

## **US** weapons used in terror attacks Pak witnessed rise in terrorism after Taliban govt

Prime Minister also asked the Afghan government to take action against the hideouts of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and its training centres in Afghanistan

#### Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Wednesday demanded the interim government of Afghanistan to hand over the Pakistani nationals who were illegally residing in Afghanistan and were involved in terrorist activities against their own country. Addressing a press conference here at the PM House, the prime minister said the government was ready to receive and accept any such illegal Pakistanis. PM Kakar also asked the Afghan government to take action against the hideouts of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and its training centres in Afghanistan and ensure that "they must not be used against Pakistan".

Since the interim government took to power in Afghanistan in August 2021, he said Pakistan witnessed an increase in terrorist incidents by 60 percent besides a 500 percent surge in suicide blasts. "Pakistan in last two years has lost lives of 2,867 innocent civilians, for which TTP is responsible which is operating from Afghanistan," he said. He mentioned that 15 Afghan nationals were found involved in suicide bombings in Pakistan, while 64 Afghans got killed during their fight against the Pakistani law enforcement agencies. He said Afghan authorities were cognizant of these facts as Pakistan had been sharing these details with them since February this year through the fort-nightly memorandums of protest. The monitoring team of the United Nations in its report released this July clearly highlighted that TTP centres based in Afghanistan were conducting terrorist operations against Pakistan. Asked if Pakistan itself would take action against the TTP hideouts in Afghanistan, Kakar said.

### Martyrs' families demand restoration of military courts

ISLAMABAD: Families of the martyrs of the Pakistani armed forces have demanded the immediate reinstatement of military courts by the Supreme Court of Pakistan for the trial of civilians arrested in connection with the May 9 riots. The demand came during a press conference organised by the All-Pakistan Shuhada Forum at the National Press Club on Wednesday. It was attended by relatives of the martyrs hailing from different cities of Pakistan, who were joined by Balochistan caretaker Minister for Sports Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raeesani. The demand was made during a press conference organised by the All-Pakistan Shuhada Forum at the National Press Club on Wednesday. The event was attended by relatives of the martyrs from various cities of Pakistan, and they were joined by Balochistan caretaker Minister for Sports Jamal Raeesani. In October, the Supreme Court declared the trial of civilians in military courts null and void. The court announced its ruling with a 4-1 majority.

**Continued on Page 06** 



TASHKENT: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, on the sidelines of the 16th Summit of the Economic **Cooperation Organization (ECO). - DNA** 

### **ECO Summit** PM meets, Uzbekistan **President**

Resolve for early finalisation of Strategic Partnership Agreement

DNA TASHKENT: Pakistan and Uzbekistan on Wednesday reiterated the resolve to finalize the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA)

### G7 calls for 'humanitarian pauses' Israel cannot occupy Gaza after war: Blinken

Nearly two-thirds of Gaza's 2.3 million residents are internally displaced, according to UN figures

#### **News Desk**

TOKYO: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said Israel cannot run Gaza, but there may be a transition period following the end of the current conflict. "Gaza cannot continue to be run by Hamas. That simply invites repetition of October 7 ... It's also clear that Israel cannot occupy Gaza," Blinken told reporters after a G7 foreign ministers meeting in Tokyo. "Now, the reality is that there may be a

need for some transition period at the

### **Israel's genocide** in Gaza continues Death toll neared 10,600 martyrs

DNA

GAZA CITY: For the 33rd consecutive

### Briefs **Next PM will** be 'jiyala'

### NAZIR SIYAL



the next prime minister of Pakistan will be a jiyala. Addressing party workers in Karachi's Ibrahim Hayderi, Bhutto said that the PPP will win the next general elections and form the next government. "We call fair and transparent elections a level playing field," he said. "If the playing field is level, only the PPP will win the election." Bhutto said that the PPP was with the Pakistan Democrat ic Movement (PDM) when it was founded, but left the alliance during the PTI government. He said that the PPP was not interested in forcing Shahbaz Sharif to become prime minister.

### 'Pak never supplied arms to Ukraine'

#### ABID RAZA



Wednesday while rejecting the notions of any discussion on arms supply

between the defence ministers of Pakistan and Ukraine during their telephonic conversation, said the country neither supplied arms to Ukraine nor intended to do so. Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, in a statement, clarified that as a matter of policy Pakistan did not supply arms to a re-gion in conflict. "It (Pakistan) has not supplied nor does it intend to supply any arms to Ukraine," she added. "This topic, therefore, was not discussed during the telephonic conversation between the ministers of defence of Paki stan and Ukraine".

### President conveys PTI's level-playing field concerns to caretakers President Alvi calls on PM Kakar to make "efforts as neutral entity to provide a level-playing field for all political parties"

#### **MEHTAB PIRZADA**

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi on Wednesday conveyed his party, Imran Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) concerns regarding the "erosion of fundamental rights" and unavailability of a level-playing field for all political parties to Caretaker Prime Min- ISLAMABAD: Amid the prevailing poister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar. The development larisation in the country, former incomes as the Election Commission of Paki- formation minister Fawad Chaudhry stan (ECP) is all set to hold "free, fair and on Wednesday urged Pakistan Mustransparent" general elections in the coun- lim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo try on February 8. The president forwarded Nawaz Sharif to play his role in bringing a letter, written by PTI General Secretary down the political temperature in the Omar Ayub Khan, containing the former country. Speaking to the media after ruling party's concerns. In the letter, Ayub appearing in Islamabad's district and conveyed the PTI's concern on the erosion sessions court in a fraud case, Fawad of fundamental rights, with particular ref- stressed the need for "political diaerence to enforced disappearances, forced logue" between political parties to pave conversions of political loyalties, absence of a way for political stability in the country.

**Continued on Page 06** 

**Continued on Page 06** 

Fawad urges NS

to play his role

FAISAL SHEIKH

### **Pakistan-KSA agree to expand** cooperation in field of media

Minister and envoy also discussed the upcoming OIC meeting



### KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on Wednesday agreed to further expand cooperation between the two brotherly countries in media, drama, and other related fields.The decision was made during a meeting between Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting MurtazaSolangi and Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf Saeed Al Malki here.Special Representative of the Prime Minister for Interfaith Harmony Allama Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi was also present in the meeting. In the meeting, it was agreed to speed up the implementation of

agreements between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in the field of media and communications. In the meeting, discussions were also held regarding cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in the field of communication. The minister and the ambassador also discussed the upcoming meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on November 12. Welcoming the convening of the OIC summit by Saudi Arabia, MurtazaSolangi said as a founding member, Pakistan will continue to play its role in the objectives of the establishment of the OIC and further strengthening of the organisation.MurtazaSolangi appreciated

**Continued on Page 06** 

at the earliest to promote regional economic integration. The bilateral ties were discussed in a bilateral meeting between Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-HaqKakar and President of Uzbekistan ShavkatMirziyoyev, on the sidelines of the 16th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) being held here. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to play an active role for the regional connectivity.

**Continued on Page 06** 

**Iqbal Day** Remembering Poet of East

ISLAMABAD: nation The celebrating Iqbal Day today to pay tribute legend Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal on his 146th birthday anniversary. Special programmes will be held to shed light on the life of legend, calling for

following the philosophy

of Iqbal. Born on Novem-

ber 9, 1877 in Sialkot,

**Continued on Page 06** 

end of the conflict ... We don't see a reoccupation and what I've heard from Israeli leaders, is that they have no intent to reoccupy Gaza," he added. Whereas, Top diplomats from the Group of Seven (G7) have called for "humanitarian pauses" in Israel's bombardment in order to deliver aid to desperate Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip. The foreign ministers from the leading industrial democracies announced on Wednesday that they have agreed upon a unified stance on the Israel-Hamas war, following intensive meetings in Tokyo. **Continued on Page 06** 

day, Israel's massive carnage continues to claim more lives in the Gaza Strip as its army persists in bombing homes, hospitals, schools, mosques, roads, vehicles and entire neighborhoods. Since last night, hundreds of citizens have been martyred and many others have been wounded in renewed spates of aerial and artillery attacks on different areas of Gaza. On Wednesday afternoon, the health ministry in Gaza said that the death toll neared 10,600 martyrs, mostly women and children, while the number of the wounded citizens climbed to over 26,475.

**Continued on Page 06** 



# NATIONAL

# Alvi for promoting trade, cultural ties with Indonesia

President Alvi said that Indonesian businessmen should explore investment opportunities in Pakistan and benefit from its investment-friendly policies

#### ADIL SHAHEEN

02

ISLAMABAD : President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday called for further promoting trade, investment, economic, cultural and political relations with Indonesia to bring the two countries further closer. The president expressed these views while talking to the outgoing Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Mulawarman Tugio, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Talking to the outgoing envoy, the president said that Pakistan cherished its close, friendly, and fraternal relations with Indonesia, which were marked by religious and cultural affinities and commonality of views on different issues.

He stressed that expanded trade, investment, and economic cooperation was a vital element of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Indonesia. He added that Pakistan was keen to further deepen its cooperation in the fields of commerce, culture, tourism, and people-to-people contacts. President Alvi said that Indonesian businessmen should explore investment opportunities in Pakistan and benefit from its investment-friendly policies. He said that increased mutual political and cultural exchanges were imperative to further improve the brotherly ties between Pakistan and Indonesia. The outgoing Indonesian Ambassador, Adam Mulawarman Tugio said

that Pakistan and Indonesia should diversify trade and investment cooperation to further boost bilateral relations. He informed that they were planning to open direct flights between the two countries that would bring the two nations further closer. He further apprised that Pakistani students were among the major recipients of academic scholarships in Indonesia. President Alvi thanked the ambassador for his valuable support and cooperation during his tenure and expressed the hope that the momentum of growth in bilateral relations between the two countries would be maintained. He also expressed his best wishes for the ambassador for his future endeavours.



### Curbing environmental pollution global issue: **Commissioner**

MULTAN :Commissioner Multan division, Amir Khattak said that eradication of environmental pollution was a global issue this time and we have to control it in

# LESCO detects power theft in Airline

LAHORE :Lahore Electric electricity meter. The LES-Supply Company (LESCO) CO team imposed a fine of has detected wide-scale Rs 590,000 on the accused power thefts during operations against power thieves

after disconnecting the connection on the spot, besides got arrested one of the acin its sub-divisions of Aircused by the local police. line and Wagah. While, Guldasht Town Sub-Division Similarly, Wagah Road set up a camp in Phularwan Sub-Division SDO Hamad

dismounted the respective power transformer, besides charging the accused with 76.000 units in the form of detection bill and registering an FIR against him in the area police station. Wagah Sub-Division's team removed 22 connections stealing

electricity through illegal



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Jamal Shah in meeting with His Excellency Mr. Jiang Zaidong, Ambassador of China, at China Embassy.-DNA

### School children demonstrate athletics prowess at **Schoolympics**

MULTAN :Season-III of Schoolympics 2023 continued with passionate and energetic participation by school children who demonstrated their skills in different games including hockey and football on Wednesday. The revolutionary sports initiative of south Punjab Education Department was attracting a large number of school children to the sports grounds in south Punjab availing fully a remarkable opportunity to demonstrate their skills and bring honour to their respective schools.

Additional secretaries School Education Department South Punjab Sayedda Sarosh Fatima Sherazi and Khawaja Mazhar Ul Haq Siddiqui, section officers Hina Chaudhry and Samreen Nadeem visited different grounds along with other officials and witnessed hockey matches at Mutiullah Hockey Stadium in Bahawalpur and other sports grounds. In the seventh hockey match of the tournament, Bahawalpur Buraq defeated rivals from Rajanpur 5-0 and Sawera was declared the player

### CM says provision of facilities to enhance abilities of students He told to the students that

rival of Chief Minister Mo-

hsin Naqvi at school, chil-

dren gathered around Chief

Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

The children thanked the

Chief Minister for taking

immediate steps to improve

the condition of the school.

Chief Minister Mohsin

Naqvi mingled with the

children, shook hands and

talked to them. Chief Minis-

ter Mohsin Naqvi specially

called the school sweeper

Robert to him and asked

about the solution to the

problem, Robert thanked the

Chief Minister for solving

the problem. Chief Minister

Mohsin Naqvi visited the

classrooms, met the children

and asked about the prob-

lems. Children complained

about not being allowed to play in the school and not

having a canteen. Chief Min-

ister Mohsin Naqvi directed

to allow children to play in

school breaks and he gave

instructions on the spot to

Islamabad **POST** 

Wednesday, November 09, 2023

### DNA

LAHORE : Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said that provision of modern equipment and basic facilities in schools can help in enhancing the abilities of students and improving the quality of education.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday reviewed the implementation of the instructions given to improve the condition of a school during his last visit to Government Junior Model School Model Town in Lahore five days ago. After directions in his first visit of school, furniture for the students has been provided in classes, cleanliness has improved, schools and classrooms have been painted, lights and fans have been installed and glasses of windows have also been installed. Children expressed their

the principal not to stop the children from playing. happiness on the sudden ar-

# Integrated policies, strict implementation need of the hour

KARACHI: The Institute of Business Management (IoBM) recently hosted the two-day International Conference on Business Management and Sustainability (ICBMS). This first day of the event poised to be a pivotal gathering, attracting a diverse range of participants, including prominent government officials, experts from renowned educational institutions as well as senior corporate executives from leading companies in Pakistan. The Chief Guest at the occasion was Mr. Younus Dagha, Minister for Revenue, Industries and Commerce, Sindh with the welcome address delivered by Mr. Talib S. Karim, President of IoBM. Under

eachi. Ter (+92-21) 34530626,34350478

c (+92-21) 3453(747

11(1位-0)575881,576705

Fax: (+52-01) 2582998

Fax: (+32-42) 35711425

the theme "The Sustainable and Innovative Businesses in Uncertain Times: Challenges and Opportunities," the conference was hosted on the IoBM campus, setting the stage for substantive discussions, collaboration, and the sharing of profound insights. The inaugural session featured a keynote speech by Dr. Shakeel Sadiq Jajja, a Fulbright Scholar from Stanford University and Associate Professor at LUMS. Notable guests included Mr. Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh, President of the Karachi Chambers of Commerce, and Mr. Muhammad Azfar Ahsan, President of the Marketing Association of Pakistan. The Chief Guest at the occasion, Mr. Younus Dagha

shed light on the agenda of the conference by noting that: "Globalization has created connectivity, it has eased access to information but it has also exposed our businesses, our practices. and our governance to the clients that we deal with on a B2B and G2B basis. Most of Pakistan's policies are adversely affected by incompetence at the policy-making level, but more than that at the implementation level. Therefore, our regulators, with respect to national policies and their implementation on the ground, need to develop an integrated policy to address this issue in a sustainable manner."-APP

cricketer Wahab Riaz will

also come and play cricket

with you and a canteen will

also be opened in the school

soon. Chief Minister Mohsin

Naqvi ordered to replace the

old computers of the IT lab

The CM directed Deputy

Commissioner that modern

computers should be pro-

vided immediately for the

IT lab. He said in modern

times, education is not pos-

sible without computers and

no one can deny the need

for a modern IT lab for chil-

dren. Chief Minister Mohsin

Naqvi's directive to allocate 3

rooms for IT lab and increase

the number of computers

to 50. Provincial Ministers Mansoor Qadir, Amir Mir

and Azfar Ali Nasir were

also with him. Secretary

Construction and Communi-

cations, Secretary Schools

Education, Chief Executive

Officer Education and relat-

ed officials were also pres-

ent on this occasion.

built in 2009.

our country.

