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Japanese envoy bid farewell to Pakistani dignitaries, friends

Detailed News On Page-04

Khyber PK to restores student unions

Detailed News On Page-08



Maxwell calls Pakistan team 'unpredictable'

Detailed News On Page-06



Statement about 'flawed security

Pakistan angry over Chinese envoy remarks

Summoned to MOFA, termed Ambassador's statement as surprising and doesn't reflect diplomatic traditions of Pakistan and China

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Foreign Office has termed Chinese Ambassador's statement as surprising and doesn't reflect diplomatic traditions of Pakistan and China. "We are tightening protocol of the visit of an ambassador or group of ambassadors' visits to another city," Spokesperson Foreign Office, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in a briefing. FO spokesperson said that the foreign ambassadors are our guests, and we are determined to extend comprehensive security to them. Ambassador Jiang Zaidong in a seminar in Islamabad on Tuesday said that two deadly terror attacks within only six months were unacceptable and the government should launch a crackdown against all anti-China terrorist groups. He said the security of Chinese citizens in Pakistan is the biggest concern for China and the biggest constraint to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He added that Beijing hoped that the Pakistani side could further strengthen the security measures to protect Chinese personnel, institutions and projects. "Pakistan should severely punish the perpetrators and crack down on all anti-China terrorist groups," said the ambassador. The Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, at her weekly press briefing, said that Pakistan rejected any offer or advice for talks with TTP as the country had done so on several occasions. Asked to comment on a statement by an Afghan diplomat in Islamabad, she said Afghan authorities had the responsibility to act against terror groups, primarily TTP as Pakistan had also

Continued on Page 06

'Imran's release not interlinked with Trump's success'

Matthew Miller said that Pakistani politics are a matter for the Pakistani people to decide

FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said that there is no truth in claims that Imran Khan could be released if Donald Trump is elected as the new president. Briefing the media in Washington on Wednesday, Matthew Miller said that legal proceedings against the former prime minister [Imran Khan] are matters for the Pakistani courts to decide. Replying to a question regarding PTI leaders Latif Khosa's claim that US diplomat Donald Lu was involved in a conspiracy to remove Imran Khan from prime minister office, Matthew Miller said that it is not true. "The allegations that the US played any role in his removal from office are false. We've gone over that

Continued on Page 06



DOHA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with Amir of Qatar His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. - DNA

CJP appoints key officials in his office

Senior Private Secretary Muhammad Yaseen has been appointed as Secretary to the Chief Justice

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice Yahya Afridi appointed key officials in his office on Thursday. Chief Justice Yahya Afridi appointed a new secretary and executive officer, and after his approval, a notification for the new appointments was also issued. According to the notification, Senior Private Secretary Muhammad Yaseen has been appointed as Secretary to the Chief Justice in grade-21, while Senior Private Secretary Muhammad Arif has been appointed as Chief Justice's Executive Officer in grade-20. Sources indicate that a new Registrar for

Continued on Page 06

PNS Zulfiqar rescues Iranian fishing dhow

Pakistan Navy regularly deploys its assets on regional maritime security patrol

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy Ship Zulfiqar while deployed on a regional maritime security patrol rescued an Iranian fishing show with 23 fishermen onboard, a statement from the Pakistan Navy said on Thursday. According to a statement from the Directorate General Public Relations (DGPR) Pakistan Navy, PNS Zulfiqar responded to the distress call from Fishing Dhow AL Muhammadi, which was stranded in the Gulf of Aden near Yemen.

Continued on Page 06

PM invites Qatari investors Shehbaz, Qatari Emir explore avenues to boost investment

Premier discusses matters of mutual interests in high-level talks with top Qatari leadership during official trip

NEWS DESK

DOHA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has reiterated Pakistan's commitment to boost bilateral ties with Qatar as he met the Gulf country's top leadership during his two-day official visit. PM Shehbaz held delegation-level talks with the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, followed by a one-on-one meeting to discuss a wide array of bilateral interests in Doha on Thursday, according to Radio Pakistan. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to deepening strategic ties, underscoring the importance of shared economic goals and regional stability. They also reviewed the entire spectrum of Pakistan-Qatar relations, exploring potential avenues for enhanced cooperation in trade, potential areas of investment, energy and culture. PM Shehbaz commended Qatar's stance on the Palestinian issue expressed by its emir during the 79th UNGA held on

Continued on Page 06

Pak committed to gender equality

The minister highlighted the government's continued efforts to advance women's rights, referencing significant legislative measures such as the Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, here on Thursday held a meeting with representatives from UN Women Pakistan and the Interagency Gender and Development Group (INGAD) to strengthen Pakistan's commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment. The high-level dialogue focused on

Continued on Page 06

Eight settlers killed in strikes from Lebanon

Hezbollah has inflicted more losses on invading Israeli troops while targeting the regime's military positions and settlements across the northern occupied territories

AGENCIES

BEIRUT: Israeli media reported Thursday that six Israelis were killed in Metula, located in the Upper al-Jalil, and two others were killed in the Kiryot, following a direct rocket strike from Lebanon. Israeli media highlighted that multiple rockets launched from Lebanon struck a gathering of Israeli soldiers in Metula, describing the incident as "severe." Reports indicated that the attack demonstrated Hezbollah's continued capacity to launch large volleys of rockets. Israeli media further emphasized that Hez-

bollah's recent strikes reflect not only its capabilities but also its intentions. "Hezbollah knew precisely where to aim when firing at Metula, resulting in severe consequences," the reports stated. Additionally, the media expressed doubt that northern residents would be able to return to their settlements anytime soon after the day's events. Following the incident, an Israeli military spokesperson confirmed that approximately 30 rockets were launched from Lebanon, triggering alerts between 12:21 and 12:23 in the Central, Upper,

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Internet fully restored: PTA

According to a spokesperson, the fault in the SMW4 submarine cable has been rectified

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has announced the complete restoration of internet services nationwide. According to a spokesperson for the PTA, the fault in the SMW4 submarine cable has been rectified. The issues with the SMW4 cable surfaced in June, while the AAE-1 submarine cable experienced faults in August. With the restoration of both cables, the previous shortfall of 1,750 Gbps has been resolved. The spokesperson stated that the internet is now fully operational at complete speed and capacity across the country. To enhance connectivity, the PEACE cable has been integrated into the system this year.

PTI plans nationwide protests

PTI leader Asad Qaiser describes current government as "fascist"

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Asad Qaiser has stated that efforts will be made to unite all parties at the national and provincial levels as they plan protests across the country. Speaking to the media outside Adiala Jail, Qaiser expressed his concerns regarding the current government's approach, describing it as "fascist" while claiming they falsely present themselves as proponents of democracy. He emphasized that elected representatives have other important discussions to conduct beyond just political dialogue with their leader. He accused Maryam Nawaz of governing the province through "fascist methods."

'Skewed view of realities'

Parliamentarians fire back at Congress' letter

Parliamentarians term US Congressmen's letter "external interference in Pakistan's internal matters"

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: In a tit-for-tat response, over 100 Pakistani lawmakers have written to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, expressing concerns over a letter from US Congress members to President Joe Biden that called for the release of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan. "We write to express our concerns over the unwarranted and inaccurate commentary on Pakistan's domestic politics by 62 Members of the US House of Representatives," the letter states, describing the US lawmakers' stance as a "skewed view of realities." Signed by 160 Pakistani parliamentarians, including top leaders of major political parties, the letter argues that the US lawmakers' appeal to President Biden amounts to "external interference" and unfairly amplifies the political narrative of a single party at the expense of Pakistan's state institutions and other political groups. The response comes after US lawmakers urged President Biden to use "substantial leverage with Pakistan's government to secure the release of political prisoners including former prime minister Khan". The letter also made an appeal for

Continued on Page 06

PTI leaders denied access to Imran in Adiala Jail

'We will stand firm till our leader is freed with dignity'

FAISAL SHEIKH

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders have lashed out at the government for 'barring' them from meeting with their imprisoned party founder Imran Khan. Addressing the media outside Adiala Jail on Thursday, Omar Ayub said After waiting for three hours, the jail authorities asked him to give in writing that he would not hold political talks. He added: "The government and agencies should also give in writing in Form 47 that they would not interfere in the political process. Two months passed and even after the court order, we were not allowed to meet the PTI founder. I have a very important meeting today.

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan's bid to sell PIA failed miserably

PIA stake sale attracts sole bid of Rs10 billion below government minimum

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The final bidding process for the privatisation of Pakistan International Airlines attracted just one bid of Rs10 billion for a 60% stake in the national flag carrier, the Privatisation Ministry said on Thursday. The government had pre-qualified six groups in June, but only real-estate development company Blue World City participated in the bidding process, placing a bid that is below the government-set minimum price of Rs85 billion. Cash-strapped Pakistan was looking to offload a 51-100% stake in debt-ridden PIA to raise funds and reform state-owned enterprises as envisaged under a \$7 billion International Monetary Fund programme. The Privatisation Commission said it had asked the bidder to match the minimum bid. Blue World City Chairman Saad Nazir however stood by its bid. "We wish the government all the best if they don't want to accept our bid," he said during the ceremony. Nazir later told Reuters that it did not make commercial sense to raise their bid. "The cabinet is going to discuss this offer of ours. If this doesn't go through and they don't accept our offer, we will start our own airline," he said. He added that he did not believe the government's 85 billion minimum price was based on a correct financial model for an organization with "significant leakages". Mohammed Sohail, CEO of Topline Securities, said that the gap between the offer and reference price means the government would either need to consider this bid or revisit their

FBR deadline end for filing income tax returns

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has ruled out further extension in the deadline of filing income tax returns. After two extensions, the FBR has denied any further extension in the deadline, which expired yesterday (October 31). According to the FBR officials, so far, over 5.01 million returns have been submitted, with more than Rs125 billion collected from the tax returns process. The tax body has directed the citizens to file their tax returns until midnight tonight. Starting from November 1, late filers or non-filers will be identified. Late filers will be subjected to double taxation on vehicle and property purchases. Officials emphasized that individuals earning Rs50,000 per month are required to submit income tax returns. Those failing to do so will be classified as non-filers or late filers. Non-filers will face restrictions on international travel, their mobile phone SIM cards will be blocked, and their electricity and gas services may be

Continued on Page 06

strategy regarding the privatisation of the airline. Officials from three groups that chose not to bid told Reuters on condition of anonymity that there were concerns about the government's ability to stand by agreements made for the flag carrier in the long term. One executive voiced concern about policy continuity once a new government came in. The government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is reliant on a coalition of disparate political parties. The disposal of PIA is a step former governments have steered away from, as it has been highly unpopular given the number of layoffs that would likely result from it. Underpinning concerns over policy continuity and honouring contracts was the government's termination of power purchase contracts with five private companies earlier this month, and the process of re-negotiating other sovereign guaranteed pacts. Changes in Pakistan's decade-old agreements with private power projects to address chronic electricity shortages "raises the risk of investing and doing business in Pakistan, even in the presence of sovereign contracts as well as guarantees," said Sakib Sherani, an economist at Macro Economic Insights. Commenting on the power contract renegotiations last month, the head of Pakistan's power ministry said the government had always maintained contractual obligations to investors, both foreign and local, and that contract revisions would be by "mutual consent". Other concerns raised by potential bidders for the PIA stake included inconsistent government communication, unattractive terms and taxes on the sector, and the flag carrier's legacy issues and reputation.

KP CM inaugurates solarization of colleges project

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Thursday visited the Government College Peshawar and inaugurated solarization of colleges project. Under the project, 10 KVA solar system has been installed in 80 government colleges across the province. Out of which solarization of 10 colleges has been completed so far. The total cost of installation of 10 KVA solar system per college is Rs 2.41 million. The installation of the solar system would reduce the consumption of electricity by 11,000 to 12,000 units per month. By installing solar system, each college would save 55 thousand rupees per month in terms of electricity bill. The cost of this solar system would be paid off in less than 3 years. During the function, the Chief Minister also distributed prizes to the students who secured prominent positions in the MDCAT and Boards examinations. In his speech the CM announced restoration of students' unions in the province and said that the students are our future. He urged students to work hard to inculcate in themselves those qualities which were needed for the development of the country. "We have to create a system in which no section is deprived, everyone gets equal opportunities," he said adding that everyone could become a great person by thinking big. He said there was no substitute for hard work, and advised the students to defeat inefficiency in the system by moving forward. "You have to keep going, one failure doesn't mean you stop." -APP

Planning minister reviews progress on CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal chaired a high-level meeting here on Thursday to review the progress of ongoing projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The meeting was attended by Secretary of Planning, Awas Manzoor Sumra, Joint Chief Economist Operations Zafar-ul-Hassan, and other senior officials from the Ministry, according to press release issued by planning ministry. During the meeting, Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the need to ensure the success of the five-year CPEC development plan by involving all provinces of Pakistan and promoting equal development opportunities. -APP

Court Notice

کورت نوٹس
بعدالت محترمہ صبا عالم صاحبہ بی بی فاطمہ کورٹ
راولپنڈی ڈویژن جج صاحب نے اپنے فیصلے میں
اصغر نام محمد علی خان ولد بشارت خان ساکن
دھوکہ اکڑ خان، ڈاکٹر گلشن، تحصیل کیکلا،
ضلع راولپنڈی پر گواہ مقدمہ نمٹوان بالا میں
مدعا علیہ کی جملہ سب سے معافی کی درخواستیں منظور
ہوئی ہیں اور درکار والی حسب ضابطہ عمل میں
آئی جاتی ہے۔
04-11-2024 بجت صبح 9 بجے حاضر
عدالت آؤن ورنہ کارروائی حسب ضابطہ عمل میں
آئی جاتی ہے۔
محکم عدالت ہیر عدالت

CDA chief, Kazakh ambassador discuss area of mutual interests

In order to further deepen the ties, the ambassador shared the proposal of the sister-city status between Islamabad and Astana and also suggested renaming one of Islamabad's streets to honor the prominent figure from Kazakhstan

DNA

ISLAMABAD : Ambassador of Kazakhstan, Yerzhan Kistafin called on Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa. Chairman CDA, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, welcomed the Ambassador of Kazakhstan. Ambassador Kistafin praised Pakistan's successful hosting of the SCO summit, highlighting Kazakhstan's Prime Minister's visit as a remarkable occasion where he appreciated Islamabad's hospitality and beauty. He expressed Kazakhstan's commitment to deepening relations from cultural exchanges to economic and business ties. In order to further deepen the ties, the ambassador shared the proposal of the sister-city status between Islamabad and Astana and also suggested renaming one of Islamabad's streets to honor the prominent figure from Kazakhstan. Chairman Randhawa shared CDA's efforts regarding beautification and infrastructure development. He emphasized the need for exploring the areas of mutual interest and cooperation. He assured his full support for the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) to formalize the sister-city relationship between Islamabad and Astana. He highlighted the importance of business cooperation and cultural ties. He expressed CDA's readiness to explore part-



ISLAMABAD: Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa presenting shield to Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin.

nerships on the city development projects, including a state-of-the-art slaughterhouse and other key projects. Both sides expressed their resolve for promoting close ties and cooperation between Pakistan and Kazakhstan.

