



Islamabad POST

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Israel perusing Nazi approach, wants to kill all Palestinians

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Crackdown against underage drivers: Naqvi

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PCB appoints Wahab as Pak Chief Selector

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Govt challenges SC verdict against military courts

Appeal said that, may 9 incidents were neither localised nor isolated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The caretaker federal government filed an appeal in the Supreme Court on Friday against the decision of a five-member bench that had declared the trials of civilians under the Pakistan Army Act 1952 as unconstitutional. Former chief justice Jawwad S. Khawaja, one of those who successfully petitioned the Supreme Court against the military trials of civilians, the provinces of Balochistan, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, through their respective chief secretaries; and the government, through the secretary of the defence ministry, were named respondents in the case. In the widely praised Oct 23 ruling, the bench, comprising Justices Ijazul Ahsan, Munib Akhtar, Yahya Afridi, Syed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Aysha Malik had declared that trying civilians in military courts for their alleged role in attacks on army installations during the riots that followed PTI chairman Imran Khan's arrest were ultra vires the Constitution. The bench had also emphasised that the cases of the suspects involved in the vandalism would proceed before criminal courts. The federal government's appeal comes on the heels of a similar plea filed by the Sindh government. The fresh appeal has not yet been accepted for hearing. The appeal filed by the Centre said that the incidents of May 9 involved "targeted attacks" on military installations and establishments in an "organised and coordinated manner", adding that they were "neither localised nor isolated". The plea said that several first information reports (FIRs) were registered in the aftermath. It noted that several of the FIRs did not mention provisions of the Army Act but argued that the SC had previously held that the contents and not a particular statutory provision determined the nature of offences. It said that the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act was declared ultra vires the Constitution and had taken effect since April 21.

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Ruckus in Senate over resolution

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The upper house of Parliament saw much commotion in its session on Friday after senators protested the passage of a resolution urging the Supreme Court to "reconsider" its verdict on the military trials of civilians. The resolution was passed on Monday in the presence of less than a dozen senators. It had urged the top court to "reconsider" its verdict of declaring "unconstitutional" the military trial of civilians for their alleged role in attacks on army installations on May 9. The resolution was not part of the agenda issued before Monday's session and was tabled when a majority of members were absent. It was read out by independent Senator Dilawar Khan from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and supported only by the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) senators. Only two senators — Raza Rabbani of the PPP and Mushtaq Ahmed of Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) — had protested against the hasty passage of the resolution, but Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani had ignored their protests. The two-page resolution had termed the SC verdict "an attempt to rewrite the law" and an encroachment of the parliament's legislative authority. The day after the passage of the resolution, members belonging to the country's

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RAMALLAH: President Mahmoud Abbas welcomed meets High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. — DNA

British Army Chief reaches Pakistan

General Sanders will meet with COAS Asim Munir

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The British Army's Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Patrick Sanders KCB CBE DSO ADC Gen, arrived in Pakistan for a routine three-day Defence Engagement visit. During his visit General Sanders will meet with Pakistan's Chief of the Army Staff, General Asim Munir, and amid other defence engagements, will watch the British Army Polo Team compete against their Pakistani Army opponents in Lahore. This sporting contest will also feature performances from the Band of the Honourable Artillery Company, of which General Sanders serves as the Colonel Commandant.

Continued on Page 06

Afghanistan behind attacks

DNA

QUETTA: Militant attacks on Pakistan are being planned by the terrorists in Afghanistan, thus all the refugees have to leave the country. This was stated by Balochistan Interim Information Minister Jan Achakzai on Friday while addressing a press conference. He said the terrorists in Afghanistan should be handed over to Pakistan and those who attempted to defame the country would be replied in befitting manners. All the illegal immigrants would be sent back by January, he intimated, warning the facilitators of the terrorist groups.

Bilawal says old politics Pakistan's worst enemy

"PPP will kick off its election campaign soon," says party chairman

SHAMIM SHAHID

MARDAN: As parties go into electioneering mode, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari lamented on traditional politics terming it as the country's worst enemy and stressed the need to embark on "new politics". Speaking at a workers' convention in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Mardan, Bilawal termed traditional politics as Pakistan's worst enemy and said: "We need to [embark] on a new political [direction and strategy] which will allow us to overcome the issues faced by the country." He added: "Veteran politicians neither think about the present nor the future [as] they are still stuck in the past. We want to leave behind the politics of division, hate and abuse which [as part of] the traditional politics has been going on for the [past] 70 years." While talking about modern-day politics and its benefits, the PPP leader said: "We have to become the voice of the 'new politics' [...] We think about the present and future and not what's in the past." "Politicians who joined the 'Mehangai league' [inflation party] will not remain electable anymore [due to their decision]," Bilawal said while referring to former ally Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz supreme leader Nawaz Sharif's Quetta visit which saw more than 30 key political entities — from

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People firmly stand with PTI, says Omar Ayub

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan made it clear that the people of the country were firmly standing with PTI and its Chairman Imran Khan despite all the unabated repression and operation, which was evident from the Charsadda's workers conventions that turned into huge public gatherings. PTI Secretary General said that three days ago, a PTI workers' convention was held in Shakoor Khan's hujra in Charsadda, which was eventually converted into a massive public meeting. Similarly, he stated that on Thursday, the PTI workers' convention was held at Fazal Khan's residence, which was attended massive crowd that showed their love for the party Chairman Imran Khan. Omar Ayub said that the huge public participation in the PTI workers conventions clearly indicated that the people of the country firmly stood with

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Briefs

Muizzu sworn in as Maldives president

Murtaza Solangi attended ceremony

DNA

MALE: Mohamed Muizzu was sworn in on Friday as the eighth president of the island nation of Maldives.

Muizzu previously served as the mayor of Male, the capital city, as well as housing minister from 2012 to 2018. Alongside Muizzu, Hussain Mohamed Latheef was also sworn in as vice president by the nation's chief justice, Ahmed Muthasim Adnan.

Sheikh firm on contesting elections

ADIL SHAHEEN

RAWALPINDI: Former federal interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed says he will contest elections even if he is jailed. Talking to journalists outside the Lahore High Court's Rawalpindi bench on Friday, he said, "The Pakistan Muslim League-N head and former premier Nawaz Sharif has started speaking and now I will also begin expressing my viewpoint." Rashid expressed his wish to start visiting the press clubs after Jan 1.

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

Gaza 'sliding into hunger hell': WFP

'All ICU patients' dead in Al-Shifa amid Israel raid: Hospital director

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK CITY: Almost the entire population of Gaza risks "sliding into hunger hell" unless fuel deliveries are allowed to resume and there is a rapid increase in food supplies, an official from the UN's World Food Programme warned on Thursday. It came as the UN said 2.2 million Palestinians in the territory now need food aid to survive. The WFP said that with "winter fast approaching and unsafe and overcrowded shelters that lack clean water, people are facing the immediate possibility of starvation." Abeer Etefa, the WFP's senior regional communications officer for the Middle East and North Africa region, said: "The collapse of food supply chains is a catastrophic turning point in an already very dire situation. Gaza was not an easy place to live in before Oct. 7, and if the situation was better before this conflict, it's now disastrous."

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President Abbas meets EU's Borrell

FOREIGN DESK

RAMALLAH: President Mahmoud Abbas welcomed the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, at the presidential headquarters in Ramallah, where they discussed the latest developments in the occupied Palestinian territories. During the meeting, President Abbas urged the European Union to exert pressure on the Israeli occupation authorities to stop their continuous aggression against the Palestinian people. Additionally, he urged the acceleration of humanitarian aid delivery into Gaza and demanded an end to

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No space for intolerance, extreme behavior against anyone: COAS

Pak belongs to all Pakistanis without religious, sectarian distinction



STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Leading Islamic Scholars (Ulema o Mashaikh) of all schools of thought interacted with General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ Ulema and Mashaikh unanimously condemned extremism, terrorism and sectarianism and pledged their continued support for untiring efforts of State and security forces for bringing tolerance, peace and stability in the country. They underscored that Islam

is a religion of peace and harmony and any skewed and distorted interpretations of religion by certain entities is for their vested interests only and has nothing to do with Islamic teachings. COAS while lauding 'Paigham-e-Pakistan' Fatwa by religious scholars to nullify misleading propaganda disseminated by extremists and terrorists called upon Ulema o Mashaikh for its propagation and implementation in letter and spirit and shun internal schisms. COAS signified the role of Ulema in harnessing youth towards understanding of Quran and Sunnah and character build-

ing alongside other academic knowledge and technical skills. COAS said that, there is no space for intolerance and extreme behavior by any entity against anyone, particularly against minorities and vulnerable segments of the society. The forum unanimously supported Government's measures to harden the State including repatriation of illegal foreigners, implementation of One Document Regime, anti-smuggling and hoarding measures and anti-power theft drive. It also fully acknowledged Pakistan's position and concerns on terrorism emanating from Afghan soil and urged serious actions by Afghanistan to address Pakistan's concerns. The forum also expressed anguish on the ongoing conflict in Gaza and atrocities being committed against hapless people of Gaza and termed them as crimes against humanity. "Pakistan belongs to all Pakistanis without any religious, provincial, tribal, linguistic, ethnic, sectarian or any other distinction. Use of force and armed action by any militia, entity or group other than State is unacceptable", COAS concluded.

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PAK-China joint naval exercise culminates

The Exercise included a wide range of operational manoeuvres encompassing major facets of Anti-Surface, Anti-Air, Mine Warfare and Special Operations in simulated multi threat environment to provide optimum training value

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI : Closing Ceremony of bi-lateral exercise Sea Guardian - 2023 between Pakistan Navy and Peoples Liberation Army (Navy) of China was held at Pakistan Navy Dockyard, Karachi. The exercise was conducted at Karachi and North Arabian Sea, in which six Chinese Navy units including Destroyer, Frigates, Submarine, Oil tanker and Rescue ship along with a detachment of marines participated. The Exercise included a wide range of operational manoeuvres encom-

passing major facets of Anti-Surface, Anti-Air, Mine Warfare and Special Operations in simulated multi threat environment to provide optimum training value. The aim of exercise was to further enhance maritime cooperation and defence relations through mutual exchange of maritime experience and interoperability between the two navies. Concurrent to Chinese PLA (Navy) ships' visit, Commander Qingdao Naval Base Rear Admiral Liang Yang also visited Pakistan. Besides attending the closing ceremony, the Flag Officer called on Commander Coast,

Commander Pakistan Fleet and other senior PN officials. During interaction matters of bilateral naval collaboration and regional maritime security were discussed. Exercise Sea Guardian - 23 proved mutually rewarding to hone professional skills of participating navies and a forum to learn from each other's experiences. Regular conduct of bilateral naval exercise is a manifestation of mutual resolve to further enhance bilateral cooperation between the two navies. The closing ceremony was attended by a large number of officials from both the navies.



