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**Canadian HC Leslie Scanlon advocates for gender parity**

Detailed News On Page-08

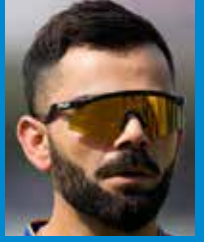
**Azma: KP CM's actions will harm federation**

Detailed News On Page-08



**Kohli becomes fastest player to reach 27,000**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Due to Justice Munib's 'excuse' SC defers hearing on review plea against Article 63-A

Will try to bring Justice Munib Akhtar back to the bench, otherwise, the bench will be reconstituted, hearing to resume today with new bench if Justice Munib recuses, says CJP: Justice Munib writes another letter; asks how can 4 member bench hear and pass an order in 63 A case

STAFF REPORT /DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has adjourned the hearing on a review petition challenging its judgement on the defection clause under Article 63-A of the Constitution after Justice Munib Akhtar refused to become part of the five-member bench. The originally formed five-member bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, had comprised Justice Aminuddin, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Mazhar Alam, and Justice Munib. However, as the hearing began today, Justice Munib was unavailable from the bench, following which the CJP adjourned the hearing till tomorrow (Tuesday), saying that the judge would be requested to rejoin the bench. "We will try to bring Justice Munib Akhtar back to the bench, otherwise, the bench will be reconstituted," said the chief justice. In his letter, Justice Munib said that he did not recuse from the bench, saying he cannot be a part of a bench that was constituted by Practice and Procedure Committee. "My letter should be made a part of the case record," said Justice Munib, to which CJP Isa said this could not happen. He added that it would have been appropriate had Justice Munib given his opinion after being part of the bench. The CJP said that he respects Justice Munib's opinion, however, the case has been pending for more than two years and the Article 63-A case is very important. Justice Munib, in his letter, noted that the "matter of fixing a bench for the CRP appeared suddenly on the committee's agenda at its 17th meeting held on July 18, it seems for the first time even though

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## SC nixes LHC's election tribunal order

*Electoral body had moved apex court against constitution of election tribunals in Punjab*

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday accepted the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) plea against the Lahore High Court's (LHC) June 12 verdict. The high court had formed election tribunals to adjudicate petitions related to national and provincial assembly constituencies in the February 8 general elections. The decision was challenged by the electoral body in the top court contending that it held the authority to form the tribunals and which couldn't be exercised by the LHC. The 5-0 unanimous verdict, reserved on September 24, was announced by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa-led five-member bench comprising Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel, Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi.

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ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar 50 chairs an Inter-Ministerial to review preparations for the forthcoming 12th Session of Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) with the United Arab Emirates. - DNA

## Malaysian PM set to visit Pakistan

Pakistan and Malaysia enjoy strong bilateral ties anchored in history, culture and faith

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: At the invitation of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim of Malaysia will undertake an official visit to Pakistan from 24 October 2024. He will be accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising Ministers, Deputy Ministers and senior officials. Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim will hold meetings with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. The two sides will discuss a wide-ranging agenda to further strengthen Pakistan-

Continued on Page 06

## Lt General Malik takes charge as new ISI chief

His appointment is a pivotal moment for the ISI's strategic direction

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Lieutenant General Muhammad Asim Malik has officially taken charge as the new Director-General of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). His appointment marks a significant transition within Pakistan's intelligence community. Lt Gen Asim Malik is recognised as one of the Pakistani Army's most capable operational commanders, adept at meeting complex objectives with timely actions.

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## Stresses necessity of reform

# 'PPP won't yield to any pressure on judicial package'

PPP chief backs constitutional court with representation of provinces; parliamentary committee to appoint judges

STAFF REPORT

QUETTA: As the coalition government has yet to gain enough parliamentary strength for its contentious constitutional amendments, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari reiterated his party's firm stance to bring judicial reforms without accepting pressure from any side. "This not possible that we do not accomplish a necessary task by succumbing to someone's pressure," said Bilawal while addressing an event of the Peoples Lawyers Forum in Quetta on Monday. He claimed that the PPP was told to withdraw the recently proposed constitutional amendments or in another case, it should take back the 18th Amendment. The PPP chief claimed that his party had

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## Imran Khan raises objections to SC bench

CJP Isa, Justice Aminuddin to recuse themselves from case, demands PTI founder's lawyer

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The PTI founder's lawyer Barrister Ali Zafar raised objections to the formation of the bench hearing the 63-A review petitions. On Monday, the PTI founder's counsel filed an application in court. Zafar's petition challenged

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## Briefs

### No need for military op. in Balochistan

CM said that young people were being deceived through false propaganda to stand up against the state

DNA

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti said on Monday that there was no need to continue military operations in the restive province of Balochistan. Speaking at a press conference in Quetta alongside Adeela Baloch, the CM said that young people were being deceived through false propaganda to stand up against the state. "We are making arrangements for better education for the girls of Balochistan. The militants are using young brains for their own gains. These people are not serving Balochistan in any way," he highlighted.

### Govt reduces petroleum prices

Petrol will see a decrease of Rs2.07 per litre while HSD will be reduced by Rs3.40 per litre

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has announced another reduction in petroleum prices, aiming to provide continued relief to the public. Starting from October 1, petrol and diesel prices will be lowered, according to an official notification. Petrol will see a decrease of Rs2.07 per litre, bringing the price down from Rs249.10 to Rs247.03 per litre. High-speed diesel (HSD) will be reduced by Rs3.40 per litre, lowering its price from Rs249.69 to Rs246.29 per litre. In addition, light diesel will see a reduction of Rs1.03 per litre, with the new price set at Rs140.90 per litre.

## 'They want to break me'

# Imran Khan announces 'pro-judiciary' protests

Govt has decided to file sedition charges against PTI leaders over speeches made at Sangjani rally, say sources

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former prime minister Imran Khan has announced a series of protests in support of the judiciary, beginning in Mianwali, Faisalabad, and Bahawalpur on October 2. Addressing his supporters through a statement issued from Adiala Jail on Monday, Khan said, "We will protest at Minar-e-Pakistan in Lahore on October 5, and on October 4, Friday, we will gather at D-Chowk [in Islamabad]." Khan warned of attempts to "crush PTI" through the so-called "London Plan," adding that his arrest was part of the broader scheme. "They want to break me in jail, but I am not afraid, and neither should the people be," he remarked. He emphasised that PTI's protests would remain peaceful, stating, "We have always protested peacefully, but this system has failed to protect us."

