



Islamabad POST

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PA could only return to Gaza if 'solution' found to conflict

Detailed News On Page-08

It is Türkiye's duty to stop bloodshed

Detailed News On Page-08

Kohli hits 49th century, equals Tendulkar's record

Detailed News On Page-06

Fazl meets resistance leadership 'Muslim ummah must unite against Israel's atrocities'

Ismail Haniyeh addresses Islamabad rally; says that the resistance movement shattered Tel Aviv's dream of "greater Israel"

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: With Israel continuing its relentless bombing of the Gaza Strip, JamiatUlema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman met Palestinian resistance group Hamas's leader Ismail Haniyeh and former chief Khaled Mashal in Qatar on Sunday. The JUI-F chief is in Qatar where he is expected to reach out to the Arab world leadership to find a way to provide aid to Gaza which has been facing a dire humanitarian crisis due to the ongoing Israeli bombing of the strip following the October 7 attack by Hamas, sources told media. "The two sides held detailed discussions over the Palestine issue", JUI-F spokesperson Aslam Ghauri said while shedding light on the meeting between the veteran politician and Hamas leadership.

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"[The JUI-F chief] conveyed condolences and expressed solidarity with the people of Palestine in wake of Israeli atrocities in Gaza," the statement on Fazl's X account read. During the meeting, Haniyeh called for Muslims to unite in the face of Israeli aggression - which has killed nearly 10,000 Palestinians since October 7. "It is the Muslim ummah's responsibility to unite against Israeli atrocities," Haniyeh said. Meanwhile, Mashal highlighted that the prevalent atrocities in Kashmir and Palestine are a slap in the face of so-called human rights advocates. The JUI-F chief, while echoing Hamas leadership's views, said that the developed

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Israel targets water supply, refugee camp

NEWS DESK

GAZA CITY: Israel pressed its war to crush Hamas on Sunday nearly a month after the worst attack in the country's history, as the Palestinian group said strikes on a central Gaza refugee camp and a water reservoir killed over 38. Fighting continues to rage in densely populated Gaza, despite calls for a ceasefire from Arab countries and desperate civilians after 30 days of war. Unwilling to consider a ceasefire, however, Israel dropped fresh evacuation notices on Sunday urging Gazans to move north amid continued bombing. More than 9,488 Palestinians, mostly women, children and the elderly, have been killed in Gaza as Israel has continued with relentless air strikes, bombing and an increasingly intensifying ground campaign for a month since October 7, when Hamas launched a surprise raid claiming 1,400 Israeli lives and took 240 captives. Israel has since bombarded the besieged Gaza Strip every single day, targeting hospitals, refugee camps, residential areas and

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DOHA: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman meets Palestinian resistance movement Hamas's leader Ismail Haniyeh along with delegation. Separately he also met former chief Khaled Mashal. - DNA

Nepal earthquake PM grieved over loss of lives
Over 200 killed in deadly earthquake

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Saturday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives and property in earthquake in Nepal. "Our thoughts and prayers are with those affected by last night's earthquake in Nepal that has resulted in loss of precious lives and property," he wrote on X, formerly twitter. "Pakistan stands with Nepal during this difficult time and is ready to extend whatever assistance

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Rupee to continue losses against US dollar

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The rupee is expected to continue its losses against the US dollar in the coming week, as high demand for the greenback from importers outweighs the supply from exporters, reported The News citing analysts. The publication believes that the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) review mission to Pakistan will also make the rupee lose ground as the local currency becomes

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NA speaker wants dialogue between political parties

I still think, and I have said so many times before to do consultation and sit everyone down [and] open a dialogue

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly (NA) Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf has called for a dialogue between all political entities while lamenting that the country has not been able to progress due to the practice of bringing up issues of the past. The speaker made the remarks in an interview on a private news channel program. During the interview, he was asked about the 2017 Faizabad sit-in and whether "all players and facts should come to light". The case has been thrust into the limelight once again as the Supreme

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RAW behind terrorist incidents in Pakistan

BUREAU REPORT

QUETTA: As the country is witnessing an uptick in terror incidents, Balochistan's Caretaker Minister for Information Jan Achakzai has said that neighbouring countries are "blackmailing Pakistan". "Recent terror attacks have proved that the neighbouring countries are attempting to blackmail us," Achakzai said during a press conference in Quetta Sunday.

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Bahrain visas Pakistanis can now apply online

New initiative aims to enhance the travel experience for visitors from Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Bahrain's Ministry of Interior, Nationality, Passport, and Residence

Affairs (NPRA) has unveiled an efficient and convenient online visa application system for Pakistani nationals, offering three distinct types of visit visas. This new initiative aims to enhance the travel experience for visitors from Pakistan, whether they are planning a two-week vacation or a more extended stay in Bahrain. Visa types and application process Pakistani travelers seeking to explore Bahrain's tourism or business opportunities can now choose from the following visit visa options:

1. Visit Visa - 2 Weeks Single Entry
 2. Visit Visa - Three Months Multiple Entry
 3. Visit Visa - One Year Multiple Entry
- Application process**
1. Visit the official website and click on the "Apply for Visa" link on the homepage
 2. Fill out the eligibility page and proceed to view the available visa types and their respective conditions

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Briefs

Ch. Fawad handed over to police

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry was handed over to the police after a court in the federal capital approved a two-day remand of the politician, a day after he was arrested from his residence in Islamabad. The court at the District Judicial Complex mandated a medical examination for the politician, directing the police to facilitate his meeting with family members. The orders came following Fawad's arrest on Saturday, which his wife Hiba claimed was done without any reason. However, it was later revealed that the politician was taken into custody after a complaint was filed against him in Islamabad's Aabpara Police Station for soliciting a Rs5 million bribe in exchange for a job.

Hamza for making Pak progressive

ABBAS HASHMI

LAHORE: PML-N Vice President and former Punjab chief minister Hamza Shahbaz Sharif has pledged to lead the country to the path of progress under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif. Talking to media on Sunday, he said Pakistan was facing surge in terrorism cases, inflation and floods and its people had always resisted the tough time with courage and gratitude. "Our forces are fighting against the terrorism to make the country a cradle of peace and entire nation is standing with the Pakistani forces to defeat terrorism," he said, adding that our hearts beat with the people of Palestinian brother and sisters.

\$10bn green refinery project Riyadh asks Islamabad to approach China's Sinopec

As per Saudi Arabia's request, PSO is in touch with Bank of China and Sinopec

MONITORING REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia has asked Islamabad to approach China's Sinopec and make it a part of the \$10 billion green refinery that is to be established in Pakistan, reported a Pakistani newspaper on Sunday. "We have announced and notified the new green refinery policy with incentives of 7.5% deemed duty for 25 years and a tax holiday of 20 years as per wishes of Saudi Arabia, but the required pace of progress needs some stimulation," said sources. Riyadh also wants the engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contract to be given to Sinopec. As per the request Pakistan State Oil, nominated by the Pakistani government, is in touch with the Bank of China and Sinopec. Sinopec is also providing services to Saudi Arabia (rigs, well-service, geophysical exploration), pipeline, road and bridge, and other EPC projects. Sinopec has been serving

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Pakistan decides to expand strategic petroleum reserves

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: As the Middle East remains surrounded by tensions, the caretaker government has decided to expand the country's strategic petroleum reserves, sources within the Petroleum Division said. The government's move is triggered after Israel's ongoing war on Gaza, which began following a surprise attack on an Israeli kibbutz by Hamas, a resistance group fighting for a free Palestine, almost a month ago. The sources said there is an urgent need to increase the storage capacity of petroleum reserves as

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Palestine bleeds: requiem for Ummah's conscience

COMMENT

ANSAR M BHATTI

WHILE the tragic accounts of large-scale violence against innocent Palestinians persist at the hands of Israeli forces, there is a noticeable disparity in the responses from the Muslim ummah and the global community at large. It is disheartening to observe that non-Muslim countries have reacted swiftly and resolutely to Israeli actions, while the Muslim states have, for the most part, remained passive and indecisive. Notably, some Latin American countries, such as Bolivia, have taken the bold step of severing ties with Israel, whereas the OIC and Arab League are still deliberating their course of action. Among the Arab states, Bahrain has shown some guts by expelling the Israeli ambassador. The situation in Gaza can be analyzed from multiple perspectives. Firstly, the conflict escalated when there were indications of Saudi Arabia deepening its relationship with Tel Aviv, potentially formalizing diplomatic ties with the intention of recognizing Israel in the future. As reports suggest, Saudi Arabia's plan was to extend recognition to Israel once Palestine achieved full independence and sovereignty, with Al-Quds

as its capital. Nevertheless, after Gaza tragedy Saudis of course will have to put their plans on hold, albeit, for a while. The U.S. stance on the issue is perplexing, to say the least. It's challenging to comprehend how a superpower could seemingly support an aggressor, especially when the tragic loss of innocent lives is so evident. Some observers speculate that President Joe Biden's unwavering support for Israel may be influenced by his desire to secure backing from the Jewish community for upcoming elections. Questions have also been raised the way Hamas conducted its operations. Its critics believe if it did not have the Plan B and C then why it ventured on this mission due to which thousands of innocent people have lost their lives. It is also believed that Israel's prime objective is not to eliminate Hamas rather to get the entire Gaza strip vacated from Palestinians. To eliminate Hamas may not be an issue for Israel as it knows it's all ins and outs given the fact that Hamas came into being with the very support and backing of Israel in order to contain Yasser Arafat's PLO at that time. It may be recalled that the bombing of the media tower in the Gaza Strip in May 2021 highlighted the unwavering resolve of Israel in its pursuit of eliminating not only the messengers but also the innocent Palestinian people who have endured decades of Israeli brutality. This tragic event had claimed the

lives of over 180 Palestinians, including children, and left hundreds of thousands homeless. Israel's relentless campaign of terror reached a horrifying climax when they targeted Palestinians gathered for prayers in the Al-Aqsa mosque on the night of the 27th of Ramadan. Even in the face of this brutality, the so-called Muslim Ummah responded with an outpouring of grandiose statements and promises to protect Al-Aqsa mosque and come to the aid of the innocent people. Regrettably, these vows remained unfulfilled, and their pledges never materialized into concrete actions. The OIC foreign ministers' conference, held recently in Saudi Arabia, appeared to present an opportunity for addressing concerns related to Israel. However, it fell disappointingly short of expectations as foreign ministers largely delivered routine speeches and failed to take substantial actions. There are three prominent international platforms that the Palestinian people and the broader Muslim community, often referred to as the Ummah, could look to for support: the United Nations, the Arab League, and the OIC. Placing excessive hope in the United Nations may be unwise, as it often seems influenced by anti-Muslim sentiments and constrained by its relationships with certain powerful nations. Given that Israel has strong backing from the United States, the UN's criticism of Israeli actions may be limited. The Secretary General's earnest appeals for a ceasefire

have unfortunately fallen on deaf ears. It appears that his pleas have not gained the traction they deserve. In light of this, it becomes imperative for the Secretary General to reflect on his relevance and the justification for his continued leadership at the United Nations. The OIC, on the other hand, has unfortunately been criticized for its ineffectiveness and resource-draining tendencies since its establishment. This 57-member organization has consistently fallen short of meeting expectations. Despite several challenges faced by the Muslim community, the OIC has not been successful in taking meaningful action. It has, at times, appeared as a platform for rhetorical condemnations, particularly in addressing issues like Islamophobia and blasphemous depictions. The OIC was founded in response to the 1969 arson incidents at Al Aqsa mosque, yet it has been unable to prevent subsequent attacks on the mosque by Israel due to the lack of a substantial response from the Ummah and the OIC itself. In the recent episode, most of the OIC member countries believe, though they do not admit it openly, that Hamas acts do not represent the will of the entire Palestine state hence at times they are loathe to back Hamas actions wholeheartedly. Arab League is yet another stakeholder that can play a role, if it wishes to. But keeping in view the past practices, nothing tangible is expected from the Arab League as the block appears to be divid-

ed into two distinct camps - one openly supporting the US and Israel and another desiring a solution as per the wishes of the people of Palestine. But now when a tragedy has taken place it time for everyone to shun differences and try to save innocent Palestine people from the Israeli barbarities. Israel will never listen to anybody until and unless it is given a matching response. The Iranian foreign minister proposed to declare Israeli acts as war crimes and genocide of Palestine people. The Iranian spiritual leader Ali Khamenei has asked the Muslim ummah to boycott Israel but of no use only because of severe internal fissures among the Muslim countries. As long as they remain divided the innocent Muslims would continue to reel under tyranny and subjugation. It's important to remember that complex geopolitical issues like the Israeli-Palestinian conflict require a multifaceted and long-term approach. While a matching response may seem tempting, dialogue, diplomacy, and international cooperation are more likely to lead to lasting solutions and a more stable and secure future for the region. Whether it's Hamas or other Palestinian factions, it's important for them to recognize the significance of unity within their ranks and resist succumbing to external provocations. They should also heed the voices of those who genuinely support their cause and seek an amicable resolution in accordance with their aspirations.

President directs State Life to pay insurance claim

“This panel of doctors would suggest as to what are the most prevalent and common diseases in Pakistan and what tests should be included before issuance of the policy”, he added

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has directed the State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLICP) to pay death insurance claim worth Rs 300,000 along with profit to the family members of the deceased policyholder, who were not being paid the claim for almost three years. The President further asked State Life to form a panel of doctors for devising a policy on pre-insurance tests of proposed policyholders. The President gave these directions while rejecting a representation filed by SLICP against the order of the Waqfi Mohtasib.