ISLAMABAD: care-taker Federal Minister of National Heritage and Culture Division Jamal Shah along with the Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Dr Reza Amiri Moghadam taking interest in posters during "Poster Exhibition" to highlight the cruelty on the oppressed innocent Muslims of Palestine, As Organized by Cultural Consulate of the Islamic Republic of Iran at Lok Versa in Federal Capital.— ONLINE

President for dietary changes to prevent cardiovascular diseases

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD, President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday stressing a preventive rather than curative approach said dietary and lifestyle changes could prevent non-communicable diseases such as heart ailments and strokes. In his video-link address to the 12th biennial conference of the Pakistan Society of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeons held in Peshawar, he said preventive measures not only decreased the risk of disease but also reduced the burden on the national healthcare system. President Alvi said cardiovascular diseases were also being diagnosed in young people and mentioned that the lengthy treatment and surgery of cardiac diseases became unaffordable for the patients. Therefore, he said, consuming a healthy diet and quitting a sedentary lifestyle and smoking had positive effects on the control of cardiac diseases. He recalled that the country made relentless and coordinat-

ed efforts to manage the COVID-19 pandemic extremely well. He emphasized adopting similar passion and targeted action to prioritize the prevention of CVDs. The president stressed investment in the training and professional development of healthcare practitioners specialized in cardiovascular and thoracic care. He highlighted the importance of telemedicine and technology to facilitate remote consultations, diagnostics, and monitoring. This, he said, would be especially crucial for patients in remote and rural areas of the country who faced challenges in reaching out to healthcare facilities. He said cases of malnutrition and obesity were being reported in the country side by side and termed it the responsibility of the State to raise awareness about the intake of healthy diet instead of junk food. Besides practicing their curative medicine, Dr Alvi urged the doctors and medical practitioners to make a service to society by encouraging preventive care and convincing the general public

to adopt the routine of walk and specific exercises. The president also spoke about mental stress in society and said an overall 24 percent population suffers from it and around 60-80 percent of students of higher studies deal with it. In this regard, he suggested a helpline that could provide assistance to people in need by filtering them through artificial intelligence. CEO of Pakistan Institute of Cardiology and convener of the conference Prof. Dr. Shahkar Ahmed Shah said PIC was providing healthcare services being the first state-of-the-art public hospital in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the first to attain ISO certification. He said the graduate surgeons from PIC would play an important role in the healthcare system of the province and across the country. President of Pakistan Association of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeons (PACVTS), Prof Dr Athar Yunus, Patron 12th Biennial PACVTS, Prof Dr Mohammad Rehman, and medical practitioners attended the conference

KPK Police strives to curb terrorism

ABBOTTABAD : Inspector General (IG) Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Akhtar Ahsan Gandapur Friday has underscored the vital role of youth in preventing terrorism and maintaining peace in the province. Highlighting districts such as Lakki Marwat, Tank, and Dera Ismail Khan as more susceptible to terrorism, he revealed the uncovering of ISIS networks in several areas, including Peshawar. IGP Ijaz Ahsan Gandapur expressed these views while talking to the media after the inauguration of the new headquarters building of the Counter-Terrorism Department in Hazara Division, costing 173.66 million rupees. He said that efforts to thwart terrorist activities are in full swing, with the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), leading the charge. Successful anti-terrorism operations have yielded positive outcomes, showcasing the police's commitment to their duties. The police force is well-prepared to ensure security during upcoming elections. The IG emphasized the active contribution of the youth in establishing peace, he noted the effective control of terrorism-related incidents in the province. To enhance counter-terrorism measures, the capabilities of the Counter-Terrorism Department have been bolstered, and additional districts have been included in its jurisdiction. Currently, 15 regions of the CTD are operational, addressing incidents in districts like Malakand.—APP

IG PUNJAB visited at police training college Chung

LAHORE: According to the sources of Daily Notable, Inspector General Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar visited the Police Training College Chung Lahore and issued important instructions during address to the police officers and officials and lady officers undergoing training in various courses. IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar said that Punjab Police is combating the challenges of terrorism, extremism and sectarianism however, the police force will not allow anti-national forces to rise again at any cost. Dr. Usman Anwar said that the Punjab Police has given great sacrifices alongside the Pakistan Army in the war against terrorism. Despite the lim-

ited resources and adverse conditions Punjab Police is a security wall between the people and the anti-social elements. IG Punjab said that the leap of faith journey started 10 months ago for infrastructure development, promotions, welfare of the force to achieve positive results, the results of which are gradually being transferred to the people of the province in the form of better service delivery. IG Punjab Dr. Usman said that there is no other organization that protects the internal borders and citizens of the country more than the police. It is the responsibility of all of you to bring the positive image of Punjab Police to the world through the eradication of crimes and

the best service delivery. Dr. Usman Anwar said that the training curriculum has been upgraded according to modern policing and facilities in police colleges and schools, along with the Police Training College Chung, training institutes at Ferozabad, Sialkot, Multan and Sargodha have further improved the training skills and syllabus so that the under training officers and officials should perform more better in field of their duties of public service and safety of lives and properties of the citizens after completing their training. He expressed these views while addressing officers and officials on the occasion of his visit to Police Training College Chung.—APP

50pc wheat cultivation target achieved

FAISALABAD : Divisional Director Agriculture (Extension) Faisalabad Chaudhary Abdul Hameed said on Friday that around 50 per cent target of wheat cultivation had been achieved in the division and the remaining would also be accomplished soon. Talking to APP here, he said the government had set wheat cultivation target of 1790,000 acres of land for Faisalabad division and out of that, 50 per cent target had so far been achieved.—APP

ADB approves \$250 million loan for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD : The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved \$250 million in loans that will help deliver reliable electricity in Pakistan by expanding and improving the power transmission network in the country's Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces. ADB's Power Transmission Strengthening Project will help reinforce the stability of the national grid by increasing its transmission capacity. The project will expand the high-voltage transmission network to close 500 kilovolt (kV) and 220 kV transmission lines loops and reduce transmission losses in Lahore city in Punjab by replacing old

transmission lines. "Reliable power supply is essential to inclusive, sustainable economic growth, and it will also provide economic opportunities to rural communities," said ADB Director General for Central and West Asia Yevgeniy Zhukov. "We are pleased to continue supporting Pakistan in its efforts to achieve energy security while improving energy efficiency," the DG said. The project will complement ADB's ongoing support to the National Transmission & Despatch Company Limited (NTDC) aimed at ensuring energy security, climate resilience, and increased transmission capacity to deploy sufficient, reliable, clean,

and cost-effective energy. Improving the management of the national transmission system of Pakistan is another key objective. Aside from strengthening power transmission, ADB's project will also enhance the project and financial management of NTDC, as well as its capacity to incorporate climate resilience in planning and operations. "To promote gender equality and women's involvement in the energy sector, ADB will develop guidelines for mentorships, conduct awareness campaigns, establish childcare centers, and provide technical training to female staff in the NTDC," said ADB Senior Energy.—APP

Punjab considers artificial rain to combat Lahore smog

ABID RAZA

LAHORE : In an attempt to combat severe smog levels in Lahore, the Punjab government is considering the use of "artificial rain" later this month as a measure to ease the smog situation in the provincial capital, it emerged on Friday. Artificial rain, also known as cloud seeding, is a weather modification technique that aims to increase precipitation from clouds by dispersing substances, typically silver or potassium iodide, into the air to provide a surface for water vapour to condense onto. The increased condensation leads to the forma-

tion of larger water droplets that eventually fall as rain. Punjab's interim Environment Minister, Bilal Iqbal, chaired a meeting today to explore an innovative approach to addressing the persistent smog issue. The discussion took place in the wake of Lahore reclaiming the top spot in the global pollution ranking on Thursday, with residents enduring unhealthy air quality levels throughout the entire day. According to a statement issued by the provincial ministry, a consultation meeting was conducted to consider the feasibility of artificial rain. The minister instructed the formation of a working group to supervise the initiative for artificial rain by Nov 28 or 29. He mentioned that

the working group had been assigned the responsibility of evaluating measures to facilitate the deployment of aircraft for artificial rain. The minister also stressed the crucial necessity of cloud presence for the successful execution of "artificial rain." Caretaker Education Minister Mansoor Qadir, present at the meeting, asserted that the working group would thoroughly analyse all facets of the initiative and their ultimate recommendations would be submitted to the chief minister for approval. According to Reuters, Indian scientists last week also planned to seed clouds for the first time to trigger heavy rain in some areas

of New Delhi, hoping this will be enough to tackle the smog gripping the world's most polluted capital. How do you get artificial rain? Cloud seeding (a form of weather modification), according to experts, is the attempt to change the amount or type of precipitation that falls from clouds, by dispersing substances into the air that serve as cloud condensation or ice nuclei, which alter the micro-physical processes within the cloud. The practice is very common in China, where dangerously high levels of air pollution put residents at risk, which is why the government at times uses induced rain to bring down pollution levels.

Punjab CM orders crackdown against underage drivers

CM Mohsin Naqvi issued the orders after a family of six was killed in a road accident by an underage driver

DNA

LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday ordered a crackdown against underage drivers across the province after a family was killed by a teenage driver in DHA Lahore. Naqvi directed the inspector general of Punjab police, capital city police officer Lahore and regional police officers to take action against those driving cars and bikes without a license. "Underage drivers are not only a threat to others but themselves as well. Parents should not allow underage kids to drive cars and bikes," Naqvi

appealed while issuing the directives. The action comes after a teenage driver named Afnan killed a family of six in an accident in Lahore's Defence Phase 7. According to The News, teenage driver Afnan had clashed with the victims and threatened them before hitting their car. The driver followed the women sitting in the car from Y Block for quite some time. Hasnain, the driver of the victims' car, sped up his vehicle multiple times so that Afnan could give up the chase, but the accused did not give up and continued harassing the family. However, Hasnain later stopped the vehicle and scolded Afnan for his

behaviour. Hasnain's father, travelling in another car, also asked Afnan to stop harassing the women but he rammed his car into the victims' vehicle at a speed of 160km/hour near McDonald's Chowk. After the accident, Hasnain's car flew 70 feet away from the road and all the occupants died on site. Four people came to rescue but the suspect ran away after seeing the anger of the people. The teenager has now been taken into custody. The case has been handed over to deputy superintendent Kahna with sections of terrorism and murder added in the first information report. LHC orders arrest of drivers

without license. Meanwhile, the Lahore High Court (LHC) has ordered the authorities to arrest drivers driving without a license and expressed displeasure over the violation of traffic rules. Justice Ali Zia Bajwa passed the remarks while hearing an appeal filed by the suspect challenging the insertion of Section 302 (premeditated murder) of the Pakistan Penal Code. The stance taken in the application was that the accused being less than 18 years of age, should be tried in a juvenile court. As per the petitioner, Section 302 has been unnecessarily included in the FIR. Today when the court

took up the petition it summoned the CTO Lahore and the senior superintendent operations. Once the officials came, Justice Bajwa remarked that the car accident was a very sad one. During the hearing, the CTO Lahore informed the court that there are 7.3 million cars while 1.3 million people have valid licenses. The court then asked what action was being taken against those driving without licenses and what action had been taken following the accident. The CTO Lahore informed the court that they had launched a crackdown in the last three days.

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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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ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Ethiopia H.E Mr. Jemal Beker Abdula hosted at a Launching Ceremony of a Book Titled: Medemer Generation written by H.E Mr Abiy Ahmed Prime Minister of Ethiopia at Ethiopian embassy. Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry federal secretary education & professional Training ,Saudi ambassador H.E Mr. Nawaf Saeed Al-malki , Zafar Bakhtawari Secretary General UBG Pakistan and Chairman Pakistan -Africa Friendship association ,Kenya Ambassador H.E Ms Mary Nyambura Kamu, Somalia Ambassador H.E Mr.Shirwa Abdullahi Ibrahim, Portugal Ambassador Mr. Frederico Silva, TRNC ambassador H.E Ms Dilsad Senol, are cutting ribbon after formal book launch ceremony.—DNA

Ethiopian Embassy presents 'Medemer Generation' book

He said the idea of Generation Medemer has paramount importance to Pakistan context so as to address the challenges and harness the potential build a strong and vibrant country

ISLAMABAD : The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Friday unveiled the "Medemer Generation" Book authored by Dr. Abiy Ahmed Prime Minister of FDR Ethiopia that embodies an idea, philosophy and a framework for nation-building through synergy and alignment of all resources. Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry, Federal Secretary for Federal Education Ministry graced the occasion as chief guest and unveiled the Book "Medemer Generation" here alongside Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the

Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) Jemal Beker Abdula.

The ceremony for unveiling the book was held at the Embassy of FDR Ethiopia in Islamabad which was attended by a large number of politicians, government officials, parliamentarians, diplomatic communities, media and civil society of Pakistan. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdula elucidated the Medemer Philosophy of PM Dr. Abiy Ahmed who is a Nobel Prize Winner, champion of green legacy and an advocate for regional integration and pan-Africanism. The Ambassador said H.E. Dr Abiy Ahmed

has successfully led a change in the second most populous nation of Africa with effective implementation of his Medemer vision that advocated "interdependence and togetherness—a way of life that emphasizes collaboration, cooperation and unity."

He said Ethiopia had a visionary leader and a prolific writer who had authored three books that spelt out a holistic recipe to build a better and stronger generation that hands down the perfect legacy to the next generations that through further fine-tuning keeps up on this inter-generational connectivity which will ultimately give birth to an ideal and resilient

nations. "What exalts us Ethiopians today that we are led by a visionary leader Prime Minister His Excellency Dr Abiy Ahmed who, since coming into power, diligent works towards building a powerful political, economic, social and legal system that leaves a perfect legacy for the future generations by harnessing past strengths, seizing existing potentials and addressing shortfalls," the ambassador remarked. The Ambassador said the opening of the Ethiopian Embassy in Pakistan was also a result of the reforms carried out by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in Ethiopian foreign policy which attached great importance to Pa-

kistan due to its geopolitical importance, economy, geographical location and diverse culture. The Federal Secretary for Education commended the positive change brought by Dr. Abiy Ahmed Prime Minister of Ethiopia in his country through his philosophy, idea and vision of Medemer that was a guiding force for building Modern Ethiopia that has made remarkable political, economic progress in the recent past. He said the idea of Generation Medemer has paramount importance to Pakistan context so as to address the challenges and harness the potential build a strong and vibrant country.

