidumping duties shall take the form of ad valorem duty. Release of the dumped imports of the product under review for free circulation in Pakistan shall be subject to imposition of such antidumping duties.

Definitive antidumping duties levied would be in addition to other taxes and duties leviable on import of the product under review under any other law.

The definitive antidumping duties would be collected in the same manner as customs duty is collected under the Customs Act, 1969 (IV of 1969) and would be deposited in Commission's account "G1270X", titled "National Tariff Commission Fund" maintained with State Bank of Pakistan.

Further Information: A non-confidential version of the detailed report on the conclusion of Sunset Review has been placed on public file established and maintained by the Commission for this Sunset Review. The report has also been posted on the Commission's website: www.ntc.gov.pk. The public file is available to the interested parties, registered with the Commission for the purposes of this Sunset Review, for review and copying at the offices of the Commission, from Monday to Thursday (except public holidays) between 1100 hrs. to 1300 hrs.

By order of the Commission.

PID (I) No. 2516/23

(Ali Muhammad Shah)
Secretary (NTC)
October 27, 2023

PTCL group to transform its network

ISLAMABAD : PTCL Group, a leading telecommunications service provider in Pakistan, has announced its collaboration with Nokia to transform its nationwide optical ultra long-haul network to deliver an astounding 15 Terabits per second (15T) capacity, setting a new benchmark for network scalability and performance in Pakistan. In addition, at a grand handshake ceremony during GITEX Technology Week 2023 in Dubai, Jafar Khalid, Group Chief Technology & Information Officer of PTCL & Ufone 4G; and Roque Lozano, Senior Vice President of Network Infrastructure, Nokia MEA, announced further strengthening of the two companies' long-term strategic collaboration to explore future technologies and use-cases toward a sustainable future for the people of Pakistan. During previous years, PTCL Group had deployed Nokia's cutting-edge CD-F (Colorless, Directionless, Flex-grid) technology on its network to efficiently manage nationwide transport traffic, followed by successful demonstration of 1 Tera per lambda in its Metro network. With the emergence of more bandwidth-hungry applications in recent years, PTCL Group is now preparing to introduce Pakistan's first 'commercial deployment' of 400G per lambda on its ultra long-haul network, using Nokia's latest CDCF (Colorless, Directionless, Contentionless, Flex-grid) technology and 1 Tera in metro layer using newer chipsets.—APP

Dubai hosts 600 MWp solar PV project road show

DNA

ISLAMABAD : Federal Minister for Energy, Mr. Muhammad Ali, opened the proceedings of roadshow in Dubai for a 600MWp solar PV project in Punjab, Pakistan. In his virtual speech, he informed the participants of the roadshow about the investment opportunities in Pakistan and the measures the GOP is taking to increase the share of renewable energy in the overall generation mix and to reduce the existing circular debt, including but

not limited to outsourcing management of Distribution Companies, tracking theft, recovering electricity bills, and strengthening of transmission/distribution networks. Mr Ali vows the local and international investors and developers for their active participation in the bidding process. The roadshow comprised of a high-level delegation led by the Managing Director of PPIB. The delegation included Chairman NEPRA, CEO CPPA and officials from USAID. This is the first project planned to be developed in Kot Addu,

Punjab through an international competitive bidding process under the GOP initiative of substituting expensive imported fossil fuel. The project will not only help reduce the overall generation cost, but also help to arrest the drain of precious foreign exchange spent on import of fossil fuel. A total of 6000MWp is targeted to be developed under the said initiative. The roadshow was well participated by both local and international investors, lenders, manufacturers, suppliers, contractors and power sector consultants.



ISLAMABAD : H.E. Mr. Donald Blome, Ambassador of the United States of America to Pakistan called on Caretaker Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Dr. Nadeem Jan in Islamabad.—DNA

Food minister holds meetings with foreign delegation

He expressed his gratitude for the support of these prominent figures in the business world, emphasizing the importance of collaboration in realizing the objectives of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Dr. Kousar Abdullah Malik, held a meeting with key figures from the world of investment and technology, including the Chief Investment Officer of Tri-Ri Asset Management (TRAM), Asad Ali, and the Chief Executive Officer of Tingo Group, Dozy Mmbousi led

by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Najibullah, Chairman Pakistan Science Foundation Dr. Shahid Mahmood Baig. This gathering comes at a pivotal time, with Tri-Ri Asset Management committing a substantial \$100 million investment in the startup industry, while Tingo Group announced a \$10 million investment. During the discussions, Dr. Kousar Abdullah Ma-

lik commended these investments and recognized their potential to drive growth and innovation in various sectors across Pakistan. He expressed his gratitude for the support of these prominent figures in the business world, emphasizing the importance of collaboration in realizing the objectives of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research. Dr. Malik stressed that the Ministry would utilize

all available means and resources to facilitate and expedite these investment projects for the benefit of the nation and its people. He also highlighted the crucial role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in ensuring the timely completion and accessibility of these projects, ensuring that not only investors but also the general public reap the benefits of these endeavors. The

Provincial Minister for Science and Technology in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dr. Najibullah, expressed his gratitude to Dr. Kousar Abdullah Malik for his motivation and unwavering commitment to fostering cooperation. This meeting signals a promising step toward a brighter future for Pakistan, driven by innovative investments and collaborative efforts in science, technology, and beyond.

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 Exchange9270831-5
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

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Colours of Kazakhstan



ISLAMABAD: Models taking part in a fashion show organized by the Embassy of Kazakhstan, at the Islamabad Serena Hotel, in connection with the Republic Day of Kazakhstan.—DNA

Irish delegation keen to explore investment prospects in Pak

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that Irish investors should bring modern technology and expertise to Pakistan and invest in the dairy sector, which will enable them to export value-added milk products around the world

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the dairy sector of Ireland visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and showed interest to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan's dairy sector. The representatives of the Board of Investment of Pakistan also accompanied the Irish delegation. Addressing the delegation, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Pakistan's dairy sector plays an important role in the national economy as its value is more than the combined value of major wheat and cotton cash-crops. He said that Pakistan is the 5th top milk producer in the world as it produces over 65 million tonnes of milk every year. However, due to lack of modern technology and best practices, over 95 percent of milk remains unprocessed due to which the



country is losing huge economic value of this product. Ahsan Bakhtawari said that Irish investors should bring modern technology and expertise to Pakistan and invest in the dairy sector, which will enable them to export value-added milk products around the world. He said that investment of Irish investors in Pakistan's dairy sector

would bring about a revolution in the lives of millions of people whose livelihood are directly linked to this sector and bring prosperity to rural Pakistan. He was of the view that increasing the processing of milk up to 15-20 percent from the current level of less than 5 percent would help Pakistan overcome its economic challenges and emerge as

a growing economy. He assured that ICCI would fully cooperate in connecting them with right partners in Pakistan. Speaking on the occasion, the members of the Irish delegation said that Pakistan has huge potential in the dairy sector. They said that Ireland has advanced technology and expertise in the dairy sector as it exports over 5

billion of dairy products every year, which are known for their quality and standards. They said that they are keen to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan's dairy sector as the cost of shipping dairy products from Ireland to this part of the world is quite huge. They said that they can educate Pakistani farmers in herd management, quality milk production and value addition of milk products. The dairy industry is a key component of the Ireland's economy providing 16 billion of economic value and around 85,000 jobs, with much needed employment focused in rural areas. Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that the average milk yield of a cow is less than 14 litres per day in Pakistan as against the global standards of 30 litres. He said by setting up modern dairy plants in Pakistan, Irish investors can export value-added dairy products to many parts of the world and they should take full advantage of this untapped potential.

Turkish furniture manufacturers delegation to visit Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq Thursday said a high level Turkish furniture manufacturers delegation would visit Pakistan to further explore the possibilities of collaboration for joint ventures and investment. Talking to a delegation of furniture manufacturers led by Araib Arain here, he said series of fruitful meetings with Turkish furniture manufacturers through zoom had been arranged to invite them to Pakistan.

He said both the Turkish and Pakistani furniture industries were significant players in the global market. The chief executive said collaboration between the Turkish and Pakistani furniture industries could lead to exciting opportunities for the two countries. It could involve sharing expertise, technology, and design ideas, resulting in the production of unique and high-quality furniture products he added. This partnership might

also facilitate access to each other's markets, potentially increasing trade and economic benefits for both nations, he added. He said their visit would be an exciting opportunity for both Turkish and Pakistani businesses to strengthen ties and explore potential investment and joint ventures in the furniture industry. It could lead to beneficial collaborations and economic growth for both the countries, he added. Mian Kashif said the Turk-

ish furniture industry had been known for its craftsmanship, innovation, and the use of high-quality materials. He said Turkey's strategic location at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and the Middle East could help Pakistan a hub for furniture exports. Pakistan had been exporting its furniture products to various countries, and the industry had seen increased recognition on the international stage, he concluded.—APP

CDA in action to ensure neat & tidy parks for tourists

The CDA official assured that the civic issues like up-gradation and improvement of the parks, footpaths, provision of clean drinking water

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has kicked off an effective cleanliness campaign at various parks of the federal capital to ensure neat and clean environment to attract large number of tourists in a healthy and safe environment. Talking to APP, an official of CDA said that the campaign launched aimed at ensuring clean environment to urge the tourists to maintain cleanliness at tourist spots of the capital city as a number people from various parts of the country throng to the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi for recreation and tourism purposes. One of the key challenge was to ensure plastic-free environment, especially at green spaces because plastics bottles, wrappers and shopping bags were rampantly littered at the tourist destination, he said, adding, "The CDA sanitary workers are involved in collecting plastic waste and littered discarded items creating uncleanliness." He urged the people to throw the disposal material in dust bins installed at all the parks to ensure a clean and fresh environment which was imperative for a healthy life. He said it is the responsibility of every citizen to educate others about the cleanliness of the parks and avoid littering at tourist spaces. He said that the authority is planning to construct many new modern parks in the federal capital to provide basic facilities for activity to the residents of the city. The CDA official assured that the civic issues like up-gradation and improvement of the parks, footpaths, provision of clean drinking water, and sewage, and improvement of roads and recreational facilities would be resolved on a priority basis. Meanwhile, people belonging to different walks of life appreciated the CDA efforts in the cleanliness campaign and termed it a welcome move of the authority.

Breast cancer awareness session held at Islamabad Int'l airport

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) medical section and Maroof International Hospital on Thursday organized a breast cancer awareness session at Islamabad International Airport (IIAP). This informative cancer and mental health awareness session was held in connection with the breast cancer awareness month of October. There was healthy participation by female officers and staff members from various de-

partments of IIAP. The session started with an address delivered by CAA female doctors followed by a comprehensive presentation by Dr. Saira Mehmood, an Associate Professor and a specialist in Breast Cancer. She stressed on the significance of early screening, detection and disease management and exploration of risk factors associated with breast cancer. Dr. Zubia Zubair, a renowned psychologist, highlighted the social stigmas and psychological challenges faced by both cancer patients

and their families. The knowledge-sharing session was followed by an engaging Q&A segment, during which female participants actively discussed their inquiries and concerns. Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Airport Manager in his concluding note underscored the significance of maintaining a healthy workforce and the aviation industry's vital role in raising awareness about this critical health issue. CAA souvenirs and shields were presented to the esteemed guest speakers at the end of the event.