Governor for unified political stand on provincial rights

During his address, Governor Kundi highlighted the contributions of the Pakistan Peoples Party, which introduced Pakistan's first constitution and, in 2010, promoted equitable resource distribution through the NFC Award

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday said that the province was the most affected due to terrorism and all the political parties should unite to get its rights from the federation. He emphasized that all political parties must put aside their differences and unite to advocate for KP's rights at the federal level. He made these remarks at a seminar organized by the Center for Governance and Public Accountability (CGPA) at the University of Peshawar. The seminar, titled "NFC Award and the

Case for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa" was attended by members of parliament, political leaders, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Peshawar, faculty, and students. During his address, Governor Kundi highlighted the contributions of the Pakistan Peoples Party, which introduced Pakistan's first constitution and, in 2010, promoted equitable resource distribution through the NFC Award. The 7th NFC Award, he said, introduced a multi-faceted approach for equitable distribution, with the 18th Amendment

granting greater provincial autonomy and control over resources, increasing provincial shares to at least 57.5 percent in the divisible pool. Governor Kundi pointed out that many areas in KP remain underdeveloped, facing terrorism and law and order issues. He emphasized that the recently merged tribal areas required additional resources to meet their needs. He pledged to advocate for the province's rights and needs at the federal level as KP's representative. Governor Kundi also appreciated

the seminar organizers, Peshawar University, DIL, and CGPA, and expressed hope that the seminar would foster valuable insights on provincial rights and resource distribution. Meanwhile, the Governor Faisal Karim Kundi assured the Khattak Qaumi Ittihad delegation led by central president Haroon Khattak, provincial president Farooq Azam Advocate to resolve their gas, and royalty issues on priority basis. The Governor accepted their application to visit Karak. -APP

Call for intensified efforts in anti-polio campaign

HYDERABAD: Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Division, Syed Muhammad Sajjad Haider, conducted an on-ground review of the ongoing national anti-polio campaign, visiting the Government Dispensary Baqar Nizamani Tando Adam and a village where a polio case was recently reported. Accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Sanghar Dr. Imran-ul-Hassan Khawaja, District Health Officer Dr. Doulat Jamali, and WHO Divisional Coordinator Dr. Jahangir Kori, Commissioner Haider assessed the performance of polio teams and gathered feedback from residents on the campaign's effectiveness. During the visit, Commissioner Haider instructed Deputy Commissioner Dr. Khawaja to further intensify efforts in the Sanghar district, particularly in light of the recent polio case. He emphasized that every child must receive the polio vaccine to ensure they are safeguarded against the virus. The commissioner directed the health teams to prioritize administering the vaccine to children not found at home during initial rounds by creating a comprehensive list and ensuring follow-ups. Commissioner Haider urged health department officials to utilize all available resources to achieve campaign targets, especially in underserved and non-medic communities. - APP

Bahawalpur affected by Rajasthan smog

BAHAWALPUR: Punjab Environment Protection Department Assistant Director Ansar Sayyal has said smog coming from Rajasthan state of India had been affecting the Bahawalpur region. Talking to the media here on Thursday, he said that smog had also been reported in Bahawalpur like in some other parts of Punjab province. He, however, said that smog coming from Rajasthan state of India had been affecting Bahawalpur region. He said that brick kilns which had not adopted zigzag technology so far, had also been causing increase in smog level. He said that burning paddy stubble in India was also causing smog in Pakistan. He said that so far, over 100 brick-kilns had been demolished in Punjab province which had not been following instructions to adopt zigzag technology.

Father kills stepson

MUZAFFARGARH: A man killed his stepson to avenge torture on his wife by her close relatives in a nearby locality. Police said on Thursday that Asiya Bibi, resident of Southern Muradpur at Khairpur Sadaat, had married to Dhani Bakhsh Machi and the couple had three children, 10-year-old Allah Wasaya, six-year-old Abdullah and three-year-old Tayyaba. The women said to have illegitimate relationships with friend of her husband, Perwaiz Machi. When the matter came into surface, Dhani Bakhsh divorced the lady and she tied the knot with her paramour. When her new marriage proceeded, the close relatives of the woman, namely Javed and Tariq subjected her to torture at her home. The off and on fight estranged the woman's husband and he conspired a plot to trap his wife's relatives for abusing her over bad character. Dhani Bakhsh took the minor Abdullah along with him to a deserted area and killed him by smashing his head to the soil what the police said. After the killing, the alleged killer approached the police and lodged murder FIR against the two aforesaid persons. Police launched inquiry after recovering the body from the area pointed out by the complainant. As the inquiry moved on, the police discovered the complainant was himself the killer of boy and arrested him. Khairpur Sadaat police have registered a case on report of the grandmother, Manzooran Mai. -APP

National strategy urged for genomic reference to prevent genetic disorders

PESHAWAR: In a call for a comprehensive national strategy, scientists at a recent summit emphasized the need to establish a genomic reference to combat genetic disorders, aiming at improving health and social wellbeing in Pakistan. This initiative was the central theme at the "Genomics Pre-summit," organized by the Centre for Omic Sciences at Islamia College Peshawar in collaboration with Global Marketing Services, channel partners of Illumina Inc. Technologies. The event, held the other day, saw over 100 participants, including researchers, clinicians, and diagnostic experts, united under the theme "Applications of Genomics in Biomedical Research." Director of the Centre for Omic Sciences, Dr. Musharraf Jelani showcased success stories spanning ten years, highlighting how Illumina's technology has advanced research into rare genetic diseases and personalized medicine. Dr. Muhammad Ammar spoke on Illumina products available in Pakistan, detailing their impact on diagnostics and research within the country. Thalassemia, a prevalent genetic disorder in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, was addressed by Head of Pathology at Hayatabad Medical Complex, Prof. Dr. Khalid Khan who underlined the pressing need for enhanced diagnostic and treatment resources. Adding to this, Dr. Muhammad Tariq Masood Khan from PIMS Hospital shared insights on thalassemia management, with a focus on personalized medicine's potential for patient-specific treatments. The importance of pharmacogenomics was illustrated by Prof. Dr. Sami Siraj from Khyber Medical University, who explained its relevance to cardiovascular care. Meanwhile, Dr. Ali Talha Khalil from Lady Reading Hospital discussed advancements in precision cancer genomics, outlining novel diagnostic and treatment approaches. Genomic applications were further explored by Prof. Dr. Asif Ullah from Abdul Wali Khan University, who shared insights on bacterial genomics and population genetics. Dr. Fazal Wahab from Pak-Austria Fachhochschule presented his work on the genetics of infertility, while Dr. Muhammad Ilyas introduced the NeurOmic project, a venture into neuroscience genomics. Closing the summit, Dr. Qasim Mansoor Jalali highlighted the success of this gathering, emphasizing the value of uniting academic researchers, diagnostics specialists, and clinicians to tackle major health challenges collaboratively. The summit underscored an urgent need for a genomic reference system in Pakistan, which would enable better prevention and treatment of genetic disorders, contributing to a healthier society. -DNA

Climate change impacts can lead 17% GDP drop in developing Asia-Pacific 2070: ADB study

The report finds that regional public sentiment supports climate action. In an ADB climate change perception study this year, 91% of respondents across 14 regional economies said they view global warming as a serious problem, with many seeking more ambitious government action

ISLAMABAD: The impacts of climate change could reduce 17% gross domestic product (GDP) in developing Asia and the Pacific by 2070 under a high-end greenhouse gas emissions scenario, rising to 41% by 2100, according to Asian Development Bank (ADB) new research. Rising sea levels and falling labor productivity would cause the greatest losses, with lower income and fragile economies hit hardest. The new research, presented in the inaugural issue of ADB's Asia-Pacific Climate Re-

port, details a series of damaging impacts threatening the region. If the climate crisis continues to accelerate, up to 300 million people in the region could be threatened by coastal inundation, and trillions of dollars of coastal assets could be damaged annually by 2070. "Climate change has supercharged the devastation from tropical storms, heat waves, and floods in the region, contributing to unprecedented economic challenges and human suffering," said ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa.

"Urgent, well-coordinated climate action that addresses these impacts is needed before it is too late. This climate report provides insight into how to finance urgent adaptation needs and offers promising policy recommendations to governments in our developing member countries on how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at lowest cost," he said. The report finds that regional public sentiment supports climate action. In an ADB climate change perception study this year, 91% of respondents

across 14 regional economies said they view global warming as a serious problem, with many seeking more ambitious government action. Adaptation responses need to be accelerated to address growing climate risks, along with an imperative to greatly upscale adaptation-focused climate finance. The report values annual investment needs for regional countries to adapt to global warming at between \$102 billion and \$431 billion—far exceeding the \$34 billion of tracked adaptation

finance in the region in 2021-2022. Government regulation reforms and enhanced recognition of climate risks are helping attract new sources of private climate capital, but far greater private investment flows are needed. On the mitigation front, the report shows the region is well placed to embrace renewable energy in driving a transition to net zero, and that forging ahead with domestic and international carbon markets can help achieve climate action goals cost effectively. -Agencies

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN MINISTRY OF HOUSING & WORKS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES HOUSING AUTHORITY INVITATION TO BIDS THROUGH E-PADS In accordance with PPA S.R.O 296(I)/20203, dated 27th February 2023, titled "E-Pak-Procurement stage single envelope) through the E-Pak Acquisition and Disposal System (EPADS) from invitation is for the work titled "Provision of Cleaning Services and Collection of Solid Waste Garbage from Sector G-13 & G-14/2,3,4 Islamabad, including Transportation and Disposal at the Designated Garbage Containment Sites." 2. Interested firms/companies/contractors/bidders with adequate financial stability, relevant experience, and equipment ownership may download the Bidding Documents, which include detailed terms and conditions, fee of cost from the FGEHA's website (www.fgeha.gov.pk), the PPA's website (www.ppa.org.pk), and E-PADS (https://eprocure.gov.pk). 3. Submission of a bid indicates that the bidder is fully aware of the scope of work and the term & conditions as detailed in the bidding documents and has visited the site area. A bid meeting will be held at the office of the Deputy Director (Maintenance), G-13, Islamabad on 14th November 2024 at 11:00 am. 4. The firm/company/contractor/bidder submit scanned copies of following documents via E-PADS and must also provide attested copies of all documents, including the original bid security/CDR and an affidavit on stamp paper worth Rs.50, to the office of the Deputy Director (Maintenance), Street No.137, Bazar No.8, G-13/4, Islamabad, before the bid submission deadline otherwise their bid shall be treated as non-responsive/rejected. i. Bid security/CDR amounting to Rs.5,000,000/- (Rupees five million only) in the shape of Demand Draft / Pay Order / CDR / Bankers Cheque in favour of FGEHA. ii. Proof of ten years' experience of provision of cleaning services and collection of solid waste garbage in CDA/MCI/FGEHA sector in Islamabad. iii. Bank Statement of three years showing at least turnover of Rs.120 million per year. iv. Performance Certificate for provision of cleaning services and collection of solid waste garbage during the last three years from CDA/MCI/FGEHA. v. An affidavit on stamp paper of minimum worth Rs.50/- that the bidder has not been black listed from any Government Department /Organization/CDA/MCI/FGEHA at the time of submission of bid. vi. Proof of having manpower of at least 120 workers for the work cleaning services and collection of solid waste garbage during the last three years at the time of submission of e-bid provided by the firm to CDA/MCI/FGEHA. vii. Proof of ownership of machinery on the name of firm/company/contractor at the time of submission of bid i.e. two "Skip Lifter", two "Garbage Compactor" four "Dump Truck" and one "Tractor Towed Mechanical Sweeper". viii. Copies of income tax returns of last three years including FY 2023-2024. ix. Proof of Registration of firm / Company. x. Active landline phone number of the office of firm/company/contractor. 5. Manual bids shall not be accepted, E-bids shall be uploaded on E-PADS in accordance with the instructions in the bidding documents, along with the bid security/CDR and above required documents on or before, 21st November 2024, by 11:00 am, bids will be opened on the same day at 12:30 pm. 6. FGEHA reserves the right to reject all of the bids under the rule 33.1 of PPA. Deputy Director (Maintenance) Street No.137, Bazar No.08, G-13/4, Islamabad. Ph: 051-9334306

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

Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



Enquiry

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



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111
MH.....5611116
Cantt Hospital..9270907-11
DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666



Departments

CDA.....9221334-43
CDA.....9208301-04
Met Office.....9250360-6
RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Iraqi envoy calls for strengthening trade volume

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Ambassador of Iraq to Pakistan, H.E. Hamid Abbas Lafta, visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and engaged in discussions with RCCI President Usman Shaukat on enhancing trade and diplomatic relations between the two countries. Ambassador Lafta was accompanied by Ayad Ayub Saadi and Shahbaz Ahmed, and was welcomed by RCCI leadership, including Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, and Executive Committee members. In his welcome address, President Usman Shaukat thanked the Ambassador for his visit and provided an overview of RCCI's activities, highlighting business opportunities within the region. He noted the current bilateral trade volume of approximately \$240 million, emphasizing untapped potential in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, textiles, food, and energy. Ambassador Hamid Abbas Lafta reiterated Iraq's commitment to strengthening diplomatic and trade ties with Pakistan, underscoring the shared historical, religious, and diplomatic bonds between the two nations. While acknowledging the low trade volume, he



highlighted the opportunity for increased commerce. The Ambassador noted that approximately two hundred and fifty thousand Pakistani pilgrims travel to Iraq annually, especially to Najaf and Karbala (Arbaein), demonstrating

the significant movement of people between the two countries. Ambassador Lafta also commended the quality of Pakistani products and encouraged the business community to enhance product marketing efforts. He assured the

RCCI of Iraq's support in facilitating the participation of Pakistani businesses in Iraqi exhibitions and trade delegations to expand trade and economic collaboration. The meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to deepen com-

mercial ties and foster a stronger economic partnership between Iraq and Pakistan. In the end RCCI President Usman Shaukat presented the chamber memento to the Iraqi envoy for his visit to the chamber house.