US envoy meets ACS South Punjab

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The US envoy to Pakistan, Donald Blome, visited South Punjab Secretariat on Friday and met Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Saqib Zafar. Consul General Ms. Kristin K. Hawkins, Public Diplomacy Officer Karl Rogers, Economic Officer Douglas Justin, Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Ateel, Secretary Primary and Secondary Health Maher Muhammad Hayat Lak, Secretary Services Engineer Amjad Shoaib Khan Tareen and Secretary Specialized Healthcare Afzal Nasir Khan were also present in the meeting. Additional Chief Secretary briefed US Ambassador about the profile, issues, history and culture of South Punjab and the objectives of establishing the South Punjab Secretariat. He said the establishment of the Secretariat has accelerated the pace of development in the region but still there was a long way to go. He said that efforts were on to increase the standard of living and literacy rate of the people and to eradicate poverty. Saqib Zafar said South Punjab was an important region in terms of food security and measures to increase agricultural production are yielding excellent results. He said South Punjab has vast potential in agriculture and livestock sectors. ACS South said that launch of Green Book in schools on climate change and establishment of transgender schools are distinctive initiatives of the Secretariat. Conducting School Olympics games among schools has gained a lot of acceptance and it has become a very popular event in the region. Saqib Zafar also told about the first rowing competition in the history of South Punjab held in Bahawalpur and said next boating competition will be held at Punjab level.

SSP Traffic assures to address traffic issues in business areas

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Friday urged for forming citizen-police committee in order to control the traffic issues in the Capital as well as curb increasing road accidents and protecting precious human lives. Demand for this effect was made during the visit of SSP Traffic Police Islamabad Muhammad Sarfraz Virk to ICCI, said a press release. The SSP Traffic along with SP Chaudhry Abid and DSP Tariq Mehmood visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and discussed various options with the business community to control the traffic issues in the Capital. Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari President ICCI said that traffic accidents are increasing, so a police-citizen committee should be formed to work together to address this issue. He said that ap-

propriate measures should be taken to tackle the issues of speeding and violation of traffic rules. Minor children should be banned from driving, seat belts should be strictly enforced, one-wheeling and other violations of traffic rules should be curbed, which will reduce accidents and improve the traffic system in the city, he added. The President ICCI said that Islamabad was expanding rapidly and the current traffic police force was proving insufficient and urged IG Police Islamabad to increase the strength of traffic police to control the traffic issues in business areas and other busy places. He highlighted the need of improving the traffic system at the entrances of Islamabad like Rawat, Tarnol, Bara Kahu as the business hubs located in these areas are facing the worst traffic problems. He said that lane marking had not been done in busy areas for a long time due to which traffic discipline has weakened. Traffic Police should work on it in collaboration with ICCI. He urged the CDA to transfer

the traffic engineering department to traffic police. He said that ICCI was ready to conduct awareness campaigns in collaboration with traffic police to improve the traffic system in the city. Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad Sarfraz Virk, SSP Traffic Islamabad emphasized for close cooperation between the business community and the traffic police to address issues and promote disciplined traffic in the city. He said that a special mechanism had been made to enhance traffic police in big commercial centers to maintain smooth traffic flow. He underscored the need to install cameras in all the markets to control car theft and other incidents. He said that despite of limited resources, the traffic police was trying to perform better. He said that the ICCI should cooperate with the traffic police in awareness programs to educate the citizens about the importance of disciplined traffic.

Weekly inflation goes up by 9.95 pc

ISLAMABAD: The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 9.95 percent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on November 16, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 309.09 points as compared to 281.12 points during the past week, according to the PBS data. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 41.90 percent. The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centers and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs 17,732, increased by 6.63 percent and went up to 308.35 points from last week's 289.19 points. The SPI for consumption groups from Rs 17,732-22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175 increased by 10.34 percent, 12.80 percent, 10.50 percent and 8.07 percent respectively. During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 25 (49.02 percent) items increased, 13 (25.49 percent) items decreased and 13 (25.49 percent) items remained stable. The items, which recorded a decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week (WoW) included electricity charges (16.06 percent), tomatoes (11.16 percent), sugar (4.24 percent), diesel (2.15 percent), onions (1.49 percent), vegetable ghee 1 kg (1.39 percent), petrol (0.73 percent), cooking oil 5 litre (0.65 percent), rice irri-6/9 (0.42 percent), vegetable ghee 2.5 kg (0.28 percent) and gur (0.27 percent).—APP

GCWU delegation visits Parliament House

ISLAMABAD: A delegation comprising 83 members, accompanied by faculty members from the Government College Women University (GCWU) Faisalabad, visited the Parliament House on Friday. The delegation also toured the Senate Museum, where they were shown a documentary showcasing the historical significance of the Upper House. During the visit, Senate authorities provided the delegation with detailed briefings on the functioning, legislative processes, functions, and proceedings of the Senate. The delegation expressed keen interest in the statues of distinguished political figures and historical images displayed in the Senate Museum. The visit aimed to familiarize the members of the Women's University delegation with the workings of the Upper House.—APP

Planning Minister chairs BoD meeting of P3A

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed here on Friday chaired the 32nd meeting of the Board of Directors of the Public Private Partnership Authority (P3A). The meeting was attended by Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Dr Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan, Secretary Planning Ministry Awas Manzoor Sumra and private members of the board, a news release said. The meeting agenda, meticulously curated to address crucial matters concerning sustainable Public-Private Partnership (PPP) initiatives, was deliberated upon with precision and dedication. The discussions encompassed a wide range of topics, reflecting the comprehensive approach adopted by the P3A in fostering collaboration between the public and private sectors for national development. Key discussions centered on fortifying the sustainable PPP regime for driving economic growth. The board further focused on refining project preparation, appraisal, and development guidelines to align with international standards, emphasizing transparency and efficiency. The Environmental and Social Management Systems were highlighted as integral to PPP projects for upholding sustainability and social responsibility. The board addressed internal organizational matters to streamline processes, optimizing P3A's functioning and reinforcing its role in promoting public-private collaboration. The Planning Minister appreciated CEO of P3A Malik Ahmad Khan and his team for working with dedication. Acknowledging their commitment to advancing the national agenda through innovative PPP initiatives, the Minister commended their role in driving sustainable development and fostering economic growth.—DNA

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Briefs

Staff-level agreement with IMF is a major achievement

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Friday that the staff-level agreement with the IMF is a great achievement of the caretaker Finance Minister Dr. Shamshad Akhtar and the present government. Tough decisions were necessary to save the country, from which the economy shrank, compounding problems for the masses and the business community, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the condition of Pakistan's economy is now improving. Still, it needs to remain under IMF supervision for at least two years so that funds are well-spent. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the current IMF program should be completed in accordance with the professional recommendations of the IMF, and preparations for the new program should be initiated.

nt'l Students Day observed to support global student community

ISLAMABAD: International Students' Day was celebrated around the world including Pakistan on Friday to encourage the global student community and the challenges faced by international students. It is a challenge to be an international student abroad. It takes courage to leave your family and home behind. To improve their lives and support their families, international students travel long distances from their home countries to pursue higher education. All students find university life challenging, but there's no denying that overseas students face additional difficulties. These include language challenges, cultural differences, financial difficulties and homesickness. On International Students' Day, we have a wonderful opportunity to celebrate students everywhere. Today is a celebration of diversity, multiculturalism and teamwork. To mark the Day, different universities, educational institutes.—APP

Court Notice

In the court off Mr. Chaudhry Amin, Additional and Sessions Judge, Wazirabad Title: Civil Appeal Muhammad Salim son of Nawab Deen Qoum Ansari Bazzria Mukhtar Khas Muhammad Salim son of Muhammad Yusuf Qoum But Resident of Mahalla Ansariyan Gakhar Mandi Tehsil and District Wazirabad

vs
Muhammad Fazil, deceased Bazzria Qaimqam, heirs Muhammad Asghar, Muhammad Arshad, Muhammad Afzal, Muhammad Akhtar, sons of Muhammad Fazil, Balqis Bibi, widow of Muhammad Fazil, Saira Bibi, daughter of Muhammad Fazil, Ogun Jat Cheema, residents of Mahalla Ansariyan, Gakhar Mandi Tehsil, District Wazirabad, Hamad Ashraf Qum Jat Cheema, Naem Ahmad, son of Abdul Kareem Qum Ansari, Uzmi Kulsoom, daughter of Muhammad Javed, Qom Guraiya Resident of Par Gakhar Mandi, Atta Muhammad, son of Ghulam Muhammad Qum Ansari, Ziaullah, son of Ahmed Khan Qum Jat Cheema, resident of Mohalla Salamatpura, Imran Qaisar, son of Muhammad Yusuf Qum Kashmiri, Naem Tahir, son of Nawab Din, resident of Mohalla Ansari, Gakhar Mandi Tehsil, District Wazirabad.

The public is informed everywhere through newspaper advertisement that if anyone has any excuse against the claimants, he/she should appear in this court on 1-12-2023 at 9:00 am to follow the case and answer the case, otherwise the action will be taken unilaterally. No excuses will be accepted later. The handwritten letter and seal issued by the court.

Fuzail becomes global goodwill ambassador of Niaz support

Fuzail will help to raise awareness of Niaz Support's mission to mobilise persons with disabilities by providing them customised wheelchairs based on their body measurement and disability needs. He will also work to connect gifters globally to disabled persons suffering from polio and extreme poverty who are confined to beds for many years

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Niaz Support, a social enterprise that provides customised wheelchairs to persons with disabilities, is pleased to announce that Mr. Fuzail Rafi, the grandson of legendary singer (Late) Mohammed Rafi Sahab has become its Global Goodwill Ambassador. Rafi Sahab was a firm believer in the importance of giving back to the community, and his grandson, Fuzail, has pledged to continue his legacy by supporting this noble cause in honor of his grandfather's 100th birthday, which will be celebrated next year.

In his new role, Fuzail will help to raise awareness of Niaz Support's mission to mobilise persons with disabilities by providing them customised wheelchairs based on their body measurement and disability needs. He will also work to connect gifters globally to disabled persons suffering from polio and extreme poverty who are confined to beds for many years.

"I am thrilled and it's a pleasure to be appointed as the Global Goodwill Ambassador of Niaz Support," said Fuzail Rafi. "I am passionate about raising awareness on basic needs for persons with disabilities and



mobilising polio survivors living in extreme poverty conditions. Niaz Support is doing incredible work to make a difference in the lives of these individuals, and I am proud to be a part of their team." "We are honoured to have Mr. Fuzail Rafi join us as our Global Goodwill Ambassador," said Hussain Odhwani, the founder of Niaz Support. "Fuzail is a passionate advocate for persons with disabilities, and his reach and influence will be invaluable in helping us to achieve our mission." Niaz Support is a unique platform that connects gifters from all over the world with deserving people with disabilities. Gifters can choose to gift a customised wheelchair to a particular person from the list of beneficiaries on the Niaz Support website, www.niazsupport.org. Niaz Support then manufactures the wheelchair according to the person's body measurements and disability needs, and delivers it to them directly. After the gift is delivered, the gifter receives a video of the delivery as a token of gratitude, ensuring a transparent process. In addition to mobilising people with disabilities, Niaz Support also creates employment opportunities by involving people with disabilities in its workforce to manufacture these wheelchairs. Pakista

BMP officially finalizes candidates for all slots of FPCCI elections

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The ruling group of Businessmen Panel (BMP) in the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) has officially finalized its all candidates on all slots, nominating Muhammad Ali Shaikh as the presidential candidate for the FPCCI annual elections for 2024, and Abdul Ghani Usman from Karachi for the vice presidency, Tauqeer Malik, Rafiq Sulaiman and Muhammad Imran Khan from Associate Class, Aoun Ali Syed from Haripur Chamber (KPK) and Mehboob Nasir from Punjab Chamber (Bahawalpur) were nominated for Vice President respectively. While addressing an introductory ceremony here at a private hotel, BMP central chairman Mian Anjum Nisar said that the work of the last three years is in front of everyone, as before we will fulfill the trust of the business community. We have shown the work, we have advocated the issues of traders and

industrialists, if the policies are right, then the economic affairs will be right, the government should reformulate the policies, as export-based policies should be made instead of imports. Increasing the price of electricity and gas every time is not the solution to the problem and instead the theft of electricity and gas should be stopped and distribution of free electricity to some particular areas and classes should be stopped. He said that good governance and accountability should be adopted. There is a need to work to exploit natural resources of wind, solar and green energy. He said that the BMP-nominated candidates are experts in their fields, educated, experienced and aware of the issues of the business community. They understand the solution and have the ability to look into the eyes of the rulers instead of reading odes in praise of the rulers like the opposition group. FPCCI Presidential candidate Muhammad Ali Shaikh said that we will make the FPCCI further better. I will not get any personal

benefit for myself or for any of my friends like in my previous periods and I will solve the problems of the business community across the country including small towns. Muhammad Ali Shaikh said that the business community has trusted us for 3 consecutive years, we will not hurt their trust, as our honor lies in solving the problems of the business community. Federation Chamber President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh said while addressing the participants said that we did exemplary work last year, focused on research and development, built a grand Federation Chamber building in Lahore. He said that allegations of irregularities were leveled in the Federation and all the records from DGTO were investigated and nothing was found. He expressed his profound confidence that the environment in the business community across Pakistan is such that BMP will clean sweep the upcoming elections; as BMP has earned the reputation of the true representatives of trade, in-

dustry and services across all sectors.