Saad Taheer (the complainant) had alleged that his father had purchased a life insurance policy from the agency in 2013 for the sum assured of Rs 300,000/- with annual premium of Rs 18,406. His father died in 2020, and he filed the death insurance claim which was repudiated by SLICP on the ground that the deceased had a pre-insurance

ailment of hepatitis-C, which he had deliberately hidden. Feeling aggrieved, he approached the Waqfi Mohtasib which asked SLICP to reconsider the matter and provide appropriate relief to the nominees of the deceased policyholder. SLICP, then, filed a representation with the President against the Mohtasib's order.

The President held a hearing on the matter, and after listening to both sides, gave his decision. The President pointed out that the deceased purchased the policy in 2013, whereas SLICP had produced copies of medical reports of the year 2015 and all reports pertained to the post-insurance period and were not worth consideration. He further noted that the Confidential Report of the Field Officer of the SLICP had also declared the insured as healthy at the time of issuance of the policy and had clearly stated that she knew the insured for the last two years. The President also referred to Section 80 of the Insurance Ordinance 2000, which provides that no policy of life

insurance, after the expiry of two years from the date on which it was affected, shall be called into question by the insurer on the ground that a statement in the proposal for insurance or in any report of a medical officer was false or inaccurate.

The President, therefore, rejected State Life's representation and directed it to pay the insurance claim along with the accrued profit within 30 days to the nominees. He further asked State Life to constitute a panel of doctors to advise it on a policy regarding pre-insurance medical tests. “This panel of doctors would suggest as to what are the most prevalent and common diseases in Pakistan and what tests should be included before issuance of the policy”, he added. The President also advised that the company may devise a risk assessment about different diseases and modify premiums accordingly, if they want to issue policies to patients with mild and very prevalent diseases like diabetes, hypertension, hepatitis etc.

FIA arrests 2 passengers over fake documents

DNA

KARACHI: The Federal Investigation Agency's immigration arrested two passengers at Karachi airport over fake travel documents. “The accused went Saudi Arabia for Umra pilgrimage,” Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) said. “They tried to travel Bosnia on fake documents.”

“Arrested men Zain ul Abideen and Mohammad Akhtar arrived in Pakistan by an international flight,” FIA stated. The accused were also involved in tampering of passports and torn passport pages stamped with fake visa, FIA sources said. “They had got the visa from an agent based in Saudi Arabia,” FIA disclosed. “During search the FIA found two air tickets of Bosnia from mobile phones of the accused,” FIA said. “The two suspects have been shifted to the FIA's anti-human trafficking circle, Karachi for further investigation,” FIA officials added.

Documents Lost



My educational certificates including matric certificate, FA certificate, school character certificate, degree BBA, degree MBA and domicile certificate fell and lost near vegetable market on 31/10/2023.

Advertiser: Abdur Rahman Mahbub, son of Mahbub Elahi, village, town, Noor Ahmadpura, Lala Musa, Tehsil, Kharian, District, Gujrat.

PCMEA apprises SBP on handmade carpet exporters' challenges

DNA

LAHORE: A meeting was organized between the delegations of State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) with the support of Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) to understand the difficulties faced by the exporters of handmade carpets and their concerns. The association was represented by Chairman Naeem Khokhar and Vice Chairman Zafar Idris Soleja while Senior Vice Chairman Usman Ashraf, Senior Central Leader Abdul Latif Malik, Chairperson of Carpet Training Institute Ijazur Rahman, Senior Leader Riaz Ahmed, Saeed Khan and others joined via video link. The association informed the State Bank about the demands regarding about provisions on penalties and deductions on payments made after 60 days by State Bank officials, restoration of special status of 270 days credit condition for handloom carpets and increase the delivery time limit of CAD shipment from 45 days to 60 days.

It was further informed that unutilized advance payment also continued to be a problem whereas earlier the system allowed adjustment which has now been done away with. The association also demanded that instructions should be issued to allow adjustment of these unutilized advances or permanently cancel their status as advances. Carpet Association Chairman Naeem Khokhar and Senior Vice Chairman Usman Ashraf said that the State Bank officials have listened patiently to our problems and concerns and have assured that these issues will be resolved. They said that the exporters of handmade carpets are trying to increase exports despite the fluctuations in the value of the dollar, the enormous increase in production costs and other difficulties. “Government and other related institutions including State Bank have always extended their support for which they are grateful. However, sometimes the issuance of policies and circulars without consulting the stakeholders leads to difficulties and complications,” they added. They said that they expect that a long-term policy will be made in consultation with stakeholders for the promotion of exports because the exporters of hand-woven carpets are not only a source of valuable foreign exchange for the country but also providing employment to millions of people.

‘Lok Mela’ Minister emphasizes preservation of cultural values

PESHAWAR: The Caretaker Minister of Information, Culture, and Tourism Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel, attended the annual ‘Lok Mela’ at Lok Virsa Islamabad. During the event, he addressed the attendees, emphasizing the significance of the preservation of cultural values and heritage, according to a handout issued here on Sunday. Accompanied by Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah and Palestine Ambassador Ahmad Jawad Rabei, Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel explored the various pavilions representing different provinces. Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel warmly welcomed the Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, as well as the Ambassador of Palestine to Pakistan, along with other esteemed guests at the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pavilion. The officials of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority cordially guided the guests through the diverse facets of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pavilion, where the guests showed keen interest in the cultural exhibits, delectable culinary offerings, folk music, art, literature, traditional attire, embroidery, and exquisite ornaments. The event featured captivating folk music performances, providing a delightful cultural experience. In a heartwarming gesture of solidarity, Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel visited the Palestine Corner, connecting with the Palestinian families present and conveying a message of support on behalf of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and its people. During his address at the inaugural function, Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel underscored the importance of such events in promoting unity and preserving cultural values. He emphasized that these events reflect the collective aspirations of society and the legacy to be passed down to future generations. Speaking passionately about the Palestinian cause, Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel reaffirmed the unwavering support of the KP government and its people. He praised the rich Palestinian culture and heritage, characterizing it as a beacon of human civilization and history. The caretaker minister expressed his commitment to standing alongside the Palestinian people and their cause. Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel envisioned a future where similar events could be held in the heart of Gaza. He also touched upon the historical significance of Peshawar as a center of civilization and religion, highlighting the remarkable museums and attractions in the region. In closing, Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel reiterated the unwavering solidarity of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with both the Palestinian and Kashmiri people, pledging to stand united until lasting solutions are found for their respective issues.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr Nadeem Jan visited Community Health Centre G/13.—DNA

RPO Dera inquires after health of injured cop

DNA

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Regional Police Officer (RPO) Dera Nasir Mahmood Satti on Sunday paid a visit to DHQ Hospital Dera and inquired after the health of the constable Waheed Gul who sustained injuries during attack on Gul Imam check post in Tank. On Saturday night, the Tank district police have repulsed a terrorist attack on a police check post in the limits of Gul Imam police station which was stormed by unknown militants with heavy weapons. The police promptly and effectively retaliated and the exchange of fire continued, during which police constable Waheed Gul received bullet injuries. Who was immediately rushed to the Tank hospital, later shifted to DHQ Hospital Dera for better treatment. During the visit, RPO met the injured cop, appreciated their courage and expressed good wishes. He expressed the sorrow and offered prayers for their speedy recovery.

He inquired about the medical facilities provided to the injured and directed the hospital authorities to provide the best medical facilities to the injured police constable. The RPO vowed that the scourge of terrorism would be eradicated and every possible effort to sabotage the peace process would be thwarted.

CM reviews proposals regarding ‘one roof one stop’

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday presided over a special meeting at the CM Office for establishing ‘One Window Operation’ in which proposals regarding “One Roof, One Stop” solution for the investors and industrialists in Lahore were reviewed. The participants in the meeting were informed that Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC), Punjab Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (PIEDMC) and Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC) would provide services in ‘One Window Operation’ Centre. The empowered officials of Local government, Environment, Housing and other departments would be present at the One Window Centre. LESCO and Sui Gas counters would also be set up in the One Window Centre. Facility to obtain NOCs of land trans-

CM condoles demise of Dr Shukrullah

LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has expressed his deep sense of sorrow and grief over the death of a young doctor Shukrullah due to Congo virus in Quetta. Expressing his heartfelt sympathy and condolence with the family of Doctor Shukrullah, the CM stated that he was heartily grieved over the untimely death incident of Doctor Shukrullah due to Congo Virus. Doctor Shukrullah by laying down his life has set an example to serve the grief-stricken humanity. CM stated that he salutes all the doctors who are busy in treating the Congo virus patients. The nation takes pride in their doctors who are busy in treating the grievd humanity without caring for their lives.—APP

Operational Review Committee and Steering Committee has been constituted for the One Window Centre. Provincial Minister for Industries & Commerce SM Tanveer, Chief Secretary, Secretaries of Industries, Finance Environment, Local government, Housing, Forest, DG LDA, Chairman PITB, CEO FIEDMC and concerned officials attended the meeting.

Chronic skin diseases can raise heart disease risk

ISLAMABAD: Patients with psoriasis, a chronic systemic immune-mediated inflammatory disease, could be at higher risk for cardiovascular disease, a new study has found. While psoriasis affects 1-3 percent of the global population, cardiovascular diseases like heart attack and stroke are the leading cause of death globally. Researchers from the University of Padova in Italy

conducted a study on 503 psoriasis patients without clinical cardiovascular disease, who underwent transthoracic doppler echocardiography to evaluate coronary microcirculation, Medical Daily reported. They found a high prevalence of coronary microvascular dysfunction in more than 30 percent of asymptomatic patients. “Previous studies have shown that patients with

severe psoriasis have an increased cardiovascular morbidity and mortality. However, there has been limited research on the specific mechanisms underlying this increased risk, particularly regarding coronary microvascular dysfunction,” said lead investigator of the study, Stefano Piaserico, Dermatology Unit, Department of Medicine, at the university.—APP

Pak Ulema council issues declaration on current situation

The way the soldiers of the Pakistan Army and security agencies foiled the terrorist attack on the Mianwali PAF Airbase is a matter of pride

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: The Central Executive and Consultative Body of Pakistan Ulema Council has issued a declaration on the current situation of the country, Palestine and the Islamic world. More than two hundred members of Pakistan Ulema Council's Executive and Consultative Body participated in the meeting. The meeting was presided over by Central Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi. The meeting stated that the forces hostile to Pakistan, including India and its allies are involved in the incidents of terrorism inside Pakistan. The international community must take immediate



steps against India's continued terrorism. The response of the Pakistani nation, army and security agencies to the terrorist incidents during the last two days and before is commendable. Ulema-Mashaykh and the religious scholars from all over the country stand united by Pakistan's Army and security

agencies to contain the menace of extremism and terrorism. The way the soldiers of the Pakistan Army and security agencies foiled the terrorist attack on the Mianwali PAF Airbase is a matter of pride. The declaration issued by Pakistan Ulema Council also sid that Pakistan Ulema Council also supports

and endorse Paigham-e-Pakistan narrative and the decree in this regard. In this aegis of Pakistan Ulema Council, Paigham-e-Pakistan Conventions will be held across the country. The declaration also noted that attacks on Pakistan's armed forces, security institutions, government and non-government instal-

lations and people are not permissible under any circumstances. Armed struggle by any individual, party or group is not legally permissible in Pakistan, and the government of Pakistan has the right to take legal action against those who do this. The declaration expressing concern over the situation in Palestine stated that for the last one month, the Zionist state of Israel has done complete siege of Gaza, the supply of water, food and fuel to 2.3 million people of Gaza has been suspended while the communication system has also been cut off. As a result of the ongoing bombing by Israel, more than 10,000 Palestinians have been martyred, including more than 3,000 children, while more than 20,000 people have been injured.