Water supply restored after Sangjani station repaired

RAWALPINDI: The water supply from Sangjani Pumping Station has been restored after completion of repair work at the station. The dysfunctional pump has caused reduced water supply to Rawalpindi Cantonment Board areas. According to the details, the dysfunctionality of the mega water pump was caused by electric circuits breakdown which was resulted into equipment's destruction. The Sangjani Water Pumping Station is one of the main water supplying units, where repair work was continued for several days, due to which the residents of the RCB areas suffered with water supply shortage. The CEO RCB, Syed Ali Irfan Rizvi had given instructions to the relevant departments for full early recovery of the pumping system. —APP

IRSA releases 117,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD :Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 117,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 64,200 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1529.16 feet and was 131.16 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 34,300 cusecs and 55,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1187.75 feet, which was 137.75 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 5,900 cusecs and 38,000 cusecs respectively. —APP

Kaiser stresses need for market-oriented education

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh on Thursday emphasized the importance of market oriented education in unlocking the country's economic potential and called for a market-driven approach to equip young people with skills that are valued by the global market. Shaikh talking to PTV news channel emphasized to equip Pakistan's youth with the skills needed to thrive in these areas, contributing to the country's economic growth and global relevance. —DNA

Collective solutions seek as capital's daily waste surpasses 600 tons

Major cities contribute significantly, yet only 60-70% of urban waste is collected

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Urbanism (IoU) held a town hall meeting in Islamabad to tackle the city's 600-ton daily waste issue, bringing together community leaders and policymakers to promote sustainable, community-led waste management solutions. A town hall meeting titled "Empowered Communities: A Town Hall on Waste Management Responsibilities," co-hosted by Heinrich Böll Stiftung (hbs), brought together community representatives, policymakers, and CDA Sanitation Directorate staff to explore sustainable solutions for Islamabad's growing waste issues, especially in Farash Town and I-10. Islamabad generates about 600 tons of waste daily, with approximately 60% either openly burned or dumped in unmanaged sites. This poses significant

risks to both environmental and public health. Only 15% of the waste is recycled, underscoring the urgent need for enhanced resource recovery and sustainability measures. Dr. Ejaz Ahmad, Senior Program Fellow at IoU, outlined the national crisis, stating, "Around 48.5 million tons of solid waste is generated annually, with an annual growth rate of 2.4%. Major cities contribute significantly, yet only 60-70% of urban waste is collected. The lack of sanitary landfill sites, inconsistent data, and absence of formal source segregation are major challenges." He emphasized the health impact, noting that waste contributes around 3% of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions and leads to approximately 5 million cases of waste-related illnesses and deaths each year. Through initiatives like Community Councils

in Farash Town and I-10, IoU has empowered residents to take an active role in managing waste. These councils aim to foster local leadership and community-driven solutions, encouraging shared responsibility and sustainable practices. Sardar Khan Zimiri, from CDA, officer underscored the importance of collective action: "Effective waste management is not solely the responsibility of government institutions; it requires commitment from all of us. Working together, we can create a cleaner and healthier environment for future generations." He added, "Communities must lead the way in driving positive change. When we engage collectively, we can transform our neighborhoods into sustainable spaces." Participants shared their experiences, emphasizing

the need for community involvement. Yaseen Abbasi, a resident of I-10, remarked, "Our commitment to environmental health must begin with individual and collective efforts. Only through shared responsibility can we make a lasting impact on waste management." Ms. Yasmeen Akhtar from Farash Town echoed this, stating, "Addressing waste challenges requires an inclusive approach that values community voices and engagement. Our active participation is essential for meaningful change." IoU reaffirmed their commitment to working alongside community councils and local authorities to improve waste management practices in Islamabad. The event concluded with a networking session, solidifying partnerships and shared commitments towards a sustainable future for Islamabad.

Punjab CM's green initiatives lauded

ISLAMABAD :Punjab Parliamentary Secretary for Environment Kanwal Pervaiz Chaudhry on Thursday lauded Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz for launching "green" initiatives to reduce carbon emissions and urged people to discourage the use of plastic bags. In an interview with state run news agency, she announced that the Punjab Environment Department has imposed a "green lockdown" in the smog-heavy areas of Lahore to tackle the city's persistent air pollution problem with strict instructions from the Punjab Chief Minister. She revealed that the Chief Minister has issued a stern warning, emphasizing zero tolerance for smog emissions from kilns and vehicles. She announced that approximately 8,000 industrial units have been converted to e-mapping, enhancing monitoring and regulation. Kanwal added that addressing the disposal of garbage is also a priority, with solutions currently under consideration. "Public-private partnerships are being explored to tackle the issue of garbage disposal," Kanwal Pervaiz Chaudhry announced. "We recognize the urgency of addressing this problem and are committed to collaborating with private sector entities to find innovative solutions," she added. By leveraging the expertise and resources of both public and private stakeholders, we aim to develop sustainable waste management systems that benefit our communities and environment, she mentioned. She also praised the potential of artificial rain technology, stating, "We are exploring innovative solutions to combat smog and pollution". Artificial rain technology is a game-changer, allowing us to induce rainfall and wash away pollutants from the air. This cutting-edge technology can improve air quality, mitigate the effects of climate change, and ensure a healthier environment for our citizens, she added.—DNA

Experts urge indigenous regulatory framework for introducing GMOs in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: With scientific findings on GM crop safety still inconclusive, a strategic evaluation before introducing GMOs in Pakistan is essential and should be guided by a robust regulatory system. This mechanism, grounded in indigenous research, mobilization of local resources, and tailored safety standards, must account for Pakistan's unique agricultural and environmental conditions. Moreover, addressing ethical, health, and environmental

concerns is equally paramount. As Pakistan explores this path, a framework that prioritizes national interests, public health, and ecological balance remains crucial. This was discussed during a roundtable on "Food Security and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in Pakistan," at the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad. The panel included Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Dr Anwar ul Hassan Gilani, former vice-chancellor, The University of Haripur, Dr Shaukat Ali, director National Institute of Genomics and Advanced Biotechnology

(NIGAB), and Dr Zahid Akram, professor, PMAS Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi. The session was also attended by academia, experts, government officials, researchers, and representatives of farmers. The discussion noted that while genetic modification has become integral to advancing agricultural technology, there remain valid concerns over its long-term impacts on human health and environmental stability. This highlights the need for a strategic evaluation and robust regulatory framework, that is efficient in both

content and implementation and prioritizes long-term gains of food security, public health, and environmental sustainability. The speakers noted that research, highlighting the potential of GM crops to meet the demands of a growing population by focusing on their high-yield capacities and resilience to pests, weeds, and adverse weather conditions, is mostly donor-initiated. However, as the speakers underscored, these donor initiatives may overlook local agricultural realities and the priorities of primary stakeholders, such as farmers.

Pak, Bosnia for initiatives to equip youth with modern skills



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP), Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Thursday stressed the importance of international partnerships in tackling youth challenges and promoting sustainable development. During a meeting with the Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Pakistan Emin Cohodarevic at his office, he welcomed the ambassador's enthusiasm and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to sharing knowledge and experiences in youth development. The Ambassador Cohodarevic on the occasion expressed his heartfelt gratitude for Pakistan's continued support over the years, emphasizing the importance of fostering strong ties between the two nations. He commended the initiatives implemented under the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, which have significantly contributed to the development and empowerment of young people in Pakistan. Ambassador Cohodarevic highlighted the positive impact of these initiatives and expressed a keen interest in replicating this successful model in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He noted that collaboration in youth programs could enhance skills, provide opportunities, and strengthen the bonds between the youth of both nations.—DNA

Call for increasing Pak-Uzbek trade potential to \$311m

This agreement came into effect on March 13, 2023, and currently establishes a preferential trade regime for beans and peanuts cultivated in Uzbekistan, along with industrial chocolate

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Laziz Kudratov has said that the current trade volume of \$311.1 million between Pakistan and Uzbekistan is far below its potential which needs to be increased. The volume of mutual trade from January to September of this year reached US\$311.1 million, reflecting a 9.8% increase compared to the same period last year, Minister for Investment, Industry and

Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Laziz Kudratov told state run news agency in Tashkent. The minister said that considering the economic potential of both nations, discussions are underway to expand the list of products eligible for the preferential trade regime outlined in this agreement. He said that by broadening the range of goods covered under the preferential trade agreement, "We anticipate a further boost in trade volumes through reduced customs duty rates in our bilateral trade relations and the creation of favourable

conditions for local product exports." He said that to further strengthen trade and economic cooperation between the two countries and promote bilateral industrial collaboration, a preferential trade agreement was signed between Uzbekistan and Pakistan on March 3, 2022. This agreement came into effect on March 13, 2023, and currently establishes a preferential trade regime for beans and peanuts cultivated in Uzbekistan, along with industrial chocolate and confectionery items, canned mixtures, copper

wire, refrigerators, televisions, transformers, and electrical conductors, he said. The minister said that with political will and ongoing economic reforms, transit trade between Pakistan and Uzbekistan holds significant potential for growth in the future. Replying to a question, he said that in 2021, a transit trade agreement was signed between Uzbekistan and Pakistan, which streamlined customs procedures for Uzbek long-haul drivers and facilitated the development of the southern transport corridor.

30 brands of drinking bottle water unsafe

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) has declared that 30 brands of drinking bottled water were unsafe for human consumption due to microbiological or chemical contamination. For the 3rd quarter of the year 2024 (July to September), 205 samples of mineral/bottled water brands were collected from 21 cities. Comparison of test results with the bottled water quality standards of Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority (PSQCA). Some 12 brands including Natural Pure Life, Bro H2O, Purifa Spring Water, Aqua Health, Meher Natural, Mountain Pure, Oslo, Smart Pure, Fijji, More Plus, Quadrat, and Natural were found to be unsafe due to the presence of higher levels of sodium, two brands (Black Seed Water, Natural) were found unsafe due to presence of high level of Turbidity than the permissible limit, said a press release issued here Thursday.—APP

Briefs

NPO, APO to enhance workplace environment in surgical industry

ISLAMABAD: The National Productivity Organization (NPO) and Asian Productivity Organization (APO) on Thursday successfully completed a project aimed at improving workplace environment management in Pakistan's surgical instruments industry through lean manufacturing practices. The workshop was held at Sialkot, which brought together industry stakeholders, experts, and practitioners to share insights and strategies for implementing lean manufacturing techniques that prioritize workplace environment management, said a news release. During the event, the participants had the opportunity to learn about the latest methodologies, best practices, and tools to improve efficiency and sustainability within their operations. —APP

Dry weather to continue till Nov 9

ISLAMABAD: Chief Meteorologist at Pakistan Meteorological Department Dr. Sardar Sarfaraz Thursday predicted that the country will further experience dry weather till November 9 exacerbated by climate change and this weather condition will delay wheat and crop cultivation, typically planted during this period. Dr. Sardar Sarfaraz revealed in an interview with a private news channel that hot and dry weather across most parts of the country and hilly areas will experience colder temperatures, while morning fog and smog may affect some plain areas of Punjab. Pakistan's hottest months usually occur in May, June, and October, he said, adding, however, this year's October stood out as exceptionally hot and dry, surpassing previous records. Chief Meteorologist warned that Pakistan's wheat crop cultivation will experience delays this year due to the ongoing dry weather. —APP

Bilawal greets Hindu community on Diwali

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has warmly extended his heartiest greetings to the Hindu community in Pakistan and around the world on the auspicious occasion of Diwali. This festival of lights reflects the universal principles of unity, peace, and goodwill that enrich Pakistan's diverse cultural heritage. In a message issued by the Media Cell Bilawal House, he extended his congratulations and best wishes, acknowledging the valuable contributions of the Hindu and Scheduled Castes community to Pakistan's society. "Diwali celebrates the triumph of light over darkness and symbolizes commitment to harmony, respect, and understanding among all communities," he remarked. Bilawal Bhutto further emphasized his party's steadfast dedication to upholding the rights of all religious minorities in Pakistan, ensuring they can celebrate their traditions freely and with dignity. —APP

Textile Park under CPEC helps enhancing export that reaches \$1.64 billion

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's textile exports surged to a 26-month high of USD 1.64 billion in August, up 13% from the same period last year. China's decision to establish a textile industrial park under the CPEC was contributing to enhance the export, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Wednesday. The growth was also attributed to supportive government policies and the efforts of the Special Investment Promotion Committee (SIPC). Data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics showed that textile exports were valued at USD 1.46 billion in August last year. Significant growth was seen across sectors, with knitwear and bedding exports

Envoy of Japan to Pakistan bids farewell to Pakistani dignitaries

Pakistan is a country that is very friendly to Japan. Pakistani people are very patient and resilient and the country has huge potential: Ambassador WADA

MAHNOOR ANSAR

Islamabad: H.E. Mr. WADA Mitsuhiro, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, on 30th October 2024, hosted a reception at his Official Residence in Islamabad to bid farewell to Pakistani dignitaries and friends. Ambassador WADA is going to leave Pakistan on 19th November and will take up his new assignment as Ambassador of Japan to Croatia.

