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Individual records 'not important': Cristiano Ronaldo

Detailed News On Page-06

Will uphold rule of law despite insult

Detailed News On Page-08

Pakistan-Russia forum to ties: Alem Khan

Detailed News On Page-08



Tit-For-Tat

Iran launches massive missile attack on Israel

Several ballistic missiles fired; Israeli citizens asked to look for safe places; US President convenes security meeting; hundreds of missiles fired

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: Iran has fired hundreds of missiles at Israel. According to media reports Iran fired hundreds of ballistic missiles towards the Israeli Capital Tel Aviv. Israeli troops had invaded Lebanon, in what the Israeli military calls a "limited, localized and targeted" ground operation against Hezbollah. Sirens are sounding across Israel. The military says direct military attack from Iran against Israel will "carry severe consequences for Iran," a senior White House official said. The US President has also convened meeting of the National Security Council. The security experts have strongly backed the Iran attack on Israel saying Iran, after being pushed to the wall, had no other choice but to respond. Former Pakistan Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar said Israel had been violating the human rights unabated. Even the United Nations allowed Israel to commit all these human rights violations. She added, the Iran attack seems to be a lost resort as Iran was left with no other choice. Pakistan foreign office sources said they were viewing the situation closely and response shall be issued accordingly. The officials however opined that the tension should not be escalated any further for it may have negative effects on the regional stability as well. On Tuesday morning, an Israeli security official told there had been "no clashes" yet - but a military spokesman later told people in around 25 Lebanese villages to evacuate. The Lebanese prime minister says his country is facing "one of its most dangerous phases", and that one million people are displaced. In Gaza, at least 41,638 people have been killed and 96,460 injured in Israeli attacks since October. In Israel, at least 1,139 people were killed in

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Hezbollah dismisses Israel's claim of entering Lebanon

"Hezbollah fighters are ready for a direct confrontation with enemy forces that dare to or try to enter Lebanon to inflict casualties among them"

AGENCIES

BEIRUT: Hezbollah has dismissed as "false" Israel's claim that its forces have crossed into southern Lebanon. The Lebanese resistance movement says its fighters are ready for a "direct confrontation" if Israeli troops enter. Spokesman Mohammed Afifi made the remarks in a statement on Tuesday, after the Israeli military announced its troops had entered southern Lebanon earlier in the day in preparation for a ground operation. Afifi went on to say that "no direct ground clashes have yet taken place between the resistance fighters and the occupation forces," emphasizing that the allegations are false. "Hezbollah fighters are ready for a direct confrontation with enemy forces that dare to or try to enter Lebanon to inflict casualties among them." Afifi further stated that Hezbollah's firing of

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Malaysia's PM to arrive Pakistan today

The two sides will discuss regional and global developments

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, along with a high-level delegation, will land in Pakistan today (Wednesday) for a three-day official visit. In a statement, the Foreign Office said that PM Ibrahim, during the visit, will hold meetings with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. "The two sides will discuss a wide-ranging agenda to further strengthen Pakistan-Malaysia ties in diverse fields including trade, connectivity, energy, agriculture, halal industry, tourism, cultural exchanges and people-to-people contacts." FO Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that the two sides will also discuss regional and global developments. PM Ibrahim, at the invitation of PM Shehbaz, will undertake an official visit to Pakistan from 2-4 October 2024, she said, adding that he would be accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising ministers, deputy ministers and senior officials. It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan and Malaysia enjoy strong bilateral ties anchored in history, culture and faith.

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ISLAMABAD: The Head of Mission of World Health Organisation in Pakistan Dr. Lou Dapeng presenting a certificate of elimination of TRACHOMA as a public health problem from Pakistan to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. - DNA

Explains bench reconstitution

Nothing happens behind closed doors in SC, says CJP Isa

"Without disturbing other benches, we included Justice Naem Afghan in the larger bench," CJP said