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

NOVEMBER

Nov 01/Algeria National Day

Nov 04/Italy Armed Forces Day

Nov 07/Russian Federation Socialist Revolution

Nov 09/Cambodia National Day

Nov 11/Poland Independence Day

Nov 14/Jordan Birthday of King Hussein

Nov 15/Belgium Kings Day

Nov 15/Brazil Republic Day

Nov 15/Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus National Day

Nov 18/Oman National Day

Nov 18/Morocco Independence Day

Nov 21/Bangladesh Armed Forces Day

Nov 22/Lebanon Independence Day

Nov 25/Suriname National Day

Nov 28/Mauritania National Day

Nov 28/Albania Flags Day

Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



Enquiry

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



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Singers perform on the occasion of Diwali celebrations held at the Indian High Commission.—DNA

Structural reforms must for sustainable economic growth

In the past instead of focusing on controlling under-invoicing, curbing smuggling and expanding the tax net, the FBR seems to be inclined to pressurize registered taxpayers, who are already suffering due to a high rate of sales tax, income tax, and custom duties by creating fictitious cases for recovery of outstanding dues to meet revenue target

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has said the real answer to country's problems lies in the structural reforms, as there are a number of inefficiencies in tax collection, which must be removed. In a statement, the PIAF Chair man Faheemur Rehman Saigol observed that the tax compliance should be improved and tax base should be enhanced, which cannot be achieved with a single policy change, but through a systemic approach. He said that businesses are already in a complicated state-of-affairs, while anti-business actions against business community will not only add to the miseries of the business community but also promote trust deficit between the government and the business community. He

said that in the past instead of focusing on controlling under-invoicing, curbing smuggling and expanding the tax net, the FBR seems to be inclined to pressurize registered taxpayers, who are already suffering due to a high rate of sales tax, income tax, and custom duties by creating fictitious cases for recovery of outstanding dues to meet revenue target. The PIAF Chairman also called for building a structure in the country, which is in accordance with the requirements of time, as it is easy to weaken institutions but it takes a long time to rebuild them. Whatever appointments government makes to the heads of the institutions should be based on transparency and merit, he said. Faheem Saigol said that the economy has just come out of the dark shadows but it is still facing the aftershocks and the businessmen are doing their best to make-

up the losses incurred during that period, the PIAF Chairman said. He said that only direct taxes can improve tax collection, as the existing tax system is heavily skewed toward indirect taxation. PIAF chairman said the registered businesses are required to comply with various departments involving a lot of financial and time resources, whereas unregistered businesses are free from all such hassles, he maintained. He also emphasized that concentrating on import substitution is imperative to narrow import bills and certain imported products such as oil are of a fixed nature, therefore, the government needs to enhance focus on import substitution industries, as chemicals, agriculture and steel are potential industries. He said that undertaking structural reforms require political will. He said that enacting structural

reforms, such as improvements in tax collection system, bureaucracy and ease of doing business requires major political will and strict implementation of policies, he added. He stressed the need for reforms, with a keen focus on value-addition for a sustainable economic growth, recommending the government to raise exports to double digit of the GDP, as Pakistan's exports have bounced back after witnessing decline. He said that consistent borrowing by developing economies to shore up its reserves in desperate times is only to lead towards a debt trap. He said that borrowing from friendly countries should only be seen as a short-term solution to prevent reserves depletion and consequent further depreciation of the currency. PIAF chairman stressed that focus should be on promoting exports

and restricting imports alongside making domestic industry more competitive and subsequently expand its export market. He said that exports of goods and services are an injection into the circular flow of income leading to a rise in aggregate demand and an expansion of output, helping raise per capita incomes and reduce extreme poverty especially in developing economies like Pakistan. He observed that the donor agencies should be considered as a stop-gap arrangement, which may have forced excessive devaluation, steep monetary tightening, cut in development and defence expenditures. Loans simply serve to bridge the gap until the effects of the reforms take effects. The problem occurs if the country takes loans but fails to reform, he added.

Expect \$800 Million in the First Year

Noman Said called upon SBP to remain prepared for a major overhaul in their systems and swift implementation by commercial banks

ISLAMABAD: An international IT investor, tech entrepreneur and digitalization expert, Noman Said has categorically stated that the introduction of globally-accepted payment gateways of PayPal and Stripe are going to revolutionize Pakistan's tech ecosystem - and, we are going to experience a major inward repatriation flow and flux in international payments. At least 1200 IT companies based in Pakistan and upwards of 75,000 freelancers in IT and IT-enabled services would almost instantly shift to PayPal and Stripe; and, would now be able to reach and charge customers at par with China, India and other regional, sub-regional & international competitors; which, previously were restrained by their ability to receive payments through international financial channels. The U.S. IT industry is expecting to see the processing of upwards of \$800 million in the first year of implementation alone as per my recent interactions with various IT conglomerates; trade bodies and universities across U.S. This would just be a beginning, he added. Noman Said called upon SBP to remain prepared for a major overhaul in their systems and swift implementation by commercial banks. Here is the roadmap: (i) SBP should enforce across commercial banks attachment of PayPal accounts to Exporters Specialized Foreign Currency Accounts (ESCFAs); freelancers' accounts and regular bank accounts as these gateways allow users to attach their accounts & route their funds to multiple accounts. (ii) FBR should train its officers to understand that internationally-aligned payment services maintain complete money trail; yet, they are not accustomed to unnecessary queries and their statements are self-explanatory. (iii) PSEB should streamline their process to register for the export of IT services. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) need to be encouraged and enabled.—DNA

Over 867,885 children protected against Polio

RAWALPINDI: District Health Authority Sunday claimed to have achieved the Polio vaccination target set for the special case response Week-long drive which started on October 30 Talking to APP, District Superintendent Vaccination Dr Muhammad Nadeem said over 867,885 children, below five years of age, were administered anti-polio drops during the campaign launched in five towns of the district. He informed that the campaign had been launched in Rawalpindi City, Rawalpindi Cantonment, Taxila, Gujjar Khan and Rawalpindi Rural after the presence of polio virus in the environmental samples. Dr Nadeem said that during the drive 3,251 teams including 2,856 mobile teams, 674 area in-charges, 189 Medical officers and 269 fixed centers participated in the drive to complete the task of immunization.—APP

Serene Air launches 2 weekly flights to Beijing this month

ISLAMABAD: A privately-owned Pakistani airline, Serene Air, announced on Friday the launch of 02 weekly flights from Karachi to Beijing via Islamabad from 18 November 2023. The airline representative told Gwadar Pro that flight KHI-ISB-PKX would land at Daxing International Airport, one of the two international airports serving Beijing, the other one being Beijing Capital International Airport. He said the new direct flight from Pakistan to China will provide more economical options for Pakistani and Chinese travelers, including the business community and students, to directly reach different cities between China and Pakistan. He believed that it would also facilitate personnel from both countries working on different projects under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Pakistan. The airline launched its first international flights to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in January 2021 and obtained permission from the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority to expand internationally. The privately-owned low-cost carrier has been operating domestic flights since 2017. According to Pakistani law, an airline has to fly within the country for at least a year before expanding into foreign markets. Earlier, the national flag carrier Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) introduced connected flights between Pakistan and 16 captivating cities in China via Beijing in partnership with Air China. The Chinese cities include Guangzhou, Wuhan, Urumqi, Shen-zhen, Xian, Shenyang, Shanghai, Ningbo, Nanjing, Harbin, Hangzhou, Hohhot, Dunhuang, Chengdu, Changchun, and Chongqing.

Foreign remittances flow crucial to curb CAD amid lower FDI

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) said that foreign remittances flows are crucial which can support the country's account balance amidst low volumes of foreign direct investment (FDI) and nominal growth of exports. He said that overseas Pakistanis living in Gulf should further be motivated to maintain an upward momentum in remittances, as they contributed more than 60 percent of the total inflows during last couple of months. FPCCI former president and Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar said that remittances can help not only in financing the deficit in import payments but also in foreign debt repayments, suggesting the government to focus on structural reforms, which can revive Pakistan's economic growth

with major focus on incentives for overseas Pakistanis workers. The Businessmen Panel Chairman said that Pakistan has been witnessing a significant decline in workers' remittances on a year-on-year basis, however it surged by 5.34% on a month-on-month basis, reaching a total of \$2.21 billion, owing to several positive factors, including improved transparency and the implementation of stringent measures against dollar smuggling. These initiatives have helped create a more secure and regulated environment for remittance transactions. He said that remittances for Sept came in at \$2.21 billion, according to data shared by the State Bank of Pakistan. This figure, while an improvement from last month's \$2.09 billion, was significantly lower than market expectations of \$2.42-5 billion. On a month-on-month basis, remittances rose by 5.3%. However, they declined by 11.24% compared to last year, when remittances stood at \$2.49 billion. In a

statement issued here, the BMP Chairman asked the government to announce attractive package for overseas Pakistanis to enhance the volume of foreign inflows because this is the only hope which can support the country's account balance, as the remittances have started declining, showing a huge fall during last month. If government supports overseas Pakistanis and provides them incentives, they can play a vital role in boosting Pakistan's economy through their remittances and investments for high economic growth. If the falling trend persists in the remaining months of this fiscal year, it could pose serious problems for the economic managers as the govt heavily relies on remittances, which are much higher than the country's total export proceeds. The BMP Chairman observed that the development comes at a crucial time for Pakistan, which has seen its foreign exchange reserves deplete due to external debt servicing

and lower inflow of dollars. Mian Anjum Nisar appreciated the SBP, which under its home remittances promotion measures, allowed Exchange Companies to maintain separate foreign currency accounts for each Money Transfer Operator. The State Bank of Pakistan and the Arab Monetary Fund has signed a memorandum of understanding to facilitate remittances from Arab countries with official channels. The government and the SBP have been trying to stop remittances through illegal channels, which not only destabilizes the exchange rate but also reduces inflows. He believes that the MoU with the AMF would help Pakistan bring most of the inflows through the banking channels. Arab countries contribute about 55 per cent of the total remittances. In FY23, Pakistan received \$27.3 billion in remittances compared to \$31.2bn in FY22, showing a shortfall of \$4.2bn. This shortfall was a cause

for concern as the country faced a default-like situation at the beginning of the current fiscal year FY24. It is believed that this \$4.2bn was either sold in Dubai at much higher rates or sent home through illegal channels. In the first week of September, the government initiated a crackdown against illegal currency businesses and dollar smuggling, which produced positive results, and the rupee started appreciating. However, the latest move to sign an MoU with the AMF is expected to be helpful for the country in receiving maximum remittances through official channels. Linking Raast with Bana will facilitate Pakistanis to remit money in real time. The MoU is signed to establish a framework of cooperation between Bana, the cross-border payment system operated by Arab Regional Payments Clearing and Settlement Organization "ARPCSO", owned by AMF, and Raast, Pakistan's Instant Payment System.

Sino-Pak Bio-Health Agriculture Demonstration Park inaugurated

ISLAMABAD: A delegation from Northwest Agriculture and Forest University (NWFU), China visited the Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), Tandojam, and inaugurated Bio-Health Agriculture Overseas Demonstration Park at the field area of the Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics. The delegation also agreed to work together on various projects in the future regarding agricultural development and research, SAU said in a statement, according to Gwadar Pro. A meeting was also held, presided over by SAU VC Dr. Fateh Marri. Mr. Zhao Limin from NWFU, Ms. Shi Suki, Deputy Secretary General of Yingling Bio-Health Agriculture Industry Alliance, Dr. Shahnawaz Marri, Chairman Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics, SAU, and Dr. Abdul Ghaffar Shar, a post-doc student at NWFU from Pakistan also participated in the meeting.—DNA

Pakistan gets golden chance promoting trade in Canton Fair

BEIJING: Pakistan gets golden chance promoting its trade in Canton Fair, said Saifdar Fayyaz, Chief Manager Exports, Piano Exports FZCO, Pakistan. Business is good this time. I'm here to find out more possibility of doing business with China as well as the whole world," he said while talking with China Economic Net. He was in Guangzhou, China to attend the 134th China Import and Export Fair. The China Import and Export Fair - known as Canton Fair - kicked off on October 15 and entered its third and final phase on October 31. The event, which ended on November 4, has attracted exhibitors and buyers from across the globe. It is Fayyaz's 2nd time attending the fair. This year he had dazzling stationery products with price & quality combination with him. He told CEN that they have some unique colored pencils from Pakistan that might interest international buyers. According to the organizer, during the first two phases, a total of 157,200 overseas buyers attended the fair, representing an increase of 53.6 percent compared with the same period of last year. Among them, more than 100,000 buyers were from Belt and Road countries and regions, accounting for 64 percent of the total, witnessing an increase of 69.9 percent year-on-year.—DNA

Admin trying to ensure availability of essential commodities

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaquat Ali Chhatta Sunday said Rawalpindi district administration was trying to ensure availability of essential commodities at affordable rates. He hailed the efforts of the relevant officers to set up vegetable and fruit mandi in Rawat to facilitate the citizens. The Commissioner directed the Director Agriculture to give special discount to the local farmers on rent of the stalls in Rawat vegetable Mandi. Vegetable and fruit items would be available at 20% lower prices in Rawalpindi the mandi as compared to Islamabad mandi, the Commissioner said adding, the residents would get quality vegetable and fruit items at affordable prices in Rawat mandi. He informed that all the basic facilities were provided in Rawat mandi to facilitate the stall holders and the citizens. The Commissioner urged the media representatives to play their key role to publicize the vegetable and fruit mandi. Rawalpindi's three million population would directly benefit from the vegetable and fruit mandi, he added.—Agencies

Briefs

AIUO commences final exams of MBA from Nov. 18

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIUO) is conducting final examinations of 2.5 and 3.5 years MBA programs offered in the spring 2023 semester from November 18. These examinations will take place throughout the country till December 7, 2023, said a press release yesterday. The date sheet is available on the university website (www.aiuo.edu.pk). Roll number slips have been uploaded to students' CMS portal. Additionally, the deadline for fresh students to enroll in the Associate Degree in Arts (BA General), Associate Degree in Commerce (BCom), Associate Degree in Education, BS (ODL) programs, 1.5, 2.5, 4-year B.Ed programs, BBA, and Post Graduate Diploma programs is tomorrow (Tuesday, November 7). Continuing students can enroll until November 25.