The Executive committee and general body members from all over Pakistan, 48 out of 58 voters of Lahore alone were present. Regional Chairman Punjab Nadeem Qureshi, Vice President Rifat Malik, Zakaria Usman (Chairman Sindh Region), Riaz Khat-tak (Chairman Capital Region), Khawaja Shahzeb Akram (Chairman Punjab), Khurram Saeed, Sultanur Rehman, Women Chamber Group Leader Dr. Shehla Javed Akram, Former Chairman. Salim Bhalar, Nawab Shahzad Ali Khan, Rawalpindi Chamber Group Leader Sohail Altaf and Asad Sahib, Sheikh Aslam from Gujranwala, From the capital region, Mirza Abdul Rehman, ex-President Lahore Chamber Muhammad Ali Mian, Mian Abuzar Shad Chairman Paf Fahimur Rehman Saigol, Senior Vice President Lahore Chamber Zafar Mehmood, Vice President Lahore Chamber Adnan Khalid Butt along with traders.

Pakistanis origin Indian families facing problems

QAZI SHOAB KHAN

ATTOCK: Scores of Pakistan origin Indian families have demanded of the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Tanvir Kakkar for his personal intervention on the agonized circumstances being faced by them despite strolling from pillar to post to get their nationality renewed through NDRA at Pakistani high Commission in New Delhi for want of some procedural formalities since long. This was told by a senior Pakistani journalist chief patron Attock Press Club (Regd) Syed Raza Naqvi while talking to media here on Friday. While, narrating the real picture of the situation, he said that the wed locked spouses of Pakistan residing at far flung territories of India have to visit the Pakistani high commission in New Delhi for renewal of their national identity cards, passports and visas but they are being forced by the relevant desk of NDRA to get routed their documents from Pakistan instead of resolving their genuine problems at their own level at New Delhi. The senior journalist Syed Raza Naqvi further said that the Pakistan nationality holders senior ladies have become rolling stone for projection of their constitutionally guaranteed fundamental rights who got married with their Indian spouses. They have also proposed to renew their documents on payment of enhanced fees instead of wasting their resources and energy on leveling unnecessary objections raised by the officials posted at the counter. The concerned officials at Pakistani high commission New Delhi were also requested from time to time but they seemed reluctant under one pretext or the other. Responding different questions, Syed Raza Naqvi said that the grant of nationality is now a burning issue between the two countries India and Pakistan even for the last 76 years which is required to be resolved through bilateral corridors of powers, he added.

Pakistan joins Food Security and Technology Innovation Alliance in Chengdu

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Food Security Education and Technology Innovation Alliance was inaugurated in Chengdu, China. Initiated by Sichuan Agricultural University (SAU).

A total of 27 universities and institutes from China, Pakistan, Thailand, Bangladesh, Laos, Greece and Argentina joined the alliance. It aimed at deepening exchanges and cooperation in food security, agricultural science and technology, and education among the countries along the Belt and Road route. It's learned that sharing educational resources, establishing joint laboratories and setting up international scientific projects in key areas of the agricultural sector are being planned in the alliance, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

Staff-level agreement with IMF is a major achievement

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Friday that the staff-level agreement with the IMF is a great achievement of the caretaker Finance Minister Dr. Shamshad Akhtar and the present government. Tough decisions were necessary to save the country, from which the economy shrank, compounding problems for the masses and the business community, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain

said that the condition of Pakistan's economy is now improving. Still, it needs to remain under IMF supervision for at least two years so that funds are well-spent. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the current IMF program should be completed in accordance with the professional recommendations of the IMF, and preparations for the new program should be initiated. The IMF will soon pay seven hundred million dollars to Pakistan after the approval of its board, which will improve the value of the rupee and increase the confidence of investors. In comparison, the other three internation-

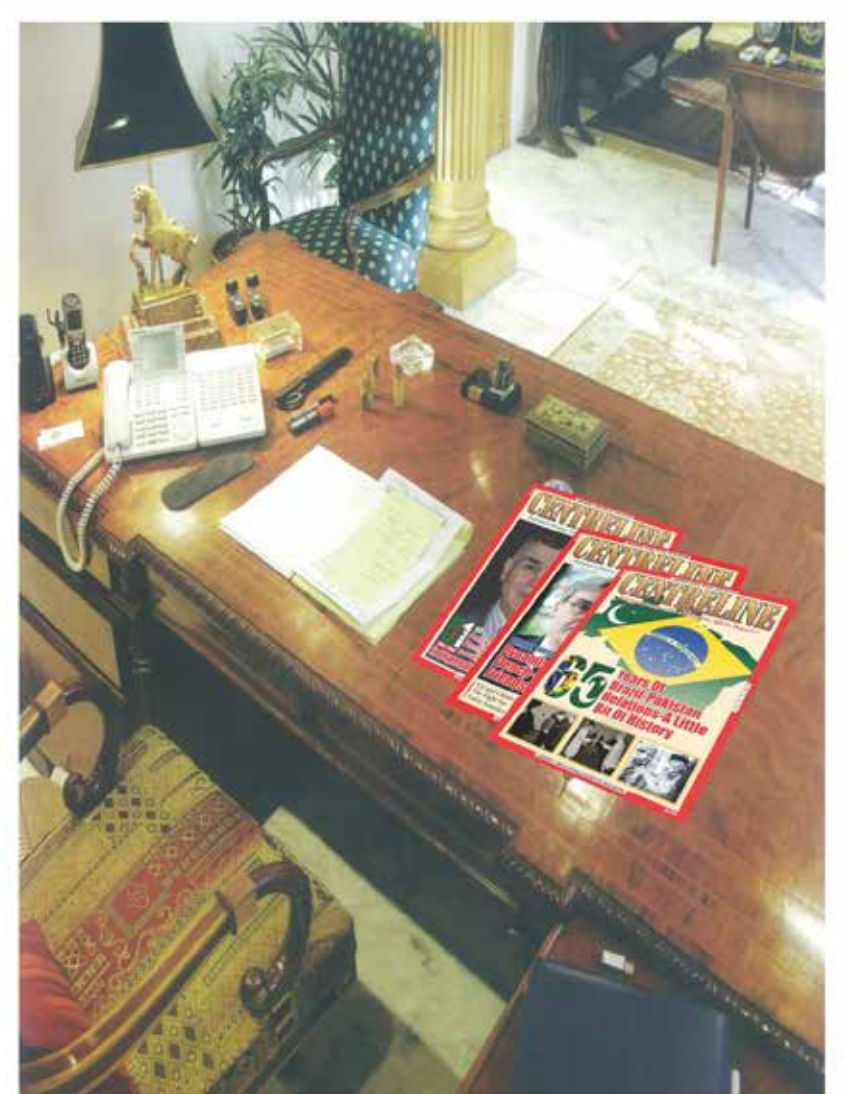
al organisations will soon pay 950 million dollars to Pakistan, he added. These include the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and Asian Infrastructure Development Bank, which were awaiting the IMF's decision to disburse the loan. Apart from this, commercial loans of three and a half billion dollars are also being arranged, which will improve the financial situation of the country. Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the government should stop theft, default, and line losses in the electricity and gas sectors so that their prices can be reduced. It has become difficult to continue business at current prices, while interest rates are also skyrocketing.

IRSA releases 90,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 90,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 47,800 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1509.15 feet and was 109.15 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 25,000 cusecs and 42,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1187.95 feet, which was 137.95 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 6,800 cusecs and 32,000 cusecs.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kenya in Pakistan, called on Federal Health Minister, Dr. Nadeem Jan.—DNA



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UN resolution on Gaza crisis better late than never

About one and a half months after the outbreak of the conflict in Gaza that has already claimed 12,800 lives, and after four failed attempts to adopt a resolution on the conflict, the United Nations Security Council. Drafted by Malta, the resolution calls for "urgent extended humanitarian pauses for (a) sufficient number of days to allow aid access" to the embattled Palestinian enclave, and for Hamas to release all the hostages it is holding. Among the 15-seat UN Security Council, 12 countries voted for the resolution. The United States and the United Kingdom abstained on the grounds that it contained no explicit criticism of Hamas. So did Russia, as it thinks that rather than "pauses", the resolution should have called for an immediate cease-fire, which it believes is the top imperative. The US not vetoing it is the key reason why the UN Security Council could finally give the green light to a resolution on the conflict. Late last month, the US had blocked a similar but broader resolution. It is the number of civilian deaths in Gaza caused by Israel's increasingly indiscriminate offensive that has prompted even its closest ally to shift its position and abstain. In other words, the UN Security Council could have adopted a more comprehensive and robust resolution earlier if the US had been more objective about what was transpiring in Gaza. The current resolution, which Israel has rejected, is merely a compromise by the relevant parties necessitated by the mounting pressure of the increasingly grave humanitarian crisis in Gaza. For instance, the final draft toned down its language from a "demand" to a "call" for humanitarian "pauses". No wonder the Russian side claimed that the mountain has labored and brought forward a mouse, expressing its fear that the absence of an explicit call for a cease-fire will make it less likely that even humanitarian pauses will be forthcoming. Israel's rejection of the resolution should serve to awaken the international community to the fact that passing the resolution in the UN and implementing it in the Middle East are two different things. The US, as China has urged, should take full advantage of its influence on Israel to persuade it to immediately stop its military operations against civilian facilities such as hospitals, and cease any forced displacement or relocation of Palestinian civilians. The international community should also put its weight behind diplomatic efforts to secure the release of the hostages held by Hamas. It should also strive to reinvigorate the prospect of a two-state solution as this is the only way to ensure a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Palestinian question. Any arrangement on the future of Gaza must respect the will and independent choice of the Palestinian people. But despite the difficulties in implementing it, the resolution is a positive step toward a cease-fire, which is the bottom-line requirement to avert an even greater humanitarian crisis and even broader conflict.



Labor's ceasefire vote: A big issue

There are currently 198 Labour MPs in the House of Commons. 56 of them backed a Scottish National party amendment calling for an immediate ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war, and directly defying the party leader, Sir Keir Starmer, who wanted his MPs to abstain and back a policy of humanitarian pauses. Eight Labour frontbenchers joined the revolt – they either resigned their posts or were sacked. Compared with the war itself, the Westminster vote was a footnote. It was manifestly designed by the SNP to embarrass its rival party. But take the Labour rebellion seriously all the same. It was a big revolt on a big issue, the worst that this Labour leader has suffered. More than a quarter of Labour MPs took part, in spite of a protracted effort by Sir Keir and his aides. If Labour returns to power, divisions of this kind would be likely to affect party management on foreign policy, just as they did in the past over Iraq and Syria. Taking a rebel stand is not easy for Labour MPs. This is the pre-election parliamentary session, the polls show the party is closing in on a return to government, and Labour minds are overwhelmingly concentrated on presenting a united face to the electorate. But there is always more than one imperative in politics. Sir Keir's priority is to show that he and Labour are ready for power. This does not obliterate the imperative that many MPs also feel to their consciences and to their voters. Labour has a long history of conscience-driven divisions on international issues. Wednesday's rebellion stands in that tradition. Its supporters covered a wide spectrum. Yet Labour does not seem anxious to do battle with its leader over this issue. Sir Keir should reciprocate. He has managed to keep the shadow cabinet together so far. This is a good sign. There should be a way back for those more junior frontbenchers who revolted. Unbending leadership is not good leadership. Most voters understand that the issues in the Israel-Hamas war are difficult. They get that politicians are having to make agonising judgments as events have moved forward since the original murderous assaults by Hamas. The suffering of Gaza's civilians and the more than 200 Israeli hostages, as well as the threats to Israel's security and to regional stability, are constantly evolving and must all be considered. So must the inevitable churn of domestic public opinion in Britain. The Labour leader has not always done this well. He was right to denounce Hamas unequivocally at the outset. But his LBC interview on 11 October, saying Israel had the right to withhold water and power from Gaza, was wrong. He was then too slow to correct what he said. His Chatham House speech, which attempted this, was given nearly three weeks ago now. Events have continued to unfold, and both the government and the opposition need to respond. With the conflict approaching its seventh week, pressure has grown for the fighting to reduce and then end. Wednesday's Commons vote reflects this. The case for a ceasefire sooner rather than later has grown and continues to grow. Though it is obviously not easy for an opposition leader, Sir Keir should be proactive. He should try to get ahead of events with ideas and initiatives of his own, including international ones. That may not prevent another rebellion. But it would engage with the anguish that so many so understandably feel at present. It is what a national leader should do.