Ambassador WADA assumed his office in October 2021, since when he has served as the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan for more than three years. Looking back his tenure, Ambassador WADA said, 'Pakistan is a country that is very friendly to Japan. But I've tried not to take this for granted and have made various efforts in economic cooperation, cultural exchange and personal interaction to further deepen the historical ties between our two countries.' This year marks the 70th anniversary of Japan's official development assistance (ODA) to Pakistan. Ambassador WADA reiterated



the importance of human aspects in Japan's ODA, saying, 'we always seek to work together with the local people and eventually encourage them to stand on their own. Rather than just providing money or goods, JICA tries to run alongside the Pakistanis and help them become the driving force of development. The key is the people, and Pakistan is blessed with such talents.' He also mentioned

the significance of cultural and people-to-people exchange and hoped that the cultural organizations such as Pakistan Japan Cultural Association (PJCA), Lahore Arts Foundation Trust, Lahore Sogetsu Study Group and Lahore Bonsai Society, as well as those who had studied in Japan including the MEXT Scholarship alumni, will continue bridging the gap between Pakistan and Japan. Ambassa-

dor WADA further stressed that he had met a lot of wonderful people who worked passionately to strengthen Japan-Pakistan relations. He said, 'I am now convinced that without the support of these great people, the friendship between Japan and Pakistan would have been impossible. I am deeply grateful to all of you.' Referring to the difficult political, economic and security sit-



uations in Pakistan today, Ambassador WADA firmly said, 'I know very well how patient and resilient the Pakistani people are and how big the potential of this country is. Once the elite - politicians, the judiciary, the establishment and others - and the common people come together on the same cause and work hard to solve the problems, I have no doubt

that Pakistan will overcome these difficulties and firmly develop in the long term.' He reiterated Japan's commitment to support such efforts of Pakistan in the coming years and decades. Ambassador AKAMATSU Shuichi, former Consul-General of Japan in Shanghai, will arrive in Pakistan in late November to succeed Ambassador WADA. In addition,

Minister TAKANO Shuichi, now Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Japan in Brazil, will also succeed Minister ITO Takeshi in late November. Ambassador WADA hoped that his friends in Pakistan will extend their generous support to Ambassador & Mrs. AKAMATSU and Minister & Mrs. TAKANO as they have done for himself.

USAID supports partnership between HEC and University of Utah

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan and the University of Utah have signed a partnership to promote capacity-building initiatives in public sector universities across Pakistan. This initiative, supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through its Higher Education System Strengthening Activity (HESSA), aims to enhance faculty development, strategic planning, policy reforms, and institutional governance. The signing ceremony was attended by Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Deputy Mission Director USAID Mr. Andrew McKim, and other senior officials from HEC, University of Utah, and USAID. Adviser Global Engagement HEC Mr. Awais Ahmed and Pro-

fessor of Civil Engineering University of Utah Dr. Michael Barber signed the document on behalf of their respective institutions. The initiative adds another 16 Pakistani universities to the fold of partnership, as 16 universities are already being supported through HESSA. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed emphasised the importance of such collaborations, stating, "This partnership with the University of Utah will empower faculty and institutional leaders to elevate education standards across Pakistan." He shed light on the outcomes of previous collaboration with the US and appreciated the USAID for contributing huge resources for the youth of Pakistan. He said Pakistani youth are the 'goldmine' for the country, emphasizing the need for making maximum

investment in honing the talent of the youth. Echoing the shared commitment, Mr. Andrew McKim said, "USAID is proud to support this transformative initiative, which reinforces the role of education in driving sustainable development in Pakistan." Expressing his views, Dr. Michael Barber said the University of Utah is highly enthusiastic for the collaboration. "We are honored to partner with HEC in advancing Pakistan's education system. Together, we aim to foster innovation, promote knowledge-sharing, and encourage academic growth." In his welcome remarks earlier, Adviser Global Engagement HEC Mr. Awais Ahmed elaborated on the core objectives of the partnership. He said the collaboration is aimed at developing strategic planning for the uplift of higher education, capacity building of universities.

Finance minister positive on trade with India

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, the President of the Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, the President of All Karachi Industrial Alliance, the Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board, and the President and former provincial minister, Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Wednesday that the government's desire to trade with India is positive and encouraging. He said opening trade with India should not be delayed as it will solve many problems confronting Pakistan. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that PML-N leader Mian Nawaz Sharif has long wished for better relations and trade with India. Although he has been punished many times for this, this has not changed his principled stance. —APP

AIOU stands in solidarity with Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) organized a seminar and walk on Thursday in observance of Kashmir Black Day, condemning India's illegal occupation and inhumane actions in occupied Kashmir. In the first phase, a rally was held within the university, with active participation from faculty, officers, staff, and students. The participants held banners and posters with messages such as, "We Stand with You," "Kashmir is Pakistan's Jugular Vein," and "Islam defines our bond with Kashmiri people," chanting slogans for Kashmir to become part of Pakistan. After the rally, a seminar was held to express solidarity with the people of Kashmir. Speakers urged the international community and human rights organizations to take notice of the atrocities committed against the Kashmiri people, emphasizing that the Kashmir issue should be resolved according to United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the people of Kashmir. They condemned the grave human rights violations and breaches of international laws by Indian forces against the Kashmiri population and highlighted the need for effective use of social media to raise global awareness about the Kashmir issue and Indian oppression. In his address, Sheikh Abdul Mateen, General Secretary of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (AJK), expressed gratitude towards the government and people of Pakistan for their consistent political, diplomatic, and moral support to the Kashmiri people. He emphasized that, after Allah, the only hope for Kashmiris is Pakistan and stressed the need for financial and moral support for their struggle. He stated that a strong Pakistan is the guarantee of Kashmir's freedom, as Kashmiris look towards a prosperous Pakistan for assurance. —DNA

Pak-China fisheries business conference

ISLAMABAD: The inaugural Pakistan-China Fisheries Business Conference took place in Qingdao, marking a significant milestone in economic collaboration between the two countries. The event gathered key representatives from both public and private sectors, launching a major business-to-business (B2B) initiative to promote investment in Pakistan's fisheries sector. China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday. In his opening address, Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi, expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Commerce of China (MOFCOM), the Municipal Government of Qingdao, and the Qingdao Oceanic Bureau for their support in organizing the conference. He described the gathering as a crucial step in strengthening economic ties and enhancing bilateral trade, focusing on leveraging Pakistan's rich marine resources, extensive inland freshwater systems. —APP

Pakistan ready to boost educational exchanges with Alliance University of BRI Forum

ISLAMABAD: University Alliance of Belt & Road Forum at its meeting held at Lanzhou University in Gansu Province has called for digital and green development. The Forum themed by "International Education Collaboration under the Circumstances of Digital Empowerment, Green Innovation and Shared Development" was inaugurated his week, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday. Nearly 100 experts and scholars from 21 overseas universities and international organizations in 17 countries and regions, as well as 42 Chinese universities gathered in Lanzhou University,

besides Secretary-General of the Alliance, to attend the event. According to Yang Yongping, Member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and President of Lanzhou University, since its establishment in 2015, the Alliance has promoted exchanges and cooperation in education, science and technology, and culture among 184 universities from 27 countries and regions along the Belt and Road. "I hope more high-quality education cooperation platforms and public education products can be built and shared in the Alliance to make the most of the complementary advantages in curricula, faculty, ed-

ucational information, technology, and infrastructure among the members. They can come forward providing support for building a community with a shared future for mankind," he remarked. "Gansu Province, boasting advantageous geographical position in the Belt and Road, will continuously contribute to the Belt and Road development as a new engine for boosting the progress of higher education in Northwest China," said Zhang Guozhen, Secretary of the Party Leadership Group and Director of Gansu Education Department. —DNA

MOST EXPERIENCED MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTERS OF MARTIAL ARTS UNIFORMS IN PAKISTAN

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US election noise

EVEN with deadly wars and concerns about artificial intelligence and inflation, the sword of Damocles that seems to hang over everything this year is the US presidential election. We are days away from that "pivot event", yet the race between Vice-President Kamala Harris and former president Donald Trump is still balanced on a knife-edge. A pivot event occurs when a material outcome is expected upon the release of news at a known point in time. For the US election, that moment comes when mainstream US news outlets declare the results (formal concessions now seem outmoded). In investment, a pivot event might be an important set of earnings results or a regulatory decision about a big acquisition. As the pivot point approaches, the wisdom of the crowd often naturally leans towards the favoured side. Markets get an inkling of where the situation is headed, news might leak into the markets or indirect indicators point towards the eventual outcome. The invisible hand will move prices according to the growing probability of the outcome. When forecast probabilities narrow rapidly as we approach the pivotal event, we reach what I call the zone of realisation. This can happen sometime before the event, such that the outcome may be reflected in prices by the time the news is released. In this election, the zone of realisation is very short indeed because the Democratic and Republican parties are running neck and neck. Trump has an advantage because the electoral college system favours his party. And to the extent that a market narrative or the wisdom of the crowd can be gleaned from the frequency of searches on Google Trends, Trump's recent political stunt, serving fries at McDonald's, appears to have won him a significant amount of attention. In comparison, Harris seems to have struggled to keep up with Trump's publicity mill since she was confirmed as the Democratic Party's nominee. A great self-publicist, Trump has managed to keep himself in the news with public events, extreme untruths and unseemly insults, while swerving clear of a second one-on-one debate. However, a fair number of indicators still fall within the margin of error. No one can prophesy the outcome of the election when the odds are so even as to be impossible. How do investors invest when the odds of a pivot event are 50:50? Experience shows that elections are usually more about noise than light. There is always a great deal of market chatter before a vote, but in reality, even political policies are constrained by circumstance. Also, there is historically little difference in stock market performance between Republican and Democratic administrations. However, this election is an exception. The stakes are sky-high because the difference between the two candidates is palpable. Under another Trump administration, the future is deeply uncertain. He is a one-move chess player who can't think ahead. Former cabinet members who served under him see him as a mercurial bully who makes up and then abruptly changes his mind. His policies on immigration, tariffs, taxes and debt are inflationary. On foreign policy, pulling out of Ukraine or the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation could lead to an expansion of Russian influence in the Middle East. If Israel is seriously threatened, the US might have to put more boots on the ground. The dangers of the law of unintended consequences loom large.

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Misguided path of protectionism

ON Tuesday, the European Commission announced the final ruling of the anti-subsidy investigation into electric vehicles (EVs) from China. Starting on Wednesday, the EU will impose definitive countervailing duties on imports of battery EVs from China for a period of five years. However, it also stated that the EU and China continue to work toward finding alternative, WTO-compatible solutions. In response, a spokesperson for the Chinese Ministry of Commerce expressed on Wednesday that China does not approve of or accept the ruling and has appealed to the WTO's dispute settlement mechanism over the issue. The spokesperson urged the European side to work constructively with China to advance the next phase of technical team consultations and strive to reach a mutually acceptable solution as soon as possible to avoid an escalation of trade frictions. Although both China and Europe will continue to work toward a price commitment solution, we must express our deep regret regarding the European Commission's current final ruling, which raises a white flag to protectionism. The German Association of the Automotive Industry's President, Hildegard Mueller, said the decision was "a step backward for free global trade," and we share the same concern. Fundamentally, the EU's tariff decree represents a 21st-century "horse-drawn carriage protection law," which seeks to close markets and exclude fair competition, essentially sheltering its own underperforming capacity in the EV sector in a greenhouse. This is a step back for free trade. From the initiation of the so-called anti-subsidy investigation by the European Commission to the announcement of the final ruling, it's all about Europe engaging in protectionist practices under the guise of "fair competition," while actually implementing "unfair competition." It is understandable for the EU, as a traditional powerhouse of the global automotive industry, to feel anxious about new developments in the automotive sector. However, blaming the comparative disadvantage of its own competitiveness on Chinese enterprises for "enjoying unfair subsidies" is a kind of evasion like burying its head in the sand and a lack of fair competition spirit. The global competitiveness of Chinese EVs stems from efficient manufacturing, a robust supply chain, and continuous technological innovation. These advantages achieved not through "small yard, high fence" strategy but through open cooperation. If Europe continues to combat market competition with protectionism, it risks missing a valuable window for industrial upgrading and technological advancement. During the oil crisis, protectionism failed to stop the influx of affordable, fuel-efficient Japanese cars into Western markets; similarly, over the past 40 years, protectionism has not halted the decline in competitiveness of the US steel and shipbuilding industries. In today's highly globalized automotive industry, such decision will only hinder European carmakers from accessing advanced new energy technologies. Some media reports indicate that before the EU votes on whether to impose the tariffs, US diplomats visited several EU member states, allegedly lobbying them to take a "tougher stance" on China.