He expressed these views while inaugurating smog awareness and tree plantation drive by planting a sapling here Wednesday. The event was organized by Baseerat Welfare Organization. The Commissioner termed smog awareness and tree plantation drive a good initiative and urged the citizens to come forward and play their role in this regard. Chairman Baseerat Welfare Organization Engineer Shakhawat Ali Sial said that 50,000 trees would be planted next year to protect Multanites from environmental pollution. – APP  $\,$ 

### Bus catches fire on motorway near Hassanabdal

ATTOCK : A Mansehra-bound passenger bus coming from Lahore caught on Hazara motorway near Hassanabdal on Wednesday, however no loss of life or casualty was reported, official sources said. According to the national highway and motorway Police and Rescue 1122 sources, the bus of a private transport company was heading towards its destination when it reached Hassanabdal, its engine caught fire. -APP

area to address customers complaints. The LESCO spokesman told media here Wednesday that during on-going search operation against power pilferers, an inspection team of Airline Sub-Division found Malik Snooker Club stealing electricity by reversing the

Tahir Gujjar along with his staff and Elite Force police conducted an operation in Pidda and Qila Jeevan Singh villages. The inspection team detected a tube-well on electricity being stolen from the main transmission line. They disconnected power supply to the tube-well and also

hooks on the main line, and also seized three heaters in Jeevan Singh Fort. An FIR application against them was submitted in the concerned police station and all these connections have also been fined Rs 1.760 million.-DNA

of the match. Sehrish Abbas from girls high school Apwa witnessed the match as special guest. Rahim Yar Khan Yaraan team defeated Dera Ghazi Khan 4-0 with Ambreen declared the player of the match in the 8th hockey match, today's second. -APP



House \$4, Street #4.

Kabul - Afghamisten. Tel: +93 798021 773, 93 797896 808, 93 778468 268.

### SPE and PAPG held 29th Annual **Technical Conference exhibition**

ISLAMABAD : The Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Pakistan Section and Pakistan Association of Petroleum Geoscientists (PAPG) held the 29th Annual Technical Conference (ATC) and Exhibition from 7th and 8th November 2023 at the Serena Hotel, Islamabad, Pakistan. The Federal Secretary for Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) Mr. Momin Agha was the Chief Guest at the closing ceremony. In his address to the forum the Honourable Federal Secretary mentioned that the Government is working on attracting new FDI with particular focus on 'offshore exploration' in Arabia Sea as the game changer for E&P sector of Pakistan. Later on, he presented shields to the main organisers of the conference. The theme of this year's conference was "Exploring the Unexplored: High Risk Plays and Economic Challenges". The Conference and Exhibition was inaugurated by the Honorable Federal Minister for Energy, Mr. Muhammad Ali on 7th of November 2023. During the ATC 36 professional papers were presented on technologies and case studies related to the field of oil and gas exploration. A keynote address was delivered by Mr. Mohamed Al Marzouqi who is Executive Vice President of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and Regional Director for SPE Middle East & North Africa. A session was held on the importance of 'Diversity & Inclusion in Oilfield'. A panel discussion was moderated by Mr. Zaurayze Tarique, Managing Director of SLB Pakistan & Yemen on the theme of the conference. The elite panelists included Mr. Muhammad Aamir Salim from OGDCL, Mr. Faheem Haider from MPCL, Mr. Mausuf Ahmed from United Energy Pakistan, Mr. Muhammad Asim Subhani from Prime Pakistan Limited and Mr. Hilal Al Busaidi from SLB. All the panelists agreed that the situation with indigenous oil and gas in Pakistan is far from over, although, the low hanging fruits have already been picked. With the right approach and support from the Government, focused efforts can minimize the dependence of imported energy and the forum pledged to provide support wherever needed. Mr. Farrukh Saghir representing the Pakistan Association of Petroleum Geoscientists in his closing address highlighted the activities of the two days of conference and thanked the delegates, the sponsors, the authors, the exhibitors and all the participants for making the 29th ATC a memorable event. He emphasized on the appropriateness of the theme and highlighted 'High Risk Plays' and the challenges associated. Exploration in Frontier areas has a lot of challenges and possible ways to address them were highlighted. The Annual Technical Conference is a flagship event of the Upstream Oil & Gas Industry of Pakistan which attracts international and domestic experts. It provides an opportunity to international and local industry to showcase technology. It is a forum where the authors share their experiences of successful deployment of technology for the benefit of the entire industry. The application of new technology can bring improvement and increase oil and gas production from the indigenous resources of Pakistan.

### **PRCS and HBL ink MoU for cash disbursement services**

It serves as a testament to the unwavering dedication of both organizations to make a positive impact on the lives of vulnerable individuals and communities throughout Pakistan

### DNA

ISLAMABAD : In a significant development aimed at providing crucial support to vulnerable communities across Pakistan, the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and Habib Bank Limited's branchless banking platform Konnect have formalized a comprehensive framework agreement for Cash Disbursement Services (CDS). A high-level delegation from Habib Bank Limited Konnect, met with Chairman PRCS. Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, at the PRCS national headquarters to formalize this vital partnership. The framework agreement, signed by Chairman PRCS, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, and Mr. Agha Israr Ahmed, National Sales

Head HBL Konnect, outlines the collaborative effort in providing crucial payment and disbursement services to PRCS. Under this agreement, PRCS will facilitate payments through the bank

to duly registered beneficiaries following the established Beneficiary Registration Procedure. Chairman PRCS, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, emphasized the critical junc-

Signing Cere

7th Nov. 202

ture Pakistan faces due to climate-induced disasters and economic challenges, impacting livelihoods across the nation. The Cash Assistance program initiated by

support to the most deserv-PRCS aims to provide vital

ing and vulnerable members of society, fostering a return to normalcy in their lives. "Our commitment to vulnerable communities is unwavering, and this new partnership underscores our dedication to delivering services to those in need with utmost enthusiasm," he remarked. Additionally, Chairman Laghari highlighted PRCS's ongoing efforts to strengthen the Cash Assistance Program, emphasizing the focus on forging more partnerships to efficiently extend the program's services to vulnerable communities. The partnership between PRCS and Habib Bank Limited reflects a shared vision to address pressing challenges and contribute to the betterment of society.



### 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 Dav

Nov 11/Poland

Independence Day Nov 14/Jordan

**Birthday of King** Hussein Nov 15/Belgium

**Kings Day** Nov 15/Brazil **Republic Day** 

Nov 15/Turkish **Republic of Northern** Cyprus **National Day** Nov 18/Oman National Day

Nov 18/Morocco **Independence** Day

Nov 21/Bangladesh **Armed Forces Day** 

Nov 22/Lebanon Independence Day

Nov 25/Suriname National Day

Nov 28/Mauritania **National Day** 

Nov 28/Albania **Flags Day** 

Hotels & Restaurants



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



# Women involvement in decision making inevitable

The president said the nation's investment on the women education went to waste when they sat at home without going into the practical life

#### **MAHNOOR ANSAR**

ISLAMABAD, President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday emphasizing the women's active participation in all sectors, said one of the reasons behind Pakistan lacking prosperity was the non-involvement of women in decision making as well as the economic corridors of power. The president, addressing the 12th Convocation of International Islamic University Islamabad, said the nation's investment on the women education went to waste when they sat at home without going into the practical life. Saudi Ambassador in Islamabad Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy, Qatari Ambassador Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, first secretary of Thailand, IIUI Pro-Chancellor Dr Ahmed Salem Muhammad Al-Ameri, Rector Dr

Samina Malik and President Dr Hathal Homoud Alotaibi also attended the convocation besides other diplomats and educationists. "Education is investment of this poor nation on you. If you will sit at home, this will be the loss of the nation. I want you not to give up its practical application. (However), this is the duty of the government and the nation to provide you a harassment-free working environment," the president remarked. He also called for job structures for the women which should also facilitate them keeping in view the family-related engagements of the women. Citing the example of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)'s wife Hazrat Khadija, also a working business woman, the president said Islam encouraged the women to work as it was not possible to leave half

of the country's population unutilised. He, who earlier awarded PhD degrees to 138 and gold medals to 71 students, congratulated the students, their parents as well as the university and teachers for their hard work. He was appreciative that girl students consisted of over half of the total 34,000 strength of the university.

He advised the new graduates to welcome the knowledge without any religious biases or selection, and always remain humble and act as a knowledge-seeker. Expressing his worries about the unbridled human mentality as being practised in Gaza, the president said Muslims derived their laws from Holy Quran and the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). He lauded Pope Francis' call for a ceasefire in Gaza, though the West and Israel seemed unwill-

ing to do so. He said the world was keeping mum on the issue to serve the interests of the West which was unjustified in wake of the unprecedented barbarism being committed by the Israel against innocent Palestinians. He told the students that in the past, the decision making powers vested with the Muftis and the state's role was confined to just their appointment. Calling the new graduates "elite" going into decision-making, President Alvi said it was their responsibility to uplift the poor and change the society. Lamenting the Muslims' hesitation and misinterpretation of the scientific inventions in the past, he said the second renaissance of Muslims was not possible without keeping the doors to knowledge open. The IIUI Pro-Chancellor

Rs 184,000 fine,15 FIRs registered for violating dengue SOPs in 24 hours RAWALPINDI: Health Authority(DHA) in collaboration with allied departments had fined Rs Dr Ahmed Salem Muhammad 184,000 and lodged 15 FIRs Al-Ameri congratulated the new graduates and said by obtaining degrees, they were stepping into their practical lives. The IIU President Dr Hathal Homoud Alotaibi highlighting the 2022-26 Strategic Plan, said the university had taken multiple initiatives to modernise the teaching process and thanked the Saudi government for supporting the institution. He told the ceremony that work on Campus Management Project had been initiated to convert the varsity on electronic system and that quality department had been transformed into quality and development direc-

on violations of anti-dengue SOPs during the last 24 hours. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood Wednesday said that the health department, in collaboration with allied departments, had issued tickets to 11 and sealed one premise on violations of dengue SOPs during the last 24 hours. Presently, the health officer informed that 47 patients were admitted to different district health facilities, of which 35 were confirmed cases while 2,439 were discharged after treatment. Dr Sajjad added that with the arrival of 17 more cases during the last 24 hours, the district's total tally had reached 2,475 confirmed cases. Among the new cases, he informed that ten patients had arrived from the Potohar town urban area, five from the Municipal Corporation area and one each from Potohar rural and Chaklala Cantonment area.-APP

District

### DNA

extends

support to

torate. Rector Dr Samina Malik

said the IIUI was imparting edu-

cation in 114 professional disci-

plines making it one of the best

institutions in the world.

ISLAMABAD: Al-Khidmat Foundation, the relief wing of Jamaat-i-Islami, has taken swift action by dispatching relief supplies for Gazans to Egypt's El Arish airport as part of ongoing efforts to alleviate the suffering of victims of Israeli bombardment in the besieged enclave. A press release from the organisation said in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority, the foundation has sent a "comprehensive aid package, including essential items such as food, medicines, hygiene kits, delivery kits and baby kits". It added that the foundation was prepared to send five

ERWR declares 25 brands of bottled water unsafe for human consumption ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) has declared 25 brands of bottled water unsafe for

human consumption due to microbiological or chemical contamination. THE PCR-WR collected 197 samples of mineral/bottled water orands from 20 cities for the 3rd quarter of year 2023 (July to September). Comparison of test results with the bottled water quality standards of Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) has revealed that 25 brands were unsafe for human consumption, said a statement issued here Wednesday. Nineteen brands (Qudrat Water, Natural, Premium Safa Purified Water, Z Pure Drinking Water, Best Natural, Klear, Sona Water Life Pure Drinking Water, Pure and Healthy Alkaline Water, Aqua 100, Elstein, Aab-e-Haram, Khizer Pure Water, Fine, Barsay, Aab-e-Muskan, Aab-e-Havat, Indus, Oslo, Fresh smart pure water) were found to be unsafe due to presence of higher levels of sodium, three brands (Khizer pure water, Fine, Indus) were found unsafe due to presence of high level of TDS than the permissible limit, while, one brand (Imperial) was found unsafe due to presence of high level of Potassium than the permissible limit.-APP

# Al-Khidmat **Foundation Gaza** victims

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



#### Emergency

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



Enguiry

EdhiAmbulance.....115 PIA Flight Info.....114 PIA Cargo.....9280979 Railway Inquiry.....117 Railway Exchange9270831-5 WASA Rawalpindi..5555489 CAA.....9281092



#### Hospitals

MH561116 Cantt Hospital9270907-11 DHQ5556311-4 RGH9290301-7 Holy Family9290322-7 PIMS9261170-79 Polyclinic9218300-09 Shifa International 4603666	СМН	.5611111
DHQ5556311-4 RGH9290301-7 Holy Family9290322-7 PIMS9261170-79 Polyclinic9218300-09	MH	561116
RGH9290301-7 Holy Family9290322-7 PIMS9261170-79 Polyclinic9218300-09	Cantt Hospital92	70907-11
Holy Family9290322-7 PIMS9261170-79 Polyclinic9218300-09	DHQ5	556311-4
PIMS9261170-79 Polyclinic9218300-09	RGH9	290301-7
Polyclinic9218300-09	Holy Family9	290322-7
	PIMS92	61170-79
Shifa International 4603666	Polyclinic92	18300-09



### Departments

-	
CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
ТМА	5770886
Cantonment Bo	oard 9270151-3

Water Tank Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan Neil Hawkins posing for a photo graph wearing traditional" Chitrali Cap" in KPK Pavilion during annual 10 days Lok Mela 2023 at Lok Versa in Federal Capital. -ONLINE

### IWMI, USAID focused on converting "hill torrent risks into opportunities

### DNA

theme of "Hill Torrents:

Turning Risk into Oppor-

The workshop under-

scored the pivotal role of

community engagement,

cross-sector collaboration.

and expert guidance in

harnessing the potential

for transformative change

in these challenging envi-

ronments. The event re-

affirmed IWMI Pakistan's

commitment to sustain-

able water management

practices that empower

communities and enhance

workshop

rent-affected areas.

