



Islamabad POST

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Qatar's emir visits Egypt for talks on ending Gaza violence

Detailed News On Page-08

President Rebele dissolves parliament

Detailed News On Page-07

Ravidra named ICC player of the month

Detailed News On Page-06



Pakistan President talks to Mahmoud Abbas

Arif Alvi calls for ceasefire, condemns Israeli brutalities

11,078 killed, resistance continues, the number of people killed from the Israeli strike on al-Buraq school has increased to 50, according to Mohammad Abu Salmiya, the director of al-Shifa hospital



CENTRELINE REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi made a telephone call to the President of Palestine, Mr Mahmoud Abbas, and expressed his heartfelt sympathies and grief on behalf of the people and government of Pakistan over the atrocities being committed by Israel against people of Palestine for over seven decades. He deplored that what was happening in the Gaza was very painful and the entire Pakistani nation was deeply saddened by the brutalities and reign of terror unleashed the Israeli security forces. The President strongly condemned the lethal bombing by Israel that even did not spare schools and hospitals and its barbaric actions resulted in killing of thousands of Palestinians, including women and children, healthcare workers, journalists and UN aid workers. The President said that the current situation in Gaza was the reaction of decades of apartheid and unjust policies of Israel. He condemned Israel for ethnic cleansing against the Muslims and pushing them out of their territories.

Continued on Page 06

FO calls out 'Israel backers' to help end genocide

Israel must fulfill its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday said the "backers of Israel" must prevail upon it to abandon the plans for settler colonialism, forced displacement and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people. "As an occupying power, Israel must fulfill its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention and forthwith end the carnage in Gaza," the Foreign Office spokesperson said at a weekly press briefing. Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said Pakistan was deeply concerned about the heinous crimes being committed against the Palestinian people as Israeli forces continued with their "campaign of terror and brutality" in Gaza. She said over a month, the people of Gaza had been subjected to the worst forms of collective punishment. "Israeli forces are committing crimes against humanity with impunity as they indiscriminately massacre defenceless civilians and deliberately

Continued on Page 06



RIYADH: Caretaker PM, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets with Deputy Governor of Riyadh, Prince Muhammad Bin Abdul Rahman Bin Abdul Aziz who welcomed him at the airport. - DNA

PSX hits new milestone

KSE-100 index closes at 55,391.36 points

DNA

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) started the day on a positive note as it jumped past the 55,000 barrier on Friday, setting a new milestone. The benchmark KSE-100 index reached an intraday high of 55,506.32 points. However, it closed at 55,391.36 points after gaining 1129.94 points or 2.08%, up from yesterday's close of 54,261.42 points. According to Arif Habib Limited on X, formerly Twitter, the KSE-100 index crossed the 55,000 level trading to reach an all-time high. Speaking to Geo.tv, Arif Habib Limited (AHL) Head of Research Tahir Abbas said that the expectations of getting through with the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) first review have driven the market. "Moreover, peaking out inflation and interest rates alongside expected monetary easing, and attractive

Continued on Page 06

PM arrives in Saudi Arabia Pakistan focused to benefit from TAPI, says Kakar

With or without India, the Turkmen gas can be exploited for economic benefit of this region

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has said that despite India's lack of interest, Pakistan is focused to reap the benefits from the long-pending four-nation energy corridor, TAPI. About the multibillion-dollar project involving Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India (TAPI), the prime minister said the corridor could prove as a source of cheap and sustainable supply of energy for the region. "On TAPI, there is a lot of enthusiasm from Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. But if India chooses to remain out of the benefit of this whole arrangement, they still can do it," Kakar said in an interview with Turkiye's Anadolu news agency. Kakar said, "With or without India, the Turkmen gas can be exploited for the economic benefit of this region, and we are

Continued on Page 06

Amnesty urges Pakistan to halt refugees return

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Amnesty International on Friday urged the federal government to "immediately halt the continued detentions, deportations and widespread harassment" of Afghan refugees. From Nov 1, the government initiated a nationwide operation to deport illegal foreign nationals, the majority of whom were Afghans, after the deadline to voluntarily leave the country had expired. Last month, the government had given an ultimatum to all undocumented

Continued on Page 06

Solangi for discussion on PIA status

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Murtaza Solangi, on Friday called for a comprehensive discussion on current status of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) during the next session of Upper House. Murtaza Solangi, who is also the Information Minister, said it would be appropriate, if detailed discussion on the current status of PIA was carried out in the presence of Ministers for Aviation and Privatization during the next session. Responding to a calling attention notice about PIA and

Continued on Page 06

Babar likely to resign as Pakistan captain

Pakistan's skipper will value advice he receives from his father

SPORTS DESK

NEW DEELHI: Disappointed by the behaviour of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and former cricketers, Babar Azam is likely to step down as the captain of white-ball cricket after returning from India, revealed well-informed sources on Friday. During the ongoing ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, the Pakistan team have failed to deliver as the Green Shirts are lingering on the verge of elimination from the mega event. As per sources, the 29-year-old has been seeking guidance on



his future, consulting with former PCB chairman Ramiz Raja and people close to him. During the training at Kolkata's Eden Gardens on Friday (today), Azam sought advice from Raja. The decision whether to continue as captain will be influenced by consultations upon his return to the country. In the current circumstances,

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Briefs

PM house still in hands of PML-N

STAFF REPORT

SUKKUR: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) senior leader Khurshid Shah on Friday, without naming PML-N, said that the Prime Minister's House continues to be in the hands of the same party which ruled before. "The government will not work if someone is forcefully imposed on us to rule. If the (prime minister) is selected, then the country will only suffer," said Shah while speaking to media persons in Lahore. Shah, while referring to PML-N's electoral alliance with MQM-P, said that the PPP was contesting alone in the elections.

PML-N will get 3,4 seats from Karachi

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leader Rana Sanaulah has said that three to four candidates of his party could get elected in Karachi in the upcoming general elections due to the alliance with Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P). His comments came after PML-N and MQM-P announced that they would be jointly contesting the February 8 elections.

Holiday Notice

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday. - Editor

MQM-P-PML-N alliance will benefit PPP in general polls

"Creating [king's parties] sends wrong message to public and political circles," Bilawal says

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Reacting to the recent "electoral alliance" between Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) and Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Friday claimed that the coalition will be more beneficial for his party in the upcoming general election. Earlier this month, PPP's former allies in Centre - PML-N and MQM-P - announced that they would jointly go into the upcoming general elections, a move which could have impacts on the election results in urban areas of Sindh, the stronghold of the Bilawal-led party. The development came as the scathing verbal showdown between the PPP and PML-N intensified since the Election Commission of Pakistan had announced to hold elections in the country on February 8, 2024. The romance between the two former allies ended after the PDM-led coalition government completed its

Continued on P-6

'Consensus, not alliance' developed with PML-N: MQM

BUREAU REPORT

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui has said the party had developed a "consensus" on issues facing the country in a recent meeting with the PML-N and not an electoral alliance. His remarks come in an appearance on Dawn News show 'Live with Adil Shahzeb' on Thursday, after an "electoral alliance" announced by the PML-N and MQM-P on Tuesday appeared to have been downgraded to "seat adjustments". On Tuesday, a three-member MQM-P delegation comprising Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Farooq Sattar, and Mustafa Kamal called on the Sharif brothers - Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif - in Model Town Lahore. After the meeting,

Continued on Page 06

Court orders to unseize Nawaz Sharif's properties

Last month, the same accountability court judge had suspended the arrest warrant of Nawaz Sharif

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: In a major relief, an accountability court in Islamabad on Friday ordered to unseize properties, vehicles, and bank accounts owned by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif in the Toshakhana reference filed by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). Last month, the same accountability court judge had suspended the arrest warrant of the three-time former prime minister - who returned to the country on October 21 after ending a four-year self-imposed exile in London - in the Toshakhana case after the NAB prosecutor raised no objections. At the outset of today's hearing, accountability court judge Muhammad Bashir ordered the authorities to return Nawaz's seized properties, and vehicles and unfreeze his accounts. In 2020, an accountability court ordered the confiscation of the property owned by the former prime minister in the Toshakhana vehicles reference after he was

Continued on Page 06

Cipher case hearing against adjourned till November 14

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: A special court established under the Official Secrets Act on Friday deferred hearing of cipher case against PTI chairman and senior party leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi without any proceedings at Adiala Jail. Special court judge Abul Hasnat Zulfqarnain conducted hearing of the case at Adiala Jail. Both PTI chairman and vice chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi were brought to courtroom. FIA prosecutor Zulfikar Naqvi, Shah Khawar and Rizwan Abbasi appeared before court while Salman Saffar, Ali Gohar and Umair Niazi represented the

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PRCS chairman strengthens ties with Iranian Ambassador

Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam lauded PRCS for its commendable efforts, particularly highlighting the success of a recent fundraising event hosted in Oct

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a significant diplomatic interaction, Chairman of Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, recently visited the Iran Embassy in Islamabad and engaged in a productive meeting with His Excellency Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam, the Iranian Ambassador. The meeting underscored the deep-rooted bond between the two nations, aptly described by His Excellency as 'Two souls and one body.' The centerpiece of the discussions was the robust relationship between Pakistan and Iran, characterized by mutual affection and shared commitment. Ambassador Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam lauded PRCS for its commendable efforts, particularly highlighting the success of a recent fundraising event hosted in October. The event shed light on the organization's pivotal role in addressing the challenges faced by vulnerable communities, offering His Excellency a comprehensive understanding of the issues at hand. Expressing appreciation for PRCS's proactive role in tackling natural catastrophes, Ambassador Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam extended gratitude for the organization's initiatives during last year's devastating floods in Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab and KPK regions. While acknowledging the dire situation, Chairman Laghari emphasized the need

for continued collaboration not only in times of disaster but also on regional issues. The meeting delved into the current humanitarian crisis in Gaza, with both leaders recognizing the significance of Red Crescent involvement. Chairman Laghari proposed a pragmatic approach to support people of Palestine, suggesting cash funds for targeted aid, and expressed PRCS's commitment to rallying support from other national societies. Additional discussions centered around collaborative healthcare efforts in Quetta, focusing on two dispensaries and the potential engage-

ment of Iranian experts to enhance the training of local staff. Ambassador Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam announced the installation of two dialysis plants in Pakistan, showcasing a joint dedication to fortifying healthcare infrastructure. The Iranian experts will provide training to the PRCS technical team for operating the plants, and PRCS will assume responsibility for their operations. Chairman Laghari highlighted PRCS's extensive network of 6 million volunteers across Pakistan, proposing collaboration between PRCS and Iran on various healthcare and community-based initiatives.



Another Congo virus patient dies in Karachi

KARACHI: Another Congo fever patient from Balochistan breathed his last in Karachi on Friday, bringing the death toll from the fever during the last few days to three. The 35-year-old patient was admitted to the special Congo Ward at the Sindh Institute of Infectious Diseases Hospital. The patient was admitted to the hospital Friday morning in critical condition and doctors also put him on a ventilator straight away. The patient was also experiencing severe difficulty in breathing which could not be relieved. This was the third fatality from the fever as two patients brought in Karachi from Balochistan had already died during the last few days. Situation of Congo virus is alarming in Karachi as well after Balochistan as the number of people affected by the fever has increased to 17 now. Four of the affected people belong to Karachi while thirteen patients belong to Quetta and all these patients are under treatment in different hospitals of Karachi. Thirteen patients were transferred from Quetta to Karachi and are undergoing treatment in a private hospitals. Medical professionals advised citizens to stay away from animals and slaughter animals wearing full-length clothes. In this regard Dr. Saeed Talib said that generally, Congo virus patients are reported during Eid al-Adha and a tick on the skin of an animal transmits the virus to humans.—DNA

Measures underway for preserving cultural heritage

DNA

KARACHI: The Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Syed Jamal Shah, terming development of cultural infrastructure as the topmost priority, said that measures were being taken for preservation of cultural heritage of the country. The minister, while talking to media persons during his visit to the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah here Friday, said that diverse and rich cultural heritage, beautiful topography, geographical diversity and archaeological sites of historical value situated

in Pakistan offer enormous opportunities those could be utilized for economic advancement of the country. Jamal Shah said Pakistan is situated at the place that was rightly called as melting pot of culture and civilization as it is the birth place of various religions and civilizations while diversity of old cultures make it an attractive bunch of beautiful flowers. The caretaker government is working to project positive perception of a peaceful, enlightened and progressive Pakistan that possesses a respectable position among the countries of the region, he maintained. Underscoring the need of proper main-

High borrowing rate, inflation affect business: FPCCI presidential

ISLAMABAD: The Presidential candidate of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industries (FPCCI) upcoming election for 2024 Muhammad Ali Sheikh has observed that the aggressive economic measures, high borrowing rates, inflation, oppressive taxation and unstable currency have been negatively affecting running businesses. He said that constant hike in power tariff has pushed the electricity prices higher and added to the already soaring cost of trade and industry. He asked the government to shut down all expensive oil-based power plants to ensure availability of cheaper energy for consumers. He condemned the government for shifting power distribution companies' inefficiencies' burden to the consumers by jacking up the tariff under the guise of Fuel Charges Adjustment. He said that high cost of doing business has proved to be dangerous for businesses, as ever-increasing cost of production is the real threat to the economy amidst frequent upward revisions in policy rate and continuous fluctuations in rupee against dollar. Muhammad Ali Sheikh, who is nominated for the presidential post of the traders' apex body's election by the BMP, said that the government liquidity and external vulnerability risks are elevated and there remain considerable risks around to secure required financing to fully meet its needs for the next few years. With a view to deal with fiscal challenges he asked the economic managers to work on the three-way strategy by implementing short-term goals that will help to keep generating resources for smooth fiscal operations, medium-term goals where they should focus on financial inclusion, documenting the economy by designing a system where all businesses can be registered and properly document their income including collection of sales tax, initiating the process of privatization as well as improving governance by introducing reforms in each sector. As a long-term goal, the country must focus on improving its human capital, and revamping IT sectors by extending facilities and providing all the requisite supports.—DNA

Homeopathy is a priceless gift of nature

Homeopathy is not only a natural method of treatment, but it is also much cheaper and more effective than other conventional methods of treatment

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Homeopathy is a priceless gift of nature which has cured thousands, not millions, but millions of people.