On what grounds and by what reasoning is Pakistan deporting Afghan refugees?

Rustam Shah Mohmand

Instances of police torture are common. The 'holding centres' are mismanaged, ill-equipped and torturous.

Such is the disorderly expulsion of such a large number of refugees that documented refugees are also being caught, harassed and loaded on to trucks to be kept in holding centres. Humiliation is being pored on helpless victims. In this whole disgraceful spectacle, some facts are conveniently ignored. Was it the responsibility of the displaced people to seek registration in Pakistan?

There is misery and suffering all around. All over Pakistan, the deportation process targeted mostly at Afghan migrants, has run into snags. In one instance a young Afghan was separated from his family, while his wife and two-month-old baby were taken somewhere else. The young man was about to collapse as no one would tell him where his wife and baby were being kept. Instances of police torture are common. The 'holding centres' are mismanaged, ill-equipped and torturous. Such is the disorderly expulsion of such a large number of refugees that documented refugees are also being caught, harassed and loaded on to trucks to be kept in holding centres. Humiliation is being pored on helpless victims. In this whole disgraceful spectacle, some facts are conveniently ignored. Was it the responsibility of the displaced people to seek registration in Pakistan? No. It was the duty of Pakistani officials to reach out to all asylum seekers and give them temporary identity cards. Failure to get them registered is a failure of the systems, not of the Afghan refugees. Giving them just 20-day notice is a mockery of justice. Imagine a family having lived in a village or town for three decades and then being ordered to wind up and leave within 20 days. Under international law, no host country can forcibly expel a family that has left their country of origin because of the fear of persecution, insecurity or acute

poverty or starvation. The Afghan economy has collapsed. The country has been delinked from international banking and financial systems. The US has refused to release \$6 billion of Afghan government assets held in American banks. America's European allies are holding up the release of another \$2 billion of Afghan government assets held in their banks. The US clearly wants to ensure the collapse of the system – a goal unlikely to be achieved. The Taliban government will not acquiesce into this callous treatment and Islamabad's hostile attitude. Kabul will not reconcile to this unwarranted, unfair parting. But what does Pakistan wish to achieve by taking a decision that will cast its shadows on Pak-Afghan relations for decades to come? Firstly, it is clear that there was no consultation on taking the decision that would generate so much hostility in the Afghan government against Pakistan. The stakeholders were just not consulted, especially the political parties of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan where the bulk of the refugees are located. There was no debate on the pros and cons of such a significant decision, affecting the lives of 1.5 million people, which the caretaker government was simply not authorized to take. How then, was such a decision taken? The Afghan refugees are not a burden on Pakistan's economy; they are all looking af-

ter themselves; they have never indulged in any organized unrest in the country nor have they taken part in local politics. And most importantly, they do not have any problems with local communities who have never demanded their expulsion from their lands. There has been complete harmony between the locals and Afghans all these long years. And now, ever so abruptly, all hell has broken loose on helpless Afghans with no evidence whatsoever that any of the refugees were involved in attacks on the border. These attacks are being carried out and claimed by Daesh or Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

The Taliban government will not acquiesce into this callous treatment and Islamabad's hostile attitude. Kabul will not reconcile to this unwarranted, unfair parting. In one erroneous stroke, all feelings of sympathy, support and cooperation have been thrown to the wind and a new dynamic has emerged. Now, history is being made by a crazed, ill thought-out decision. The Afghan government with its broken economy and systems is being called upon to handle the monumental task of providing shelter, food, water and medicines to the throngs of returnees in Afghanistan's harsh winter conditions. The misery and plight of these hundreds of thousands of impoverished people will live long in memory.

—Sourced by —Arab news.

Failure over Gaza

Maleeha Lodhi

The longer Israel's war on Gaza continues, the higher the risk of the conflict expanding into a multi-front one across the Middle East.

Among publics across the world, Israel and the US are increasingly isolated. The tide of global public opinion has shifted decisively in solidarity with the Palestinians and against Israel and its main backer. Across the world people have come out in unprecedentedly large numbers demanding a cease-fire. Public fury over Israeli actions has been expressed in these protest rallies, including in cities in the West, which is in sharp contrast to the position adopted by Western governments

With over 11,000 Palestinians killed by Israel's brutal war on Gaza, there is still no end in sight to the hostilities that have produced a humanitarian catastrophe in the besieged enclave. The international community has failed to stop Tel Aviv from its genocidal actions despite growing global calls for an immediate cease-fire. The principal obstacle to a cessation of hostilities is the US which has done little to restrain Israel from its relentless bombardment of Gaza. Washington has repeatedly ruled out a cease-fire, in support of Israel's refusal to halt its military actions. The humanitarian pause the Biden Administration claimed to have persuaded Israel to agree to – involving four-hour daily 'pauses' in bombing – is meaningless as it only allows Israel to continue its heavy bombardment targeting hospitals, schools and refugee camps. Pauses between rounds of mass killings is anything but humanitarian. Moreover, Tel Aviv never announced it agreed to this. Three attempts to secure a cease-fire failed in the UN Security Council. The world's most important diplomatic forum remains divided and in a state of paralysis. The last effort to pass a resolution calling for a cease-fire was vetoed by the US. Mounting international pressure including from UN officials has urged US officials to express concern for civilian casualties in Gaza but it is too little, too late. With Washington still unwilling to back a truce, such concern is shorn of meaning. Asked why the US doesn't support a cease-fire, White House spokesman John Kirby offered the disingenuous explanation that "at this time it would benefit Hamas and legitimize its attack of October 7." This means the US has given Israel a free pass to continue its military campaign and siege of

Gaza, despite the humanitarian catastrophe this has caused.

The longer Israel's war on Gaza continues, the higher the risk of the conflict expanding into a multi-front one across the Middle East. Among publics across the world, Israel and the US are increasingly isolated. The tide of global public opinion has shifted decisively in solidarity with the Palestinians and against Israel and its main backer. Across the world people have come out in unprecedentedly large numbers demanding a cease-fire. Public fury over Israeli actions has been expressed in these protest rallies, including in cities in the West, which is in sharp contrast to the position adopted by Western governments. London and Washington saw huge pro-Palestinian rallies. Separately, over a hundred Congressional staffers in Washington staged a walk out to demand that lawmakers should support a cease-fire. Top UN officials have not minced words in describing the humanitarian disaster as the result of collective punishment which is a violation of international humanitarian law. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said Gaza has become a "graveyard of children" and "the nightmare in Gaza is more than a humanitarian crisis, it is a crisis of humanity." One Palestinian child is now being killed in Gaza every 10 minutes. Entreaties by UN officials for an urgent cease-fire and call for a truce from much of the international community have fallen on deaf ears in Tel Aviv and Washington. This makes the outlook exceedingly grim. Emboldened by US support, Israel has stepped up raids across the occupied West Bank, leading to over 180 Palestinian casualties since October 7. It has also en-

couraged rising violence by Jewish settlers against the Palestinians. The situation there is said to be close to boiling point.

The response from Muslim countries has neither matched the catastrophic situation in Gaza nor met the expectations of their own people. A summit meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was called in Riyadh after over a month of Israel's war in Gaza. This saw toughly-worded speeches by leaders and condemnation of Israel but fell well short of taking any action that could mount significant diplomatic pressure on Israel and the US.

Meanwhile fears grow of the war spilling over into the region. No country wants a wider conflict. But the longer Israel's war on Gaza continues, the higher the risk of the conflict expanding into a multi-front one across the Middle East. Already the statement by an Israeli minister that a nuclear strike on Gaza was an option set off alarm bells around the world. Although the minister was suspended (not sacked) from the cabinet, his irresponsible remark laid bare the dangerous thinking in the Israeli government and provoked a slew of condemnations from Muslim countries and even Washington.

With Israel continuing on an escalatory course, a regional conflagration cannot be ruled out as neighboring countries come under mounting pressure. Iran's foreign minister has warned that Israel's heightened aggression would make a widening in the scope of war "inevitable." The only way to avert this is an immediate cease-fire and halt to the forcible displacement of the Palestinian people.

—Sourced by Arab News.

Briefs

Government challenges SC verdict...

FROM PAGE 01
"In view of the Act having attained constitutional validity, it is submitted with reverence that the constitution of the bench [...] is in contravention to the procedure prescribed under Section 2 and 3 of this Act," it said. "Therefore, the judgement is liable to be set aside for having been rendered coram non iudice [without jurisdiction] and thus a nullity in the eye of law," the appeal said. It further said that the petitions were not maintainable before the top court in its original jurisdiction under Article 184(3). It said that the challenges raised in the petitions could have been adjudicated by the high courts in their original constitutional jurisdiction under Article 199. The appeal argued that the petitions fell outside the purview of "the contours that this court had determined for the exercise of its original jurisdiction". The appeal said that the trial of accused persons, whether military personnel or otherwise, could not be challenged for being in violation of any of the fundamental rights enshrined in Articles 9, 10-A and 25.

Ruckus in Senate over resolution

FROM PAGE 01
mainstream political parties had lodged a strong protest in the Senate against its hasty passage and called for its immediate withdrawal. Due to the strong protest by the senators and lack of quorum, Deputy Chairman Mirza Muhammad Afridi had adjourned the proceedings till Friday within minutes and without taking up any agenda item. Similar scenes were witnessed when today's session began. After the recitation of the Holy Quran and as the Senate chairman tried to begin the question hour session, senators refused to sit on their seats and chanted slogans against the resolution. "No military courts, no military courts," they chanted. JI's Senator Ahmed equated the resolution to a "drone attack" and an "attack on democracy". He further said that the passage of the resolution had tainted the Senate. Jamia-Ul-islam Senator Kamran Murtaza termed said that senators had done something "very bad" by passing the resolution. Senator Saadia Abbasi said: "We will not allow the House to proceed until we talk about the resolution passed by the Senate." PTI Senator Zarqa Suhrawardy Taimur urged the Senate chairman to let parliamentarians discuss the resolution.

Gaza 'sliding into hunger hell': WFP

FROM PAGE 01
Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are growing increasingly desperate in their attempts to obtain bread and other essential food supplies, and cases of dehydration and malnutrition are rapidly increasing "by the day," she added. People are lucky if they have one meal a day and their options are mostly limited to canned food, said Etefa, "if it is actually available." Although aid trucks are "trickling into Gaza," it is proving difficult to get the small amounts of food and water that cross the border to those in need because roads have been damaged by the war and fuel is in very short supply as a result of the Israeli blockade. "The existing food systems in Gaza are collapsing," Etefa said. "Food production has come to an almost complete halt. Markets have collapsed, fishermen cannot access the sea, farmers cannot reach their farms and the last bakery that the WFP has been working with has closed its doors because of the shortage of fuel. "Shops have run out of food supplies. The bakeries are unable to operate because of the fuel and clean water shortages, or because they have sustained damage. The last remaining mill has also been hit and stopped operating."