"This

cussions,

tunities.

ers gathered to address water-related issues and ISLAMABAD: The Internaexplore solutions in the tional Water Management challenging context of hill Institute (IWMI) Pakistan, torrents," said Dr. Sarfraz supported by USAID fund-Munir, Researcher, IWMI ing, organized a significant Pakistan consultation workshop "Through this consultacentered on the critical

tion, our aim is to foster collaboration and engagement with relevant government departments, policymakers, the private sector, academia, and most importantly the local communities. We are committed to listening to and learning from your firsthand experiences, as we collectively work towards addressing and mitigating the challenges posed by changing rainfall patterns and the increasing threat of floods" said Muhammad Nawaz, Development Specialist, USAID/Pakistan.

members and stakehold-

productivity in hill tor-The Community Listening was Session served as a platmarked by engaging disform where community collaborative members were convened presentations, and expert to engage in a meaningful insights, as community dialogue regarding their

experiences and challenges while confronting the heavy rainwater originating from the hills in the form of hill torrents.

This interactive gathering provided an invaluable opportunity for community elders to share their perspectives and insights. This collaborative disfacilitated course the exploration of potential solutions and strategies to transform the inherent risks associated with hill torrents into constructive opportunities for the benefit of the community at large.

The communities who participated in the discussion were from the Daraban Zam, Tank Zam and Gomal Zam areas of District Tank and Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

This constructive exchange was enriched by informative presentations delivered by representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector, and the

public sector. Distinguished speakers included Engr. Tariq Ali from the Irrigation Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Munawar Khatak of HELVETAS Pakistan, and Engr. Zahoor Ahmad from Ages Consultants, Peshawar.

The event featured an enlightening panel discussion chaired by Mr. Nazim Ali, a USAID representative, focusing on the priorities of public and non-governmental sectors. This panel brought together key stakeholders from the public and private sectors, along with representatives from NGOs, to exchange views and highlight collective priorities. In the end, Muhammad Nawaz, Development Specialist, USAID Pakistan, facilitated a forward-look-

ing session, emphasizing the need to prioritize interventions as part of a comprehensive strategy to address hill torrents challenges effectively.

additional planes with the necessary items already in shipping position.

OCC&EC to unveil Pak first policy draft for trading in carbon markets

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) is all set to roll out the first ever policy draft of the country's carbon credits trading in the international market at the highest forum of Climate Change Council headed by the Prime Minister. This was said by Secretary Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Asif Hyder Shah during the meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change chaired by Senator Seemee Ezdi. The secretary briefed the committee on Climate Change's two agenda items mainly the Carbon Market Policy guidelines and Pakistan's strategy for COP-28 meeting with special focus on operationalization of the Loss and Damage fund. Earlier, the chairperson Senate Standing Committee expressed resentment over repeated delays on convening the body meeting due to the letters of postponement sent by the ministry. She added that the meeting was held after three months and was the first since the culmination of the previous regime. She reprimanded the ministry officials for sending her the letters to postpone the meeting. The secretary mentioned that trading in carbon markets was a tricky subject evolving every year, whereas the country had no such framework in place to deal with it. However, the World Bank was requested to prepare the document which demanded a two-year duration for its consultants to prepare the policy document. The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) also took up the matter and asked to expedite the procedure and therefore, the next year deadline was set to finalize the document, he added. "We will be open for public and private investments in carbon market. Moreover, the Ministry will seek the committee's nod and then will send it to SIFC," he added. Shah informed the committee that the carbon market comprised of compliance based carbon market and voluntary market. -DNA

### ANF seizes over 286 kg drugs in four operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting four operations across the country managed to recover over 286 kg of drugs and arrested nine accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday. He informed that in an operation, 22.8 kg hashish and 9.6 kg opium were recovered from a truck near Sangjani Toll Plaza Islamabad. Two accused residents of Nowshera who were trying to smuggle drugs were arrested during the operation. In another operation, 202.8 kg hashish concealed in fuel tank of a truck was recovered near Sher Shah Toll Plaza Multan. Two accused residents of Sora Khyber were arrested on the spot. In third operation, 16.8 kg hashish and 31.2 kg opium were recovered from a car intercepted near Millat Chowk. Faisalabad. During the operation, two accused residents of Jhang and Faisalabad were rounded up. In the fourth operation, three suspects who were going on a motorcycle were arrested from the

Sadaqat Hotel area.—DNA

### **Qbal's ideas direly needed to cope with present-day challenges**

#### TAJ NABI KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal's philosophy is not only the source of guidance for the nation to deal with social issues but it is also a beacon of light for the entire Muslim Ummah to cope with present-day challenges. Popularly known in the country

and other parts of the world as the "Poet of the East", Dr. Allama Muhammad Iobal was born in Sialkot on November 9, 1877. His Allahabad address of 1930 was a watershed moment in pre-partition history.

He also played a prominent role in inspiring millions of Muslims across the sub-continent for an independent homeland where they could practice Islam.

The youngsters need to pay attention to the works of the poet to enrich their understanding of the true message, especially that is directed toward them.

His philosophical works play a vital role in boosting the self-esteem of the youth in surmounting the day-to-day challenges by infusing the spirit of hard work, consistent struggle and commitment. This year, November 9 is being observed to mark the 146th birth anniversary of Dr Allama Mohammad Iqbal (1877-1938) across the country. In 1927, Iqbal was elected to the Punjab Provincial Legislature,

ethical and self-development. The parents are urged to play

ters in light of the core philos-

ophy of Dr Allama Mohammad Iqbal. Iqbal was an acclaimed poet and philosopher. He is credited with writing poetry and using his political influence to demand the creation of a separate homeland for Muslims. His address gave a clear direction and separate identity to Muslims of the sub-continent to achieve Pakistan.

He was undoubtedly a great poet, thinker and philosopher. His poetry for children was a great asset and carried moral lessons. The poetic contributions of Allama Iqbal are acknowledged both at national and international levels. His teaching is a precious legacy for the nation and there is a dire need to make his works accessible in its true spirit and context.

Iqbal has not only seen a dream of a separate homeland for Muslims of the sub-continent but also a progressive and prosperous country. His visionary thoughts blessed the nation with

an independent country and now it is the responsibility of the citizens to realize his dream of a prosperous country.

their national heroes and take steps to foster the young generation's interest in their works. The survival and identity of the nation lie in following the teachings of the great leader.

Allama Mohammad Iqbal was a great poet and philosopher who left no stone unturned in the awakening of the Muslims of the sub-continent. He kept them united while motivating them for a separate homeland where they could exercise their social, political and religious rights.

Dr Safeer Awan, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, National University of Modern Languages (NUML) said, "It was really interesting about Iqbal's works that he has something or the other for everyone." He said if someone was revolutionary, he would motivate him to stand and awake the masses from their deep slumber. "But it was an important challenge for the scholars to see that what kind of practices could emerge from his philosophical and theoretical works". he added.

Talking to APP, Dr Shakeel Ahmad, Faculty Member, Department of Arabic, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), states that Iqbal's entire works (prose and poetry) present a complete code of guidelines for the nation from individual personality building (concept of self) to the unity of Muslim Ummah.

Dr Shakeel said, "The essence of his works proves instrumental in infusing spiritual vigor in individuals by connecting them to the legacy of Muslims achievements during their golden times." He used the symbol of an eagle (shaheen) to inspire the youth to fly (act) beyond their narrow vision by proving their metal in every field of life, he added.

and in 1930, he became president of the Muslim League. Alongside his political activism, he was also considered the foremost Muslim thinker as his po-

### etry and philosophy (Urdu and Persian) stresses the need to nourish Muslims through moral,

their role to bring the teachings of the poet into the limelight for nourishing the spirit of their youngsters and to mould their minds and shape their characGreat nations always remember

### 04

# **TWIN CITIES**

Islamabad **POST** Wednesday, November 09, 2023

**Railways** to

introduce TDAS for improved

track visibility

in foggy

conditions

Railways is set to introduce

the 'Train Driver Assistant

System' (TDAS) to help

train drivers a clear view of the railway tracks up to an

impressive distance of 700

meters. "The technology

aims to enhance the safe-

ty and efficiency of train

operations during adverse weather conditions, par-

ticularly in the presence of

dense smog and fog," an

official in the Ministry told

APP. The system, he said

the TDAS is set to revolu-

tionize the way trains nav-igate through foggy land-

scapes. It promised not only

to avert potential accidents

but also to facilitate smooth

rail travel when visibility

is severely compromised.

He said the capabilities of

this digital system extend

beyond improved visibili-

ty; it can also identify and

monitor vital elements such

as signals, level crossings,

gates, track obstructions,

and other potential hazards

within the same 700-meter

radius. The official said this

comprehensive approach to

training management prom-

ises to reduce the risk of

Pakistan

ISLAMABAD:

### Briefs

### Smoke emitting vehicles banned in **Islamabad** to combat smog

#### **DNA**

ISLAMABAD: In an effort to curb the detrimental effects of smog and environmental pollution, Islamabad has imposed a ban on the entry of vehicles emitting smoke within the city limits. This prohibition extends to all types of vehicles, including private, government, and commer-cial ones. The directive, issued by Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, mandates the restriction to remain in place until January. Violators of the ban will face legal consequences under the enforcement of Islamabad authorities. This stringent measure has been introduced to safeguard the city from the perils of heightened pollution levels and smog during the winter season. The public is earnestly requested to collaborate with the local police to ensure the effective implementation of this crucial initiative. In the event of any emergencies or to report violations, residents are encouraged to contact the Islamabad Police at 15 or utilize the ICT Police app for prompt assistance and support.

### **IRSA** releases 112,500 cusecs water ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA)

on Wednesday released 112,500 cusecs of water from various rim stations with inflow of 53,300 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the Riv er Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1516.94 feet and was 118.94 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 27,600 cusecs and 55,000 cusecs respectively. The

### water level in River Jhelum

# **ICCI demands privatization** of loss-making enterprises

Zafar Bakhtawari, Former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan highlighted the importance of trade with neighboring countries for Pakistan, which can give better promotion to our trade and exports. He also shared useful ideas for facilitating the local investors

#### FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari , President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), leading a delegation, met with the Irfan Siddiqui, Chairman, Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training, and discussed with him the contours of a future economic policy for the country. Faad Waheed Senior Vice President, Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI, Zafar Bakhtawari Former President and Secretary General UBG Pakistan and Rizwan Chheena Executive Member ICCI were in the delegation.

Addressing the delegation, Senator Irfan Siddiqui, Chairman, Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training, said that the business community is the major stakeholder in the development of the economy and he would raise their key issues at every relevant forum for redress. He welcomed the proposals of the delegation for future economic policy, promoting entrepreneurship among the youth to make the youth skilled and professional and assured that these proposals will be discussed in the committee meetings so that they can be considered for implementation. He also appreciated the suggestions of the delegation to make the manifesto of PML-N business friendly and assured that if PML-N comes to power, it will take measures to facilitate them in business de-



velopment. Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that the government should urgently privatize all loss-making SOEs including PIA, Pakistan Steel Mills and Pakistan Railways to reduce its fiscal deficit. He proposed that the government should work for the establishment of a common market of OIC, SAARC and Shanghai Cooperation Organization to promote regional trade.

**Customs Authority allows** 

export of Pakistani dairy

He said that youth are the future of Pakistan, so it is necessary to adapt the educational curriculum according to the needs of the current age to prepare skilled and professional youth. It would improve their employability, promote business activities and put the economy on the path of sustainable development. He said that the students joining organizations are found deficient in practical work, so he suggested that the university students should be bound to work as

interns in the industries in the last year of their education program to gain practical experience and play an active role in the development of the industrial sector. Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI, said that the current tax system is quite complex due to which new taxpayers are not motivated, so he emphasized the need to bring necessary reforms in the tax system to expand the tax net. Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI highlighted the importance of the construction industry in the development of the economy, which is currently facing many problems. He shared useful suggestions to provide better incentives to the construction sector for its better growth. Zafar Bakhtawari, Former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan highlighted the importance of trade with neighboring countries for Pakistan, which can give better promotion to our trade and exports. He also shared useful ideas for facilitating the local investors.

accidents significantly. Initially, he said the department was planning to install the anti-fog device in four engines. However, Pakistan Railways has outlined a strategic expansion plan, with the ultimate goal of equipping all trains with this life-saving technology in the coming year. He said in a move to combat the persistent challenge of fog-related train delays, Pakistan

Railways has joined hands with the University of Engineering Taxila (UET) to introduce a cutting-edge 'Digital Railway Driving System.'–**APP** 

Pakistan ranks 45th in world internet development index: blue paper ISLAMABAD: Pakistan

products to China held at **Federal Urdu** development. With this we are Inching University closer towards sustainable bilateral trade between Pakistan and China with bigger ISLAMABAD: The laptop share of Pakistan's exports", he added. According to announcement, foods made

distribution ceremony was held on Wednesday at the from cow's milk or camel's milk, includ-Federal Urdu University ing milk powder, whey powder, whey proof Science and Technolotein powder, bovine colostrum powder, gy (FUUAST) Islamabad sterilized milk, modulated milk, fermentunder the Prime Minised milk, cheese and processed cheese, ter Youth Lapton Scheme

Laptop

Distribution

ceremony

Pakistan's ranking did not improve after the IMF deal ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pa-

kistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Wednesday that despite positive negotiations from the IMF and clear possibilities of getting more loans, the value of the dollar is continuously increasing. The business community is worried because the dollar is getting expensive, while profiteers are taking full advantage of the uncertainty. Mian Zahid Hussain said that measures to control the dollar should be tightened and the economy should be fully documented. Speaking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the dollar had fallen to 276 rupees on October 16, after which its value started increasing. On November 3, the dollar was 285 rupees, and now it is available at 287 rupees in the market while further increases in its value are possible. The business leader said that reasons for the increase in the value of the dollar include import financing, debt financing, the law and order situation, the export position, and the increasing interest of the public in buying dollars. Mian Zahid Hussain further said that negotiations with the IMF are underway and that the agreement made by the previous government is being implemented. The losses in the power generation, transmission, and distribution systems are high, and all the axes of incompetence and corruption in this sector are falling on the people. Masses will also have to pay for the infamous circular debt, which has now reached 2.6 trillion rupees, he added. Similarly, consumers are forced to bear the burden of all the mismanagement in the gas sector, the volume of which is 800 billion rupees per year. 869 billion rupees are still being collected from the people in the name of the petroleum levy, and these measures have made the inflation sky high, he informed. He said that the IMF wants to bring real estate, builders, landlords, wholesalers, and retailers into the tax net and reduce reliance on direct taxes. It can be done, but in this regard, our government needs to do sufficient work because the policy of solving financial issues by increasing the tax burden on the people is the main cause of inflation and poverty in the country. Mian Zahid Hussain added that Pakistan wants to implement all the conditions of the IMF, while many conditions are being fully implemented, which has saved the country from bankruptcy, but still its global ranking has not improved.-DNA

at Mangla Dam was 1195.25 feet, which was 145.25 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water were recorded 8,200 cusecs and 40,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 70,400, 39,000, 37,600 and 7,100 cusecs respectively. Similarly. from River Kabul, a total of 8,200 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 4,500 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.-APP

### Renowned Urdu poet Jaun Alia remembered

### DNA He died after a protracted illness on November 8, 2002 in Karachi

ISLAMABAD: Renowned Urdu poet and scholar Jaun Elia was remembered on his death anniversary on Thursday. He was born on December 14, 1931, in an illustrious family in Amroha, Uttar Pradesh. He was the youngest of his siblings. His father Allama Shafiq Hasan Elia was deeply involved in art and literature and also an astrologer and a poet. This environment literary modelled him along the same lines and he wrote his first Urdu couplet when he was just 8. He was fluent in Arabic, English, Persian, Sanskrit and Hebrew. Elia migrated to Pakistan in 1957 and made Karachi his home. His first poetic collection Shayad was published in 1991, when he was 60. The second collection of his poetry Ya'ani was published posthumously in 2003. Later his companion, Khalid Ansari, compiled and published his three consecutive collections, Gumaan in 2004, Lekin in 2006 and Gova in 2008 He died after a protracted illness on November 8, 2002 in Karachi.