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## Court rejects Imran, Bushra's bail pleas

Ex-PM, former first lady are set to be indicted in jewellery set case on October 2

COURT REPORTER

RAWALPINDI: A court on Monday rejected the bail pleas filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and his wife and former first lady Bushra Bibi in the new Toshakhana case where they face allegations of misusing power to acquire state gifts. Conducting the hearing inside the

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## Ukraine attempting to undermine political situation in Russia: envoy

Russian envoy said that an early negotiated end to the conflict will benefit Russia and Ukraine, as well as countries in the Global South, including Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Russia to Pakistan Albert P.Khorev on Monday said the Ukrainians attacked the Russian Kursk region in an attempt to undermine the stable domestic political situation in Russia. Realizing that the strategic initiative "on the ground" is in Russia's hands along the entire line of contact, the Kiev regime unleashed large-scale military activities against the civilian population of our regions, and on August 6 this year the Ukrainian fighters invaded the peaceful, border region of Kursk, the Ambassador said. Ambassador of Russia to Pakistan Albert said this while addressing to press conference on the situation in and around Ukraine war. "I would like to reiterate that Russia is in favor of a political and diplomatic settlement of the conflict. The conditions for such a settlement, if you like, the "Putin formula", were set out in detail in a speech by the President of Russia on June 14 of this year at the Russian Foreign Ministry." He said the withdrawal of Ukrainian armed forces from the territories of the Donetsk People's Republic, Luhansk People's Republic,

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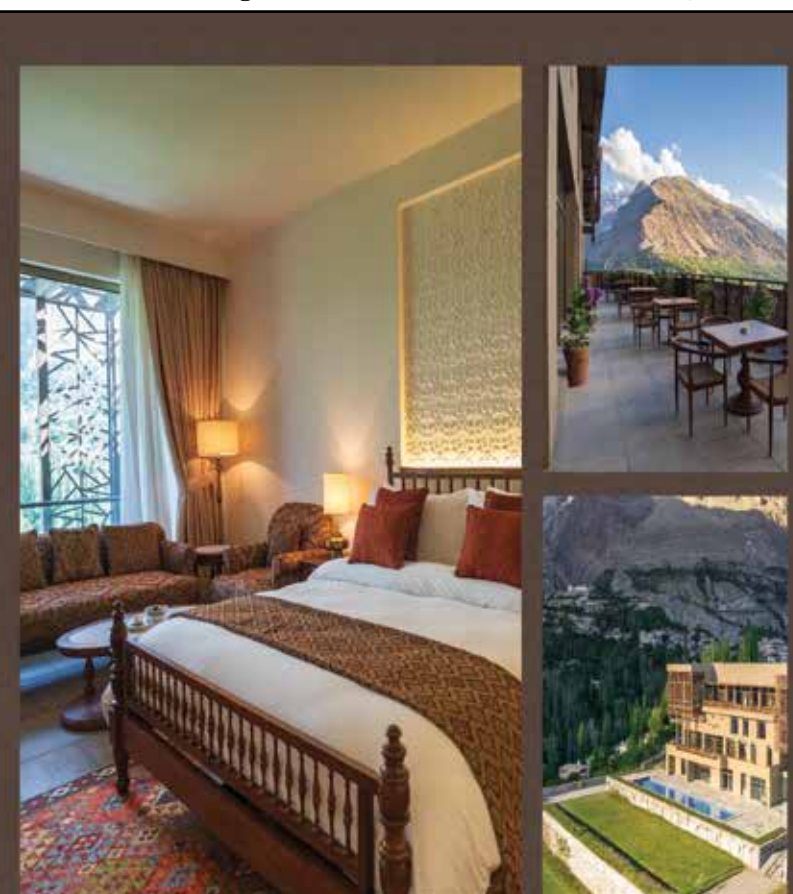
## Iran rules out military deployment to confront Israel

Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani said there is no need to send extra forces of the country

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iran will not deploy forces to Lebanon or Gaza to confront Israel, its foreign ministry said on Monday, as Israeli strikes target its allies in the region. "There is no need to send extra or volunteer forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran," said foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani, adding that Lebanon and fighters in the Palestinian territories

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## Briefs

## ANF seizes 45 kg drugs in eight operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting eight operations across the country managed to recover 45 kg drugs worth Rs 4.2 million and arrested eight accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that 450 grams hashish and 20 grams intoxicated tablets were recovered near a university located on Raiwind Road Lahore and an accused was arrested. 130 grams ice and 40 grams intoxicated tablets were recovered from an accused rounded up near a university located in Johar Town, Lahore. 120 grams hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused arrested near Kakpul Islamabad. The accused confessed to selling drugs to the students in educational institutions. 4.8 kg hashish and 1.2 kg opium were recovered from a vehicle held near M-1 Toll Plaza Islamabad and an accused was arrested during the operation. 400 grams hashish was found near the university in Hyderabad and an accused was arrested. During another operation in Hyderabad, 350 grams hashish was recovered from a drug dealer near a hospital. The accused confessed to providing drugs in educational institutions. 1.3 kg hashish and 200 grams ice were recovered from the possession of an accused netted near Sector F-10 center, Islamabad. All the arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to the students of different educational institutions. Strict legal action was being taken against those who endanger the future of youth, the spokesman said adding, that suspicious persons are being closely monitored around educational institutions.—APP

## Rs 4.615m grant among 12 students under CSR

ISLAMABAD :S K Hydro (Private) Limited has distributed a grant of Rs 4.615 million among 12 local students under company's commitment to education and local welfare. The company hosted the "Dreams Becoming Reality" CSR Activities Launch Ceremony at the Suki Kinari Hydropower Station construction site, said a press release issued here Monday. Dignitaries including the Commissioner of Hazara Division, the Deputy Commissioner of Mansehra District, local military officials, and leaders from the project company attended the ceremony. In his remarks, the Commissioner of Hazara Division expressed his deep appreciation to S K Hydro (Private) Limited for its long-standing contributions to regional socio-economic development and its active involvement in social welfare initiatives. He highlighted the company's commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR) by supporting education, constructing infrastructure, providing flood relief, and contributing to environmental conservation. The Commissioner also praised the project for strengthening China-Pakistan friendship.—APP