Rs 99,90,804 fine imposed

DNA

RAWALPINDI: As many as Rs 99,90,804 fine was imposed and 4,359 FIRs had been registered on violations of anti-dengue SOPs from January 1 to date in various areas of the Rawalpindi district, said District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control Dr Sajjad Mehmood here Sunday. Giving details of the penalty actions, the health officer said that the district administration, in collaboration with allied departments, had sealed 637 premises and issued tickets to 1,310 violators in 2023. Dr Sajjad informed that around 2,396 confirmed cases had been reported in the district this year, while the number was 1,890 in 2021, and 4,418 in 2022 during the period. The health officer further stated that presently 42 patients were admitted to the district's hospitals, including 34 to the Holy General Hospital, five to Wah General Hospital, two to Kalar Syeda and one to the Taxila Hospital.

TDCP finalizes Thal Desert Jeep rally's preparations

ISLAMABAD: The Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab (TDCP) has finalized the preparations for conducting four-day Thal Desert Jeep Rally scheduled to be held from November 9-12. Talking to APP, a TDCP official said that the rally would attract over 100 male and female drivers across the country. The advisory had already been issued the drivers to facilitate them, he added. He said the administration was utilizing all possible resources to ensure the success of the rally, adding that all stakeholders were working together to make the event a memorable experience for participants and spectators. He said the rally would start from Changa Manga tail-head Muhammadwala and cover a distance of 200 kilometers through Layyah, Muzaffargarh.—APP

Cultural diplomacy connects nations for development

Rana said, tourism plays a significant role in promoting cultural diplomacy by facilitating cross-cultural interactions, fostering mutual understanding, and building positive international relations

FAIAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD, Nov 04 (DNA): The colourful cultural diplomacy event 'All Flags Together' (AFT 2023) attracted large crowds of locals and foreign nationals. The daylong second edition was organized by the Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) in collaboration with Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), Islamabad Foreign Women Association (IFWA). Different educational institutions, national and international organizations, and individuals showcased handicrafts, food, art and culture to inculcate cultural understanding and strength of cultural diplomacy. The event also included a cultural diplomacy dialogue, 'Cultures for peace and development'. The IFWA stalls offered Moroccan meatballs, Italian mini pizza, Indonesian honeycomb cake and nasi lemak, spring rolls with delicious Yemeni sauce, Danish meatballs, Belgium's waffles, and Bahraini kebabs. As many as twenty Pakistan women put up their food and handicraft stalls. Speaking at the cultural diplomacy dialogue, the experts called for mainstreaming the cultural intelligence in society, and cultural diplomacy in the core public policy. The multilateral arena is especially vital for cultural diplomacy. Some countries are increasingly investing in regional or global forums including China, US, South Korea and Kazakhstan. Cultural diplomacy in the multilateral sphere has existed in the form of World Expos, which began in 1851 in the United Kingdom. The Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah said: Cultures are imperative bridges between communities and nations. Unfortunately, Pakistan is one of the countries spending least in cultural diplomacy despite having



diverse and rich cultural strata. He appreciated Devcom-Pakistan for relaunching the 'All Flags Together' for realization of cultural importance in the public policy and country's international relations. The US trainer and intercultural intelligence consultant Daniela Draugelis said: Understanding cultural differences promotes appreciation of cultural assets to foster cooperation, understanding and trust that enables effective functioning across cultures. Building trust and relationships among communities and nations fosters harmony, peace and development while different cultures make a colourful bouquet of nations. Aftab ur Rehman Rana,

the managing director of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), in his presentation highlighted the rich potential of tourism in Pakistan. He said, Pakistan is one of those countries in the world which are blessed with a diverse inventory of tourism attractions which are based on the unique endowments of natural landscape features and its rich culture and heritage. Thanks to its historical, geographical and ethnic diversity, Pakistan's culture is a melting pot of Persian, Afghan, Indian, Central Asian, South Asian and Western Asian influences. Rana said, tourism plays a significant role in promoting cultural diplo-

macy by facilitating cross-cultural interactions, fostering mutual understanding, and building positive international relations. It promotes people to people contact so very strongly serves as a bridge for cross-cultural interactions, enhancing mutual understanding, and positively representing the country's rich cultural heritage. The Secretary Youth, Culture and Tourism Midhat Shehzad of the AJK government said: Cultural diplomacy doesn't make alliances of powers or solve geopolitical problems with wars but it is a journey through souls which wins through minds and hearts. It is through language,

literature, artists, artisan, students, food, dresses, heritage and traditions. Let's make it clear through a region's old story of cultural linkages and harmony. Himalayan Karakoram region encompassing China, Tibet, Central Asian Republics, Afghanistan and subcontinent or South Asia even Russia as well. Earlier, Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director and founder of All Flags Together Munir Ahmed briefed the audience about the objectives of the event. He said the cultural showcasing helps understanding each other and closing the gaps while working in collaboration leads to unity for peace and development.

PRCS to construct model houses for flood-affected families

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) announced the construction of model shelter homes to assist families who were severely affected by monsoon floods across the country. According to reliable sources, the organization has recently completed a comprehensive survey of flood-affected areas to facilitate the construction of these shelters. Sources stated that a total of 5,000 model shelter homes will be constructed in the flood-affected areas, while the majority of these model shelter homes will be constructed in the hard-hit districts of Balochistan and Sindh. The model shelter home will be equipped with essential amenities, including two rooms, a kitchen.—DNA

CAA returns Rs4m items to woman traveller at Islamabad Airport

ISLAMABAD: A woman passenger's items worth Rs4 million were returned by Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) officials at Islamabad Airport on Saturday. According to officials, the passenger had travelled to Islamabad from Karachi by flight ER-502 and lost her bag at the airport. The passenger had left the bag in the baby changing room situated on level two. Female sanitary attendant Ms Subia Asif handed over the bag to the Terminal Manager Arrival upon discovering it. The Terminal Manager submitted the said bag to the CAA's Lost and Found Section Office.—DNA

Mushaal urges world to act promptly to stop bloodbath of Kashmiris

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Mallick has urged the world community to act promptly to stop bloodbath of Kashmiris in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking at a seminar on human rights situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in Oslo, she warned unresolved Kashmir dispute will remain a threat to regional peace. She said steps need to be taken on war-footing basis to find out durable and lasting solution to the Kashmir conflict. The special assistant said the fascist Indian government has turned the scenic valley into a killing

field and unleashed a wave of state terrorism to muzzle the dissenting voices. She also appealed to the world to protect the life of her incarcerated husband Yasin Malik, who is facing real threats in notorious Tihar jail for not budging an inch from his principled stance on the Kashmiris right to self-determination. Mushaal said: "We are the worst victims of human rights violation, as we are divided family peacefully struggling for the right to self-determination of IIOJK. The seminar was co-hosted by Parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defence Standing Committee Member Dag-Ing Ulestein and President Foundation Dialogue for Peace Aamir Javed Sheikh, according to a press release received here on Saturday.

"We just spent one birth day together back 2014 and during 14-year-long marriage life, we just spent 60 days together. I spoke to my husband last time back in February 2019, thereby my life is just like a movie," she added. Speaking as a chief guest at the event, the SAPM on Human Rights and Women Empowerment said that Yasin Malik was one of the most powerful voice of Kashmir freedom movement at present; hence the notorious Narendra Modi-led government kept in unlawful detained by falsely implicating him in fabricated and politically motivated case to break his resolve. She revealed that Yasin Malik was not only deprived him of his legal and fundamental rights of

free trials but even he was denied basic lifesaving drugs despite his fast deteriorating health issues. Mushaal feared of judicial murder of Yasin Malik ahead of general elections in India, as Modi could use his murder for political mileage because his popularity graph witnessed alarming decline. Therefore, she urged the world powers, UN bodies and human rights organizations to save Yasin's life and ensure his early and safe release from unlawful custody of Indian brutal forces. The SAPM on Human Rights and Women Empowerment said that the fascist Indian government turned the scenic valley into a killing field and unleashed a wave of state terrorism to muzzle the dissenting voices.

11 outlaws arrested; drugs and weapons recovered

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police apprehended 11 outlaws including two professional baggers from different areas of the city during the last 24 hours and recovered drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a public relations officer said. He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city.

Following these directions the Golra police team arrested four accused namely Hamza Yaseen, Ehtasham Ul Haq, Muhammad Fayyaz and Muhammad Abad and recovered 1,251 gram heroin and one 30 bore pistol from their possession. The Khanna police team arrested an accused namely Ehsan and recovered one 30 bore pistol from his possession. Likewise, the Koral police team arrested an accused namely Zulqurnain and recovered one 9mm pistol from his possession. Nilore police team arrested an accused namely Shamraiz Akhtar and recovered 545 gram heroin from his possession. Simi-

lary, the Shahzad Town police team arrested two accused namely Muhammad Irfan and Mohsin Naseer and recovered 520 gram hashish and 255 gram heroin from their possession. Cases have been registered against the nabbed accused and further investigation is underway. During the ongoing crackdown against professional baggers, the Islamabad Capital Police arrested two professional baggers and registered cases against them under the beggar act. ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan directed the police officials to further intensify the crackdown against the criminal elements.

Stable monetary policy leads to sustainable growth

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman and Chairman Kyrgyzstan Trade House Meher Kashif Younis Sunday said stability in monetary policy is a cornerstone of sustainable economic growth and an indispensable factor in attracting foreign direct investment. Speaking at a conference on "Stability in Monetary Policy Pays Dividends" held under the aegis of Gold Ring Economic Forum, a strategic think tank, he said by maintaining a consistent and transparent monetary policy framework, nations can create a robust economic foundation, stimulate investment, and foster innovation, ultimately leading to shared prosperity for their people, said a news release here. He emphasized the critical role that stability in monetary policy plays in fostering economic growth and attracting foreign direct investment (FDI). In today's interconnected global economy, maintaining a stable monetary policy framework is essential for promoting sustainable development and creating a favorable environment for both domestic and international investors, he added. He said stability characterized by consistent interest rates, controlled inflation, and prudent fiscal management, provides a solid foundation for economic growth. He said when foreign and local investors anticipate stable economic conditions, they are more likely to make long-term investments, expand their operations, and create job opportunities. He said this confidence in the economic environment stimulates entrepreneurship and innovation, leading to increased productivity and overall economic prosperity. Meher Kashif Younis said further more, a predictable monetary policy framework enhances a country's attractiveness to foreign investors and a stable monetary policy signals the government's commitment to economic stability.—DNA

Better hygiene at ICT colleges still a challenge

ISLAMABAD: Despite a number of initiatives to ensure a healthy environment at Capital Territory educational institutions, better hygiene still remains a challenge exposing students to different kinds of ailments. Although Oral Hygiene Program, provision of hygiene kits and steps like ensuring cleanliness of premises and toilets, clean drinking water and overall tidy environment were already underway, yet there are still challenges like paucity of funds and staff. Since the clean and hygienic school environment stands as a fundamental pillar for safeguarding the health and well-being of students and staff, it also serves as a powerful catalyst for nurturing a profound sense of pride and responsibility among them. Drawing inspiration from the timeless wisdom found in the Hadith of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), who imparted, "Cleanliness is half of faith," the school management can also derive a valuable lesson for the students. Therefore, the schools are not only expected to impart better

education but also better hygiene to fulfill the requirements of better health as well as a clean and healthy environment. "Given the size of our educational institutions, it is often a challenging task for custodial staff to manage cleaning and maintenance tasks alone," said Riffat Jabeen, Director Academics, Federal Directorate of Education (FDE). "It is common that students litter the premises by throwing waste here and there even in the presence of waste bin," she remarked. "Therefore, teachers emphasize the importance of cleanliness and hygiene during their lectures." She said the Head Teachers ensure cleaning supplies like disinfectants, toilet brushes, mops and cleaning clothes. As per the FDE guidelines on hygiene the students are kept away from hazardous chemicals, students and staff are instructed on proper use of toilets, cleaning sinks and countertop surfaces and toilet floor after use. "Heads of Institutions are specifically directed to encourage students to actively partic-

ipate in ensuring a clean and healthy environment without compromising routine academic activities," Riffat Jabeen informed. Keeping in view the importance of hygiene facilities, the Federal Government has started the "Oral Hygiene Program" at 423 public sector schools and colleges under the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE). Under this Program, the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training distributes 'Hygiene Kits' among students of government educational institutions within the ICT jurisdiction. "Under the Hygiene Kits program started in April 2023, as many as 100,000 kits have been distributed among students," Riffat Jabeen said. "Doctors are also engaged to guide students on health and hygiene issues." But, despite her claims, there are complaints of missing facilities especially at female schools, as poor cleanliness and substandard food supplied by canteens inside the institutions and private vendors outside, was proving to be hazard-

ous for students' health. In many cases, there is also a deficiency of bathrooms as compared to the number of students with many needing immediate repair and up-gradation as Director Monitoring FDE Malik Sohail assured to bridge this gap and claimed these facilities would be provided sooner. "Hygiene conditions are far better now than the past especially at institutions where the Principal and staff are active," he said. Contrary to his claims, the President Federal Government Teachers Association, Malik Ameer Ahmed Khan has pointed out the shortage of sanitary staff at a number of institutions. "There is a shortage of staff at some schools and a requisition has been forwarded for more sweepers and sanitary workers," he informed. "We are fully alive to better health of our children and the Association has formed a committee for identifying missing facilities at government schools and ensuring their earliest provision."—APP



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Don't forget Ukraine: west must remember

Recent events in the Middle East have drawn international political and media attention away from the war in Ukraine at what looks like a critical juncture. This is understandable but nonetheless alarming. The principal beneficiary of this loss of focus is Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, who ordered an illegal, unprovoked full-scale invasion in February last year that has caused more than 27,000 civilian casualties and appalling destruction. The UN believes that the true casualty figure is "considerably higher". Putin has been accused of war crimes by the international criminal court.

Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and his western backers were optimistic earlier this year that Russian ground forces, badly led and often poorly equipped, could be ejected from occupied territory in eastern and southern Ukraine. But a much anticipated counteroffensive, using tanks, missiles and other modern weapons supplied by Nato states, was delayed. When it finally began five months ago, progress was disappointing, obstructed by minefields and entrenched Russian defences. There was no breakthrough. In published remarks last week, Gen Valerii Zaluzhnyi, Ukraine's commander in chief, candidly admitted that the counteroffensive had stalled. The war was heading for stalemate, he said, warning that a protracted, attritional conflict would favour Russia with its greater resources and manpower. More and better western weapons, including combat aircraft and drones, were needed if Ukraine was to regain the initiative. "We have reached the level of technology that puts us into a stalemate ... There will most likely be no deep and beautiful breakthrough," he said. Ukrainian troops continue to fight with extraordinary courage and valour, but they risk exhaustion as a second winter of fighting looms. Estimates suggest that Moscow's forces have sustained huge losses in recent battles. Yet it is evident that Putin and his generals care little for the lives of their young conscripts. That was a key criticism levelled by the Wagner mercenary chief, Yevgeny Prigozhin, whose temerity cost him his life. Instead, Putin is intensifying drone, artillery and missile attacks. Ukraine says it faced the biggest bombardment of the year last week. One aim is to destroy Ukraine's already battered energy infrastructure as winter approaches, increasing pressure on civilians. Officially, both sides reject suggestions of stalemate. Putin and Zelenskyy each claim advances on the battlefield. Politically speaking, they have little choice, for there is at present no prospect of meaningful peace talks. When Alexander Lukashenko, Belarus's dictator, suggested that Russian forces were bogged down, he was sharply contradicted by the Kremlin. Zelenskyy, frustrated at what he calls his allies' "unrealistic expectations", worries that US and European military aid may falter without faster, tangible progress. That is certainly a problem. Citing a lack of results and falling public support, rightwing Republicans in the US Congress last week effectively blocked a new aid package requested by President Joe Biden. That is not the end of the story. The White House, backed by Senate Democrats, is determined to keep faith with Ukraine - for reasons beyond the immediate conflict. Lloyd Austin, the US defence secretary, was clear. "I can guarantee that without our support Putin will be successful," he told the Senate - and such an outcome would imperil Russia's other neighbours.

Abolish unfair leasehold system now

"This system is not business, it is blackmail," Lloyd George said of leasehold in 1909. More recently, it has been described by Rishi Sunak as "a scam" when he was a junior minister in 2018, and as "feudal" and "archaic" this year by Michael Gove, the housing secretary, and Matthew Pennycook, Labour's housing spokesperson. Under the leasehold system in England and Wales, owners of properties, in particular flats, do not purchase their homes outright, but buy the right to live in their home for the remainder of time left on their lease. They are a tenant of their landlord, the freeholder, who retains ownership of the land on which the property is built. This is a form of rentier capitalism that dates back to the 11th century, when the feudal system was enshrined in law by William the Conqueror. Before the Second World War, almost all flats were rented rather than owned. The number of properties owned on a leasehold basis expanded hugely from the 1970s onwards as large houses were broken up into smaller flats and buying flats to live in became commonplace. Leasehold is a way of ensuring that there is a third party - the freeholder - responsible for the maintenance of common structures and areas of a block of flats. But as developers began to realise the potentially lucrative nature of leasehold, more houses also began to be sold on this basis; this has dropped off significantly since the government announced it intended to require all new houses to be sold as freehold in 2017. Today, almost all owner-occupied flats and 8% of houses are owned on a leasehold basis; just under 5m properties in total. Leasehold is an antiquated system that grants the freeholder significant powers that can be exploited to huge financial benefit. First, there has been the potential to charge extortionate levels of ground rent, the ultimate "money for nothing". Originally, it was a peppercorn sum, but in recent decades the freehold to leasehold properties has become traded as an investment class, often owned by investment funds and offshore companies. Developers have sold properties where the ground rent doubles every few years in perpetuity, rendering some flats and houses effectively impossible to sell; a scam of epic proportions that has enabled the already wealthy to cream rentier profits off the English housing market at the direct expense of homeowners. If owners fall behind on their ground rent payments, the freeholder can evict them and take ownership of their lease. The government last year abolished ground rent for all new properties sold on a leasehold basis, but freeholders are still free to levy unrestricted charges on leaseholders for things such as permission for home improvement. Second, for blocks of flats that are sold leasehold, the freeholder almost always appoints the management company that levies service charges and is responsible for maintaining the upkeep of the building and the common areas. There are few incentives for management companies to discharge this responsibility to the benefit of leaseholders, rather than for the generation of profit, because it is so onerous for leaseholders to get a management company sacked. Management companies can commission work from related firms and receive hefty commission on deals they strike for buildings insurance, for example.



Armed forces' vow to protect motherland

Qamar Bashir



The Pakistan Air Force, with remarkable operational readiness, bravery, skill, and expertise, not only repelled the attackers but also safeguarded our invaluable air force assets. In a resolute response to this heinous act, all nine terrorists behind the attack met their deserved fate. In fact, our valiant armed forces have been proving their mettle since the inception of Pakistan. They liberated a significant portion of Jammu and Kashmir from the oppressive grip of India. Today, the liberated Kashmiris lead lives free from fear, intimidation, abductions, and extrajudicial killings, a stark contrast to the hardships endured by their

Once more, the valiant armed forces of Pakistan have demonstrated unwavering resolve, unyielding commitment, and unflinching determination to eradicate every manifestation of terrorism and extremism from our homeland. In the pursuit of this noble mission, our fourteen courageous and highly skilled soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice in Parni. Their convoy fell victim to a treacherous ambush by those cowardly and heartless terrorists and extremists who, despite their Pakistani origins, are evidently manipulated and puppeteered by sinister masterminds based not within our borders, but in India, Afghanistan, and possibly beyond. Yet in another unyielding display of courage and professionalism, our soldiers thwarted a meticulously coordinated terrorist assault, including a suicide attack on Airforce base in Mianwali. The Pakistan Air Force, with remarkable operational readiness, bravery, skill, and expertise, not only repelled the attackers but also safeguarded our invaluable air force assets. In a resolute response to this heinous act, all nine terrorists behind the attack met their deserved fate. In fact, our valiant armed forces have been proving their mettle since the inception of Pakistan. They liberated a significant portion of Jammu and Kashmir from the oppressive grip of India. Today, the liberated Kashmiris lead lives free from fear, intimidation, abductions, and extrajudicial killings, a stark contrast to the hardships endured by their counterparts in the illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The mettle and unwavering professional competence of our armed forces faced yet another formidable test when the Soviet Union, having conquered Afghanistan, loomed on Pakistan's borders, endangering our safety and security in pursuit of warm waters. The USSR was not only defeated but was shattered to pieces. Our armed forces stood resolute once more as the region transformed into a focal point of international security dynamics, particularly in the aftermath of the tragic events of 9/11. Just as the USSR had previously occupied Afghanistan, this superpower, too, threatened the very essence of our country's safety and security. Within this intricate web of political and security dynamics, other powers, unfriendly to Pakistan, especially India, seized the opportunity to consolidate its presence in Afghanistan and extend its influence far and wide within Pakistan, employing a combination of kinetic and soft power tactics. The ensuing acts of terrorism martyred our over 70,000 civilians and security personnel and inflicted material losses of over US\$ 50 billion. India, using Afghanistan as a base, especially penetrated deep into Balochistan. It employed an insidious propaganda machine to cultivate toxicity in the minds of the Baloch people, propagating a distorted narrative that falsely portrayed the Pakistani government as an exploitative force and sowed seeds of discord and disillusionment among the Baloch population, instilling the misguided belief that the federal government was plundering the wealth of Balochistan while deliberately stunting the province's development, leaving its people impoverished. It also lured the disgruntled elements in Balochistan to seek false refuge in Afghanistan by concocting unfounded allegations

of persecution and aggression by Pakistan's security forces. Inside Afghanistan, they underwent a process of militarization and indoctrination, and were trained with modern and lethal weaponry. Consequently, these individuals were reintroduced into Pakistan with clear-cut objectives, which include thwarting and sabotaging Pakistan's endeavors to develop Gwadar as a global maritime trade hub. They aim to impede the construction of an extensive network of educational institutions across the province and hinder the creation of an extensive road and highway infrastructure. Their agenda was to disrupt the provision of affordable electricity, gas, and other utilities, while also working to impede efforts to bolster the agriculture and horticulture sectors in Balochistan. Above all, they sought to obstruct the unlocking of the hidden treasures of Balochistan, with the ultimate goal of undermining the prosperity and affluence of its people. Simultaneously, this elaborate strategy sought to thwart the armed forces' endeavors to integrate Baloch youth into their ranks. As the adversaries of our beloved nation had been plotting against the very core of our existence, our resolute security apparatus had been quietly pursuing its well-considered strategy. Operating in a realm of discreet and prudent actions, they were able to turn the tide which finally compelled the coalition members of the foreign forces, one by one, to commence their exit from Afghanistan. They witnessed the Afghan government allies flee the country in haste, followed by a humiliating evacuation by the USA in 2021 and its forces along with all Indian agents who hastily retreated from Afghanistan, leaving behind their physical and human assets. This staggering humiliation and resounding defeat dealt a severe blow to India's pride, resulting not only in the loss of a safe haven for insurgents targeting Pakistan but also in the depletion of its human assets within our borders. Despite being deeply wounded and weakened, our adversary persists in its malevolent strategy. It continues to seek means of engaging our armed forces, masterminding, financing, and arming criminal gangs, and enlisting paid agents to orchestrate attacks against our security forces. Its focal point remains Balochistan, with calculated attempts to threaten our military installations across the army, air force, and navy. The recent surge in terrorist incidents has an undeniable connection to the multiple decisive actions taken by the government of Pakistan supported by its armed forces to safeguard the economic, financial and security interests of the country. It could be the decision to rid the country of the menace of illegal aliens, irrespective of their origins, most of them hailing from Afghanistan. These aliens, in a heartless and unscrupulous manner, have been siphoning off our precious foreign exchange by smuggling it into Afghanistan. This illegal activity has had the deleterious effect of bolstering the Afghan Afghani and simultaneously weakening the Pakistani Rupee to the point of imminent economic distress. This course of action also prompted the UK and USA to finally evacuate the Afghans they had promised to repatriate but had conveniently delayed. Secondly, our sworn enemies in a last ditch effort to put to use their fast

depleting assets inside Pakistan, before their relocation to Afghanistan are deploying their agents and hardcore criminals to carry out sabotage activities by utilizing the refuge, weapons and reconnaissance and critical intelligence enabling them to launch lethal terrorist attacks on innocent civilians and security agencies, resulting in the loss of lives and property. The current spike in terrorist attacks was also supported by the highly influential and well-connected smugglers and drug dealers whose operations were severely impeded by the coordinated anti-smuggling and anti-drug campaigns, largely spearheaded by the army, both within the country and along the 2,500-kilometer border inflicting losses which runs into billions of dollars.

This could also be an attempt to divert the national focus from Indian atrocities perpetrated by Indian Occupied forces in IIOJ&K and on the grilling issue of Palestine where brutal Israeli attacks on Gaza Strip and West Bank have killed over 9000 civilians mostly women and children with total impunity. But perhaps in the pursuit of their nefarious attempts to divert our focus, the hostile elements operating against Pakistan may have failed to recognize the indomitable spirit, unwavering resolve, and unparalleled capabilities of our armed forces. These forces have acquired the mastery of performing with equal excellence on multiple frontiers, demonstrating the ability to launch precision counter-offensives that yield the desired outcomes. They have honed the skill to protect and fortify our borders against adversaries, whether the challenges came from the likes of the USSR, USA, India, or Afghanistan. The armed forces have exhibited their mettle in quelling the menace of terrorism, a testament to their unwavering commitment to purging the scourge from regions like Swat Valley and other parts of our beloved nation. They have proven their prowess in aiding economic and financial battles, steering the ship of our nation towards stability in the realms of finance and economics. In the past, they were prepared and resilient, emerging victorious against forces that sought to dismantle Pakistan, regardless of their size and resourcefulness. Today, they remain undaunted, meticulously countering every act of terrorism with unparalleled precision. And they will continue to do so in the future, undeterred by threats to their own lives and the pain and agony borne by their grieving yet proud families. Their resolute resolve remains unwavering, their determination unshakable, as they stand united to defeat all forms and manifestations of terrorism, whether emerging from within our own borders, originating in Afghanistan, or even instigated by India or other external sources. This indomitable spirit serves as a testament to our armed forces' dedication to the defense of our nation and the protection of our people. This unwavering commitment to our nation's security and well-being stands as an indomitable force in the face of adversity.

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

US multilateral approach in the Israel-Palestine conflict

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



President Joe Biden, Secretary of State Anthony Blanken and other senior US officials have made one or more trips to Israel and neighboring countries in recent weeks. The US Army has strengthened its deterrence position. American diplomats began working to coordinate

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

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

take appropriate actions to defend their people and sovereignty against threats to them. The United States publicly and privately stress on Israel that it expects Israel to adhere to the rules of war, which means that military means must be avoided to use with the greatest protection of innocents lives. The United States should ensure that the robust humanitarian assistance needed reaches people in need in Gaza and throughout the region, including through aid deliveries and evacuations.