Pakistan Embassy here said this decision marks a significant milestone in the bilateral trade relationship between the two nations as Pakistan has the potential to create a new avenue for economic cooperation. As China continues to diversify its import sources, the move is expected to open up lucrative opportunities for Pakistan's dairy industry, potentially reshaping the dynamics of the global dairy trade. "Feeling jubilant over this new

Pakistan decides

to extend

refugees stay

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Export of Pakistani milk

and dairy products to China has been al-

This was announced by General Admin-

istration of Customs of China (GACC)

according to China Economic Net (CEN).

Ghulam Qadir Commercial Counsellor at

lowed.

thin cream, cream, anhydrous cream, these dairy products can be exported to China from Pakistan. The statement from GACC further states that dairy animals that provide raw milk for dairy products exported to China shall meet different standards including FMD quarantine restrictions have been lifted for at least 2 months and The farm has not been subject to quarantine restrictions for anthrax in the past 12 months.

er Afghan refugees on the recommendation of the foreign office and interior ministry, the sources said. The tenure that expired on June 30, 2023 now stands registered Afghan enforced until December 31. The decision will benefit registered Afghans and their families. Separately, around 203,639 Afghan nationals illegally staying in country until October 31 to Pakistan, have returned to home till now, Commissionleave voluntarily or face deportation. The sources said erate for Afghan Refugees said. In the last 24 hours the decision to extend the 5.085 Afghan citizens tenure of registered Afghan returned to Afghanistan refugees in Pakistan was from the Torkham border extended by the caretaker crossing. Since October 1st, federal cabinet through a 203,639 Afghan citizens who circulation summary. The were illegally staying in Pakicaretaker government of stan, have returned to home Pakistan has decided to extill now, the Commissionerate tend the stay of POR (Proof has said. - APP of Registration) card-hold-

Phase-III. The ceremony was attended by Mr. Manzoor Ali, Regional Coordinator for the Laptop Scheme Higher Education Commission. He distributed laptops among the winning students in the Prime Minister Youth Laptop Scheme Phase III. The function was organized by the In-charge Campus FUUAST Dr Ehtishamul Haque in the main hall of the university. In the success of the Prime Minister Youth Laptop Scheme Phase-III program, a tribute was paid to the efforts of the focal persons of university departments i.e Dr Sadia Safdar, Dr Mehwish Aziz, Dr Saeedullah, Dr Aurangzeb, Dr Nadeem Nasir, Dr Aun Sajid, Mr Malik Ishtiaq, and Ms Dr Qara-ul-Ain Iqbal. Additionally, Dr Uzma Siraj, Dr Sher Jouni, Dr Habibur Rehman, and Engineer Jamal Akram were also appreciated for their efforts in successfully organizing the distribution laptop ceremony of the Prime Minister Youth Laptop Scheme Phase-III at FUUAST Islamabad Campus.-APP

tries in the world internet development index with a score of 41.82, as per the World Internet Development Report 2023 launched on Wednesday at the 2023 World Internet Conference in Wuzhen, Zhejiang province, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

The world internet development index consists of six metrics: information technology infrastructure, digital technology and innovation capability, digital economy, digital government, cyber security, and cyberspace international management. Pakistan ranks 47th, 43th, 42th, 45th, 45th, and 40th in these six indicators respectively. This is the first time that Pakistan has been included in the evaluation for the internet development blue paper, along with four other countries. Top five performers in the world internet development index are the United Stated, China, Singapore, the Netherlands, and South Korea, according to the report.-APP

### The power of one: How your vote can make a difference

### MUHAMMAD SAAD AMJID

ISLAMABAD : Pakistan

has decided to extend the

stay of registered Afghan

refugees in the country for

six months, highly-placed

sources said on Wednesday.

On October 3, an apex

committee of the National

Action Plan (NAP) meeting

chaired by Caretaker Prime

Minister Anwaarul Haq

Kakar gave all foreign na-

tionals living illegally in the

In a democratic society, every vote holds immense power. It is through the collective voice of individuals that we shape the course of our nation. Each vote represents a unique perspective, a chance to make a difference, and a voice that deserves to be heard. Voting is a fundamental right and a symbol of our democratic principles. It is a way to actively engage in the decision-making process and contribute to the betterment of society. Each person brings their unique experiences, beliefs, and values to the table. By casting a vote, individuals ensure that their voice is heard and their interests are

represented. Similarly, voting empowers marginalized communities, giving them a platform to address their concerns and advocate for change. Elected officials make decisions that impact our daily lives, from healthcare and education to the environment and social justice. By voting, we have the power to shape these policies and create a better future. Voting allows us to hold our elected officials accountable for their actions. It is a way to ex-

press our satisfaction or dissatisfaction with their performance and influence future decisions. When it comes to the voting system in Pakistan, it's like a thrilling adventure that takes us through twists and turns, where the power of democracy lies in the hands of the people. Imagine a bustling election day, with voters from diverse backgrounds coming together to cast their ballots, each vote a voice that shapes the future of the nation. From the vibrant streets of Lahore to the serene valleys of Gilgit-Baltistan, the voting system in Pakistan is a tapestry of hopes, dreams, and aspirations. But like any great adventure, it's not without its challenges. The journey towards a fair and transparent voting system has faced hurdles along the way. From concerns about corruption to ensuring equal access for all citizens, the quest for a flawless system continues. Mark Twain once said, "If voting made any difference, they wouldn't let us do it," raises valid concerns about the effectiveness of voting in bringing about real change. It suggests that those in power may manipulate the system to maintain their control, making voting seem futile. While there

are instances where political systems may be flawed or corrupted, it's essential to consider the broader context and the potential impact of voting. One way to approach this analysis is by examining historical examples where voting has made a significant difference. Take, for instance, the Civil Rights Movement in the United States. African Americans fought tirelessly for their right to vote, facing immense obstacles such as poll taxes and literacy tests. However, their determination and collective action ultimately led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which dismantled discriminatory voting practices and expanded access to the ballot box. This example demonstrates how voting can be a powerful tool for marginalised communities to challenge systemic injustices and bring about meaningful change. Another example can be found in countries transitioning from authoritarian regimes to democracies. In places like South Africa and Myanmar, voting played a crucial role in dismantling oppressive systems and establishing more inclusive governments. By participating in elections, citizens were able to shape the political landscape

and elect leaders who would work towards a more equitable society. However, it is important to acknowledge that voting alone is not a panacea for all societal issues. It is just one aspect of civic engagement and should be complemented by other forms of activism and advocacy. For instance, grass-roots movements. protests, and community organising can amplify the voices of marginalised groups and push for structural changes that voting alone may not achieve. Moreover, the effectiveness of voting can be influenced by various factors, including voter suppression, gerrymandering, and the influence of money in politics. These challenges can undermine the democratic process and limit the impact of individual votes. Addressing these issues requires ongoing efforts to promote transparency, fairness, and equal access to the electoral system. Yet, amidst these challenges, there are stories of resilience and progress. Efforts are being made to enhance transparency, strengthen electoral institutions, and empower voters. Technology is playing a pivotal role, with initiatives like biometric verification and electronic voting machines aiming to streamline the process

and minimise irregularities. To control vote corruption in Pakistan, several measures should be implemented to ensure a fair and transparent electoral process such as by Strengthening the independence and authority of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to monitor and regulate elections effectively. by Implementing a modern and secure voter registration system to eliminate duplicate and fake voter registrations, by enforcing strict penalties for voter bribery, intimidation, and other corrupt practices, by encouraging civil society organizations and citizen groups to actively participate in electoral monitoring and advocacy for electoral reforms, and by ensuring a fair and efficient judicial system to address election-related disputes and allegations of corruption. In the same way, the media plays a crucial role in controlling corruption in the context of voting in Pakistan. Through investigative journalism, transparency, and accountability, media outlets can expose corrupt practices within the electoral process. They can shed light on voter manipulation, bribery, and misuse of power. By providing a platform for whistle-blowers and informing the public

about these issues, the media can create public awareness and scrutiny, forcing authorities to take action. Additionally, media can educate citizens about their rights and responsibilities in the voting process, empowering them to resist corrupt practices. Through unbiased reporting, the media can foster transparency, promote electoral integrity, and ultimately contribute to reducing corruption in the voting system, safeguarding the democratic process in Pakistan. So, as we navigate this exciting landscape, let's remember the power we hold as individuals to shape the destiny of our nation through our votes. Together, we can build a stronger democracy, where every voice is heard and every vote counts. In conclusion, while it is essential to critically analyse the political system and question the impact of voting, it is equally important to recognize its potential for change. Voting has played a significant role in historical movements and transitions to democracy. However, it should be seen as part of a broader toolkit for civic engagement, complemented by other forms of activism. By understanding the limitations and challenges of voting, we can work.

### Meeting can add more ballast to stabilize relations

**T**n yet another sign that relations between China and the United States are being stabilized, Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng is set to meet US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen in San Francisco on Thursday and Friday, just before senior finance officials and ministers of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation members officially meet. The new economic and financial forums launched in October by China's Ministry of Finance and central bank and the US Treasury are also to be convened. In an opinion piece published by The Washington Post prior to her scheduled meeting with He, Yellen said that the United States was seeking "healthy economic competition" with China, not decoupling. "Decoupling our economies would be economically disastrous and run counter to our national interests," she wrote. The two senior officials met previously in July, when Yellen visited Beijing to try to stabilize the worsening Sino-US relationship amid growing US restrictions on technology. That trip was part of a series of visits by high-level US officials, including those by Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo. The discussions during those meetings have produced the current upturn in Sino-US relations. But it would be wrong to think that has come by easily with just a few choice words. Given that the past several years have seen the two sides lock horns with each other on trade and technology issues, the Taiwan question and the South China Sea issue, raising fears that they might be heading toward direct conflict, there have been a great deal of efforts needed to clear the air and calm the gathering tempest. Fortunately, the top leaders of the two countries have kept their eyes on the bigger picture, and have accepted the need to jointly build "guardrails" to manage the differences between the two sides. Thus concrete actions have been taken to keep key channels of communication open that serve to avoid misunderstandings and reduce the risk of miscalculations. The more pragmatic approach that the US has taken toward China may have also resulted from the fact that even as US policymakers have sought ways to cut ties with China, the two economies remain deeply intertwined. As economists have noted, even though the US may be reallocating its sourcing and imports away from China, it remains connected with and dependent on China through the third parties. As the Chinese leader has repeatedly stressed, the common interests of China and the US far outweigh their differences, and the two countries stand to gain from cooperation, while they will only lose from confrontation. It is time for the two sides to turn what they have agreed upon into substantial results that can benefit both countries.

# **Islamabad POST**

### Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

Member APNS / ABC Certified Vol: 05 Issue: 25 Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960 Off 11: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



### Canberra needs necessary nous to balance ties

ustralian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's four-day China visit has presented a golden opportunity for Beijing and Can-Ώ berra to accelerate the defrosting of relations that has been underway since the Albanese government took office. Judging by the outcomes of the China-Australia annual leaders' meeting, which were released on Tuesday, relations are warming up nicely. The two sides agreed to expand bilateral trade, continue political dialogue, deepen people-to-people exchanges and cooperate on various multilateral platforms. Such a marked improvement in ties would not have been possible without both sides making dedicated efforts to reinvigorate their relations that had soured under the prejudiced policies pursued by Albanese's predecessor. By recognizing that cooperative relations are in the interests of both countries, Canberra and Beijing have been able to reach a rapprochement and swiftly resolve many of their trade disputes. By beginning his China trip on Nov 4 and paying a visit to the Temple of Heaven in Beijing on Monday, Albanese offered a tip of the hat to former Australian prime minister Gough Whitlam, who was the first Australian leader to pay a visit to China. He arrived 50 years ago, after the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1972. As Chinese leaders often say, history is both a mirror and a source of strength and wisdom. Reviewing the two countries' relations over the past five decades shows that whenever China and Australia focus on reciprocal cooperation and seek to properly handle their differences, their bilateral ties flourish. Whenever paranoia and ideological confrontation come to the fore, bilateral ties always deviate from the right track. An increasingly turbulent world and a divisive political landscape mean it is not easy for the two countries to navigate their relations through the formidable challenges and uncertainties, but that is nothing new and it has always been a test of statesmen's and stateswomen's mettle. For Albanese, the tightrope to be walked is between China and the United States. With Australia being a close ally of the US, he has to not ruffle the feathers of Washington too much while seeking to improve ties with Beijing and not ire Beijing by being perceived as an enabler of the bloc confrontation Washington is trying to impose worldwide in its "competition" with China. What has transpired so far this year suggests that the Australian and Chinese leaders have the necessary nous to keep Washington's hysterics as background noise. If they continue to prove that is the case, the two countries' cooperation has bright prospects.