## ISSI hosts int'l moot on celebrating Pak ancient archeological, civilizational heritage

## STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a One-Day International Conference, titled "Celebrating Pakistan's Ancient Archeological and Civilizational Heritage", at ISSI on 30 September 2024. The Inaugural Session included Remarks by the Secretary of National Heritage & Culture Division, Hassan Nasir Jami as Guest of Honour; Welcome Remarks by Ambassador Sohai Mahmood, Director General, ISSI; and Introduction to the Conference by Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director, China Pakistan Study Centre, ISSI. The Session was graced by Senator Mushahid Hussain as the Chief Guest. Senator Mushahid Hussain emphasised history and heritage as sources of strength for a nation. He stated that national security

## BEOE issues notices to 40 technical trade centers

Monitoring and supervision of Overseas Employment Promoters through 7 Protectorates of Emigrants Offices and Processing of Overseas Employment Promoters (OEP) Licences

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment (BEOE) an attached department of the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HD) had blacklisted around 40 technical trade centers across the country due to the complaints and involved in fraud cases with innocent citizens. An official source told APP that the main function of this department is to control and

regulate emigration under the Emigration Ordinance, 1979, and promote the Emigration of Pakistani Citizens. It is also the responsibility to look after the emigrants' interests and welfare and advise the Federal Government on emigration policies and procedures. Monitoring and supervision of Overseas Employment Promoters through 7 Protectorates of Emigrants Offices and Processing of Overseas Employment Promoters (OEP) Licences, he added. BEOE also provides the platform for

pre-departure briefing to Emigrants and mandatory Insurance coverage to Pakistani workers abroad. Memorandum of Understanding with Foreign Countries for Export of Manpower and Management of State Life Emigrants Insurance Fund (SLEIF) were the main functions of this department. He said that BEOE has advised the foreign job-seekers to only reach out to the valid Overseas Employment Promoters to avert any loss of time, money, and their energies. He said there were only 2,577 Overseas Employment Promoters

(OEP) licenses that were valid as more than 5048 licenses had been pronounced invalid. Out of the invalid OEPs, the licenses of some 670 were canceled on various grounds while 805 expired and the rest had surrendered. They said all foreign job-seekers must visit the official webpage of BEOE regularly to get fresh and valid information and protect themselves from unauthorized OEPs. The officials said that the BEOE was mandated to regulate emigration under

the Emigration Ordinance, of 1979, promote the Emigration of Pakistani citizens, and look after the interests and welfare of the emigrants. Among other functions, the BEOE had been advising the Federal Government on emigration policies and procedures, monitoring and supervising Overseas Employment Promoters through 7 Protectorates of Emigrants Offices, processing Overseas Employment Promoters (OEP) Licences, and giving pre-departure briefings to emigrants.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Brazil to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Olyntho Vieira, called on Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on National Health Services.—DNA

## US, UAE and UK top 3 destinations of Pakistani exports

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the first two months of the current financial year 2024-25, followed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and United Kingdom (UK). Total exports to the US during July-August 2024-25 were recorded at US \$949.855 million against the exports of US \$934.666 million during July-August 2023-24, showing an increase of 1.62 percent, according to

the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by the UAE, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US \$400.977 million against the exports of US \$295.563 million last year, showing an increase of 35.66 percent. UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth US \$366.370 million during the month under review against the exports of US \$351.186 million, SBP data revealed. Among other countries, Pakistani exports to China stood at US \$323.435 million against US \$350.297 million last

year, showing a decrease of 7.66 percent while the exports to Germany were recorded at US \$287.169 million against US \$253.155 million last year, data said. During July-August 2024-25, the exports to Holland were recorded at \$247.343 million whereas the exports to Italy stood at \$186.984 million against \$195.539 million. Pakistan's exports to Spain were recorded at \$231.945 million against the exports of US \$242.201 million while the exports to Afghanistan were recorded at \$146.655 million against \$ 88.393 mil-

lion last year. The exports to Bangladesh stood at US \$122.004 million against US \$98.589 million. Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at US \$82.680 million against US \$91.043 million while the exports to Belgium stood at US \$100.402 million against US \$96.515 million. Pakistan's exports to Saudi Arabia were recorded at US \$114.189 million during the current year compared to US \$95.174 million last year whereas the exports to Turkey stood at US \$64.812 million against US \$61.354 million.

## Call for equitable climate policies to address challenges faced marginalized segments

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at the conference "Gender, Intersectionality and Climate Change: From Scientific Evidence to Action" held here Monday highlighted the critical need for equitable climate policies that address the unique challenges facing women and marginalized communities. An overwhelming number of academics, policymakers, development workers and activists converged on the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) to attend the conference, funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. The conference on Gender, Intersectionality and Climate Change (GICC) featured panel discussions, case studies, and an interactive exhibition showcasing innovative approaches to gender-responsive climate governance. The event kickedstart with a powerful opening statement by First Secretary of German Embassy, Mr Jan Kühn von Burgsdorff who stressed the importance of gender inclusion in climate policies and Germany's support for Pakistan's efforts to achieve the desired objectives.

Pro-Rector Academics NUST, Dr Osman Hasan in his closing remarks, emphasised the need for empowering women and ensuring their equal participation in climate decision-making, which could lead to more effective and equitable solutions in addressing the challenges posed by climate change. Leading experts at the conference highlighted the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and marginalised communities. Director and Founder of the Karachi Urban Lab at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi, Dr Nausheen Hafeeza Anwar underscored the need for inclusive decision-making in climate governance. Dr Sauleha Kamal from the University of York and Dr Muhammad Sajjad, from the University of Hong Kong, provided important insights into the gendered aspects of climate adaptation and the vulnerability of disaster-prone areas. Complementing the insightful discussions, the conference featured an Art and Photo Exhibition, showcasing visual representations of how climate change impacts different communities, particularly women. A Project and Product Exhibition, modeled after the concept of a "human library," allowed attendees to engage with ongoing projects that promoted gender equity in climate action. The interactive platform fostered meaningful dialogue between experts and participants, further enriching the conference experience. The conference underscored NUST's commitment to gender mainstreaming and providing real solutions for real problems.—DNA