3D Food Printing: Revolutionizing Culinary Arts and Nutrition

Alishba Iftikhar



The application of 3D printing technology in food has many advantages, such as food production, personal and digital food products, simplifying the supply chain and expanding food items. Using this technology, ordinary people can create simple and wonderful food products that cannot be made by hand or mold, relying on the culinary knowledge and skills of chefs, nutritionists and food manufacturers. It can also be used to fix desserts and colorful pictures on the surface of food surfaces

ROBOTS and software have brought us many ways to simplify and improve our daily lives. 3D printing is a good example because it will lead to a new era of local manufacturing, which is digital manufacturing that is layered into a three-dimensional space. When it comes to the food industry, the revolution that 3D printing technology has brought to food production is the ease of low-cost customized design and even the availability of food. The advantage of 3D food printing is that it can create complex food patterns and create unique patterns. 3D food printing, also known as food layering or culinary printing, is a form of additive manufacturing in which food is layered and shaped to create three-dimensional culinary products. Some famous examples of 3D food printing: Food Ink 3D Printing Restaurant - A pop-up restaurant serving 9 3D dishes printed food. 3D Printed Pizza for space- a NASA funded project that developed a 3D Printer Pizzas. Biometric 3D Printed Sushi- a restaurant that uses biometric data to create personalized 3D printed sushi. One of the most compelling aspects of 3D food printing is its ability to customize nutrition. It can produce meals that cater to specific dietary restrictions, such as gluten-free, or low-sugar option. By adjusting ingredients and their proportions, this technology can ensure that individuals receive the necessary nutrients without compromising taste and aesthetics. In an era where food waste is a growing concern, 3D food printing offers a sustainable solution. By using alternatives ingredients, such as plant-based and even upcycled food materials, this technology can minimize waste. Additionally, the precise nature of 3D food printing reduces excess ingredients, promoting a more efficient use of resources. 3D food printing transforms the kitchen into an artist studio. Chefs can create visually stunning dishes that challenge traditional presentation forms. From intricate From chocolate to delicious desserts, the options are only limited by the imagination. This show not only enhances

the dining experience, but also inspires customers in a new way. Food safety is paramount in the 3D food printing process. Manufacturers must adhere to strict hygiene standards to prevent contamination. Using closed containers and a sterile environment helps maintain food safety throughout the production process. Consumer transparency has also increased, as has the ability to track the origins of ingredients. The potential applications for 3D food printing are vast. Restaurants and catering services cater events. The agency is also exploring 3D food printing as part of a long-term mission to provide travelers with newly printed, healthy, and appealing foods. Recent innovations in printing materials and techniques are pushing the field forward. New foods are being developed, such as those derived from seaweed or other sustainable sources. As technology continues to improve, more ingredients may become available. The use of 3D printing will expand and lead to different types of cooking. As 3D food printing becomes more visible in the market, public opinion has also changed. The application of 3D printing technology in food has many advantages, such as food production, personal and digital food products, simplifying the supply chain and expanding food items. Using this technology, ordinary people can create simple and wonderful food products that cannot be made by hand or mold, relying on the culinary knowledge and skills of chefs, nutritionists and food manufacturers. It can also be used to fix desserts and colorful pictures on the surface of food surfaces. In addition, with 3D printing, food can be digitized and personalized according to body and nutrition needs. 3D food printing can make food products easier. Widespread use of this technology Gradually moving production closer to the customer will result in fewer deliveries, thus reducing volume, distribution, and excess costs. Food printers will also expand their food product range by using non-traditional food sources such as insects, plant fiber products, animal and plant products. The business demand

for large-scale customized food is increasing. The food industry is exploring extensive customization technologies to meet people's taste, food, and oral needs. Three-dimensional (3D) food printing is a solution to solve the current food product shortage, such as lower production and higher production costs. This study demonstrates the design concept and working model of the first-generation food printer, which aims to replace customized products through 3D printing (3DP). This zoo has robotic-based food production technology 3D food printing automates the manual production process and integrates 3DP and digital gourmet technology to personalize food. This makes it possible to cook well at home and continue to evolve to adapt to the cooking process. Its application in home cooking or food service not only provides engineering solutions for food production and self-management, but also provides the ability to process convenient food products. Make snacks easy and uniform. However, these applications still have a background of internal processes or monotonous textures. In order to ensure uniformity in the production of food products, it is necessary to study the printing materials, design platform, printing technology and their impact on food design. The standard model promises to unify design, production and consumption management. As user interfaces improve, food printers could become part of the system, with internet-connected machines able to order fresh ingredients and prepare favorite dishes online. meeting their needs, developing creative consumers, and even working with healthcare professionals to improve health. It provides designers/users with advanced, unprecedented capabilities to manage text and data. This versatile system, used for home cooking or catering, can be used efficiently and deliver quality, fresh, and personalized food to customers. It also creates new products, textures, and shapes to deliver new and unique dining experiences.

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The rise and fall of Yahya Sinwar in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Yahya Sinwar could have potentially taken on high academic positions in American universities. This idea is significant because it reflects the complexities involved when higher education institutions consider engaging with controversial figures. When such individuals are considered for faculty roles, it raises issues about academic freedom...

THE killing of Yahya Sinwar, a key figure responsible for some of Hamas' most violent actions, is a clear example that those who engage in terrorism often do not end peacefully. Although his death marks a tactical success, it does little to change the situation in a region where the fall of one leader often leads to the rise of another. The struggle against the beliefs that support such individuals continues. In today's MEF Dispatch, the focus is on the impact of Sinwar's death, highlighting strategic mistakes and changing power dynamics in Gaza. It also examines Turkey's diplomatic efforts, including its engagement with Kurdish groups and possible attempts to bypass sanctions and how these moves affect regional alliances. The report further explores the leadership crisis in Iran, providing insights into the internal workings of the regime and its future direction. A speculative discussion about Sinwar's possible role in American academia serves as a way to address the broader issue of controversial figures being appointed to positions in higher education. These interconnected developments are influencing military strategies, peace talks and international relations across the Middle East. Yahya Sinwar could have potentially taken on high academic positions in American universities. This idea is significant because it reflects the complexities involved when higher educa-

tion institutions consider engaging with controversial figures. When such individuals are considered for faculty roles, it raises issues about academic freedom, political influence and the ethical aspects of these appointments. American universities have previously had controversial faculty appointments, which highlights broader debates around free speech and inclusivity. Institutions like Columbia and Yale have engaged with people who have had contentious political backgrounds, sparking discussions on whether such appointments align with the values of the universities or contradict them. As universities make decisions about these appointments, they face the challenge of balancing their reputations with their commitment to diverse perspectives. This could lead to a shift in how universities manage such appointments, potentially redefining the academic landscape. The death of Yahya Sinwar, a Hamas leader, marks an important moment in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It revealed significant misunderstandings on both sides. Hamas had misjudged Israel's resilience and military strategies, which contributed to strategic errors over the years. Sinwar's rise to power was partly due to Israel's decision to release him in 2011, which underestimated his ongoing commitment to armed resistance. This miscalculation eventually allowed him to gain a prominent position within Hamas. Both Hamas and Israel have historically misunderstood each other's motives and strengths. For Israel, it's es-

sential to improve its analysis of its adversaries' intentions to avoid repeating past mistakes. Sinwar's death also brings to light the challenges of ceasefire agreements. His elimination suggests that temporary ceasefires may allow militant groups to regroup, which can prolong conflicts. For ceasefire agreements to be effective, they must be carefully managed and not just serve as pauses that let militant groups strengthen their forces. Historical examples show that fighting extremist ideologies requires consistent and sustained efforts rather than temporary halts. Effective campaigns against groups like the Islamic State emphasize the importance of long-term strategies. For the U.S. and other nations, advocating for ceasefires in conflicts like the Israeli-Palestinian situation should come with clear, strategic goals. These pauses should lead to the dismantling of terror groups rather than giving them a chance to recover. Sinwar's death underlines the need for a reassessment of current ceasefire strategies. Temporary pauses without clear objectives may enable militant groups to reorganize, thereby prolonging conflict. Moving forward, successful solutions will require a blend of security measures and diplomatic efforts that address the underlying issues driving militancy. International cooperation, robust monitoring and comprehensive strategies are crucial to ensure that ceasefires do not become mere tactical delays but contribute to lasting peace.

Briefs

FBR deadline
end for filing
income tax...

FROM PAGE 01
disconnected, the body officials said. On October 14, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) extended the deadline for submitting income tax returns to October 31. The decision was taken in a response to requests from trade organisations and tax bar associations and considers bank holidays. The deadline was extended under Section 214A of the Income Tax Ordinance 2001, allowing taxpayers additional time to file their returns. Previously, FBR had extended the deadline for filing income tax returns for the fiscal year 2024 from September 30 to October 14, following requests from various trade associations and tax bar associations.

Parliamentarians fire...

FROM PAGE 01
US embassy officials to visit Khan who is currently behind bars at Adiala jail and has been imprisoned at the said facility for more than a year now. This isn't the first time legislators in Islamabad and Washington have come face to face as previously US lawmakers, in June, had passed "House Resolution 901" by a massive majority - with 368 members in the House of Representatives voting in its favour - which called for urging an impartial probe into the claims of irregularities during the February 8 general elections in the country. The resolution was swiftly responded to by Pakistani lawmakers who passed a motion condemning the US resolution terming it "contrary to facts" and "interference" in its internal affairs. Following the recent letter by Washington's legislators - labelled "contrary to interstate conduct and diplomatic norms" by Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch - US State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller on Wednesday said that Khan's imprisonment was to be decided by Pakistani courts.

PTI leaders denied...

FROM PAGE 01
When I speak, the media owners silence us." Ali Muhammad Khan said: "Despite the court order, I was not allowed to meet the PTI founder again. He stressed: 'Our lawyers including Aj Ali Zafar were detained for three hours. By these actions, you can break the morale of the PTI founder and us.' We will stand firm till our leader is freed with dignity. The former prime minister has been without electricity for six days. 'We are not convinced of anyone's dignity.' Ali condemned the attack on the former chief justice in London and distance the party from the attackers, saying "Some people misbehaved with the former chief justice abroad. We do not support such an action." However, he said the people are angry at the poor decision-making and how the government runs the state. He added: "No one is investing in the country. Pakistan Steel Mills and the PIA have been ruined while the condition of Pakistan Railways is like a 'dead horse'."

Shehbaz, Qatari...

FROM PAGE 01
the 24th of last month. He appreciated mediation efforts by Qatar for an immediate ceasefire and unimpeded supply of humanitarian aid. The premier also invited the Qatari emir to visit Pakistan. PM Shehbaz also held an extensive and productive meeting with his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani during his visit. The two leaders discussed avenues to further strengthen bilateral relations, particularly focusing on enhancing cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, energy, and cultural exchange. PM Shehbaz acknowledged Qatar's contributions to Pakistan's economic growth and expressed his gratitude for Doha's continued support in various sectors.

SA thrash Bangladesh by an
innings to sweep Test series

It was South Africa's biggest Test win, surpassing their innings and 254-run victory over Bangladesh at home in 2017

SPORTS DESK

CHATTOGRAM: South Africa thrashed Bangladesh by an innings and 273 runs inside three days of the second Test here on Thursday to sweep the two-match series 2-0. Bangladesh were all out for 143 in Chattogram after being put straight back into bat by the Proteas, a single session after ending their first innings on 159. Left-arm spinner Maharaj took 5-59 after fast bowler Kagiso Rabada posted 5-37 from just nine overs in the first innings. It was South Africa's biggest Test win, surpassing their innings and 254-run victory over Bangladesh at home in 2017. After ending the first innings behind by 416 runs, the onus was on home team veterans Najmul Hossain Shanto, Mushfiqur Rahim and Mehidy Hasan Miraz to save face - but all fell cheaply. Mushfiqur, who failed to score in the first innings, returned to the pavilion having made two. He tried to sweep Senuran Muthusamy



but missed the ball, which hit his pad at the leg-stump line. Maharaj claimed Mehidy for six while Muthusamy sent back Najmul, leaving the hosts on a despairing 78-7.

Bangladesh fought on through the last session with Hasan Mahmud the last man left on 38 off 30 balls, including four sixes. Maharaj sealed the match taking the last wicket of Nahid Rana for a duck. It was his 10th five-wicket haul. Muthusamy finished the second innings with 4-45. He struck in his first over of the innings when his tossed-up

delivery to Mahmudul Hasan Joy kissed the bat and landed in the palms of Aiden Markram at slip. Maharaj first struck when he sent back Mominul Haque, who scored 82 in the first innings, for a duck. At the start of the day, the hosts were reduced to 48-8, conceding four wickets to add 10 runs to their overnight total, before a mini-fightback by Mominul. Rabada struck twice in one over as Mehidy Hasan Miraz was caught behind and debutant Mahidul Islam Ankon offered no shot to a ball nipping back and was trapped lbw for a duck. The burst gave Rabada his second five-wicket haul of the series, to go with his 6-46 in the first Test victory in Mirpur. South Africa had three batsmen hit maiden Test centuries in their first innings 575-6 - De Zorzi (177), Tristan Stubbs (106) and Wiaan Mulder (105 not out). Earlier, South Africa won the first Test by seven wickets. It's worth noting that Bangladesh have never won a Test against South Africa in 16 attempts.