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: As the "newly-constituted" five-member Supreme Court bench with Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan added to it heard the Article 63-A revision case, Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa clarified the reconstitution of the bench. At the outset of the hearing, Supreme Court Bar Association President Shahzad Shaukat and PTI's Barrister Ali Zafar came to the rostrum and the CJP started repeating what happened yesterday (Monday). He said Justice Munib Akhtar refused to join the bench. He was requested to join the bench, but he wrote a letter. In the evening, he wrote another letter reiterating his previous stance. The CJP summoned the bench formation committee at 9am

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Section 144 imposed in Mianwali

All forms of political gatherings, sit-ins, rallies, protests are banned from Oct 1 to 7

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The Punjab government has imposed Section 144 in Mianwali for seven days. The Punjab Home Department has issued a notification for the enforcement of this section, citing terrorism threats as the reason. According to the notification, all forms of political gatherings, sit-ins, rallies, protests, and related activities were banned

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Briefs

JI and PTI announce Gaza million march

Hafiz Naeem said, that we will record our protest for Gaza

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan met with PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar, in which it was agreed that the two parties would jointly participate in the Gaza Million March to be held in Islamabad on October 7. Talking after the meeting, Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Ameer Hafiz Naeem said that beyond all differences, we have to be united for Palestine, because now Israel is advancing further. He said that Israel is now attacking Yemen and Lebanon like an angry elephant, it is cruel to remain silent in such a situation.

Dr Zakir Naik meets Fazl

Discussed challenges faced by Islamic world

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Renowned Islamic scholar Dr Zakir Naik and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Tuesday discussed the challenges faced by the Islamic world. According to details, Naik called on Rehman in Islamabad. On this occasion, the matters pertaining to the bilateral affairs were highlighted. Expressing his thoughts, Naik said: "It was my wish to meet Maulana Fazlur Rehman. Today, which has been fulfilled." Separately, few days back, noted You-Tuber Nadir Ali has become the first Pakistani host to interview renowned Islamic preacher Zakir Naik. According to details, Nadir who is known for his podcasts, has recently created headlines by interviewing Naik.

Demands more reforms

Bilawal distances himself from 'judicial war' in Islamabad

Party chairman says his struggle for constitutional amendment not for current chief justice, Qazi Faez Isa

DNA

QUETTA: Commenting on the Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) support for the constitutional package, the party's Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Tuesday said that so far, his party had agreed to the government's proposal for the formation of a federal constitutional court. Addressing the Balochistan High Court (BHC) Bar in Quetta, Bilawal said his party had no problem if anyone of the top two judges of the country chaired the constitutional court. "After the struggle of 30 years, we have decided to form a constitutional court," he said, adding his struggle for the constitutional amendment was not for the current chief justice, Qazi Faez Isa. "Your agenda could be a person-specific, not

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FBR extends deadline to file tax returns

Date extended till October 14 in view of requests from various trade bodies, says tax collection body

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: After lengthy deliberation, the Federal Bureau of Revenue (FBR) has finally extended the dead

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Law will act if K-P CM attacks the capital: Attaullah Tarar

Tarar warns KP chief minister against using state resources for revolution, says law will respond swiftly

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Attaullah Tarar has issued a stern warning to Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's Chief Minister, Ali Amin Gandapur, against marching on the federal capital, stating that any such action would prompt a legal response. Speaking at a press conference in Islamabad, Tarar criticised Gandapur's intentions to bring a "revolution" against the central government. He said, "If the K-P chief minister plans to attack the federal government using state resources, the law will respond swiftly. A revolution doesn't come with ministers, convoys of official vehicles, and government employees." The information minister emphasised that Gandapur's threats to march on Islamabad with state resources were unacceptable and warned that such actions would sabotage the country's recent economic improvements. "They want to destabilise the country. If they want to bring