## DFP urges int'l intervention to prevent bloodshed in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD: The Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) has strongly condemned the ongoing bloodshed perpetrated by Indian occupation forces against Kashmiri people in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. According to Kashmir Media Service, DFP spokesman Advocate Arshad Iqbal in a statement issued in Srinagar expressed grave concern over the fresh killings of Kashmiri youth in Kulgam and Kuthwa districts, tearing apart the Modi regime's normalcy mantra in the territory. "The Indian occupation forces have a notorious track record of murdering Kashmiri youth in staged encounters," Iqbal stated, denouncing the continued bloodbath and target killings. "The unabated killings and extrajudicial executions are a deliberate attempt to create a climate of fear and intimidation among the Kashmiri people," Iqbal added. The DFP spokesman urged the international community to take immediate notice of the deteriorating human rights situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir and pressure India to stop its brutal suppression of the Kashmiri people's struggle for freedom. The DFP spokesman emphasized that India's actions are a blatant violation of international norms and human rights, with over 96,347 people killed by Indian forces since January 1989.—APP

## IRSA releases 179,300 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 179,300 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 155,000 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1537.70 feet and was 139.70 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 94,100 cusecs and 85,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1215.90 feet, which was 167.90 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 11,600 cusecs and 45,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 93,000, 85,300, 69,300.—APP

## IMF financing will lessen the nation's problems

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, President of Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, as well as former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Monday that Pakistan will receive a seven billion dollar loan from the IMF over 37 months. loan has an interest rate of less than five percent, and paying the first instalment of one billion dollars is a pleasant experience. Mian Zahid Hussain said that now it will be possible for Pakistan to get cheap loans

from the global financial market, which will significantly reduce Pakistan's debt servicing burden, which has reached 10 thousand billion rupees annually. Speaking to the business community, the veteran business leader stated that the government is taking the necessary steps to meet the IMF's goals, including abolishing or merging some federal ministries. The Federal Minister of Finance has recently announced a reduction in government expenditure. He added that the IMF's conditions also include the elimination of losses in the electricity and gas sectors, an increase in the tax base, and the privatisation of public companies

that are losing money. The business leader stated that implementing these conditions is not easy, but it will improve the situation, whereas failure to do so may worsen it. According to him, Pakistan's problem is declining tax collection and rising government expenditure, which necessitates serious efforts. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the government should now strictly deal with tax defaulters because the burden of direct taxes on the public has been steadily increasing and there is no longer room for further tax hikes. He said that new measures are also necessary for recoveries. Government expenditure, which includes debt.



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## 75 years of China

THE 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China is a momentous occasion, not only for the over 1.4 billion Chinese people but also with global significance and historical importance. Over these 75 years, the journey of Chinese modernization has profoundly transformed China and influenced the world, truly realizing that "our work will be written in the annals of human history." This year also marks the 70th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. Amid a changing international landscape, China has steadfastly maintained an independent and peaceful foreign policy, upholding international fairness and justice. As China increasingly approaches global center stage, it continues to make new and greater contributions to the cause of peace and development for humanity. Seventy-five years ago, when this ancient nation in the East opened a new chapter in its history, the world was just beginning to recover from the devastation of two wars. From a struggling agricultural country, China has evolved into the world's second-largest economy, the world's leading manufacturing power, the top trader of goods, and the holder of the largest foreign exchange reserves. This historical elevation in national strength matches China's significant contributions to global development. From 1979 to 2023, China's average annual contribution to global economic growth reached 24.8 percent, with an average of over 30 percent from 2013 to 2023. For 12 consecutive years, China's outbound direct investment in foreign countries has ranked among the top three globally, holding over 10 percent of the global share for eight years. China's "new three items" - electric vehicles, lithium-ion batteries, and solar cells - are facilitating the globe to accelerate their green and low-carbon transitions, while its infrastructure projects span over 190 countries and regions worldwide. Today, averagely speaking, China engages in approximately 80 million yuan (\$11.4 million) worth of trade with the world every minute, invests approximately 112 million yuan abroad every hour, and attracts about 3.377 billion yuan in foreign investment daily. The development of China is intricately linked with global progress, achieving mutual success, and driving the world toward greater progress and prosperity. A great nation with over 5,000-year-old civilization stands majestically in the East, as over 1.4 billion people stride forward on the path to modernization. Such a vast scale itself is one of the main powerful driving forces for the progress of the entire world and human society. The practices of Chinese modernization teaches us that development is the key to solving all problems. China has proposed the Global Development Initiative to support the development and revitalization of countries in the Global South. By the end of 2023, China's direct investment in countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative had exceeded \$300 billion. Chinese companies have built the first ultra-high voltage direct current transmission line in the Americas, the first electrified railway, the first digital mine, and numerous infrastructure and livelihood projects in Africa, making an indelible contribution to global infrastructure construction. From "seek knowledge even if you have to go as far as China" to "seek peace even if you have to go as far as China," peace is a valuable public good that China offers to a turbulent world.



## Vice-presidential debate

THIS week's vice-presidential debate between Democratic Governor Tim Walz and Republican Senator J.D. Vance might not be as consequential as June's match-up between US President Joe Biden and his predecessor Donald Trump. However, it could still affect November's election and have wider global implications in the coming years. This is not least given the possibility on the Republican side that Trump could die or become incapacitated during a second presidential term, from 2025 to 2029, given his advanced age of 78. His challenger, Vice-President Kamala Harris, is 59. History underlines the crucial role that vice-presidents, stepping up in the way Vance might have to, have played in times of geopolitical tensions, which today include Ukraine and the Middle East. Harry Truman exemplifies this: he was vice-president from only January to April 1945 before assuming the presidency after Franklin D. Roosevelt died soon after winning his fourth election. Within weeks of entering the top job, Truman made several highly consequential decisions, including the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He also attended the landmark Potsdam conference with the Soviet Union and Britain to decide how to administer the defeated Nazi Germany. In the nuclear age, the electoral stakes of selecting a deputy who is perceived to be capable of effectively assuming office is even higher. Take the example of the 2008 election when Republican nominee John McCain, then 71, made the decision to select the much younger, one-term Alaska governor Sarah Palin who was widely viewed at the time as too gaffe-prone to be a heartbeat away from the presidency. Walz, 60, has significant experience as governor of Minnesota, and also served for more than a decade in the US House of Representatives. There are few doubts he could effectively assume the top job. However, the same may not be true for the 40-year-old Vance, who is a first-term senator from Ohio. Vance compares poorly to Trump's choice in 2016 of then-governor of Indiana, Mike Pence, who could have potentially assumed the presidency if the situation had warranted it - not least because of his more than a decade of experience in the House of Representatives. Even if Trump, the oldest major party presidential candidate in US history, were to win again and survive another five years, his energy could flag significantly as he moves into his 80s. His running mate would potentially wield significantly more influence in the White House than Pence did, where he was largely a peripheral figure. Harris and Pence face off in only vice-presidential debate of 2020 US election. There are other reasons Vance or Walz as vice-president could have significant influence in the next White House. First, the post has assumed more power and resourcing in the post-war era, with recent holders of the office such as Biden, Dick Cheney and Al Gore among the most influential in history. The power enjoyed by these three reflects, in significant part, their own strong experience and relationships with presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton respectively. Walz appears to have a similarly warm relationship with Harris, although whether Vance has the same strong rapport with the much more mercurial Trump is not so clear. The influence of multiple, recent incumbents such as Biden, Cheney and Gore is in part a function of the increased status of the vice-presidency.