PCB appoints Wahab Riaz as Pakistan Chief Selector

His first assignment will be the selection of the national men's squad for three-match Test series against Australia and the five-match T20I series against NZ

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Former Pakistan fast bowler Wahab Riaz has been appointed as the chief selector of the national men's selection committee on Friday. Wahab Riaz's first assignment will be the selection of the national men's squad for the three-match Test series against Australia from 14 December to 7 January in Australia and the five-match T20I series against New Zealand from 12 to 21 January in New Zealand. Wahab, who made his international debut in 2008, represented Pakistan in 27 Tests, 91 ODIs and 36 T20Is picking up 237 wickets and scoring 1200 runs across the three formats. He was Pakistan's second-most successful bowler in World Cups, registering 35 wickets across three editions of the marquee event. Wahab Riaz expressed his gratitude for being appointed as the chief selector of the Pakistan cricket team. "I am honoured to assume the role of chair-

person for the national men's selection committee and I extend my gratitude to the Chairman of the PCB Management Committee, Mr Zaka Ashraf, for entrusting me with this responsibility. The decision to involve former players in cricketing matters is commendable and I am willing to work for the betterment of Pakistan cricket. "Heading a selection committee is a challenging task. We have a significant Australia tour coming up that is part of the ICC World Test Championship 2023-25 cycle and a T20I series against New Zealand that will allow us to develop a formidable unit leading up to the ICC T20 World Cup in the USA and West Indies in June next year. "I have a good rapport with the Pakistan Men's Team Director Mohammad Hafeez and we will be working closely for the success of Pakistan cricket. "My primary goal would be to give weightage to the top performers in domestic cricket and announce well-rounded squads equipped with the necessary skill sets. I will always be available to the players for feedback and advice."



Messi's Argentina suffers first loss since Qatar WC



BUENOS AIRES: Argentina's Lionel Messi failed to help maintain their unbeaten streak since the World Cup title, as Uruguay defeated Argentina 2-0 in a World Cup qualifying match, marking their biggest victory under new coach Marcelo Bielsa. Argentina suffered their first loss at La Bombonera Stadium in Buenos Aires in a competitive match since the group-stage opener against Saudi Arabia in the Qatar World Cup. Despite this, Argentina leads the South American qualifying group with 12 points from five matches, trailing Uruguay with 10 points, Colombia with nine points, and Venezuela with eight points. Brazil will host the World Cup champions at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro in fifth position, with seven

points, Sportstar reported. Uruguay was aggressive from the start against the World Cup champions. Darwin Núñez nearly opened the scoring with a crossed shot in the 10th minute after a mistake by defender Nicolás Otamendi. Argentina's coach Lionel Scaloni appeared jittery during the match as his midfielders struggled to block Uruguay's wingers. In the 42nd minute, Matías Viña stole the ball from Nahuel Molina and made a low cross into the penalty box, which was scored by Ronald Araújo. Near the end of the first half, Messi's free-kick and Otamendi's close-range strike gave Argentina a chance to tie the score, forcing Uruguay's goalie Sergio Rochet to make a crucial save. Uruguay maintained their pressure

on Argentina even after the break, forcing the team to once more be dependent on Messi and replacement Angel di Maria to create its best opportunities. Unfortunately, in the 57th minute, Messi attempted a free kick but missed. In the 87th minute, Núñez scored in a counterattack after Messi was stopped by the Uruguayan defence at the edge of the box. "We never felt comfortable in this match," Messi said. "Uruguay is a physical team, they have good teamwork. It is always like that against them." Luis Suárez, Messi's close friend, did not play for Uruguay in the World Cup strike qualifying round. Uruguay beat Brazil by the same score in Montevideo and will play their next match against Bolivia. - Agencies

Pakistan coach opens up after loss against Saudi Arabia

AL AHSA: Pakistan football team's head coach Stephen Constantine said that his team conceded goals at the wrong times, leading to them losing with a big margin of 4-0 against a dominant Saudi Arabia in the FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers. Pakistan football team were thrashed by Saudi Arabia 4-0 during the first match of the FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers, courtesy of Saleh Al-Shahri's two goals in the early minutes of both halves. "It was always going to be a difficult game for us. Considering where we were two months ago, we didn't deserve to lose 4-0. We conceded at the start of both halves, which is probably the worst time to concede goals," Constantine said during the post-match press conference. "If you face a team as good as the Saudi team, you must always be focused. We have players whose primary sport is not football. Some of them do not remember the last time they played this game. "Saudi Arabia is one of the best teams in Asia, so I asked the players to play without fear. Our chances are not easy, especially as we face strong teams, and we must prepare well for the Tajikistan match." This was the first time Pakistan played in the second round of FIFA World Cup qualifiers, after defeating Cambodia in the first round. Pakistan last played against Saudi Arabia in 1978 at the latter's home and suffered a 6-0 thrashing. - Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Girls Students are participating in the "Running Competition" during the final day of the Mega Sports Event at Iqra University (Chak Shahzad) Campus in Federal Capital. - Online

Lahore clinched NBP T-20 Blind Cricket Trophy

Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) Chairman Syed Sultan Shah, National Bank Senior Vice President Rao Abid, OGDCL General Manager Abdul Razzaq Khattak and other dignitaries distributed prizes among the players at closing ceremony

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Lahore clinched the National Bank National (NBP) T20 Blind Cricket Trophy title as they beat Bahawalpur by nine wickets here at Shalimar cricket ground Islamabad on Friday. Batting first Bahawalpur openers Muhammad Rashid and Moain Aslam gave them a brisk and solid start. Their first wicket fell at the score of 161 runs when Muhammad Rashid was run out after scoring 93 runs off 54 balls. Moain Aslam and Zafar Iqbal then made another formidable partnership. Bahawalpur posted a mammoth total of 231 runs on the board in stipulated 20 overs for the loss of 2 wickets. Moain Aslam made 85 runs off 53 balls and Zafar Iqbal played a little cameo of 22 runs off 9 balls.

Lahore in reply played exceptionally well and chased the target of 232 runs in the last over of the innings in a nail-biting finish for the loss of 1 wicket. Badar

Munir's exceptional form with the bat continued; he remained unbeaten on 123 runs off just 70 balls featuring 20 (4's) while Muhammad Salman played a

handy innings of 76 runs off 40 balls to guide their side home. Muhammad Ejaz was the only bowler from Bahawalpur to claim a wicket.

Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) Chairman Syed Sultan Shah, National Bank Senior Vice President Rao Abid, OGDCL General Manager Abdul Razzaq Khattak and other dignitaries distributed prizes among the players at the closing ceremony. Badar Munir was declared Man of the Final and the best player of the tournament for his excellent performance. On this occasion, PBCC chairman Sultan Shah said that the national blind cricket team has achieved back-to-back successes in international tournaments, but the government is not encouraging blind cricketers. He demanded the government to allocate an annual grant for the national blind cricket team so that the Pakistani team can continue its series of victories in future international events.



President Abbas meets EU's Borrell

FROM PAGE 01
the assaults by Israeli occupation forces and settler terrorists against Palestinians in the West Bank, including Jerusalem. President Abbas reiterated his unequivocal rejection of the displacement of Palestinians from Gaza or the West Bank, including Jerusalem. He also underscored the urgent need for international intervention to release Palestinian clearance funds currently withheld by Israel. The President emphasized that there is no security or military solution for Gaza, highlighting that Gaza is an integral part of the State of Palestine. He rejected any acceptance or engagement with Israel's plans to separate Gaza from the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories. Furthermore, President Abbas asserted that security and peace can only be achieved by ending the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land, including East Jerusalem. He called on the European Union and its member states, who support the two-state solution based on international legitimacy, to recognize the State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital and grant it full membership in the United Nations.

Bilawal says old politics Pakistan's...

FROM PAGE 01
Balochistan Awami Party, National Party, Balochistan National Party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and others - joining the PML-N's ranks ahead of upcoming general elections scheduled to be held on February 8 next year. This is not the first time the PPP chairman - without taking any names - has taken a jibe against the PML-N and the party's possible prime ministerial candidate Nawaz. A day earlier, while speaking in Abbottabad, he had stressed the need for new leadership and new politics to overcome various crises the country is suffering from. Nawaz - who returned to Pakistan after ending a four-year self-imposed exile in October - faces an uncertain future with regard to his possible participation in elections due to legal issues - as he had been disqualified from holding public office.

People firmly stand with PTI...

FROM PAGE 01
their beloved leader despite all odds. He expressed optimism that the people of the country would bring Imran Khan into power with convincing majority in the next general elections. Meanwhile, PTI Secretary General strongly condemned the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) police continued raids on the PTI leaders' residences. He said that the KP police raided on the residence of Kamran Bangash, former KP Minister despite the fact he was granted bail by the court. He pointed out that the police was cutting the CCTV system so that the illegal raid was not recorded. Omar Ayub made it clear that Muhammad Abid Majeed Home Secretary and Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur IG KP are directly responsible for these illegal raids and enforced disappearances. "They are responsible for the Human Rights violations that are being carried out with impunity," he added.

British Army Chief reaches...

FROM PAGE 01
This visit forms part of the UK's commitment to maintaining its well established defence relationship with Pakistan, which has seen over the last twelve months: numerous defence exchanges, a joint naval training exercise featuring HMS Lancaster and several high level military visits to both the UK and Pakistan. These defence engagements whilst routine, are highly important, as frequent exchanges, exercises and visits ensure that a high level of mutual understanding exists between the UK and Pakistan, which can further assist in strengthening regional security.

Briefs

Turkey's plan: purchase 40 Eurofighter Typhoon jets

ANKARA : Defense Minister Yaşar Güler announced that Türkiye is considering purchasing 40 Eurofighter Typhoon jets, though Germany appeared to object to the idea, he said. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is set to visit Germany for a one-day working visit on Friday for talks with his counterpart, Chancellor Olaf Scholz. "We want to buy Eurofighters. It is a very effective aircraft. These aircraft are related to the U.K., Germany and Spain," the minister told a parliamentary hearing in Ankara. "Both the U.K. and Spain say 'yes,' and now they are making efforts to persuade Germany. The U.K. and Spain say: 'We will solve that problem.' If solved, we plan to purchase 40 Eurofighter jets," Anadolu Agency (AA) reported Güler as saying. The Eurofighter Typhoon is a European multinational twin-engine, canard delta wing, multirole fighter manufactured by a consortium of Airbus, BAE Systems and Leonardo. He said that the F-16 and F-4 jets that are in the Turkish Air Forces Command inventory are sufficient for the tasks Türkiye will conduct. "But of course, we are looking beyond. For this, we applied for the F-35, but some problems arose with the F-35. We are also working on alternatives," said Güler. —APP

250 Rohingya refugees in Indonesia sent back to sea

JAKARTA: About 250 Rohingya refugees in an overcrowded wooden boat have been turned away from western Indonesia and sent back to sea, residents said Friday. The group of around 250 from the persecuted Myanmar minority arrived off the coast of Aceh province on Thursday but angry locals told them not to land the boat. Some refugees then swam ashore and collapsed with exhaustion on the beach. After they were forced to return to the decrepit boat, it traveled dozens of kilometers to the coast of North Aceh, where the refugees landed on a beach. But locals again forced them back to the boat and out to sea late Thursday. By Friday, the vessel, which some on board said had sailed from Bangladesh about three weeks ago, was no longer visible from where it had landed on North Aceh's shores, residents said. Thousands from the mostly Muslim Rohingya minority risk their lives each year on long and expensive sea journeys, often in flimsy boats, to try to reach Malaysia or Indonesia. —APP

Argentina faces nail-biter election

BUENOS AIRES: Argentines head to the polls Sunday in a down-to-the-wire race between two wildly different presidential candidates, with many frozen by indecision over which choice will rescue them from triple-digit inflation. One candidate is Economy Minister Sergio Massa, 51, who has overseen annual inflation of 143 percent and record poverty levels. His rival is a complete outsider, the libertarian and self-described "anarcho-capitalist" Javier Milei, who has vowed to halt Argentina's unbridled spending, ditch the peso for the US dollar, and "dynamite" the central bank.