Homeopathy is not only a natural method of treatment, but it is also much cheaper and more effective than other conventional methods of treatment. These views were expressed by prominent homeoprophessional Dr. Col. Iqbal Shaheen in a lecture series held in Peshawar under Recog Professional Development Program. The event was organized by Dr. Rekog Germany in which a lecture was given on Mental Health in Homeopathy.

Addressing the event, Dr. Najam Al Thaqib, Head of Dr. Saleem Ahmed & Co., Pakistan's business partners of Dr.



Recog, Germany, said that the preparation of medicines at Dr. Rekog goes through a rigorous testing, quality control and research process. Even today, hand potenti-

ation at Dr. Rekog is done under the same principles as the traditions of 200 years ago. And this is the reason why our medicines have a distinguished status compared to other

local and international medicines. 10-7 and cash prizes of 5 thousand were awarded. Colonel Iqbal Shaheen Director Frontier Homeo Medical College and Dr. Ghulam Habib



KARACHI: Federal Minister For National Heritage and Culture Syed Jamal Shah offering Fatheha after laying floral wreath at Mazar-i-Quaid.—DNA-

Naqvi takes notice of forced closure of shops in Lahore

DNA

LAHORE: Taking notice of the closure of shops in Lahore by force, Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi on Friday directed the DIG operations to stop local authorities from forcing traders to shut down their businesses.

The chief minister said that nobody could be allowed to force traders to close their shops. "They are free to run their businesses even on Fridays," he said categorically. Also on Friday, CM Naqvi, at a ceremony held in Lahore, pinned badges on the shirts of five ASPs on their promotion to SPs.

Families of the police officials were also present on the occasion. The police officials were Salman Zafar, Taimoor Khan, Bushra Nisar, Sidra Khan and Munazza Karamat. Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister congratulated them on their promotion and expressed his good wishes for them. "Every honest, hardworking and professional policeman deserves promotion," he said, and added, "The Punjab government will continue to support such personnel." He further said that the police would have to come up to the expectations of people by changing the 'Thana Culture', and focusing on resolving the problems of complainants.

Islamabad Admin launches anti-dengue fumigation drive

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad is facing a serious dengue threat, with the number of cases rising sharply in recent weeks and in response, the city administration has launched an all-out anti-dengue fumigation drive in various areas. Fumigation is a process of spraying insecticide into the air to kill mosquitoes. It is an effective way to reduce the mosquito population and prevent the spread of dengue fever. The fogging drive is being carried out under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon the Director of Health Services Metropolitan Corporation. Health teams are fanning out across the city, spraying insecticide in residential areas, schools, slums, gardens, parks and other public spaces. The Deputy Commissioner has urged residents to cooperate with the authorities' efforts to control the dengue virus.

He has also advised people to take precautionary measures to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes, such as wearing long sleeves and pants, using mosquito repellent, and emptying any stagnant water around their homes. The anti-dengue fogging drive is part of a larger effort by the city administration to combat dengue fever. Other measures include increasing awareness among the public about dengue fever and its prevention, improving sanitation arrangements in the city, eliminating breeding grounds for mosquitoes, and providing treatment to dengue patients in government hospitals. The city administration has also appealed to the private sector to cooperate with its efforts to control dengue fever. Various businesses and other organizations have been urged to take measures to prevent mosquito breed-

ing on their premises. The anti-dengue fogging drive is expected to have a significant impact on the spread of dengue fever in Islamabad. By killing mosquitoes and reducing the mosquito population, the fogging drive will make it less likely that people will be bitten by infected mosquitoes and contract the disease. The other measures being taken by the city administration are also expected to help reduce the number of dengue cases. By increasing awareness, improving sanitation, and eliminating breeding grounds, the city administration is making it more difficult for mosquitoes to thrive and spread the disease. The anti-dengue fogging drive is a welcome step by the city administration. It is important to take all necessary measures to control the spread of dengue fever and protect the people.—APP

NHCR delegation, KP CM discuss foreigner repatriation

PESHAWAR: A three-member delegation led by the representative of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for Pakistan Ms. Philippa Candler called on the caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan at Chief Minister's House here Friday and discussed with him matters related to the repatriation of illegal immigrants living in the province. Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry and Additional Chief Secretary Home Mu-


hammad Abid Majeed were also present on the occasion. The chief minister, while talking to the delegates, said that the repatriation process of illegal immigrants was in progress smoothly so far adding that all possible facilities were being extended to the immigrants going back to their homeland voluntarily and the provincial government had allocated special funds for this purpose. "The immigrants returning back to their countries are being treated humanely and the humanitarian aspect of the matter is fully taken care




of whereas elderly people, women and children are being accorded special treatment as per the traditions of the land," he said adding that specific transit points had been set up for temporary stay of such immigrants having all the required facilities. The chief minister maintained that an effective grievance redressal mechanism had also been put in place to address any kind of complaints or concerns of the immigrants on immediate basis adding that all out efforts were being made.—APP

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

NOVEMBER

- Nov 01/Algeria National Day
Nov 04/Italy Armed Forces Day
Nov 07/Russian Federation Socialist Revolution
Nov 09/Cambodia National Day
Nov 11/Poland Independence Day
Nov 14/Jordan Birthday of King Hussein
Nov 15/Belgium Kings Day
Nov 15/Brazil Republic Day
Nov 15/Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus National Day
Nov 18/Oman National Day
Nov 18/Morocco Independence Day
Nov 21/Bangladesh Armed Forces Day
Nov 22/Lebanon Independence Day
Nov 25/Suriname National Day
Nov 28/Mauritania National Day
Nov 28/Albania Flags Day

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Monal.....0334-5421812



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



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Rescue (Police).....15
Bomb Disposal.....15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.1122
& Rescue Services.4451122
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MH.....5611116
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DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
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PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666



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RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Indonesian Corner at NBF inaugurated



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio, Managing Director National Book Foundation Raja Hameed and others formally inaugurating the Indonesian Corner at the National Book Foundation Islamabad. Books highlighting various aspects of the Indonesian society have been displayed for readers. – DNA

In his remarks Ambassador Tugio said Indonesian Corner is not only a resource center with comfortable space for learning and open dialogue but also a manifestation of close linkages between Indonesia and Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Mr. Adam Tugio, and Managing Director of National Book Foundation (NBF), Dr. Raja Mazhar Hameed jointly inaugurated the first Indonesian Corner at National Book Foundation in Islamabad. In his remarks Ambassador Tugio said Indonesian Corner is not only a resource center with comfortable space for learning and open dialogue but also a manifestation

of close linkages between Indonesia and Pakistan. He extended his sincere gratitude to the Managing Director along with his team and appreciated the joint efforts of Indonesian Embassy and the NBF in establishing the good work. The inauguration ceremony was also scheduled coincided with the commemoration of the birth anniversary month of the revered national poet and philosopher, Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal. The Envoy took the moment to honor Dr. Muhammad Iqbal by recognising the profound connections

between Indonesia and Pakistan through the influence of Allama Iqbal's philosophy, vision, ideas to Indonesian Muslim scholars in their effort to make Islamic values continue to be relevant in facing challenges of the time. Managing Director of NBF, Dr. Raja Mazhar Hameed said Pakistan values the evergreen relationship with Indonesia as the two brotherly countries always supported each other in every need of the hour. "Both the countries will collaborate to promote, literature, culture, and people to

people contact" he added. CEO of Institute of Dyslexia Education and Attitudinal Studies (IDEAS), Ms Muntaz Irum commended the establishment of the Indonesian Corner in NBF. She highlighted the important contribution of academic exchange programme between Indonesia and Pakistan to establish a more inclusive educational environment including to enhance awareness and address the issues faced by dyslexic students. Indonesian Corner will build bridges and promote open dialogue between the people of Indonesia and

Pakistan. Visitors will also gain reliable information about Indonesia through books, magazines, videos, and engaging activities such as; Bahasa language learning opportunities, cultural programs and tourism information and many other interesting activities. Within the Indonesia Corner, visitors will also find collection of traditional artefacts representing 38 provinces in Indonesia, showcasing the country's rich and vibrant culture of Indonesia. This collection serves as a tangible representation of the cultural heritage Indonesia brings to Pakistan.

Varsities encouraged to generate own revenue

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) under the Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP) project conducted an extensive capacity-building session for public sector universities on financial autonomy and revenue generation. The purpose was to encourage higher education institutions (HEIs) to develop projects that enable them to generate funds and revenue on their own. Seventy-five senior finance officials, including Vice Chancellors, treasurers, and registrars from various public sector HEIs attended. The workshop was focused on 26 HEIs to whom the project has disbursed Rs. 30 million each for this activity to equip these to submit their planned projects on time and learn from other HEIs' experiences.

The allocation of public funds for the higher education sector in Pakistan remains low compared to international standards. The situation remains vulnerable owing to competing

demands from other sectors on Pakistan's national budget. Moreover, except for Sindh, the financial contribution by the provincial governments for HEIs is also negligible. Realising this, HEC is encouraging public sector HEIs to enhance the revenues from non-traditional sources beyond government grants and student fees. It is one of the key development objectives of the HEDP project, where the governance of the higher education sector is to be strengthened by revenue diversification and fund generation from non-traditional sources. Accordingly, after consultations with around 100 HEIs across Pakistan, two frameworks - one for revenue enhancement and fund generation and the other for improving financial autonomy for public sector universities have been developed. Relevant stakeholders comprising the senior management of public sector HEIs from across Pakistan were engaged to review, improve, and provide feedback on this draft framework.

Despite legal and institutional challenges, some of

the HEIs have made substantial progress on this initiative and in their brief presentations they shared their project ideas that others can take advantage of. These included Khyber Medical University, Peshawar; University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Lahore; UET Taxila; Hazara University Mansehra; IBA Sukkur; University of Sargodha; and Karakorum International University, Gilgit. Vice Chancellor BUITEMs Dr. Khalid Hafeez and Vice Chancellor Hazara University Dr. Jameel Ahmed were chief guests on the occasion. They shared several local and international examples to make the most of this funding opportunity. Project Coordinator HEDP Dr. Masood Hussain shared multiple examples from the West and neighboring countries as to how they started this journey years ago and are now benefiting from it. Members were also briefed that under Component 6, overall, more than 100 HEIs were given substantial financial support focusing on their IT readiness and making them self-sustainable.