# The complexity of China-North Korea relations

Dr. Muhammad Akram zaheer



China's relationship with North Korea must also be understood in the context of its broader strategic interests, particularly its desire to stabilize relations with the United States and other major global players. In recent years, China's economy has faced significant challenges, including trade tensions with the U.S., slowing growth and the need to attract foreign investment. These economic concerns have prompted Beijing to prioritize improving its relationship with Washington, even as it navigates the complexities of its ties with Pyongyang. Additionally, China has sought to strengthen its relationship with South Korea, a key US

THE relationship between China and North Korea is a multifaceted and deeply complex one, shaped by an intricate web of historical, ideological and strategic imperatives. Understanding this relationship requires a careful examination of the geopolitical factors that influence both nations' policies toward each other and the broader international context in which they operate. The China-North Korea relationship is rooted in shared ideological foundations, dating back to the Cold War era. Both nations were part of the communist bloc, united by a common Marxist-Leninist ideology. During the Korean War (1950-1953), China played a critical role in supporting North Korea against the United States and South Korea. This historical solidarity created a sense of camaraderie between the two nations that has persisted despite evolving political and economic circumstances. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the Korean Workers' Party (KWP) share a mutual commitment to maintaining their respective political systems, both rooted in single-party rule. North Korea's Juche ideology—an autarkic interpretation of socialism that emphasizes self-reliance—also has ideological affinities with China's state-centric economic model, especially during Mao Zedong's era. Over time, however, their economic and political systems have diverged significantly, with China embracing market-oriented reforms under Deng Xiaoping, while North Korea remained economically isolated. Nevertheless, the ideological bond between the two countries continues to shape their relationship, as both regimes prioritize political stability and resist external pressure to democratize. The Korean Peninsula holds immense strategic importance for China, given its geographical proximity and the security risks associated with instability in the region. Beijing is acutely aware of the delicate balance of power in Northeast Asia, where any shift could have far-reaching consequences for regional stability. The peninsula is situated at the intersection of several major powers, including the United States, Japan, Russia and China, making it a geopolitical flashpoint. For China, the stability of North Korea is crucial not only for maintaining regional peace but also for preserving its own influence in Northeast Asia. A destabilized Korean Peninsula would pose significant challenges for Beijing, including the risk of a humanitarian crisis spilling over its borders and the possibility of a U.S.-aligned, unified Korea. Such an outcome would bring American military forces closer to China's borders, undermining Beijing's security interests. Therefore, while China has supported international efforts to curb North Korea's nuclear ambitions, it remains deeply committed to preventing the collapse of the regime in Pyongyang. One of China's foremost strategic concerns regarding North Korea is the risk of nuclear conflict on the Korean Peninsula. North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weapons has long been a source of tension in the region, drawing condemnation from the international community and resulting in numerous sanctions against Pyongyang. For Beijing, a nuclear war on the peninsula would have catastrophic consequences, not only for North Korea but

for China and the entire region. Such a conflict could lead to massive destruction, regional destabilization and a severe humanitarian crisis that would directly affect China. A nuclear exchange could also draw in other major powers, particularly the United States and its allies, further complicating the global security landscape. The presence of U.S. military forces in South Korea and Japan, combined with Washington's security commitments to its East Asian allies, has already heightened tensions in the region. A nuclear conflict would exacerbate these tensions and could escalate into a broader confrontation between China and the West. Thus, China has a vested interest in preventing any escalation of the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula. However, Beijing faces a significant dilemma. While it wants to curb North Korea's nuclear ambitions, it must do so without pushing Pyongyang toward collapse. The implosion of the North Korean regime would likely result in a refugee crisis along China's borders, as well as the potential unification of the peninsula under a pro-U.S. government. Such a scenario would severely undermine China's strategic position in Northeast Asia, leaving it with a far less favorable security environment. To prevent such a collapse, China provides substantial economic and diplomatic support to North Korea. Despite international sanctions and Pyongyang's frequent provocations, Beijing continues to offer North Korea lifelines in the form of trade, food aid and energy supplies. This support is essential for sustaining the North Korean economy, which has been severely strained by sanctions and mismanagement. China's economic assistance is also a means of maintaining leverage over North Korea, ensuring that Pyongyang remains dependent on Beijing for its survival. This economic dependence allows China to exert influence over North Korea's policies, particularly in areas where Pyongyang's actions could destabilize the region. Diplomatically, China has often acted as a mediator between North Korea and the international community, particularly through its participation in the Six-Party Talks aimed at denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula. While these talks have yielded limited results, Beijing's role as a mediator underscores its commitment to preventing the isolation of North Korea. China believes that isolating Pyongyang entirely could push the regime toward more aggressive and unpredictable behavior, further destabilizing the region. Despite China's efforts to manage North Korea's behavior, the relationship between the two countries is often fraught with tension. North Korea's frequent missile tests, nuclear advancements and belligerent rhetoric have undermined Beijing's broader strategic goals in the region. Pyongyang's actions contributing to regional insecurity and have prompted South Korea and Japan to strengthen their defense capabilities, leading to an arms race in Northeast Asia. Moreover, North Korea's provocations have led to a stronger U.S. military presence in the region, as Washington reinforces its security commitments to its East Asian allies. This increased U.S. presence is undesirable for China, as it threatens to undermine Beijing's influence and security in the