14 drug peddlers netted with 15 kg charras

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers conducted raids in different areas and rounded up 14 accused on recovery of over 15 kg charras and over 1000 grams Ice drug. According to a police spokesman, Civil Lines police managed to net a female drug peddler namely Mehreen Wahab allegedly involved in supplying drugs to students of educational institutes and recovered 1010 grams Ice from her possession. Dhamial police netted Behroz Khan for having 2150 grams charras.—APP

NAHE launches 7th Cohort of pre service training

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE) inaugurated the seventh Cohort of the Pre-Service National Faculty Development Programme (NFDP) 2023, designed for the Interim Placement of Fresh PhDs (IPFP). The programme, held at the HEC Regional Centre in Lahore, mark the commencement of a transformative journey for 22 PhD Fellows of the Phase-II (Batch-IV) and will continue until November 10, 2023. NFDP is designed to expedite the acquisition of essential knowledge, skills, and attitudes across three vital dimensions of a successful faculty career: effective teaching and learning, course design, lesson planning and delivery, research, and professional practices. A variety of engaging activities, including daily interactive sessions, group projects, presentations, and assignments related to various modules, are organized to meet the program's learning objectives. The successful completion of the NFDP is a prerequisite for placing IPFP fellows at Higher Education Institutions for a duration of one year, further solidifying their role in shaping the future of higher education in Pakistan.

IRSA releases 93,600 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 93,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 62,500 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1527.91 feet and was 129.91 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 30,400 cusecs and 40,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1206.90 feet, which was 156.90 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 8,500 cusecs and 30,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 49,900, 45,000, 39,700 and 11,000 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 10,900 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 4,600 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

Briefs

BISP stands as exemplary social safety program

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib has said that BISP was an exemplary social safety program serving nearly one million needy families across the country. He said that BISP was tirelessly caring for its needy beneficiaries with limited resources, embodying the essence of a welfare state. He expressed these views during his visit to Jamia Masjid Mian Umar Din in Gujranwala late Wednesday, where he addressed the gathering of dedicated BISP staff representing divisions of Gujranwala, Gujrat, Hafizabad, and Sialkot districts. Dr. Amjad Saqib emphasized the significance of the cash assistance provided by BISP to needy families. This financial aid played a pivotal role in enabling them to meet essential domestic expenses, invest in their children's education, and secure their next meal, he said. The chairperson said that Benazir Taleemi Wazaif initiative, which educated the children of needy families, and the provision of Benazir Scholarships, were two vital pillars of BISP's commitment to empowering the marginalized sections of society. BISP was now placing a strong focus on imparting technical skills to these children, thereby equipping them with the means to earn a livelihood and become productive members of the society, he added.

China-Pakistan JV to commence local EV production next month

ISLAMABAD: A joint venture between two Chinese companies and one Pakistani company is set to commence local production of electric bikes and three-wheelers next month. The vehicles will be launched at the upcoming Karachi Expo. This was stated by Jim Li, country sales manager at Dongjin Battery Pakistan, in an interview with Gwadar Pro. Dongjin provides batteries, while Benling Group of China offers technical support and the Crown Group of Pakistan has an established network of dealers. These three companies will collaborate to establish Pakistan's leading electric vehicle brand, providing better support for green mobility in the country, Jim Li added. Dongjin Battery's production facility was founded in 2020 at Port Qasim, Karachi. "We have so far invested \$4 million and created 250 direct and 1,000 indirect jobs in Pakistan," he said. "Our products are UPS batteries, e-bike batteries, and motorcycle batteries. We have made technological innovations, such as adjusting the battery formula and electrolyte concentration according to local climate conditions. —APP

A global crisis of oil and gas is becoming visible

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Thursday that the global crisis of oil, gas, and capital is arising due to the war between Hamas and Israel. The human tragedy of Israeli attacks in Gaza is engulfing the world. As a result of this crisis, developing countries will be badly affected, and their central banks will be forced to increase interest rates. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the global economy was not in good shape and that the recent conflict would damage it and cause the world economy to shrink rapidly. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that at present there is a shortage of capital in dozens of countries, while the financial condition of international institutions is also not good, due to which they are not in a position to give more loans.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan WADA Mitsuhiro cut the ribbon along with others to inaugurate paintings exhibition entitled "A new Chapter" at Satrang Art Gallery in Federal Capital.— ONLINE

Nehru kept Jinnah oblivious of his correspondence with viceroy

Dr. Saiyid told the participants that with Nehru's connivance, Hari Singh signed an instrument of accession to India, adding that, the decision was taken right after a day when Indian troops landed in Srinagar on 26 October 1947. She further told that Mountbatten was the very much part of the Kashmir's accession to India as he clandestinely supported Nehru

DNA

ISLAMABAD: 'Jinnah was running in a completely different direction as he was unaware of secretive communications between Nehru, Lord Mountbatten, and Maharaja Hari Singh' during Kashmir's accession, said Dr. Dushka Hyder Saiyid, a former professor of History at QAU, in a roundtable discussion on 'narratives on Kashmir' organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) in collaboration with Center for International and Strategic

Studies (CISS), Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Dr. Saiyid told the participants that with Nehru's connivance, Hari Singh signed an instrument of accession to India, adding that, the decision was taken right after a day when Indian troops landed in Srinagar on 26 October 1947. She further told that Mountbatten was the very much part of the Kashmir's accession to India as he clandestinely supported Nehru. Earlier, Dr Asma Shakir Khawaja, Executive Director of CISS, said that the revocation of Article 370, and 35 A, was not

ing but a part and parcel of India's systematic political and demographic engineering in IOJK that had threatened the very basis of the right of self-determination. Victoria Schofield, a famous British historian, argued that the very reason behind the lukewarm support of the international community for the Kashmir cause was the changed narrative of freedom fighting in the post-9/11 era in which the Kashmiri struggle was unfortunately equated with terrorism. On human rights, she said that the situation had further deteriorated after the revocation of

Article 370, and for that, a serious dialogue between Pakistan and India was needed, she emphasized. Dr. Christopher Snedden, an Austrian political scientist, was of the view that bringing India and Pakistan to the table was indeed a challenge, equally, building international pressure on India to resolve the Kashmir dispute was also a challenge, he added. Echoing what Schofield said, Dr Snedden stressed the need to work on giving relief to the Kashmir people. Ambassador Abdul Basit held that India would never reverse its August 2019 decision so Pakistan needed to review

its policies accordingly and devise a workable strategy vis-à-vis the Kashmir issue. Amb. Basit was quite hopeful that sanity would prevail and that the new governments both in India, and Pakistan after the elections would make a sensible start through a meaningful engagement. While concluding the session, Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz, president of IRS stressed that Pakistan needed to have a consistent approach towards the Kashmir issue, adding that the ultimate solution lies in the UN resolutions that warranted the right of self-determination to the Kashmiri people.

MoU signed to establish EV charging stations in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chinese, Pakistani firms signed here an MoU to establish EV charging stations across the country. Chairman of Senate of Pakistan, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, along with a Pakistani delegation, witnessed the signing ceremony between TGOOD, a leading Chinese company, and the REC Group of Pakistan. This aimed at promoting environmentally friendly electric vehicles (EVs) in Pakistan, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday. Chairman Sanjrani said on the occasion that this collaboration has resulted in a strategic partnership aligned with the sustainable green development initiatives set forth by China during the 3rd Belt and Road Forum. The partnership covers areas such as hydrogen vehicle technology, hydrogen filling station infrastructure, EV production, battery production and recycling solutions, and EV charging infrastructure development.

H-8 College Emerges as Champions

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Model Postgraduate College H-8 has secured the overall champion position in the 10th Intercollegiate Tournament 2022-23 organized by Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad. With a total of 336 points, H-8 College emerged victorious and took home the championship trophy, reaffirming its excellence in the field of sports. The tournament featured four exciting games, namely Football, Volleyball, Badminton, and Table Tennis, where the players of H-8 College demonstrated their exceptional prowess. They clinched the top position in both Football and Volleyball, showcasing their remarkable teamwork.

PIDE hosts 2 days economy festival

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), in partnership with the Research for Social Transformation & Advancement (RASTA) program and the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE), is proud to announce the second Economy Festival - EconFest, scheduled to take place tomorrow on October 28th and 29th, 2023 at the Pak - China Friendship Centre in Islamabad. Following the tremendous success of the inaugural event, held in Lahore this past March, PIDE is once again set to bring together leading economists, public policy experts, practitioners, professionals, academicians, and influential figures from various fields to address Pakistan's pressing economic challenges. The inaugural EconFest in Lahore was celebrated as a resounding success, and tomorrow's event in Islamabad promises to build on

this achievement. According to the Press Release issued from the PIDE office EconFest will have no registration fee, and there is no requirement for registration; it is open to all. The Institute, with its rich tradition of convening experts to tackle the intricate challenges faced by our nation, offers a unique opportunity for the broader public to engage directly with the genuine issues impacting our country. It serves as a platform for concerned citizens to engage in meaningful dialogues with experts from diverse backgrounds. PIDE promises an amazing experience with 33 esteemed partners, 27 enriching sessions, over 200 experts sharing their insights, a vibrant cultural show, a cutting-edge tech exhibition, an inclusive academic exhibition, a literary journey at the book exhibition, excitement at the fun zone, and delectable delights at the food court. Students and faculty members from various

universities, including LUMS, University of the Punjab, Arid Agriculture University, NUML University, SZABIST Islamabad, IMSciences Peshawar, FAST National University, Fatima Jinnah Women University, Riphah University, Quaid-i-Azam University, the National Incubation Centre for Aerospace Technology, Air University, Rawalpindi Women University, University of Haripur, Federal Urdu University, University of Wah, National Defence University, and Foundation University, are actively participating in the mega event. By working together, we can attain the festival's aims of fostering meaningful dialogues and generating insights into the economic challenges facing Pakistan, stated Vice Chancellor, PIDE, Dr Nadeem ul Haque. Econfest anticipates a significant turnout of participants from various walks of life, making this event an ideal opportunity for visibility, networking, and collaboration. There is something for everyone in it.