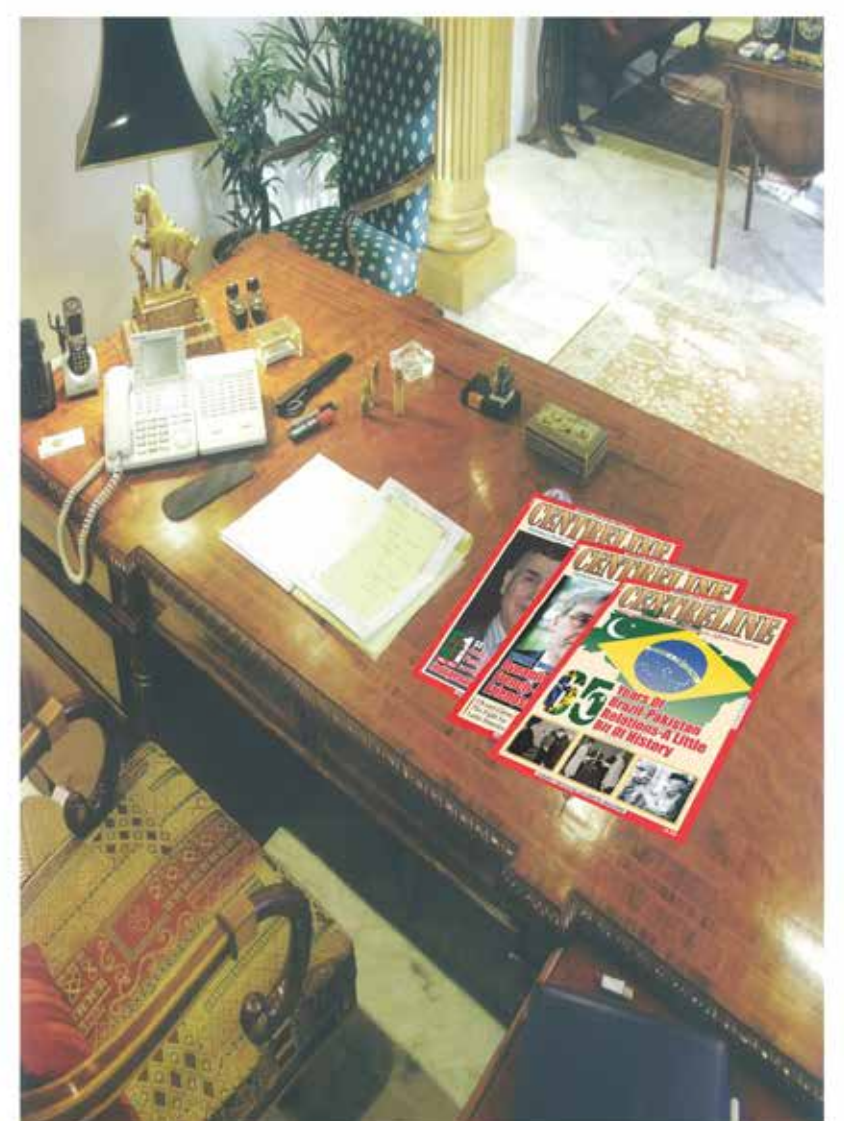
Five drug peddlers netted with over six kg charras

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers conducted raids in different areas and rounded up five accused on recovery of over six kg charras. According to a police spokesman, Kahuta police managed to net a drug peddler namely Qasim and recovered 1540 grams charras and Moonis for having 1515 grams charras. Gujjar Khan police rounded up Farooq for possessing 1300 grams charras while Bani police netted an accused namely Bilal and seized 1260 grams charras. Waris Khan police nabbed a drug peddler, Bilawal for carrying 1150 grams charras. Separate cases have been registered against all accused while further investigations are underway. City Police Officer, Rawalpindi had directed the police officers to accelerate ongoing operations against drug peddlers, bootleggers and other lawbreakers, he added.

ANF seizes over 207 kg drugs in six operation

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations across the country managed to recover over 207 kg drugs and arrested seven accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday. He informed that in an operation near G.T.Road, Attock, ANF recovered 10 kg charras and 520 grams heroin in a rickshaw and arrested an accused, resident of Attock. In another operation at a house in Narowal, 7.5 kg heroin was recovered. The spokesman informed that in third operation in Mianwali, 3.5 kg charras concealed in a motorcycle was recovered while an accused resident of Waziristan was rounded up. In fourth operation conducted in Sambrial, 2100 grams charras was recovered from the possession of an accused, a resident of Waziristan.—APP



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Impact of Climate Change on Food Security In Pakistan

ANIQA NASEEM

Climate Change means long-term alteration of Earth's weather patterns. Severe heat waves, droughts, floods and change in monsoon rain patterns have severely impacted Pakistan's agricultural production. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has warned that the frequency of such extreme weather conditions will increase in the future, causing a severe risk to Pakistan's food security. According to UNESCAP, Pakistan could lose more than 9 per cent of its annual GDP (Gross

Domestic product) due to climate changes. In recent years, heavy rainfalls in the harvesting season have increased the onset of floods. The floods of 2010 were the worst disaster in Pakistan's history as the country faced a loss of \$10 billion while its food insecurity increased by 10%. Although the Climate change has caused widespread damage, the agriculture is one of the most affected sectors. The heavy rains of 2019 resulted in severe floods. In July 2019, approximately 1.3 million people were experiencing a food crisis in seven drought-affected districts in Sindh. It has also been predicted that climate change

will cause new diseases of cash crop which will pose a new Challenge to the agriculture sector. A study shown that in Pakistan climate change will decrease agricultural Productivity by 8-10% till 2040 and wheat will be one of the major losers. Another study predicts that the worst impact of climate change will be seen in Wheat and rice (especially Basmati rice) crops in the coming years. It is predicted that wheat yield will decrease by 6% and the Basmati rice yield will fall by 15-18%, except for the northern areas. Therefore Pakistan must needs to take serious steps to mit-

igate this problem. First of all, it needs to map the vulnerability across the agro-ecological zones because every zone has its own dynamics. Second, the country needs to introduce the concept of climate-smart agriculture. Third, the government will have to strengthen the research and development system, as most of the climate-related problems are unpredictable and this system can help to minimize the impact. The government should encourage the use of digital technologies, modern farming techniques, efficient farm mechanization and crop diversification.

Mother Child Health Centre inaugurated

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan here Friday inaugurated the state of the art Mother and Child Health Center in Tangi, Charsadda. A large number of local residents participated in the opening ceremony.

Addressing the ceremony, Dr Nadeem Jan said, "He is working on the agenda of strengthening and reforming the health system in the short term." He said, "A strong primary health care system will strengthen the health system of the country." Dr Nadeem Jan said, "The government is making efforts to provide modern facilities to the rural people." Dr Nadeem Jan said, "The government is ensuring the provision of quality medical facilities to the poor people." He said, "The society cannot develop without health and education development."

Korean embassy holds reunion event

ISLAMABAD: The 2023 Global Korea Scholarships Reunion, organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea took place on the 10th of November, 2023. The 2023 GKS Reunion was attended by the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Mr. Park Kijun, the Director for scholarships at the Higher Education Commission, Mr. Kashif Jehan, the Head of the Department of Korean Language and Culture Mr. Ahtisham Hussain, and the GKS alumni. The GKS alumni shared their experiences at Korea and how the experience of studying at Korea shaped their career. After listening to the presentations of the GKS Alumni, H.E. Mr. Park Kijun appreciated each student and laid emphasis on how cultural and educational exchanges between the Republic of Korea and Pakistan have proved.—DNA

Briefs

Minister urges filmmakers to highlight Pakistan's true image

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah Friday stressed for boosting 'screen tourism' and reviving of cinemas in which film makers should highlight country's culture identity for local youngsters and international tourists. Talking to a Private news channel, he said, "In Pakistan over 4000 new Cinemas are required to revive our entertainment industry, adding, present government had been taking measures to promote them to create a knowledgeable, educated and well-informed society that could enjoy peace and prosperity."

He said, "Our regional languages, literature, culture and art will only defined the identity of a nation for our future generations, adding, poets, drama and film writers should highlight Pakistan's rich culture for not only educating the future generation but also promoting tourism at the global level." Minister said, "The government is promoting Pakistan's narrative, focusing on heritage, youth engagement, and tourism through screen tourism, adding, I wish to raise more awareness of the importance of viable cultural infrastructure as a way to stimulate our creativity, improve our quality of life and have tangible impacts on our economy." Replying to a question, minister stressed the need of promoting and projecting traditional culture as well as working for the uplift and betterment infrastructure of heritage sites in country.—APP

Garment sector for boosting export

DNA

ISLAMABAD: There is a need for giving a boost to the export sector by adopting diversified marketing techniques and extending practical support to the industry. This was stated by the Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PRGMEA) North Zone's new chairman Amad Hanif, who had been elected recently for the year 2023-24, pledging to continue with his efforts for the promotion and protection of the apparel sector, calling for enhancing value-added textile exports. Amad Hanif said that it was an honour for him to assume the office of the NZ chairman for the year 2023-24. Addressing a ceremony held here today, the new regional chairman vowed to promote the Association to the new heights, thanking the members for reposing confidence on him to lead the PRGMEA in north zone. He paid tribute to the outgoing regional chairman Wasim Akhtar Khan, also appreciating the whole body.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkiye Mehmet Pacaci and his wife posing for a picture with Dr. Abrar and his family on the occasion of a dinner hosted by Dr. Abrar for the outgoing Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio. (News and more pictures on Back Page).—DNA

All former ministers SAPMs returned official cars

The minister said in case of non-availability of the suitable entitled car with the Ministry concerned, the Cabinet Division provides the vehicles from its pool for the use of Federal Ministers/Ministers of State

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Friday informed the Senate that no former federal ministers, ministers of state, special assistants or advisors to the prime minister (SAPM) have taken official vehicles with themselves rather, all such vehicles had to hand over to the cabinet division in a week on expiry of the respective government's tenure. Replying to various supplementary questions during Question

Hour, the minister said that later the cabinet division utilized the said vehicles.

He also clarified that he and other incumbent caretaker ministers had 1800cc cars. As per rule 24 of the Rules for Use of Staff Cars 1980, Federal Ministers/Ministers of State/Advisors/Special Assistants to the Prime Minister with the status of Minister/Minister of State were entitled to use 1800cc cars to be provided by the respective Ministry, he said. However, the minister said in case of non-availability of the suitable entitled car with the Ministry concerned, the Cabinet Division pro-



vides the vehicles from its pool for the use of Federal Ministers/Ministers of State. In response to a question raised by Senator

Bahramand Khan Tangi, the minister said presently, serving Officers in BS-20-22 of the Federal Government were not entitled to have any official/personal staff at their residences. The government would carry out an exercise to take information from the concerned departments and in case of any violation, a report would be presented before the house, he said. He said complete details of grade-21 and 22 officers belonging to Balochistan would also be placed before the House. To a separate question, Murtaza Solangi apprised the house that no separate funds were sanctioned

against PWD Colony, G-8/4 (152 Cat-V flats), and funds sanctioned in residential buildings in routine maintenance work. However, no funds utilized for PWD Colony G-8/4 (152 Cat-V flats) for the last two years. To a supplementary question, he said that electricity to the Qasr-e-Naz building owned by the federal government has been disconnected due to non-payment of dues since June. The matter would be presented in the cabinet meeting, he added. To another question, he said under the Rule of Business private counsels could be hired in complex and challenging court cases.

MPs asked to submit asset statements

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has once again asked all members of parliament and provincial assemblies to submit their statements of assets and liabilities including those of their spouses and dependents by December 31. According to ECP, all parliamentarians have to submit their yearly statements of assets and liabilities including similar details of their spouses and dependent children as on the preceding June 30 on Form B for the financial year 2022-2023.

The Commission, on the first day of January each year will publish names of members, who fail to submit the requisite statement of assets and liabilities within the period specified under sub-section (1). The commission will on January 16 by an order suspend the membership of a member of an Assembly or Senate, who fails to submit the statement of assets and liabilities and such Member shall cease to function till he files the statement of assets and liabilities.

The ECP further said that any member submitting a fake statement of assets and liabilities under this section in material particulars may, within 120 days from the date of submission of the statement, be proceeded against for committing the offense of corrupt practice.

The ECP said that the prescribed form, along with instructions and guidelines prepared in this regard, can be obtained free of cost from the ECP Secretariat, Islamabad, offices of provincial election commissioners in each province, Senate Secretariat, National Assembly, and secretariats of provincial assemblies. Form B can also be downloaded from the ECP's website www.ecp.gov.pk.

CIIE boosts China-US cooperation for sustainable development

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE) services as booster of China-US cooperation for sustainable development, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday. At the ongoing CIIE taking place in Shanghai, green has become the subject color. Green carpet, green booths, green billboards... striking a strong note of low-carbon commitment and offering a vast platform to forge and deepen green cooperation. "According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), four key indicators of climate change, greenhouse gas concentration, sea level rise, ocean warming, and ocean acidification, have set new records in recent years. I think it's really critical that China and the United States, as the

two largest economies in the world, cooperate on issues that affect the sustainability of life on earth for humans. Climate change is one of these issues that can lead to food insecurity and poverty", Neil Bush, President of Gorge H.W. Bush Foundation for US-China Relations told CEN. "My father [Gorge W. Bush] believed that if you were present with other people, you could establish a respectful dialogue that can come to conclusions and better understanding. We need to do that more now

than ever", he said. For the grand international expo that is being held in full swing of fine, the United States has sent the largest-ever delegation to CIIE for opportunities of cooperation, with over 200 enterprises from agriculture, technology, pharmaceutical, energy, cosmetics sectors, etc. Allen Piconi, President and CEO of Energy Vault, an energy storage company headquartered in southern California shared with CEN reporter that in collaboration with Chinese partners, his company will establish the

first 100MWh gravity energy storage facility in China which is set to be open soon at full capacity in Rudong, Jiangsu Province. "China is the largest market in energy storage in the world and has mandated energy storage at 20% of the renewable generation capacity. It provides vast opportunities for cooperation and we will continue to invest in green technology and innovation by working with our Chinese partner", he said. Apart from being the largest renewable energy market, China is also the world's largest green trade exporter. In 2022, with a total green trade volume of \$1.08 trillion, China accounts for 12.2% of global green trade, contributing to global low-carbon green transformation. From 2009 to 2019, Chinese enterprises reduced the cost of photovoltaics by 9/10 within 10 years, greatly reducing the cost of global energy transition.