# Why are Armed Forces alone countering terrorism?

**Qamar Bashir** 



In the west, for instance, only forty attacks were re corded in 2022, representing a significant 27% decrease compared to the 55 attacks reported in 2021. The Global Terrorism Index reports 130 terrorist attacks originating from Afghanistan into Pakistan during 2022. Among these attacks, the Tehrik-i-Taliban billion for the year 2022. This figure is nearly nine times higher than the terrorism-related deaths in 2020, a concerning contrast even when compared to Afghanistan, where terrorism incidents dropped by 75%, and fatalities decreased by 58%. The Western world, including the USA, has witnessed a consistent decrease in the number of terrorist attacks since 2017. In the west, for instance, only forty attacks were recorded in 2022, representing a significant 27% decrease compared to the 55 attacks reported in 2021. The Global Terrorism Index reports 130 terrorist attacks originating from Afghanistan into Pakistan during 2022. Among these attacks, the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) emerged as the most active terrorist group, responsible for 63 incidents. Other groups contributing to the attacks include the Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP), the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), and the Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (JuA). Of great concern is the troubling ratio of security personnel martyred versus terrorists killed. According to the Global Terrorism Index (GTI) for 2023, the global average of terrorists killed per security personnel killed in 2022 stood at 1.19. This signifies that for every security personnel lost, an average of 1.19 terrorists were neutralized. In Pakistan, however, the average ratio in 2022 was notably lower, at 0.67. This implies that for every security personnel lost, only 0.67 terrorists were eliminated. The high rate of casualties among security personnel comerrorists killed has profound implications for the nation. It jeopardizes security and stability, creating an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty that can deter economic development, foreign investment, and social cohesion. Moreover, it has a psychological impact on the population, eroding trust in the government's ability to provide safety and security, which, in turn, can undermine the overall well-being of the nation. For the armed forces, continuous and high casualties pose operational challenges and strain their ability to counter terrorist threats effectively. Beyond the strategic implications, it takes a toll on the morale and motivation of military personnel. Witnessing a significant number of colleagues fall in the line of duty can be demoralizing and affect their commitment and readiness. The families of martyred security personnel bear an immeasurable emotional burden. They endure the grief and loss of loved ones who made the ultimate sacrifice for the nation. The economic hardship resulting from the loss of a breadwinner and the long-lasting psychological trauma further compound their suffering. The perception of a nation facing a high level of security risks can deter tourists. An unstable security situation can result in travel advisories and warnings, causing a decline in tourism. The negative impact on tourism can lead to a loss of revenue, jobs, and opportunities for local businesses. A security situation in a country may erode investor confidence, leading to a reluctance to commit capital to the country. As a result, potential investments may be delayed or redirected to more stable regions. High security risks may deter foreign

businesses from engaging in trade partnerships with Pakistani companies, affecting the flow of goods and potentially impacting the country's trade balance. It may also affect the willingness of companies to establish or expand their operations in Pakistan. This, in turn, could impede economic growth and job creation. Regrettably, in Pakistan, there exists a prevalent perception that the sole responsibility for countering terrorism rests upon the shoulders of the armed forces. Adding to this issue, the armed forces, weary of relentless political disputes and unwarranted attempts by various political factions to co-opt their support, have come to believe that political forces may not possess the requisite competence to handle sensitive or critical responsibilities. This predicament has inadvertently pushed the armed forces into domains such as politics, internal law and order, and even diplomatic matters. The need of the hour is for politicians, intellectuals, opinion-makers, and celebrities to transcend their parochial political rivalries and demonstrate a genuine commitment to addressing critical issues that threaten the very existence of our nation. They must embrace the responsibilities vested in them by the constitution and laws of our land and release the armed forces from duties that have been shouldered due to political incompetence, incapacity, and inertia. It is incumbent on the politician and civil society to begin by comprehending the underlying causes of both domestic and cross-borer terrorism followed by devising a comprehe al strategy to effectively tackle and counteract the primary factors that fuel domestic and cross border forms of terrorism, with the ultimate goal of minimizing the casualties suffered by our security personnel and innocent civilians. Unifying all political parties in the fight against domestic and cross-border terrorism is a formidable task but an imperative one. National security dialogues must be initiated, providing a platform for representatives from diverse parties to engage in regular discussions centered on the shared objective of countering terrorism. Bipartisan oversight committees within the legislature can play a critical role in monitoring and evaluating the government's counterterrorism efforts, ensuring transparency and accountability in policy making. Cross-party conferences and workshops should facilitate dialogue among political leaders from different spectrums, encouraging an open exchange of ideas and experiences regarding counterterrorism strategies and challenges. The media's role in raising public awareness about the necessity of a unified stance against terrorism cannot be overstated. Engaging political parties in policy formulation and promoting transparency through regular briefings build trust and consensus. Political parties should be urged to prioritize national security over partisan interests, emphasizing the collective threat that terrorism poses. Joint statements and declarations condemning terrorism and a commitment to combating it can send a powerful message. Crisis management protocols that involve political parties ensure swift coordination during critical situations. Ultimately, unity against terrorism necessitates a long-term commitment, recognizing that the fight against terrorism is an enduring effort that demands sustained cooperation among political parties. In this regard, bringing together the government, political, civil society, intellectuals, opinion makers, artists, celebrities, and religious figures to address domestic terrorism's root causes and security concerns is a formidable but essential endeavor. This can be achieved through the establishment of a National Task Force, comprising diverse representatives, entrusted with a comprehensive mandate to tackle this pressing issue. Armed forces should also take a deeper look into the reasons and causes of high numbers of martyrdom of brave security personnel during counter terrorism operations and should set in place a comprehensive mechanism to minimize casualties. First and foremost, an unrelenting focus on advanced training and skill development is essential. Specialized training in counterterrorism tactics, intelligence gathering, and urban warfare is pivotal to equipping security personnel with the tools they need to succeed. Promoting special forces training further enhances precision and minimizes collateral damage during operations. The effectiveness of these agencies also hinges on improved intelligence sharing and coordination. A seamless partnership between law enforcement, military units. and intelligence agencies, bolstered by international coop-Embracing technological eration, is paramount. ments, such as surveillance drones, night-vision equipment, and artificial intelligence, is key to gaining a tactical advantage and thwarting threats. Simultaneously, community engagement strategies that foster trust and collaboration with local populations and the development of community policing programs strengthen the security apparatus. International collaboration and public support are also integral components of this multifaceted approach. Together, these measures work in concert to create a safer environment, strengthen community trust, and ensure the safety of both security personnel and civilians. In conclusion, the urgent need to achieve a unified stand by all political parties to counter domestic and cross-border terrorism cannot be overstated. The pressing challenge lies not only in addressing the shared threat of terrorism but also in minimizing the tragic casualties suffered by our dedicated armed forces. It demands a steadfast commitment to national security, transparency, and prioritizing the well-being of citizens over partisan interests. Building consensus among diverse political leaders is not just a political imperative; it is a moral obligation in the relentless battle against the scourge of terrorism. In the face of this common and immediate threat, a united front is not only our best defense; it is our resolute stand for the safety, security, and unity of the entire nation, while safeguarding the lives of those who protect us. -The writer is Press Secretary to the President(Rtd) Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France Former MD, SRBC

he escalating threat of terrorism and extremism is deeply troubling, especially given the mounting toll on the lives of our courageous soldiers. This concerning trend has been particularly pronounced since 2021, aligning with the Taliban's resurgence in Afghanistan. It's important to note that while global terrorism incidents have been decreasing since 2007, the situation in our region has taken a disconcerting turn. In the year 2023, Pakistan found itself ranked 4th on the Global Terrorism Index with a score of 8.11. This ranking represented a two-notch increase from 2022 when the score stood at 8.4 out of 10, placing Pakistan as the sixth most terrorism-affected country in the world. During 2022 in Pakistan, there were 648 recorded terrorist attacks, resulting in 1.058 fatalities, 602 injuries, and 13 hostages. The economic toll of terrorism in Pakistan was estimated at a staggering \$10.6

### Paradox of victory: Weighing strategic costs of tactical surprise in Gaza

Air Vice Marshal Najam ul Asar (Retd)

As usual, Hamas is being condemned by Western countries as a terrorist organisation which must be eliminated at all costs. Meanwhile, Israel amassed over 300,000 troops at the

border of Gaza prior to launching a ground offensive; and its aerial strikes continue. No Western government is concerned about the disproportionate

about the disproportionate use of force by Israel even as every international humanitarian organisation and aid agency is expressing grave concerns about the situation, which is being declared 'catastrophic.' Notwithstanding the strong public sentiment

t is a genocide by all definitions. As of 6th November, Reuters, New York Times, AP News and New Arab news website have quoted the Ministry of Health in Gaza. According to these sources, a total of 10,022 Palestinians, including 4800 children and 2550 women have been killed and 25,408 wounded by the Israel's indiscriminate aerial bombardment of Gaza. In contrast, Israeli death toll stands at 1400. Out of 1950 human souls still under the rubbles of destroyed and damaged buildings, 1050 are children of various ages, including infants. The UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates that 15,100 housing units have been destroyed with additional 10,656 units rendered uninhabitable. The New Arab news website quoting Gaza's authorities has posted that 42% of housing units are either destroyed or damaged rendering 1.4 million Palestinians internally displaced, including 5,66000 living in precarious conditions at 148 emergency shelters. In 2014, the conflict in Gaza which lasted for 50 days (8 July-26 August), a total of 2251 Palestinians lost their lives; out of which 1462 were civilians, 551 children and 299 women, in the Israeli operation. During those 50 days, Israel lost 66 soldiers and five civilians. The United Nations (UN) has announced that so far 88 members of its staff in the area have lost their lives, the highest UN deaths ever in a single conflict. As per media reports, four hospitals and 246 schools have been bombed and destroyed. There is no water, electricity, food and medicine to the desperate population of Gaza. All communications have been severed by Israel. Dead are being buried in mass graves. Israel is conducting its operations with impunity. It has already commenced its ground assault in Gaza. As in previous conflicts, it has resorted to collective punishment of Palestinians with indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force against civilian targets. A child is being killed and two injured every 10 minutes in Gaza. In complete disregard of global public outrage, Western patronage of Israel continues unabated. This has further damaged brand America, which was already under tremendous stress after illegal military interventions in Muslim countries during the last decade. To thwart any likely military action in favour of Hamas by any state or non-state actor, a US aircraft carrier is anchored in the Mediterranean followed by British warships. Besides, the US President and a number of European leaders paid a quick visit to Tel Aviv to overtly express their solidarity with the state which came into being as a result of their machinations. Furthermore, immediately after 7th October, the US Secretary of State launched on a whirlwind tour of the region to ensure that neighbouring Arab states remain militarily neutral in this conflict. As usual, Hamas is being condemned by Western countries as a terrorist organisation which must be eliminated at all costs. Meanwhile, Israel amassed over 300,000 troops at the border of Gaza prior to launching a ground offensive; and its aerial strikes continue. No Western government is concerned about the disproportionate use of force by Israel even as every international humanitarian organisation and aid agency is expressing grave concerns about the situation, which is being declared 'catastrophic.' Notwithstanding the strong public sentiment, Muslim ruling elite is as usual in a state of strategic paralysis with only verbal condemnation and calls for a ceasefire. Out of 57 Muslim countries, at the outset of the conflict, only Iran and Turkey strongly condemned Israel's disproportionate response. Although Iran issued warnings to Israel of grave consequences, these largely amounted to rhetoric, as its own economic and security concerns force it to consciously avoid any direct involvement. However, as a gesture of solidarity, Iranian Foreign Minister visited Lebanon and met with Hezbollah leaders. Saudi Arabia has put US-sponsored peace negotiations with Israel on the backburner. In the meantime, a UN Security Council resolution proposed by Russia for a ceasefire was vetoed by the US. As a matter of state policy, Pakistan has always stood with Palestinians.

Hence, the bombardments on Gaza continue. Such deliberate targeting and killing of the elderly, sick, wounded, women, and children represent a harrowing act of ethnic cleansing, unparalleled in its scale and severity in modern history. On the other hand, Hamas is being credited by its friends (and foes) for hitting an effective blow and catching Israel off guard. The initial success of Hamas fighters infiltrating Israeli territory via air, sea, and land was indeed a tactical surprise. Their clandestine and well-coordinated planning, training, and execution enabled an almost undetectable entry into Israel, signalling a profound intelligence failure on the part of the latter's renowned security agencies and defence systems. In fact, 'Operation Al-Aqsa Flood' not only caught Israel off guard but also shocked the international community. Despite this, the lack of sustained action following their initial success is both intriguing and concerning. Once the element of surprise was overcome, Israel reclaimed the initiative, countering with overwhelming force - a de-

velopment that Hamas might have underestimated and should have anticipated. As Israel persists in its heavy bombardment of Gaza, issuing ultimatums to Palestinians to evacuate or face dire consequences, the situation remains grim. Despite Hamas's resistance following Israel's ground assault, there is a distinct lack of substantial follow-up actions to their earlier successful infiltration into Israeli territory. This inaction has left room for Israel to continue its military operations unchecked, casting a shadow of despair over the Palestinians with little to no respite in sight. An unbiased observer might pose several critical questions regarding the conflict. One wonders whether Hamas considered the expected Israeli retaliation, historically characterised by overwhelming force and alleged disregard for international law, especially concerning the protection of civilians and non-military infrastructure. Furthermore, the impact on the most vulnerable, women, and children, is undeniable and prompts the question of whether such outcomes were factored into Hamas' strategy. One is also forced to question the logic behind Hamas' response plan, whethr they miscalculated the scale of Western support for Israel, and how they interpreted the geopolitical landscape, including Russia's involvement in Ukraine, China's cautious approach, and Iran's economic and security challenges. Lastly, considering past alliances and regional dynamics, what assistance did Hamas anticipate from Arab and Muslim states, and at what stage of the conflict? As Israel persists with its military campaign in Gaza, such questions concerning Hamas' strategic calculus remain at the forefront. As of now, there is a palpable sense that Hamas' strategy was not fully thought through beyond the initial tactical surprise, which, while successful, did not translate into a comprehensive plan towards some desired outcome. This apparent oversight has resulted in a dire situation on the ground, as reflected by the painful images broadcasted daily, depicting the suffering of the most innocent of innocents. Such scenes underscore the potential strategic costs of a surprise that, while tactically sound, may not have been anchored in a long-term vision. Hence, one is left wondering: Did the tactical surprise carry a strategic price tag too heavy to bear?

-The writer is Air Vice Marshal Najam ul Asar (Retd) is Director at the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad, Pakistan. He can be reached at: cass.thinkers@casstt.com.

### 06

# WORLD / SPORTS



### Briefs **Pakistan** witnessed rise in...

#### FROM PAGE 01 "We are hopeful that they [Afghan government] will take an action themselves, which is in their own interest and also in our interest." On the military equipment left behind since the American withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, he said Pakistan had been repeatedly raising concerns with the United States and the Western countries about its implications and its sale in the black market. Also, he pointed out that there was no clue about the ammunition that was in the possession of the Afghan military comprising 150,000 personnel, and which just "disappeared" after the U.S. withdrawal. He said Pakistan had taken the right decision against illegal foreigners after the Afghan interim government showed no cooperation in containing the terrorists attacking Pakistan. Kakar said sending 250,000 illegal people back to their country in a short span was "not an ordinary step and showed the sign that the policy would be implemented successfully".

