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Türkiye continues peace efforts in Gaza, Ukraine: FM

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Mushaal Malick denounces the Indian atrocities

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Maxwell roars as Australia thrash Afghanistan

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Pakistan rupee devaluation

Smuggling, certain banks responsible

Peshawar black market activated again; dollar rate in Karachi all time high: experts

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: In recent times, the Pakistani Rupee (PKR) has witnessed a rollercoaster ride against the US dollar, making it crucial to delve deeper into the factors behind these fluctuations. While there was a notable period of appreciation, the rupee has since faced consistent depreciation, leaving economists and policymakers pondering over the causes and solutions. Not too long ago, the PKR managed to rally to an impressive exchange rate of Rs 277 against the US dollar, a momentous achievement for Pakistan's economy. This period of relative strength was marked by several contributing elements. The implementation of various economic reforms aimed at improving fiscal and monetary policies played a pivotal role in strengthening the rupee. These reforms included efforts to reduce the fiscal deficit and promote responsible monetary policies. Subsequently, a concerted effort to combat dollar hoarding and curb the activities of the smuggling syndicate played a pivotal role in restoring equilibrium between the US dollar and PKR. A targeted operation was initiated in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province, resulting in the apprehension of numerous individuals involved in illicit cross-border trafficking of US currency. Unfortunately, the initial period of economic stability was short-lived, and the Pakistani rupee began to weaken against the US dollar. Several factors contributed to the recent depreciation of the PKR. It appears that the crackdown on currency hoarders and smugglers has lost its momentum. Additionally, the mass exodus of Afghan refugees from Pakistan has introduced another challenge. Many of these departing families are

opting to exchange their money for US dollars since the Pakistani currency is no longer accepted in Afghanistan. This surge in demand for the dollar has further exacerbated the situation. The devaluation of the Pakistani Rupee (PKR) can be attributed to a multitude of external factors, such as global economic conditions, international oil prices, and geopolitical tensions. Pakistan's economic stability is highly sensitive to these external influences, primarily due to its trade balance and heavy reliance on imported energy resources. Recent weeks have witnessed a notable increase in Pakistani imports, which has swiftly drained the nation's foreign exchange reserves.

It has come to attention that certain commercial banks may be engaged in activities that contribute to the depreciation of the Pakistani Rupee (PKR). In the past, the State Bank of Pakistan has imposed fines on specific banks for engaging in questionable dollar transactions. The recent surge in the US dollar exchange rate serves as evidence of these banks' reluctance to maintain financial discipline. It appears that, in pursuit of higher profits, these banks may be disrupting the equilibrium between the PKR and the US dollar. Market sentiment and speculative trading have a significant influence on exchange rates. The perception of stability or instability can lead to rapid fluctuations in the currency market. The fluctuations in the Pakistani Rupee against the US dollar demand a multifaceted approach. Addressing external influences, fiscal challenges, inflation, and market sentiment is crucial. Islamabad's policymakers must work toward a sustainable economic environment that promotes long-term stability, attracts foreign investment, and fosters continued growth.

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Briefs

Solangi assumes additional portfolio

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday assumed additional charge of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. On his arrival at Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Secretary of Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Malik Ghauri and other officials met the caretaker federal minister. On this occasion, Murtaza Solangi was briefed about the working of the Parliamentary Affairs Ministry. Caretaker PM Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar had assigned the additional charge of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi yesterday.

Memon appointed PML-N Sindh president

BUREAU REPORT

KARACHI: The former director-general of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Bashir Memon has been appointed as the Sindh president of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), the party said in a statement on Tuesday. The Shehbaz Sharif-led party has made this crucial organisational change, by opting for the former bureaucrat for the top provincial position. Meanwhile, Shah Muhammad Shah the incumbent provincial chief has been elevated as the party's vice president.

'Graveyard for children'

Gaza close to 'breaking point' without fuel

Hamas, said that it was about to release 12 foreign captives recently, but occupation gov't obstructed its efforts in this regard

NEWS DESK

GAZA CITY: As Israel's genocide in the Gaza Strip entered its 32nd day on Tuesday, the death toll climbed to over 10,328 victims and the number of injured to over 25,956 people, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry. Spokesman for the ministry Ashraf Al-Qudra affirmed that the Israeli forces also committed 21 massacres in the past 24 hours, resulting in the killing of 548 civilians, the majority of whom were displaced from their homes. Al-Qudra called on the United Nations and the Red Cross to protect health facilities and ambulances, secure their routes, and stop Israeli threats to the health facilities. He called on all parties to provide a safe humanitarian corridor to ensure the entry of aid, medicine, and fuel supplies. He further stressed the need to provide Gaza hospitals with large quantities of blood units.

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Minister Dr. Al-Maliki receives a phone call from Pak FM Jilani

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Dr. Riyad Al-Maliki, received a phone call from his counterpart, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Pakistan, Minister Jilani Abbas Jilani, who wanted to offer his condolences to the Palestinian people and their representatives in light of the magnitude of the devastating event to which the Gaza Strip is exposed. His country rejected the Israeli aggression on the Strip and expressed its dissatisfaction with the extent of the destruction.

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Armed forces ready to crush terrorism

Namaz-e-Janaza of Lieutenant Colonel M Hassan Haider offered at Chaklala Garrison, Rawalpindi



STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Namaz-e-Janaza of Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Hassan Haider (age 42 years, resident of DHA-2, Islamabad) who embraced shahadat in general area of Tirah Valley, Khyber District was offered today at Chaklala Garrison,

Rawalpindi. Shahheed was buried with full military honour at Islamabad. Prime Minister of Pakistan, Defence Minister, CJSC, COAS and a large number of senior civil and military officers, soldiers, citizens and relatives of shahheed attended the Namaz e Janaza. Funeral prayers of

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VICTORY DAY OF AZERBAIJAN



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi, Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov and others cutting cake to celebrate the Victory Day of Republic of Azerbaijan. – DNA

ECO Summit PM to leave for Tashkent today

PM to reaffirm ECO Vision 2025 at the summit

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar today (Wednesday) would embark on an official visit to Tashkent, Uzbekistan to participate in the 16th Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Summit being held on 8-9 November. "At the Summit, the Prime Minister will reaffirm Pakistan's commitment to ECO Vision 2025 and to promotion of regional cooperation in the areas of trade, transport, connectivity, energy, tourism and economic growth and productivity," Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press statement on Tuesday. The caretaker prime minister would present Pakistan's vision for the future work of the organization and for promotion of regional connectivity and mutual prosperity and would also engage in bilateral discussions with the leadership of Uzbekistan and other participating leaders. As a founding member of ECO, Pakistan remained committed to the goals of connectivity and mutual prosperity of the ECO region, it was added. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will also attend the 16th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). ECO is a political and economic intergovernmental organization founded by Türkiye, Pakistan and Iran in 1985 to serve as a platform to discuss and improve development and promote trade and investment opportunities.

Is it marriage of convenience? PML-N, MQM-P to contest Feb 8 elections jointly

Electoral alliance will be to address public grievances not for ministries, says MQM-P's Mustafa Kamal

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) and Muttahida Quami Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) on Tuesday announced that they would be jointly contesting the upcoming general elections – scheduled to take place on February 8, 2024. The development comes following a meeting of an MQM-P delegation led by Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Farooq Sattar and Syed Mustafa Kamal with the PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif in Lahore at the party's Model Town secretariat. Later, speaking to the media, senior PML-N leader Khawaja Saad Rafique said, "It had been decided that both parties will contest February 8 polls jointly". "Both parties have agreed to adopt a joint strategy to bring the people of Pakistan out of the current crises and to put

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Zardari 'welcomes political rivals'

NAZIR SIYAL

GHOTKI: Following the electoral alliance between the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Muttahida Quami Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari has said that he welcomes his opponent's intention to stand in elections. "We will stand against our opponents that are coming in elections and we welcome them," Zardari said while addressing party workers in Ghotki's Khangarh. The former president was of

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US supports free and fair elections in Pak

It may be recalled that political activity in the country has been gaining momentum for the Feb 8 general elections

WASHINGTON: The United States has no interest in the candidates but supports free and fair elections in Pakistan "in a way that benefits the people of the country." This was stated by State Department Principal Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel while answering a question about political situation in Pakistan in a media briefing on Monday.

Patel was asked about transparency of the elections in Pakistan as many "analysts in Pakistan have their doubts because these elections are happening without the most popular leader, the former prime minister." He replied he didn't "have an assessment on the makeup of candidates or the representation of any specific political party." Patel added that "this is for the people of Pakistan to decide. Our focus continues to be on ensuring and supporting that there are free and fair elections that are conducted in a way for the benefit of the Pakistani people." It may be recalled that political activity in the country has been gaining momentum for the February 8 general elections as two former ruling parties, the PML-N and the PPP, leaderships become active. The leaders of both the parties had a telephonic conversation and vowed to work for the betterment of the people of Pakistan.

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Gazans boost global campaign against Israeli occupation

US President Biden and his government have become complicit in the aggression by backing Israel's war crimes and endorsing its lies

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The UN with its current composition and dynamics cannot provide any solution to chronic conflicts like Palestine and Kashmir. The ongoing genocide in Gaza has exposed the so-called rule-based world order and moral bankruptcy of the global institutions and forums responsible for it. US President Biden and his government have become complicit in the aggression by backing Israel's war crimes and endorsing its lies. While the US sticks with Israel, the world is witnessing a massive transformation driven by grassroots public support internationally, especially in the West, as millions of people rally daily for justice for Palestinians. The Muslim world, the Global South, Russia, and China with its soft power collectively have the desire and the potential to cause tectonic shifts in the US-led world order. These were some of the key observations of renowned Pakistani and international scholars and experts who discussed different dimensions of the issue during an international hybrid seminar, '30 Days of Gaza Crisis: Global Response & the Reshaping World Order', jointly organized by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad, and the Centre for Critical Peace Studies, University of Management & Technology (CCPS-UMT), Lahore. The program was

chaired by Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, chairperson, Senate Defence Committee, and co-chaired by Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS. The main speakers included Dr. Chandra Muzaffar, renowned political scientist and president, International Movement for a Just World, Malaysia, Na'eem Jeenah, executive director, Afro-Middle East Centre, South Africa, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, Oves Anwar, director research, Research Society of International Law (RSIL), Islamabad, and Dr. Fatima Sajjad, director, CCPS-UMT, Lahore. The speakers decried the discriminating support by the Western powers, particularly the US, to Israel's torturous apartheid, which shows the failure of the global rules-based order. While the US is acting as a guardian and protector of Israel, allowing it to commit whatever crimes it wants, grassroots movements against US hegemony and neo-colonialism are gaining momentum, it was observed. They lauded the widespread global campaign, not just from the Muslim world, and the Third World nations, but particularly from within the Western countries, and the emerging powers of the Global South against Israeli aggression. The principle of the right to self-determination is eternal and cannot be taken away from the oppressed people of Palestine and Kashmir, said Mushahid Hussain, who also highlighted that the

two issues are intertwined. He underscored that the global order is seeing transformation in three dimensions: the decline of the West, the resurgence of Asia with the rise of China, and the emergence of a new cold war, as the West is not ready to give up global power authority.

Amid these changes, he stressed that Pakistan, as a leader of the Muslim world, must initiate steps to adopt an action plan to counter Israeli actions. In this regard, he outlined a three-point agenda: Firstly, a media consortium is needed to fight US-Israeli lies and false narratives. It could be in the form of media coordination between Pakistani channels and networks of like-minded countries to beam out the truth and factual situation. Secondly, the UN General Assembly should be pushed to vote for humanitarian aid and evacuation through a naval operation. After that, a flotilla of Pakistan, Turkey, and Indonesia navies could be sent through the Israeli blockade of Gaza to deliver relief goods. Thirdly, the leaders of like-minded countries should visit the UN, EU, Washington, and other capitals of power to push for an independent Palestinian state, as established by the UN resolutions. Israeli aggression against the democratically-elected Hamas is not a war but a carnage and genocide, said Chandra Muzaffar. Dr Fatima Sajjad stated that the aggression by Israel is nothing short of a Palestinian holocaust.