Pak seeks collaboration with SCO Trade and Economic Platform

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan seeks collaboration with the SCO Trade and Economic Platform, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday. A Pakistani delegation led by Ali Hussain, vice president of the Pakistan House Economic and Business Advisory Committee visited the Trade and Economic Multifunctional Platform for SCO Countries in Chongqing, China last week. Kaiqiang, the Secretary-General of the Platform, received them and held a meeting. During the meeting, Hu Kaiqiang introduced the Platform's 16 industry working committees covering sectors such as culture, tourism, education and healthcare. Ali Hussain appreciated the Platform's efforts in facilitating international collaboration in different sectors and expressed the intention to cooperate. "As a research institution specializing in international affairs and policy, we have extensive connections with international think tanks that can provide valuable expertise and insights for collaboration. We also seek to establish connections with the Platform's think tank, fostering exchanges and cooperation in international affairs." Following the constructive discussions, Pakistan House and the Platform reached an agreement to further promote cooperation in cross-border settlement and precious metal. Both parties also pledged to facilitate nongovernmental exchanges between China and Pakistan, as well as among other SCO member states.—DNA

Impacts of climate change on Pakistan's agriculture

SYEDA SARAH JAWAD

"Everyone agrees that climate change has and will have a disastrous or at least dramatic effect on agriculture" - Modern Farmer
Pakistan is an agriculture economy-based country. 60% population of Pakistan relies directly or indirectly upon rain-fed agriculture that depends on predictable weather patterns. Global climatic change affects our agriculture and its impacts seem to increase daily. Pakistan produces crops such as wheat, rice, cotton, sugarcane, and maize and which are affected by climate change. Pakistan is especially vulnerable to climate and has been ranked as the 12th most detrimentally impacted country due to climate change impacts on agriculture and livelihoods. Due to the extensive use of fossil fuels that emits Green House Gases (GHG), it is presumed the chief cause to effect on holding heat in the upper atmosphere. This rise in global temperature amplified the global warming phenomenon and triggered climate change effects felt the world over. Resulting from rising temperatures, northern Pakistan experienced a noted shift in monsoon pattern and increased occurrence of cyclones over the past several years with impacts to the agricultural sector. Currently, almost all-arable land in Pakistan

is under cultivation as the country strives to meet the sustainably of food security threshold for its rapidly growing population. Climate change has increased temperatures resulting in abrupt changes in rainfall patterns, which closely linked to agricultural production, water, and forest resources. Rainfall distribution and intensity have changed drastically as evidenced by severe drought and devastating floods that damage fertile lands as well as infrastructure. Climate change is also affecting the amount of annual rainfall. Less than 250 mm rainfall per annum is received by many parts of the country that requires further enhancement of farming and irrigation infrastructure including canals, dams for water storage and irrigation channels. Pakistan being a warm region, predominantly at risk to atmospheric shift due to its located in such geographical region where the temperature rises are higher than the global average. In Pakistan, agriculture is the prime economic sector that supports approximately 45% of the country's workers, adds 21% to country's GDP (Gross domestic product), and contributes almost 60% to country exports. An estimation, Pakistan has about 23.4 million hectares under cultivation, and 18.63 Mha only irrigated. Irrigation is very important to Pakistan with 77% of the area in Punjab irrigated with lesser amounts in other provinces. Many

different farming systems exist including spate irrigation. Spate irrigation is a crop irrigation technique that consists of diverting seasonal storm water from rivers, valleys, gullies and riverbeds by gravity onto farmland situated at a lower elevation than the floodwater. The crop production system of our major crops such as wheat, maize, cotton, rice, and sugarcane being threatened by climate change. According to a prediction there will be a 3°C temperature rise by 2040 and will cause lose up to 50% of their wheat productivity in Asian countries. This loss will be greater for Pakistan due to its geographical position. A study conducted by Siddiqui to evaluate the impact of climate change on the major crops of Pakistan reported that all of them will be significantly affected by climate change. Climate change also changes the precipitation and temperature of the earth and the time and growth stages of the crop disturbed. Its effect varies from one crop to another as cotton is one of the most affected crops. In Pakistan, wheat and rice are the main crops and leading staple food of the agriculture sector. A decrease of 14.7 and 20.5 percent of wheat and rice crop due to climate change has been observed in the past few years with their market price shooting up Pakistan is the country where both Rabi and Kharif crops are cultivated. One of the major rabi crops is

wheat while Kharif crops includes sugarcane, rice, maize, turmeric etc. In irrigated as well as spate farming systems, crops are exceedingly sensitive to water quantity and temperature fluctuations. It is predicted that by 2040, as the temperature goes up, the agricultural production will reduce by around 8%-10%. A research model that includes the use of the crop growth simulations method, estimated a reduction in crop yield, particularly in rice and wheat. The study has predicted a 6% decrease in wheat yield, and a 15%-18% reduction in the yield of basmati rice in almost all the agro-climatic system except for the northern regions of Pakistan. A significant effect of climate change is observed on wheat crop due to number of agronomic and socioeconomic reasons like water accessibility, pesticides, and labor availability due to seasonal variations in the weather conditions. Scientists from all around the globe have been searching for a range of solutions to reduce the impacts of climate change on agriculture. One of the potential solutions is the climate-smart agriculture (CSA) concept. CSA aims at invigorating the incorporation of agriculture expansion and climate receptiveness to accomplish food security and growth targets under the shifting weather and rising food requirements.

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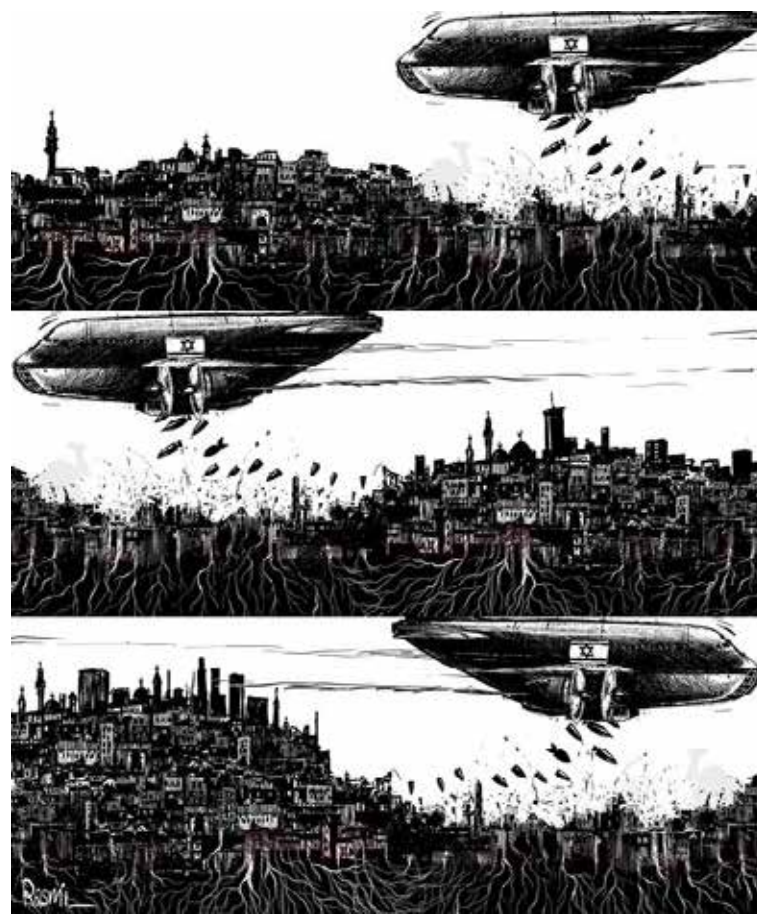
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EU-Ukraine: crafting new Europe requires patience

Responding to recent talk of "war fatigue" in the west, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy recently acknowledged the gruelling nature of the attritional conflict that has been forced on Ukraine by Vladimir Putin. "Everyone is getting tired," Mr Zelenskyy said at a press conference in Kyiv last weekend, held jointly with the European Commission president, Ursula von der Leyen. Nevertheless, he added, he was confident that support for Ukraine in its struggle against Russian forces remained robust. That view was vindicated, when Ms von der Leyen recommended that the European Union begin membership talks with Ukraine. This was a necessary and much-needed act of solidarity – all the more so at a time when international attention is focused on the tragic events in the Middle East. Ukraine has ended up paying a fearful price for the pro-EU sentiments and aspirations expressed in the Maidan Square demonstrations 10 years ago. The imminent beginning of accession talks with Brussels represents an important symbolic moment. And symbols, when realities are so grim, matter. Moving beyond them will not be straightforward, although the sense of urgency in the EU's capital is striking. The commission's decision – and a similar recommendation regarding neighbouring Moldova – will need to be ratified by EU leaders next month. That is not a done deal, given that Hungary's Viktor Orbán will be among them. Mr Orbán has consistently undermined European unity following Mr Putin's invasion, and has threatened to make alleged discrimination against Ukraine's Hungarian minority a sticking point. If ratification does take place, the road to membership will be complex and fraught. Following Mr Putin's brazen aggression, the EU has moved from equivocating on eastwards enlargement to expanding its potential scope well beyond the western Balkans. It is embarking on this geopolitically motivated journey for good reasons, but without much of a map and with many serious obstacles in view. It is, for example, difficult to see how a future EU with 35 or 36 members could function efficiently if the current principle of unanimity continues in key policy areas. But little progress has so far been made on devising ways to limit the exercise of national vetoes. Then there is the question of money. The budgetary implications of granting membership to a group of much poorer countries will be a hard sell in countries that are now net recipients of EU funds. The accommodation of a huge agrarian economy such as Ukraine's will also stress-test the durability of the common agricultural policy. It is unclear whether treaty changes or referendums will be required to effect the far-reaching reforms that will be needed to solve these issues, lending additional uncertainty to the enlargement process. Most fundamentally of all, the status of the EU's future security obligations to Ukraine, once it became a member state, is not clear. Assuming Ukraine remains outside Nato, it will not be possible to dodge this issue for ever – especially if the renewed threat of a Trump presidency in the United States becomes a reality. As it must, the EU is doing all it can to stand with Ukraine and offer meaningful expressions of solidarity.



CIIE proves attraction of an open market

Over the past six years, enterprises from home and abroad have unveiled about 2,440 new products, technologies and services at the China International Import Expo, the sixth of which concludes in Shanghai. That demonstrates the tremendous significance of the Chinese market, as well as the world's confidence in the Chinese economy. China has a population of more than 1.4 billion, including a middle-income group of over 400 million people. More importantly, it is opening up to the world, and is making efforts to ensure there is a fair, equal and nondiscriminatory business environment for all market entities. Along with the government's measures to foster innovation and high-quality development, the country's consumer market has tremendous upgrading potential, all of which provide a huge testing ground for new technologies and new products. After acquiring firsthand experience of the country through the expo, many exhibitors at the CIIE over the past six years have chosen to establish R&D centers in China. This year marks the 45th anniversary of China launching its reform and opening-up policies. As the success of the CIIE proves, the world's second-largest economy will continue to promote greater market opportunities, actively expand imports, and implement the national version and the pilot free trade zone version of the cross-border service trade negative list. As Premier Li Qiang stressed in his address at the opening of the expo, openness and cooperation produce mutual benefits. China is willing to work with other countries to make economic globalization more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial to all. Rather than being a breaker of rules, China is a champion of rules that are fair and inclusive. That being said, the country will actively pursue accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement, further relax its market access and align its rules with global norms, and protect the rights and interests of foreign investors in accordance with the law. In the process, it will firmly uphold the authority and effectiveness of the multilateral trading system, fully participate in the reform of the World Trade Organization, unswervingly promote the stability of the global industry and supply chains, and firmly oppose unilateralism and protectionism for the common good of the world. It is committed to working with other countries to break down the barriers that restrict the flow of innovation factors, deepen reforms to nurture the digital economy, and promote the free flow of data in an orderly manner in accordance with the law. In doing so, it will continue to create huge market dividends for the world by advancing its opening-up. Over the past six years, the expo has not only become an impactful marketplace but also a powerful crucible for new ideas and new paradigms for global cooperation. Its manifest success as a public good for the world is undeniable. In the coming years, it can elevate its function to be a gateway on the path to building a global community of development with a shared future.

Trumpet of elections sans PTI.

