



# Islamabad POST

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**Pakistan, Azerbaijan ties from cordial to excellent: Solangi**

Detailed News On Page-08

**US House censures Rashida Tlaib**

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**Gill dethrones Babar to become No. 1 ODI batter**

Detailed News On Page-06

## 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 fortnightly 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.

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## Martyrs' families demand restoration of military courts

DNA

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.

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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 finalise the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) at the earliest to promote regional economic integration. The bilateral ties were discussed in a bilateral meeting between Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, 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.

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## 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 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 re-occupy 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.

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## Israel's genocide in Gaza continues

Death toll neared 10,600 martyrs

DNA

GAZA CITY: For the 33rd consecutive 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.

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## Briefs

### Next PM will be 'jiyala'

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday said that 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 Democratic Movement (PDM) when it was founded, but left the alliance during the PTI government. He said that the PPP was not interested in forcing Shabbaz Sharif to become prime minister.

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## 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 Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar. The development comes as the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is all set to hold "free, fair and transparent" general elections in the country on February 8. The president forwarded a letter, written by PTI General Secretary Omar Ayub Khan, containing the former ruling party's concerns. In the letter, Ayub conveyed the PTI's concern on the erosion of fundamental rights, with particular reference to enforced disappearances, forced conversions of political loyalties, absence of a

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## Fawad urges NS to play his role

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Amid the prevailing polarisation in the country, former information minister Fawad Chaudhry on Wednesday urged Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif to play his role in bringing down the political temperature in the country. Speaking to the media after appearing in Islamabad's district and sessions court in a fraud case, Fawad stressed the need for "political dialogue" between political parties to pave way for political stability in the country.

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## Iqbal Day Remembering Poet of East

ISLAMABAD: The nation is celebrating Iqbal Day today to pay tribute to 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 November 9, 1877 in Sialkot,

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## 'Pak never supplied arms to Ukraine'

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on 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 region 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 Pakistan and Ukraine".

## 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 Murtaza Solangi 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, Murtaza Solangi 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. Murtaza Solangi appreciated

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# Alvi for promoting trade, cultural ties with Indonesia

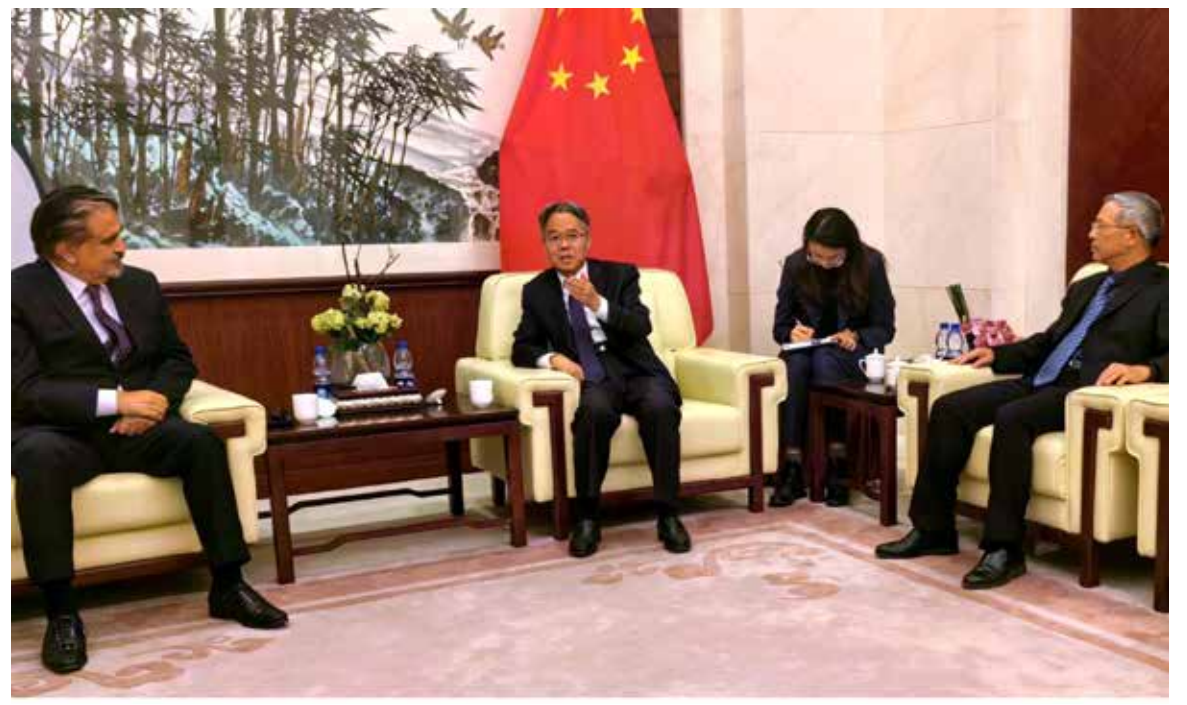
President Alvi said that Indonesian businessmen should explore investment opportunities in Pakistan and benefit from its investment-friendly policies

ADIL SHAHEEN

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.