Preparation for re-conducting MDCAT in full swing

PESHAWAR: A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Abid Majeed, Additional Secretary Home Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday in connection with the preparations for re-conducting the Medical and Dental Colleges Admission Test (MDCAT) organized by Khyber Medical University (KMU) to be held on November 26. In the meeting, the preparations for the transparent conduct of MDCAT were reviewed. VC KMU Prof Dr. Zia Ul Haq, Divisional Commissioners Malakand, Swat, Peshawar, Kohat, Hazara and DI Khan, Additional Inspector General of Police, FIA and officials of other intelligence agencies participated in this important meeting. Specific responsibilities were assigned to the police, district administration, intelligence agencies and related departments for the transparent conduct of MDCAT. Prof. Dr. Zia-ul-Haq also briefed the participants of the meeting on the proposed action plan of Khyber Medical University for conducting the test. Additional Home Secretary Abid Majeed while addressing the meeting, said that it had been decided to make strict arrangements to make MDCAT clean and transparent in all respects. Apart from security, necessary administrative and technical resources will be provided for the transparent conduct of the test, he said and added, it will be ensured in all respects that the process which took place in the previous test is not repeated.—APP

Economic zones development meeting along ring road at RCCI

President Saqib Rafiq said that RCCI arranged this briefing aimed at to involve key stakeholders to seek suggestions about the proposed industrial zone at the Ring Road site



DNA

Rawalpindi: A detailed briefing was given by Urban Unit Lahore on the establishment of wholesale market and industrial zones in the proposed economic zones on Ring Road at Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI). Nader Ali and Imran Shah from the Urban Unit gave a detailed presentation to RCCI members and apprised that the site plan prepared for Rawalpindi is aimed at the promotion of business activities in the area to create employment opportunities. The vertical spread of buildings will be discouraged and high-rise buildings will be promoted in the project so

that dense population can be avoided when the city expands, they informed. Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaquat Ali Chatta, DGR-DA Saif Anwar Jhapa and Ms. Nazia Director Development and Finance also participated in the briefing. RCCI President Saqib Rafiq, Group Leader Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, Vice President Faisal Shahzad, former presidents, executive committee members, Small Chamber and Small Industry President Tariq Jadoon, cottage industry representatives and a large number of Chamber members were also present on the occasion.

Rawalpindi Chamber demanded the commissioner to immediately impose Section IV to control prices in the proposed Ring Road Industrial Zones. President Saqib Rafiq said that RCCI arranged this briefing aimed at to involve key stakeholders to seek suggestions about the proposed industrial zone at the Ring Road site. Representatives of various sectors, especially cottage industry, shoe market, plastic, transport, goods forwarding, heavy machinery, marble, steel, Gems & jewellery, grain market, furniture, education, mining and others asked the commissioner questions regarding their respective sectors.



ISLAMABAD: A girl is taking interest in the making of the traditional Truck Art at different decoration pieces during Lok Mela at Lok Versa in Federal Capital. —ONLINE

Govt expanding energy access with LNG

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Energy, Power and Petroleum, Muhammad Ali on Tuesday said that to ease the lives of people and businesses, the government was making all-out efforts to provide energy to the people and industries through imported LNG, especially during winters.

He was addressing the 29th edition of the Annual Technical Conference (ATC) jointly organized by the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) and the Pakistan Association of Petroleum Geoscientists (PAPG). The conference was attended by Faheem Haider, Chairman ATC and Chairperson SPE Pakistan Section, Mr Mohamed Al Marzouqi SPE Middle East & North Africa (MENA) Regional Director and EVP Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), Respected Chief Executives and Country Heads of Oil & Gas companies, Geo-scientist, Petroleum Engineers. Speaking on the occasion, this gathering of Geo-scientists and Engineers with vast experience will enable a new thought horizon that may lead to new ideas in the exploration of indigenous oil and gas in the country, he hoped. He lauded the Theme of the Conference "Exploring the Unexplored: High-Risk Plays and Economic Challenges" stating that it is a pertinent focus area under the present circumstances. The Minister was confident that this conference will provide wide opportunities to address current challenges and future strategy for the development of Energy Resources particularly in the area of oil & gas exploration. "Allah has blessed us with a huge sedimentary basin, national and multinational companies are pursuing exploration in various parts of Pakistan, and still nearly 60-70 percent area is "un-explored" and needs to be evaluated for the exploration of oil and gas to reduce import of fuel. We are trying to attract FDI in the field of oil and gas and expect that learnings from this technical conference and the efforts of the professionals and their links with professionals outside Pakistan will help foreign investors become interested in investing in Pakistan's Oil and gas Sector," he said.

Govt plans health sector reforms strategy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The government has started working on its reforms agenda in the health sector to cover essential primary healthcare services and secondary-level hospital care. "My mission is to ensure massive reforms in the health sector in the short term, Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan said while addressing a press conference. He said that without the development of health and education, social development cannot be attained. He said that it is important that the health system of Pakistan be transformed to strengthen all three dimensions of Universal Health Coverage, maximizing the population covered, increasing the range of services offered, and reducing the cost-sharing. Dr. Nadeem Jan said that 500 Basic Health Units across the country will be upgraded in a short time under an agreement

between his Ministry and the World Health Organisation (WHO). The agreement was signed by Dr. Palitha Mahipala, WHO Country Representative in Pakistan and Secretary Health Itikhar Ali Shallwani in the presence of Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar, he added. The initiative will strengthen the primary healthcare system across the country in the true sense and ensure quality healthcare at people's doorsteps, he added. The minister said that this step will effectively address feelings of deprivation in far-flung areas of Pakistan. The initiative will tangibly reduce the burden on hospitals and thus will improve the quality of service delivery across the health system. Dr Nadeem Jan said that he assumed office in August this year and immediately embarked on a reform agenda aimed at strengthening the healthcare system. He said: "My Digital Health Strategy will digitize the entire healthcare system, starting

with the Ministry of Health, to enhance planning and decision-making capabilities." The nationwide rollout of this initiative promises to revolutionize healthcare delivery, he added. The minister said: "I have introduced fundamental governance reforms, including the establishment of an Accountability Cell, Grievance Cell, Transfer and Posting Cell, Foreign Visits Committee, and Internal Audit mechanisms in the ministry." He said that promoting self-reliance in medicine and vaccine production through local efforts is a top priority. Dr Nadeem Jan said that he is actively seeking technology transfer from various countries and international organizations. He said that the ministry is dedicated to implementing a merit-based and transparent system in the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council, enhancing the quality of medical education in collaboration with the World Federation of Medical Education to increase the global recognition of Pakistani medical degrees.

Punjab announces four day holiday to curb smog

DNA

LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday announced a four-day holiday in specific divisions in response to a severe smog crisis. Addressing a press briefing, CM Naqvi stated that these holidays would be effective from Thursday (celebrated as Iqbal Day, a national holiday) through to Sunday. The intention behind this move is to mitigate the impact of the smog

problem, he added. The provincial chief executive conveyed that a national holiday is scheduled for November 9, and on November 10, schools and offices in Punjab will remain closed. Naqvi pointed out that schools are already shut on Saturdays and Sundays, but if any school remains open this Saturday, they will be required to close as well. In addition, the markets will be closed on Saturdays, and traders have the option to consider closing shop on Friday if they find

it feasible. Emphasising the importance of these measures, Naqvi appealed to the public, urging them to stay indoors for four days. He emphasized that this decision was made after thorough consideration. Earlier, the chief minister highlighted that Lahore had earned the unfortunate distinction of being the "worst smog-affected city" globally. He expressed concerns about reports of children experiencing respiratory difficulties and eye infections.

29th ATC exhibition kicks off in Islamabad

Pakistan Section and Pakistan Association of Petroleum Geoscientists are holding the 29th Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition on 7th and 8th November 2023 at the Serena Hotel

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Pakistan Section and Pakistan Association of Petroleum Geoscientists (PAPG) are holding the 29th Annual Technical Conference (ATC) and Exhibition on 7th and 8th November 2023 at the Serena Hotel, Islamabad. Federal Minister for Energy, Mr Muhammad Ali, was the chief guest at the opening ceremony. The Managing Directors and senior management of all the E&P Companies, Service Companies, international delegates from all over the world including SPE MENA Regional Director & EVP of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) Mr Mohamed Al Marzouqi and over 1200 delegates attended



the Opening session. The theme of this year's conference is "Exploring the Unexplored: High Risk Plays and Economic Challenges". The chief guest Federal Minister for Energy, Mr Muhammad Ali, in his address, appreciated the efforts of Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Pa-

kistan Section and Pakistan Association of Petroleum Geoscientists for holding the 29th Annual Technical Conference. He emphasized on the importance of such technical forums and sought input from the professionals to put their heads together to overcome the economic and

energy woes of the country. The Honourable Federal Minister then inaugurated the Exhibition and Oil show and visited the booths set-up by domestic and international exhibitors. Corporate Members were presented shields as a token of appreciation for their support to the organizing bod-

ies. Lifetime Achievement awards were presented to Mr Tanweer Aizad, Professor Dr Amanat Ali Bhatti, Mr Muhammad Azam Malik and Dr Mubarak Ali for their services to the industry and academia. Mr Mohamed Al Marzouqi delivered the 'Key Note Address' and highlighted the challenges being faced by various companies in the Middle East and North Africa Region. Mr Faheem Haider, MD & CEO of Mari Petroleum Company Limited, Chairman of SPE Pakistan Section and Chairman of ATC, in his address highlighted the economic challenges being faced by the E&P industry and provided valuable suggestions for the improvement of the sector. The Annual Technical Conference is a flagship event of the Upstream Oil & Gas Industry of Pakistan which attracts international.

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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

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Turkish Airlines.....8494949



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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

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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

Pakistan, China discuss elections; cooperation

Charge D'Affaires, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, H.E. PANG CHUNXUE called on the leader of the House, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, at parliament House

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD 7th November, 2023:- Charge D'affaires, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Pang Chunxue called on the Leader of the House in the Senate, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, here at the Parliament House. The two sides discussed and explored the various avenues, especially available for both countries after the General Elections 2024 in Pakistan in order to enhance the existing economic and strategic cooperation between China and Pakistan. Senator Dar highlighted the deep-rooted historical bilateral relations between Pakistan and China and commended the Chinese continuous support to Pakistan on multiple fronts. He also underscored the need to deepen bilateral relations further in the economic, trade, and financial sectors. Senator Dar lauded the services and active support of the Charge D'affaires to the former PDM government which successfully dealt with the most difficult challenge of possible default during fiscal year 2022-23. The Charge D'affaires re-



ciprocated the sentiments and admired the friendly relations between the two countries and the cooperation of Senator Dar

as former Finance Minister of Pakistan. She assured the continuous support of her country to the people of Pakistan. She

praised the huge potential of Pakistan in agriculture, Industry, IT, and services sectors. She added that China wishes

to work together with Pakistan to fast track CPEC agenda in order to bring economic prosperity to the region.

BISP chief emphasizes steps to monitor stipend payments

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib has called upon BISP employees to monitor BISP stipend's payments closely to ensure that these payments are disbursed fairly and in a most transparent way. While addressing a gathering of dedicated BISP staff at Jamia Masjid Asad Fareedia in Faisalabad, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib said that the humanity lies in empathizing with the problems and sufferings of the needy and poor. Chair-

person BISP in this regard, urged for close liaison between BISP and Point of Sale (POS) agents of partner banks to ensure that complaints of deductions are addressed properly and timely.

Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib said that serving needy women, widows, orphans, and children is like worship. He said that the name of BISP signifies its commitment to provide additional support to the needy families. It is the duty of a responsible state to collect taxes from the elite class and allocate these funds to empower the underprivileged and invest

in essential developmental projects. He encouraged BISP employees to go above and beyond by utilizing their own resources to provide essential facilities to these vulnerable individuals, such as clean water and shelter for those waiting in long queues. Later, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib also visited BISP local office in Faisalabad. Where talking to BISP staff, he said that maintaining clean and congenial atmosphere in offices is an embodiment of faith, as cleanliness is considered half of faith in Islam. A person's character

is defined by the moral integrity. "It is our collective responsibility to make this organization the best in the country," he added. Furthermore, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib encouraged philanthropists to come forward and support the deserving families benefiting from BISP. As part of a new initiative, BISP is facilitating the opening of bank accounts for these women, a step towards further empowerment and transparency. He also called for the support of employees to make this endeavor successful.