Qamar Bashir



Moulana Fazal Rehman's nuanced statement, "I will not say anything about PTI because their hands are tied and mine are open," implies a calculated acknowledgment of the challenges faced by the PTI leadership. Though stopping short of explicitly expressing a desire for exoneration and a fair chance for PTI in elections, the implication is clear. The President, as the solitary voice of reason within the system. An elect of the PTI, is facit daunting challenges to stay in office while advocating for the PTI cause. His efforts extend to connecting with the Establishment, tirelessly appealing

The leadership of major political parties seems acutely aware of the challenges surrounding elections, recognizing the potential futility given legitimacy and credibility crises, along with the looming specters of political instability and economic hardship if PTI is not given a free hand to contest the upcoming elections. This realization has led key figures, such as Nawaz Sharif, Asif Zardari, and notably, Moulana Fazal Rehman, to tacitly acknowledge the difficulties. In a subtle yet strategic manner, these leaders, either directly or through proxies, have communicated messages, often discreetly conveyed through the media, suggesting a cautious acceptance of the need for a fair electoral process which were possible only when PTI is given a level playing field to contest the elections and win or lose on merit. Moulana Fazal Rehman's nuanced statement, "I will not say anything about PTI because their hands are tied and mine are open," implies a calculated acknowledgment of the challenges faced by the PTI leadership. Though stopping short of explicitly expressing a desire for exoneration and a fair chance for PTI in elections, the implication is clear. The President, as the solitary voice of reason within the system. An elect of the PTI, is facit daunting challenges to stay in office while advocating for the PTI cause. His efforts extend to connecting with the Establishment, tirelessly appealing for understanding and forgiveness. However, the prevailing sentiment suggests that while the Establishment may be receptive to various discussions, the prospect of letting go of PTI remains a point of contention. Notwithstanding the political quagmire we are deeply in, a collective awakening has taken hold among the establishment, intelligentsia, politicians, and civil society, recognizing that Pakistan stands precariously on the edge of a comprehensive collapse. International ratings consistently place the nation at the bottom across various sectors, depicting a bleak image of its overall health. This grim assessment spans numerous parameters, reflecting the country's dire state across a spectrum of critical indicators. Pakistan's global standing reveals a complex landscape. On the Democracy Index, it finds itself at the 108th position out of 167 countries, literacy rate stands at a challenging 59.13%, health expenditure positions Pakistan at 187th out of 192 countries, quality of life places it at 93rd out of 111 countries, current account balance ranks 53rd out of 206 countries, while nominal GDP growth is at the 157th position out of 195 countries. Similar is the case with other parameters except in military metrics where Pakistan shines with the 23rd position in military expenditures out of 155 countries, 6th in active troops out of 173 countries, and 1st in Active UN peacekeepers out of 119 countries. The defense budget proudly stands at the 16th position out of 140 countries. The data highlights a missed focus on developing quality human resources, improving literacy rates, and enhancing the overall quality of education. Unfortunately, a repetitive cycle of circular motion seems to characterize our national journey, leading to a loss of a clear sense of direction. The need for a reevaluation of priorities and a concerted effort towards sustainable development and informed decision-making is crucial to break free from this circular pattern. However, a new wave of intimidation targeting PTI leadership, accompanied by re-arrests of PTI leadership those who had previously distanced themselves and criticized their top leadership, paints a dubious nature of these unwarranted moves. The re-invigorated media campaign hurling corruption allegations at PTI and its associates adds to the complexity. This situation raises doubts on holding of free and fair upcoming general elections pushing the country back into an excruciating rut. Moreover, the formation of both Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) and PTI Patriot Party (PTP) has left all political parties perplexed, attempting to unravel the underlying philosophy and logic behind their creation. There is a collective effort among party leaders to discern the hidden agenda behind IPP and PTP, with a specific focus on understanding the Establishment's perspective. The rationale for the creation of IPP and PTP could be the Establishment's dissatisfaction with PTI and its leadership, aiming to weaken the party by fostering rival factions. These factions, represented by IPP and PTP, may serve as potential spoilers, disrupting PTI's chances of securing a majority in the upcoming election. Interestingly, both PPP and PML(N) share similar but opposite perspectives on the creation of IPP and PTP, viewing them as B-parties of PTI for specific reasons. The commonality lies in the fact that both IPP and PTP claim to be splinter groups of PTI, advocating for similar policies. PPP and PML(N) have accused both IPP and PTP of being "spoilers," alleging that these parties aim to divide votes in KP to benefit PTI in the upcoming election. Both major parties dismiss the claims of IPP and PTP regarding their commitment to social justice and Pashtun rights, branding them as mere political opportunists. However, the most probable scenario is a hung parliament. Historically, engineered hung parliaments in Pakistan have granted the establishment increased influence over the political landscape. In such situations, smaller parties or independent members may hold the balance of power, aligning with or being influenced by the establishment to form a government. This arrangement provides the establishment with leverage and influence over decision-making processes. A hung parliament also facilitates horse-trading, where lawmakers receive monetary incentives to switch allegiances. The establishment can use its influence over the media, judiciary, and security forces to pressure parties into forming a coalition with its preferred candidate. Additionally, control over the budget allows the establishment to reward or penalize parties based on their cooperation. Manipulation of the electoral process through influence over the Election Commission of Pakistan is another tool to favor its preferred candidate or party. Persistent election rigging exacts a substantial toll on both the nation and its citizens. Rigged elections erode the very foundation of democracy, breeding distrust in electoral systems and institutions, thereby diminishing the adherence to democratic values. The consequent political instability that ensues from such practices often leads to widespread unrest and protests, disrupting daily life and creating an environment of uncertainty. The economic repercussions are profound, with investors wary of committing resources to politically volatile environments, and domestic businesses grappling with the consequences of a shaky political landscape.

Moreover, the impact extends beyond the economic realm, permeating the social fabric of the nation. Rigged elections can sow the seeds of social discord, exacerbating tensions among different societal factions. This strife may manifest in violence, deepening social divisions and undermining the cohesion necessary for a healthy and thriving society. Coupled with these social implications are the potential human rights violations that often accompany manipulated electoral processes, including restrictions on freedom of speech, assembly, and political participation. The cumulative effect is a compromised governance structure marked by illegitimacy, corruption, and a disregard for the rule of law, ultimately tarnishing the international reputation of the nation in question. Free, fair, and transparent elections are the cornerstone of a thriving democracy and play a pivotal role in the progress and prosperity of a nation. When elections are conducted with integrity and openness, several key benefits emerge, contributing to overall development and enhancing a country's standing on important indicators. Firstly, such elections foster political stability by ensuring that leaders derive their mandate from the genuine will of the people. This legitimacy strengthens governance structures, promoting effective policy implementation and reducing the likelihood of political crises. Political stability, in turn, creates an environment conducive to economic growth and attracts both domestic and foreign investments. Investors are more likely to commit resources to a country with a stable political landscape, leading to increased economic activity, job creation, and enhanced prosperity for the population. Moreover, free and fair elections are instrumental in promoting social cohesion and inclusivity. By allowing diverse voices to be heard, elections become a mechanism for resolving societal issues through peaceful means. Inclusive governance resulting from fair elections helps address the needs and concerns of various segments of society, fostering unity and minimizing social tensions. This, in turn, contributes to the overall well-being and happiness of the population. From an international perspective, nations that demonstrate a commitment to transparent and fair electoral processes often enjoy a positive reputation on the global stage. This can lead to increased diplomatic cooperation, trade opportunities, and partnerships with other nations. International organizations and investors are more likely to engage with countries that uphold democratic values, improving the nation's ranking on various indicators related to global cooperation, human rights, and political freedom. In essence, free, fair, and transparent elections are not just a democratic ideal but a practical necessity for a nation's progress. They create a conducive environment for economic development, social harmony, and positive international relations, thereby contributing significantly to the overall advancement and prosperity of a country and a sure way to improve our ranking on all international indexes.

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

Navigating the Climate Challenge: Pakistan's Imperative for a Regulatory Framework in the Net Zero Transition

Imran Ghaznavi



The urgency cannot be overstated as the nation grapples with the immediate and long-term consequences of climate change. Pakistan, like many other countries, is experiencing the detrimental effects of

In the face of escalating climate hazards, Pakistan stands at a critical juncture where the establishment of a robust regulatory framework is imperative for a successful net zero transition. The urgency cannot be overstated as the nation grapples with the immediate and long-term consequences of climate change. Pakistan, like many other countries, is experiencing the detrimental effects of climate change, including extreme weather events, rising temperatures, and disruptions in water resources. These challenges not only pose a threat to the environment but also jeopardize the well-being of its citizens, economy, and overall sustainable development. To effectively address these

challenges, a comprehensive regulatory framework is essential. This framework should encompass policies that incentivize the adoption of renewable energy sources, promote sustainable practices across industries, and set emissions reduction targets. By aligning economic activities with environmental responsibility, Pakistan can mitigate climate risks while fostering a green economy. The hazards of climate change extend beyond environmental concerns, impacting social and economic aspects of the nation. Unpredictable weather patterns can disrupt agriculture, a cornerstone of Pakistan's economy, leading to food insecurity and economic instability. Regulatory measures can incentivize

climate-resilient farming practices, ensuring sustainable food production. Furthermore, the regulatory framework must address the vulnerabilities of marginalized communities, who often bear the brunt of climate change impacts. This includes implementing policies that provide adaptation strategies, access to clean energy, and support for livelihoods affected by environmental shifts. The transition to a net zero economy requires collaborative efforts from government, private sector, and civil society. Establishing a regulatory framework will create a conducive environment for businesses to invest in sustainable technologies and practices. Additionally, it provides a clear

roadmap for stakeholders, fostering innovation and promoting the development of green industries. In conclusion, Pakistan stands at a crucial juncture in its battle against climate change. The establishment of a robust regulatory framework is not merely a choice but a necessity for the nation's sustainable future. By embracing the net zero transition with strategic policies, Pakistan can navigate the hazards of climate change, safeguard its environment, and secure a resilient and prosperous future for its citizens.

–The Author is a regulatory professional with indepth knowledge of regulatory regime and can be reached at ighaznavi@gmail.com

Briefs

Arif Alvi calls for ceasefire, condemns...

FROM PAGE 01
Talking to his Palestinian counterpart, President Arif Alvi regretted over the lack of action on the part of the international community to stop Israel from its murderous campaign against the people of Gaza. He assured the Palestinian President that Pakistan would continue to support resolving the Palestinian dispute in accordance with the relevant UN-SC's resolutions. The President urged the international community to make efforts for urgent ceasefire, opening of unhindered humanitarian corridor to Gaza, stopping further displacement of the Palestinians from their homeland and permanent solution to the Palestinian dispute in accordance with UN Security Council's resolutions.

FO calls out 'Israel backers'...

FROM PAGE 01
deprive them of food, water, shelter and medical care," she said. Baloch said the use of phosphorus bombs and threats of nuclear holocaust were being made against the people under occupation who were being forcibly evicted from their land. She said as a tragedy of epic proportions unfolds in Gaza, the United Nations Security Council must act to fulfill its responsibility to uphold peace and call for an urgent and unconditional ceasefire, lifting of the siege, and commencement of rapid, unhindered humanitarian assistance.

Court orders to unseize...

FROM PAGE 01
declared an absconder by the Islamabad High Court. The property includes a 1,650-kanal agricultural land in Lahore, a Mercedes, a Land Cruiser, two tractors, local and foreign bank accounts, a bungalow in Murree, and 102-kanal land in Sheikhupura. The NAB reference filed against Zardari and Nawaz accuses them of obtaining cars from Toshakhana (the gift depository) by paying 15% of the price of the cars. Zardari also received cars as gifts from Libya and the UAE when he was president and used them for his personal use instead of depositing them in the treasury, the anti-graft body has alleged.

Cipher case hearing against...

FROM PAGE 01
PTI chairman. Wife and daughter of PTI leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi were also present in court during the hearing. Taimur Malik and Faiza Shah appeared in the court on behalf of Shah Mahmood Qureshi. Due to absence of defence counsels statements of the prosecution witnesses could not be recorded.

Amnesty urges Pak...

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immigrants to leave Pakistan by October 31 or risk imprisonment and deportation to their respective countries. The government decided to keep foreign nationals residing in the country without identity documents in "holding centres" before deporting them to their respective countries.

Solangi for discussion...

FROM PAGE 01
any suspension of its flight operation, he said both ministers would also apprise the House of the factors that led to huge losses of the Airlines. He pointed out that the Airlines had been grappling with multiple problems for several years. He specifically mentioned a minister of the PTI previous government whose irresponsible statement regarding fake pilot degrees, adversely affected PIA's reputation, leading to loss of some international routes.



ISLAMABAD: Players of Nishtar and Rising Stars Hockey Club posing for a picture after a camping activity at the Lotus Lake, Lok Virsa. – DNA

RISJA honours Faheem Anwar

RISJA President Afzal Javed said that Faheem Anwar Khan is one of the senior sports journalists of the country and his presence in the association is no less than a big honour for the members

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Rawalpindi Islamabad Sports Journalists Association (RISJA) honoured senior journalist and former RISJA President Faheem Anwar Khan at a special ceremony. In company of big sports journalists gathering, he was presented with a special award for his outstanding journalistic and social services.

According to the details, a special lunch for RISJA members was hosted at a local hotel. The ceremony was also attended by Rawalpindi Islamabad Sports Journalists Association President Afzal Javed, RISJA Secretary General Nasir Naqvi, Senior Journalists Abdul Mohi Shah, Shehryar Khan, Zulfiqar Baig, Arsalan Shirazi, Sohail Raja, Zeeshan Qayyum, Obaidur Rehman and large number of RISJA (R) members. During the ceremony, glowing



tributes were paid to Faheem Anwar Khan for his services in the field of journalism and for his recent appointment as the honorary chairman of Pakistan of Turkish welfare organization Yardimeli

Türkiye. Speaking on the occasion, RISJA President Afzal Javed said that Faheem Anwar Khan is one of the senior sports journalists of the country and his presence in the association is no less than a big honour for the members. His guidance and patronage will also help Yardimeli to go extra mile in helping the needy and poor. Afzal Javed further said that in the near future, RISJA will organize various sports events including workshops, healthy activities for journalists. Senior RISJA member Abdul Mohi Shah praised Faheem Anwar for his years of hard work in journalism. "He is like an icon for sports journalism community in the country. He always stood up with the truth and honesty which has been the hallmark of his journalistic career." At the ceremony, mobile phones were also distributed among some members of RISJA.