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



## 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 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 Hassanabdul

ATTOCK : A Manshera-bound passenger bus coming from Lahore caught on Hazara motorway near Hassanabdul 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 Hassanabdul, its engine caught fire.—APP

## LESCO detects power theft in Airline

LAHORE :Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has detected wide-scale power thefts during operations against power thieves in its sub-divisions of Airline and Wagah. While, Gul-dasht Town Sub-Division set up a camp in Phularwan 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

electricity meter. The LESCO team imposed a fine of Rs 590,000 on the accused after disconnecting the connection on the spot, besides got arrested one of the accused by the local police. Similarly, Wagah Road Sub-Division SDO Hamad 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

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 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

## 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 Honourable 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 moderated by Mr. Zaurayze Tarique, Managing Director of SLB Pakistan & Yemen on the theme of the conference. The elite panelists included Mr. Muhammad Amir 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 Connect have formalized a comprehensive framework agreement for Cash Disbursement Services (CDS). A high-level delegation from Habib Bank Limited 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 Connect, 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 juncture Pakistan faces due to climate-induced disasters and economic challenges, impacting livelihoods across the nation. The Cash Assistance program initiated by PRCS aims to provide vital

support to the most deserving 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.



## 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 Sayeda 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 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

## CM says provision of facilities to enhance abilities of students

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 happiness on the sudden ar-

ival of Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi at school, children 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 Minister 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 problems. Children complained about not being allowed to play in the school and not having a canteen. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi directed to allow children to play in school breaks and he gave instructions on the spot to the principal not to stop the children from playing.

He told to the students that 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 built in 2009. The CM directed Deputy Commissioner that modern computers should be provided immediately for the IT lab. He said in modern times, education is not possible without computers and no one can deny the need for a modern IT lab for children. 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 Communications, Secretary Schools Education, Chief Executive Officer Education and related officials were also present on this occasion.

## 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 Dagher, Minister for Revenue, Industries and Commerce, Sindh with the welcome address delivered by Mr. Talib S. Karim, President of IoBM. Under

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 Dagher

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

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## Briefs

## Azerbaijan holds army parade in Karabakh

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 blue-red-green Azerbaijani flags hoisted in front of the building 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 Aliyev'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 likely to rise further, Isse 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 Luuq town, where the Jubba River burst its banks, the United Nations has said. "Luuq is surrounded by the river and floods are threatening 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

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, near residential buildings 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 remained 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.

## 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

## 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 Leyen 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 Viktor Yanukovich's decision to scrap a trade deal



with the European Union and instead turn toward Russia sparked street protests and his eventual ouster, followed in March 2014 by Russia's illegal

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

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

sions 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-

ditions have been met. With Ukraine currently at war, it is unclear and unlikely that those conditions will be met any time soon.

## 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 a 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-

ritory cannot be more than 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.

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 repatriated 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

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

## 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 Kyiv 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

to explore the moon from orbit and make first contact with the lunar surface, while the second phase aims to land a rover on the surface using the soft landing method. Within the scope of the first phase of the AYAP, mission operations will be carried out by developing a spacecraft that will reach the lunar orbit from Earth, collect data from there and then contact the lunar surface. In addition, with the success of the technologies, products, software and equipment to be developed with national resources, the country's international reputation for system development and the ability to carry out challenging mission operations will be increased.

AYAP is planning to develop a spacecraft that can operate in lunar orbit (400,000 kilometres or around 249,000 miles from Earth) and is suitable for soft landing. In addition, the Hybrid Propulsion System developed with domestic facilities is planned to gain space history, and high-resolution images and scientific data related to the origin of water on the moon, mini-magnetosphere formations, surface components, surface temperature and reflection maps and radiation from the lunar surface will be translated into information by scientists in Türkiye. 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

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

BAGHDAD: The "extreme" drought gripping Iraq, Syria and Iran would not have occurred without climate change caused primarily by burning fossil fuels, scientists 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

## 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 saying 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 laser-focused 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

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 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 prayer rallies in Malaysia. But it has also led to some displays of support for Hamas. - Agencies

# 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



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 further said 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 these 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 crimes in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Armenia committed the Khojaly

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

## 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 approached 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 argument 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 Official Secrets Act 1923 in the cipher case after FIA invoked Section 5 of the said law. - DNA

## 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

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.

## 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 UK-based 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 hit-and-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 Darfur 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 with nothing. - Agencies

## 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 Rashida Tlaib, 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 sea," a pro-Palestinian rallying cry 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



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