Speakers call for an independent state of Palestine to ensure world peace

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) in collaboration with Civil Society Alliance, Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists and National Press Club Islamabad organized a protest rally against the ongoing atrocities being committed by Israel on the Palestinian people. The rally started from National Press Club Islamabad and ended at D Chowk. Chairman of Senate Standing Committee on Defense Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Former President and Secretary General UBG Pakistan Zafar Bakhtawari, President of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists Afzal Butt, President of

National Press Club Anwar Raza, Abid Abbasi, President of Journalists, Secretary General CDA Labor Union Chaudhry Yasin, Convener of Civil Society Alliance Mustafa Haider Syed, Patron-in-Chief of Pakistan Sweet Homes Zamurd Khan, President of Anjuman Tajaran Pakistan Ajmal Baloch, and a large number of businessmen, journalists, lawyers and civil society persons joined the rally and expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people. Speaking on this occasion, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Chairman, Senate Standing Committee on Defence, said that it is impossible to establish lasting peace in the world without resolving the conflicts of Palestine and Kashmir. He strongly demanded the United Nations and the



international community to play a role in solving these long-standing problems. He said that Israel has crossed all limits of brutality in Gaza by martyring over 10,000 Palestinians, out of which over 4,000 are children. He said that the silence of world powers against Israeli atrocities

is a reflection of double standards in the world which is very sad. He said that those who consider themselves as the champion of human rights in the world are currently silent spectators to the massacre of the Palestinian people by Israel.

OGRA takes action Against substandard cylinder manufacturing

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: In a collaborative effort with the district administration, OGRA's Enforcement Department recently executed a targeted operation in Gujranwala, successfully uncovering and sealing four illegal LPG Cylinder Manufacturing Facilities. These unlawful facilities were discovered operating with substandard materials and practices. OGRA promptly sealed them, and FIRs have been registered against their operators. This action underscores OGRA's unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of consumers. Illegal gas cylinder manufacturing has gained prominence, driven by the high demand for this essential household item, especially in regions with a shortage of piped or natural gas. OGRA is resolute in its mission to eradicate this menace. The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) is committed to safeguarding public safety by addressing the production of substandard LPG cylinders, which pose a significant safety hazard, including the risk of potential explosions. OGRA issues a stern warning to all illegal LPG cylinder manufacturers, urging them to immediately cease all activities prohibited by law, or they will face strict legal consequence.

CGGC to actively participate in Pakistan's clean energy construction

ISLAMABAD: "Gezhouba Group is willing to leverage its own advantages, further penetrate the Pakistani market, provide expertise and resources to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and contribute endless momentum to the enduring friendship between China and Pakistan," stated Deng Yinqi during his visit to Pakistan. Deng, Vice President of China Gezhouba Group Co Limited (CGGC), led a delegation to visit Pakistan last week. He visited Li Yong, Commercial Counselor at Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, and introduced CGGC's international business and operations in Pakistan. They also had in-depth discussions about the construction of SK hydropower station project, which is the largest hydropower station invested in by the Group under CPEC. Deng also met with Chairman of the Water & Power Development Authority (WAPDA), Lt. Gen. (Retd) Sajjad Ghani, during his stay in Pakistan, according to report carried by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. They reviewed the successful implementation of NJ Hydropower Station, which was the first project constructed by Gezhouba Group in Pakistan. Deng said that the successful power generation of the NJ project in 2018 demonstrated the strong friendship between Gezhouba and WAPDA, as they worked together towards common development and mutual benefit.—DNA

Modernizing Pakistan's Madrassa Education System: Balancing Tradition with Progress

M. ALLAWAL JAMAL

Madrassas, traditional Islamic educational institutions, hold a significant place in Pakistan's cultural and social fabric. These institutions have historically played a crucial role in providing religious education and guidance to countless students, contributing to the moral and spiritual development of society. However, it is now evident that reforms in the madrassa education system are imperative to address various shortcomings and align with the demands of the contemporary world. Students in madrassas face a multitude of challenges, ranging from inadequate teach-

ing standards to limited resources and a curriculum that is often outdated and disconnected from the broader academic syllabus. The lack of a comprehensive and standardized curriculum means that students are deprived of a well-rounded education, inhibiting their ability to integrate into modern society and pursue diverse career paths. Moreover, the issue of security within these institutions remains a pressing concern. The safety and well-being of students should be a top priority, and stringent measures need to be in place to ensure a secure learning environment. Proper regulation and oversight are essential to guarantee the protection of students within the madrassa system. In light of these issues, it is vital to advo-

cate for regulatory reforms that ensure the quality of education within madrassas. Introducing a single national curriculum, in line with Pakistan's overall educational framework, would help standardize the educational content, ensuring that students receive a more comprehensive and contemporary education. This should be supplemented by rigorous teacher training programs to enhance teaching standards and methodology. Furthermore, regulating the appointment of teachers and directing funding and donations through government oversight are essential steps to maintain transparency and accountability within the madrassa network. This would not only improve the quality of education but also

help curb any potential extremist ideologies that may infiltrate these institutions. Preserving the religious significance of madrassas while incorporating modern reforms is crucial. Reforms should be implemented in a manner that respects the Islamic heritage and values that these institutions embody. The essence of religious teachings should be retained, fostering an environment where students can not only deepen their religious understanding but also acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in a contemporary society. To truly reform the madrassa education system, it is crucial to engage with stakeholders, including religious scholars, educators, policymakers, and the community at large. A collaborative ap-

proach that incorporates diverse perspectives will ensure that the reforms are effective, sustainable, and respectful of the cultural and religious context in which madrassas operate. In conclusion, while madrassas have long been an integral part of Pakistan's educational landscape, adapting them to meet the demands of the modern world is a necessity. Balancing tradition with progress is key, and reforming the madrassa education system through regulation, standardization, and modernization will not only enhance the quality of education but also contribute to a more prosperous and harmonious society. It is time to embrace change and empower the youth within the madrassa system for a brighter and more inclusive future.

"Pakistan must play its part in regional integration"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "Iran is highly unlikely to join CSTO, a Russian-led security organization, but would increase its partnership with CSTO member-states bilaterally", said Mr. Gleb Makarevich, a Russian expert based on Moscow. He was speaking to an event organized by the Institute of Regional Studies, Islamabad.

While speaking to the audience ranging from academia and foreign policy experts, Mr. Gleb pointed that CSTO was not only security oriented but rather it entailed a multi-functional approach. This was precisely why Russia didn't assisted Armenia in Nagorno-Karabakh conflict despite latter's request, he added. Mr. Gleb, while acknowledging the limited resources of Russia, highlighted that Russia didn't seek global dominance like the Soviet era but instead, it tried to gradually consolidate its partnership in former USSR states, Middle East, South Asia and South Caucasus through a bilateral framework. He alluded to the fact that Russia considered Iran as a strategic partner and sought collaboration in military, defense and technology sectors.

26 more dengue cases reported in 24 hours

RAWALPINDI: As many as 26 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 2,454 in the district. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood on Tuesday said that among the new cases, 13 cases had arrived from Potohar town urban, seven from Municipal Corporation Rawalpindi, three from Rawalpindi Cantonment and one from Chaklala Cantonment area. He added that 55 patients were admitted to district hospitals of which 39 were confirmed cases while 2,414 were discharged after treatment. Dr Sajjad informed that the district administration had registered 16 FIRs, issued tickets to eight and a fine of Rs 8,000 was imposed against the violations of dengue SOPs during the last 24 hours. During indoor surveillance, in the last 24 hours, the teams checked 9,096 houses and larvae were found in 135 homes. Similarly, he added that while checking 4,597 places, the teams found larvae at 22 sites during outdoor surveillance.—APP

Pakistan's Exports to China show Consistent Growth in FY 2023-24

ISLAMABAD: In the fiscal year 2023-24, Pakistan's exports to China have shown a continuous surge for the fourth consecutive month, surpassing the figures from the corresponding months in the previous financial year, as per statistics provided by Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP). Notably, Pakistan's exports to China in October amounted to \$321.3 million, exhibiting a substantial 58% increase from the \$ 203.3 million recorded during October 2022, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. In September 2023, Pakistan's exports to China has surged by 100.5%, reaching \$ 350.2 million, compared to \$ 174.7 million in the corresponding month of the previous financial year. Similarly, in August 2023, Pakistan's exports to China were recorded at \$211 million, demonstrating a promising trend with an 81.6% increase compared to \$ 116.2 million in the same period of the previous fiscal year. In July, the first month of FY 2023-24, Pakistan's exports to China surged by 35.1%, totaling \$ 168.5 million, marking significant growth compared to July 2022, where exports amounted to \$ 124.7 million.—APP

Briefs

IWMB
initiates
first ever
registration
of parrots

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) to protect wildlife has commenced the registration of all captive animals and birds in Islamabad Capital Territory to safeguard animals and birds in the wild by ensuring that no wildlife species caught are available for sale or possession either online or in the pet shops. The Spokesman IWMB, Umar Bilal told APP on Tuesday that the registration process will start with the registration of parrots (parakeets). "All parrot species endemic to Pakistan or migratory will be registered and provided with identity leg rings by IWMB. Registration and leg ring placement of adult birds will be free till 31 December 2023, followed by registration on payment till 29 February 2024," he said. After March 1, 2024 all adult birds without registration will be confiscated and owners would be imposed a fine of Rs 25,000. However, the Parrot chicks will have a closed leg ring placed after the current breeding season, he added. Any parrot Breeders dealing with wild-caught birds after the cutoff date will face a fine of Rs25,000 per bird. Registration is free until 31st December 2023. From 1st January 2024 to 29th February 2024, owners can obtain rings by paying a registration fee of Rs 5000, and an annual license renewal fee as follows: Rs 5,000 (up to 10 birds), Rs 15,000 (up to 40 birds), Rs 25,000 (up to 100 birds), and Rs 50,000 (above 100 birds). This proactive step by IWMB aims to safeguard wild parrots and ensure their well-being while facilitating responsible ownership within the community. For further information or registration inquiries, please contact the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board. Assistant Director: Sakhawat Ali Cell: 0307-7494112.

IESCO
recovers over
Rs 260 mln
from 22,618
running
defaulters

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) has recovered a sum of over Rs 260 million from 22,618 running defaulters during the ongoing drive against power theft and recovery across all the circles of the company. The IESCO spokesman said that the IESCO teams also recovered over Rs 290 million from 9,961 dead defaulters. He said that collectively, a sum of over Rs 560 million has been recovered from over 32,000 defaulters so far during the ongoing drive. Moreover, meters and transformers of defaulters have also been removed, he added. He said the drive would continue vigorously till the complete elimination of power theft and recovery from the defaulters.

President
pays tribute
to martyred
troops of Tirah
operation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Tuesday paid tribute to the army personnel who lost their lives during the operation in Tirah area of Khyber. The president paid tribute to Lt Col Muhammad Hassan Haider, Naik Khushdil Khan, Naik Rafiq Khan and Lance Naik Abdul Qadir for sacrificing their lives for the nation. "The sacrifices of martyrs will not go in vain and terrorism will come to an end," he said. He termed martyrs the pride of the nation. The president extended condolences to the family of the martyred troops and prayed to Allah Almighty to grant an elevated place for their souls.

SZIA hope film festival
inspires youth creativity

The Principal, Mrs. Wafaa Abdul Ghaffar, in her insightful speech, highlighted the vital role of cultural events like the Hope Film Festival in nurturing young minds and fostering a deeper appreciation for diverse perspectives

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Hope Film Festival, a beacon of inspiration and creativity, made headlines as it welcomed distinguished diplomats, the senior manager of IB World Schools, and unveiled a groundbreaking Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) playbook to foster global awareness and change on November 6, 2023. H.E Rashid Abdel Rehman Al Ali, from the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates, Mr. Florian Baciu, Senior Manager of IB World Schools, and Lt. General Sajjad Retd, Chairman Water and Power development Authority graced the occasion with their presence, commending the festival's commitment to education and the arts.

The Principal, Mrs. Wafaa Abdul Ghaffar, in her insightful speech, highlighted the vital role of cultural events like the Hope Film Festival in nurturing young minds and fostering a deeper appreciation for diverse perspectives.

The festival commenced with a mesmerizing display of cultural dances from different corners of the globe. Performers adorned in vibrant costumes swayed and twirled to the rhythm of traditional music, offering a sensory feast of diverse cultural experiences.