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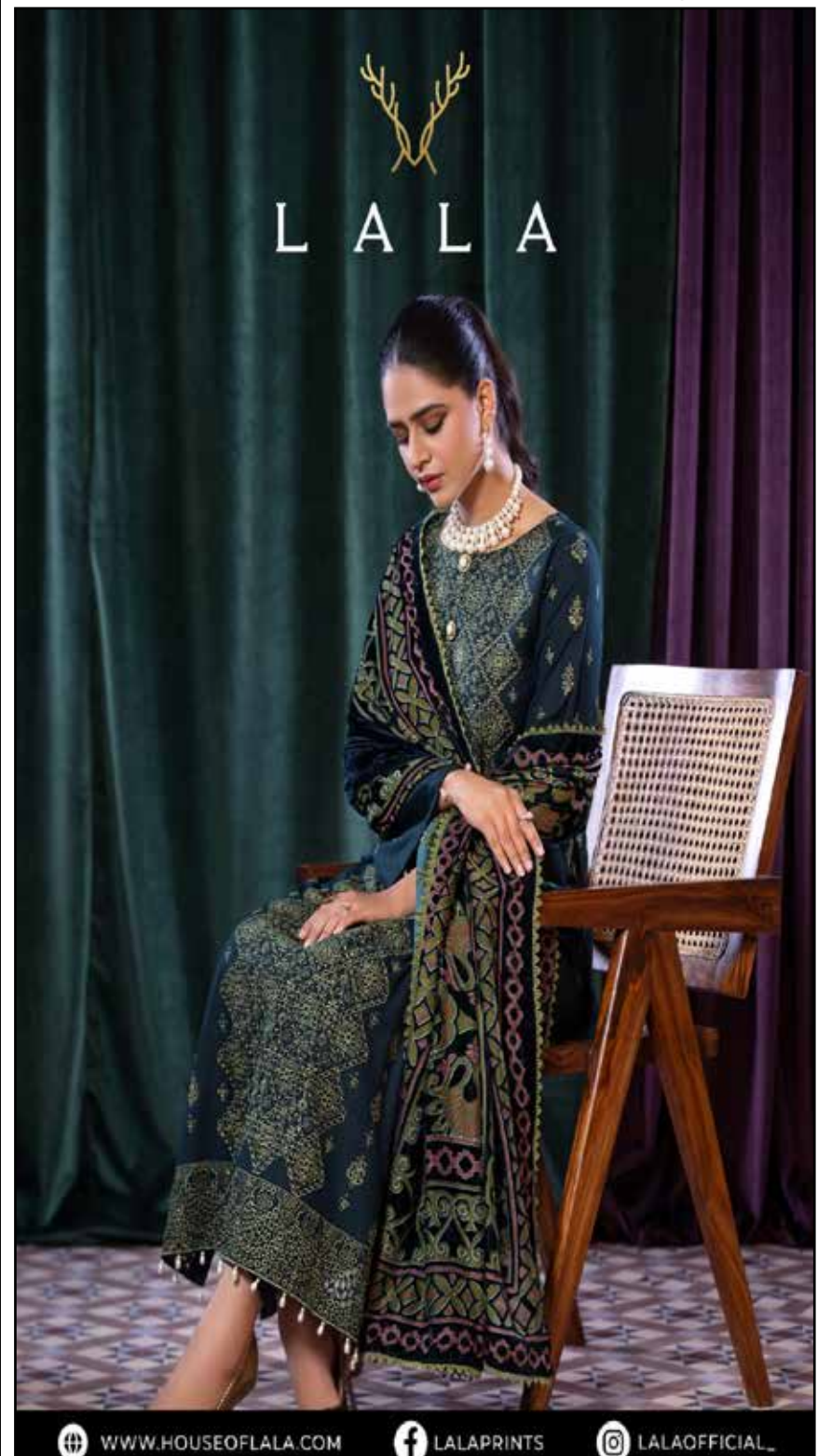
Govt to take parties on board over Balochistan, KP

Parliamentary leaders summoned for security briefing on Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The incumbent government decided on Tuesday to take the political parties into confidence pertaining to the security situation in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to details, National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq had invited all parliamentary leaders for a meeting where security agencies will provide a comprehensive briefing on the matter.

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Kundi: KP united to eliminate extremism

The ceremony, hosted by the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and the Ambassador of Turkmenistan, was attended by Governor Kundi along with ambassadors and high commissioners from 14 countries, as well as other senior officials

STAFF REPORT

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday emphasized that the people of the province were united in their desire to eliminate extremism and restore peace in the region.