Industrial Area police arrest 1900 accused during last six months

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad capital police Industrial-Area zone police teams arrested 1900 outlaws including 163 absconders during the last six months involved in a series of heinous crimes and criminal activities. Islamabad police spokesperson said that crackdown has been intensified against the criminal elements to eliminate the crime from the city. He said that Industrial-Area Zone police teams conducted a massive crackdown against the criminal elements involved in a series of criminal activities and succeeded in apprehending 1900 outlaws including 163 absconders during the last six months. Police teams also recovered 29 stolen vehicles, 59 stolen motorbikes, 94.33 kilogram hashish, 7.71 kilogram heroin, 177 pistols and four rifles with ammunition from their possession. ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan has directed all senior officials for an effective crackdown against the accused.—APP

Govt. taking measures to facilitates IT industry

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for IT & Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif Thursday said that the government was taking various steps to provide all possible facilities to the Information Technology and Telecom industry. "No doubt about the potential in Pakistan's IT sector, the industry is playing a significant role in the stability of the country's economy,

the government is taking steps to provide all possible facilities to the IT industry" he said, while addressing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony for strategic partnership between HBL and Pakistan Software Houses Association (P@SHA) The minister said there was a need to be Brand Pakistan and marketed globally in the desired manner.

Dr. Umar Saif further said, "I am delighted to be part of the event and hope that this collaboration will play a vital role and fostering the growth and development of the IT sector domestically and internationally." Mentioning the role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), he said that all required facilities were being provided to boost the IT & Telecom sector.—APP

Railways restore long-awaited Sibi-Harnai track for traffic

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has finally restored the long-awaited Sibi-Harnai railway track for traffic after the completion of reconstruction and renovation work of the project with the support of the National Logistics Cell (NLC). "The railway's track was made dysfunctional after a series of bomb blasts which damaged 22 steel bridges in the highly rugged and inaccessible area," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. He said the reconstruction and renovation work on the strategic Sibi-Harnai railway was completed with the assistance of the NLC. "The restoration of the railway between the twin historical cities of Sibi and Harnai will have a positive impact on the

economy and agriculture of the entire region," the official added. With the rehabilitation of the railway track, he said not only the students of district Harnai and Ziarat will also get opportunities to acquire higher education but also boost the economic and commercial activities in the region. "Pakistan Railways restored the Sibi-Harnai section, with the support of Pakistan Army, connecting people and business in the remote areas of the country," Secretary Railways Syed Mazhar Ali said in a tweet. The official said the department had shown a keen interest in the completion of the reconstruction and renovation work of the project. In March 2016, he said that a contract for rehabilitation and resto-

ration of the Sibi-Harnai railway track along with the up-gradation of railway stations was awarded to the NLC as no other construction firm agreed to undertake the project due to the prevalent security situation and enormity of the task. During the initial survey of the track, the official said it was found that 22 steel bridges of different sizes were destroyed and required replacement for the restoration of the train operation. He said in addition, massive river protection work was to be undertaken to save the infrastructure. The quantum of work, non-availability of road access, and requisite resources made the project a formidable challenge, he added. The official said undertaking the project with the sincerity of purpose and

utmost sense of duty, the NLC officers, engineers, and construction workers braved harsh weather conditions and a hostile security environment and subsequently completed the rehabilitation works in record time. Terminating the fabrication of steel bridges as a major task, he said that the steel bridges were fabricated in Karachi and were transported to the project site after being painstakingly assembled by NLC engineers in a befitting manner. He said a total of nine railway stations along with tracks had been upgraded by NLC engineers including the reconstruction of Harnai Railway Station and a complete renovation of Sibi Railway Station, which could be regarded as the finest railway station in Balochistan.—APP



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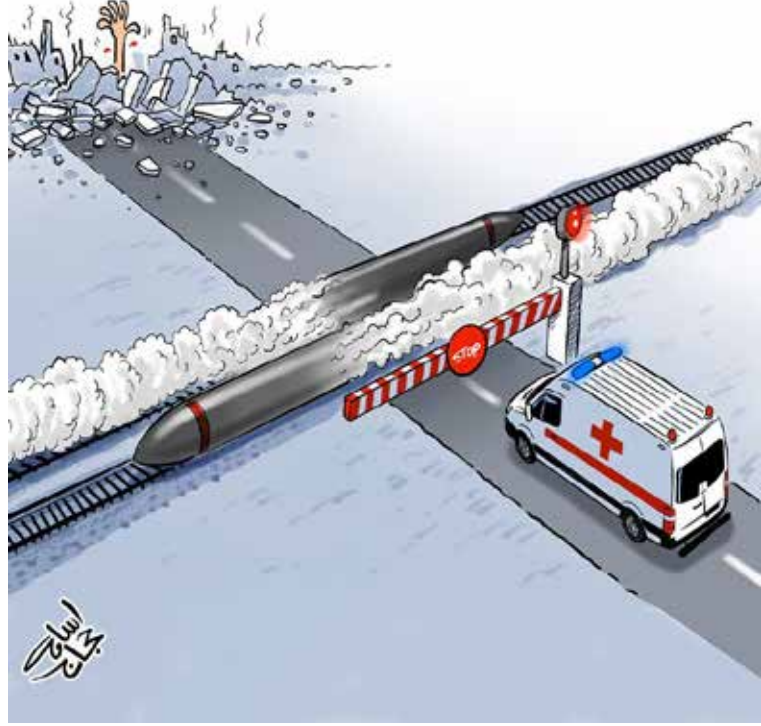
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UN fails to resolve Israel-Palestine conflict

Why have the multiple attempts of the international community to bring an end to the Israel-Palestine conflict under the framework of the United Nations failed to materialize into action? The answer is clear. It is the United States that has been obstructing the peace process by abusing its veto power in the UN Security Council, turning it into another arena for Washington's geopolitical games. For instance, a proposed resolution, focusing on the humanitarian situation and the protection of civilians, which was supported by an overwhelming majority of UN Security Council members, failed to be adopted on Wednesday due to the US vetoing it. The US introduced a draft resolution on Saturday that set aside the consensus of the UN Security Council members and included many elements that were deeply divisive. Many UN Security Council members, including China, Russia and Brazil, proposed amendments to the draft text. However, the US, ignoring the concerns of the council members, made only cosmetic changes to the draft before putting it to a hasty vote. As China's ambassador to the UN, Zhang Jun, said, the resolution was presented in haste and did not reflect the world's calls. The proposed resolution was patently not in a position to be adopted. Yet, rather than acknowledging that truth, the US is trying to smear China and other countries by claiming that in voting against the resolution they are thwarting UN actions and being indifferent to the humanitarian situation. That shameful calling black white shows the US' intention of dividing the world body and diverting attention from the conflict between Israel and Palestine to the one it is trying to fabricate between a so-called "democratic world" and China. All genuine efforts that contribute to peace will receive China's staunch support. Any endeavor that facilitates Palestine-Israel reconciliation will be pursued by China with all-out efforts. But with two aircraft carrier strike groups in the Middle East, it is clear that the US wants its ally to carry out its "self-defense" campaign carefree and for as long as it likes. The position of China, and the many other countries voting against the US-proposed draft resolution, is based on facts, law and conscience. What they oppose is that the draft is evasive on the most urgent issue of ending the immediate hostilities. That is not only irresponsible but also dangerous. It is tantamount to paving the way for large-scale military actions and giving the green light to further escalation of the conflict. The draft resolution did not call on the parties concerned to stop the indiscriminate and asymmetrical use of force. Such an evasive and ineffectual resolution would do nothing to ease the plight of the people in Gaza. Indeed, it would only worsen their predicament. It is clear that the US is seeking to establish a new narrative on the Palestinian question by ignoring the fact that the Palestinian territory has been occupied for a long time, and evading the fundamental issue of independent statehood for the Palestinian people. It is worth being vigilant as the resolution presented by the US departs from the spirit of previous UN resolutions and embeds the dangerous logic of "clash of civilizations" and the justification of war and use of force. If adopted, it would have completely dashed the prospects of the two-state solution.



European Union's 'Global Gateway' anything but

While the European Union may not openly admit it, the Global Gateway strategy that it launched in December 2021, and which it has accelerated this year, is a move to "counterbalance" China's global influence, at the behest of the United States. Or more exactly, to "counterbalance" China's Belt and Road Initiative. The Belt and Road Initiative was launched in 2013 to boost connectivity, and Chinese enterprises are working around the world to help developing countries do that. With the achievements of the Belt and Road cooperation readily apparent, the EU has also set out to "boost smart, clean and secure links in digital, energy and transport sectors". The EU's purpose of trying to limit China's influence and take a share out of its cake could not be clearer. Yet the freshly announced list of a Business Advisory Committee for the Global Gateway in September might serve to embarrass it, because on the list there is the Energias de Portugal, whose largest shareholder, according to its official website, is China's Three Gorges Group. France-based Eutelsat also has a Chinese company, China Investment Corporation, as one of its shareholders. It's increasingly clear that while it may strengthen global infrastructure, the Global Gateway's purpose is not that, but rather to "contain" China. Which is why some European Parliament members have been voicing concerns about China's presence in the advisory committee. Center-right lawmaker Miriam Lexmann tweeted: "The Global Gateway was established to address Chinese influence, not further it." President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyden made this clear as well when she said that the EU "will support smart investments in quality infrastructure, respecting the highest social and environmental standards, in line with the EU's values and standards." Talk of values and standards always accompanies such efforts by the US and its allies, since they not only seek to present themselves in a favorable light – and China in a bad one – but also set themselves up as the countries best able to write the "rules". Rules with which they hope to curb China's development and influence, despite the claims they repeatedly make that they are trying to do no such thing. Some politicians in the EU have been raising their voices clamoring for the bloc to "decouple" from China, or as they sugarcoat it now, pursue "de-risking". But the cooperation of Chinese and European companies for mutual benefit shows such political designs are built on sand. The Belt and Road Initiative is an open platform that seeks to benefit all participants, including the EU and the US. Similar initiatives such as the Global Gateway should be intended for the same purpose, rather than being wolves in sheep's clothing.

In Pakistan justice is not blind...