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

Briefs

'Muslim ummah must unite...'

FROM PAGE 01
nations have the blood of innocent children and women on their hands. Mashal appreciated Fazl's efforts for the Palestine cause saying that the JUI-F chief is playing the role of Palestine's ambassador in Pakistan. The sources said Fazl was the first religio-political leader from any Muslim country who has embarked upon the war zone. The party said that "the movement of Maulana Fazl has been kept secret since he wanted to reach the devastated people quietly and offer them assistance". He is carrying food and medicines with him, the sources had told The News. The publication said that after addressing a mammoth rally "Toofan Al-Aqsa March" in Karachi and "Sindh Aman Conference", Fazl left for "some destination" from where he would reach the oppressed people of Gaza.

Israel targets...

FROM PAGE 01
aid centres alike under the guise of 'annihilating' Hamas. Since Israel sent troops into the narrow Palestinian territory late last month, "over 2,500 terror targets have been struck" by "ground, air and naval forces", the Israeli army said on Sunday. In a statement, it said ground soldiers were engaged in "close-quarters combat" as Israeli jets were striking targets including a "Hamas military compound" at an undisclosed location overnight. In the latest onslaught in Gaza, Salama Marouf, head of the Palestinian government media office, told Reuters the Israeli strike in Maghazi killed at least 38 Palestinians and wounded 100. A Palestinian news agency had earlier reported 51 dead. Marouf said an unknown number of people remained missing and rescue workers were trying to search for them under the rubble of the destroyed houses while AFP cited an eyewitness reporting children among the dead and homes smashed.

Riyadh asks Islamabad...

FROM PAGE 01
Aramco, SWCC, RC, and many Saudi local cities, and has earned a good reputation among clients, as well as Saudi people. Meanwhile, Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) has directed the Petroleum Division to assess investment interest by Sinopec in the green refinery alongside Saudi Aramco. If the Chinese firm is interested in investment, the council has also tasked the division to facilitate it by expediting the necessary approvals. Apart from this, the Petroleum Division has also been asked to identify other interested parties for investment in the refinery and to update on the particular issue of paramount importance in the next SIFC Apex Committee meeting.

PM grieved over loss of lives

FROM PAGE 01
is required," he added. The web desk adds that the death toll from a powerful midnight earthquake that struck western Nepal climbed to more than 200 people on Saturday, as the authorities and aid organizations rushed to provide relief for thousands of families stranded under the open sky and fearful of aftershocks. Rescuers worked through the day to push through roads blocked by landslides and debris to reach the mountainous villages of Karnali Province where the earthquake struck. Officials cautioned that the death toll was likely to rise as communication was restored with areas that had been cut off.



ISLAMABAD: Asean-Pakistan fun golf friendship through sports 2023 Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Dean of Crops of Service Attached. - DNA

India inflict 243-run humiliating defeat on SA

Virat Kohli scores 49th ODI century, equals Tendulkar's record

SPORTS DESK
KOLKATA: Undefeated India who have already booked a semi-final spot thumped South Africa by 243 runs in a World Cup clash in Kolkata on Sunday. The Proteas' batters found themselves helpless, failing to face the deadly Indian bowling attack as they lost five wickets for just 40 runs in 13.1 overs. South Africa, who has made their recognition of playing fearless cricket, couldn't play the way they always do and kept on losing

wickets at intervals. The Proteas were all out for 83 runs, suffering their biggest defeat of this World Cup. Ravindra Jadeja was the undisputed pick of the bowlers as the left-arm off-spinner bagged five wickets for 33 runs. Batting first, Rohit Sharma went berserk and took the Proteas bowlers to the cleaners, and scored 40 off just 24 balls, including eight boundaries as the Blues had scored more than 90 runs within the 10 overs. However, both the openers, Sharma and Shubman Gill, walked back to the pavilion soon, leaving their side 93-2



in 10.3 overs. That is when Virat Kohli and Shreyas Iyer built a crucial 134-run partnership and helped the Blues score runs on a tricky Kolkata pitch which made it difficult for batters to tackle bowlers, spinners especially, between the innings. Despite the wicket getting difficult during the innings, Iyer and Kohli got the much-needed time to settle down without disturbing the run rate, thanks to the rapid start provided by their skipper Sharma. Iyer scored 77 off 87 balls with nine boundaries, including seven fours and two

sixes, and accelerated the innings at the right time. However, it was Kohli who was the centre of attention for various reasons. The 35-year-old was playing on his birthday and also scored a magnificent century, scoring 101 off 121 runs. Kohli notched up his 49th ODI ton, equaling the record of the legendary Sachin Tendulkar. Kohli stayed till the last ball but during the last overs, he was supported by quick knocks of Suryakumar Yadav (22 off 14) and Ravindra Jadeja (29 off 15), taking India's total to 326 runs in the allocated overs.

PCB Management Committee extended by three months

ISLAMABAD: The caretaker federal cabinet has given a three-month extension to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Management Committee Chairman, led by Zaka Ashraf. According to the notification issued by the Inter-Provincial Coordination Ministry after the approval from the cabinet, the powers of the PCB Management Committee have been restricted. The notification states that the PCB Management Committee cannot make any high-level appointments, the Management Committee will conduct the election of the Board of Governors and the Chairman. The Management Committee will deal with day-to-day affairs and cannot make policy de-



isions. The notification also states that the PCB Management Committee will not get an extension beyond three months. Ashraf-led PCB Management Committee was formed in July 2023 for a four-month period, and the caretaker PM, using his prerogative as patron of the PCB, has given a three-month extension, said the PCB. On Thursday, former Pakistani cricketer Shahid Afridi met with Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar to discuss various aspects concerning Pakistan's cricket. During their meeting, Afridi, who previously captained the national team, shared his insights and recommendations aimed at elevating the state of the game in the country. - DNA

Martinez fires Inter Milan past Atalanta

MILAN: Lautaro Martinez scored the winning goal as Serie A leaders Inter Milan edged Atalanta 2-1 away in a rain-lashed slog in Bergamo on Saturday. Inter are now five points clear of Juventus and six ahead of AC Milan, who slipped to a 1-0 home defeat to Udinese, after showing relentless spirit despite the conditions playing havoc with the run of the ball. The away side suffered an early blow when French central defender Benjamin Pavard limped off in the first half. Hakan Calhanoglu lifted their spirits with a confidently converted spot-kick on 40 minutes sending Inter into a welcome half-time break from the rain. The feisty Martinez ripped a curling shot round two defenders and into the top corner with an impressive effort on 57 minutes. Inter lost keeper Andre Onana to Manchester United in the close season but replaced him with Swiss stopper Yann Sommer, who produced an assured performance with his saves, calls and mobility. Former West Ham player Gianluca Scamacca was fortunate to see his pullback goal stand after a foul in the build-up, but at 2-1 it was game on again until Rafael Tolo was given a straight red card late on. - Agencies

Pak sanctioned for slow over-rate against NZ

BENGALURU: Pakistan's miraculous victory over New Zealand in the ICC World Cup 2023 has been soured after the team was sanctioned for maintaining a slow over-rate during the match. On-field umpires Paul Wilson and Richard Kettleborough, third umpire Richard Illingworth and fourth umpire Joel Wilson levelled the charge. "Richie Richardson of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees imposed the sanction after Babar Azam's side was ruled to be two overs short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration," said a statement issued by the cricketing body. Under Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined five percent of their match fee for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time. Babar pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing. - Agencies

Hamza bags Asian Taekwondo silver for Pakistan

The martial artist took the medal in +87 category, losing gold to Afghanistan's Ameer

OUR CORRESPONDENTS

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Hamza Omar Saeed grabbed the silver medal at the Comboxx Asian Taekwondo Open finals on Sunday. Saeed finished second to Af-

ghanistan's Ali Akbar Ameer in the +87 category, while Egypt's Mohammad Ali secured the bronze medal. The winners shared the podium and the stage with squash legend Jahangir Khan who was present at the medal ceremony. Pakistan is hosting the 5th edition of the Asian Taekwondo Open. It is one of the major sports events held in the country this year with athletes participating in it from several different nations. Earlier, Croatia's Leon Glasnovic defeated Afghanistan's Zain Hikmatullah to win the gold medal in the men's -68 kg final on the first day of the Kyorugi event. Bexultan Mussa Khan of Kazakhstan won the bronze medal while Elder Birmbay of Kazakhstan won the fourth bronze. In the men's -74 category final, Uzbekistan's Najmiddin Kosimkhoev defeated Afghanistan's Omid Sahak 2-0 to win the gold medal. Jordan's Muhammad Othman won the bronze and Mahmood Khan of Pakistan won the fourth bronze. In -87, Pakistan's Ikhtisham-ul-Haq defeated world ranking number 13 Michael Rodriguez of America 2-0 to win the gold medal, Kazakhstan's Nurbul Yersainyov won bronze, and Pakistan's Mohammad Adnan got the fourth bronze.

The 9th Islamabad Literature Festival ends

Three-Day Islamabad Literature Festival Concludes with an Aplomb A Memorable Closing to the Literary Festival-ILF 2023

DNA

ISLAMABAD, NOV 5: The Islamabad Literature Festival (ILF), a celebration of literature and the arts, came to a close, marking the end of a successful and inspirational event. The festival, which began on November 3, 2023, brought together authors, readers, and literary enthusiasts for a memorable event of academic exploration and discussion. It provided enriching experiences, engaging conversations, and deep appreciation for the impact of literature on society, and covered book launches, author signings, film screenings, panel discussions, and art exhibitions; ILF 2023 has served as a platform for celebrating the world of literature in all its forms. The closing ceremony comprised keynote speeches by Senator Sherry Rehman and Anwar Masood. Senator Rehman expressed her appreciation for the revival of the Gandhara Citizens Club and was impressed by the theme because it is crucial to the times, we live in. Reiterating the importance of a sustainable planet she shared: "The planet is under stress, and we need to look at possibilities. We are not responsible for the melting glaciers, heatwaves, or monsoons

of unpredictability, poetry has long been a source of solace for individuals. With arts and literature, we can discover a glimmer of hope and unearth significance in the ordinary moments of everyday life." In his vote of thanks, Arshad Saeed Husain, Managing Director, Oxford University Press (OUP) Pakistan was grateful for the phenomenal response, "Immersed in the compelling narratives and profound discussions of this literary festival, we've unravelled the deep ties binding humanity, the

planet, and the realms of potential. In these trying times let us offer hope, fostering a united awareness for a world that thrives on sustainability and empathy." Muhammad Mikal Soomro, Manager Corporate Communications, Getz Pharma, Pvt. Ltd., lauded the efforts for putting together such an impeccable literary event. The Interim Minister of Information, Mur-taza Solangi also attended all three days of the event. ILF 2023 has highlighted the importance of literature as a means of artistic expression and societal connection. The first half of the day featured various discussions like Curriculum, Textbook, High Stakes Assessments- A Way Forward, and Hamari Mitti hui Zabanain. A presentation on Aag ka Darya was followed by a dialogue alongside more panel discussions; Resilient Pakistan- The Sociocultural Impact and Harmony Across Borders, Capital Talk: In conversation with Hamid Mir and Quest for Peace and Security Among Neighbours. Various informative conversations like Securing Pakistan's Interest: Navigating Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, The Idle Stance of the Tiptoe Pigeon, Duktar-e-Rumi, Siyaah Heeray, 1980 ki Dehai Ka Ashob and Rawal Raj also captivated the audience.



NA speaker wants...

FROM PAGE 01
Court has been hearing challenges to the Feb 6, 2019 judgement in the case. "I want to say that we have to look at the outcome of whatever has been happening. Even after 75-76 years we have not been able to stand on our own feet. So we have to think about whether we remain stuck in the past or if there is something which we should take a step towards. There is not a lot of distance between the present and the future."

RAW behind...

FROM PAGE 01
The interim minister's remarks come as 14 soldiers were martyred after terrorists attacked two vehicles carrying security forces in Gwadar on Friday. He also added that six Afghan nationals were involved in the Zhob terrorist attack. "We all know that one day [before the attack on PAF's Mianwali base] RAW [operated social media] accounts were conveying advance congratulations and warning of a major incident," the provincial info minister said, adding, "Seeing the sophistication [of the attack] only RAW can mastermind [such attack]."

Pakistanis can now...

FROM PAGE 01
3. Select the desired visa type and click "Apply now"
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Pakistan decides...

FROM PAGE 01
Pakistan imports its fuel from other countries. The final reserves and the duration of how long they can last can only be determined after a thorough assessment of the country's requirements, as per the sources. The sources also mentioned that the government, through the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra), has decided to develop a framework for the strategic petroleum reserves. "Ogra will immediately develop the new framework with the help of global experts," the sources said.

Rupee to continue...

FORM PAGE 01
volatile during such visits. To review Pakistan's \$3 billion loan programme, the IMF delegation has begun talks with the country's authorities. Review negotiations are set to conclude on November 15 after 14 days. Successful talks will help Pakistan receive a second loan tranche of around \$700 million from the global lender. Under the standby arrangement, Pakistan received \$1.2 billion from the IMF as the first tranche in July.