Ambassador of Turkmenistan, was attended by Governor Kundi along with ambassadors and high commissioners from 14 countries, as well as other senior officials.

their heartfelt sympathy and honoring the bravery he displayed in fulfilling his duties. In his remarks, the Governor thanked the ambassadors for acknowledging Constable Burhan Ali's sacrifice and for showing solidarity with the families of the martyrs.



ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq exchanging views with Founder and President of Islamic research Foundation Dr Zakir Naik on Tuesday.—APP

NATCO all set to launch Gilgit-Kashgar bus service

ISLAMABAD: The Northern Areas Transport Co. (NATCO) has obtained No Objection Certificate (NOC) for its planned bus service between Gilgit and Kashgar in collaboration with a Chinese company Xinjiang-Kashgar Xin Lu Transportation Co. Ltd.

Ayaz, Naik discuss challenges of Muslim Ummah, stress religious harmony

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Tuesday emphasized the need for unity among the Muslim Ummah, urging them to come together and work collectively to promote Islam's true message globally.

ated. The speaker said that Islam is a complete code of life that promotes peace, tolerance, and love. Ayaz Sadiq lauded the services rendered by Dr. Zakir Naik's in spreading the message of peace and love of Islam around the world.

Pakistani people, stating that "the people of Pakistan are very loving and caring". He emphasized on the Muslim countries to shun their differences and unite in the light of the Holy Quran and Sunnah to confront the challenges being faced by the Muslim Ummah.

Malaysian PM visit to boost trade, agriculture, energy ties: FFP

LAHORE: Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's three-day visit to Pakistan will further strengthen bilateral relations between the two Muslim nations, particularly in trade, connectivity, agriculture, energy, and the halal industry.

President calls for making Pakistan age-friendly for senior citizens

ISLAMABAD: As the world community observes the International Day of Older Persons on Tuesday, President Asif Ali Zardari has urged the countrymen to strive for making Pakistan more inclusive and age-friendly to honour and respect its senior citizens.

for older persons, he said the Day was aimed at honouring the contributions of senior citizens for transferring their experience and wisdom to younger generations as well as their role in the progress and prosperity of the country.

respect and dignity, and take care of them in old age," he remarked. The president said that the Constitution of Pakistan also placed a responsibility upon the state to provide necessities of life for all citizens who were permanently or temporarily unable to earn their livelihood on account of infirmity, sickness or unemployment.

Sindh implements steps to combat extremism, radicalisation: CM

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday said that government has implemented various initiatives to strengthen the police force. These initiatives include training programs and infrastructure development.

the program. Shah stated that the Sindh government has implemented various initiatives to strengthen the police force. These initiatives include training programs and infrastructure development.

billion. He also announced enhancements to the Shaheed Package, raising it from Rs10 million to Rs23 million, which includes salary until retirement and job opportunities for family members.

Rescue 1122 responds to 16,915 emergencies in September

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Emergency Rescue Service (Rescue 1122) responded to 16,915 emergencies during the month of September. According to spokesperson Bilal Ahmad Faizi, a performance review meeting was held at the provincial headquarters, where Director General Rescue 1122, Dr. Muhammad Ayaz Khan, shared the monthly statistics.

Anti-dengue efforts stressed

SARGODHA: Additional Deputy Commissioner General (ADCG) Umar Farooq on Tuesday said negligence in implementing anti-dengue measures would not be tolerated. Chairing a meeting of the District Response Committee for Dengue Control, he emphasized the need for utilizing all resources to prevent the breeding of dengue larvae.

DG PID Lahore inquires after health of veteran journalist

LAHORE :Director General of Press Information Department (PID) Lahore Shafiq Abbas on Monday visited veteran journalist Mujeeb ur Rehman Shami at his residence and inquired after his health following a successful surgery.