region. Thus, North Korea's actions often complicate China's efforts to maintain regional stability and navigate its broader strategic interests. At the same time, North Korea's economic dependence on China creates a delicate balancing act for Beijing. While China needs to support the regime to prevent its collapse, it also must curb Pyongyang's more destabilizing actions. Beijing is particularly concerned that North Korea's continued pursuit of nuclear weapons could trigger a military response from the United States or its allies, leading to a broader conflict that would engulf the region. China's relationship with North Korea must also be understood in the context of its broader strategic interests, particularly its desire to stabilize relations with the United States and other major global players. In recent years, China's economy has faced significant challenges, including trade tensions with the U.S., slowing growth and the need to attract foreign investment. These economic concerns have prompted Beijing to prioritize improving its relationship with Washington, even as it navigates the complexities of its ties with Pyongyang. Additionally, China has sought to strengthen its relationship with South Korea, a key U.S. ally in the region. Beijing views improved relations with Seoul as a potential pathway to stabilizing the Korean Peninsula and reducing tensions with the United States. A more stable relationship with South Korea could also help Beijing achieve its long-standing goal of denuclearizing the peninsula, which would remove a significant source of regional instability. The relationship between China and North Korea is likely to remain a complex and delicate one, shaped by both nations' competing strategic priorities. While China seeks to preserve stability on the Korean Peninsula and prevent the collapse of the North Korean regime, it must also manage the risks posed by Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions and provocative behavior. At the same time, China's broader strategic goals, including its desire to improve relations with the United States and South Korea, will continue to influence its approach to North Korea. In this context, Beijing's policy toward Pyongyang is one of delicate balancing, as it seeks to maintain its influence in Northeast Asia while preventing regional instability. As long as North Korea remains economically and diplomatically isolated, China will continue to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of the Korean Peninsula. However, managing this relationship will require Beijing to carefully navigate the complex dynamics of regional security, international diplomacy and its own domestic priorities. Both historical ties and contemporary strategic imperatives define the China-North Korea relationship. While China is committed to preventing the collapse of the North Korean regime and maintaining stability on the Korean Peninsula, it also faces significant challenges in curbing Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions and managing its broader regional relationships. As the geopolitical landscape in Northeast Asia continues to evolve, China's ability to balance these competing interests will be critical in shaping the future of the region.

# Why European inertia is not good for the Middle East?

Chris Doyle

The one arguable exception to European inertia is France. As ever, its leaders treat Lebanon as if it was of vital French interest. Yet, as was seen after the 2020 Beirut explosion, President Emmanuel Macron has little influence despite grandiose statements. France partnered the US in leading the call for a three-week ceasefire, but Netanyahu just dismissed it. Are European leaders right to be disengaged? On one level, one wonders what they could do

THE story of the last year has been one of acute international failure over Gaza. Israel has conducted a genocide unhindered by any international flak that might have forced its belligerent prime minister or his extremist government coalition to think twice. Only the international legal system threatens to put a brake on Israeli actions. The International Court of Justice has ruled on the plausible danger of genocide in Gaza and the illegality of Israel's occupation. The International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor is seeking arrest warrants against Israeli and Hamas leaders. This failure of accountability has energized Israeli actions in Lebanon, as it plays out its Gaza playbook to the north. Uber-confident following the shameful silence of its key allies, Benjamin Netanyahu had little hesitation in opening up the northern front. The assassination of Hassan Nasrallah was just the latest in a whole batch of moves designed to stoke the fires of conflict. If anyone was in any doubt about the brazen contempt Netanyahu has for his allies, his routine mockery of the Biden administration is Exhibit 1. Once again last week, the White House claimed Israel was willing to agree to a 21-day ceasefire as called for by the US, the EU, the UK and others. As soon as Netanyahu got off his plane in New York, he wrecked all hopes of any such deal. He has done this on Gaza routinely. The US has failed to hold its truculent and unruly ally to account. But why are the European states being so timid? The reaction of most European countries to the escalation over Lebanon has centered on two priorities: evacuating their citizens and expressing concern. Finally, they have largely called for de-escalation, at best a ceasefire. Even the evacuation

of nationals has been a dubious effort. Many still languish under bombardment in Lebanon. As for the expressions of concern, this is the same disease that has beset policy toward the obliteration of Gaza. It is utterly irrelevant, designed to fill the gaping policy void. A few states stand out for ducking this trend, with Spain, Ireland and Norway speaking out. Spain condemned Israel's attack on Hezbollah's paging devices. What is also noticeable is that the latest EU statement on Lebanon made no mention of Gaza. Israel is winning the argument, as it did with the Houthi attacks in the Red Sea, on decoupling Gaza from Lebanon. This is naive. A ceasefire in Gaza and one between Israel and Hezbollah would be inextricably linked. A Gaza ceasefire would make one in the north far easier. The reality is that the Israeli leadership does not want one on either front. It believes that it can deliver a military victory on both fronts, while also cracking down and even annexing the West Bank. The other feature is that the Europeans make reference to UN Security Council resolutions on Lebanon, notably 1701. The Palestinians, meanwhile, have long since given up hope that any resolutions dealing with their occupation will get referenced, let alone implemented. One explanation for this European malaise is that the continent's politicians and publics are still fixed on local, internal issues, with isolationism dominant. They are unwilling to devote serious attention to issues outside their immediate geographical interest. The EU system is engulfed in choosing its next 26 commissioners, triggering power plays in Brussels. Sweden is focused on burgeoning gang crime, Italy on immigration. Belgium is trapped in postelection negotiations. Austria has

also just had elections. Baltic and Eastern European states fret about Russia. Poland is handling calamitous floods. The honeymoon for the new British Labour government has ended early. The one arguable exception to European inertia is France. As ever, its leaders treat Lebanon as if it was of vital French interest. Yet, as was seen after the 2020 Beirut explosion, President Emmanuel Macron has little influence despite grandiose statements. France partnered the US in leading the call for a three-week ceasefire, but Netanyahu just dismissed it. Are European leaders right to be disengaged? On one level, one wonders what they could do. Unity is lacking. But a coalition of major European powers including Germany, France and the UK could lead the way. Britain today has a less Europhobic government. Many Lebanese and Syrians are leaving Lebanon and some will make their way to Europe. Security should also be a major concern. After Israel assassinated Nasrallah's predecessor as Hezbollah leader in 1992, the group's response was to launch attacks against soft Israeli and Jewish targets in Turkey and Argentina. This may be its option again now, with European targets on the agenda. But it still feels like these leaders are tiptoeing nervously around an erupting volcano, hoping they do not get caught up in the lava flow. All the talk has been of trying to avoid a war when, for some time, those on the ground have been saying "we are in a war" and the Israeli leader was indicating that he wanted one, including on multiple fronts. Now even the blinkered Europeans cannot ignore this grave reality. They need to step up before Lebanon becomes the next Gaza.