Briefs

SA advances with 3GW gas projects

CAPE TOWN: South Africa is accelerating plans for 3 gigawatts (GW) of gas-fired power generation to help to plug an energy deficit that is hurting the economy, electricity minister Kgothatso Ramakgopa said on Sunday. Africa's most developed economy is facing daily power cuts because of regular breakdowns at state power utility Eskom's ageing coal-fired plants, with officials saying that up to 6 GW of new generating capacity is required to end rolling blackouts. Part of the government's plans to increase generation include a 2 GW mobile facility and a 1 GW plant near Coega, in the Eastern Cape, Ramakgopa said, adding that the government was at the procurement stage for the projects. "One of the things receiving priority is around the 3,000 megawatts of gas. As you know gas, from an emissions standpoint, is a step down compared to coal, so it's important we accelerate that," Ramakgopa said. The South African government's original plans for a 3 GW gas-fired power plant in Richards Bay on the east coast were opposed by environmental groups calling for acceleration of renewable energy projects in line with a global shift away from polluting fossil fuels. Ramakgopa said in June that South Africa expects more than 5.5 GW of new renewable energy projects to come online by 2026. South Africa is also seeking to extend to life of its 40-year-old 1.94 GW Koeberg nuclear plant by 20 years beyond its scheduled shutdown next year.—DNA

China to accelerate issuance of government bonds

DNA

BEIJING: China will accelerate the issuance and use of government bonds, state-run news agency Xinhua reported on Sunday citing an interview with new finance minister Lan Fao. The finance ministry will steadily promote the resolution of local government debt risk and increase efforts to better leverage the role of special bonds to boost the economy, Xinhua cited Fao as saying. "The Ministry of Finance will continue to implement a proactive fiscal policy, focus on improving efficiency, and better play the effectiveness of fiscal policy," said Lan, who also noted the "complex domestic and international situation". Some new local government debt quotas for 2024 have been issued in advance to reasonably ensure local financing needs, he said. Lan, a 61-year-old technocrat with little central government experience, was named finance minister in state media last month, at a time when the government is ramping up fiscal stimulus to revive the world's second-biggest economy.

All aboard Thailand's 'floating train'

LOPBURI : A lone boatman watched the spectacle of Thailand's so-called "floating train" as selfie-seeking passengers soaked up the water views after disembarking from carriages stopped on a narrow bridge. Railway adventures are gaining popularity in the kingdom with tourists seeking off-the-beaten-track travel experiences away from the hordes visiting temples and beaches. Saturday was the State Railway of Thailand's first Bangkok to Pasak Jolasid Dam service "Rot Fai Loi Nam" marking the end of the rainy season. Hundreds of bleary-eyed passengers boarded the train at Bangkok's century-old Hua Lamphong Station before sunrise. Lotus ponds, jungles, temples and rice paddies zipped by as tourists in third class hung out the window and took pictures while enjoying the natural air conditioning. Greying Thai aunties boarded at Ayutthaya, the ancient former capital of Siam — to sell fairy floss and pad krapow, a famous stir-fry basil dish.—

Australia PM vows to 'work constructively with China'

Albanese was speaking at the opening of the China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai on the first full day of a high-profile state visit to his country's biggest trading partner

News Desk

SHANGHAI: Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese vowed on Sunday (Nov 5) to "work constructively" with China as the two countries seek to thaw icy relations. Albanese was speaking at the opening of the China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai on the first full day of a high-profile state visit to his country's biggest trading partner. "Constructive economic engagement between countries helps to build relationships ... that is why the government that I lead will continue to work constructively with China," Albanese said in a speech. The prime minister will spend four days in China, splitting his time between Shanghai and Beijing. It is the first such visit by an Australian leader in seven years, with the

two countries seeking to patch things up after a diplomatic spat that affected billions of dollars in trade. Albanese's administration has sought more amicable ties with China, while also pushing back against Beijing's growing influence in the Pacific.

The prime minister on Sunday said the development of the Asia Pacific region was "the lens through which we see so much of the future", and that "Australia's relationship with China is a key part of all of this". He hailed a "mature relationship" between Beijing and Canberra, "energised by the complementary nature of our economies".

China's foreign ministry has said that Albanese would meet Chinese leaders and "have an in-depth exchange of views on bilateral issues as well as on international and regional issues of common concern".



"A healthy and stable China-Australia relationship accords with the fundamental interests of both countries and peoples," said ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin. The bonhomie is a stark shift in tone from three years ago, when bilateral ties were in a deep freeze. China slapped punitive tariffs on a range of Australian commodities in 2020 after Canberra's

then-conservative government barred tech giant Huawei from 5G contracts and called for an investigation into the origins of COVID-19. But under Albanese's liberal administration, those tariffs have been lifted, and Beijing has also indicated it will abolish similar penalties on Australian wine. Albanese was among a handful of heads of state present at the opening of the CIIE, an event touted

by Beijing as a platform for international economic cooperation, though foreign business groups have complained the deals it generates lack substance. Organisers say more than 3,400 exhibitors will participate in the sixth annual CIIE, which runs until Friday and is the first edition of the fair to take place since China relaxed strict pandemic travel controls. It also comes as foreign business confidence weakens in the world's second-largest economy, with the US and European chambers of commerce warning in recent months that firms are increasingly looking to move investment away from China. Premier Li Qiang told expo guests on Sunday that China was committed to opening up and increasing market access for international investors. "China sincerely wishes to work with other coun-

tries to meet each other halfway and make mutual achievements on a grand stage of openness," Li said at the opening of the expo. But Carlo D'Andrea, vice president of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, told reporters in Shanghai on Friday that "the CIIE in its current form is smoke and mirrors, and it has become a political show that is distinguished as a trade fair". He said EU Chamber members had complained of logistical difficulties and high costs to participate in the fair, while visitors were largely from government departments rather than potential buyers. The percentage of EU Chamber members participating in the CIIE has fallen from 42 percent to 32 percent since the first year of the fair in 2018, according to survey results published by the group on Friday.

Uruguay govt members resign over passport scandal probe

He said he was convinced that officials including Heber, Bustillo and the undersecretary "have no legal responsibility" for the passport but could defend themselves in court if a case is opened

MONTEVIDEO : Uruguay's interior minister and two other members of the government resigned on Saturday over a case that has already prompted the foreign minister to quit, involving a passport issued to an internationally wanted drug-trafficking suspect.

Interior Minister Luis Alberto Heber, a cabinet undersecretary and a chief adviser to President Luis Lacalle Pou will no longer be in the coalition government from Monday, the president announced

on Saturday evening. Uruguay's presidency did not immediately respond to a request for comment about Heber's resignation. The investigation is examining how Sebastian Marset, the alleged drug trafficker, received a Uruguayan passport while detained in the United Arab Emirates over forged documents in late 2012. He was ultimately let go. Marset is wanted in Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil and the United States on drug charges. Foreign Minister Francisco Bustillo resigned on Wednesday

after the publication of a November 2022 phone call in which he appeared to suggest that his undersecretary withhold evidence related to the passport investigation. Bustillo on Friday denied any wrongdoing, saying he did not know who Marset was at the time the passport was issued. "That's for the interior ministry," he told a two-hour news conference, insisting the foreign ministry had acted correctly in issuing the document. The president, who returned on Saturday from meeting with U.S. President Joe

Biden, said the passport should have been issued to Marset in accordance with Uruguay's laws. "Do we like that a drug trafficker has a passport? Of course not," Lacalle Pou told a press conference in his first public comments about the scandal. "But that is the current law." He said he was convinced that officials including Heber, Bustillo and the undersecretary "have no legal responsibility" for the passport but could defend themselves in court if a case is opened.—Agencies

CHP elects Ozgur ozel as new leader

ANKARA : Türkiye main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) has elected Ozgur Ozel as its new leader, ending a 13-year term for incumbent Kemal Kilicdaroglu, as the country gears for important local elections in March 2024. Ozel, 49, has been serving as the party's deputy parliamentary group chairman since 2015 and has been a lawmaker since 2011. He announced his candidacy in September after Kilicdaroglu and the CHP were defeated by President Tayyip Erdogan and his governing political alliance in May presidential and general elections. On Saturday, Ozel received 812 of 1,366 possible votes at a tense, hours-long party congress in Ankara that took two rounds. "This is the greatest honour of my life," Ozel said after the results were announced, adding he thanked Kilicdaroglu for his work at the party. Kilicdaroglu came under fire for refusing to step down as the leader of the CHP after suffering defeat against President Erdogan's alliance. "I carried our Great Leader Ataturk's legacy with honour until today," Kilicdaroglu said on social messaging platform X after the results and congratulated Ozel. "And today, with the decision our congress delegates made, I say goodbye to the post of chairman." Ozel will now lead the CHP into local elections on March 31, where the party hopes to keep hold of the key municipalities it won in 2019, including the capital, Ankara, the country's biggest city, Istanbul, and other major cities.—Agencies

Radio broadcaster killed in the Philippines

MANILA : A radio broadcaster was fatally shot inside his studio in the Philippines on Sunday, police said, the latest in a long list of journalists killed in the country.

Juan Jumalon, 57, was in his home-based radio station on the southern island of Mindanao when a gunman shot him in the head, said Captain Deore Ragonio, police chief in Calamba municipality in Misamis Occidental province.

The suspect gained entry to the studio by pretending to want to make an on-air announcement, a police statement said. He escaped and Jumalon was pronounced dead at a local hospital, the statement added. Jumalon is the fourth journalist to be slain since President Ferdinand Marcos took office in June of 2022, the National Union of Journalists said, condemning "the brazen killing". The archipelago nation is one of the most dangerous places in the world for journalists, and their killers often go unpunished. Radio broadcasters outside the capital are frequently the target. The head of the Presidential Task Force on Media Security condemned the "dastardly attack" and called for the formation of a police task force to probe the killing. "While the motive is yet to be determined, we consider this incident as 'work-related' for the moment," Undersecretary Paul Gutierrez said in a statement. Gutierrez said the attack was recorded on video, which showed the suspect shooting the broadcaster twice and grabbing his gold necklace before leaving. Jumalon used the name "DJ Johnny Walker" at his Cebuano-language 94.7 GDM FM Calamba station. Ragonio said police were investigating a motive for the killing.—Agencies

Beijing establishes humanoid robot innovation center

DNA

BEIJING : A humanoid robot innovation center has been established in the Chinese capital to accelerate the technology supply and industrialization of humanoid robots. The Beijing humanoid robot innovation center company, officially registered at the Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area, was jointly built by enterprises that make complete robots, core components and large models of robots. The center will build both hardware and software parent platforms and focus on tackling key problems that need to be solved urgently in the industry, such as the operation control system and open source OS. "Beijing has a national robot inspection and testing platform and a national robot standardization technical committee, and will soon set up the Beijing robot industry development fund.

Foxconn sticks to strong end-of-year sales outlook

TAIPEI: Taiwan's Foxconn (2317.TW), the world's largest contract electronics maker and a major Apple supplier, on Sunday stuck to its previous outlook of strong year-end holiday sales, and said customers were buying well in China and the United States. The fourth quarter is traditionally the hot season as Taiwan's tech companies as they race to supply smartphones, tablets and other electronics to major vendors such as Apple (AAPL.O) for the year-end holiday period in Western markets. Foxconn said in a statement that with the second half of the year a "traditional peak season" for consumer tech products, operations "will ramp up sequentially", sticking to its outlook given last month. "Significant growth outlook in the fourth quarter compared to the third quarter remains unchanged," it added, without elaborating. Foxconn, formally called Hon Hai Precision Industry Co Ltd, said revenue last month reached \$741.2 billion (\$23.09 billion), the second highest ever for October, down 4.56% year-on-year, coming off a high base, and up 12.2% from September.—APP

Hostage situation halts flights at Hamburg airport

HAMBURG : Air traffic at Hamburg airport remained suspended Sunday over a suspected hostage situation on the tarmac involving a child, local authorities said. A gunman rammed his car through the security area onto the apron where planes are parked on Saturday evening, firing two shots in the air and flinging two burning bottles out of the vehicle, police said. On Sunday morning the airport management posted on X, formerly Twitter, that efforts to negotiate with the driver of the vehicle were still ongoing. "The police operation continues, air traffic remains suspended until further notice," posted the management of the northern German airport. Police spokeswoman Sandra Leygrun told the regional channel of public television NDR that it is believed a father and his child are in the car. Authorities have said a "custody dispute" is believed to be the cause of the incident, with the wife of the driver placing an emergency call alerting police to the abduction of her child. The daily Bild newspaper reported that the driver is 35 year old Turkish German, and that the child is a girl aged 4. The driver has barricaded himself in his car at the foot of a Turkish Airlines plane. "We are on site with a large contingent of emergency services. We are currently assuming a static hostage situation," Hamburg police had posted earlier on X. Leygrun told NDR that police psychologists had been mobilized to try to negotiate a solution with the driver. She called it a "very good sign" that he had remained in contact with the authorities over a prolonged period of time. On Saturday evening, 17 flights scheduled to land in Hamburg were diverted. Another 286 flight are scheduled for Sunday, carrying some 34,500 passengers.—DNA

N. Korea creates new holiday to mark ICBM test launch

SEOUL: North Korea has created a new holiday to celebrate the anniversary of the successful test launch of its Hwasong-17 intercontinental ballistic missile last year, state media reported Sunday.