The festival dedicated a special segment to young, aspiring filmmakers from nation-wide schools, offering them an opportunity to showcase their talent and creativity. The competition served as a stepping stone for these budding artists to have their work recognized and appreciated by a wider audience. The short films presented by students covered a wide range of themes, from societal issues to personal stories and imaginative tales. Each film offered a unique perspective, revealing the



depth of creativity and thoughtfulness of the young filmmakers. An esteemed panel of judges, comprised of film industry professionals, educators and consultants, assessed the short films and awarded trophies to the most outstanding entries. This recognition not only celebrated the winners but also encouraged all participants to continue

pursuing their passion for filmmaking. A highlight of the festival was the eco-conscious Trashion Show titled, 'Rags to Riches' where students showcased their innovative creations made from recycled and upcycled materials. The runway featured stunning outfits and accessories crafted from discarded items, sending a powerful message about

sustainability and environmental responsibility. The audience was left in awe of the fashion-forward and environmentally friendly designs on display. One of the festival's most significant moments was the launch of a groundbreaking SDG book, which aims to educate and inspire people of all ages about the United Nations' Sustain-

able Development Goals. The book, a collaborative effort by SZIA Administration, teachers and students promises to serve as a valuable resource for individuals and institutions dedicated to creating a better, more sustainable world. The 'Hope Film Festival' also catered to the taste buds of attendees with an array of delicious, international cuisines. Food stalls dotted

the festival grounds, offering delectable dishes from various culinary traditions. From sizzling street food to gourmet delights, the festival served as a gastronomic journey that left visitors craving for more. The Hope Film Festival continues to be a testament to the power of art, culture, and education in driving positive change in society. With the presence of diplomats, the

support of an IB World School manager, and the launch of a pioneering SDG Playbook, this year's festival has elevated its mission of hope, unity, and education to new heights. It not only celebrates the magic of cinema but also serves as a platform for global cooperation and enlightenment, promising a brighter and more sustainable future for all.

Balochistan : Path to
resolution lies in results
oriented negotiations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senator Tahir Bizenjo on Tuesday emphasized the need for result-oriented negotiations to resolve Balochistan's issues, highlighting the region's strategic significance and natural resources. Speaking here in the Senate, he said that resolving issues in Balochistan does not lie in the use of power, advocating instead for result-oriented negotiations and justice. He highlighted Balochistan's unique geography and abundant natural resources, drawing both local and international interest. Senator Bizenjo also

called for a people-centric foreign policy and emphasized the importance of fostering friendly relations with other nations. Senator Saadia Abbassi of PML-N shared her party's challenges and voiced in favor of detainees, including PTI President Ch. Perwaiz Elahi and incarcerated women.

Senator Haji Hidayat Ullah Khan (ANP) condemned Israeli atrocities in Gaza and urged Islamic countries to take action, also calling for a review of Afghan cases with proper documentation. Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haidri (JIUP) expressed sorrow over the loss of innocent lives, particularly

children, in the ongoing conflict in Gaza. Senator Gurdeep Singh from PTI highlighted minority issues and urged immediate compensation for affected families of the Jarawalia incident. Senator Shafique Tareen highlighted the ongoing sit-in at the Chaman Border, triggered by the introduction of a new passport mechanism. Chairman Senate referred the matter to the relevant committee for further consideration. Senator Dilwar Khan discussed financial issues and expressed optimism about successful talks with the IMF under the competent team representing Pakistan.

Int'l conference on women
in Islam commences

The conference would produce a comprehensive document titled 'The Jeddah Document on Women in Islam' at its culmination on Wednesday.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The International Conference on 'Women in Islam: Status and Empowerment' jointly organized by the OIC and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia commenced in Jeddah on Tuesday. Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick is heading the Pakistan delegation. She is being accompanied by the Chairperson National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), Nilofar Bakhtiar, and the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the OIC, Ambassador Fawad Sher at the Conference, said a press release. Former Foreign Minister and Minister of State, Hina Rabbani Khar is also par-

ticipating as a Panelist. The three-day conference that runs between November 6 to 8 is aimed at holding broad-based discussions on the role of women in an Islamic society. It would focus on the rights and responsibilities of women in Islam. In addition to Islamic scholars and official delegations from the OIC Member States, a large number of female heads of State, Ministers, and representatives from various international and regional organizations are participating. Researchers, think tanks, and research centers from around the world are also attending. The conference would deliberate on five thematic areas including; the status of women in Islam and her rights, Muslim women and the Dilemma of Islamic teachings and social traditions, Muslim women

in the Gulf, Arabic and Islamic context, Muslim women in contemporary societies and, the prospects for Muslim Women's empowerment in education and work. In addition to the statements by the official delegations of the OIC Member States, the conference will hold a special working session on each thematic area. The conference on Women is being held in pursuance of Resolution No.66/49-Pol adopted by the 49th OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) in Mauritania earlier this year which called for holding an International Conference on Women in Islam. The conference would produce a comprehensive document titled 'The Jeddah Document on Women in Islam' at its culmination on Wednesday.

Pakistan announces 4,500 more
scholarships for Afghan students

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has announced another 4,500 scholarships for Afghan students. The announcement of scholarships launched the third phase of Allama Muhammad Iqbal Scholarship Programme under which Afghan students will be sponsored for imparting education in Pakistani universities. The announcement was made by Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi at a graduation ceremony for Afghan students who have completed their studies under Phase-II of the programme. These students have graduated from various disciplines including Medicine, Engineering, Agriculture, Management, and Computer Science. Addressing the Afghan students, the minister emphasized the importance of their role in Afghanistan's development. He urged them to identify the challenges facing their country and utilize their intellectual capabilities to seek solutions. He also acknowledged the crucial role of HEC in providing higher education opportunities for Afghan students in Pakistan. — DNA



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Strengthening Sino- Australian ties for mutual benefit

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's ongoing visit to China, the first by an Australian prime minister in seven years, has effectively put behind the unpleasant experience of the past few years and created an atmosphere conducive to deepening cooperation in different fields, which will better serve the interests of both countries. As President Xi Jinping said during his meeting with Albanese in Beijing on Monday, the two countries have no historical disputes, no fundamental conflicts of interest, and can deepen mutual trust and make mutual achievements. The two countries should follow the trend of the times, proceed from their common interests, jointly strengthen China-Australia relations based on equality, seek common ground while shelving differences, and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, Xi said. President Xi stressed that small cliques cannot adapt to the great changes in today's world, and countries must be vigilant against and oppose attempts to destabilize the Asia-Pacific region. That should be the consensus between the two countries on which they can further advance their comprehensive strategic partnership. This serves the common interests of both countries and their peoples, and meets the common expectations of the countries in the region. The two sides should give full play to the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement, expand cooperation in emerging areas such as the green economy and the fight against climate change, safeguard the free trade system, and develop a good business environment for the enterprises of the two countries to invest and operate freely, as Xi urged. Echoing Xi, Albanese said the differences between the two countries should not be allowed to define the bilateral relationship, as Australia and China have broad common interests, and dialogue and cooperation are the best way to move forward and ensure mutual benefit. That shows the Australian side's willingness to meet the Chinese side halfway to put bilateral ties back on the track of healthy development. Before Albanese's visit, China and Australia had settled the dispute over wine and wind turbine trade, with Australia even shrugging off so-called security concerns over a Chinese company getting the lease for operating the Port of Darwin. As an ally of the United States and given the increasingly aggressive competition between China and the US, Australia needs to formulate an independent China policy which is not affected by its alliance with the US. Blindly following the US in China-related issues will only hurt the interests of Australia and bring more twists and turns to China-Australia ties. In the turbulent world of today, healthy, stable and robust Sino-Australian ties would not only cater to the interests of both countries but also contribute to peace, stability and development in the Asia-Pacific region and the world beyond.



G7 urged to follow independent path

In a blunt assessment of the situation, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that "Gaza is becoming a graveyard for children". More than 4,000 children have been reported killed in Gaza during Israel's military campaign over the past four weeks, according to the Palestinian enclave's health authorities. That surpasses the total annual number of children killed in armed conflicts around the world in each of the past four years, as Save the Children has pointed out. Even two weeks ago, when calling for an immediate cease-fire and for sustained and unimpeded access for humanitarian assistance, UNICEF bemoaned the number of child casualties as "a growing stain on our conscience". This has left some of the G7 countries squirming in guilt, as the United States' support of its long-time Middle East ally has reportedly made it difficult for the group of developed countries "to come to a consensus" on the issue. Something that the heads of the 18 United Nations agencies seem to have had no difficulty in reaching, as they jointly called for an immediate humanitarian cease-fire on Sunday. They did not mince words. Saying that the entire population of Gaza has been besieged and attacked and is unable to obtain survival necessities, they declared: "It has been 30 days. It's time to stop. All this must stop now." Although the White House said that US President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu discussed the potential for "tactical pause" on Monday, Netanyahu continues to vow no letup in Israel's military campaign and he continues to refuse to call for a cease-fire. Biden insists that Israel has the right to respond to the attacks by Hamas, and has sent two aircraft carrier strike groups to the Gulf in a show of support for Israel. The US House of Representatives also passed a \$14.5 billion military aid package for the latter on Nov 2, although it is predicted that it has no chance of being passed by the Senate as it calls for the money to be offset by cuts in government spending elsewhere. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken made no public comment when he arrived in Japan on Tuesday for the meeting of G7 foreign ministers. Japan, which is the present G7 chair and the host of the meeting, is reportedly trying to "handle the crisis cautiously" not because it is considering censuring Washington but because of its heavy reliance on oil in the Middle East and on the US security alliance. The other G7 members' subservience to the US is why analysts predict that when the group's foreign ministers release their joint communique after their discussions on Tuesday and Wednesday, it will probably mention Israel's offensive in only general terms. Although France supported a UN resolution on Oct 24 calling for a humanitarian cease-fire, the US voted against it while Japan, the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany and Italy all abstained. As a whole, the G7 club is unwilling to not let Washington call the shots, despite the growing stain on their conscience.

Gaza war must drive world to find long-term solutions

Chris Doyle

The international community needs to shape the outcome and that starts now. Let us imagine that Hamas is no longer in power in Gaza. What sort of interim authority could be established? Which states might be willing to contribute to a peacekeeping force? The option of direct Israeli military occupation, where the jailers move from the perimeter of the Strip to inside, would be hugely costly. If an interim authority is established, how long would it last? What would be the long-term arrangements? The Palestinian Authority in Ramallah Hamas quite rightly

Where does all this horror end up? Will there be a Gaza Strip when all is finished? Ever since Oct. 7, nobody has a clue – including, it seems, the Israeli Cabinet – what defines a victory? All the focus is on the short-term mass bombardment of Gaza with zero consideration for the long term. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu talks about a long war, not least because his only avenue for political survival is as a war leader. Without a clear endgame, Israel will lose again in Gaza. It might defeat Hamas, but it cannot eradicate it. Militarily, Israel will pulverize Gaza, but where does that leave the situation? This has been the result of each of Israel's six wars against Gaza and also its wars against Hezbollah in Lebanon. Israel has demonstrated its destructive military capabilities, which were never in doubt. Yet it has also highlighted massive political vulnerabilities that its opponents feed off. It wins the military battle but loses the political war. This is why Gaza has been occupied for 56 years and under blockade for 16, as well as why Israel has never got close to achieving any degree of security. If you foment hatred, bitterness and despair, Hamas and other groups will feed off that as they always have done. Hamas may grow more powerful in the West Bank. Is Israel going to turn that into Gaza too? The reality is that, when Palestinians enjoy real freedom, security and prosperity, they will be far more attracted to other political forces. Even the US in Iraq understood the need to try to win over the civilian population. That its attempts were inept, lacked any real conviction, were backed with few resources and lacked a proper so-called hearts and minds strategy was a key part of why America failed so dismally. It too won militarily but it has yet to recover from the political humiliation. Hamas believes that somehow surviving the Israeli onslaught would be a victory; that if its leaders can peek out from beneath the mountains of rubble – the only mountains in Gaza – this would constitute a success. Hamas also has no credible endgame, but that should surprise nobody. That it should play no future political or military role in Gaza is widely agreed internationally, but how that might be achieved is simply not laid out. An agreed Hamas withdrawal from Gaza may be desirable but unlikely.