Palestinian soccer braces for world cup amidst war

GAZA: Makram Daboub may be struggling to prepare his Palestinian team for the start of 2026 World Cup qualification but he takes some comfort, for now at least, that his players stuck in Gaza are safe. The national soccer team's head coach wanted to include Ibrahim Abuimeir, Khaled Al-Nabris, and Ahmed Al-Kayed in a training camp in Jordan ahead of World Cup qualifying games against Lebanon next Thursday and Australia on Nov. 21. But they were unable to make it out of Gaza because of the Israel-Hamas war, now in its second month. "So far they are fine," Daboub told The Associated Press. "Many of their relatives have died, however, as a result of the bombing." Two players from Gaza, Egypt-based Mohamed Saleh and Mahmoud Wadi, are expected to join the Palestinian team in Jordan. Daboub, who is from Tunisia, acknowledged it will be difficult for players to focus on football while many have families in danger. "With the death and destruction in Gaza, the players are in a difficult psychological state," Daboub said. But for Susan Shalabi, the vice president of the Palestine Football Association, there's no question that the players and the people want the games to go ahead. "This is a people that wants to be heard and seen by the rest of the world, wants to live normally like everyone else, so people care about their national team," Shalabi told The AP. "It represents the yearning to

be recognized as a free and sovereign nation." The Palestine Football Association became a full member of FIFA, soccer's international governing body, in 1998 and has had some success at the regional level. Appearing at the World Cup in 2026 would be a dream for a team that has never come close to reaching the finals via the Asian Football Confederation's qualifying route. There is a little more hope this time as Asia's automatic qualification allocation has increased from four places in 2022 to eight in 2026, when the tournament will be co-hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada. The Palestinian team, which reached a highest FIFA ranking of 73 in 2018, appeared at the Asian Cup in 2015 and 2019 and has qualified for the 2023 continental tournament coming up in Qatar. "There is no match that you can win in advance," Daboub said. "But we have a good chance of reaching the next round of the World Cup qualifiers." To be among the 18 teams that advances into that next stage of Asian qualifying, the Palestinians need to finish in the top two of a group containing Australia – expected to take first spot – Lebanon and Bangladesh. They're currently ranked No. 96, eight places higher than Lebanon and 87 above Bangladesh. Palestine had initially been drawn to host Australia to start this round of qualifying, but the game has been shifted to a neutral venue in Kuwait. – Agencies

NZ Nicholls to face ball tampering charge

DNA

WELLINGTON: Test batter Henry Nicholls has been accused of breaking New Zealand Cricket's code of conduct after being reported by umpires for ball tampering in a domestic first-class match this week. Television footage of the Plunket Shield match between Nicholls' Canterbury province and Auckland appears to show Nicholls brushing the ball against a helmet during a change of ends. "Nicholls has been reported for allegedly breaching Rule 3.1, article 1.15 of the Code during Day 3 of the Plunket Shield match between Canterbury and Auckland at Hagley Oval," New Zealand Cricket said in a statement Friday. The rule "involves changing the condition of the ball in breach of Law 41.3 of the Laws of Cricket." New Zealand Cricket said the allegation had been referred to a commissioner for first-class cricket.

Ravindra named ICC Player of the Month

DUBAI: New Zealand's batting prodigy Rachin Ravindra has shown immense batting prowess during the ongoing ICC World Cup 2023, which earned him the coveted ICC Player of the Month award for October 2023. Ravindra faced tough competition from South African opening batter Quinton de Kock and Indian pace bowler Jasprit Bumrah for the prestigious award, however, he succeeded on the back of his tremendous performances in his maiden ICC World Cup campaign. Ravindra kicked off his ICC World Cup 2023 with an unbeaten 123 against England, followed by a half-century against the Netherlands. He later scored another century in the month of October in the nail-biting thriller against Australia. He scored a total of 406 runs from six outings at an average of 81.20 with the help of two centuries and two half-centuries during the month. Ravindra is currently the highest run-scorer in the ICC World Cup 2023, having accumulated 565 runs at a staggering average of 70.62 and has been a major factor in New Zealand's campaign. He expressed his gratitude for winning the ICC Player of the Month award. "I'm very grateful to win this award," Ravindra said from India. "It's been a special month personally and for the team. Being able to play a World Cup in India has been incredibly special," he further added. Ravindra also thanked his teammates for supporting him and allowing him to play his natural game. "Being backed by the team helps a lot, being able to go out there with a lot of freedom, and play your natural game," Ravindra added. "The lucky thing is the wickets have been really nice to bat on, suits my game in terms of being positive and taking the game on." – Agencies

MQM-P-PML-N alliance will...

FROM PAGE 01
term in August and both the PPP and PML-N locked horns over election-related issues. During an interaction with journalists in Safari Park, the PPP chairman said: "We worked hard to make him [Shehbaz Sharif] prime minister. It was the need of the hour." He clarified that the decision was aimed at improving the situation as the country was facing a political and democratic crisis. The PPP leader said that they benefited Sindh during the PDM-led government.

'Consensus, not alliance...

FROM PAGE 01
the PML-N declared that both parties had decided to form an electoral alliance in light of an understanding reached in April last year when the MQM had joined the Shehbaz-led coalition government. Late in the night, however, senior MQM-P leader and former federal minister Aminul Haque clarified that it was not an electoral alliance as both parties would contest the election on their respective election symbol.

Pakistan focused to...

FROM PAGE 01
very much focused on achieving that target." The \$7 billion project aims to bring natural gas from the Gylkynish and adjacent gas fields in Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India, the Anadolu reported. The Asian Development Bank is facilitating and coordinating the project, which is proposed to lay a 56-inch diameter 1,680-kilometer (1,044-mile) pipeline with a design capacity of 33 billion cubic meters of natural gas per annum from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan and Pakistan up to Indo-Pak border.

PSX hits new milestone

FROM PAGE 01
valuations despite the market being at an all-time high is garnering investors sentiment at the local bourse," he added. Head of Equities at Intermarket Securities Raza Jafri said the KSE-100 continues to make new highs on strong domestic institutional buying and reducing Pakistan Investment Bond (PIB) yields. He also attributed the increase to higher weight for Pakistan in the coming review by global index provider MSCI and the high dividend-yielding stocks. "The ongoing IMF review is the next key checkpoint," he added.

Babar likely to resign...

FROM PAGE 01
Babar values the advice he receives, particularly from his father. His close aides are advising him to step down from leadership in all three formats, the sources added. The sources further added that the suggestion is based on the belief that prominent captains have faced challenges in Test series in Australia.

Team has plan to surpass NZ NRR: Babar Azam
Pakistan are currently 5th on the points table, and need to beat England by margin of 288 to qualify for semi finals

SPORTS DESK

KOLKATA: Pakistan's captain Babar Azam has said that the team has a plan to surpass New Zealand's net run-rate (NRR) during their last ICC World Cup 2023 match against England. Pakistan are currently placed 5th on the table, and they need to beat England by a mammoth margin of 288 runs if they want to surpass New Zealand on NRR which makes it virtually impossible for the team to qualify for the semi-final. Speaking ahead of the game, Babar said that the team wants to finish the tournament on a positive note and insisted that surpassing the net-run rate is also on their mind and they've planned for it.

"It's not like that that this matter is not in the back of the mind. It's in our mind and we will try to do it. We will try to execute our plans and how we will go tomorrow and how we will achieve the target," he said. "We can't just go in and start firing blindly – we want that but with proper planning, how we want to play the first 10 overs, then the next 20 – how we have to achieve that target," Babar added. The Pakistan captain said that Fakhar Zaman's presence will be key factor for Green Shirts in their attempt to achieve what is required from the team against England. "There are a lot of things in this, like partnership, which player will stay in the pitch for how long. If you ask me, I would say

if Fakhar is in the match for 20 or 30 overs, we can achieve that. Then follow up with Rizwan, Iftikhar. We can do this and we have planned for this," the Pakistan captain said. Replying to a question, the skipper said that he believes that the game against South

Africa cost Pakistan and that they should have won that match as well as the game against Afghanistan. "But unfortunately, we didn't win and that's why we are at this stage," he said. "Team couldn't deliver as unit" When asked what has let Pakistan down in the tour-

nament, Babar refused to blame anyone and instead said that the team couldn't deliver as a unit. The Pakistan captain further said that they'll try to learn from the mistakes they committed during the tournament. "You cannot say that it is the fault of bowling, fielding, or batting. As a team we could not execute. We cannot say that we got so many runs in bowling or lost runs in fielding. As a team we did not execute the plan or play as per the demand – that includes bowling, batting, and fielding," he said. "I have seen that the margin of error is very low here because when you give even a little room to any team, they take the match from you. This is the speciality of the World Cup. It's a high-intensity game. You have a

match against every team, so they are high-intensity games. I think the whole team should learn from the mistakes," he added. "I am not under pressure" Babar also rejected the concerns about his captaincy and said that he never felt under pressure because of the added responsibility of being captain of the side. "I have been captaining my team for the last three years and I have never felt this way." "It's just because I have not performed the way I should have in the World Cup, that's why people are saying that I am under pressure. I am under no pressure. I have been doing this for the last 2.5 or 3 years. I was the one who was performing and I was one who was the captain.



Briefs

US Approves
\$2.53 Bn
Tank Sale To
Romania

WASHINGTON : The United States on Thursday announced its approval of a \$2.53 billion sale of M1A2 Abrams tanks and related equipment to Romania, a NATO ally that borders conflict-racked Ukraine.

"This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a NATO ally which is an important force for political and economic stability in Europe," the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) said in a statement. It "will improve Romania's capability to meet current and future threats by providing a credible force that is capable of deterring adversaries and participating in NATO operations," the statement said. Romania shares a border with Ukraine, which has been battling a full-scale Russian invasion since February 2022. The United States has been ramping up military aid and sales to Kyiv and NATO allies since then. Washington has promised to provide Kyiv with 31 older versions of the Abrams tank, and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky confirmed in late September that some had arrived. The State Department approved the possible sale to Romania, and the DSCA on Thursday provided the required notification to Congress, which still needs to sign off on the transaction.—DNA

Texas
executes man
after 30 years

HOUSTON : A Texas man who spent more than 30 years on death row for a murder he committed during a robbery when he was 19 was executed on Thursday. Brent Brewer, 53, was put to death by lethal injection at 6:38 pm Central Time (0038 GMT) at the Texas State Penitentiary in the town of Huntsville, prison officials said. Brewer was sentenced to death in 1991 for fatally stabbing 66-year-old Robert Laminack the previous year, in a robbery that netted \$140 in cash. Laminack had been giving a ride to Brewer and his girlfriend, Krystie Lynn Nystrom, who was sentenced to life in prison. Brewer appealed for a stay of execution this week to the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles but was unanimously denied. A motion filed with the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals was also rejected. In his last statement, released by the prison authorities, Brewer said, "I would like to tell the family of the victim that I could never figure out the words to fix what I have broken. I just want you to know that this 53-year-old is not the same reckless 19-year-old kid from 1990. I hope you find peace. Thank you, Warden."—Agencies

Stocks fall
after Powell
says rate hike
possible

LONDON : Stock markets slid Friday after Federal Reserve boss Jerome Powell warned the central bank "will not hesitate" to hike US interest rates further in its quest to bring down inflation. His comment halted a rally for equities since last week when Fed officials hinted that their long-running tightening cycle may be at an end. "Powell helped bring the equity market resurgence to a grinding halt, with his apparent hawkish tone sending the 10-year (US Treasury) yields higher and equities lower," noted Joshua Mahony, chief market analyst at Scope Markets. Other key decision-makers have lined up to suggest that while recent data suggested several earlier hikes were kicking in, traders should be aware that more measures could be needed if prices remained elevated. Powell told an International Monetary Fund conference Thursday that progress toward reaching two-percent inflation was "not assured". "If it becomes appropriate to tighten policy further, we will not hesitate to do so," he said.—APP

TRT humanitarian film
festival address global crises

The Festival also centered on other topics including migration crisis, environmental pollution, hunger, famine, homelessness, and poverty while emphasizing importance of humanity

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The TRT Humanitarian Film Festival shed light on global humanitarian issues and provided an essential platform for filmmakers to address humanitarian concerns from their unique perspectives. This marked the festival's fifth year and during the event, organized by Türkiye Radio and Television (TRT), the participants engaged in in-depth discussions on significant topics including war, conflict, women's rights, the climate crisis, and more, while connecting with film producers and industry professionals.