Court Notice

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Imposition of Section 144 on tree felling & wood transportation in Attock, Chakwal forest divisions Potohar Circle significant step

MUMTAZ AHMED BHATTI

ISLAMABAD : The imposition of Section 144 on tree felling and wood transportation in the forest divisions of Attock and Chakwal, part of the Potohar Circle, is a significant step. This legal directive, introduced under the guidance of the Minister Forest and Secretary of Forests of Punjab, has established a zero-tolerance policy toward illegal logging and transportation of wood.

demonstrating the provincial government's resolve to tackle deforestation. Dr. Nasim Iqbal Butt, Conservator of Forests in the Potohar Circle, has been instrumental in enforcing these new measures, signaling a zero-tolerance approach towards violators.

the integrity of the forests and ensuring that illegal activities are curtailed, even on private lands. In the case of any violation of Section 144, their teams are quick to register FIRs, holding violators accountable for their actions.

to the aesthetic appeal of a landscape, providing greenery, shade, and a habitat for wildlife. In places like Attock and Chakwal, where rural and semi-urban communities rely on the land for their livelihoods and well-being, the presence of forests is essential to the overall quality of life.

Advertisement for Ashraf Industries (Pvt) Ltd. featuring martial arts uniforms and belts. Text includes: 'MOST EXPERIENCED MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTERS OF MARTIAL ARTS UNIFORMS IN PAKISTAN', 'WHERE EACH STITCH IS WATCHED', 'JUDO KARATE KUNG-FU JU-JITSU TAEKWONDO UNIFORMS AND COLOURED BELTS', 'ASHRAF INDUSTRIES (PVT) LTD 127 C, Industrial Estate Sakhal-61340, Pakistan Phone: +92-62-3259000 / 3255788 E-mail: info@ashraf.net.pk'

National Days and Armed Forces Days

OCTOBER

- Oct 01/China National Day
- Oct 01/Cyprus National Day
- Oct 01/Republic of Korea Armed Forces Day
- Oct 01/Nigeria Armed Forces Day
- Oct 02/Guinea National Day
- Oct 03/Germany Unification Day
- Oct 03/Republic of Korea National Foundation Day
- Oct 05/Indonesia Armed Forces Day
- Oct 06/Egypt Armed Forces Day
- Oct 09/Uganda Independence Day
- Oct 12/Spain National Day
- Oct 23/Hungary National Day
- Oct 24/United Nations United Nations Day
- Oct 25/Romania Armed Forces Day
- Oct 26/Austria National Day
- Oct 27/Turkmenistan Independence Day
- Oct 28/Czech Republic National Day
- Oct 29/Turkey Republic 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
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PIA Cargo.....9280979
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Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

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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

FS Baloch vows to preserving Pak archaeological heritage

Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch expressed her deep pride in the country's rich and multi-layered legacy. She highlighted how the ancient civilizations of the Indus Valley and Gandhara, which flourished in present-day Pakistan, continue to inspire modern society

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The International Conference on 'Celebrating Pakistan's Ancient Archeological and Civilizational Heritage', organized by ISSI, concluded with the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, Ms. Amna Baloch, reaffirming commitment to preserving and promoting Pakistan's rich archeological and civilizational heritage. The one-day conference drew a significant gathering of diplomats, cultural experts, and academics, underscoring the keen interest in exploring, preserving, and promoting Pakistan's rich archeological and civilizational heritage. The Inaugural Session, addressed by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed and Federal Secretary for National Heritage and Culture, Hassan Nasir Jamy, was followed by three insightful working sessions. Addressing the concluding session, Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch expressed her deep pride in the country's rich and multi-layered legacy. She highlighted how the ancient civilizations of the Indus Valley and Gandhara, which flourished in present-day Pakistan, continue to inspire modern society. The Foreign Secretary emphasized the importance of preserving heritage, noting that the values of innovation, resilience, and co-



existence seen in these ancient cultures remain relevant today. She called for a balanced approach to conservation, tourism, and development, ensuring that Pakistan's cultural assets are safeguarded for future generations. She lauded the ISSI's initiative of focusing on this subject. The Foreign Office, she re-assured, would remain a committed stakeholder and partner in these efforts, working closely with local communities and international experts to protect and promote Pakistan's shared legacy. Earlier, the first working session titled 'Journeying through Pakistan's Ancient Treasures' was moderated by Mr. Zafarullah Siddiqui, Former Joint Secretary Development. Dr. Muhammad Hameed, Chairman of Archaeology Department at