The longer Israel continues to obliterate Gaza, the harder any political solution becomes. This is one reason why an immediate ceasefire matters. It is why US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was wrong to reject it once again last week, as he disagreed in public with senior Arab counterparts. The longer Israel continues to obliterate Gaza, the harder any political solution becomes. Regional powers will also be less willing to contribute to reconstruction in Gaza. Why should regional powers risk any of their citizens in any future peacekeeping force when the Israeli onslaught makes such a mission harder and harder? The longer the carpet bombing continues, the greater the trauma each and every Palestinian in Gaza suffers. Just how difficult does Israel want to make it to govern Gaza? Israelis will still have to live with 5 million to 6 million Palestinians, either as Palestinian citizens of Israel or Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, including Gaza. Israel will still have Arab states as neighbors, whose populations are watching in horror at the unfolding slaughter. The international community needs to shape the outcome and that starts now. Let us imagine that Hamas is no longer in power in Gaza. What sort of interim authority could be established? Which states might be willing to contribute to a peacekeeping force? The option of direct Israeli military occupation, where the jailers move from the perimeter of the Strip to inside, would be hugely costly. If an interim authority is established, how long would it last? What would be the long-term arrangements? The Palestinian Authority in Ramallah has quite rightly rejected any notion that it would take over Gaza on the back of Israeli planes and tanks, wary of being viewed as complicit in Israel's crushing of the Strip. Legitimacy can only come from the people of Gaza. Those who think you can substitute Israeli occupation for a different occupier are deluded. Municipal elections could be a starting point. This would allow the technical day-to-day running of the Strip to be in the hands of the people who live there, with inputs of funds and advice from the UN, given the challenge. But full, free and fair Palestinian elections for one single national authority must follow. The last ones were held in 2006. The current Palestinian leadership lacks electoral legitimacy. This

would be an opportunity to address one of the significant barriers to a political process. Negotiations have to be shown to deliver proper results for Palestinians in a way they never did in the Oslo years. This is what Hamas traded off: mocking Fatah for having got nothing in return for years of talking. Those who think you can substitute Israeli occupation for a different occupier are deluded. Chris Doyle Will Israel allow elections? It will demand that Hamas does not participate, but reasonable stipulations could be made ruling out any candidates that call for attacks on civilians. This is where the international community has to be firm. Israel must not get in the way of credible Palestinian elections – and these must also, as the Oslo Accords stipulated, take place in East Jerusalem. Without a normal economic life and without freedom, Gaza will remain a hellhole and will never be quiet. It will have to be rebuilt, the rubble cleared and the unexploded ordnance removed. A fund should be established immediately and Israel should contribute. This must also be contingent on ending the Israeli siege and allowing all materials in, not least to build a proper water and sewage system. It must mean permitting Palestinians in Gaza to travel freely after the conflict, not least to the West Bank. It must finally mean the establishment of safe passage to the West Bank as agreed under the Oslo Accords, which also provided for a port and airport for Gaza. Gazan fishermen must be allowed to fish freely. The West Bank also cannot be ignored as it has been. The Israeli settlement enterprise needs tackling. For too long, the international community has ignored this issue, copy and pasting the same old press releases telling of its concern. Settlements are illegal and this whole program must be ended. In the short term, Palestinian communities forced out by settler violence must be allowed to return to their villages and live in peace and security. Ignore this and there can be no peace. International statesmen are only now beginning to discuss the long-term solutions needed to address the underlying issues. After previous wars, these never materialized. They must this time and the sooner this starts in earnest the better.

—Sourced by Arab News.

Women's health and osteoporosis prevention

Seerat Fatima



This process of bone resorption and bone formation is not only crucial for repairing bone microdamage but is also a continuous process held inside our bodies, providing great strength and stability. When the balance of bone resorption and bone formation in the body is disturbed, it leads to a serious condition called osteoporosis. In osteoporosis, bones lose more mass than they replace with the formation of new bone cells. It is a serious condition that causes low bone density and strength.

Bones provide the greatest strength to the human body. They are mainly composed of a protein matrix and are mineralized by calcium, phosphate, and magnesium. The protein present in bones is primarily responsible for providing a matrix or framework, while the minerals in bones provide the greatest strength and density. Due to their specific and mineralized composition, bones are hard and stable in the body. Bones constantly undergo a process in which older bone tissues are broken down, and new tissues are formed. This process is specifically called remodeling, in which bones replace their older tissues with new ones. Osteoclasts are bone cells responsible for bone resorption; they release specific enzymes and acids that break down older or damaged tissues. When older tissues clear away during osteoporosis, cell-forming cells play a significant role in forming new bone tissues. Osteoblasts are considered essential in producing collagen, protein, and minerals, most importantly calcium, which forms a new bone matrix. This process of bone resorption and bone formation is not only crucial for repairing bone microdamage but is also a continuous process held inside our bodies, providing great strength and stability. When the balance of bone resorption and bone formation in the body is disturbed, it leads to a serious condition called osteoporosis. In osteoporosis, bones lose more mass than they replace with the formation of new bone cells. It is a serious condition that causes low bone density and strength. An illustration of osteoporosis is often likened to bricks in a building gradually being removed. Due to the excessive loss of bone mass, bones become weak and brittle; thus, even a minor fall or stress on the bone can easily cause a fracture, which is quite dangerous. Patients with osteoporosis often exhibit porous bones resembling honeycomb structures. Weakened bones are more prone to fractures, especially in areas of the body that bear the most weight and stress, including the spine (vertebrae), hip (femur), and wrist (radius). Many factors contribute greatly to declining bone health and the development of osteoporosis. Age is a significant factor in bone health decline. As we get older, our bones lose density over time. Aging also brings about hormonal changes in our bodies, which have a substantial impact on body functioning. These hormonal changes occur in both men and women, so both genders need to pay particular attention to their bone health. In women, estrogen plays a significant role in protecting bones, but during menopause, there is a rapid loss of estrogen levels, which affects bone health and reduces density. Conversely, in men, testos-

terone levels decrease with age, which also affects bone health. Global data on osteoporosis prevalence clearly shows that osteoporosis is more common in women compared to men. According to the World Osteoporosis Day Survey 2023 by the International Osteoporosis Foundation, nearly 43% of women experience fractures due to minor falls after the age of fifty. This percentage is notably high in countries like Japan and the United Kingdom. Surprisingly, almost 32% of individuals do not undergo the scanning process for diagnosing osteoporosis. Moreover, statistics indicate that 45% of women do not receive proper treatment for osteoporosis. This continuous, nonchalant attitude increases health risks. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that approximately 8.9 million fractures occur due to osteoporosis almost every year worldwide. In Pakistan, 7 million women face serious issues related to osteoporosis, while in men, the numbers are significantly lower, with almost 2 million men suffering from osteoporosis. Women have lower bone mass and thinner bones compared to men. Women also have smaller bones, which is a significant reason for the higher occurrence of osteoporosis in women. Moreover, during pregnancy, significant changes occur in a woman's body to support the development and nourishment of the baby. The growth of the baby during pregnancy requires a substantial amount of calcium. Pregnant women are advised to consume an adequate amount of calcium through their diet to ensure proper growth and nourishment of the baby. However, in cases where women do not consume enough calcium through their diet, the baby's calcium requirements are met by absorbing the necessary amount from the mother's bones, resulting in bone weakness and bone loss. Both breastfeeding and pregnancy place physical stress on women's bodies, which can lead to weakened bones. Special care is needed for women, especially pregnant and lactating women, regarding their nutritional requirements. Genetics can also play a role in the development of osteoporosis. Some individuals may have genetic variations that cause low bone mass, making them more susceptible to osteoporosis. If all family members of an individual naturally have smaller bones, there is a greater risk that the same individual will also have smaller bones. Genetic variations can also affect the efficiency of calcium absorption in bones, potentially leading to osteoporosis in affected individuals. Osteoporosis can be prevented or even treated with the right nutrition. Nutritionists recommend that osteoporosis patients consume a diet rich in calcium and vitamin D. Calcium is a major component of bones,

providing hardness and strength. It plays a significant role in maintaining and building bones. Adequate calcium intake through the diet helps prevent the risk of bone loss and protects bones from fractures. Excellent sources of calcium include dairy products such as milk, yogurt, and cream. Another prominent source of calcium is leafy vegetables, specifically spinach, which contributes to bone strength. Vitamin D, while not directly involved in treating osteoporosis, plays an influential role in the absorption of calcium in bones, which is crucial for maintaining bone health. It is commonly known that sunlight is a major source of vitamin D as it triggers vitamin D synthesis in the skin. Additionally, vitamin D can be obtained through diet. Fatty fish are natural sources of vitamin D, and egg yolks contain a small amount of vitamin D. Many fortified products, like orange juice and cereals, also contain added vitamin D. To reduce the risk of osteoporosis, it is essential to quit smoking. Smoking not only has adverse effects on overall health but also decreases calcium absorption in bones. Smoking can lead to hormonal changes in the body, causing a decrease in estrogen levels in women, which impacts bone health and reduces bone density. Smoking negatively affects bones by causing inflammation and reducing bone density. Toxic chemicals found in tobacco, such as lead and cadmium, interfere with normal bone development, reducing bone density and the maintenance and building processes of bones. Similarly, excessive alcohol consumption can have detrimental effects on bone health. Alcohol reduces calcium absorption in bones, causes hormonal changes, and leads to nutrient depletion. The liver plays a vital role in metabolizing vitamin D and producing proteins for bone formation. Excessive alcohol consumption can damage the liver, affecting bone health and maintenance. It is important to avoid smoking and excessive alcohol consumption for better health and disease prevention. Osteoporosis, often referred to as a silent disease, is common in women and can significantly affect their health. Nowadays, there is a lack of seriousness about women's health, especially in rural areas, and it is essential to educate people about women's health. Raising awareness about health issues and their prevention or treatment is crucial, and social media is a powerful platform for this purpose. Healthcare professionals should take the lead in discussing protective care and educating the public.

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Briefs

Smuggling,
certain banks
responsible

FROM PAGE 01
While the PKR may have experienced a comeback, it is essential to build upon the lessons learned during this period of appreciation to establish a more resilient currency. The Pakistan Stock Market has indeed been performing exceptionally well recently, with its index crossing the 54,000-point mark for the first time in the nation's history. Nevertheless, it's important to note that market experts caution that this upward trend may be temporary. There are several factors to consider when discussing the stock market's performance. The presence of an IMF delegation in Pakistan has created a positive perception of the Pakistani economy. It's possible that this visit is contributing to the current market surge. However, experts believe that once this delegation departs, the stock market may experience increased volatility. It's important to recognize that stock markets are influenced by various factors, including investor sentiment, economic indicators, and global events.

Gaza close
to 'breaking
point'...

FROM PAGE 01
War-shattered Gaza's health, sanitation, water and food services are nearing a "breaking point" without desperately needed fuel imports, the UN says. None of the 569 aid trucks that reached the besieged enclave so far was carrying fuel, said Jens Laerke, spokesperson for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). "More and more facilities are closing down, and more and more life-saving means are closing down," said World Health Organization spokesperson Christian Lindmeier, referring to fuel supplies. Last week, UN aid chief Martin Griffiths said there had been "some progress" in negotiations on letting fuel into the Gaza Strip. But it appears those talks have failed. Al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, said that it was about to release 12 captives who hold foreign passports recently, but the Israeli occupation government obstructed its efforts in this regard. "We still confirm that we are ready to release them, but the situation on the ground and the life-threatening Israeli attacks prevent that," Al-Qassam Brigades said in a statement on Tuesday. Meanwhile, The spokesman for the Ministry of the Interior in Gaza, Iyad Al-Bozm, confirmed that about 900,000 Palestinians remain in the Gaza City and North Gaza governorates, pointing out that all bakeries have stopped working there. There are currently 225 shelter centers across the Gaza Strip, including 97 shelter centers in the Gaza and North Gaza governorates, where approximately 311,000 displaced people are taking refuge, Al-Bozm added. Meanwhile, Dr. Muhammad al-Hindi, Deputy Secretary-General of the Islamic Jihad Movement, said that Israel "will be forced to carry out a prisoner exchange deal, no matter how long the days of aggression last." In an interview with Qatari news channel published on Tuesday, Al-Hindi stressed that Israel is trying to evade this process, even by liquidating all its prisoners in the Gaza Strip according to the "Hannibal" protocol, which stipulates that a dead soldier is better than a captured soldier.

Armed
forces ready
to crush...

FORM PAGE 01
Naik Khushdil Khan (age 31 years, resident of District Lakki Marwat), Naik Rafique Khan (age 27 years, resident of District Charsadda) and Lance Naik Abdul Qadir (age 33 years, resident of District Murree) were also offered at their respective hometowns. Armed Forces of Pakistan stand resolute and committed to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the motherland at all cost.

Swiatek thrashes Pegula
to win WTA Finals

Polish star defeats fifth seed 6-1, 6-0 to reclaim her world number one ranking spot

SPORTS DESK

CANCUN: Poland's Iga Swiatek thrashed Jessica Pegula to win the WTA Finals, sealing her return to world number one. Second seed Swiatek dominated Pegula from start to finish to clinch a 6-1, 6-0 victory in a 59-minute masterclass. The 17th win of Swiatek's career ensures that the four-time major singles champion from Warsaw will finish the season as world number one for a second straight year. "The team that's been with me the whole season, we had many ups and downs," a jubilant Swiatek said after her win. "This is for sure an up. We will for sure have many more if we keep working like that," added Swiatek, who lost just 20 games across the tournament - a new record. Pegula had few complaints about her defeat after an error-strewn display. "It just was one of those days where I felt like I was going for too much," Pegula said. "And she was just playing super solid."