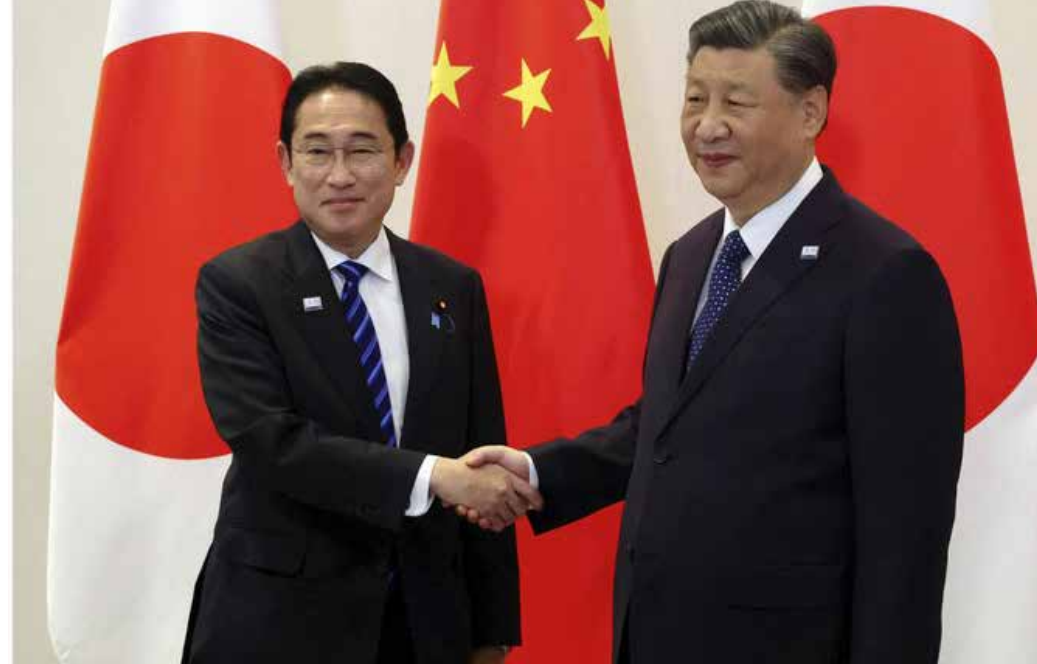
Polls have the candidates neck-and-neck, with Milei at a very slight advantage. "It's very, very uncertain. And a lot of voters are going to make their decision literally in the last day, or hours, even at the voting booth," said Nicolas Saldias, a senior analyst with the Economist Intelligence Unit. The stakes are enormous for Latin America's third-biggest economy, which has struggled with decades of fiscal woes. With over \$400 billion in public debt, central bank reserves in the red, and no credit line, the next government "will be digging Argentina out of an unbelievably deep hole with very few resources to do so." —APP

China, Japan reaffirm strategic relations in rare leaders talk

The two leaders also discussed China's ban on Japanese seafood and the high-profile case of a Japanese businessman detained in China during their hour-long talks on the sidelines of the APEC summit

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida committed to pursuing mutually-beneficial relations in their first face-to-face talks in a year, a sign that Asia's two largest economies are looking to patch up strained ties. The two leaders also discussed China's ban on Japanese seafood and the high-profile case of a Japanese businessman detained in China during their hour-long talks on the sidelines of the APEC summit in San Francisco. The countries should "focus on common interests" and reaffirm their "strategic relationship of mutual benefit and give it new meaning," Xi told Kishida as they sat across from one another at a table flanked by their delegations. In a joint statement in 2008, Japan and China agreed to pursue a "mutually beneficial relationship based on common strategic interests" designed to ensure frequent leadership exchanges on issues such as security. But the phrasing has been used less frequently in recent years as the historic rivals have clashed over a series of issues such as ter-



ritorial disputes, trade tensions and Taiwan, the democratic island that Beijing claims as its own. Kishida confirmed the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to the relationship in comments to press after the talks. "We shared the common view that we will continue to communicate

close on various levels including at the leadership level," Kishida said. Most recently, ties have been tested by China's ban on Japanese seafood following Tokyo's decision to release treated water from its crippled Fukushima nuclear plant into the sea in August. Kishida said he had strongly urged

Xi to drop the ban and also sought the swift release of the businessman, which has dealt an outsized blow to their close economic ties. Their meeting followed a highly-anticipated summit between US President Joe Biden and Xi in which the two superpowers agreed to open a presidential hot-

line and resume military-to-military communications, among other matters. Kishida also met Biden at the summit where they discussed issues including "common challenges" that they share with China. China's push to reaffirm relations with Japan could be partly driven by Tokyo's close ties with its arch-rival Washington, said Rumi Aoyama, an expert on Japan-China relations. "I think there is a desire to drive a wedge between Japan and the United States by establishing a so-called strategic relationship with Japan amid the US-China confrontation," said Aoyama, director of Waseda Institute of Contemporary Chinese Studies. On the sidelines of the APEC summit, Kishida has also met South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol in their seventh meeting this year. The pair promised to push for deeper cooperation and discussed shared concerns like North Korea's missile tests. Yoon, Kishida and Biden also held a brief trilateral meeting on Thursday. Leaders from the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum are in San Francisco for the 30th summit from Nov. 15-17.

Ukraine advances: Gains against Russian forces near Dnipro

Ukraine shoots down nine out of 10 drones above several regions and gains 'a foothold on several bridgeheads' of the Dnipro river

WEB DESK

KYIV : Ukraine's armed forces claim to have made significant headway via a series of attacks on the Russian-occupied east bank of the Dnipro river. The country's Marine Corps said in a statement published on social media on Friday that it had gained "a foothold on several bridgeheads" of Dnipro, near the key southern city of Kherson.

The waterway is the de facto front line in the south of

Ukraine. However, Russia conceded for the first time this week that Ukrainian forces had claimed back some territory on the opposing bank. "The Defence Forces of Ukraine conducted a series of successful operations on the left bank of the Dnipro River, along the Kherson front," the marines said, and "managed to gain a foothold on several bridgeheads." Russian and Ukrainian forces have been entrenched on opposite sides of the Dnipro river since Moscow withdrew from the west-

ern part of the Kherson region last November. The Russian-installed official responsible for occupied Kherson this week conceded that some Ukrainian soldiers were "blocked" in Krynyk, a small village on the Dnipro's eastern bank, and were facing a "fiery hell" from Russian artillery, rockets and drones. It reported that it had shot down nine out of 10 Russian drones overnight over the southern Mykolaiv and Odesa regions, and also near Zhytomyr in the centre, and in the Khmel-

nytskyi region in the west of the country. Russia has intensified its strikes on Ukraine's grain infrastructure, including the major port at Odesa, since July, when Moscow pulled out of the Black Sea Grain Initiative; a wartime deal that enabled Ukraine's exports to reach African countries facing the threat of hunger. The air force said in a statement that Russian forces also launched several C-300 missiles during an overnight attack in the eastern Donetsk region, close to the front line.

Italian workers strike amid govt budget dispute

ROME : Italians faced disruption on Friday as transport workers and other public sector employees from two of the country's largest unions went on strike in protest over the government's budget plans for 2024. The CGIL and UIL unions have called a general strike in the central regions of Italy, as well as a walkout by public sector employees across the country. They are planning further regional protests in the next two weeks. In a sign of tensions between the unions and the government, Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini used his powers to halve the duration of the national stoppage by transport workers to four hours, from 9 am to 1 pm (0800-1200 GMT) to limit its impact. Air travel is not included in the strike plans. "This grave step by Salvini is an attack on the right to strike that is unprecedented in Italian democracy," CGIL leader Maurizio Landini told La Repubblica newspaper in an interview published on Thursday. Salvini, who is also transport minister, said he was making sure Italians could still go about their business on Friday. "Yes there is the right to strike, but it's satisfying to protect the right to work for the overwhelming majority of Italians," he told broadcaster Rai's TG2 news programme on Thursday. "It's my job." —APP

Russia sends free grain shipments to Africa

MOSCOW : Russia's agriculture minister said on Friday that Moscow had begun free shipments of grain totalling up to 200,000 tonnes to six African countries, as promised by President Vladimir Putin in July.

In a statement posted on Telegram, Dmitry Patrushev said that ships headed for Burkina Faso and Somalia had already left Russian ports, and that additional shipments to Eritrea, Zimbabwe, Mali and the Central African Republic would soon follow.

Putin had promised to deliver free grain to the six countries at a summit with African leaders in July, soon after Moscow withdrew from a deal that had allowed Ukraine to ship grain from its Black Sea ports despite the war with Russia. The deal, known as the Black Sea grain initiative, had helped lower prices on the global market. But Putin argued it was failing to get supplies to the countries in most urgent need. Last year, Russia exported around 60 million tonnes of grain, according to Putin. U.N. chief Antonio Guterres called the promises of free grain "a handful of donations". Since quitting the arrangement, Russia has repeatedly bombed Ukrainian ports and grain storage facilities, and Kyiv says hundreds of thousands of tons of cereals have been destroyed. —APP

EU ends waste exports to inadequate processing nations

PARIS : European Union lawmakers and member states have reached a deal to revise the bloc's waste shipment regulation and end exports of certain types of waste to third countries unable to process it properly, the EU Parliament said on Friday. "Exports of certain non-hazardous wastes and mixtures of non-hazardous wastes (...) will be allowed only to those non-OECD countries that consent and fulfil the criteria to treat such waste in an environmentally sound manner", the Parliament said. It added that compliance with international workers' rights would also be taken into account. The European Commission in 2021 proposed a revamp of EU rules on waste shipments to make it harder for member states to offload their trash into poorer countries. "The EU will finally assume responsibility for its plastic waste by banning its export to non-OECD countries", Danish lawmaker Pernille Weiss said in a statement. EU countries must stop shipping plastic waste to poorer nations within two and a half years of the legislation coming into force, the Parliament said, adding that rules for plastic waste exports to countries inside the OECD - the group of the world's main rich countries - will also be tightened. —APP

Amazon bids Hyundai vehicles online next year

WASHINGTON : E-commerce giant Amazon announced Thursday it would start selling Hyundai automobiles through its platform in the United States next year. The company made the announcement at the Los Angeles Auto Show in conjunction with Hyundai, the South Korean auto giant that will be the first automobile brand sold on the site. Amazon said customers will be able to choose models and their favorite features online. They can then pick up the car at their local dealership or have it delivered to their home. Financing options will also be available on Amazon. "Hyundai is a very innovative company that shares Amazon's passion for trying to make customers' lives better and easier every day," said Amazon Chief Executive Andy Jassy in a statement. Until now, car buyers could browse offerings on Amazon, but could not make their final purchase on the site. The partnership with Hyundai will also see Amazon's Alexa smart speaker featured in models starting in 2025. —APP

SCO playing critical role: Speakers

ISLAMABAD : The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is playing a critical role both regionally and internationally, said a speaker in a seminar. SCO is playing a crucial regional and international role; it addresses significant regional challenges, fosters cooperation among member states and promotes stability in a complex geopolitical landscape, they said at a seminar on the Post-SCO Council of Heads of Government Meeting: Outcomes, Challenges, and Opportunities, organized by the Centre for SCO Studies, Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, Riphah Institute of Public Policy (RIPP), Riphah International University and the Pakistan-SCO Friendship Forum, here Friday. The speakers emphasized the significance of the SCO's outcomes and challenges, with a particular focus on its role in the context of Pakistan and the broader region. Dr. Farhat Asif, President of IPDS, highlighted the institute's impactful initiatives, including the establishment of the Centre for SCO Studies, Pakistan-SCO Friendship Forum, a SCO-focused diploma course, Pakistan-SCO Business Council, and various other endeavors aimed at advancing Pakistan's interests in the region. Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan, Ulanbek Totuiev, discussed the outcomes of the Summit of Heads of Government in Bishkek, shedding light on significant agreements resulting from the recent joint ministerial commission between Pakistan and the Kyrgyz Republic. The Ambassador said that both Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan are pivotal in promoting the essence of the Shanghai Spirit. Dr. Rashid Aftab, Director of Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Riphah International University, emphasized the institute's achievements and underscored the colossal potential inherent in the 40 percent of the world's population residing in the SCO region. Dr. Muhammad Munir, Dean of Social Sciences at Muslim Youth University, shared key steps and approvals outlined in the joint communique and said that the communique had covered all the requirements that are making the SCO a strong regional organization. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Taraq Waheed, Dean of Social Sciences at SZABIST, illuminated the importance and opportunities presented by the SCO. —DNA

Canadian man convicted of Pakistani family's murder

LONDON : A Canadian man, Nathaniel Veltman, has been convicted of murder after he ran over and killed four members of the Afzaal family with his car in London, Ontario, but the jury did not specify if he was motivated by terrorism, BBC reported. The case marked the first time Canada's terrorism

laws were argued before a jury in a first-degree murder trial, with a 12-person jury returning the verdict after less than six hours of deliberation which are secret under Canadian law. The Pakistani-Canadian Muslim family that was killed on June 6, 2021, included Salman Afzaal, 46, his wife Madiha Sal-

man, 44, their daughter Yumna Afzaal, 15, and Afzaal's mother Talat Afzaal, 74. However, the couple's nine-year-old son was seriously injured but survived. A guilty verdict was delivered in a packed courtroom at Windsor's Superior Courthouse, causing emotional reactions from spectators, including mem-

bers of London's Muslim community and friends of the Afzaals. The Afzaal family's relatives told reporters outside the courtroom that while the verdict didn't bring their family back, it gave them solace. They added that the trial was a reminder that work is still needed to address hatred in all forms in Canada. "This wasn't just a crime against the Muslim community, but rather, an attack against the safety and security of all Canadians," said Tabinda Bukhari on behalf of the family. The National Council of Muslims (NCCM) said they were "relieved that justice has been served". —APP



ISLAMABAD : A group of students from government college women university Faisalabad (GCWUF) visiting Senate Museum at Parliament house. —DNA

Sudan armed conflict spreading to new regions

Sudan is facing a convergence of a worsening humanitarian calamity and a catastrophic human rights crisis

FOREIGN DESK

KHARTOUM : The conflict in Sudan, which has left thousands dead and seven million people displaced over seven months, is spreading to new regions of the nation, the UN said, warning of a mounting "humanitarian calamity." Smoke rises in Omdurman, near Halfaya Bridge, during clashes between the Paramilitary Rapid Support Forces and the army as seen from Khartoum North, Sudan April 15, 2023. Smoke

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Briefs

Judiciary embraces digital transformation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa has reconstituted the National Judicial Automation Committee (NJAC) to improve the efficiency of the judiciary. The committee will be led by Supreme Court's judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah. It will work towards the digitalisation of the court's processes and records, introduce mobile applications for better access to justice and improve case management. The committee aims to automate and integrate the judiciary and also introduce Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the legal processes and research. It will prepare a national plan based on technology and AI to improve the efficiency of service delivery of the judiciary. Earlier, Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa had taken notice of the construction of the Judicial Complex of Lahore High Court on a historical site in Kallar Kahar. As per sources, the chief justice sought a report from the registrar of the Lahore High Court on construction of Judicial Complex at historical garden at Kallar Kahar.