Qamar Bashir



This is a unique country where justice is not blind but dispenses justice with both eyes wide open, and where individuals, facing similar charges, find themselves on opposite ends of a chasm, where justice is obscured by the shadows of arbitrariness. In our country, one person is cast as a pariah - a terrorist, anti-state, a menace to society in the greater national interest. He is thrust behind cold, unforgiving bars. His business, a lifeline, is ruthlessly destroyed. His name is etched on an exit control list, effectively

In Pakistan, interestingly, the notion that the very foundations of justice, constitutionality, and universally recognized principles that underpin a civilized society have been proven wrong. This is a unique country where justice is not blind but dispenses justice with both eyes wide open, and where individuals, facing similar charges, find themselves on opposite ends of a chasm, where justice is obscured by the shadows of arbitrariness. In our country, one person is cast as a pariah - a terrorist, anti-state, a menace to society in the greater national interest. He is thrust behind cold, unforgiving bars. His business, a lifeline, is ruthlessly destroyed. His name is etched on an exit control list, effectively cutting the ties that bind him to his family and sanity. His loved ones are tormented, their voices silenced through intimidation and fear. Worse still, his fate is determined not in the light of a fair and impartial courtroom, but in the secretive safe houses where he is grouped alongside hardened criminals and terrorists, his identity blurred into a terrifying caricature. The narrative dictates that even the slightest hint of leniency in his case would place the entire nation, the very pulse of Pakistan, in grave peril. It's a narrative that shrouds him, literally, as he stands before the judge - handcuffed, face hidden from view. Hundreds of armed personnel envelop him, rendering him more spectacle than human. And it doesn't end there. The tapestry of injustice continues to unravel as politicians, businessmen, students, traders, and laborers - all arrested under the pretext of involvement in the 9th of May incidents - are suddenly transformed, almost magically, into the very monsters that threaten the heart and soul of Pakistan. Certainly, the events of May 9 were seen as a seismic moment, equated to the shock of 9/11 in the USA, and in response, the establishment in Pakistan, much like the United States, held little mercy for those deemed responsible. The approach taken was relentless, characterized by a unique blend of gofering and political fencing, to unmask and bring the perpetrators to justice. It's undeniable that similar tactics were employed, mirroring the U.S. response to its enemies. The pursuit of these criminals was unyielding, pushing the boundaries of conventional investigative methods. Much like their counterparts in Guantanamo, these individuals became subjects of aggressive interrogation techniques. The detainees were effectively stripped of any legal standing. They languished in captivity for protracted periods, deprived of the fundamental right to be charged or to have access to legal representation. Our state, like a mother selectively and rightly so, gave the hardcore terrorists and criminals, even being genuine threats to the state's security and stability, an extraordinary choice. They were presented with the opportunity to cleanse their slate, to be reborn without any blemish or apprehension, and to resume their lives with a clean slate after denouncing their involvement in the May 9 violence. In exchange for their freedom, they were encouraged to paint a chilling narrative - one in which their chairman was portrayed as the mastermind

behind the May 9 attack, the puppeteer behind a populace incited to attack military installations. According to this narrative, when the heinous act occurred, the accused had been blissfully ignorant, playing no part in it whatsoever. To complete this transformation, they were merely asked to renounce politics or, alternatively, join the IPP, as if to offer a symbolic cleansing of their past actions. All of a sudden, those who had been labeled as terrorists and hardcore criminals found themselves absolved of their sins, their violent and terroristic acts forgiven and swiftly granted the status of free citizens, bypassing the intricacies of the legal process. Meanwhile, those who did not acquiesce, those who refused to utter the required confessions, disavow politics, or implicate their chairman in the orchestration and manipulation of public youth for attacks on military installations, continued to be treated as unyielding criminals and terrorists. Justly or unjustly, they remained deprived of their fundamental rights, ensnared within a justice system wielded as a tool for coercion, punishment, and the erosion of their resilience and resolve. The state, much like a mother, seemed unafraid to sidestep established rules, laws, and constitutional principles when the safety of its children was at stake. This nurturing devotion of the state, reminiscent of a mother's protective love, was fully in evidence when one of its sons, previously branded a convict, absconder, and fugitive under the law and rules, arrived at Lahore airport. It was as though the state had unfurled the red carpet, facilitating a court proceeding right at the airport to conduct his biometric testing. Escorted by his opulent residence for some well-deserved rest after a grueling journey, he was given a reception akin to that of a head of state. Following a refreshing bath, a change of attire, and a moment of rejuvenation, he was whisked away by helicopter to the iconic Minar-e-Pakistan. There, in front of a massive crowd, he delivered a speech that resonated like a son's magnanimous forgiveness, publicly absolving the state, its institutions, and all those bureaucrats, army personnel, and judges who had, in one way or another, been entangled with his imprisonment and his extended stay in London, spanning over four years. The very next day, the state escorted him to the courtroom, where the institution responsible for the grave error in judgment and for transgressing the law to declare him a convict awaited his arrival with marked humility. With a profound sense of remorse, he openly acknowledged his own mistakes, beseeching the court to permit him the opportunity to make amends. He implored the court to suspend the warrant it had issued, and in an act of honorable redemption, declare him a free man. In doing so, they would pave the path for him to ascend to the role of Prime Minister in the service of our great nation, guiding it toward the heights of unparalleled glory. Our state, bearing the likeness of a caring mother, also called into question the universally accepted norms of justice, which hinge on the principle that justice ought to be dispensed without prejudice or favor, irrespective of a person's social standing, wealth, power, or other defining

traits. It rests on the premise that the law should apply with equal weight to every individual, irrespective of their background or identity. In its wisdom, the state rightly posited that even a Lady Justice, blindfolded and holding her scales and sword, emblematic of impartiality and neutrality, should safeguard her own progeny, even if they bore the burden of criminality or a hardcore terrorist label. Our state has, in a pioneering move, introduced a novel concept to the world - that justice was never truly blind. According to this perspective, justice should, first and foremost, assess whether those seeking its services comply with the state's directives. Moreover, in dispensing justice, personal biases, discrimination, and partiality should be allowed to exert their influence, ensuring that those who obey are treated differently from those who resist or disobey the state's commands. The experience, at least in the case of Pakistan, has challenged the prevailing notion that the impartiality of justice is a linchpin for maintaining the integrity of legal systems in democratic societies. Instead, it has revealed that, in certain contexts, the application of justice can be a multifaceted and nuanced phenomenon, which may not always adhere to the ideal of blind impartiality. Notably, Pakistan has shown that its justice system, paradoxically, operates at its zenith when it acknowledges its biases, practices discrimination, and, in certain cases, forgoes impartiality. The appreciation of the value of the Pakistani Rupee and the outstanding performance of the Pakistan Stock Exchange has contradicted the notion that a lack of a fair and impartial justice system deters foreign investment and economic development. Businesses, it turns out, may be more concerned about the absence of legal protections and contract enforcement. Additionally, the state's extraordinary popularity in a recent survey refutes the idea that when people perceive the justice system as skewed and believe they have no legal recourse to address grievances, it inevitably leads to social unrest and protests or escalate into political instability or violence. Lastly, the belief that countries with compromised justice systems would invariably face international criticism, sanctions, or isolation due to concerns about human rights abuses and the disregard for the rule of law has been disproven in certain contexts. With these factors in our favor, we have a strong belief that dispensing justice with both eyes wide open will help rebuild a trustworthy justice system and restore public confidence. The benefits of a justice system on the path to recovery are already evident, and these factors will positively impact the country's political and social landscape. We expect to deflect international pressure, quell demands for legal reforms, and even the advocacy for human rights. Ultimately, these aspects will contribute to building a strong democracy, fostering a robust economy, and emerging as a resilient and vibrant nation in the global community.

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

Tajikistan is flourishing

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Human development is defined as the process of enlarging people's opportunities and improving their well-being. The concept of human development was developed by Mehboob ul Haq, a famous economist of Pakistan. He argued that the current measures for human progress have failed to account for the purpose of development to improve human lives. The basic capabilities valued virtually by everyone include good health, easy access to knowledge, and a decent standard of living, which many people believe are the basic blocks of well-being and opportunity. These core capabilities are largely valued around the globe. According to the CIA World Factbook, Tajikistan is a landlocked state in Central Asia with an economy dependent on "mineral extraction, metal processing, agriculture", and labor migrants. The positive dynamics of economic growth are fundamental to its socio-economic status. Its mid-term macroeconomic policy focused on reducing inflation and maintaining a decent living standard. In order to give impetus to economic growth and sustainable human development, the government of Tajikistan has consistently made efforts to organize sectorial and regional programs and then shape the National Development Strategy in 2015. In many respects, the people and the government of Tajikistan have attained remarkable achievement in meeting the challenges of human development. A few decades ago, the people the Tajikistan were not only substantially less healthy but also less educated. The newly independent states of the region had blamed the USSR for the decline of health, education, nutrition, and jobs. The main growth of the economy is based on education, health, opportunities for the business, and quality labor provision. Research shows that the investment in human development programs is more effective for

a country's progress and prosperity. Therefore, the developing countries have to ensure that all children are nourishing better and are going to school to become a productive citizen in an increasingly competitive and integrative global economy. For this, Tajikistan also has made effort to alleviate the poverty rate from 80% to 30% of the population between 2000 to 2017. According to a report from the World Bank, seventeen percent of under-five children are stunted and only one in ten children aged three to six years benefits from an early learning program. Today, the human capital index of the World Bank shows that a child born in Tajikistan is expected to be 53% as productive as they are growing up with full health and complete education. The country manager of the World Bank for Tajikistan has said, "Improving school readiness, educational outcome and physical and mental health will lead to more productive and healthy adolescents and adults". Further, he appreciated, "we are satisfied by Tajikistan's effort to take a holistic approach to Early Childhood Development, benefitting today's children and tomorrow's workforce." According to a report from the World Health Organization, the pace of health reforms in many aspects of the health system of Tajikistan has been slow because the country has spent little expenditure per capita on health. The public financing depends upon local and regional establishments, thus the regional inequalities undermine the range of health system goals, financial protection, equity, efficiency and quality. Quality of care is another challenge, due to insufficient and inadequate training, lack of clinical guideline, under use of generic medicine, poor equipment and infrastructure and preserves financial encouragement for doctors in the form of pocket payment. The primary objective of health reforms is to strengthen the health care but it is suffering from low priority and underinvestment in Tajikistan. Although a package for primary healthcare has been introduced, it does not rollout all over the country. The National Health Strategy (2010-2020) envisages reforms in the health financing, capitation-based payment for primary health and doubling expenditure on health. The strategy intended to facilitate and support the healthcare sector of Tajikistan. The government has begun modernizing its resources, financing system, and clinical base as well the organization of healthcare and services. Due to economic growth and constant attention of the government positive impact has been witnessed in the development of health sector. Therefore, the rate of maternal and child mortality has decreased since the last decade. The strategy and efforts for healthcare development resulted in a reduction of the rate of morbidity of communicable diseases, especially in the vaccine-preventable disease. The training of doctors and nurses has become a priority in the medical education. More effective measures have

been taken to provide healthcare and services, facilities of network, and increasing of capacity of places and beds. The supervision of pharmaceutical and medical performance has been improved since the last decade. Today, provision of health facilities to the population has become a strategic turn towards a primary healthcare model. The healthcare system of Tajikistan is influenced by the former Soviet legacy. Its rank is 129 as the human development index of 188 countries in 2016. In the post-Soviet regime, the healthcare facilities have decreased due to poor quality of nutrition, insufficient water supply, and a weak healthcare system. The healthcare system deteriorated badly due to insufficient funds, poor sanitation, and lack of water systems. The efficiency of the healthcare system and mechanisms are also weak. The reforms are made to strengthen the healthcare system but it is still running at a slow pace. In post-Soviet, life expectancy fell to 66 for men and 73 for women in Tajikistan. The fertility rate, which was 6.9 children per woman during 1960-1980, now has decreased to 3.4 children per woman by 2016. The mortality rate in children is falling fast and significant improvement in nutrition of children is rising in Tajikistan and undernutrition in health has become a challenge in rural and remote areas. Unbalanced nutrition leads to poor mental health. Poor maternal nutrition during pregnancy threatens the chance of safe delivery and healthy babies. Malnutrition, dietary factors, and lack of awareness about healthcare cause high prevalence of diseases and directly impact the economy of the country. The lack of healthcare of the masses is a key bottleneck on the way of a country's development and progress. According to a health survey from 2017, eighteen percent of under-five children are suffering from stunning and nutritional deprivation, six percent children are wasted, and more than eight percent children are underweight in Tajikistan. Children less than two years of age are lost in wasting and underweight while stunning is prevalent among children aged 24-35 months. Forty percent of children are anemic and only thirty-six percent mother breastfeed their babies for the first six month. That's why 37 percent of children are suffering from Vitamin A deficiency and twelve percent are vitamin D deficient in Tajikistan. According to a project report funded by the EU, the country has shown excitement to move towards the education space. Tajikistan's institutional diversity along with several dimensions fuels the creation of new programs and reflects the needs of an emerging knowledge-based economy to meet market needs. The special focus given to structures of education in Tajikistan is initiated by a global program related to industries and technology. The government has set education as a tool for human capital formation to economic growth. The National Strategy for Education Development