Swiatek, 22, had beaten outgoing world number one Aryna Sabalenka in the semi-finals on Sunday. Sabalenka took over the number one ranking from Swiatek following the US Open in September. Pegula defeated Swiatek in the two

players' previous meeting in Montreal in August, and had impressed on her way to Monday's final, which had been shunted back 24 hours after wet weather washed out play on Saturday. But the 29-year-old American from New

court with whipped groundstrokes that left her opponent flailing. Pegula also struggled on serve, being broken five times while coughing up 23 unforced errors compared to Swiatek's six. Swiatek - who gave up only one break point opportunity in the entire match, which Pegula was unable to convert - sealed victory in the sixth game of the second set when the American pulled a backhand return long. Swiatek took control of Monday's contest early on, breaking Pegula in the fourth game for 3-1 before holding and breaking again for a 5-1 lead. She served out to love to claim the first set and then carried that momentum into the second set. She broke Pegula twice in the first three games of the second set and then held comfortably for a 4-0 lead. Pegula - who won just seven points on first serve through the match - suffered another break to leave Swiatek on the brink. Loud cheers erupted for Pegula when she finally managed to earn her first break point of the match on Swiatek's serve. But Swiatek quickly got it back to deuce and then moved to match point by crushing a forehand winner with Pegula stranded, before wrapping up victory on the next point after another errant groundstroke from the American.

PCB clears Rizwan
in Inzamam conflict

DNA

LAHORE: Director of Media and Communications for the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), Aalia Rasheed, has provided clarification on the involvement of wicket-keeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan in the conflict of interest case concerning former captain Inzamam-ul-Haq. Inzamam recently resigned from his position as the chief selector following the revelation that he holds shares in Yazoo International Ltd, a company owned by players' agent Talha Rehmani. Questions have also arisen about whether Inzamam's dual roles as Chief Selector and a shareholder in a company represent a conflict of interest.



senting top cricketers might have influenced player selection decisions. Moreover, Rizwan is also a director at the UK-based company, alongside Inzamam and Talha, which raised questions about Rizwan's involvement in the matter. However, while talking to a local news channel, Aalia has made it clear that Rizwan is not under investigation. She asserted that Rizwan is not connected to this matter in any way because players have a limited career span, and they need to invest the money they earn to ensure financial stability. "Rizwan is not involved in this matter at all because a player has a limited career and they need to invest the money they earn in order to be financially stable after their playing days are over. Even Inzamam would not have been questioned if he was not the chief selector," Aalia said. Earlier, the conflict of interest controversy raised concerns about potential conflicts of interest, particularly since Rehmani represents several prominent Pakistani cricketers, including Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan, and Shaheen Shah Afridi.

Update on Rauf,
Shadab Khan's injury

KOLKATA: Pakistan pacer Haris Rauf - who faced an injury scare due to a sprain in his ribs - got clear scans, ruling out chances of the seamer missing any World Cup matches. The right-arm pacer underwent magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans after experiencing a sprain in his ribs during New Zealand's innings in the match at Bengaluru's M Chinnaswamy Stadium on November 4. As per the latest update, no injury was seen in the scans. Meanwhile, all-rounder Shadab Khan has also recovered well from the concussion he suffered during a match with South Africa last month. Shadab landed awkwardly on his shoulder and his head hit the ground during their narrow loss to Proteas, to be later replaced by Usama Mir in the next match with Bangladesh. It was Shadab's third concussion since September last year. However, the leg-spinner has reportedly recovered well and is set to be assessed on the training day tomorrow. As Pakistan now prepare to take on the struggling England team on November 11, the team members will resume their training from tomorrow (Wednesday) at 2pm local time after spending a day off today (Tuesday). After a much-needed victory through DLS method in the rain-hit match against New Zealand on Saturday, there are still many ifs and buts on whether Babar Azam's men can qualify for the World Cup semi-finals. It is pertinent to look into the factors that might decide the Green Shirts' prospects of making it to the knock-out stage of the tournament. The best-case scenario for Pakistan is to secure a win against England and if Sri Lanka beat the Kiwis on November 9, the national side might likely qualify for the semis. Apart from this straightforward scenario, the Men in Green's future in the tournament also depends upon Afghanistan, who currently are tied with Pakistan with eight points. - Agencies

Semanya case set for ECHR
Grand Chamber final ruling

DNA

STRASBOURG: The Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) agreed to rule on the case of double Olympic 800m champion Caster Semenya, who has been barred from competing over her refusal to take medication to lower her testosterone levels. The 32-year-old South African athlete won a long legal battle in July against Switzerland at the Strasbourg-based international court, which ruled she was the victim of discrimination. But Swiss authorities, supported by World Athletics, had announced their intention to take the matter to the ECHR's Grand Chamber, whose rulings are binding. The initial ECHR decision rendered was a narrow majority of four judges to three. "On 6 November 2023 the case was referred to the Grand Chamber at the Swiss Government's request," the ECHR said in a statement, without specifying when the case would be re-examined. Semenya, who is classed as having "dif-

ferences in sexual development (DSD)" but has always been legally identified as female, has refused to take drugs to reduce her testosterone levels since athletics' governing body introduced the rules in 2018. As a result, she has been barred from competing at her favourite distance of 800m. In her long-running legal battle, Semenya lost an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, and three years ago Switzerland's supreme court confirmed the decision of sport's top court. Semenya then took her case against Switzerland to the ECHR. "Switzerland had overstepped the narrow margin of appreciation afforded to it in the present case, which concerned discrimination on grounds of sex and sexual characteristics requiring 'very weighty reasons' by way of justification," the ECHR said in July. "The high stakes of the case for the applicant and the narrow margin of appreciation afforded to the respondent State should have led to a thorough institutional and procedural review, but the applicant had not been able to obtain such a review." The ruling by the ECHR in July was largely symbolic as

it does not call into question the World Athletics ruling and does not pave the way for Semenya to return to competition without taking the medication. In her new book, "The Race To Be Myself", she confesses her career at the top is over. "I will not take the drugs. This means I will no longer be able to run in any IAAF-sanctioned (World Athletics) event," she says. Semenya won Olympic gold at the 2012 London Games and at Rio in 2016 and collected world titles in 2009, 2011 and 2017. World Athletics introduced the DSD regulations to create a level playing field in women's events ranging from 400m to one mile. Semenya was forced to move up to the 5,000m, a distance in which she failed to reach the final at last year's world championships in Eugene. In March this year, the federation amended the rules. DSD athletes now have to reduce their amount of blood testosterone to below 2.5 nanomoles per litre, down from the previous level of five, and remain below this threshold for two years.

PM, Ashrafi discuss deteriorating situation in ME

PM stresses urgent role by int'l community to stop Gaza genocide

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Representative for Religious Harmony and Pakistan diaspora in Middle East and Islamic Countries, Maulana Tahir Ashrafi called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in Islamabad Tuesday and held detailed discussion on the deteriorating situation in the Middle East. They denounced the genocide and atrocities on innocent Palestinians in Gaza by Israeli forces. They said international community should play its role in stopping the oppression on Palestinians.

The Prime Minister and Maulana Tahir Ashrafi welcomed the OIC meeting to be held soon regarding the situation in Palestine, especially Gaza. PM Anwaar-ul-Haq has stressed the need for the international community to play an urgent role in stopping Israel's aggression against Palestinians. Maulana Ashrafi paid tribute to the interim government's steps to promote inter-faith harmony. The prime minister on the occasion lauded Maulana Tahir Ashrafi for his efforts for the welfare of Pakistanis residing in the Middle East and other Islamic countries.

Minister Dr.
Al-Maliki
receives a
phone call...

FROM PAGE 01

And the killing that the Palestinian people pay for in the face of the gravity of the Israeli bombing and destruction, which has not stopped for 32 days since the start of the barbaric Israeli war on the Palestinian people in Gaza. He also affirmed that his country, as a Pakistani people, government, parties, parliament and institutions, stands alongside the Palestinian people in their struggle to achieve their rights to freedom and the embodiment of their state on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. He also stressed his country's commitment to deploying all its capabilities for the benefit of the Palestinian people and its readiness to provide everything the Palestinian people need in such inhumane conditions to which this steadfast people is exposed. In turn, Minister Al-Maliki presented his counterpart, Minister Gilani, in details of what the state of "occupation and destruction" Israel is doing against the Strip, including killing, destruction, and cutting off water, electricity, communications, and fuel, to prevent hospitals from carrying out their duty in treating the large numbers of wounded who fill the hospitals, in addition to its targeting of civilians, especially children and women. And the elderly in their homes, in hospitals, schools, or shelters, and even targeting ambulances.

PML-N,
MQM-P to
contest Feb...

FROM PAGE 01

Pakistan back on the path of development. The two parties also decided to set up a six-member committee to prepare a comprehensive charter to address the problems of Sindh province, especially its urban areas. The committee will present the final proposals for cooperation between the two parties to the leadership within 10 days," a PML-N statement issued after the meeting stated. As the general elections approach, the rifts between PML-N and PPP have become deeper as the latter is persistently voicing concerns regarding the absence of equal opportunities to prove itself ahead of the polls. The Bilawal-led party has claimed that the PML-N has denied a level playing field in the upcoming polls. Recently, the PPP also said that it was open to forging an alliance with any political party including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) against the Nawaz-led party. Speaking about the political and economic conditions in the country, Sartar said that no party is in a position to steer the country out of the crisis single-handedly. "There is a need for broader understanding and cooperation," said the MQM-P leader, adding that a joint strategy will be adopted in the elections.

Zardari
'welcomes
political...

FROM PAGE 01

the view that when people who oppose each other contest elections then the competition among them delivers the "best results". The PPP leader said that his party never says "no to anyone" and always tells everyone to do their politics while they would do theirs. "We have our own philosophy and they have theirs." Taking a jibe at PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif who returned to the country on October 21 after ending a four-year self-imposed exile in London, Zardari said that he was not leaving the country as he was bound by his workers. "What will I say to my worker when I look him in the eye," Zardari further said. He added that his party does its own politics whatever may be the politics of others. Explaining his party's philosophy, Zardari said they do it for the politics which was of PPP founder Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto. Zardari further said that they removed Imran Khan - through a no-confidence motion in April last year - not to seek power but did it for the betterment of country.

Briefs

California boat captain guilty over fire that killed 34

CALIFORNIA :The captain of a dive boat that caught fire and killed 34 people in California four years ago has been found guilty of negligence. Jerry Boylan, 69, was convicted of one count of "seaman's manslaughter" after a 10-day trial in Los Angeles. Prosecutors said the captain failed to have a night watchman or conduct fire drills as required by law. All 33 passengers and a crew member sleeping below deck died - among the worst maritime disasters in California. The fire broke out in the early hours of the morning on 2 September 2019 while the Conception was moored in Platt's Harbour near Santa Cruz Island, south of Santa Barbara. It was hosting a diving expedition over the Labour Day holiday weekend. Boylan was among five crew members who managed to escape the blaze on the 75ft (23m) vessel. They escaped by jumping overboard and swimming to another vessel nearby. The crew members told investigators at the time that the flames were too intense to save anyone trapped in the passenger quarters. US Coast Guard Lt Commander Joe Price-Larson with fellow Coast Guard members visit a memorial for the 34 people who died in the Conception Boat fire. A memorial for the 34 people who died in the Conception Boat fire. --DNA

IMF boosts Kenya program by \$650m

NAIROBI : The International Monetary Fund has agreed to increase Kenya's lending programme by \$650 million, the Kenyan president's chief economic adviser said on Tuesday. Sovereign debt investors are paying close attention to the East African nation due to a \$2 billion Eurobond that is maturing next June, amid persistent weakness in its foreign exchange rate that is weighing on Kenya's hard currency reserves. "As of now the 2024 Eurobond is fully funded. The refinancing is fully funded," David Ndi, the adviser, told an economic forum hosted by a local commercial bank. The government plans to buy back up to a quarter of the bond this year, the governor of the central bank Kamau Thugge told media reporters last month, to be financed by new borrowing. An IMF team arrived in Nairobi last week to conduct the sixth review of a lending programme approved in 2021. The fund has not yet commented on the outcome of the mission, which is yet to be completed. "It (IMF) can augment our programme as of now up to \$650 million, that they have agreed to do," he said. The Washington-based fund has been criticised by some Kenyans on social media for supporting government policies they blame for a worsening cost of living crisis.