## Briefs

### China's advancement in biotechnology benefits Pakistan

DNA

BEIJING: In the realm of pharmaceuticals, China's advancements in biotechnology and traditional medicines present numerous opportunities for Pakistani enterprises. "By leveraging China's expertise, Pakistani companies can introduce innovative products and treatments to their market, thereby improving healthcare outcomes and access," said Ma Jian representative of the Sichuan Liaison Office of the China-Pakistan Business Council, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. To facilitate seamless cross-border healthcare experiences, Ma underscored the importance of legal frameworks, streamlined visa procedures, and improved services, particularly in English proficiency. "As we receive increasing inquiries from Pakistani patients seeking treatments like rehabilitation in China, addressing these issues becomes even more crucial," he added. "As Pakistan's healthcare landscape is evolving, we see immense potential in tapping into the demand for its medical tourism," highlighted Ma Jian. Speaking at a roundtable dialogue on "Cross-Border Medical Tourism" as part of the 2024 World Medical Tourism and Global Healthcare (Boao) Forum (WMTF) held in the picturesque Chinese city of Haikou, Ma highlighted the unique blend of TCM and modern medical practices offered by China.

### Protest is last resort for release of Imran

FAISAL SHEIKH

RAWALPINDI: PTI founder Imran Khan's sister Aleema Khan stressed that protest was the last resort for Imran Khan's release. Talking to media outside Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi, she stated that Imran Khan had emphasised to keep protest alive, it shouldn't be halted. Aleema Khan stated that peaceful protest was the only viable option to halt Imran Khan's possible military detention and trial in military court. She highlighted that people took the streets in Rawalpindi for supremacy of law and independent judiciary but they were faced with resistance and rubber bullets were fired on them. She added that KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur brought a huge convoy but it was fired. She berated the incumbent government, saying having 17 seats in federation and 25 in Punjab government was afraid of them. She insisted on protesting until Imran Khan's release and judiciary's independence as Imran Khan and workers had no other option. Aleema Khan revealed that protests were being held in Multan, Faisalabad, Mianwali and Bahawalpur as protest was a constitutional right of citizens. She announced that a protest rally will be organised in Mianwali-Pakistan on the birthday of Imran Khan.

### Government to file treason cases against PTI leaders

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to file a treason case against the PTI leaders over the speeches they delivered during the Sangjani rally on Sept 8. According to sources, the government is taking action under Section 196 of the Criminal Procedure Code, which deals with treason charges. The cases filed under this section are non-bailable, and police do not require warrant for arrests. Read more: PTI gets permission for Islamabad rally on Sept 8 Both the Ministry of Law and the federal prosecutor general have endorsed the move and formal approval from the federal cabinet is being sought for further proceedings.

# Serena Hotels and Canadian HC advocate for climate resilience

## Serena Hotels and the High Commission of Canada Host Strategic Dialogue on Strengthening Indigenous Communities through Climate Action, Inclusion, and Gender Parity



DNA

ISLAMABAD: A high-level strategic dialogue called "Strengthening Indigenous Communities: Empowerment through Climate Action, Inclusion, and Gender Parity" took place today at the Islamabad Serena Hotel. Co-hosted by Serena Hotels and the High Commission of Canada, the event brought together prominent speakers, including H.E. Leslie Scanlon, Canadian High Commissioner to Pakistan; Aziz Boolani, CEO of Serena Hotels and Chairman of the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP); Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, Minister

for Minorities Affairs, Government of Punjab; and key leaders from civil society organizations working to support socio-economic inclusion and empowerment of local communities and marginalised groups in Pakistan. Canada, at home and around the world, is working to advance reconciliation and promote engagement with Indigenous Peoples, based on recognition of rights, respect, cooperation, and partnership. It involves listening to, learning from, and working in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada, as well as with local communities around the world, to address the unique challenges that these communities face. Reflecting on the

significance of the event, Canadian High Commissioner Scanlon remarked, "On this day of Canada's National Truth and Reconciliation, the dialogue was an opportunity for us to amplify the voices of Indigenous and marginalized communities, as well as leaders, here in Pakistan. Canada is built on the ancestral lands of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, and as we continue our reconciliation journey we are committed to applying a reconciliation lens across our diplomacy and global advocacy efforts. Whether it's promoting socio-economic inclusion, empowering youth, women, and girls in all their diversity, or supporting climate resilience for those on the frontlines

of the climate crisis, we are committed to working with Pakistan to help build a sustainable, resilient, and equitable future. Today's dialogue, with the participation of Pakistani leaders who are working to support local communities, highlighted the importance of collective policies, actions, and partnerships to support local communities' unique needs." Speaking at the event, Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO of Serena Hotels, emphasized, "At Serena Hotels, we believe that sustainability is not just an agenda, but a responsibility. By supporting indigenous communities, we can amplify their voices and experiences in shaping policies and solutions for climate resilience. Today's dialogue underlines our commitment to advancing inclusive growth and ensuring that the impacts of climate change are addressed with the unique needs of these communities in mind." Serena Hotels, through its Public Diplomacy initiative, has long been committed to fostering meaningful dialogues on pressing global issues, with a particular focus on climate action, social inclusion, and the empowerment of marginalized communities. This event was reflective of Serena's dedication to addressing the profound impact of climate change on indigenous communities, who are often on the frontlines of environmental challenges. By bringing together leaders, policymakers, and civil society, Serena Hotels & the High Commission of Canada aimed to contribute to a broader understanding of the interconnectedness of climate resilience and socio-economic inclusion, ensuring that no community is left behind in the face of global environmental shifts.