2020 of Tajikistan aims at modernizing education with profession and skill to satisfy the needs of labor and to build the capacity of the country. The government has aimed at reforming educational standards with the curricula through modernization and with the participation of employers. Since the post-disintegration of the USSR, deurbanization and deindustrialization remained the key provisions of Tajikistan's economy. The structural changes in the economy took place since 1991 and small industry lost its ground. Deindustrialization reduced the job opportunities and increased the unemployment rate particularly in rural areas. Today, the state has taken some measures to develop the economy but there are still many rooms for further improvement in the national strategy for economic development with maximum space capacity of productive employment. The low level of aluminum processing and agricultural production has hampered the growth of employment in these sectors. An ill-conceived privatization of certain industries and companies liquidated jobs. No comprehensive policy for labor productivity and security is present in the rural areas, which produce two-thirds of labor force of the country. According to a report by the World Bank, Women are least represented in the labor force and the trend is not encouraging. Employed women like to work in the public sector but are also involved in unpaid family business. Another World Bank report said that although Tajikistan's economy has not produced sufficient jobs for its rapid growing work force, particularly its burgeoning youth population, the government has set out new National Development Strategy. The strategy aims to create new jobs in the formal and private sectors, improving the quality of existing jobs, access to better opportunities, including low to higher quality jobs, with a focus on vulnerable workers. With the promotion of the private sector, and with the help of entrepreneurs and investment, new opportunities for business and sustainable jobs are expanding. According to The Diplomat, "Tajikistan is experiencing dynamic grassroots digital development". The National Development Strategy of the country is also improving the productivity, earning, and access to formal jobs by strengthening local value, small producers, and rural SMEs. Therefore, Tajikistan can attract and connect people to jobs through empowering the population through a set of quality nutrition, good health, valuable education and trained and skilled labor. It seems that Tajikistan will soon overcome the challenges of human development and will create innovation through improvisation and will be a startup nation.

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Briefs

IHC restores
Nawaz'...

FROM PAGE 01

But last week, the protective bail granted by the IHC in both the graft cases, paved the way for Nawaz's smooth return to the country on October 21 — after ending his four-year exile.

NAB Prosecutor General Advocate Syed Ihtesham Qadir Shah, at the start of the hearing, said that the anti-graft watchdog could only withdraw the reference against Nawaz if "the decision was not heard".

"We have read about both the cases," he said, informing the court that the Avenfield reference was filed on the Supreme Court's order. And on the same court's order, he said, a joint investigation team was also formed.

IHC rejects
Imran's...

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Code of Criminal Procedure". The petition was taken up by the IHC CJ today.

At the outset of the hearing, PTI lawyer Salman Safdar said that it took him 10 days to complete his arguments on another petition filed by Imran seeking bail in the said case.

Justice Farooq remarked that he was also taking time in announcing the verdict because such a matter had emerged for the first time and arguments by both sides were presented properly.

Safdar then stated that the copies of the cipher case challan had been distributed in the court. "They clearly show that he [Imran] was indicted within a few days," he said.

"The entire case revolves around this document but the cipher is neither part of the challan nor the case file," he contended, adding that his client wanted to record statements of three witnesses tomorrow.

"Please grant us some relief," the lawyer requested.

Israel
pummels...

FROM PAGE 01

intentionally committed 731 massacres against families. We have received 1,650 reports of missing individuals, including 940 children who are still under the rubble," he continued.

The spokesperson said the Israeli forces deliberately targeted 57 healthcare facilities, rendering 12 hospitals and 32 primary care centres out of service, adding that 101 medics were killed in attacks.

In besieged Gaza humanitarian supplies were critically low, as world powers failed to agree on a lull to Israeli aerial attacks to deliver aid, and residents buried the dead in mass graves as the civilian toll mounted. In an indication Israel was widening assaults into Gaza that began at the weekend, the military said ground forces attacked multiple targets in the Hamas-ruled enclave on Thursday before withdrawing, in what Army Radio described as the biggest incursion of the current war.

Israel's war...

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who has been leading an all-out war in neighbouring Ukraine since February last year, said he told other world leaders in phone calls that if Israel's military campaign in Gaza did not stop, there was a risk of a much wider conflagration.

"Further escalation of the crisis is fraught with grave and extremely dangerous and destructive consequences. And not only for the Middle East region. It could spill over far beyond the borders of the Middle East," he added.

In remarks that criticised the West, he said certain unnamed forces were seeking to provoke further escalation and to draw as many other countries and peoples into the conflict as possible.

Lahore clinches inter division national basketball C'ship title

Lahore dominated throughout the match and never allowed their opponent to fight back for the championship trophy

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Lahore division clinches Inter Division National Basketball Championship title by defeating Islamabad with 100-59 points here at Pakistan Sports Complex Islamabad. Eight top divisions Karachi, Faisalabad, Peshawar, Hazara, Gujranwala, Rawalpindi, Lahore and Islamabad participated in the five days championship which was organized by the Federal Basketball Association.

Military Attaché of the Embassy of Russia in Pakistan Col Surgey A Tyurin was the chief guest of the closing ceremony while Joint Secretary Ministry of IPC Fayyaz ul Haq, President Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) Brig. (r) Iftikhar Mansoor, PBBF Secretary General Khalid Bashir, Federal Basketball Association (FBB) President Ejaz Butt, FBB Secretary General Ouj E Zahoor, Deputy Director General



al Pakistan Sports Board Saeed Akhtar and other dignities were also attending the closing ceremony. In the decisive final Lahore

dominated throughout the match and never allowed their opponent to fight back for the championship trophy. Lahore took a lead of 20

points till the half time of the decisive final by 52-32 points. Lahore ace players Safullah and Taimur Mehdi played vital role for

the championship title as they scored 21 and 14 points while from Islamabad side Ashrab Butt scored 25 and Bakhtawar scored 7 points respectively.

In the third position match Faisalabad outclassed Peshawar by 55-43 points. Faheem Sattar scored 18 points and Hanan Tariq scored 17 points for the winning side.

During the concluding ceremony a heartfelt tribute given to those who have dedicated their lives to the sport of basketball. Din Muhammad, Maj (r) Asad Pervaiz, Prof. Siraj ul Haq Qureshi, Riaz Malik, Moudood Jafri and Muhammad Yaqoob were honored with lifetime achievement awards.

These esteemed individuals have tirelessly served the basketball community and their contributions have left an indelible mark on the sport. Their exceptional commitment and passion for basketball were celebrated and recognized, symbolizing the enduring spirit of the sport in Pakistan.

Sarfraz leads Karachi Whites to fifth QEAT title



SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Under the captaincy of Sarfraz Ahmed, Karachi Whites secured their fifth Quaid-e-Azam Trophy title after overcoming Faisalabad at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore, prevailing by 456 runs on the final day of the five-day final on Thursday. Faheem Ashraf, the captain of Faisalabad, was the final batter to be dismissed, caught off the bowling of Ghulam Mudassar, igniting celebrations for the tea, who walked away with a cash prize of Rs10 million. Karachi Whites' previous Quaid-e-Azam Trophy victory was in the 2001-02 season when they defeated Peshawar in the final by eight wickets. Prior to that, they achieved a hat-trick of titles in 1990-91, 1991-92, and 1992-93. Faisalabad resumed from their overnight score of 129-6, with Faheem leading a determined fightback, albeit delaying

the inevitable. They lost two wickets during the morning session, with Ali Asfand and Khurram Shahzad falling, and Faisalabad reached lunch at 230-8. Faheem then reached his fourth first-class century in 119 balls and contributed 57 runs for the ninth wicket with Arshad Iqbal and 51 runs for the final wicket with Mohammad Ali. Faheem was finally dismissed for 147 from 181 deliveries, his career-best score, which included 23 fours and two sixes. For Karachi Whites, Ghulam Mudassar recorded figures of 3-62, while Shah Nawaz Dahani took 2-119. Mir Hamza, Noman Ali, and Asad Shafiq each secured one wicket.

After the round-robin stage of the tournament, Faisalabad had topped the points table, with Karachi Whites in second place. Peshawar's Sahibzada Farhan led the batting charts with 847 runs in 10 innings and was named the tournament's best batter.

Saim Ayub of Karachi Whites, for his innings of 203 in the first and 109 in the second, was awarded the player of the final. Sarfraz, the captain of the victorious team with 697 runs and 28 dismissals, was named the player of the tournament. From Faisalabad, Khurram Shahzad (36 wickets in eight matches) and Ali Shan (28 catches and one stumping) were declared the best bowler and best wicket-keeper of the tournament, respectively.

AWARDS:

Player of the Tournament — Sarfraz Ahmed (697 runs & 28 dismissals) (Karachi Region Whites)
Best Batter — Sahibzada Farhan (847 runs) (Peshawar Region)
Best Bowler — Khurram Shahzad (36 wickets) (Faisalabad Region)
Best Wicket-keeper — Ali Shan (29 dismissals) (Faisalabad Region)
Player of the Final — Saim Ayub (Karachi Region Whites).

Hasan Ali ruled out of SA clash

CHENNAI: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced Thursday that fast bowler Hasan Ali has been ruled out of the upcoming match against South Africa as the Green Shirts gear up for a must-win clash. "Fast bowler Hasan Ali is unavailable for Pakistan's match against South Africa as he is unwell," the board said in a brief statement.

Hasan suffered a fever last night, but he is recovering well, the PCB said, adding that the pacer will be given rest to recover fully ahead of the remaining games.

Although there was no official word, well-informed sources had told Geo News that fast bowler Mohammad Wasim Junior is likely to replace fever-hit Ali in Pakistan's squad.