### Martyrs' families demand...

FROM PAGE 01 In its brief order, the apex court ruled that the trial of civilians could not be conducted in military courts, stating that Section 2 (D) (I) was unconstitutional. It also ordered that the cases of the accused from May 9 be transferred to civil courts. The families of martyrs stated they would file a petition against the decision of the five-judge bench in the apex court. They said they had endured immense suffering and were appealing for the swift reinstatement of military courts. They requested that justice be served without trivialising the wounds of their loved ones, as any delay in delivering justice would be seen as a mockery of the sacrifices made by the martyrs. The families of martyrs questioned the closure of military courts and how this closure might serve as a facilitation for terrorists. They mentioned that military courts had been instrumen tal in delivering punishments to those who supported or engaged in acts of terrorism, especially with Pakistan's perennial enemy, India, perpetrating acts of terrorism within the country.

# **16th Chief of Naval Staff Golf** C'ship starts from today

Commodore Khan Mahmood Asif said that Pakistan Navy also encourages players, both, from within the service as well as outside, to take part in sports events

### **AFZAL JAVED**

ISLAMABAD: The 16th edition of Chief of Naval Staff Amateur Golf Championship will explode into action from Thursday (Today) with promising golfers of the country exhibiting their prowess in the premier activity here at Margalla Greens Golf Club (MGGC) Islamabad.

Speaking at a press briefing, Pakistan Navy Commander North and Patron Pakistan Navy Golf (North) Commodore Khan Mahmood Asif, along with Administrator Margalla Greens Golf Club Commander (R) Majid Satti said that Pakistan Navy realises the importance of promoting sports like golf and hence considers holding and supporting a championship of this status an essential component of the whole process. Commodore Khan Mahmood Asif said that



Pakistan Navy also encourag- to take part in sports events es players, both, from within and raise the overall standard the service as well as outside,

of sports at national and inter-

national levels. He highlighted this championship as an annual feature of both, Pakistan Golf

# Gill dethrones Babar to become No. 1 ODI batter

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Indian batter Shubman Gill ended Pakistani captain Babar Azam's reign at the top of the ICC Men's ODI Batting Rankings by claiming the number one spot after his recent impressive performances in the ongoing World Cup, the International Cricket Council (ICC) confirmed on Wednesday. Azam's reign at the top of the ODI Batting Rankings lasted for over two years, as Pakistan's all-format captain rose to the top of the table in April 2021 after displacing former Indian skipper Virat Kohli. Gill has amassed 219 runs from six

innings in the tournament so far, scoring 92 and 23 against Sri Lanka and Bangladesh last week.

"Babar Azam's reign as the No.1 ODI batter in the world is over, with India young gun Shubman Gill claiming top spot from the Pakistan captain on the latest MRF Tyres ICC Men's Batting Rankings," the ICC said in a statement as it released the rankings.

Meanwhile, Azam has scored 282 runs in total from eight knocks at the World Cup. The Pakistani batter looked in impressive form when the green



shirts took on the Kiwis last Saturday, scoring an unbeaten 66 runs from 63 balls before rain ended the match in

Pakistan's favor. On the other hand, Indian pacer Mohammed Siraj displaced Pakistani bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi to climb to the top of the ODI Bowling Rankings. Afridi, who climbed to the top of the rankings last week for the first time, slipped to number five as Siraj dominates the table with 709 points. The Indian bowler is followed by South Africa's Keshav Maharaj at the second position, Australia's Adam Zampa at third, and India's Kuldeep Yadav at the fourth spot. Afridi is at number five with 658 points.

Left-handed batter Fakhar Zaman's rise in the ODI Batter Rankings provided some consolation for Pakistan. Zaman played an instrumental role in the green shirts' victory over New Zealand on Saturday by smashing an unbeaten 126 runs off 81 balls.

The Pakistani batter climbed three spots in the rankings to secure the number 11 spot in ODI Batting Rankings. Pakistan face England in their last league match of the World Cup on . 11 at the Eden Gardens in Kolka

Federation (PGF) and Pakistan Navy Sports calendar. The idea of the conduct of this championship was conceived in 2007 and since then we have hosted this championship every year except 2020 when it could not be held due to the pandemic. Main event would be played amongst amateurs over 54 holes with 18 holes played each day from 10 to 12 November 2023. Amateurs with handicap 12 and below will participate in the match. Seniors, Ladies Amateurs category event will be played over 36 holes with 18 holes each day on 9 & 10 November while Junior's category would be on 18 holes match and young boys and girls under the age of 14-18 Years with handicap of 18 and below shall compete in this category.

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf will be chief guest of the concluding ceremony of the championship will be held on 12th November.

### Israel's genocide in Gaza continues

FROM PAGE 01

According to the latest developments, Israeli warplanes bombed al-Sater al-Gharbi area in Khan Yunis multiple times, destroying homes and the Sahwa al-Islamiya Mosque. Another airstrike destroyed the Khaled bin al-Walid Mosque in Khan Yunis refugee camp. Casualties were reported in al-Khulafa neighborhood in Jabalia refugee camp, north of Gaza, following an aerial attack on the house of the Awaida family. 17 citizens were martyred when a warplane bombed the house of the Shehadeh family in al-Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza. Two others were also killed by an Israeli airstrike on the Abu Salim Land area in al-Nuseirat camp.

### President conveys PTI's level...

FROM PAGE 01 level-playing field for major political parties, crackdown on media and mistreatment of female political activists through prolonged illegal detentions. Meanwhile, in a separate letter to the premier, President Alvi said that "it was of utmost importance that the caretaker government under the Prime Minister's leadership made efforts as a neutral entity to provide a level-playing field for all political parties". He adds: "In this context, it was reassuring to hear your recent statements whereby you stated that it was [the] caretaker government's policy that all registered political parties should have equal rights and opportunities to contest the forthcoming elections."

### Fawad urges NS to play his role

FROM PAGE 01 'There is a need for dialogue between political parties. Nawaz should play [his] role [with regards to] general elections and easing of political tempera the country]," the former information minister said. Referring to allegations that Nawaz's return was part of the deal, Fawad urged the former premier not to win the elections in such a manner after 50 years of political experience It is pertinent to mention that Nawaz - who returned to Pakistan on October 21 after a four-year self-imposed exile - has secured notable relief in various domains including the Al Azizia and Avenfield cases, with the Punjab government suspending his sentence in the former.

### Korda 'not thinking about' three-peat MIAMI: Reigning Olympic champion Nelly Korda will try

to become the first player since 2015 to win an LPGA event in three consecutive years this week at The Annika tournament. Sixth-ranked Korda captured the title the past two years at Pelican Golf Club at Belleair, Florida - barely an hour's drive from her home in Bradenton. "A lot of great memories," Korda said. "And it's close to

home so feels nice to drive to a tournament.

"I grew up in this weather, grew up on this grass, so I have a sense of comfort and I like the layout. You still have to make putts and play well. That's what I'm hoping for this week." The most recent LPGA player to win an event three consecutive times was South Korean Park In-bee at the 2013-15 Women's PGA Championships. "To three-peat, obviously there's pressure that I want to

perform, but I try not to think about it," Korda said. "I try to stay in the present as much as possible, even with all the outside noise." The event was rebranded this year to be named for Swedish legend Annika Sorenstam, who won 72 LPGA titles, including 10 major crowns.

Sorenstam is the first player with her name on an LPGA event since Lorena Ochoa in 2017 and she also owns the LPGA record with five wins in a row at the same event the 2001-2005 Mizuno Classics.

"Having her out here, just the presence of her, is really neat and cool," Korda said. "I think it just brings a little extra to an amazing event. And it also honors the legends of our game that have done so much for the game." Korda missed much of the 2022 season with a blood clot

### Pakistan-KSA agree to expand...

#### FROM PAGE 01

the strengthening of the OIC's role in protecting the interests of the Muslim Ummah and the role of Saudi Arabia in this regard. Besides, bilateral issues of mutual interest were also discussed in the meeting. He expressed good wishes for Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman.The Caretaker Federal Minister of Information also expressed his best wishes for the Saudi Ambassador. The Saudi ambassador also invited the caretaker information minister to visit Saudi ArabiaMurtazaSolangi thanked Saudi Ambassador Nawaf Saeed Al-Maliki for inviting him to visit Saudi Arabia.

### Israel cannot occupy Gaza after war...

FROM PAGE 01 They released a statement that condemned Hamas and supported Israel's right to self-defence but called for humanitarian pauses in Israel's shelling of Gaza. The G7 statement sought to balance criticism of Hamas's attacks and support for Israel with a push for "urgent action" to help civilians in the besieged Palestinian enclave, who are in desperate need of food, water, medical care and shelter. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and the foreign ministers of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Japan and Italy emphasised that they "support humanitarian pauses to facilitate urgently needed assistance, civilian movement and release of hostages".

### Atletico destroy 10-man Celtic

LONDON: Antoine Griezmann and Alvaro Morata struck twice each as Atletico Madrid hammered ragged 10-man Celtic 6-0 on Tuesday to move top of their Champions League group. Diego Simeone's side took an early lead through Griezmann but were struggling until Celtic forward Daizen Maeda was dismissed midway through the first half for a high foot. Morata added a second before the break and Atletico Madrid racked up the goals in the second half, with both forwards netting again and Samuel Lino and Saul Niguez also on target. Atletico's emphatic win leaves them with eight points, one ahead of Lazio, second, and two ahead of former group leaders Feyenoord, while Celtic are last with only one. "The team didn't lower its rhythm of play, they were always looking for more," a pleased Simeone told Movistar. "It's a crunch moment for

everyone (in the group), it will be tricky until the end." The Atletico Madrid coach lavished praise on key player Griezmann, who is enjoying one of the best spells of his career. Griezmann controversially left Atletico for Barcelona in 2019 but returned on loan in 2021 before signing permanently once more. "When some didn't agree with his return, I was convinced that he was born to play at Atletico Madrid," Simeone told reporters. "He turned this situation around ... I'm lucky to have a player like Griezmann. "I have no doubt that with what he's got left to go at Atletico, he will be one of the team's best ever players." Atletico bounced back strongly from a disappointing defeat at La Liga minnows Las Palmas on Friday to leave Brendan Rodgers' side on the brink of elimination and record their 16th consecutive home victory across all competitions.

Griezmann struck in the sixth minute, his low effort skidding home with the aid of a deflection off Cameron Carter-Vickers, after Celtic gave him too much time and space on the edge of the box. Celtic winger Luis Palma showed flashes at the other end as his team dominated the ball in the opening 20 minutes. However, the game changed drastically when Japanese international Maeda was sent off for a high foot on Mario Hermoso. Although the referee initially gave a yellow card, Maeda was dismissed after VAR intervention - Celtic's third red card of the competition. - Agencies

Qatar negotiating release of 10-15 hostages

### DNA

DOHA: Qatar is mediating negotiations between Israel and Hamas for the potential release of 10-15 hostages held in Gaza in exchange for a short ceasefire, a source briefed on the talks told AFP Wednesday.

'Negotiations mediated by the Qataris in coordination with the US are ongoing to secure the release of 10-15 hostages in exchange for a one- to two-day ceasefire,' the informed source said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the talks' sensitivity.

Fighting has raged in Gaza for over a month following the Palestinian group's shock October 7 attack that killed more than 1,400 people and took more than 240 hostages, according to Israeli authorities.

In Gaza, 10,569 people, also mostly civilians, have been killed in Israel's retaliatory military campaign, the health ministry in the Hamas-run Palestinian territory has said.

ta. Azam's side needs to beat England in her right arm but won her first title after the setback to stay in contention for the semifinal last year at Pelican, returning to world number one by stage of the tournament. defending her title. - Agencies

> **SL vs NZ: Bengaluru weather** worries Williamson

BENGALURU: Kiwis skipper Kane Williamson was worried due to rain that threatens their semi-final berth, saying there are lots of things that they can't control and the weather is one of those. A forecast for rain has added an unknown element to New Zealand's final World Cup group stage match against Sri Lanka in Chennai on Thursday. New Zealand occupy the last semi-final slot available but only by virtue of having a better net run rate than Pakistan and Afghanistan, with all three teams tied on eight points after eight games. "We'll still have to very much see what the pitch is like. There's been a lot of weather around and it could look different tomorrow," said Williamson

"There's lots of things that we can't control and the weather is one of those. There may be a thought in the back of your mind, but at the end of the day, our focus will be on the cricket that we want to play." New Zealand, finalists in 2019, won their first four matches in India before losing the next four. "There were also some really close games and ones that we lost," Williamson said. "I think if we look at the cricket on a whole, there has been a lot of good cricket. "The beauty of this type of layout is that you do play everybody, you are challenged by everybody in different ways, so the focus is much more about your own cricket and how you look to try and handle that." New Zealand similarly struggled to make the semis in 2019 but were able to turn things around and reach the final. "I suppose guys have had some of those experiences, but it's another game on another day and four years later,' Williamson said. "So, the focus is here and now and on the conditions, and how we want to adjust." Williamson added that pacer Lockie Ferguson's return after missing two matches due to injury would depend on pitch conditions. - DNA

Cricket World Cup 2023 NEW ZEALAND vs SRI LANKA NOV 09, THU- 02:00 PM IST/08:30 AM GMT M.CHINNASWAMY STADIUM, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA IS Sri Lanka New Zealand

### PM meets, Uzbekistan President

#### FORM PAGE 01

The leaders exchanged views on deepening bilateral cooperation in a range of areas including political, trade, economic, security, defence, and connectivity. Expressing satisfaction at the growing level of bilateral cooperation, Prime Minister Kakar stressed the importance of sustaining the momentum. He underlined that the recent operationalization of Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and Transit Trade Agreement (UPT-TA) would boost bilateral trade and transit trade in addition to streamlining Economic Cooperation Organization Trade Agreement (ECOTA). They reaffirmed commitment to the early completion of Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan railway project.

### Remembering Poet of East

#### FROM PAGE 01

the Allama emerged as a great poet, thinker and philosopher who float the idea of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the subcontinent. His Iqbal's poetry has been translated in Spanish, Chinese, Japanese,English and several other languages. Dr Allama Muhammad Igbal awakened the Muslims of the Subcontinent for a separate homeland through his inspired poetry and political acumen, would be presented glowing tributes in the country.

### SPL to introduce regional talent to global stage SPL will highlight talent and culture by introducing youth from regions to global stage

### **OUR CORRESPONDENTS**

LONDON: Sndh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has said that the Sindh Premier League (SPL) is set to highlight the talent and culture of the province by introducing the youth from the regions to the global stage as the league is aimed at bringing Sindh into focus in a unique style.

Tessori was speaking in London at the Roadshow of SPL attended by a large number of British-Pakistani community members. The Sindh governor was accompanied by a delegation of SPL management and franchise owners of the league including Chairman Aslam Malik, CEO Chaudhry Shahzad Akhtar and President Arif Malik. Owners of the team including Benazirabad's Ghulam Hussain Shahid, Hyderabad Bahadurs's Jahanzeb Alam, Karachi Gladiators' Irfan Wahid, Larkana Challengers

Aamir Siddiqui and other representatives of Sukkur Patriots and Khairpur Royals also attended the event.