EU photonics chip firms seek \$4.5b support

WASHINGTON : Executives from a consortium of Europe's leading "photonics" computer chip businesses have asked the European Union for \$4.25 billion in financing to assist the expanding sector in competing with competitors in Asia and the United States. Photonics semiconductors do computations using light rather than electrons, which has benefits in terms of speed and power consumption, making them more valuable for applications such as data centers and automobiles. At a session in Eindhoven, the group provided EU authorities with an eight-year plan to assist and strengthen European supply chains, as well as giving smaller enterprises access to manufacturing locations for test runs. "Currently, the EU has a vibrant and growing integrated photonics industry, however, without volume manufacturing, testing, and packaging capacity we are incredibly vulnerable to global events and the policies of competitor countries," Johan Veenstra, CEO of SMART Photonics, said at the summit. --APP

ECO Tashkent Summit

A new basis for developing common approaches

For the first time in history, Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, will host the Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization. It will be held on 8-9 November, 2023

DNA

TASHKENT: For the first time in history, Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, will host the Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization. It will be held on 8-9 November, 2023. Our country has been a member of the organization since November 1992, but this is the first time in the history of independent Uzbekistan and this association that a multilateral summit within the framework of the ECO is being held on Uzbek soil. The Economic Cooperation Organization is a regional interstate organization founded in 1985 in Tehran (Iran). The goals and objectives of ECO - development of mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation and regional interaction in transport and communication sphere fully meet the interests of our republic. At present, the ECO members are Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan,

Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan. Since 1995, the ECO has had observer status in the UN and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The ECO activities are coordinated and monitored by the organization's Secretary General, who is elected and appointed by the Council of Foreign Ministers of the ECO member countries for a period of three years. In 2022, Uzbekistan chaired the ECO for the first time. Speaking at the 15th ECO Summit in Ashgabat on 28 November 2021, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev put forward proposals for cooperation in trade, investment, transport and "green" economy. "We need to more fully utilize the significant potential of our countries, which have a huge market with a population of over 500 million people, in the spheres of trade and investment," the head of our state stressed at the summit. Accepting the chairmanship, the

The 16th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization
November 8-9, 2023, Tashkent, Uzbekistan



President said Uzbekistan favors the development of comprehensive relations within the ECO framework. Our country considers ECO as a platform for discussing ways to improve development and promote trade and investment opportunities in South Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East. Within the framework of ECO, Uzbekistan advocates the creation of interregional transit hubs, the development of modern transport and road infrastructure, the optimisation of transport and transit tariffs, the simplification of conditions

for international freight and passenger traffic and the introduction of digitalisation in the transport industry. In addition, at the summit in Ashgabat, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev put forward an initiative on active joint development of "green" economy, wide introduction of resource-saving technologies in industrial sectors, and achievement of carbon neutrality. Uzbekistan is also in favor of joining efforts to develop common approaches and provide necessary assistance to Afghanistan. In this regard, the head of

our state has put forward an initiative to consistently continue the implementation of major trade, transport and energy projects of regional significance jointly with Afghanistan in order to promote the economy of this country and support its people. Today, the ECO countries are the largest trade partners of Uzbekistan. According to the results of 2022, trade turnover between Uzbekistan and ECO countries totalled \$12.3 billion, and in January-July 2023 - \$5.8 billion. Since May 2018, there has been an intensification of Uzbekistan's cooperation with ECO. In particular, since 2018, ECO Secretaries General Khalil Akka, Hadi Soleimanpour, Khusrav Noziri, as well as Deputy Secretary General Hussein Burchakli have visited Uzbekistan. At the same time, the participation of the Uzbek side in international events held under the auspices of ECO has been considerably intensified. Official delegations of Uzbekistan take part in

BD garment workers reject 56% pay rise

DHAKA :Bangladesh raised the minimum monthly pay for the country's four million garment workers by 56.25 percent on Tuesday, a decision immediately rejected by unions seeking a near-tripling of the figure. The South Asian country's 3,500 garment factories account for around 85 percent of its \$55 billion in annual exports, supplying many of the world's top fashion names including Levi's, Zara, and H&M. But conditions are dire for many of the sector's four million workers, the vast majority of whom are women whose monthly pay starts at 8,300 taka (\$75). Workers have gone on strike to demand a near-tripling of their wages, with violent scenes in recent days, while employers offered 25 percent. The minimum wage is fixed by a state-appointed board that includes representatives from the manufacturers, unions, and wage experts. "The new minimum monthly wage for garment factory workers has been fixed at 12,500 taka (\$113)," Raisha Afroz, the board secretary, told AFP. The figure was immediately rejected by unions, which have been demanding a 23,000 taka minimum. Unions say their members have been hard hit by persistent inflation, which in October reached nearly 10 percent, and a cost of living crisis partly triggered by the taka depreciating about 30 percent against the US dollar since early last year. --APP

Stocks retreat as weak growth concerns weigh

LONDON : Major stock markets mostly retreated and the dollar advanced Tuesday as concerns about weak growth offset hopes of an end to global interest-rate hikes. Oil prices slid on data showing China's exports fell at a faster pace than predicted in October, as the world's second-largest economy is buffeted by faltering global demand and a sluggish domestic recovery. At the same time, the International Monetary Fund raised its 2023 economic growth forecast for China, citing stronger consumption and recent policy measures announced by Beijing. But official data showed German industrial output slumped more than expected in September, signalling that Europe's biggest economy was struggling to emerge from a slowdown. "Last week was all about dawning expectation that interest rates might not stay as high for as long as had been previously expected, and this week it's all about growth - or the lack of it," noted Danni Hewson, AJ Bell head of financial analysis. Investors were unable to maintain the momentum seen after US officials hinted that the era of rising borrowing costs was over, while a jump in Treasury yields Monday revived jitters that there could still be one more lift to come. Speeches by a number of decision-makers this week including Federal Reserve chairman Jerome Powell will be analysed for clues about the outlook, with some officials still reluctant to call an end to the tightening cycle. --Agencies

Key figures around 1100 GMT

LONDON - FTSE 100: UP 0.1 percent at 7,423.72 points Frankfurt - DAX: DOWN 0.2 percent at 15,103.59 Paris - CAC 40: DOWN 0.4 percent at 6,983.48 EURO STOXX 50: DOWN 0.3 percent at 4,146.76 Tokyo - Nikkei 225: DOWN 1.3 percent at 32,271.82 (close) Hong Kong - Hang Seng Index: DOWN 1.7 percent at 17,670.16 (close) Shanghai - Composite: FLAT at 3,057.27 (close) New York - Dow: UP 0.1 percent at 34,095.86 (close) Euro/dollar: DOWN at \$1.0682 from \$1.0723 on Monday Pound/dollar: DOWN at \$1.2295 from \$1.2342 Dollar/yen: UP at 150.31 yen from 150.00 yen Euro/pound: UP at 86.87 pence from 86.85 pence Brent North Sea crude: DOWN 1.9 percent at \$83.58 per barrel West Texas Intermediate: DOWN 1.8 percent at \$79.38 per barrel 201. -- APP



HUNGARY : Ambassador Bela Fazekas called on FM Jalil Abbas Jilani. They Expressed satisfaction at the positive trajectory in bilateral relations. FM also thanked Hungary for doubling the number of scholarships for Pakistani student. --DNA

Russian telecom cable cut near Baltic pipeline

WEB DESK

MOSCOW : A Russian fibre optic cable under the Baltic Sea was damaged last month only 28 km (17 miles) from where a gas pipeline linking Finland and Estonia was damaged soon afterwards, Russian state company Rostelecom said on Tuesday. Finnish police believe damage to the Balticconnector gas pipeline was caused by a Chinese container ship dragging its anchor along the seabed but have not concluded whether this was an accident or a deliberate act. Security of sub-sea cables and pipelines in the Baltic has become a top concern against the background of the Ukraine war, especially since the blowing-up of Russia's Nord Stream gas pipelines last year. Investigators have yet to establish who was responsible. In a statement, Rostelecom did not comment on what had caused the "accident" to the fibre cable that links Russia's Baltic exclave of Kaliningrad to the rest of the country. However, it noted the proximity of the incident to the damaged Balticconnector gas pipeline, in terms of both geography and timing. "Damage to the Rostelecom company's fiber optic cable in the Baltic Sea was recorded on October 7, 2023 at 23:30 (Moscow time). The location of the cable damage is located 28 km from the section of the Baltic Connector gas pipeline damaged on October 8," it said.

French immigration bill targets criminal foreigners

PARIS : Senators in France started debating a bill that is intended to toughen the country's immigration law but advocacy organizations have criticized as a threat to the rights of asylum-seekers and other migrants. French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said the legislation "is about being firm" on immigration. The bill especially is aimed at "being tougher on foreigners who commit crimes, expelling them all," he said media reporters. The government said the measure would strengthen and accelerate the process for deporting foreigners who are regarded as "a serious threat to public order." At the same time, Darmanin, who is considered one of the most right-wing members of President Emmanuel Macron's centrist government, said the bill acknowledges people who entered France without authorization and "want to regularize." The legislation includes a provision that would give legal status under certain conditions to undocumented individuals working in specific sectors with labor shortages. "There's a political compromise to be found. What counts is the general interest," Darmanin said. The Senate debate is the first step in what is likely to be a long and difficult legislative journey. The bill already was postponed several times this year due to a lack of support from a parliamentary majority. The upper house of parliament is dominated by conservatives who are opposed to giving legal status to workers who entered France illegally, arguing the move would create a "pull effect" that encourages more migrants to come to France. --DNA

King Charles unveils election strategy in inaugural speech

LONDON : King Charles has delivered his first king's speech, outlining government plans for laws to create potential dividing lines with Labour before the next general election with a tough approach to criminal justice and the green agenda, but little legislation to improve Britain's struggling public services. The king paid tribute to his mother the late Queen Elizabeth's "legacy of service and devotion" as he conducted the state opening of parliament for the first time as monarch. The government announced 21 bills for what is almost certainly the final session of parliament before voters go to the polls, including seven which were carried over, such as the renters reform bill and a law banning British public bodies from boycotting Israel. With crime and justice a major point of contention with Keir Starmer's Labour,

the speech confirmed ministers would bring forward new bills covering sentencing laws, police powers and the treatment of victims of crime. A sentencing bill will mean those convicted of the most serious sexual offences will not be allowed to leave prison early, and will also introduce a new presumption that anybody sentenced to less than 12 months will have their sentence suspended. A criminal justice bill will introduce new powers for police to make defendants attend their sentencing hearings, including adding two years to their sentences if they refuse to comply. This follows the case of the nurse Lucy Letby, who refused to be sentenced in person after being found guilty of killing children. One mooted change which was not included in the speech was a ban on tents for homeless people, a measure which was reported over

the weekend but triggered a backlash even from Conservative backbenchers. A new annual system for awarding oil and gas licences was announced, with the government saying it would protect jobs and bolster energy security. But experts, including climate scientists and poverty campaigners, have warned against plans to keep drilling. New oil and gas fields in the North Sea would only produce enough gas to satisfy Britain's needs for a few weeks a year and have minimal impact on energy security, while the energy secretary, Claire Coutinho, has admitted that household energy bills may not come down as a result of the plans. Labour would block new domestic exploration licences if it wins power. While public services including health and education were mentioned in the speech, there was no new legislation to either reform the NHS or to bring

Italy announces deal to build migrant centers in Albania

The plan will see up to 36,000 people per year held in northwest Albania

NEWS DESK

ROME : Italy will build two migrant centers in northwest Albania to house migrants rescued at sea by Italian boats but not those who have made it to shore, the prime ministers of the two countries announced on Monday. "Mass illegal immigration is a phenomenon no EU member state can handle alone," said Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni at a joint news conference in Rome with her Albanian counterpart, Edi Rama. Meloni, who heads the right-wing, nationalist Brothers of Italy party, came to power in 2022 promising to curb immigration but year-on-year, arrivals have nearly doubled. Brothers of Italy has long promised to crack down on undocumented migrants, including by building

processing facilities outside the EU. Despite Meloni's election promise to stop boat crossings from North Africa, more than 145,000 people have arrived in Italy by sea so far in 2023, compared to around 88,000 in the same period in 2022. Prior to

becoming prime minister, Meloni said Italy should "repatriate migrants back to their countries and then sink the boats that rescued them." As thousands of migrants from outside the EU continue to make their way to Europe, far-right parties from



Germany to Spain have demanded the bloc toughen its stance on migration, with some parties surging in the polls off the back of anti-immigration campaigns. The European Commission offered cash to Tunisia in July to stem migration channels from North Africa to Europe but Tunisia returned it. The agreement between Italy and Albania is the first of its kind struck between an EU member country and a non-EU state, similar to the plan laid out by the United Kingdom to send asylum seekers to Rwanda, which was halted after a court found it unlawful. "I consider this as a truly European agreement, and I want to say that it shows that it is possible to work together on the management of migratory flows," Meloni added. The centers would be under Italian legal jurisdiction, constructed at Italy's expense,

and are expected to open by spring 2024. Children, pregnant women and "vulnerable people" won't be sent to the centers but will instead have their applications processed in Italy, Meloni said. Under the deal, the centers in northwest Albania will hold up to 36,000 people per year once established. Earlier this year, Meloni called on the EU to help with a naval blockade to stop migrant crossings in the Mediterranean Sea. Albania's prime minister defended his country's involvement in the plan, calling Italy's location in the Mediterranean its "curse." More than 145,000 people have arrived in Italy by sea so far in 2023, compared to around 88,000 in the same period in 2022. When you enter Italy, you enter the EU," Rama said. "We may not have the strength and capacity to be the solution, but we have a duty towards Italy and the ability to lend a hand."