After starting brightly with wins over the Netherlands and Sri Lanka, the 1992 champions were well beaten by India and Australia before being humiliated by neighbours Afghanistan last time out. On Friday, they face another test of their resources against free-scoring South Africa who have four wins in five games and have shrugged off their shock loss to Netherlands. With four group games to play, Pakistan can still make the semi-finals but there is little margin for error. — Agencies

England face early WC exit after SL defeat

BENGALURU: Lahiru Kumara-led pacers decimated England's batting lineup before sensible half-centuries from Pathum Nissanka and Sadeera Samarawickrama led Sri Lanka to a thumping eight-wicket victory in the ICC World Cup 2023. Set to chase a modest 157, Sri Lanka knocked the winning runs for the loss of two wickets and 146 balls to spare.

Sri Lanka, however, had a contrasting start to their pursuit as they lost two wickets with just 23 runs on the board in the sixth over, courtesy of David Willey's back-to-back strikes.

The left-arm pacer removed Kusal Perera (4) and Kusal Mendis (11) in the second and sixth over respectively

to put Sri Lanka under pressure. Sadeera Samarawickrama joined Pathum Nissanka at the crease and the pair launched an astounding recovery.

Samarawickrama and Nissanka batted sensibly and scored at a decent rate amid their match-winning 137-run partnership with both scoring half-centuries. Nissanka top-scored for Sri Lanka with an 83-ball 77, laced up with seven boundaries and two sixes. Whereas, Samarawickrama smashed seven boundaries and a six on his way to a 54-ball 65.

For England, only David Willey picked up two wickets while the rest of their bowlers went wicketless. A dominant eight-wicket victory over

England lifted Sri Lanka to fifth spot in the ICC World Cup 2023 standings, replacing Pakistan while defending champions sank to the ninth place.

After opting to bat, England raced to 44 runs in the first six overs, however, returning allrounder Angelo Mathews broke the partnership on the third ball of the next over.

Angelo Mathews was drafted into Sri Lanka's ICC World Cup 2023 squad in place of injured pacer Matheesha Pathirana. Dawid Malan departed after scoring 25-ball 28, featuring six boundaries. His opening partner Jonny Bairstow departed in the 14th over after scoring 30 runs with the help of three boundaries. — Agencies

UAE Air Force commander meets Pakistan's Air Chief

PAF presented guard of honour to Major General Staff Pilot Ibrahim Nasser Mohamed Al-Alawi

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A high level delegation, led by Major General Staff Pilot Ibrahim Nasser Mohamed Al-Alawi, Commander of the Air Force & Air Defence of the United Arab Emirates, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force at Air Headquarters, Islamabad today. The meeting covered a wide array of matters pertaining to geo-strategic environment, regional security and the aspect of exploring new avenues to enhance bilateral defence cooperation.

On his arrival at Air Headquarters, a smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Air Force presented guard of honour to Major General Staff Pilot Ibrahim Nasser Mohamed Al-Alawi. He was also introduced to the Principal Staff Officers of Pakistan Air Force. Later, the visiting dignitary called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu,

Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force in his office. During the meeting, Chief of the Air Staff shared broad contours of PAF's modernization drive aimed at augmenting current operational capability in the domains of Cyber, Space, Artificial Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Niche technologies. He also highlighted various ongoing

projects of Pakistan Air Force's operational construct, force goals and plans for the force structure with a keen focus on future warfare. Appreciating the participation of UAE Air Force contingent in PAF's multinational Exercise Indus Shield, the Air Chief highlighted that both the countries enjoy unprecedented brotherly relations and reiterated

his resolve to further enhance the existing bilateral ties in military to military cooperation, joint exercises and training domains.

The Commander of the Air Force & Air Defence of the United Arab Emirates conveyed his deep appreciation for the remarkable advancements achieved by Pakistan Air Force in the realm of indige-

nous capabilities and commended the professionalism of PAF personnel. Both sides concurred to further optimize the existing military ties between the two countries with a specific focus on advanced tactical training, emerging technologies and strengthening operational competencies. The dignitaries also discussed the potential for joint military exercises and exchange programs with an aim to facilitate the exchange of expertise, enhancing interoperability and fostering closer ties between Air Forces of both the brotherly countries. Commander of the Air Force & Air Defence of the United Arab Emirates also visited different installations and technological infrastructure established at Air Headquarters, Islamabad, including National ISR & Integrated Air Operations Centre and PAF's Cyber Command. He also visited National Aerospace Science and Technology Park and expressed his deep admiration for the project.

Govt
finalises...

FROM PAGE 01

"It is a challenging task," Bugti said, adding Pakistan was determined to expel all illegal immigrants. The illegal immigrants, many of whom have lived in Pakistan for years, will not be allowed to carry more than Rs50,000 while leaving the country, he added.

The minister also warned the local residents against giving shelter to illegal immigrants saying strict action will be taken against them. Bugti said the authorities have conducted geo-fencing and gathered all information regarding illegal immigrants.

Pakistan's
action ...

FROM PAGE 01

Mission in Kabul would continue to perform his duties in the same position. On the situation in Gaza, she said Pakistan's position was consistent demanding an end to cease fire, indiscriminate bombing, and siege of Gaza. Pakistan stands for the establishment of the state of Palestine with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, she added. "Our Palestinian brothers and sisters in Gaza are at the receiving end of an inhumane campaign of collective punishment by the Israeli occupation forces. We mourn the over 6500 civilians killed in Gaza including 2700 children as a result of Israel's relentless and indiscriminate bombardment," she said.

No chance...

FROM PAGE 01

announced after the final publication of constituencies. There is no ambiguity in the Election Commission's decisions." The ECP's statement comes after President Dr Arif Alvi, a day earlier, said that he does not believe the general elections will take place in January next year, but at the same time, he called for the transparent polls when they are staged.

Political analysts have also raised concerns about a possible delay in the polls past January, with several noting that no political party seems in the "election mode", while others mentioned that politicians have also cautioned about the "harsh weather" during winters that could hamper the polling process.

The country has been gripped in political uncertainty ever since the Imran Khan government was removed through a no-confidence motion in April 2022.

PTI leaders...

FROM PAGE 01

ARY News that PTI leaders also engaged in discussions about the political situation in the country with the JUI-F chief. Sources further claimed that the delegation also lauded the MaulanaFazl's 'reconciliation' narrative among political parties. He stressed the need for 'unity' among all stakeholders to pull the country out of crisis. The JUI-F chief also stressed for 'politeness' in political differences among parties.

Meanwhile, the politicians also discussed Maulana-FazlurRehman's meeting with former federal minister Muhammad Ali Durani, which occurred on October 23.

Qatar
sentences...

FROM PAGE 01

proceedings and expressed its intent to contest the case. These individuals, including officers who had previously commanded significant Indian warships, were employed by Dabra Global Technologies and Consultancy Services, a private company providing training and related services to Qatar's armed forces. Sources suggest that some were involved in a project concerning Italian technology-based mid-range submarines with stealth features. The accused have been detained since August 2022.

Briefs

Zambia achieves landmark debt restructuring

JOHANNESBURG : Zambia said on Thursday it had reached an agreement in principle on restructuring \$3 billion of its international bonds with a key creditor group - a milestone in its drawn-out debt rework process. The deal proposes to restructure claims on three existing bonds by issuing two new "amortising" bonds - in which repayments go towards both interest and principal - maturing in 2035 and 2053 respectively, under an economic "base case" scenario. The second note would also mature in 2035 and ramp up coupon payments, if Zambia's economy performs better. According to the agreement, the face value of the new bonds would stand at \$3.135 billion in both scenarios, exceeding the original \$3 billion face value of the old notes. The nominal haircut is calculated at 18%, but that includes the \$821 million of past due interest (PDI) that the country stopped paying since it defaulted. The deal would deliver \$2.5 billion in cash flow relief for the duration of the country's \$1.3 billion IMF programme, set to expire in late 2025, the ministry said in a statement. Zambia was the first African country to default in the COVID-19 era, in late 2020, but its restructuring process has been beset by delays. International bondholders also complained they were left out of the process, which started with drawn-out negotiations with bilateral creditors including China. The agreement "paves the way for similar restructuring agreements with our other private creditors," Zambia's finance minister Situmbeko Musokotwane said in a statement.—APP

4 dead in Philippine landslide

MANILA : Four people died in a landslide that hit a remote village in Quezon province of the Philippines, a Philippine Air Force spokesperson said Thursday. Colonel Ma. Consuelo Castillo, chief of the Philippine Air Force Public Affairs Office, said the bodies of the four buried alive by the landslide that struck the village on Tuesday night were retrieved on Wednesday. Local and military officials in the province confirmed the incident, saying the landslide buried five houses at the foot of the mountain. The victims, a pregnant woman, her husband, and two other men, were mountain farmers who also engaged in small-scale gold mining, officials said. Authorities said heavy rain triggered the landslide.—APP

Hainan leads China's electricity consumption

HAIKOU: The electricity consumption growth in south China's Hainan Province ranked first among the provincial areas in the country in the first three quarters, a remarkable sign of the economic vitality of the island province. The electricity consumption volume in Hainan surged by 16.36 percent year on year to 36.46 billion kWh during the period, according to the Hainan branch of the China Southern Power Grid. The second and tertiary industries and the urban and rural residents' household consumption all saw double-digit growth in electricity use during the period, with the tertiary industry being the highest at 19.38 percent year on year. The total electricity volume consumed by the tertiary industry reached 13.22 billion kWh, with the growth largely thanks to the constantly recovering tourism market, the company said. The power use in the wholesale and retail sectors grew by 40.07 percent, while its growth rate in the hotel and catering sectors reached 21.98 percent. China released a master plan in June 2020 to build Hainan into a globally influential and high-level free trade port by the middle of the century. Over recent years, the island province has become an attractive shopping destination for consumers.—DNA

Mushahid condemns Western double standards on Gaza

Urges legislation to counter Islamophobia, Pakistan always supported Africa causes