On November 18, 2022, Pyongyang carried out what is believed to be the first full flight test of the Hwasong-17 — dubbed the "monster missile" by analysts. The North's Korean Central News Agency said on Sunday that the anniversary had been designated as a holiday at a meeting of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly.

"The establishment of Missile Industry Day marks a special event in our sacred journey of national defense development," KCNA said. With the launch, it added, North Korea had "demonstrated to the world the majesty of a world-class nuclear power and the nation with the strongest intercontinental ballistic missile."



North Korea often carries out major weapons tests on key holidays, and Seoul's spy agency said last week that the country was in the final stages of preparing for a third launch of a military reconnaissance satellite. After a failed second attempt in August, Pyongyang said it would carry out the third launch in October,

though it never materialized. Analysts have said there is significant technological overlap between space launch capabilities and the development of intercontinental ballistic missiles, from which Pyongyang is banned under multiple UN sanctions. North Korea has conducted a record number of missile

tests this year, ignoring warnings from the United States, South Korea and their allies.

In September, Pyongyang enshrined its status as a nuclear power in its constitution, with leader Kim Jong Un calling for more modern atomic weapons to counter perceived threats from the United States.—Agencies

Guinea's former dictator recaptured hours after jailbreak

Guinea's ex-dictator Moussa Dadis Camara was recaptured and returned to prison, hours after an apparent jailbreak led by a heavily armed commando, the army and his lawyer said

CONAKRY : At least two other former officials on trial alongside Camara over a 2009 massacre during his presidency were taken in the earlier operation that sparked heavy gunfire in the capital Conakry, a minister and lawyers said. "Captain Moussa Dadis Camara has been found safe and sound and taken back to prison," an army spokesperson told AFP, without specifying the circumstances of the capture. One of Camara's lawyers, Jockey Haba, told AFP his client was back behind bars. Justice Minister Alphonse Charles Wright said earlier that at around 0500 GMT "heavily armed men" burst into the prison and "managed to leave with four (prisoners)... notably Captain Moussa Dadis Camara". He said the borders had been closed. It was unclear whether Camara had escaped of his own

free will. The army described the operation as an attempt to "sabotage" government reforms and swore its "unwavering commitment" to the current military-led authorities. A judicial source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the masked and heavily armed soldiers who arrived at Conakry's central prison declared they "had come to free" Camara. Inside, the group headed towards his cell, appearing to already know its location, the source said. Haba told AFP he believed his client had been "kidnapped" and his life was "in danger". "He has confidence in the justice of his country, which is why he would never try to escape," he added, referring to the ongoing trial against Camara. Wright also said Colonel Moussa Tiegboro Camara — another of the men taken from prison — had since been "recap-

tured". Tiegboro Camara's lawyer said he had escaped from what he described as his "captors". Several Guinea news sites quickly reported that Saturday's events were not another putsch, but that a heavily armed commando had attacked the central prison. The sound of gunfire could be heard before dawn in Kaloum — a central district that houses the presidency, several top government and administrative offices, the military headquarters and the main prison. One witness, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there had been gunfire in the central district. "The city centre has been sealed since dawn, we can neither enter, nor leave," a shopkeeper added, also speaking on condition of anonymity. "I wanted to go to the port area where I work but was prevented from leaving (Kaloum), where armoured vehicles

have been deployed." An airport source said no flights had taken off from Conakry's international airport on Saturday morning as air traffic staff could not get to the airport from Kaloum, where they often spend the night. Guinea, a West African country of about 14 million people, has been led by a junta since Doumbouya stormed the presidential palace with soldiers and overthrew civilian president Alpha Conde in September 2021. Dadis Camara has been detained since going on trial in September 2022. He and about 10 other former military and government officials are accused over a 2009 massacre carried out by security forces loyal to the then-junta leader. The killing of 156 people and the rape of at least 109 women started at a political rally in a Conakry stadium on September

28, 2009 and continued in the days that followed, according to a UN-mandated inquiry. Camara — who himself came to power in a coup in December 2008 — and his co-defendants are charged with murder, sexual violence, torture, abduction and kidnapping. They face life in prison if convicted. The trial is unprecedented in a country ruled for decades by authoritarian regimes, where people had become used to the impunity of the security forces, according to the international commission of inquiry into the massacre. It opened in September last year at the urging of Doumbouya, who has promised to rebuild the Guinean state and make justice his "compass". Under international pressure, Doumbouya committed to handing over power to elected civilians within two years from January 2023.—DNA

Briefs

Palestinian envoy thanks Pak for Gaza support

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Palestinian Ambassador to Pakistan Ahmed Jawad Rabi'i said hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have lost their lives due to Israel's brutal attacks including 3,718 children and 1,929 women.

Talking to a private news channel exclusively, the envoy expressed gratitude and extended his appreciation for Pakistan and its media's unwavering support for Palestine during these challenging times.

He emphasized that people's support not only showcases the strong bond between the two nations but also sends a powerful message of solidarity from the Muslim Ummah to the Palestinian cause. Ambassador Pakistan Ahmed Jawad Rabi'i also stressed that the Palestinian struggle for freedom has garnered support from freedom advocates worldwide, highlighting that Palestinians are not alone in their quest for liberation. He added by thanking Pakistan and the Pakistani media for standing with Palestine in its fight for justice and freedom. As per Hamas Health Ministry, over 9,000 civilians lost their lives in Israel's land, and air strikes.

Israel-Gaza conflict taking focus away from fighting

DNA

KIEV: The Israel-Gaza war is "taking away the focus" from the conflict in Ukraine, the country's President Volodymyr Zelensky has admitted. He said this was "one of the goals" of Russia, which launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. And he denied that fighting in Ukraine had reached a stalemate, despite a recent assessment to this effect by the country's top military general. Ukraine's counter-offensive in the south has so far made little headway. This has prompted fears of war fatigue among Kyiv's Western allies, with suggestions of growing reluctance in some capitals to continue giving Ukraine advanced weapons and funds. In a separate development on Saturday, Ukrainian Defence Minister Rustem Umerov confirmed that Ukrainian soldiers from 128th Mountain Assault Brigade "Zakarpattia (Transcarpathia)" were killed, ordering a "full investigation in what he described as a 'tragedy'". He did not say how many soldiers died in what Ukraine's military said was a Russian missile strike in the southern Zaporizhzhia region on Friday.

Bangladesh deploys more forces amid fresh protests

DNA

DHAKA: Bangladesh has tightened the security in the capital Dhaka and other parts of the country in the first day of a fresh 48-hour nationwide transport blockade called by the opposition parties. Twenty-seven units of Bangladesh Border Guard, a paramilitary force, 300 patrolling teams of the elite force Rapid Action Battalion, and additional police officers have been deployed in and out Dhaka, according to official announcements on Sunday. Meanwhile, over 12 incidents of arson, mostly setting busses on fire, have been reported since last night. Five busses were set on fire Saturday night and one on Sunday morning in Dhaka, Rafi Al Faruque, a fire service officer on duty, told Anadolu. Long-route and inter-city bus services have been halted due to the transport blockade. The opposition BNP, Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami and like-minded parties announced a fresh spell of strike in protest against the mass arrests and attack on the opposition supporters. - Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Italy Andreas Ferrarese and others cutting cake to celebrate the Unity Day and the Armed Forces Day of Italy. - DNA

PA could only return to Gaza if 'solution' found to conflict

NEWS DESK



RAMALLAH: President Mahmoud Abbas met with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Ramallah. During the meeting, the President called for an immediate halt to the devastating Israeli war on Gaza and urged the swift provision of humanitarian aid, including medical supplies, food, water, electricity, and fuel, to the war-torn enclave. President Abbas stated, "We meet again under extremely difficult circumstances, and there are no words to describe the genocidal war and destruction that our Palestinian people in Gaza are enduring at the hands of the Israeli war machinery, with no regard for international law." "How can we remain silent when ten thousand Palestinians, including four thousand children, have been killed, and tens of thousands have been injured, and when tens of thousands of homes, infrastructure, hospitals, shelters, and water reservoirs have been destroyed?" the President wondered. President Abbas once again warned against the forced displacement of the Palestinian people from Gaza, the West Bank, or Jerusalem, emphasizing complete re-

jection of this scenario. He also highlighted the appalling situation in the West Bank and Jerusalem, where killings, assaults on land, people, and holy sites are taking place at the hands of Israeli occupation forces and extremist settlers who engage in ethnic cleansing, discrimination, and expropriation of Palestinian tax funds. President Abbas held the Israeli occupation authorities fully responsible for what is happening on the ground, stressing that "military and security solutions will not bring security to Israel." He called on Israel "to immediately stop these crimes." The President reiterated that "true security and peace can only be achieved by ending the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land, with East Jerusalem as its capital, based on the 1967 borders." President Abbas reaffirmed that the Gaza Strip is an integral part of the State of Palestine. He said in this regard, "We will fully assume our responsibilities within the framework of a comprehensive political solution that includes all of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip." He also emphasized that the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and has the authority over all matters concerning the Palestinian people.

**Solidarity for humanity
Hundreds of thousands rally in Jakarta to support Palestine**

FOREIGN DESK

JAKARTA: Hundreds of thousands of protesters gathered in central Jakarta on Sunday in Indonesia's biggest display of solidarity with Palestinians since the beginning of Israel's deadly onslaught on Gaza. Indonesia has been a staunch supporter of Palestine for decades, with its people and authorities seeing Palestinian statehood as mandated by their own constitution, which calls for the abolition of colonialism. Since the beginning of Israeli operations in Gaza following the Hamas attack on Oct. 7, Indonesians have been taking

to the streets in small-scale protests to show their support, with activists declaring November as Palestine Solidarity Month. On Sunday morning, Indonesians dressed in white and wore traditional Palestinian scarves as they crowded the National Monument square, waving Palestinian flags, carrying posters, and chanting slogans calling for a ceasefire in Gaza and a free Palestine, making it the biggest pro-Palestine demonstration the country has seen so far. The interfaith rally was organized by the Indonesian Ulema Council with the support of other main religious organizations, including Christians and Buddhists.



EU chief sheds light on new sanctions against Russia

There is a growing rift among the bloc's member states on imposing additional restrictions

BRUSSELS: The EU is set to announce its 12th package of Ukraine-related sanctions on Russia next week, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on Saturday in an address to members of the Ukrainian parliament, the Verkhovna Rada. According to von der Leyen, the new batch of restrictions will include additional import and export bans and actions to tighten the price cap on Russian oil. The bloc is also planning to introduce new "tough measures" on third-country companies which circumvent existing sanctions, she stated, without providing further details. Additionally, the package will include personal sanctions against 100 Russian individuals. "For too long, many in Europe thought that we could trade with Russia and integrate it into Europe's security order. But it has not worked. And it will not work as long as Russia's actions are driven by delusional dreams of empire," von der Leyen stated, vowing that Brussels "will continue to apply maximum pressure against Russia, until the end of the aggression and until Ukraine has re-established a just and lasting peace." Earlier media reports also listed measures against the Russian nuclear and diamond

industries and its liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports, as well as actions allowing the use of frozen Russian assets to aid Ukraine as potential additions to the new sanctions package. However, von der Leyen did not mention any of these measures in her address. Moscow has claimed that the sanctions are illegal and warned that they pose a bigger threat to the countries that impose them than Russia. According to media reports, it is also becoming increasingly difficult for EU member states to agree on new restrictions, as many oppose certain targeted measures against Russia and argue that the current sanctions are not working. Hungary said last month that it will veto any measures against the Russian nuclear sector. "The sanctions policy simply does not work. Sanctions may harm Russia... but they definitely cause greater harm to the European economy, to European countries. And if the sanctions cause more harm to those who impose them than to those against whom they are directed, then what's the point of continuing with them?" Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto said in an interview with RIA Novosti in early October. - Agencies

It is Türkiye's duty to stop bloodshed in Gaza

DNA

ANKARA: It is Türkiye's duty to stop the bloodshed in Gaza, "which is being carried out in front of the very eyes of the international community," President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said. Speaking at a local inauguration ceremony in the northeastern Rize province on Sunday, Erdogan said that Türkiye has an obligation to "save Palestinians from Israel's oppression." "We are doing and will continue to do more than what is visible," Erdogan said, implying Türkiye's efforts for the Palestinian people. Türkiye will never leave its brothers and sisters in Gaza alone, he promised. "It is our historical responsibility to call out the crimes of those supporting this immoral, unscrupulous, despicable massacre (in Gaza)," Erdogan added. Israel said on Sunday that there is no change in diplomatic relations between Ankara and Tel Aviv despite the latest Gaza-related developments. "Diplomatic relations with Türkiye remain unchanged despite the position taken by Ankara on the war in Gaza and the fact that the Turkish ambassador was recalled over the weekend," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lior Hayat told Yedioth Achronoth newspaper. "We have to rethink how we prevent such a crisis," Hayat added. Türkiye said on Saturday that it has recalled its ambassador to Tel Aviv for consultations amid Israel's relentless attacks on Palestinian people in Gaza. The Israeli army has widened its air and ground attacks on Gaza, which has been under heavy airstrikes since the surprise offensive by the Palestinian resistance group Hamas on October 7. The residents of Gaza are suffering from a catastrophic humanitarian and health situation.

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