Briefs

No level-playing field without Imran: Aitzaz

DNA

LAHORE: The upcoming general election will remain controversial if ousted premier Imran Khan is not allowed to participate in the polls, said senior lawyer and former Pakistan Peoples Party leader Chaudhry Aitzaz Ahsan on Tuesday. There should be a true level-playing field in the upcoming general elections, he said, speaking to the media outside the Lahore High Court (LHC), objecting to Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Maryam Nawaz's demand for party supremo Nawaz's acquittal. He asked why Imran Khan cannot move freely when thrice ousted former premier Nawaz could do so despite being a convict. Nawaz cannot be made prime minister for the fourth time unless such an amendment is passed by an elected parliament, he said. The former PPP leader also called for a comprehensive policy on Afghan refugees expressing concern that the current situation may lead to anarchy. Maryam was earlier reported as saying that the PML-N would move towards elections after Nawaz is acquitted from all cases and Imran is imprisoned and punished. "There will be no doubt over the controversy of this election if Imran is not given the opportunity to participate in it," said Ahsan.

FM, Korean FM pledge to enhance cooperation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Underscoring the strong potential for future collaboration, Caretaker Foreign Minister Jilani Abbas Jilani and Foreign Minister of Republic of Korea Park Jin have pledged to intensify cooperation in all fields, including political, economic, cultural and people-to-people contacts. Pakistan and the Republic of Korea on Tuesday commemorated the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. "To mark the occasion, Foreign Minister Jilani Abbas Jilani and Foreign Minister of Republic of Korea Park Jin, exchanged messages of felicitations through diplomatic channels," the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release. The relationship between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea was marked by characteristic warmth and candour and features mutually beneficial cooperation in diverse fields. Foreign Minister Jilani and Foreign Minister Park reviewed the rich history of Pakistan-ROK relations, socio-cultural ties, development and economic cooperation and the contribution of respective diasporas, which acted as a bridge of friendship between the two countries.

Court extends Ch. Fawad remand

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former information minister Fawad Chaudhry Tuesday was sent to jail on a one-day physical remand by Islamabad's district and sessions court in the fraud case. During today's hearing, Faisal Chaudhry — Fawad's lawyer and brother — opposed Prosecutor Adnan Ali's request for a five-day extension in the politico's physical remand. Meanwhile, the prosecutor said that money and a pistol are yet to be recovered from the politician who is in fact acting evasive adding that an identification parade is also to be carried out for the ex-minister. "Fawad Chaudhry is not cooperating with the police," the prosecutor said. He mentioned that the complainant gave Chaudhry Rs5 million trusting the politician, but upon demanding his money back, Fawad threatened him.

Pakistan sends 2nd consignment of 90 tons relief goods for Gazans

FM Jilani said Pakistan was sending humanitarian assistance for the people of Gaza who were persistently facing oppression by the Israeli security forces

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan on Tuesday dispatched the second consignment of humanitarian assistance for the people of Gaza. Foreign Minister Jilani Abbas Jilani saw off the special plane carrying 90 tons of hygiene kits, medicines, and food packages, here at Islamabad International Airport. Palestine's ambassador in Pakistan Ahmed Jawad Rabi'i, Minister for Human Rights Khalil George, and senior officials of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) were present. FM Jilani said Pakistan was sending humanitarian assistance for the people of Gaza who were persistently facing oppression by the Israeli security forces. He urged the international community to play its role in finding a peaceful resolution to the conflict by establishing an independent state of Palestine with Al-Quds as its capital. He expressed Pakistan's full solidarity with the Palestinian brothers and sisters and condemned Israel's brutal, disproportionate, and indiscriminate use of force against civilians, including women and children, currently besieged in Gaza. The Foreign Minister underlined the urgency of bringing an immediate end to Israeli aggression and lifting of the siege of Gaza. He called for upholding the principles of justice and humanity and facilitation of the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza. Palestinian Ambassador Ahmed Jawad Rabi'i thanked the government of Pakistan for the relief goods and said the people in Gaza were facing extreme difficulties. He said Pakistan always supported the cause of Palestine. Earlier, Pakistan had sent its first consignment of 100 tons relief goods to Gaza on 19th October.



ISLAMABAD: NDMA dispatched humanitarian relief assistance to war ravaged Gaza, Palestine. Caretaker Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Jilani Abbas Jilani and Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George sent off second tranche to Gaza via Egypt from Islamabad International Airport. — DNA

Maxwell single-handedly thrashes Afghanistan

SPORTS DESK

MUMBAI: Glenn Maxwell played one of the greatest innings in the history of the World Cup, hitting an astonishing double century, as Australia defeated Afghanistan by three wickets at the Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai, India, on Tuesday. Maxwell, 35, terrorised Afghanistan's bowlers and hit them all over the park as he, alongside skipper Pat Cummins, snatched victory from the jaws of defeat. The 35-year-old came to bat when his side was 49-4 after Josh Inglis had just lost his wicket for a golden duck. However, Maxwell got a life on two different occasions as he was dropped by Hashmatullah Shahidi and Mujeeb ur Rehman. Afghanistan's bowlers caused all kinds of trouble for Australian batters in the early overs and were on the way to a certain victory. Still, Maxwell alone became the reason for their pain as the right-handed destructive batter gave no choice or chance to Shahidi's men. Maxwell was largely supported by Cummins who played a calm and sensible knock, scoring 12 runs in 68 balls. The 35-year-old also suffered cramps and, in the last few overs, he was unable to run while also playing shots without using any footwork. Glenn Maxwell became the first ever batter to score a 200 in a chase in ODIs and also the first player to score 2 centuries in a WC edition batting at No. 5 or lower. Batting first, Ibrahim Zadran was the standout player as he became the first Afghan batter

to score a century in the history of the World Cup. While other Afghan batters failed to score big it was Zadran who came as an opener and stayed till the very end, helping his side to reach a good total. Rashid Khan significantly supported Zadran during the last five overs as the all-rounder played a rapid knock, scoring 35 off just 18 deliveries with two fours and three sixes. Rahmat Shah (30), skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi (26) and Azmatullah Omarzai (22) were the other contributors to the winning side. No Australian bowler other than Josh Hazlewood bowled up to the expectations as the right-handed pacer only conceded 39 runs in nine overs and also took two important wickets. Afghanistan will now play another important and must-win match against South Africa on November 9. Meanwhile, Australia will take on Bangladesh on November 11 in their last group match.

Qualification Scenario:

- If NZ beat SL by 50 runs, Pakistan will have to beat England by 180 runs.
- If NZ beat SL by 1 run, Pakistan will have to beat England by 131 runs.
- If SL beat NZ, Pakistan will just have to beat England and they will qualify.
- If SL vs NZ is washed out due to rain, Pakistan will just have to beat England to qualify.

Matches schedule:

- November 9 — New Zealand vs Sri Lanka @ M.Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru, India.
- November 10 — Afghanistan vs South Africa @ Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad.
- November 11 — Pakistan vs England @ Eden Gardens, Kolkata, India.

Israel deploying foreign mercenaries to Gaza

TEHRAN: The Israeli army has reportedly hired foreign mercenaries, including a notorious Spanish group, to use in its brutal war on the besieged Gaza Strip. El Mundo, a major Spanish newspaper, interviewed Pedro Diaz Flores, a notorious Spanish mercenary, who said "many" mercenary groups have joined Israel's army that pays them "very well." "So I came for economy, for money. They pay very well, they offer good equipment and the work is calm. It is 3,900 euros [\$4,187] per week, complementary missions aside," he said of his motives for joining the Israeli forces. Pedro Diaz Flores previously fought alongside neo-Nazis in Ukraine after Russia began a special military operation in the country's Donbas region last year. "We only provide security support to arms convoys or the troops of the Israeli armed forces that are in the Gaza Strip. We do not fight Hamas directly, nor are we involved in assault operations," he claimed. "We are in charge of the security of the checkpoints and access control on the borders of Gaza and Jordan. There are many PMCs (private military companies) here and they share the work. Traditionally they have guarded border terminals between Eliat and Aqaba," he added. That came as speculations arose last month that mercenaries stationed in Ukraine had begun to join the Israeli military, as the focus of the West has also shifted from Ukraine to Israel. "It's clear that the war in the Middle East is taking away the focus" from Ukraine, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Saturday. — Agencies

Mushaal urges world to take notice of Indian atrocities

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick Tuesday urged the United Nations and the international human rights organizations to take notice of the fresh killing spree and other atrocities by Indian troops in Kashmir valley. Talking to Kashmir Media Service, SAPM said that the killing of innocent youth by Indian troops had proved that the occupied

territory had been converted into a slaughterhouse where Kashmiris were being ruthlessly killed. She also paid glowing tributes to the Hurriyat leaders and activists for their sacrifices for the freedom of Kashmir, adding, these people are suffering the hardships of imprisonment away from their families and many of them are suffering from fatal diseases while they do not have access to medical facilities. Mushaal said the international community should fulfill its responsibility in alleviating the suffering of the Kashmiri people and assisting them in realizing their fundamental right to self-determination. Pakistan is exposing India at international forums to refrain India from State sponsored terrorism particularly in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, she added. — DNA

NATO formally suspends Cold War-era security treaty

NEWS DESK

BRUSSELS: NATO has announced the formal suspension of a key Cold War-era security treaty in response to Russia's pullout from the deal just hours earlier. The alliance also said on Tuesday its members who signed the treaty are now freezing their participation in the pact. Most of NATO's 31 allies have signed the Treaty of Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, which was aimed at preventing Cold War rivals from massing forces at or near mutual borders. It was signed in November 1990, but not fully ratified until two years later. NATO said its action was required because "a situation whereby Allied State Parties abide by the Treaty, while Russia does not, would be unsustainable." Earlier in the day, Moscow said it had finalised its withdrawal from the treaty, also known as CFE. The long-expected move came after both houses of the Russian parliament approved a bill proposed by President Vladimir Putin denouncing the CFE. Putin signed that bill into force in May this year. The treaty was one of several major Cold War-era treaties involving Russia and the United States that ceased to be in force in recent years. Russia suspended its participation in 2007, and in 2015 announced its intention to completely withdraw from the agreement.

In February 2022, Moscow attacked Ukraine, sending hundreds of thousands of Russian troops into the neighbouring country, which also shares a border with NATO members Poland, Slovakia, Romania and Hungary. Russia's Foreign Ministry said the process of the formal withdrawal from the treaty has been completed, without elaborating what that entailed. It blamed the US and its allies for the withdrawal and the West's allegedly "destructive position" on the treaty. "We left the door open for a dialogue on ways to restore the viability of conventional arms control in Europe," it said. "However, our opponents did not take advantage of this opportunity." The statement further said that "even the formal preservation" of the treaty has become "unacceptable from the point of view of Russia's fundamental security interests," citing developments in Ukraine and NATO's recent expansion. In Brussels, NATO said that its allies who had signed on "intend to suspend the operation of the CFE Treaty for as long as necessary, in accordance with their rights under international law." The alliance underlined that its members remain committed "to reduce military risk, and prevent misperceptions and conflicts." NATO said that its members will continue to "consult on and assess the implications of the current security environment and its impact on the security" of the alliance.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Election Commissioner Sikander Sultan Raja calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in Islamabad on 7th of November, 2023. — DNA

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