DNA

LUANDA : Senator Mushahid Hussain, Leader of Pakistan Parliamentary delegation to the annual conference of the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) has forcefully condemned Israeli crimes against humanity against the Palestinians and accused its Western supporters of 'hypocrisy and double standards'. He was addressing the general assembly of the IPU, where he urged legislation to counter Islamophobia as it was divisive, racist and bred violence against Muslims. The IPU comprises 170 member parliaments, in which Pakistan has an active role as elected member of the Executive Council, The Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians and the Committee on Peace and Democracy. During the IPU conference, Senator Mushahid Hussain was invited to address the General Assembly thrice, while he also addressed the Islamic and Asia-Pacific regional group meetings as well as invited for an address to the Socialist International group. In his speech, Senator Mushahid Hussain made three fundamental points. First, that Palestinian resistance to illegal Israeli occupation was justified under international law and the UN Charter, as



it is a natural reaction to 56 years of occupation and brutal Israeli practices, including killings of innocent Palestinian children, women and men, with 560 checkpoints in occupied West Bank. Second, Western hypocrisy and double standards, particularly from the United States, were complicit in Israeli crimes, as they even oppose a ceasefire in Gaza since they want Israel to continue the carnage

which has led to bombings of 19 Hospitals, including Al Ahli Hospital where 500 children were killed, and 25% of houses in Gaza are destroyed and 600,000 Palestinians homeless. Third, Senator Mushahid Hussain said Israel always termed the Palestinians as 'terrorists', whether it was Yasser Arafat or Hamas, recalling that Hamas as a political organisation had won what former US President Jimmy Carter termed 'as the

most free elections in the Middle East' in 2007. He said Pakistan demands an end to the Gaza Genocide, an end to the 16 year old blockade of Gaza, an end to Israeli occupation, an end to desecration of Muslim holy places and establishing a free Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. Speaking on Islamophobia, Senator Mushahid Hussain termed this as a big threat to interfaith harmony and peaceful coexistence in diverse societies as it stems from hate, bigotry and racism, often leading to violence against Muslims living in the West. He said because of Islamophobia, core beliefs of Muslims including the sanctity of the personality of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was attacked plus desecration of the Holy Quran, which are unacceptable for Muslims, so necessary legislation is required in the West to combat Islamophobia. Senator Mushahid Hussain was specially invited by IPU to give a presentation about the Senate of Pakistan and its working, especially in promoting SDG goals of the United Nations, where he talked of the need to make Parliaments more inclusive, transparent and responsive to popular aspirations. He termed Parliament as the indispensable pivot and pillar

of democracy, and its role should be as the voice of the voiceless, and the principle of 'conflict of interest' should be upheld. In his speech to the Socialist International, Senator Mushahid Hussain urged the Socialist International to oppose militarism and the new Cold War, reject the expansion of NATO to Asia, and promote pro-poor policies given the failure of the Western capitalist model. He also lauded China's Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) as the way forward for connectivity and cooperation in the 21st Century, which was witnessing Asian and African Resurgence and the recent Belt and Road Forum, which he attended, had 4,000 participants from over 140 countries. Senator Mushahid Hussain also highlighted Pakistan's relations with Africa and how Pakistan had been in the forefront of supporting African liberation struggles in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Eritrea, Namibia, Mozambique, Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. The Pakistan Parliamentary Delegation includes Senators Shahzad Waseem (Leader of the Opposition), Senator Sadia Khaqan Abbasi and Senator Attaur Rahman, assisted by Secretary Senate Qasim Samad and Pakistan Ambassador to Zimbabwe Murad Baseer.

Maine mass shootings: Police scour Lewiston for suspect

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON : At least 22 people were killed and numerous others wounded in a mass shooting in Lewiston, Maine on Wednesday night, according to local media outlets. The devastating event unfolded at various locations, including Sparetime Recreation, Schemengees Bar & Grille Restaurant, and a Walmart distribution centre. Local authorities acted swiftly in response to the unfolding critical situation. Maine State Police and the Androscoggin County Sheriff's Office confirmed the presence of an active shooter and issued urgent safety instructions. They urged residents to stay indoors, lock their doors, and remain vigilant. The Androscoggin County Sheriff's Office also

posted images of a suspect believed to be connected to the shootings. They sought the public's help in identifying the individual, described as a bearded man in a long-sleeved shirt and jeans, holding a rifle. The Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston declared the incident a "mass casualty, mass shooter event" and is working closely with neighbouring hospitals to provide care to the injured. President Joe Biden has been briefed on the situation and is receiving regular updates from Washington. The tragic incident marks the deadliest mass shooting in the United States since May 2022 when a gunman opened fire at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, resulting in the loss of 19 children and two teachers, according to the Gun Violence Archive.

"We have literally hundreds of police officers working around the state of Maine to investigate this case to locate Mr. Card, who is a person of interest," Maine Public Safety Commissioner Mike Sauschuck told a news conference. Police found a white SUV they believe Card drove to the town of Lisbon, about 7 miles (11 km) to the southeast, and Sauschuck said people were asked to remain indoors in both Lewiston and Lisbon. Several media reported that a Maine law enforcement bulletin identified Card as a trained firearms instructor and member of the U.S. Army reserve who recently reported that he had mental health issues, including hearing voices. It also said he threatened to shoot up a National Guard base. "Card was also reported to have been committed to

mental health facility for two weeks during summer 2023 and subsequently released," said the notice from the Maine Information & Analysis Center. The army did not immediately respond to requests for information about Card, including details on his service record. Police said gunfire first broke out shortly before 7 p.m. local time. The bar and the bowling alley are about four miles (6.5 km) apart. Lewiston is a former textile hub and town of 38,000 people in Androscoggin County about 35 miles (56 km) north of Maine's largest city, Portland. "A recreation center. A bowling alley. A neighborhood bar. Places Americans frequent and should feel safe... these are the crime scenes of multiple shootings tonight in Maine," said Kris Brown, president of Brady, a gun safety advocacy group.

Ethiopia PM addresses neighbors' concerns on invasion

NAIROBI: Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said that he would not invade any nation, in comments aimed at quelling neighbouring countries' concerns that he might use force to secure access to a sea port. Abiy told state media on Oct. 13 that Ethiopia should assert what he called the landlocked nation's right to access the Red Sea as much as possible through peaceful means, raising tensions with regional governments and the spectre of a fresh conflict in the Horn of Africa. Coastal Eritrea, which secured independence from Ethiopia in 1993 following a lengthy civil war, described recent commentary over the Red Sea as "excessive" and urged concerned parties not to be provoked, without directly addressing Abiy's comments. Both countries subsequently moved troops closer to their shared border, according to diplomats and humanitarians with knowledge of the movements, raising concerns of another conflict in a region already plagued by violence. "Ethiopia has never invaded any country and now Ethiopia has no intention to invade any country," Abiy told thousands of soldiers gathered in the capital Addis Ababa to celebrate the national army on Thursday. Abiy said Ethiopia would not pursue its interests "through force", and that "it wouldn't pull the trigger on its fellow brothers." In the days following the exchange Eritrea deployed troops in the town of Bure, along the border with Ethiopia's Afar region, while Ethiopia moved troops towards that same border, two diplomats and one humanitarian said. Abiy won a Nobel peace prize in 2019 for his peacemaking efforts which ended two decades of hostility with Eritrea.—DNA

WHO forum aims to promote health equity

GENEVA : The World Health Organization (WHO) will next month hold its first in-person forum on improving access to quality health products and technologies, by boosting local production and technology transfer. On Wednesday, a WHO source told Xinhua that the upcoming World Local Production Forum (WLPF) to be held in The Hague, the Netherlands, from Nov. 6 to 8, will focus on leveraging regional and global partnerships. Some 800 international organization leaders and representatives, government ministers and senior officials, as well as representatives from finance institutions, the private sector, academia and the industry, will participate in the event. A lack of access to vaccines, medicines, personal protection equipment, diagnostic kits and ventilators during the COVID-19 pandemic has unequivocally highlighted the issue of healthcare inequity, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. This underlines the need to geographically diversify the manufacturing base for essential healthcare technologies, according to WHO experts.—APP

Turkey raises key rate in inflation fight

ISTANBUL : Turkey's central bank sharply lifted its policy rate for the fifth month running as part of its politically charged battle against historically high inflation rates. The bank said it was taking its main lending rate to 35 percent from 30 percent because "inflation readings were above expectations" over the past three months. Its statement also retained a pledge to raise rates further "in a timely and gradual manner" until "a significant improvement in the inflation outlook" is achieved. Turkey's official annual inflation rate peaked at 85 percent last October and climbed back up above 60 percent last month. The bank has now more than quadrupled borrowing costs since President Recep Tayyip Erdogan dropped - or at least put aside - his lifelong objection to the idea that raising interest rates helps fight inflation. The Turkish leader had entered a difficult May election pledging to never allow the bank to raise its key rate while he was president. He reversed course after winning the vote and allowing a new team of Wall Street-trained economists to take on the job of steering Turkey out of its worst cost-of-living crisis of Erdogan's two-decade rule. Erdogan has given his new policy team several crucial votes of support in the past few months.—APP

U.S. agricultural futures fall

CHICAGO : Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) agricultural futures fell across the board on Wednesday, led by wheat. The most active corn contract for December delivery fell 4 cents, or 0.83 percent, to settle at 4.80 U.S. dollars per bushel. December wheat plunged 12 cents, or 2.07 percent, to settle at 5.685 dollars per bushel. January soybean lost 6 cents, or 0.46 percent, to settle at 13.085 dollars per bushel. CBOT agricultural futures were lower on the prospect of rain across parched Northern Brazil and a fall in energy values. CBOT back-and-forth trade persists. One cannot underplay the importance of South American weather in world grain pricing. U.S. corn and soybean exports for the crop year to date are keeping pace with last year. South American weather in November and December will be key to longer term CBOT price direction. Chicago-based research company AgResource's research shows that soy and soybeans are undervalued relative to the weather and demand risks ahead. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reported that China secured 126,000 metric tons of U.S. soybeans for delivery in the 2023-2024 crop year.—DNA

Belgium charges Tunisian man in Brussels attack

BRUSSELS: Belgium said on Thursday that it had arrested a 45-year old Tunisian man in connection with the gun attack earlier this month by another Tunisian who had pledged allegiance to Islamic State and shot dead two Swedes. The Brussels Federal Prosecutor said a Tunisian identified as Lamjed K was arrested this week over the October 16 attack and was charged with murder and attempted murder in a terrorist context and participation in the activities of a terrorist organization. "The federal public prosecutor's Office only wishes to confirm that he can possibly be linked to the weapon used during the terrorist attack on 16 October 2023," it said in a statement. The gunman behind the October 16 attack called himself Abdesalem Al Guilani. He had unsuccessfully sought asylum in Belgium in 2019 and was living in Belgium illegally. The gunman targeted Swedes who were in Brussels to watch Belgium play Sweden in a European championship soccer match. The game had to be abandoned, and a police manhunt for the gunman culminated in police shooting him dead. Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo criticized the shooting a "brutal terrorist attack," and criticism over how Belgian authorities had been monitoring the gunman resulted in the resignation of the Belgium Justice Minister.—DNA



ISLAMABAD : Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, the Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, & Economic Affairs, recently convened a productive meeting with the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK). The high-level discussion centered on key strategies and initiatives aimed at bolstering the economic development and revenue generation within the KPK region.—DNA

EU leaders address Middle East, maintain Ukraine support

The EU and its member countries have provided billions of euros in assistance to Ukraine since Russian forces invaded in February last year