# Hezbollah says it is ready for any Israeli land invasion

## Elsewhere in his remarks, the top Hezbollah official underlined that Israel is delusional if it thinks that it can achieve its goals through massacres and Western support

NEWS DESK

BEIRUT: Hezbollah's Deputy Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem has vowed that the Lebanese resistance group will continue the path paved by its late leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and will achieve the goals he set. He made the remarks on Monday noon as he delivered a televised speech broadcast live in Beirut in commemoration of late Hezbollah chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, who was martyred on Friday after the Israeli regime bombarded a southern suburb of the Lebanese capital using US-provided weapons and munitions. "Despite the loss of our leaders and the great sacrifices, we will not renounce our stances and the resistance will continue to assist Palestine. We have persevered despite all the attacks. "We will continue Nasrallah's path and Hezbollah will continue its goals. Hezbollah's operations continued after its late leader's assassination," he emphasized. The Hezbollah deputy chief offered his deepest condolences to Imam Mahdi, the Twelfth and last Shia Imam, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, resist-

ance fighters across West Asia, Lebanon, and freedom-loving peoples worldwide over the loss of Nasrallah. "With the martyrdom of Sayyed Nasrallah, we lost a brother, a dear friend and a great leader. He was present on the battlefield and pursued the line of jihad for many years. He followed the path of the late founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeini, and his successor Ayatollah Khamenei. "Sayyed Nasrallah was the leader of freedom fighters, and his primary goal was the liberation of Palestine and holy al-Quds. Know that he will always be among us," he said. Sheikh Qassem stated that Israeli forces are killing and committing massacres against civilians across Lebanon, and are attacking civilian and health facilities. "The Zionist regime does not face off resistance fighters, but it rather kills innocents. The US is a partner with Israel, through unlimited military support - culturally, politically, financially," Sheikh Qassem pointed out. Elsewhere in his remarks, the top Hezbollah official underlined that Israel is delusional if it thinks that it can achieve its goals through massacres and Western support. Sheikh Qassem stated that Hezbollah fighters are prepared and "we will emerge victorious in case the Israeli enemy decides to launch a ground invasion of Lebanon."

# KP CM Gandapur promises legislation against enforced disappearances

## Gandapur stated in court that he opposed such actions and that they were working to amend police act

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur appeared before the Peshawar High Court (PHC) in the missing persons case and assured the court of legislative action against the re-arrest of individuals after their release from jail. During the hearing, the petitioner stated that his son was taken by the police and, despite receiving bail, was re-arrested by the CTD upon exiting Peshawar Jail. Chief Justice Iftikhar Ibrahim questioned how someone could be arrested from outside jail after being granted bail, calling it a violation of the court's decision. The court inquired with the additional SHO if he was responsible for the arrest, to which he replied under oath that he was not even present at the venue. Justice Ijaz Anwar remarked it as an unfortunate reality in the country where individuals were taken in such a manner, asserting that it was implausible for the police to be unaware of these actions. The court summoned Chief Minister Gandapur and adjourned the hearing. Upon resuming, Gandapur stated in court that he opposed such actions and that they were working to amend the police act.

# Israeli airstrikes kill 12 in Gaza

FOREIGN DESK

CAIRO: Israeli airstrikes pounded areas across the Gaza Strip on Monday killing 12, including a journalist and her family, medics said, although the intensity of the ground offensive has subsided as Israel steps up its fight with Hezbollah in Lebanon. Palestinian health officials said Wafa Al-Udaini, who wrote articles about the war in English advocating the Palestinian viewpoint, was killed when a missile struck her house in the central city of Deir Al-Balah, also killing her husband and their two children. There has been no immediate comment from the Israeli military. Udaini's death raised the number of Palestinian journalists killed in the Israeli offensive since Oct. 7 to 174, the Hamas-run Gaza government media office said. In another strike, a Palestinian was killed and several were wounded in Rafah, near the border with Egypt, while in the northern town of Beit Hanoun an airstrike killed one man and injured others, medics said. While later on Monday, an Israeli air strike on a house in Nuseirat, one of Gaza Strip's eight historic refugee camps, killed six people, health officials said.

# SHC approves Karsaz accident suspect bail

## Court says suspect is a mother of three school-going children who need her support

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Stressing the need for further inquiry, the Sindh High Court on Monday granted bail to the female driver arrested in Karsaz road accident in a drug case against surety bonds worth Rs1 million. On August 19, a young woman and an elderly man were killed when the suspect's luxury vehicle crashed into multiple vehicles near the Pakistan Maritime Museum in Karachi. Those killed in the accident were identified as daughter and father, 26-year-old Aamna Arif and 60-year-old Imran Arif. According to law enforcement officials, the woman who caused the accident received an injury on her head and her CT scan was conducted at the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC).

# Pak first climate change curriculum launched



## The curriculum, created by TRC under the Climate Change Awareness and Action for Nature, Diversity, Livelihoods, and Ecosystems (CANDLE) initiative, includes an interactive toolkit for teachers

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The United States partnered with the Teachers' Resource Center (TRC) to launch Pakistan's first climate change curriculum for schools. This program will educate students from grades 1-10 on the science behind climate change and provide them with tools to protect the environment for future generations. The curriculum, created by TRC under the Climate Change Awareness and Action for Nature, Diversity, Livelihoods, and Ecosystems (CANDLE) initiative, includes an interactive toolkit for teachers. It also features easy-to-use lesson plans covering essential topics such as climate science, the impact of climate change, and practical solutions for adapting to a rapidly changing environment.

"By introducing climate education in schools, we're empowering young minds to take meaningful action," said Lisa Swenarski, Minister Counselor for Public Diplomacy, at the launch event in Islamabad. "These students will grow up with a deep understanding of their role in protecting the environment, and that's where real change begins." Senior federal and provincial education leaders, as well as representatives from both public and private sector attended the launch and emphasized the vital role education plays in addressing the climate crisis. The new curriculum reflects the shared commitment of both the United States and Pakistan to fostering a sustainable and resilient future. By integrating climate education into schools through this innovative initiative, Pakistan is preparing its youth to become environmental leaders, empowering the next generation to protect their communities and the planet.

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