Pak angry over
Chinese envoy...

FROM PAGE 01
provided the pieces of evidence to the Afghan authorities. She explained that this was not merely Pakistan's demand but also the international community. The spokesperson condemned the recent Israeli attacks on Lebanon's Bekaa Valley and Baalbek region resulting in the tragic loss of civilian lives, including women and children, and the displacement of over a million people. "These airstrikes are a violation of Lebanon's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and constitute a serious violation of international humanitarian law and the UN Charter. Pakistan also unequivocally condemns continuing Israeli assault against the people of Northern Gaza and the indiscriminate airstrike on Beit Lahia which has resulted in the tragic loss of over a 100 Palestinian lives, including women

and children." She viewed that targeting densely populated residential areas without warning, day after day, with absolute impunity, reflected Israeli disdain for international law and human suffering. The siege of Gaza and uninterrupted Israeli attacks are piling on heaps of misery, devastation and death upon the already battered people of Gaza, she added. Calling Israel's action of dismantling the operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) unacceptable she said such acts were a manifestation of Israel's systematic campaign to dehumanize the Palestinian people. The spokesperson called upon the international community for an immediate cessation of hostilities in Palestine and Lebanon; protection of civilians; and unrestricted humanitarian access, besides ending Israel's genocidal campaign against

the Palestinians in Gaza. To another query, she said there was no request from the governments of Palestine and Lebanon to provide search and rescue teams' support. However, Pakistan has been providing humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza and for Lebanon it was started recently, she said, adding, "We are providing humanitarian assistance as per the requirements of the Red Cross that includes tents, medicines, food items and shelter needs." She told the media that last week, Pakistan sent two more plane-loads of humanitarian aid to Lebanon. Thus far, four special cargo planes with essential humanitarian supplies have arrived in Lebanon from Pakistan, she added. The spokesperson apprised the media of Prime Minister Shehbaz's concluded two-day visit to Saudi Arabia and ongoing Qatar visit where he would meet the Qatari leadership to discuss bilateral cooperation in trade and investment and discussion on regional developments. She also highlighted the visit of Speaker of the Federation Council of Russia, Valenti-

na Matvienko to Islamabad who held separate meetings with President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani, besides addressing the Senate of Pakistan. Referring to the observance of Kashmir Black Day marking the 77th anniversary of the arrival of Indian troops in Jammu and Kashmir on October 27, the spokesperson told the media that Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar had addressed letters to the leadership of the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), highlighting the ongoing situation in illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK). Dar has called for the full implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions and urged international action to address human rights concerns, including the release of Kashmiri political prisoners and activists, she said and reiterated Pakistan's continuous political, diplomatic and moral support to Kashmiris.

Maxwell calls
Pakistan team
'unpredictable'

"They are very hard to prepare for," says Maxwell

WEB DESK

MELBOURNE: Australia's batting all-rounder Glenn Maxwell praised Pakistan team's unique and unpredictable style of play ahead of the One Day International (ODI) series, scheduled to take place from November. Speaking in an interview, Maxwell shed light on the challenges that teams face while preparing for contests against the men in green. "They are very hard to prepare for and I suppose get ready for because you're just not sure what could happen and they are so dangerous in all areas of the game. They've got good spinners they've got good quicks up front and they've got batters that can win games for them" Maxwell said. "I think you are gonna see those ebbs and flows when you play against them in this white-ball series and it's gonna be so entertaining because they play an amazing brand of cricket where literally anything could happen. It's gonna be hard for us to stay in our own bubble and concentrate on our own things because they can be super destructive to whatever plans you've got," he added. It is worth noting here that the Rizwan-led side have reached Melbourne earlier on Wednesday. Rizwan was accompanied by vice-captain Salman Ali Agha, Abdullah Shafiq, Aamer Jamal, Saif Ayub, Kamran Ghulam, Haseebullah, and Arafat Minhas.

'Imran's
release not
interlinked
with Trump's
success'

FROM PAGE 01
many number of times from this podium," Matthew Miller said. He said that Pakistani politics are a matter for the Pakistani people to decide in accordance with their laws and constitution.

CJP appoints
key officials
in his office

FROM PAGE 01
the Supreme Court will also be appointed soon, with the current Registrar, Jazila Aslam, expected to return as a judge. The appointment of a staff officer for the chief justice is also anticipated soon.

PNS Zulfiqar
rescues
Iranian...

FROM PAGE 01
"Upon communication with the Pakistan Navy Ship, the fishing dhow reported a seriously injured crew member as well as defective engine and requested for necessary assistance," the statement said. "PNS Zulfiqar swiftly responded and dispatched its medical and technical teams which provided first aid to the wounded fisherman who had severely injured his hand while repairing the boat's engine." Two more sick crew members were examined and provided medical assistance. In addition, the ship's team also repaired the boat's engine, the statement added. In line with the national objective of ensuring peace and stability in the region, the Pakistan Navy regularly deploys its assets on regional maritime security patrol. During deployment, PN ships also assist ships operating at sea.

Eight settlers
killed in
strikes...

FROM PAGE 01
and Western al-Jalil regions. In a series of statements on Thursday, the resistance group said a barrage of rockets and artillery shells hit a group of Israeli soldiers in the southern Lebanese city of Khiam in the early hours of this morning. The resistance fighters also targeted for the second time a gathering of Israeli "enemy forces" south of the Khiam area with an artillery shell. Hezbollah in a separate attack targeted a gathering of Israeli forces in the settlement of Yiftah with a rocket barrage, it stated. The fighters targeted the "Yarka" warehouses east of the city of Akka with a large rocket barrage. The fighters also bombed the settlement of Karmiel with a large rocket barrage. The Israeli military confirmed that around 30 rockets were launched by the resistance group toward Karmiel and neighboring towns in northern occupied territories. The developments came as Lebanese media reported that a drone had exploded in Nahariya, northernmost city in the occupied territories.

Pakistan
committed
to gender...

FROM PAGE 01
collaborative strategies and targeted actions to address the persistent barriers facing women in Pakistan. The meeting saw participation from notable international representatives, including Maria Holtsberg from UN Women, Andrew Bowden from the Commonwealth and Development Office, and Jeroen Willems from the European Union. These stakeholders shared global insights and underscored the importance of cross-sector collaboration to build stronger gender-responsive frameworks and advocacy programs within Pakistan. The minister highlighted the government's continued efforts to advance women's rights, referencing significant legislative measures such as the Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act and the Enforcement of Women's Property Rights Act.

Wasim urges India
to visit Pakistan for
Champions Trophy

MELBOURNE: The veteran star pacer and former captain of Pakistan men's cricket team, Waseem Akram, has hinted at the potential arrival of the Men in Blue to Pakistan to play during the ICC Champions Trophy, stating that good signals are being received from India. The former bowler, popularly known as the Sultan of Swing, said that the Pakistan Cricket Board had made several offers to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to ensure their team's smooth visit to this side of the border to participate in the global tournament. "India should come to Pakistan," said Akram, during an online press conference in Melbourne on Wednesday. He added that Indian cricketers such as Virat Kohli, Hardik Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav have a lot of fans in Pakistan, who are eagerly awaiting their arrival. People of both countries, he said, should be in contact with each other and that India should think about it, recalling that he has not been to the other side of the border for the last six to seven years. "I miss the food and people there." Akram urged Indian players to come to Pakistan, claiming that they will enjoy it here. Commenting on Pakistan's upcoming series with Australia, the former pacer said that the conditions in Australia are tough and the series won't be easy. Winning even one ODI is a huge achievement, while the T20 series will be good, he said. Speaking about the recent fiasco around Fakhr Zaman, Akram said he is an impact player, but added that the PCB was bound to be upset over the issue that unfolded following his post on social media following Babar Azam's departure from the Test squad during the recently concluded Test series against England. Zaman had slammed team selectors for dropping Babar in a controversial post on X after which he was sent a show-cause notice and was also recently excluded from the board's central contract. I am sure that the social media statement was not written by Fakhr. Whoever wrote it should have told him about its repercussions on his central contract, he said. - Agencies

Buttler not
retained by
Royals for IPL

NEW DELHI: England white-ball captain Jos Buttler has not been retained by Rajasthan Royals for the 2025 Indian Premier League season. Buttler, 34, has been with Rajasthan since 2018 but they have opted not to keep him before the Mega Auction. Teams are allowed to retain up to six players from 2024, including five international capped players. No England players have been retained, meaning the likes of Phil Salt, Sam Curran - who commanded a then-IPL record £1.85m in 2023 - Liam Livingstone, Jonny Bairstow and Jofra Archer could be available in the auction. Australia seamer Mitchell Starc, who became the IPL's most expensive player in the 2024 season when Kolkata Knight Riders paid 24.75 crore Indian rupees (£2.3m) for his services, has also not been retained. The highest retention price is for South Africa wicketkeeper Heinrich Klaasen, who has been retained by Sunrisers Hyderabad for 23 crore Indian rupees (£2.1m). Klaasen is just one of 11 overseas players retained, with others including Australia captain Pat Cummins. - Agencies

Benzema happy at
Al-Ittihad, head coach
Laurent Blanc says

JEDDAH: Al-Ittihad manager Laurent Blanc says his star striker Karim Benzema is happy to be at the Jeddah club, as the French duo target victory over Al-Ahli on Thursday. Al-Ittihad go into the Sea Derby in second place in the Roshn Saudi League, with their rivals back in 11th. Ahead of the match, Blanc, a World Cup winner with France as a player in 1998, has spoken about managing Al-Ittihad, 2022 Ballon d'Or winner Benzema, facing Ivan Toney and the big game itself. The match, which kicks off at 9 p.m. at King Abdullah Sports City, is part of the league's innovative Derby Week, which falls on Matchweek 9 of the 2024-25 season. The new feature will also see Cristiano Ronaldo's Al-Nassr play champions Al-Hilal, with Neymar at No. 10, at Al-Awwal Park in the Capital Derby in a mouth-watering match up on Friday. The Eastern Derby between Al-Ettifaq, managed by Liverpool legend Steven Gerrard, and Al-Qadisiyah, who welcomed Real Madrid hero Nacho into their ranks in summer, is on Saturday. Here are some of Blanc's views on what promises to be a big weekend for Saudi football: "It will be a hard game because it is a derby. But the game? I don't know, I am not a magician. We hope we have the ball, because we want the ball in every game. Certainly, Al-Ahli will not agree with that. They are a good team with good players, so we need to be ready for a big game. "It will be a very interesting game because on the pitch will be many good players. It will be a tough game, physically and technically. And there will be many people in the stadium to see this game is very interesting to play. "I have been involved in a lot of derbies - in France, in England, in Spain, in Italy. It is the same Arabia it is the same. You prepare to be ready, physically and technically. But Al-Ahli is also too, but for now we don't know the guys, the most important thing and in my opinion in the derby, you can get a result, if you are "I think he is happy on the pitch important for the player and he's Karim Benzema has played football a lot every year - 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. - Agencies

British Jack Draper upsets Fritz in Paris

Draper reached the semi-finals of the US Open last month and, having risen to 15th in the rankings, this win keeps him in the hunt to qualify for the season-ending ATP Finals in Turin

PARIS: British number one Jack Draper continued his superb form by beating fifth seed Taylor Fritz at the Paris Masters. The 22-year-old, who lifted the biggest title of his career in Vienna last week, won 7-6 (8-6) 4-6 6-4 to reach the third round - and record a seventh consecutive win. Draper reached the semi-finals of the US Open last month and, having risen to 15th in the rankings, this win keeps him in the hunt to qualify for the season-ending ATP Finals in Turin. "Taylor is always a tough battle," said the Briton. "He is a top player for a reason and is in amazing form. I am really, really happy with the win today and proud of my fight." Draper will play Australian Alex de Minaur, who he beat in New York, in the last 16. But he was edged out on this occasion in an engrossing match. A stunning forehand winner after chasing down a Fritz smashed helped Draper sneak the first set on a tie-break but the second set threatened to swing towards the world number six. At 3-2, Draper failed to take any of six break points in a marathon Fritz service game that included 10 deuces. The American



broke to love in the next game en route to taking the set and levelling the match. But Draper, who only left the court in Vienna on Sunday afternoon and beat Czech Jiri Lehecka on Tuesday, resisted the swing in momentum and dug deep as his energy levels seemed to waver. He used his powerful left-handed serve well throughout and capitalised on a wild double fault by Fritz at the end of a tight deciding set to take the contest on his first match point. "It is the end of season - a lot of people are hurting, not just myself," added Draper. "I will keep fighting for every point no matter how I am feeling." Earlier, Russian fifth seed Daniil Medvedev was beaten 6-4 2-6 7-6 (7-4) by Australian Alexei Popyrin. But third seed Alexander Zverev and eighth seed Grigor Dimitrov both progressed with victories against Tallon Griekspoor and Tomas Martin Etcheverry respectively. In the final match of the day, Frenchman Arthur Cazaux - a lucky loser ranked 85th in the world - stunned American world number 19 Ben Shelton 6-3 7-6 (7-4) in front of a raucous home crowd. - Agencies

Briefs

Rupee sheds 06 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Thursday depreciated by 06 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.85 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.79. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.40 and Rs 278.90 respectively. The price of Euro increased by 96 paise to close at Rs 301.68 against the last day's closing of Rs 300.72, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen went up by 01 paise and closed at Rs1.82, whereas a decrease of 31 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs361.02 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 361.33.—APP