FOREIGN DESK

BRUSSELS: European Union leaders meet on Thursday to grapple with the conflict between Israel and Hamas while also aiming to show continuing support for Ukraine in its war against Russia's invasion. The summit in Brussels will be the first in-person meeting of the EU's 27 national leaders since the deadly Oct. 7 assault on Israel by Palestinian militant group Hamas, which prompted Israel to bombard and blockade Hamas-run Gaza. While EU countries have all strongly condemned the Hamas attack, leaders have struggled to stick to the same message beyond that, with some stressing Israel's

right to self-defence and others emphasising concern about Palestinian civilians. In the lead-up to the summit, EU countries were wrangling over whether to call for a "humanitarian pause," with some arguing such a measure was vital to get aid into Gaza while others said it could limit Israel's ability to defend itself. Diplomats said the EU appeared to be coalescing around a compromise call for "pauses" in the plural, as this suggested short breaks in fighting for specific missions such as hostage releases or aid convoys, rather than a formal cease-fire. EU leaders including French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz have visited the Middle East to express solidarity with Israel

and bolster diplomatic efforts to prevent the conflict spiralling into a regional war. While the EU's influence on the conflict is modest, officials fear that an escalation could have grave consequences for Europe, including a rise in tensions between communities, possible Islamist militant attacks and a large flow of refugees. "Our meeting comes at a time of great global instability and insecurity, exacerbated most recently by developments in the Middle East," said Charles Michel, president of the European Council of EU leaders, in an invitation letter to the summit. "These developments require our immediate attention, without distracting us from our continued support to Ukraine." Ukrainian President

Volodymyr Zelensky will address the summit by video link and support for Kyiv will have first place in the summit declaration. The EU and its member countries have provided billions of euros in assistance to Ukraine since Russian forces invaded in February last year. But some officials and diplomats have voiced fears that Ukraine may now struggle to get the same political attention and resources from the West, particularly the United States, due to the new crisis in the Middle East. The summit will not be able to sign off on multi-year plans for 50 billion euros in financial aid and up 20 billion euros for military aid for Ukraine, as they are part of a broader budget battle that officials hope

to conclude by year's end. At the summit, the leaders will have their first debate on that budget package, which diplomats expect to be contentious. "It's hard to ask for more money for the EU budget when national budgets are getting squeezed," said one EU diplomat. Diplomats say there is broad support for more money for Ukraine but other elements of the proposal by the European Commission - the bloc's executive - are more contentious, as countries clash over priorities and sources of funding. The Commission has asked for 15 additional billion euros to deal with migration and further money to cover increased borrowing costs for joint EU debt as interest rates rise.

Briefs

CJP Isa summons SJC meeting today

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has summoned the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) meeting to discuss complaints filed against superior court judges including Justice Sayyed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi on Friday (today) at 11.30am.

This will be the first meeting of the SJC under CJP Isa and was convened after a gap of over 3 years. Headed by CJP Isa, SJC also consists of two senior judges of the apex court – Justice Tariq Masood and Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan. SJC is the only constitutional forum that has powers to remove judges of superior courts on different charges. Besides Justice Naqvi, complaints were filed against other judges of the superior court.

The top judicial forum will likely take up a complaint against Justice Naqvi in tomorrow's meeting. Justice Masood, senior judge of the Supreme Court and member of SJC, had submitted his legal opinion on the misconduct complaints filed against apex court Justice Naqvi in September this year, according to The News. Several misconduct complaints were filed against Justice Naqvi during the tenure of former chief justice Umar Ata Bandial. Justice (ret'd) Bandial had referred the matter to Justice Tariq Masood for examining it and giving his legal opinion. Initially, the misconduct complaint was filed against Justice Naqvi with the SJC by a Lahore-based lawyer Muhammad Dawood. Later on, PBC had also announced to file complaint against the senior judge.

Al-Asoumi denounces int'l silence over Gaza

CAIRO: Arab Parliament Speaker Adel Abdulrahman Al-Asoumi has condemned what he described as a "shameful" international silence on "daily crimes" committed by Israel in the Gaza Strip. Addressing the 147th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly being hosted by Angola in its capital city, Luanda, Al-Asoumi labeled the global response to Israel's military actions in Gaza "a disgrace."

He warned that the international community's neglect of the "massacres which the Palestinian people are exposed to, and the blind support of some countries for those horrors will lead to the destruction of the entire region." In a speech distributed on Thursday, Al-Asoumi said the people of Palestine "have suffered, and are still suffering, for more than 75 years from all forms of injustices, persecution, killings, arrests, and abuse in order to obtain their most basic right to establish their independent state." – Agencies

Shah narrates plight of jailed PTI women

DNA

LAHORE: Fashion designer Khadija Shah, currently incarcerated in Central Jail, Kot Lakhpat, has penned an open letter to shed light on the distressing circumstances faced by 18 imprisoned women, appealing for compassion and basic human decency. In a heartfelt, five-page handwritten message made public through her spouse and the official account of her party on platform X, Shah shares the heart-wrenching narratives of separation, pain, and agony endured by the detainees since the May 9 events. She emphasises that every prisoner, herself included, has endured an indescribable ordeal. Shah, the granddaughter of the former military leader retired General Asif Nawaz Janjua, reveals that she has been detained for more than four months due to her "peaceful participation" in May 9 protest.

Republic Day of Kazakhstan celebrated



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Ashraf Tarar, Ambassador of Kazakhstan Erjan Kistafin and others cutting cake to celebrate the Republic Day of Kazakhstan. A fashion was also organized on the occasion, picture of which can be seen on Page 3. – DNA

US will defend the Philippines if China attacks, says Biden

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden has warned China that the US will defend the Philippines in case of any attack in the disputed South China Sea. The comments come days after two collisions between Filipino and Chinese vessels in the contested waters.

Mr Biden reiterated his "ironclad" defence commitment to the Philippines. Manila has contested Chinese claims to the waters, cutting floating barriers and inviting media to film what it calls Beijing's dangerous moves at sea. Mr Biden's statement on the South China Sea on Wednesday was his strongest since tensions between Beijing and Manila heated up in recent months. "I want to be clear – I want to be very clear: The United States' defence commitment to the Philippines is ironclad. The United States defence agreement with the Philippines is ironclad," he said. Signed in 1951, the Mutual Defense Treaty binds the US and the Philippines, its former colony, into defending each other in the event of an armed attack. – Agencies

Israel's attack on UN Chief's speech unacceptable

DNA

JEDDAH: The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) condemned in the strongest terms the unethical and illegal attack by Israel, the occupying power, against the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, as an act of political blackmail against the UN and its Secretary-General. The OIC considered the Secretary-General's speech at the Security Council to be in line with his duties and responsibilities derived from international law, international humanitarian law, as well as from the charter and resolutions of the United Nations. The OIC also expressed its profound respect to the Secretary-General for the role of the United Nations agencies and their tireless efforts at all levels to stop the war crimes being perpetrated by the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people, their land, and holy sites.

Security can't be comprised at any cost: COAS Asim

"Army is fully engaged in enabling national and provincial responses in different domains in step with other institutions of the state for the collective good of the people of Pakistan"



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Commenting on the subject of repatriation and deportation of illegal foreigners, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir on Thursday said that safety and security of each Pakistani is of paramount importance which cannot be allowed to be compromised at any cost. He said this while interacting with participants of National Security Workshop – 25, who visited the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi today, military's media wing, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), said in a statement. Earlier this month, the caretaker govern-

ment had announced an ultimatum for all undocumented immigrants, particularly Afghan nationals, to exit the country by October 31. Beginning November 1, the government said such individuals found residing in Pakistan would be liable to imprisonment and deportation. The decision was taken during a meeting of the apex committee led by Interim Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar. The meeting, which was attended by COAS General Asim Munir, among others, decided that movement across the border would be subject to passports and visas. Moreover, electronic Afghan identity cards would only be accepted until October 31. The participants

of National Security Workshop – 25 were briefed about regional and internal security dynamics and national security environment, according to ISPR. While addressing the participants, the army chief said that, "Armed Forces of Pakistan and its security and intelligence setups have fought the menace of terrorism in an exemplary manner despite sustained and varied support of inimical forces. Success will be ours InshAllah (God willing) with the continued support of the people of Pakistan". Gen Munir emphasised that intelligentsia and civil society has greater responsibility to ensure that our people, especially youth stay aware and steadfast against hos-

tile propaganda onslaught being launched through soft offensive against the state institutions of Pakistan. The forum was also apprised regarding host of measures being taken to curb illegal activities including smuggling, power theft, narcotics prevalence, border control measures, and repatriation of illegal foreigners from Pakistan. "Safety and security of each Pakistani is of paramount importance which cannot be allowed to be compromised at any cost," Gen Munir emphasised while commenting on the subject of repatriation and deportation of illegal foreigners. The COAS also highlighted the economic positivity generated by multiple proactive steps especially the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). "Army is fully engaged in enabling national and provincial responses in different domains in step with other institutions of the state for the collective good of the people of Pakistan. We are a resilient nation that has endured the tests of time on its path to achieving peace and stability," the army chief maintained. The National Security Workshop is an annual event at the National Defence University participated by representatives from all segments of society. National Security Workshop – 25 is being attended by 98 participants including parliamentarians, senior civil and armed forces officers and representatives of the civil society.

Pak committed to SCO spirit for shared prosperity: FM

NEWS DESK

BISHKEK: Caretaker Foreign Minister Jilil Abbas Jilani on Thursday reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support and commitment to fostering cooperation in critical and practical areas in Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) region including enhancing connectivity and transport links, youth empowerment, investment in key sectors with high regional potential, such as agriculture, mining, minerals, energy, and information technology. He said during Pakistan's Chair of Council of Heads of Government (CHG) Pakistan will also continue to strengthen cooperation in the fields of education and poverty alleviation. Addressing the meeting of SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) in Bishkek, the foreign minister said as the succeeding Chair of the Council, Pakistan would continue to support the existing mechanisms and welcome new initiatives. The council is the second-highest body within the SCO and focuses on issues related to economy, finance, trade and socio-economic collaboration. Jilani said SCO was the key platform for taking the vision of Eurasian connectivity to the next level. Pakistan's location at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia

and the Middle East makes it an ideal trade conduit. He informed that Pakistan planned to host a Conference on Transport Connectivity for Regional Prosperity to ensure an economically integrated region. The foreign minister highlighted that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a force multiplier for regional connectivity. "Lack of connectivity is an impediment to regional trade, investment and development. CPEC does not only connect Pakistan to its neighbour China but also offers all SCO Member States a chance to invest in our shared future and full regional economic integration." SCO Business Council and SCO Interbank Association can play a vital role in fostering economic and commercial cooperation among SCO member states, through strengthening interaction among entrepreneurs and promoting people-to-people contact, he said adding the Council and the Association could also facilitate investment in areas of mutual benefit for all SCO Member States. "To advance these objectives and bolster connections among businessmen and industrialists from SCO Member States, Pakistan proposes to host SCO Businessmen Conference," he added. Keeping in mind the importance of empowerment of youth, he proposed to host a Conference on Youth Empowerment Through Digital Economy.



ISLAMABAD: Azerbaijan ambassador to Pakistan, Khazar Farhadov meets with Dr. Gohar Ejaz, Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce and Industries of Pakistan. – DNA

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