Khadija Shah rearrested under MPO

DNA

LAHORE: The Lahore deputy commissioner has ordered the detention of fashion designer Khadija Shah for a period of another 30 days under Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) ordinance, citing the need to maintain "law and order in the provincial capital," it emerged on Friday. DC Rafia Haider issued the order after an ATC granted post-arrest bail to Shah on yesterday in the fourth and, thus far, final case linked to the May 9 riots filed against her. The decision to detain Shah was taken on Nov 15. Shah's legal situation stems from her arrest during the nationwide unrest on May 9, triggered by the arrest of PTI Chairman Imran Khan. The ensuing protests turned violent and included attacks on military and state installations. On the same day, Shah shared videos on her social media accounts, showcasing her involvement in the PTI protest outside the Jinnah House, the residence of the Lahore corps commander. Subsequently, numerous protesters were detained, and Shah faced multiple charges for her alleged role in vandalism and attacks on security installations. Shah had voluntarily turned herself in to the police on May 23 after her name was associated with the May 9 riots, leading to her arrest on the same day. The designer is implicated in four cases connected to the events of May 9. Subsequently, she secured bail in all cases, with the most recent granted in the fourth case on Nov 15. After Shah was granted bail on Wednesday, a meeting of the "District Intelligence Committee" was held the very same day where the issue was discussed in detail, according to the Lahore DC's order, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com.



ISLAMABAD: Malaysian High Commissioner/Chair ASEAN Committee in Islamabad (ACI) hosted a farewell dinner for Indonesian Ambassador and welcome dinner for Bruneian High Commissioner on 15 November 2023 at Serena Hotel. Present were ASEAN Islamabad-based Heads of Mission together with their respective spouses. - DNA

Israel perusing Nazi approach, wants to kill all Palestinians

"This is worse than previous Nakba because this is not war. This is, simply, a humanitarian oppression," he told Arab media during an interview

DNA

RIYADH: Israel's military assault on Gaza is a disproportionate response, and the conflict can only be halted through negotiation with Hamas and by pursuing a two-state solution, according to Mahathir bin Mohamad, the former prime minister of Malaysia. The veteran statesman, who held office from 1981 to 2003 and from 2018 to 2020, making him the country's longest-serving prime minister, has long been a staunch supporter of Palestinian national rights. Compared with the 1948 Nakba, or "catastrophe," that resulted in the creation of the state of Israel and the dispossession of millions of Palestinians, Mahathir believes the current conflict in Gaza presents an even greater threat and is more akin to an extermination. "This is worse than the previous Nakba because this is not war. This is, simply, a humanitarian oppression," he told Arab media during an interview. "We don't see soldiers fighting each other. We see, simply, Israeli soldiers killing civilians. That is not war. It is a humanitarian disaster." Israel launched its military assault on Gaza with the intention of eliminating Hamas after the Palestinian militant group mounted its unprecedented attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, which resulted in the death of 1,200 people, Israelis and foreigners, and

the taking of more than 200 hostages. The US and many other Western governments have repeatedly voiced their support for Israel's right to defend itself and broadly backed the aim of eliminating Hamas, which Washington and many European governments consider a terrorist organization. "It may have the right to defend itself but not to the extent of proposing to kill Palestinian civilians without any limit," said Mahathir. "Already, they have killed 12,000. They claim they have lost 1,400, but now they have killed more than 12,000 Palestinians. That is not the way to secure the well-being of Israel." The steadfast Western support for Israel has started to wane, however, as the civilian body count in Gaza continues to rise, prompting growing calls for an immediate ceasefire, the establishment of humanitarian aid corridors, and a negotiated settlement of the long-running Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Mahathir, who was in office during the 1993-1999 peace process, when the Palestine Liberation Organization, led by Yasser Arafat, came close to its goal of establishing an independent Palestinian state, said the violence of Oct. 7 was all but inevitable after Israel failed to keep up its end of successive agreements. "For 70 years, the Israelis have been oppressing the Palestinians, have taken their land and built settlements on their land," said Mahathir. "And they (the Palestinians) have tried many

ways, including negotiation by Arafat. But every time they tried to solve the problem, the Israelis reneged on their promises. For example, when Arafat finally agreed that the state of Israel should exist, that there should be a two-state solution, the Israelis (did) not implement the promise they made that there should be a two-state solution. "So, what can the Palestinians do? They had to eventually resort to violence. They have no other way. The world is not helping them. There is no justice. So the attack on Oct. 7 is because there is no other way for them to regain their land. It's not terrorism, it's to fight to liberate your own country." Mahathir doubts whether Israel ever truly countenanced the possibility of an independent Palestinian state based on the 1967 lines and with East Jerusalem as its capital. Instead, he believes Israel wants to dispossess the Palestinians of all their remaining lands west of the Jordan river, and goes so far as to accuse the current government of orchestrating a campaign of attempted extermination. "What they want is actually, if what they are doing in Gaza is any evidence, what they want is to rid the world of all Palestinians. That is their final solution," said Mahathir. "They learned this from the Nazis of Germany. The Nazi solution to the Jewish problem was to kill all Jews. Now, it seems that Israel is adopting that approach to the

problem, wanting to kill all Palestinians so that the Middle East will not have any Palestinians left." The "final solution" refers to the killing of 6 million Jews by the Nazis, primarily in purpose-built death camps, between 1941 and 1945. Last weekend, Saudi Arabia hosted an extraordinary joint summit of Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Riyadh, during which leaders demanded an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and rejected Israel's justification of its actions as self-defense. They urged the International Criminal Court to investigate the "war crimes and crimes against humanity that Israel is committing" in the Palestinian territories, according to the summit's final communique. They also demanded an end to the siege of Gaza, access for the delivery of humanitarian aid, and a halt to the sale of arms to Israel, and called on the UN Security Council to take action. "Just asking the Israelis to stop the war is not doing very much, because everybody is saying that," said Mahathir. "But the Islamic countries can demand from the UN all peacekeepers to be sent to Gaza so that they can look after the welfare, the well-being, the security of the Gazan people. Today, the Gazan people have no defense. They are being killed almost as if they are not human. And this is what Israel is doing. Merely asking Israel just to stop killing is not enough. Israel will not stop killing.

Turkish air strikes kill 13 Kurdish militants

DNA

ANKARA: Turkiye's military carried out air strikes in northern Iraq and killed 13 Kurdish militants, the defense ministry said on Friday. In a statement on social messaging platform X, the ministry said 13 Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants were hit in air strikes in the Hakurk region of northern Iraq, as well as areas where Turkiye conducts its "Claw-Lock Operation." "Our operations will continue with determination until there is not a single terrorist left in the region," it said. The PKK, which is considered a terrorist organization by the European Union, United States, and Turkiye, took up arms against the Turkish state in 1984 and more than 40,000 people have been killed in the conflict. Ankara frequently carries out cross-border air strikes and operations against the PKK, which has bases in the mountains of northern Iraq. Turkiye has intensified attacks on Kurdish militants in Syria and Iraq in recent weeks after militants detonated a bomb near government buildings in Ankara on Oct. 1.

Children killed in school strike as Myanmar war rages

YANGON: Eleven people, including eight children, have been killed in Myanmar's Chin State after a military jet bombed a school, villagers say. Locals say the strike on the remote village of Vuilu in the mountainous region happened on Wednesday. Myanmar is currently in the grip of a civil war with numerous armed groups fighting the military junta which deposed an elected government in 2021. Chin State is a stronghold of resistance against the junta. This week, its grassroots insurgency saw ethnic Chin fighters recapture the town of Rikhwadaw, on the border with India. According to accounts posted on social media by residents of Vuilu, a hilltop community of fewer than 80 households in the south of the state, military aircraft dropped at least two bombs on them on Wednesday evening. - Agencies

Australian war crimes whistleblower pleads guilty

CANBERRA: An Australian military whistleblower who leaked classified material detailing alleged war crimes committed by special forces soldiers has pleaded guilty to stealing and sharing secret information. David McBride gave a trove of military documents to journalists at the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) because, prosecutors said, he was concerned about what he believed was the "over-investigation" of troops over alleged war crimes. McBride, a former lawyer in the Australian army, said he felt a moral duty to speak out after attempts to raise his concerns within the military were ignored. His disclosures asserted that Australian special forces troops were being hamstrung in Afghanistan by restrictive rules of engagement issued by senior officers under political pressure. The information he provided was the basis for a series of 2017 ABC reports, the Afghan Files, which alleged widespread malfeasance by Australian special forces troops in Afghanistan, including the commission of multiple



war crimes. Oxford-educated McBride, also a former British army major, originally intended to contest five charges at trial, and attempted to argue that his role in the military, and the oath he had sworn, established a duty for him to act in the public interest. His lawyers said that duty to the public interest overrode any duty to comply with general orders against disclosing military information. After the court ruled against the admissibility of his arguments and of documents on which he sought to rely, McBride pleaded guilty to three charges. He is expected to be sentenced in the new year and could face imprisonment. On Friday afternoon at the Australian Capital Territory supreme court in Canberra, Justice David Mosop upheld the government's claim that certain documents, if released, had the potential to jeopardise "the security and defence of Australia" and could not be used. McBride's lawyer, Mark Davis, said the ruling was a "fatal blow" to his case and said his legal team would investigate an appeal. - Agencies

Pakistan and Russia agree to collaborate to combat terror

Pak and Russia shared their experiences and best practices, highlighting the importance of national efforts in the broader fight against terrorism

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Russia have agreed to strengthen collaborative efforts to effectively combat terrorism, underscoring the mutual benefits of such cooperation, the Foreign Office said

on Friday. The two sides discussed the various forms of radicalisation, the spread of terrorist ideologies and the misuse of information and communication technologies for terrorist purposes, the FO said in a statement. Ambassador Syed Haider Shah, the additional foreign secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ambassador Sergey Vershinin, the deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation co-chaired the 10th meeting of the Pakistan-Russia Joint Working Group on 'Combating International Terrorism and Other Challenges to Security' held here on Thursday. The two sides resolved to work together in combating the financing of terrorism and in other key areas of counter-terrorism. The meeting reaffirmed the commitment of both Pakistan and Russia to continue their cooperation in the fight against terrorism. Both the sides recognised the importance of their partnership

in maintaining regional and global security. The two sides discussed at length the global and regional terrorist threats, with a particular focus on the situations in Afghanistan, Central and South Asia and North Africa. The dialogue underscored the complexity of the terrorism landscape and the need for continued vigilance. The two sides outlined their respective national strategies and measures in combating terrorism. Pakistan and Russia shared their experiences and best practices, highlighting the importance of national efforts in the broader fight against terrorism. The meeting was part of regular exchanges in the backdrop of Pakistan-Russia bilateral counter-terrorism cooperation. Discussions on enhancing cooperation in multilateral forums, such as the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), were particularly fruitful, the FO said. The next meeting of the working group will be held in 2024.

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