Lord Qurban Hussain and Lord Wajid Khan also attended and spoke at the event. Tessori said that the SPL will be a worldclass cricket league to be held in the middle of December this year in the city of Karachi, Sindh. He said that Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will inaugurate the league matches and caretaker premier Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar will attend the closing ceremony.

"The purpose of Sindh Premier League is to introduce the young cricketers of Sindh to the world level and to provide them with opportunities to play with local and foreign players and also to train them from international cricket academies. I am thankful to the London business community and other dignitaries from other walks of life who participated in the event and expressed their interest in the game

of cricket and the underprivileged people of Sindh," Tessori said. The Sindh governor appealed to the overseas Pakistanis to shun those elements who don't want the progress of Pakistan and are involved in campaigning against Pakistan's institutions. He thanked the overseas community for investing in Pakistan and appealed for more investment.

"No matter whatever passport you have, Pakistan will always be your home and home to your coming generations," he said. Chairman SPL Aslam Malik said that the London event was the first international appearance for SPL.

"We will bring forward the Pakistani talent in general and the young talent of Sindh in particular through SPL all over the world," said Malik. CEO SPL Chaudhry Shahzad Akhtar expressed determination that Pakistan will continue to make cricket a medium of global connections and cooperation and SPL will play a pivotal role in this effort. President SPL Arif Malik told the participants that the Sindh Premier League is a league of the quality of any international cricket league in which not only national cricket stars of Pakistan but also international players are participating and its matches will be telecasted worldwide. He said that esteemed names like Shahid Afridi, Abdul Razzaq and other leading players have agreed to be the ambassadors of the SPL.

He explained that the Sindh Premier League is a T20 cricket league whose matches will be played from December 14-25, 2023, at the National Bank Cricket Arena, also known as the National Cricket Stadium. In the first season of SPL, Benazirabad Reds, Hyderabad Bahadurs, Karachi Gladiators, Sukkur Patriots, Khairpur Rovals and Larkana Challengers representing six different cities of Sindh will contest against each other for the title.

# **BUSINESS / WORLD**

### Briefs

07

### Azerbaijan holds army parade in Karabakh

# Ukraine set to begin joining process, European Commission

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky applied for EU membership in February 2022,

shortly before Russia invaded his country

#### DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev oversaw a military parade in the main city of Nagorno-Karabakh Wednesday, weeks after his army recaptured the long-disputed region from Armenian separatists in a lightning offensive.

The president's office released images of Azerbaijani troops and a military orchestra lined up formation in the central square of Khankendi, which Armenians referred to as Stepanakert. It showed bluered-green Azerbaijani flags hoisted in front of the build ing that once housed offices of Karabakh's separatist leader, with an Azerbaijani emblem on top of the imposing Soviet-era edifice. A presidency statement said first lady Mehriban Aliyeva, who is the tightly controlled nation's First Vice President, and Alivey's son Heydar also attended the ceremony.

Floods kill 29 in Somalia, devastate east Africa

### DNA

MOGADISHU : The worst flooding to hit Somalia in decades has killed 29 people and forced more than 300,000 to flee their homes, the National Disaster Management Agency said on Wednesday, following heavy rains that have inundated towns across East Africa. Authorities have scrambled to rescue thousands of stranded people from the floodwater, which comes on the heels of the region's worst drought in 40 years. "What is going on today is the worst for decades. It is worse than even the 1997 floods," said Hassan Isse, managing director of the Somali Disaster Management Agency (SOMDA). The death toll and numbers of people displaced were said, because many people were trapped by floodwaters. "I do not remember such floods in my life," said Mohamed Farah, a local elder in Baidoa city, in southwest Somalia. "People keep on evacuating looking for high ground." At least 2,400 people have been cut off in Luug town, where the Jubba River burst its banks, the United Nations has said "Luuq is surrounded by the river and floods are threat ening us. People keep fleeing out of the town. Some are still trapped. Our shops have been washed away," said Ahmed Nur, a trader in Luuq. –APP Acapulco struggles to recover after hurricane Otis DNA

### **News Desk**

KYIV: The European Union's legislative body has recommended that formal accession talks between the bloc and Ukraine should begin next year, a significant milestone in Ukraine's move toward closer integration with the West.European Commission President Ursula von der Leven said: "Today is a historic day, because today the Commission recommends that the council opens accession negotiations with Ukraine and with Moldova." Von der Leyen was speaking on the same day that the Commission published a report suggesting to EU member states that accession talks should finally start, nearly 18 months since the bloc accepted Ukraine as a candidate state. The same report suggests that accession talks with Moldova should also begin. Ukraine has held ambitions to join the EU for more than a decade. In late 2013, then-President



with the European Union and instead turn toward sparked street Russia protests and his eventual Viktor Yanukovych's deciouster, followed in March sion to scrap a trade deal 2014 by Russia's illegal

The aim of joining the bloc – along with NATO - has formally been part of Ukraine's constitution since 2019.

annexation of Crimea. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky applied for EU membership in February 2022, shortly before Russia invaded his country. While the deci-

sion to open negotiations with Ukraine is an important step on Zelensky's path to EU membership, talks will not begin until a set of con- time soon.

ditions have been met. With Ukraine currently at war, it is unclear and

unlikely that those conditions will be met any

likely to rise further, Isse

### Albania to host Up to 3,000 migrants, Italy agreement

Meloni said pregnant women, minors and other vulnerable people would not be sent to Albania, but it is not clear if this could result in adult men being separated from the rest of their families

ROME : Albania will hold no more than 3,000 migrants at any one time under a deal announced this week allowing Italy to build two migrant reception and detention camps there, official documents showed on Wednesday. The Italo-Albanian scheme is the first example of a non-EU country accepting migrants on behalf of an EU nation, and is part of an bloc-wide drive to clamp down on irregular immigration. The scheme has drawn criticism from Amnesty International and other rights groups. "Parties agree that the total number of migrants present at the same time on Albanian ter-

3,000," an Italo-Albanian protocol states, according to a copy seen by media reporters and other media. The figure compares with the more than 145,000 sea migrants who have arrived in Italy so far this year, a sharp increase from 2022 which Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's right-wing government is keen to contain. Announcing the deal with Albania on Monday, Meloni said as many as 36,000 migrants per year could pass through the Albanian camps, but hitting this target depends on how quickly Italy can process asylum applications

ritory cannot be more than Meloni said the aim is to examine cases within 28 days. but experts have pointed out that, despite government efforts to streamline them, procedures remained engulfed in red tape.

Experts also noted that repatriating failed applicants is hard, given the lack of return deals with migrants' home nations. In the year to date. Italy has repatriate

the Albanian port of Shëngjin for disembarkation and identification, and a second inland one for detention. They are due to be staffed by Italian personnel.

The facilities are more than 1,000 kilometres from Lampedusa, the island where most Italy-bound sea migrants currently land. Transferring them to Albania by sea would take at least two or three days. Meloni said pregnant women, minors and other vulnerable people would not be sent to Albania, but it is not clear if this could result in adult men being separated from the rest of their families .- Agencies

### Nissan, Renault launch 'Rebalanced' Alliance

PARIS: French automaker Renault and Japanese partner Nissan officially launched their "rebalanced" alliance on Wednesday as they seek to reset a rocky 24-year-old partnership. The companies announced an agreement in February to put their partnership, which also includes Japanese automaker Mitsubishi, on an equal footing, with Renault giving up its dominant position. "After having obtained all required regulatory approvals, the New Alliance Agreement between Renault Group and Nissan comes today into force," the companies said in a joint statement. "This is a very important step for Renault Group, Nissan and Mitsubishi Motors," the chairman of the alliance, Jean-Dominique Senard, said in the statement. He said the deal "lays the foundations for a new fair, long-standing and effective partnership that will create value for each Alliance member and for all our stakeholders". The partnership began in 1999, when Renault rescued Nissan from bankruptcy. Mitsubishi Motors joined in 2016, with Nissan taking a 34-percent stake in its struggling Japanese rival. But tensions erupted in 2015 when the French state increased its stake in Renault. This was later reduced and an agreement was reached to cap the government's ability to interfere in the alliance's affairs. The union was shaken again in 2018 with the arrest of Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn in Japan. Ghosn, who was sacked and fled to Lebanon to avoid prosecution in 2019, claimed the charges against him were intended to prevent him from bringing the Japanese and French automakers closer together. In Wednesday's statement, the companies said the new alliance "lays the foundations for a new balanced, fair, and effective governance". -DNA

### Climate change fuels *'extreme* drought' in Iraq, Iran, **Syria**

Islamabad **POST** 

Wednesday, November 09, 2023

BAGHDAD : The "extreme" drought gripping Iraq, Syria and Iran would not have occurred without climate change caused primarily by burning fossil fuels, sci-entists said Wednesday, warning that punishing dry spells will become more intense as the world warms. High temperatures due to human-caused climate change made the drought "much more likely to happen" - about 25 times more likely in Syria and Iraq and 16 times more likely in Iran, according to the World Weather Attribution (WWA) group. "Human-induced climate change has increased the intensity of such a drought such that it would not have been classified as a drought in a 1.2C cooler world," said the scientists. It found that existing vulnerability from "years of conflict and political instability" also reduced people's ability to respond to the drought, sparking a "humanitarian disaster". The research focused on the period from July 2020 to June 2023 in two regions where impacts have been most severe: Iran, and the basin of the Tigris and the Euphrates, the rivers that cross Syria and Iraq. Both regions are currently experiencing an "extreme drought" as classified by the US Drought Monitor scale, said the scientists in a statement.-DNA

### Safaricom, M-PESA launch Africa startup accelerator

NAIROBI : Safaricom has entered into a partnership with M-PESA Africa and Sumitomo Corporation, a leading Fortune 500 global trading and business investment company, to launch the Spark Accelerator, a program to support early-stage startups to grow and scale their businesses. The three partners will work together to identify quality startups and provide a blend of mentorship, funding and go to market support. "Anchored around our purpose of transforming lives and in line with our ambition to be a purpose led technology company, our goal is simple yet powerful, to empower startups with the access they need to succeed. We are taking an ecosystem-based approach to provide a platform for bold and visionary founders to grow and scale their businesses," said Peter Ndegwa, CEO, Safaricom. Studies show that entrepreneurs in Kenya face major challenges, with a 30% lifetime survival rate for startups. The key hindrances being the inability to secure funding for growth, limited access to market and a gap in knowledge and skills required to scale a business.-APP

ACAPULCO : Families search for missing relatives as shops and bars gradually reopen - two weeks after a devastating hurricane, Mexico's beachside city of Acapulco is struggling to regain a semblance of normality. A few bathers soak up the sun on Manzanillo beach, residential buildnear ings whose windows were smashed by winds that reached 165 miles (270 kilometers) per hour.

At the feet of the 27-floor Marena residence in the exclusive Punta Diamante district, mattresses and cushions lie amid debris on the beach. Inspired by the shape of a ship's sail filled with wind, its luxury apartments once sold for more than one and a half million dollars each, but they have been left uninhabitable by the fury of Otis. Many businesses have not only been damaged but also looted. Schools remain closed until further notice. In Acapulco Bay, navy divers search for missing people among destroyed or submerged yachts. At least 48 were killed and more than 30 are still unaccounted for after Hurricane Otis came ashore in the early hours of October 25 as a scale-topping category 5 storm, according to authorities.

ed just under 4,000 people. The camps will operate under Italian jurisdiction, and should open in spring 2024. The protocol states that Italy will shield Albania from any costs from legal action against the initiative. Italy is planning one facility at

New Slovak govt denies military aid to Ukraine

ATHENS ; Slovakia's new government rejected on Wednesday a previously drafted plan to donate rockets and ammunition to Ukraine, following through on a pledge by incoming Prime Minister Robert Fico to halt military aid to Kyiv as it fights a Russian invasion. The aid package included 140 KUB air defence system rockets, more than 5,000 pieces of 125 mm cannon ammunition and 4 million rounds of small arms ammunition, according to the deal that had been put forward by the NATO country's caretaker government before it handed over power last month. Fico's government rejected the package at a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, according to the government's website. Fico ran a campaign criticising Western military support for Ukraine and sanctions on Russia, and backs pushing for peace talks, a line similar to Hungary's leader Viktor Orban but rejected by Kyiv. Fico's leftist SMER-SSD party won a Sept. 30 election and has formed a ruling coalition with the centre-left HLAS and nationalist SNS parties.

Fico has said repeatedly the country would halt shipments from army stores to Ukraine, but he has recently made clear private business deals would not be affected. The country had been a staunch backer of Ukraine, and a previous centre-right government supplied military equipment including fighting vehicles as well as an S-300 air defence system and MiG-29 jets. Slovakia, which shares a border with Ukraine in its east, had sent military aid in 13 packages and worth 671 million euros to Kviv since Russia's attack in February 2022 before Fico's appointment.- Agencies



ISLAMABAD : H.E Leslie Scanlon met with Ahmad Irfan Aslam, Caretaker Minister of Climate Change and Water Resources to exchange views on critical minerals mining, legal protections for minorities and Afghan refugees, and how to advance addressing the climate crisis.-DNA

# Turkiye's first spacecraft set for moon mission in 2026

Turkish Lunar Research Program to carry out Türkiye's first moon and deep space missions, making it one of the few countries with a presence on the moon

ANKARA : Türkiye aims to complete all processes for its first spacecraft developed with the Lunar Research Program (AYAP) within the scope of its National Space Program and launch the vehicle into space in 2026.

According to the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TUBITAK), the country's 10-year plans and targets were determined within the scope of the National Space Program.

The AYAP, as one of the first of the 10 programs announced, aims to carry out Türkiye's first moon and deep space missions, making it one of the few countries with a presence on the moon.

The first phase of the AYAP aims

operations will be increased.

to explore the moon from orbit AYAP is planning to develop a spacecraft that can operate in luand make first contact with the lunar surface, while the second nar orbit (400,000 kilometres or around 249,000 miles from Earth) phase aims to land a rover on the surface using the soft landing and is suitable for soft landing. method. Within the scope of the In addition, the Hybrid Propulfirst phase of the AYAP, mission sion System developed with dooperations will be carried out by mestic facilities is planned to developing a spacecraft that will gain space history, and high-resreach the lunar orbit from Earth, olution images and scientific collect data from there and then data related to the origin of wacontact the lunar surface. In additer on the moon, mini-magnetotion, with the success of the techsphere formations, surface comnologies, products, software and ponents, surface temperature equipment to be developed with and reflection maps and radianational resources, the country's tion from the lunar surface will international reputation for sysbe translated into information tem development and the ability by scientists in Türkiye. to carry out challenging mission

The spacecraft's system-level design phase has been com-

pleted and a detailed design (equipment/module/component development) phase is being carried out. The qualifications of all equipment to be used on the spacecraft for the mission have been reviewed and the production of qualification models for some equipment has been initiated. After the equipment passes the qualification test, flight models will be produced and integrated into the spacecraft.