Gold price dips by Rs.700 to Rs.287,200 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased by Rs.700 and was sold at Rs.287,200 on Thursday compared to its sale at Rs. 287,900 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.600 to Rs.246,228 from Rs. 246,828 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs. 225,709 from Rs. 226,259, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola silver increased by Rs.100 to Rs.3,450 whereas that of ten gram silver went up by Rs.85.73 to Rs.2,957.81. The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$7 to \$2,777 from \$2,784, the Association reported.—APP

PSX continues with bearish trend, loses 1,319 points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bearish trend on Thursday, losing 1,319.80 points, a negative change of 1.46 percent, closing at 88,966.77 points as compared to 90,286.57 points on last trading day. A total of 546,274,609 shares were traded during the day as compared to 614,564,066 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 24.117 billion against Rs. 27.341 billion on the last trading day. As many as 437 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 137 of them recorded gains and 240 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 60 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were K-Electric Limited with 73,617,949 shares at Rs 4.44 per share, Bank of Punjab with 42,667,349 shares at Rs 5.82 per share and WorldCall Telecom with 25,898,091 shares at Rs1.22 per share.—APP

Spain races to save victims as floods kill 95

SEDAVI, Spain: Spain braced for a heavier human toll on Wednesday after 95 people died in flash floods that launched muddy waters through towns, tossed cars and wrecked transport havoc. Rescuers were expected to find more bodies in the European country's deadliest flood in more than 50 years and three days of official mourning were due to start on Thursday. Heavy downpours and fierce winds have lashed Spain since the beginning of the week after a storm formed over the Mediterranean Sea, with up to a year's worth of rain falling in just hours in some areas. The body coordinating emergency services in the eastern Valencia region announced a provisional death toll of 92, adding that bodies were still being recovered and identified. Two people died in neighboring Castilla-La Mancha and another victim was reported in Andalusia in the south, both regions' leaders told journalists.—APP

Russia's treaty with Iran to include defense: Lavrov

Russia has deepened its ties with Iran and North Korea, which are both strongly antagonistic toward the United States, since the start of its war with Ukraine

MOSCOW: A treaty that Russia and Iran intend to sign shortly will include closer defense cooperation, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Thursday. Military ties between the two countries are a source of deep concern to the West as Russia wages war in Ukraine while Iran and Israel have exchanged missile and air strikes in the Middle East. "The treaty on a comprehensive

strategic partnership between Russia and Iran that is being prepared will become a serious factor in strengthening Russian-Iranian relations," Lavrov told state television. He said the agreement was being prepared for signing "in the near future." Russia has said it expects Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to visit Moscow before the end of the year. "It will confirm the parties' desire for closer cooperation in the field of defense

and interaction in the interests of peace and security at the regional and global levels," Lavrov said. He did not specify what form the defense ties would take. Russia has deepened its ties with Iran and North Korea, which are both strongly antagonistic toward the United States, since the start of its war with Ukraine. President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un signed a similarly titled "comprehensive" treaty in

June, including a mutual defense clause, and the US and NATO say Pyongyang has sent some 10,000 soldiers to Russia for possible deployment in the war. Russia has not denied their presence, and says it will implement the treaty as it sees fit. The United States accused Tehran in September of delivering close-range ballistic missiles to Russia for use against Ukraine, and imposed sanctions on ships and companies it said were involved

in delivering Iranian weapons. Tehran denies providing Moscow with the missiles or with thousands of drones that Kyiv and Western officials have said Russia uses against military targets and to destroy civilian infrastructure, including Ukraine's electrical grid. The Kremlin declined to confirm its receipt of Iranian missiles but acknowledged that its cooperation with Iran included "the most sensitive areas."—Agencies



ABU DHABI: Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi and CEO of Al-Ansari Exchange Rashed Al Ansari cutting ribbon to inaugurate the consular halls at Pakistan embassy.

Middle East conflicts to leave 'lasting scars': IMF

The recent escalation in Lebanon has greatly increased the uncertainty in the whole MENA region

DUBAI: Gaza, Lebanon and Sudan will take decades to recover from the conflicts raging on their soil, the International Monetary Fund said on Thursday after downgrading the region's growth forecast. Israel's military actions against Hamas in the Gaza Strip and Hezbollah in Lebanon, and Sudan's civil war would have enduring impacts, the IMF said. "The damage caused by these conflicts will leave lasting scars at their epicenters for decades," the global lender said in a statement. The IMF has lowered its predicted growth for the Middle East and Central Asia to 2.1 percent for 2024, a drop of 0.6 percent due to the wars and lower oil production. Depending on the con-

flicts, growth should rise to 4.0 percent next year, according to the IMF's Regional Economic Outlook which was compiled in September. "This year has been challenging with conflicts causing devastating human suffering and lasting economic damage," Jihad Azour, the IMF's Middle East and Central Asia Department director, told reporters in Dubai. "The recent escalation in Lebanon has greatly increased the uncertainty in the whole MENA region." IMF forecasts for Lebanon, where conflict with Israel has sharply escalated this month, have been suspended. But "conservative" estimates show a 9.0-10 percent contraction this year, Azour said. "The impact (on

Lebanon) will be severe and it will depend how long this conflict will last," said the former Lebanese finance minister. Saudi-led oil cuts through the OPEC+ group, aimed at propping up prices, "are contributing to sluggish near-term growth in many economies," the IMF said. "Not only are the people of Gaza dealing with untold suffering from the ongoing war, the significant and growing environmental damage in Gaza risks locking its people into a painful, long recovery. While many questions remain regarding the exact type and quantity of contaminants affecting the environment in Gaza, people are already living with the consequences of conflict-related damage to environmental manage-

ment systems and pollution today. Water and sanitation have collapsed. Critical infrastructure continues to be decimated. Coastal areas, soil and ecosystems have been severely impacted. All of this is deeply harming people's health, food security and Gaza's resilience," said Inger Andersen, UNEP Executive Director. "We urgently need a ceasefire to save lives and restore the environment, to enable Palestinians to start to rebuild their lives and livelihoods in Gaza." For the region's oil exporters, "medium-term growth is projected to moderate, as economic diversification reforms will take time to yield results," it added.—APP

FBR launches advance stock register system

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Thursday launched an advanced Stock Register system via the Information Center 2.0 platform to provide officers real-time, in-depth access to registered persons' data, bolstering transparency and securing compliance with Income Tax (IT) and Sales Tax (ST) regulations. The board has launched the system under the direction of the Chairman FBR and as part of FBR's comprehensive digitalization efforts to optimize tax administration and boost revenue collection, said a news release. The system functions as a sophisticated management information and reporting system, empowering tax officers to securely retrieve detailed stock data to facilitate precise tax assessments and mitigate the risk of tax evasion. The system centralizes taxpayer profiles, offering thorough views of IT & ST filing histories, summaries, and authorized representative profiles. This integrated access is further strengthened by tax and declaration comparisons, providing comprehensive oversight capabilities. By meticulously recording stock movements and capturing essential details such as quantities, valuations, and transaction dates, the system enables tax officers to enforce regulatory compliance and validate accurate stock and compliance reports.—DNA

New govts in Iran, Indonesia to open prosperous chapter in bilateral ties: Araghchi

TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi says the inauguration of the new administrations in Iran and Indonesia opens a new and prosperous chapter in the long-standing relations between the two Muslim countries. Araghchi made the remarks in an opinion published by the Jakarta Post on Thursday on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Iran and Indonesia, which he described as a "milestone" that coincides with the early tenure of the newly inaugurated administrations in both nations. "Shared cultural heritage rooted in Asian traditions, a predominantly Muslim populace, non-alignment with the Eastern and Western blocs, sovereign and independent foreign policies, advocacy for decolonization, and, most significantly, unwavering support for the oppressed Palestinian people, are salient factors that have long forged and fortified the bonds between the peoples of Iran and Indonesia," he wrote. He added that unjust and unilateral sanctions by the United States and its allies have failed to undermine ties between Tehran and Jakarta. "On the contrary, these adversities have bolstered the resolve of both nations to diversify and deepen their relations, particularly in light of Iran's strides toward self-sufficiency and progress in fields such as medicine, nanotechnology, biotechnology, nuclear science, aerospace and beyond," the top Iranian diplomat emphasized. He pointed to the conclusion of 11 memoranda of understanding in various fields between the two sides during the historic visit of the late Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi to Indonesia on May 23-24, 2023 and noted that the promotion of ties with Eastern and Southeast Asian countries remains a priority for the diplomatic agenda of the administration of President Masoud Pezeshkian. Pezeshkian: Close Iran-Indonesia ties foster unity among Muslim nations, promote peace—Pezeshkian made the remark in a message to Indonesian President Joko Widodo. Araghchi reiterated that the main part of the foreign policy of the new Iranian administration is to open new vistas of cooperation and to broaden comprehensive and friendly relations with all nations based on dialogue, collaboration, equality and mutual respect. "The relations between Iran and Indonesia are not confined to the bilateral level; rather, they are imbued with substantial potential for collaboration at both regional and international levels," the Iranian foreign minister explained. As pivotal regional powers in shaping the geopolitical order in West and Southeast Asia, Araghchi said, Iran and Indonesia play an undeniable and strategic role in managing the global order by easing conflicts and fostering stability in their respective regions.—DNA

Reforms in Uzbekistan reflect desire for inclusive political system

Tashkent hosted a press conference of international observer missions representing the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) structures at the October 27 elections

Azay Guliyev, Special Coordinator and Head of the OSCE short-term observers, Sargis Khandanyan, Head of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation, and Douglas Wake, Head of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) election observation mission shared their impressions of the monitoring. As noted at the meeting with journalists, Uzbekistan held parliamentary elections on October 27, which became a landmark event against the backdrop of large-scale reforms implemented in the country. These elections demonstrated significant changes in the electoral system

and strengthening of democratic processes. One of the most notable innovations was the expansion of women's representation in parliament. The gender quota for candidates was increased from 30% to 40%, allowing wom-

en to occupy 47 of the 150 seats in the Legislative Chamber. This fact emphasizes the growing contribution of women to the political life of Uzbekistan. It was also emphasized that the Central Election Commission

(CEC) demonstrated a high level of reliability in preparing for the elections. Transparency of the electoral process was ensured by regular broadcasts and timely decision-making. Approximately 20 million voters were registered and the management of electoral processes was made accessible for public scrutiny. Legislative reforms in 2023 removed restrictions on voting rights for certain groups, demonstrating the country's commitment to international standards. The CEC also paid attention to inclusion, holding consultations to increase the participation of people with disabilities. Materials were avail-

able in Braille and translated into sign language during debates. Ballots were printed in Uzbek and local languages, facilitating accessibility of the electoral process for all groups. Election day was calm and organized, with a voter turnout of 74.7%. This indicates a high level of interest of citizens in the political life of their country. The 2024 parliamentary elections were an important step forward in strengthening democratic processes and improving women's representation in politics. These reforms reflect the desire for a more open and inclusive political system, which is key to further development of Uzbekistan.—Agencies



Russian airstrike hits Ukraine's Kharkiv, kills child, injures 29

KHARKIV, Ukraine: A Russian guided bomb struck a high-rise apartment block on Wednesday evening in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second largest city, killing a child and injuring at least 29 people, officials said. Kharkiv region governor Oleh Syniehubov said the child, 11, had been pulled from under rubble with serious head wounds and fractures, but medics were unable to save him. He had earlier said three people were trapped under rubble. Writing on the Telegram messaging app, Syniehubov said the strike had triggered a fire and destroyed most of one entrance, making a huge hole in the building. Reuters Television footage showed rescue teams picking their way through twisted piles of concrete and other building materials to bring out the injured and rush them into ambulances. Firefighters on long hoses tackled smoke billowing from shattered apartments. Kharkiv remained in Ukrainian hands through the initial failed advance of Russian forces on the capital Kyiv in the early days of the February 2022 invasion. It has since become a frequent target of Russian air attacks. President Volodymyr Zelensky said the attack underscored the need for more military aid from Ukraine's Western allies. "Our partners can see what is happening every day," he wrote on Telegram. "And in these conditions, every decision that is put off means, at the very least, dozens of lives and hundreds of Russian bombs used against Ukraine."—APP

Turkiye arrests opposition mayor

ISTANBUL: A Turkish court on Thursday ordered the arrest of a mayor from Turkiye's main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) over alleged militant ties. A deputy governor of Istanbul has replaced Ahmet Ozer as CHP mayor of Istanbul's immigrant-heavy Esenyurt district after he was accused on Wednesday by the chief prosecutor's office of being a member of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). Ozer denies the terrorism-related claims, while his party said it would defend him against the "unfounded allegations." President Tayyip Erdogan's government runs the governor's office while the CHP runs the municipality. The court order comes days after the PKK claimed responsibility for last week's attack on Turkish defense company TUSAS that killed five people in Ankara. CHP leader Ozgur Ozel said the arrest was based on "abstract allegations" and was intended to harm the will of the people. "We will undoubtedly...defeat this vile mind that does not recognize the nation and does not respect the people's choices, and will thwart this disgusting plan," Ozel said in a post on X.—APP

Samsung aims for AI chip recovery

NEW YORK: Samsung Electronics is making strides in its semiconductor division, aiming to boost its presence in the competitive AI chip market following a significant drop in profits in the third quarter. The South Korean tech giant reported an operating profit of 9.2 trillion won (\$6.66 billion) from July to September, slightly above its preliminary estimate but down from 10.4 trillion won in the previous quarter. The company's chip division, crucial for its overall earnings, saw a stark decline in profit, plunging to 3.9 trillion won from 6.5 trillion won in Q2. The decline in profits, approximately a 40% drop quarter-on-quarter, has raised concerns among investors, prompting a rare public apology from Samsung for its disappointing performance. The company attributed its struggles to delays in the commercialization of high-bandwidth memory (HBM3E) chips, critical for AI applications, and increased competition from Chinese manufacturers offering traditional chips.—Agencies

Briefs

North Korea says it conducted ICBM test

PYONGYANG: North Korea said it conducted an inter-continental ballistic missile test on Thursday morning, a launch believed to have achieved the longest flight time yet for a North Korean missile. The test comes just days ahead of the United States presidential election on Tuesday, and follows warnings from South Korea's intelligence agency that Pyongyang was planning to launch an ICBM testing its reentry technology around the time of the election. The test also comes as North Korea appears to have intensified its nuclear production efforts and strengthened ties with Russia, deepening widespread concern in the West over the isolated nation's direction. The missile was fired at "a lofted angle," meaning it flew almost vertically upwards rather than out, and traveled a distance of 1,000 kilometers (620 miles), according to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS). Japanese authorities reported the missile flew for about 86 minutes and to a possible altitude of 7,000 kilometers (4,350 miles), before falling into the sea west of Okushiri Island in northern Hokkaido around 8:37 a.m., outside Japan's exclusive economic zone, public broadcaster NHK said. "The flight time was the longest ever. Possibly the newest missile ever," Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani said. - Agencies

Court acquits Karsaz accident suspect

KARACHI: A district and sessions court on Thursday acquitted a female driver in a murder case registered against her for "killing" two people in an accident on Karsaz Road after a "reconciliation agreement" between the families was submitted in court. 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. The sessions court approved the female driver's bail after a settlement was reached between the two parties. The suspect has already secured bail in the murder case on September 6 after the victims' family pardoned her. Last month, heirs of the Karsaz road accident victims submitted an affidavit in the court, saying they had no objection to granting the suspect bail in the case as the "mishap was not intentional". "Matters have been settled between us and we have pardoned the suspect. We have forgiven for Allah's sake, who's the Most Kind and Most Merciful," read the affidavit.