The Festival, aimed at shedding light on global humanitarian issues, took place the other day in Istanbul, Türkiye. The Festival also centered on other topics including migration crisis, environmental pollution, hunger, famine, homelessness, and poverty while emphasizing importance of humanity. The TRT Special Award at the festival was

presented to film "Night" by Palestinian Director Ahmad Saleh. On the occasion, General Director of TRT, Mehmet Zahid Sobac and Türkiye Directorate of Communications, Fahrettin Altun presented awards to the winning films at a ceremony held at the end of the Festival. Addressing the ceremony, General Director of TRT thanked the producers and directors for their participation and said the Festival was a result of TRT's "human-centered" approach. "We must lift the block in the world's mind," Zahid Sobac said and noted that they needed to bring stories of unheard cries to the world and that the TRT Special Award given to the film "Night", tells the story of the tragedy in Palestine, was a testament to TRT's mission. Sobac said, "Since October 7, Israel has been carrying out a comprehensive massacre against people of Gaza. They are committing atrocities without discrimination, targeting infants, children,

women, and sick people. Israel has been demolishing hospitals, sacred places, schools, refugee camps, and committing crimes against humanity while the West attempts to suppress and silence conscientious citizens who take to streets in support of Gaza. "Our President, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan stands in solidarity with people and cries out for justice in public squares. Using all available means to strive for peace and, through his unwavering stance, he is upholding dignity of humanity," Sobac maintained. Emphasizing the importance of TRT Humanitarian Film Festival project, Sobac, said, "For years, imaginary heroes, supposed righteousness, and certain concepts have been produced from a single Center and presented to us as if they were a set of universal values. Now, we must lift blockade in the world's mind. And here, the responsibility lies with us, with you." General Director TRT, further main-

tained, "As Türkiye's public broadcaster, we adopt a human-centered approach in all our television and radio channels, digital news platforms, mobile applications, and international digital platform called Tabii." He expressed his pleasure for hosting the participants, who focus on humanitarian issues, and holding the Humanitarian Film Festival in Türkiye. "A week ago, we celebrated the centenary of our Republic, we have been striving for the well-being of this region for a thousand years, you are in a country that has always used its power, technology, and will in favor of the oppressed," he added. Moreover, in his brief address, Türkiye Directorate of Communications said, "I find this festival extremely valuable, which has drawn attention to millions of people in pain and despair with the power of art." Fahrettin Altun, who presented the first prize and Climate Awareness award at the Festival said, "I hope this festival, which is one of the most meaningful

manifestations of TRT's human-centered broadcasting policy, has been bringing blessings to all humanity. He said today's world was going through an extremely critical threshold due to economic crisis, pandemics, famine, climate change, and ongoing conflicts, and emphasized, "The key to motivating us in face of humanitarian crises is not tragedies reduced to numbers or categorized; it is the ability to understand these pains and the lives of those who experience them one by one." He further said, "The understanding that our country never shies away from taking responsibility for global peace and stability, and the sensitivity in this regard, is very pleasing to us. The fact that our public broadcaster, TRT, has successfully translated this understanding and sensitivity into its operational field is highly satisfying. In addition to film screenings, the Festival featured a Film Production Panel, with participation of the Jury President Derviş Zaim and its members in-

cluding Ismael Ferroukhi, Suat Köçer, Vuslat Saraçoğlu, and Reshad Strik. An Acting Workshop was also arranged with actress Pelin Karahan. It merits mentioned here that the Festival had received applications from over 370 films from various countries including Türkiye, Iran, Germany, Palestine, Italy, Jordan, Kosovo, Pakistan, Hungary and New Zealand, of which 12 films were screened, and awards were presented in five categories. The categories were Best Film, Second Best Film, Third Best Film, Climate Awareness Special Award, and TRT Special Award. The First Place award was bagged by "Branka", Akos Kovacs (Hungary) while Second Place was won by "Split Ends", Alireza Kazempour (Iran). Third Place award was grabbed by "Displaced", Samir Karahoda (Kosovo). Similarly Climate Awareness Award was won by "The Sprayer", Farnoosh Abedi (Iran) and the TRT Special Award was given to "Night", Ahmad Saleh (Palestine).

Surgeons
perform
world's first
whole eye
transplant

WASHINGTON : A team of surgeons in New York has performed the world's first transplant of an entire eye in a procedure widely hailed as a medical breakthrough, although it isn't yet known whether the man will ever see through the donated eye. The groundbreaking surgery involved removing part of the face and the whole left eye — including its blood supply and optic nerve — of a donor and grafting them onto a lineworker from Arkansas who survived a 7,200-volt electric shock in June 2021. Aaron James, 46, suffered extensive injuries including the loss of his left eye, his dominant left arm above the elbow, his nose and lips, front teeth, left cheek area and chin. He was referred to NYU Langone Health, a leading medical center for facial transplants, which carried out the procedure on May 27. Transplanting an entire eye has long been a holy grail of medical science, and though researchers have had some success in animals — where they have restored partial vision — it's never before been performed in a living person.—APP

Japan, South Korea foster
hydrogen partnership

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol will announce their program of cooperation next week

WEB DESK

TOKYO : Japan and South Korea will build a supply chain for hydrogen and ammonia together, the neighbors' latest move to expand their base of cooperation in economic security, Nikkei has learned. New frameworks will also be established in the fields of quantum technology and semiconductors. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol will announce their program of cooperation next

week, when they will be in the U.S. for an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum summit meeting. The two countries will work together to enhance their ability to negotiate prices and ensure stable procurement of the two emerging fuels, which do not emit carbon dioxide when burned and are expected to play a role in decarbonizing societies. Government-affiliated financial institutions will assist Japanese and South Korean companies in raising funds for joint investments in hydrogen and ammonia production projects outside

their home countries, such as the Middle East and the U.S. From Japan, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation will be in charge. The project aims to develop by 2030 a seaborne supply chain that transports the fuels from various parts of the world. The two leaders will announce the Hydrogen Ammonia Global Value Chain concept when they visit Stanford University in California together on Nov. 17. The two countries share common challenges such as decarbonizing their large bases of energy-intensive sectors like steel and

chemicals and having to depend on imports for fuel. Hydrogen and ammonia are mostly produced from natural gas. By jointly investing in projects in gas-producing nations, the two countries aim to establish a system for receiving stable supplies at lower prices. Similar collaborative projects are already underway in the private sector. Japan's Mitsubishi Corp. and South Korea's Lotte Chemical, together with the German energy giant RWE, will annually produce 10 million tons of fuel ammonia in the U.S. and begin procurement.

US approves first
vaccine against
chikungunya virus

WASHINGTON : US health authorities on Thursday approved the world's first vaccine for chikungunya, a virus spread by infected mosquitoes that the Food and Drug Administration called "an emerging global health threat." The vaccine, developed by Europe's Valneva which will be marketed under the name Ixchiq, was approved for people 18 and over who are at increased risk of exposure, the FDA said. Ixchiq's green-light by the US drug regulator is expected to speed the vaccine's rollout in countries where the virus is most prevalent. Chikungunya, which causes fever and severe joint pain, is generally seen in tropical and subtropical regions of Africa, southeast Asia and parts of the Americas. "However, chikungunya virus has spread to new geographical areas causing a rise in global prevalence of the disease," the FDA said, reporting more than five million cases in the past 15 years. "Infection with chikungunya virus can lead to severe disease and prolonged health problems, particularly for older adults and individuals with underlying medical conditions," senior FDA official Peter Marks said in a statement. "Today's approval addresses an unmet medical need and is an important advancement in the prevention of a potentially debilitating disease with limited treatment options."—APP

Japanese
priest counsels
elderly scam
victims

NARITA: In a serene temple in the countryside near Tokyo, the sound of a priest's mobile phone breaks the silence. On the other end of the line: a woman in her 70s who says she was swindled out of tens of millions of yen (tens of thousands of dollars), becoming the latest elderly victim of fraud in ageing Japan. "The bad guy is always the scammer, not you," Eiichi Shinohara tells the woman. "You're a kind person. Never blame yourself." The 78-year-old grew up surrounded by monks, studied Buddhism at university and travelled abroad to Cambodia to work in a refugee camp before finally returning home to lead the temple in Narita, in Japan's Chiba region. Now, he coordinates a network of about 50 fellow Buddhist monks who offer counselling to those who have fallen into deep despair, including after being scammed. Few realise "how devastating a toll fraud takes on its victims and that it can even drive them into suicide", Shinohara told AFP. "I would say it's tantamount to murder," he said.—APP

EU strikes
deal on key
biodiversity bill

BRUSSELS : The European Parliament and EU member states reached an agreement on Thursday on a key biodiversity bill aimed at rewilding EU land and water habitats. The law will force EU countries to put in place measures to restore at least 20 percent of the EU's land and 20 percent of the EU's seas by 2030, said a statement by the council, which represents the 27 member states. There had been attempts by the parliament's biggest grouping, the conservative European People's Party (EPP), to shoot down the text earlier this year. While EU lawmakers welcomed the agreement reached before midnight following hours of talks that began on Thursday afternoon, some critics pointed to watered down elements. "We can be proud of this historic result setting ambitious and workable rules for all," Pascal Canfin, the head of the parliament's environment committee, said on social media. Spain's minister for ecological transition, Teresa Ribera Rodriguez, said she was "proud" of the law, "the first of its kind". "It will help us rebuild healthy biodiversity levels across member states and preserve nature for the future generations, while fighting climate change," she said. The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, last year proposed the law that aims to resuscitate degraded ecosystems by boosting forested areas, marine habitats and increasing connectivity between rivers. EU data shows more than 80 per cent of Europe's habitats are in a poor condition. The law, aligned with the historic biodiversity agreement signed at COP15 last year, says EU states should take measures by 2030 to restore 30 percent of habitats in ecosystems that are in a bad condition, then 60 percent by 2040 and 90 percent by 2050. Environmental groups welcomed the agreement on the law that is a central pillar of the EU's biodiversity strategy. It is part of the bloc's Green Deal approach to mitigate climate change and boost environmental protections. Tatiana Nuno, senior marine policy officer Seas At Risk, said the agreement "is far from what is needed to face the biodiversity crisis."—DNA

Portugal president calls election
after corruption scandal

FOREIGN DESK

LISBON : Portugal's President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa has dissolved parliament and called snap elections, two days after the country's prime minister resigned amid a continuing corruption investigation. Rebelo de Sousa said that the country would hold snap elections on March 10, the second in as many years. "I have chosen to dissolve the Assembly of the Republic and hold elections on March 10," he said in a televised address. The announcement comes after Socialist Prime Minister Antonio Costa offered his resignation on Tuesday, following the arrest of his chief of staff as part of an anticorruption investigation that includes allegations of malfeasance and influence peddling. The 62-year-old Costa, who first took power in 2015, denied any wrongdoing but said that he could no longer continue in his role. Prosecutors have said that he is the subject of a separate investigation. The state prosecutor's office has said that the country's Supreme Court is looking at the "use



of the prime minister's name and his involvement to unlock" the activities being investigated. "I totally trust the justice system," Costa said on Tuesday. "If there are suspicions, then the judicial authorities are free to look into them... I am not above the law." Rebelo de Sousa had said that he would only disband parliament, where the Socialist Party holds a majority of seats, after a vote on the budget for 2024. That budget, which includes tax cuts for the mid-

dle class, spending on social programmes for the poor, and a 24 percent increase in public spending amid flagging economic growth, was passed by the house on October 31. It must be finally approved by November 29. After meeting with the main political parties on Wednesday and the Council of State, a consultative body, on Thursday, the president said that allowing lawmakers time to pass the budget will help "meet the expectations of many Por-

tuguese". The corruption probe is focused on allegations of improper behaviour around the development of lithium mining and hydrogen projects in the country, and Costa's chief of staff, Vitor Escaria, was arrested on Tuesday as police conducted raids on several public buildings and additional properties. Prosecutors also named Infrastructure Minister Joao Galamba as a formal suspect, and issued arrest warrants for the mayor of the town of Sines.

Samsung to
add real-time
translation

SEOUL : Samsung Electronics will roll out a real-time call translation service using AI technology next year, the firm told AFP Friday, claiming it would make conversing across languages as easy as "turning on closed captions". Samsung is among a host of tech companies spending billions in a global artificial intelligence gold rush, which has so far seen chatbots that mimic human speech and software that can generate lifelike images and videos. The firm, the world's largest smartphone maker, says the new real-time translation feature will be incorporated into its new Galaxy flagship model, which will launch early next year. It will enable "real-time translation in audio and text as the callers are on the line", a company spokesman told AFP, adding that it has not been determined how many languages will be supported. The translation will be enabled even if a call partner uses a non-Samsung smartphone, as the new model will use "on-device AI technology". Speaking to someone in a foreign language using the feature will be "as simple as turning on closed captions" on streaming shows, Samsung said in a press release, with private conversations safely locked in on the phones. Analysts said it would be a "significant achievement" and sign of real technological progress if Samsung's AI could offer real-time translation of voice calls — but questioned how it would work. "The whole process will take at least three to four seconds during which the AI will understand an original content and translate into a foreign language."—DNA

N.Myanmar conflict displaces 50,000 civilians: UN

Almost 50,000 people have been displaced by fighting in northern Myanmar after an alliance of ethnic armed groups launched an offensive against the military two weeks ago, the United Nations

NEWS DESK

NAYPYIDAW : Fighting has raged for two weeks across northern Shan state near the Chinese border, in what analysts say poses the biggest military challenge to the junta since it seized power in 2021. The Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MN-DAA), Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and Arakan Army (AA) say they have seized dozens of military outposts and blocked vital trade routes to China. "As of 9 November, almost 50,000 people in northern Shan were forced into displacement," the United Nations Office for the

Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) said in an update. Outside Shan state's Lashio township — home to the military's northeastern command — internet and phone services were disrupted, hindering humanitarian responses to the fighting, UNOCHA said. Restrictions on transport and availability of cash were hindering efforts by local humanitarian groups to give out aid, it said. Members of the ethnic rebel group Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) take part in a training exercise at their base camp in the forest in Myanmar's northern Shan State in March 2023. A further 40,000 people have been displaced by clashes between

the military and its opponents in neighbouring Sagaing region and Kachin state since early November, UNOCHA said. The military has made little comment on the surprise offensive but earlier this week the junta-appointed president warned the country could end up "split into various parts" if the military was unable to "manage" the fighting. The remoteness of the rugged, jungle-clad region — home to pipelines that supply oil and gas to China — and patchy communications make it difficult to verify casualty numbers. Beijing, a major junta ally and arms supplier, on Tuesday confirmed there had been Chinese casualties as a result of the clashes in

Myanmar. A foreign ministry spokesman did not say whether the Chinese were killed or wounded, nor where precisely the incident had taken place. Communications blackout Myanmar's borderlands are home to more than a dozen ethnic armed groups, some of which have fought the military for decades over autonomy and control of lucrative resources. Some have trained and equipped newer "People's Defence Forces" (PDF) that have sprung up since the coup to fight the military's bloody crackdown on dissent. Earlier this week, several PDF groups claimed to have seized the town of Kawlin in Sagaing region, home to mostly

ethnic-majority Bamar and a traditional recruiting ground for the military. The Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MN-DAA), Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and Arakan Army (AA) say they have seized dozens of military outposts and blocked vital trade routes to China. They were unable to reach residents in the area, where internet and phone lines are largely cut. Sagaing, which borders Shan and Kachin states, has become a hotspot of resistance to junta rule. Dozens of PDF groups are active across Sagaing, where the military is accused of burning villages and massacring inhabitants.