Contracts were also signed for equipment and components with long delivery times, and the planning of all equipment to be used on the spacecraft flight model was completed. After the production of flight models of the subsystems and equipment that make up the spacecraft, system-level integration will be carried out, followed by environmental (vibration, thermal-vacuum and electromagnetic compatibility) and functional tests.

Although there were collaborations for the procurement of some components and equipment from abroad, the moon mission and the spacecraft were designed indigenously. The integration, tests and operations of the vehicle will also be carried out by Turkish human capital using its infrastructure. All processes are planned to be completed in 2026, and the vehicle will be launched the same year.-APP

### Asian markets drift as traders weigh outlook for rates

HONG KONG :Asian markets struggled Wednesday as investors tried to figure out the Federal Reserve's interest rate plans, while demand concerns saw oil prices struggling to recover from the previous day's plunge. While Wall Street enjoyed another advance, there were few catalysts to drive business, and with geopolitical tensions relatively subdued, US monetary policy is in focus after the central bank last week hinted at no more tightening. However, officials refuse to commit one way or the other for now, instead saving they want to see more evidence that inflation is on a true downward slope and the labour market has softened enough. Data on Friday that showed jobs creation was slowing - but not too much to cause worry about the economy - instilled confidence the Fed was on course to deliver a soft landing for the economy and avoid a recession. Chicago Fed boss Austan Goolsbee gave little away Tuesday, saying he was lasering in on getting control of prices. "We've got to get inflation down - that's the number-one thing," he told **CNBC.**-Agencies







### Briefs **Curt grants** bail to Khadija Shah in provocative tweets case

# Pakistan, Azerbaijan ties from cordial to excellent: Solangi

Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov says 8 November is celebrated as Victory Day in the Republic of Azerbaijan every year

#### DNA

LAHORE: A sessions court on Wednesday granted bail to fashion designer Khadija Shah in a case of posting provocative tweets. The court ordered the fashion designer to furnish surety bonds of Rs 100,000 to avail the benefit of bail.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Nawaz announced the reserved verdict on post-arrest bail petition filed by the fashion designer. The court had reserved its verdict on completion of arguments by the parties, earlier in the day. Khadija Shah had approached the court for post-arrest bail, saying that a judicial magistrate denied the request of Federal Investigation Agency for her physical remand in the case and sent her to jail on judicial remand. She pleaded with the court to grant her bail in the matter.

The FIA had accused Khadija Shah of posting 'objectionable' tweets, adding that the tweets were still being re-posted by the social media users.

The FIA said that Khadija Shah incited people against the institutions through her tweets on May-9.

### Malaysia will maintain ties with Hamas

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's leader Anwar Ibrahim has said his nation will maintain ties with Hamas and will "not punish" the group. Malaysians should "unanimously back" the Palestinian cause, the prime minister told parliament on Tuesday. Mr Anwar was responding to a proposal by US lawmakers to sanction Hamas's



### ANSAR M BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has said Pakistan greatly values relations with Azerbaijan adding these relations shall further be cemented in the coming days. He expressed these views while addressing as the chief guest on the occasion of the Victory Day of Azerbaijan. Murtaza Solangi furhter siad both Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoy excellent relations in all fields. He said people to people between the two countries have also increased. The minister also welcomed start of direct flights from Pakistan to Azerbaijan and hoped thiese direct air links will further bring two brotherly nations closer.

Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov in his speech said, 8 November is celebrated as Victory Day in the Republic of Azerbaijan every year. 3 years ago, Azerbaijan liberated its territories from Armenian occupation and restored its territorial integrity. We honor with deep respect and gratitude our Martyrs who gave their precious lives for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of our country.

He said, Armenia kept 20% of Azerbaijani territories under occupation for almost 30 years Almost Armenia committed war

Genocide in 1992, killing 613 innocent civilians, including 106 women and 63 children. They carried out ethnic cleansing against the Azerbaijani population in the occupied territories. All Azerbaijanis were forcibly expelled from occupied territories.

During the Armenian occupation. Azerbaijani cities and villages were razed to the ground. All cultural and religious monuments were destroyed, mosques were desecrated and looted. Armenians turned mosques into pigsties during the occupation. Hundreds of thousands of mines and booby traps have been planted across Azerbaijan's territory. But Azerbaijan has never targeted any civilian people and civilian infrastructures during the Patriotic War and local antiterrorism measures.

He said, even after the war, Armenia did not stop its heinous military provocations that caused the loss of civilians and military personnel in the liberated territories of Azerbaijan. In this regard, the Azerbaijan Army launched local anti-terrorist measures to ensure the provisions of the Joint Trilateral Statement signed on November 10, 2020, to prevent large-scale provocations committed in the Karabakh economic region of Azerbaijan, to disarm and withdraw the Armenian armed forces formations from Azerbaijani territories, to neutralize their military infrastructure to ensure of the civilian population returning to the territories liberated from occupation, safe-



ty of the civilian workers involved in the reconstruction work, the servicemen and to restore the constitutional order of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Immediately after the war, the Azerbaijani side whose 20 % of the territory had been occupied by Armenia for almost 30 years, proposed a peace agreement to Armenia. Raising the right of 300.000 Azerbaijanis to return to their historical homeland in nowadays Armenia, Azerbaijan also set up a special reintegra the Karabakh economic region of the Re-

public of Azerbaijan. Ambassador Farhadov said, during the occupation and 44 days of the Patriotic War, brotherly Pakistan has always supported Azerbaijan morally and diplomatically. Using this opportunity, I would like once again to extend my gratitude to the Government and people of Pakistan for their continuous support. It is no coincidence that the Pakistani flag is waved along with the Azerbaijani and Turkish flags in Azerbaijan by the common people in this

### ISIL attacks kill 30 in Syrian desert

#### DNA

DAMASCUS: ISIL (ISIS) has killed at least 30 Syrian pro-government militia and soldiers stationed in the desert, underscoring the group's persistent threat years after its territorial defeat. ISIL waged parallel machine gun attacks in the regions of Raqqa, Homs, and Deirez-Zor, reported the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UKbased war monitor.

The attacks killed 26 members of the National Defence Forces, a pro-government militia, along with four soldiers. The observatory said it expected the death toll to rise due to an unspecified number of wounded, some of whom are in critical condition.

The monitor also said Russian warplanes had conducted strikes on ISIL's positions in the desert, causing casualties among its members. ISIL, an armed group that once commanded an estimated 50,000 fighters, declared its own "caliphate" across large parts of Syria and Iraq in 2014.

The group was ousted from Syria in 2019 but its vestiges continue to hide out in the desert and plot deadly hitand-run attacks, targeting both pro-government forces and Kurdish-led fighters.

### Thousands flee fresh ethnic killings in Darfur

KHARTOUM: Thousands of people have been forced to flee the Sudanese region of West Dafur amid fears of ethnic cleansing, a medical charity says. Witnesses have accused the paramilitary group Rapid Support Forces (RSF) of targeting and killing non-Arabs. This comes after the RSF captured the Sudanese army headquarters in West Darfur's capital of El Geneina in recent days. The RSF said it is not involved in what it described as a "tribal conflict". It has been battling the army for control of the country since April. Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) says that most of the 7,000 people who have crossed into Chad in the past three days are women and children who are fleeing

foreign supporters. Analysts say this is also politically expedient in a country where support for Palestinians has long been bipartisan as well as widespread.

An opposition lawmaker had asked Mr Anwar about the Malaysian government's stand after the US House of Representatives last week voted to sanction foreign supporters of Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. "I will not accept any threats, including this... This action is unilateral and not valid, because we as members of the United Nations only recognise decisions made by the UN Security

Council," Mr Anwar said. Malaysia, a Muslim-majority nation, has long advocated for the Palestinian cause. It does not recognise Israel diplomatically and has maintained that no such recognition will be given until a two-state solution - one for the Israelis and one for the Palestinians - is realised. Its capital, Kuala Lumpur, is a frequent host to conferences on Palestinian issues. The 76-year-old Mr Anwar has also advocated for Palestinians since his university days. Like in many parts of the world, Israel's retaliatory strikes on Gaza have sparked mass gatherings and praver rallies in Malaysia. But it has also led to some displays of support for Hamas. - Agencies

crimes in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Armenia committed the Khojaly

Imran moves SC

against indictment

in cipher case

PTI chief contends in plea that he was

being politically victimised in the case

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan on Wednesday challenged his indictment by a

special court in the cipher case in the Supreme Court. The former prime minister ap-

proached the apex court through his counsel Hamid Khan and has urged the top court to

declare IHC decision to withhold the indictment illegal. The PTI chief has also urged the

court to declare the October 23 order of the special court hearing the cipher case against

the constitution and law. He has also contended before the Supreme Court that he was

being politically victimised in the case. The ousted premier added that the state machinery

is being used to create fake cases against him. This is the second petition the PTI chief

has filed in the Supreme Court related to the cipher case. Last week, Imran Khan had filed

a plea in the Supreme Court seeking post-arrest bail in the cipher case. In his 18-page

bail plea, the PTI chief, through his counsel Barrister Salman Safdar, had put before 15

legal questions regarding the cipher case. Among the questions, Imran wants the Supreme

Court to consider whether the courts that rejected his bail plea took into consideration

that the cipher case was "politically motivated". He also questioned the role of the Federal

Investigation Agency (FIA) jurisdiction in the case and its "malafide intentions and ulterior

motives". The PTI chief and his deputy Shah Mahmood Qureshi were indicted by a special

court, formed under the Official Secrets Act, on October 23. Both the PTI leaders were

indicted after they had moved a petition under CrPC 265-D to stop the indictment. The

judge while rejecting the petitions stated that the hearing was fixed for indictment and

went ahead with it. Following the indictment, the trial under in the case is underway and

the evidence of the prosecution has started being recorded. However, the PTI chief and

his deputy after being indicted had challenged the indictment in the Islamabad High Court.

But the IHC on October 26 upheld the special court's decision and rejected Imran's argu-

ment that the trial court had completed the process of indictment in haste. In August of this

year, Imran and his party vice-chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi were booked under Offi-

cial Secrets Act 1923 in the cipher case after FIA invoked Section 5 of the said law. - DNA

tion portal for Armenian residents living in country as a sign of respect and gratitude to the Pakistani brothers and sisters.

Serious allegations of land grabbing against Faiz Hamid

Disposing of the petition, SC tells petitioner that he had other relevant forums to approach

#### **COURT REPORTER**

ISLAMABAD: A housing society's CEO filed a petition with the human rights cell (HRC) of the Supreme Court seeking action against former Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) director general Lt Gen (retd) Faiz Hamid over alleged land grabbing and stealing valuables. "On May 12, 2017, my house and office were raided on the orders of General (Rtd) Faiz Hamid. During the raid, valuables and records of our private housing society were stolen," said the petitioner Moeez Ahmed Khan.

A three-member bench led by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) QaziFaez Isa and comprising Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Aminuddin Khan heard the matter on Wednesday. In his petition, Khan said that the purpose of illegal proceedings against him was to take control of TopCity-1, a housing society located at Srinagar Highway in Islamabad. "After the raid, I along with my five other colleagues were kept in confinement. The federal government

### **NOVEMBER 2023**

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on: www.centreline.com.pk www.dnanews.com.pl www.islamabadpost.com.pk

should take action against Gen (Rtd) Faiz Hamid, his brother Najaf and others," said the petitioner. At the outset of the hearing, CJP Isa told the petitioner that he had levelled serious allegations in his plea.

The petitioner's lawyer told the court that Gen (retd) Hamid abducted his client along with five others and kept them in confinement. "What should the court do?" asked the chief justice. At this, the lawyer requested the court to order the Ministry of Defence to take action.

The CJP asked whether this type of case has ever been heard in the Supreme Court. The lawyer said this was the first time their plea was scheduled for a hearing.

CJP Isa then spoke about the case of Pakistani expat ZahidaJaved Aslam who had filed a petition in SC's HRC, alleging that Khan - who is the owner of TopCity-1, transferred her properties in his name fraudulently. Aslam had filed the case in 2017 under Article 184/3 in the human rights cell, said the CJP, adding that her case was heard by former CJP Saqib Nisar in the chamber.

### IBO conducted near Afghan border

#### STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: On night 7/8 November 2023, security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in general area Ursoon near Pakistan - Afghanistan border, Chitral District.

During conduct of the operation, intense fire exchange took place between own troops and terrorists, resultantly two terrorists were sent to hell, while four terrorists got seriously injured. Sanitization of the surrounding areas is being carried out to neutralize any other terrorist found in the area.

Locals of the area appreciated the operation by Security forces of Pakistan, who remain determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country.

### **US House censures lone Palestinian-**American lawmaker over Israel comment

#### DNA

WASHINGTON: The US House voted on Tuesday to censure Democratic Representative RashidaTlaib, Congress's lone Palestinian American lawmaker, for comments she made regarding Israel's war with Hamas in Gaza. Twenty-two Democrats joined with most Republicans in the chamber to censure Tlaib for allegedly "promoting false narratives" on Hamas' Oct. 7 gun rampage in Israel and "calling for the destruction of the state of Israel." The motion was sponsored by Republican Representative Richard McCormick. The final vote tally in the Republican-controlled chamber was 234-188 in favour of censure. Four Republicans voted against the motion, while three Democrats and one Republican abstained. Tlaib has repeatedly condemned Hamas's assault, which killed some 1,400 people, while also criticizing U.S. support for Israel as the country's military retaliates with bombardment that has killed thousands of Palestinians in Gaza. The measure specifically cited a video Tlaib published on social media containing the phrase "from the river to the a pro-Palestinian rallying cry sea, that is viewed by many Jews as anti-

semitic and calling for Israel's eradication. She also enraged many fellow Democrats on Friday when she posted a video accusing President Joe Biden of supporting "the genocide of the Palestinian people." Israel vehemently rejects accusations of genocide. Tlaib rejected accusations of antisemitism during a speech on the House floor on Tuesday. "I am the only Palestinian-American in Congress, and my perspective is needed more than ever," Tlaib said. "My criticism has always been of the Israeli government and (Prime Minister Benjamin)

Netanyahu's actions... The idea that criticizing the government of Israel is antisemitic sets a very dangerous precedent," Tlaib said. "Palestinian people are not disposable," Tlaib added, taking a long pause as she became overcome with emotion. Her grandmother lives in a village in the occupied West Bank, territory Israel captured in a 1967 war. Representative Pete Aguilar, the No. 2 Democrat in the House, told reporters on Tuesday that while he "strenuously disagreed" with Tlaib's remarks about Biden, he believed the censure motion was not productive. The symbolic rebuke has no specific punishment. Although it was previously a rare measure used against members, it has become increasingly common in recent years. - Agencies