Mazari, husband sent on judicial remand

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has sent prominent human rights lawyer Imaan Mazari and her husband, advocate Haadi Ali Chatha, on judicial remand in the "security breach" case. IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Saman Rafiq heard the plea against the couple's physical remand, with lawyers Qaiser Imam and Zainab Janjua representing Mazari and Chatha in court. During the proceedings, the prosecutor presented the remand request and also read the court order. The IHC CJ then asked the prosecutor whether it was appropriate, at which the law officer replied in affirmative. The two-member bench then, in a short order, declared the prior physical remand null and void and directed the defendants to be sent to jail on judicial remand.

CM Gandapur announces to restores student unions

He believes the initiative will empower youth and foster leadership spirit

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has made a bold commitment to restore student unions in the province, emphasizing the importance of justice in addressing societal issues. During a recent address, he remarked, "Justice is the key to solving all problems in society," highlighting that deprivation can hinder national progress. Gandapur expressed concern over Pakistan's economic challenges, stating, "Pakistan is in debt; we cannot make our own decisions." He underscored the need for courage and resilience, stating that "despair after failure should not prevail," as it is crucial to foster a mindset geared towards competition and innovation. The chief minister announced an increase in scholarships for students,

Provide Imran Khan with all facilities he is entitled to: IHC

Shoaib Shaheen requested an affidavit to ensure unrestricted meetings

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court has instructed the Deputy Superintendent of Adiala Jail to ensure that Imran Khan, the founder of PTI, is provided with all the facilities he is entitled to according to the jail manual. The hearing was held in response to a request by Noreen Niazi for better facilities for the PTI founder in jail. The DIG of Prisons and the Deputy Superintendent of Adiala Jail appeared in court. The Deputy Superin-

tendent informed the court that all facilities have already been provided to the PTI founder under jail rules. Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir asked, "Who from the Prisons Department is present?" DIG Prisons Abdul Rauf responded that he is DIG and mentioned that meetings with the PTI founder have already begun. The Deputy Superintendent of Adiala Jail reported that lawyers and family members visited the previous day, and all facilities have been provided. Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir asked, "Where is lawyer Shoaib Shaheen? He will confirm whether the facilities have been provided." The hearing was adjourned until Shoaib Shaheen arrived in court. aiming to enhance educational opportunities. He declared that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would soon see the restoration of student unions, which he believes will empower the youth and foster a spirit of leadership. On the topic of self-determination, Gandapur stressed that true freedom is yet to be attained, saying, "We cannot be free until independence and self-determination are achieved." He characterized the ongoing struggle for genuine liberation as a "war for real freedom," assuring that this fight will continue for the sake of future generations. In a passionate call to action, he warned that the time for a "decisive battle" is approaching, stating, "If we don't come back, read our obituaries." He underscored the notion that true nobility is often overlooked in the country, insisting that "blood is red, and red is the color of revolution," signifying the urgency for change and the pursuit of justice for all.

US, UK launch fresh strikes on Yemen

SANAA: The United States and Britain have carried out fresh aerial assaults on Yemen's western city of Hudeidah. Yemen's al-Masirah television channel reported on Thursday that the airstrikes targeted an area near Hudeidah University in the city's al-Hawak district. The report provided no information about possible casualties or damage. The US-British coalition has not commented on the attack that came a week after a similar raid on Hudeidah International Airport. The US and its allies have been bombing Yemen over the past months in violation of the country's sovereignty and international law. The illegal air raids came in response to Yemen's maritime campaign in solidarity with the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip amid a genocidal Israeli war. On Tuesday, the Yemeni Armed Forces launched a drone attack against a vital target in the city of Ashkelon in the Israeli-occupied territories. They said in a statement that the operation was conducted "in support of the oppressed people of Palestine and Lebanon, and ... [their] resistances." In the pro-Palestine campaign, Yemeni forces have targeted ships heading to or departing ports in the occupied territories, or whose owners are linked to Israel, in the southern Red Sea, the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, the Gulf of Aden, and even in the Arabian Sea. They have also attacked American and British vessels in the same waters. - Agencies

IHC dismisses Swati's remand

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday terminated the physical remand of PTI's leader Azam Swati in eight cases and sent him to jail on judicial remand. A two-judge bench comprising Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir heard the case regarding the matter. During the course of proceeding, the clarification of anti-terrorism court judge Abulhasan Muhammad Zulkernain was presented before the court. Justice Aurangzeb remarked that as per the concern judge record was sought regarding the all cases. The court said that it was satisfied on the report given by the said judge. The defence lawyer adopted the stance that they came to know after they filed case to IHC that there were 12 cases against his client. The details of one FIR was intentionally hide from IHC, he claimed. The court questioned that if the prosecution still wanted further remand of Azam Swati to this the prosecutor said that he couldn't give any statement so far regarding it.



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Mistuhiro Wada, calls on Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. - DNA

There will be no visa fee for Sikh pilgrims Naqvi

Tells visitors about visa-free facility given by Pak to 124 countries

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Mohsin Naqvi said on Thursday that there would be no visa fee for the Sikh pilgrims visiting Pakistan to pay respect to their religious sites, adding that pilgrims would get visa within half an hour. The Interior Minister welcomed a 44-member American Sikh delegation where he told them about visa on arrival facility extended to the US citizens, stressing that there would be no hassle even if they wanted to visit as many times as they can. "There will be no visa fee for those arriving in Pakistan. They can also visit places other than Nankana Sahib, Kartarpur and Hassan Abdal which we will open for them. Few problems still exist which we will remove. The people holding passports from the US, UK and Canada can obtain visa within half an hour after filling an online visa form," he remarked. He also told the visitors about visa-free facility given by Pakistan to 124 countries while expressing his desire to welcome as many as one million Sikh devotees. Moreover, he urged the Sikh community to come to Pakistan alongside other Indian citizens to watch the Champions Trophy matches scheduled to be held in Pakistan in 2025. - DNA

PDMA declares smog calamity in Punjab, advises on mitigation

Authority says all activities causing or leading to smog formation have been banned across the province

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Declaring smog as a calamity in Punjab, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has advised authorities to take measures against any activities that have contributed to the hazardous smog conditions. Through a notification, the PDMA said all the activities causing or leading to smog formation had been banned across the province. The illegal actions included burning crop residue, vehicles emitting visible smoke, pollutants falling into inadmissible limits, all industries working without emission control systems contributing to deterioration of Air Quality Index, all stone crushers operating without wet scrubbers, burning of all types of solid waste, tyres, rubber and plastics as well as sell and use of sub-standard fuels. The authority said encroachments which caused hindrance in the smooth flow of traffic, any kind of parking which may cause hindrance in traffic flow and activities which contributed to generating fugitive dust were not allowed. The PDMA also said the deputy commissioners had been delegated the powers of the Relief Commissioner to take all necessary measures to control and mitigate smog. This is not the first time that the PDMA has declared smog a calamity, last year in November the authority issued a similar order. Dense smog has become prevalent

just ahead of winter in the provincial capital city, where the quality of air pollution has become the worst in the world air quality index (AQI) several times in the last few days. The smog leads to low visibility which hampers mobility and it causes different types of diseases as well. In a bid to tackle this, the Punjab government on Wednesday announced imposing a "green lockdown" in air pollution hotspots of Lahore as a precautionary measure. Lahore battles pollution each year in winter as temperatures fall and cold air traps construction dust, vehicle emissions, and smoke. The government has placed certain restrictions in areas identified as pollution hotspots - Davis Road, Egerton Road, Durand Road, Kashmir Road, Abbott Road, starting from Shimla Hill to Gulistan Cinema, Empress Road, starting from Shimla Hill to Railway Headquarters and Queen Marry Road, starting from Durand Road to Allama Iqbal Road. According to a notification issued, the government has banned construction activities in the above-mentioned areas, ban on ching-chi rikshaws and commercial generators. Moreover, a ban has also been imposed on open food cooking points and BBQ points after 8pm, food outlets using charcoal, coal or wood without installation of proper emission control system, marquees and marriage halls after 10pm and on dry sweeping.

PPP nominates Bilawal and Naik for judicial commission

The judicial commission is expected to include two members each from the PPP as a Treasury bench party and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) as an opposition

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has proposed the party chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Senator Farooq H Naik as members of the Judicial Commission. According to the sources well placed in the PPP, the Attorney General and the Federal Law Minister will represent the government, while the PPP seeks equal representation on the commission as per the government's assurance. The judicial commission is expected to include two members each from the PPP as a Treasury bench party and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) as an opposition. In terms of specifics, PPP has nominated Bilawal Bhutto Zardari from the National Assembly and Senator Farooq H Naik, while Irfan Siddiqui will represent the government from the Senate. The PTI has designated the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly, Omar Ayub Khan, along with Senator Shibli Faraz from the Senate, as its representatives in the judicial commission. Two days ago, National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq requested names from the government and opposition to establish the Judicial Commission of Pakistan, following the 26th Constitutional Amendment.

Harris, Trump head west in US election race countdown



WASHINGTON: Kamala Harris and Donald Trump take their nail-biting White House race west on Thursday, seeking supremacy on border security and aiming to woo crucial Latino voters days ahead of the US election. Pop singer Jennifer Lopez will bring her star power to the stage for Harris in Las Vegas, as the candidates battle through the seven swing states expected to decide the next president. Meanwhile, Trump has scheduled an interview in Arizona with ex-Fox News host Tucker Carlson and a rally in Nevada. Both campaigns have been sidetracked in recent days after controversies stemming from a remark by a warm-up speaker at a Trump rally, which initially blew back against Republicans before a damaging gaffe from President Joe Biden. Harris made political hay from the comedian calling the US territory of Puerto Rico a "floating island of garbage," winning the backing of Puerto Rican celebrity Lopez, rapper Bad Bunny and singer Ricky Martin. But she then found herself on the defensive after Biden appeared to call

Trump supporters "garbage" - prompting the Democratic candidate to state that she disagreed with criticism of people based on who they vote for. Trump, who himself has branded Harris's allies "garbage" at a public rally, was quick to pounce on the misstep with a publicity stunt as he climbed into a garbage truck at an airport in Wisconsin. The 78-year-old will also visit New Mexico on Thursday - a surprising call since polls suggest that the state will go to Harris by a comfortable margin. Campaigning out west, the two candidates are hoping to entice Hispanic voters and earn credit on the crucial election issue of migration. Trump is betting that frustrations over the Biden-Harris administration's immigration policy will swing Arizona, which shares a border with Mexico, back in his favor. Biden beat Trump in Arizona in 2020, becoming the first Democrat since Bill Clinton in 1996 to win the state's electoral college votes. Latinos have traditionally voted more in favour of Democrats, but recent polling shows a noticeable trend toward Republicans. The latest New York Times/Siena poll showed Harris with 52% of support among Hispanic voters to Trump's 42%. Both candidates will be in North Carolina on the weekend as part of a blitz of the battleground states, with Harris also visiting Georgia, Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania before Election Day. Speaking in Wisconsin on Wednesday, the vice president shared a message of unity that followed her "closing argument" speech the night before at a huge rally in the capital Washington. "Folks are exhausted and want it to stop, the pointing fingers. It is time that we start locking arms together as a people who rise and fall together," she said. Trump - who has 34 felony convictions for crimes connected to the 2016 election - is widely expected to reject Tuesday's election result if he loses. - Agencies

EMBASSY OF AZERBAIJAN Repair and reconstruction TENDER NOTICE



The Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is pleased to announce a tender for the repair and reconstruction of Rara High School for girls in Muzaffarabad, constructed in 2007 through the generous initiative and support of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation. For further details, we kindly invite interested parties to contact the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

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