Briefs

Qatar's emir visits Egypt for talks on ending Gaza violence

DNA
CAIRO: The leaders of Qatar and Egypt met in Cairo on Friday, both hoping to mediate a de-escalation of violence in the Gaza Strip, the provision of humanitarian aid and the release of Israeli hostages. The talks between Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani discussed intensified efforts to achieve a cease-fire in Gaza and the delivery of sufficient quantities of aid for its 2.3 million besieged residents, a statement from El-Sisi's office said. Qatar said "joint efforts to stop the aggression against Gaza, reduce escalation and bring in urgent humanitarian aid" were discussed. The Qatari emir's visit comes a day after Qatar's prime minister met the chiefs of the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and Israeli spy agency Mossad in Doha to discuss the parameters of a deal for a hostage release and a pause in fighting between Israel and Hamas. Qatar, where several Hamas political leaders are based, has been leading mediation between the Palestinian militant group and Israeli officials for the release of more than 240 hostages taken by Hamas militants on Oct. 7, in an attack in which Israel says 1,400 people were killed.

Protesters blockade UK defense giant's factory

LONDON: UK trade union members on Friday blocked a British military equipment maker in southeastern England, calling for a cease-fire in Israel's offensive in Gaza. Demonstrators brandished banners and placards reading "no business as usual" and "taxpayers have blood on their hands" outside the gates of the BAE Systems factory in Rochester. Organizers said they were aiming to shut down the factory "which provides components for military aircraft currently being used by Israeli forces in the bombardment of Gaza." They said it was part of an "international day of action for Palestine" organized in response to a call by Palestinian trade unionists. Since the Hamas attacks in southern Israel on October 7 - in which Israel says 1,400 people were killed and 240 taken hostage - Israel has bombarded Gaza relentlessly and sent in ground troops. The Palestinian territory's Hamas-run health ministry says more than 10,800 people have been killed in Gaza, many of them children. - Agencies

Workers' remittances increase by 11.5%

DNA
KARACHI: The remittances from the overseas workers were recorded at \$2.5 billion in the month of October making it an increase of 11.5% month-on-month basis, said SBP in a statement on Friday. "In terms of growth, during October 2023, remittances increased by 11.5% on month on month and 9.6% on year on year basis," said the central bank. The central bank also shared that in the first four months of the ongoing fiscal year, the inward remittances stood at \$8.8 billion. As per the SBP, out of the \$2.5 billion, Pakistani workers from Saudi Arabia sent \$616.8 million, United Arab Emirates was second with \$473.9 million, remittances from United Kingdom were recorded at \$330.2 million and \$283.3 million was sent from the United States. Former economic adviser to the Ministry of Finance Dr Khaqan Najeeb credited the closing of the exchange rate between the open and interbank markets and curbing of illegal exchange for the increase in remittances.

Ambassador Adam Tugio says Pak a great country to work in

Says there are many potential sectors in both the countries including tourism, trade, technology, energy and agriculture through which both countries can expand their relations

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia Adam M. Tugio has said that Indonesia and Pakistan have huge potential to increase their trade and economic ties besides further strengthening people-to-people, educational and cultural linkages. He said he will miss Pakistan a lot adding in Indonesia he would serve as the Ambassador of Pakistan as well. Ambassador Adam Tugio expressed these views while speaking at a farewell hosted by Dr Abrarul Hasnain at his residence. Ambassadors and High Commissioners of Japan, Malaysia, Norway, Poland, Jordan, Romania, Brunei, Kazakhstan, European Union, Philippines, Maldives, Morocco, Turkiye, Kenya, Red Cross and prominent business as well social figures of Pakistan attended the dinner. He said that there are many potential sectors in both the countries including tourism, trade, technology, energy and agriculture through which both countries can expand their relations. He said that Indonesia and Pakistan are connected by historical religious ties and we have to transfer this legacy to our next generations. He said that the best memories of his life are associated with Pakistan. This country is extremely hospitable and it is unparalleled in its natural beauty. He said that his experiences as the ambassador of Indonesia in Pakistan were wonderful. There are strong possibilities of Pakistan-Indonesia direct flight being operational and by finalizing it soon, direct air connectivity will be established between the two countries. The free trade



agreement between Pakistan and Indonesia will be finalized soon after which mutual trade between the two countries will increase further. He said that he had done a lot of work to increase the mutual relations of the people in both the countries and more work



is needed on this. Indonesia can be a gateway for Pakistan in ASEAN countries and in the same way, Pakistan can develop trade routes for Indonesia in South Asia and Central Asian countries, he concluded. Dr. Abrar in his welcome remarks today is a sad and a happy occasion as well. Sad in the sense that our dear friend Ambassador Adam Tugio is leaving us after completing his term in Pakistan. But at the same time it is a happy moment as well as our brother Adam has been elevated to post of the advisor to the Indonesian foreign minister on political and security affairs. He said, there is no doubt that during the tenure of Adam Tugio relations between the two countries touched new horizons. Even during his farewell meeting with President of Pakistan few days ago, the President duly and rightly recognized his services. Dr. Abrar wished him success in his all his future endeavors. He hoped the ambassador shall be able to visit Pakistan again either in his official capacity or on a private trip. In both cases, he shall be accorded a warm welcome and hospitality, he added.

Israel must protect Palestinians in West Bank

AMMAN: The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said on Friday that Israel must take immediate measures to protect Palestinians in the occupied West Bank as they find themselves targeted by more violence since the Israeli-Hamas war erupted last month. Volker Turk said at least 176 Palestinians, including 43 children and one woman, had been killed in incidents involving Israeli security forces since the beginning of October. At least eight Palestinians had been killed by Israeli settlers. Before the start of the Gaza war between Israel and the Islamist group Hamas on Oct. 7, it was already the deadliest year on record for Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, with about 200 killed. "I...appeal as a matter of urgency for Israeli authorities to take immediate measures, to take steps to ensure the protection of Palestinians

in the West Bank, who are being on a daily basis subjected to violence from Israeli forces and settlers, ill treatment, arrests, evictions, intimidation and humiliation," Turk told reporters in Jordan's capital Amman. The worsening violence in the West Bank has fueled concerns that the Palestinian territory could become a third front in a wider war, in addition to Israel's northern border where clashes with Lebanese Hezbollah forces have taken place. "It is Israel's duty to ensure that all incidents of violence are promptly and effectively investigated, and that victims are provided with effective remedies," Turk said. "Continued widespread impunity for such violations is unacceptable, dangerous, and it is in clear violation of Israel's obligation under international human rights law." Israel has vowed to destroy Hamas and said it has also been conducting counter-terrorism operations against militants from the group and other Palestinian armed factions in the West Bank. Over the past 18 months, Israeli troops have killed hundreds of Palestinians - hardened militant fighters, stone-throwing youths and uninvolved civilians - and made thousands of arrests across the West Bank. In the same period, dozens of Israelis have been killed in attacks by Palestinians. - Agencies

Punjab CM Naqvi takes notice of forced closure of shops in Lahore

DNA
LAHORE: Taking notice of the closure of shops in Lahore by force, Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi on Friday directed the DIG operations to stop local authorities from forcing traders to shut down their businesses. The chief minister said that nobody could be allowed to force traders to close their shops. "They are free to run their businesses even on Fridays," he said categorically. Also on Friday, CM Naqvi, at a ceremony held in Lahore, pinned badges on the shirts of five ASPs on their promotion to SPs. Families of the police officials were also present on the occasion. The police officials were Salman Zafar, Taimoor Khan, Bushra Nisar, Sidra Khan and Munazza Karamat. Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister congratulated them on their promotion and expressed his good wishes for them. "Every honest, hardworking and professional policeman deserves promotion," he said, and added, "The Punjab government will continue to support such personnel." He further said that the police would have to come up to the expectations of people by changing the 'Thana Culture', and focusing on resolving the problems of complainants.



SC bench to hear appeal against Musharraf's death sentence

DNA
ISLAMABAD: A four-member bench of the Supreme Court of Pakistan (SC) led by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa bench will hear appeals filed by former president Pervez Musharraf against his 2019 death sentence. The bench comprising CJP Isa, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, and Justice Athar Minalah will hear the former ruler's appeals against his 2019 death sentence. The former president was sentenced to death by a special court on December 17, 2019, under Article 6 of the Constitution after a case of high treason was filed against him during Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) tenure for his "unconstitutional" decision to impose an emergency in November 2007. Musharraf had been residing in the UAE after leaving Pakistan for medical treatment - with the PML-N government's approval - in March 2016. He passed away in Dubai in February 2023 and was laid to rest in Karachi's Malir Cantonment. During today's hearing, CJP Isa lamented why the

cases from 2019 were still not fixed for hearing until now and questioned Salman Safdar, Musharraf's lawyer, as to why his petition was not allotted any number for hearing. At this, the lawyer responded that the registrar's office had objected that no appeal can be filed by a convicted individual without surrendering before the court first. The apex court - in an in-chamber hearing - had then directed the appeal to be fixed for hearing in an open court. "When was the appeal fixed to be heard after the in-chamber hearing?" the chief justice asked. To this, Safdar apprised the top judge that, after that, the appeal has been fixed for hearing today for the first time. "It is a basic right [of a convicted individual] that [his] appeal be heard before the death sentence is carried out," the lawyer added. He also highlighted the appeal against Musharraf's death sentence was filed after an amendment in relevant criminal law Safdar further stressed that the special court's verdict was not "unanimous" and his client was "sentenced in absentia". The court, approving the former president's appeal against his death sentence, issued notices to relevant parties in the case and adjourned the hearing till November 21.

Justice Naqvi demands expulsion of 'biased' SJC members

CJP Isa, SJC members' "participation in proceedings taints those proceedings with bias," Justice Naqvi says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LAHORE: Supreme Court's Justice Sayyed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi - who was due to submit his reply to the show cause notice issued to him by the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) on complaints registered against him on Friday - instead raised objections on Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa and two other members of the council. "Their participation in the proceedings resulting in a show cause notice being issued to me taints those proceedings, inter alia, with bias and makes all orders passed in such proceedings as being without lawful authority and of no legal effect," Justice Naqvi stated about the top judge and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan in the 18-page document submitted to the SJC. The judge objected that CJP Isa and Justice Afghan being the chairman and member of the inquiry commission, respectively, investigating the audio leaks case against him, cannot participate in the SJC's proceedings against him. "The [inquiry commission] proceedings are sub judice. The same alleged audio leaks which were referred to the inquiry commission are subject matter of the complaints against me before SJC. The SRO is still in the field. S.R.O. 596(1)/2023 dated May 19, 2023 is attached as Annex L.

Order of the Supreme Court dated May 26, 2023, passed in Constitution Petitions No.14 to 17 of 2023 is attached as Annexure M," he stated. Justice Naqvi then urged the two judges to recuse themselves from hearing the complaints against him in the SJC. Moreover, he maintained the same about Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, basing his objection on the claim that the judge is "disqualified from hearing those complaints as a member of SJC after having expressed an opinion on the complaints against me". He said that Justice Masood's opinion expressed in a couple of letters established that "he has already formed a view in the matter". Justice Naqvi said that Justice Masood deliberately delayed his opinion till the change in the composition of the SJC following former CJP Umar Ata Bandial. Moreover, the judge maintained that Justice Masood is also one of the judges who are facing a complaint against him before the SJC. Justice Naqvi also stated in his objections that the proceedings against him are discriminatory and violative of Article 25 of the Constitution. "The complaints against me are frivolous. They are all based on conjecture and false allegations. None are supported by evidence. They are, therefore, liable to be dismissed," he maintained. He added that "there was no discussion or enquiry into the allegations" against him.

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