Punjab University, called for new expeditions and monument restoration, stressing the need for collaboration between heritage and tourism sectors. He also emphasized the importance of heritage as national pride. Prof. Ruth Young, Professor of Archaeology at the University of Leicester, U.K, underscored the importance of religious sites, especially Buddhist sites, in shaping Pakistan's identity. She acknowledged the government's efforts to use heritage to enhance Pakistan's global image. Mr. Anjum Javaid, Deputy Director, Directorate General of Archeology, emphasized Harappa's advanced urban planning and urged for pride in the Indus civilization, which he noted surpasses Egyptian and Mesopotamian heritage. Professor Hridaya Bajra-

charya, Former Vice Chancellor, Lumbini Buddhist University, Nepal, highlighted the shared heritage between Nepal and Pakistan's Gandhara civilization, stressing the importance of celebrating Gandhara's cultural influence and its potential to foster shared narratives. The second working session was titled 'Reflecting on Pakistan's Rich Heritage' and was moderated by Dr. Abdul Samad, Directorate Archeology KPK. Ms. Heba Hashmi, Maritime Archaeologist and CEO of Heritage Archaeology Cultural Heritage Associates, outlined preservation strategies, including digital heritage trails, and climate change adaptation. She emphasized the need for flood risk management in archaeological efforts. Professor Luca Maria Oliveri, Director of the Italian Archaeological Mission to Pakistan, highlighted the mission's start in 1955 in Swat Valley, exploring late ancient Swat and Himalayan Buddhism. He emphasized that conservation sites can become training hub for developing new professionals. Ms. Kiran Afzal, Senior Private Sector Specialist at the World Bank, highlighted the bank's efforts in preserving historical sites in Punjab and KP, focusing on job creation and tourism promotion. She emphasized the need for more resources due to rising maintenance costs and noted the suc-

cess of solarizing sites and collaboration between KP and Punjab. Ms. Parveen Talpur, historian and archeologist based in the U.S., highlighted the region's historical significance, the overlap of Buddhism and the Indus Civilization at Mohenjo-Daro, and called for digital preservation. She emphasized on protecting cultural artifacts from smuggling and theft. The third working session titled 'Building Bridges Through Cultural Tourism' was moderated by Mr. Amir Jahangir, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Mishal, Pakistan which is the partner institute of the World Economic Forum. Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmed, Ambassador of Pakistan to France, Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, emphasized that Pakistan's historic civilizations, such as Mohenjo-Daro and Taxila, form a shared global legacy. He highlighted the need for preservation, cultural tourism, and policy measures to promote heritage sites at both national and local levels. Professor Iftikhar H. Malik, Professor Emeritus at Bath Spa University, said that Pakistan's history extends far beyond 1947, with a rich ancient past. He urged the preservation of historical sites and the inclusion of the Indus Valley Civilization in updated textbooks to better educate future generations.

Special counter establishes for license of rickshaw drivers

RAWALPINDI: In a bid to regulate rickshaw driving in Rawalpindi, special measures have been introduced for obtaining rickshaw driver licenses. Under the initiative, tests will be held every Sunday at Shehbaz Sharif Park, allowing aspiring rickshaw drivers to obtain their licenses more easily. According to Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi, Benish Fatima, a separate counter has been established at each licensing center specifically for rickshaw driver learners. All circle in-charges have been instructed to direct rickshaw drivers to their nearest licensing centers, ensuring that those currently driving without a license can take advantage of this new facility. Last Sunday, licensing services were offered at Shehbaz Sharif Park throughout the day, resulting in several rickshaw drivers successfully obtaining their licenses. CTO Fatima has urged DSP Licensing and other officials to ensure that all necessary support is being provided to streamline the licensing process. —APP

OEC to export skilled workforce to Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD: Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC) working under the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD) would export the skilled workforce to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. An official source told APP here on Tuesday that skilled workforce would work under the Saudi Ministry of National Guard - Health Affairs as a Tradesman Assistants who meet the prescribed qualifications and experience as following Tradesman Assistant (Age 25-50), Education should be High School Graduate - Essential, Diploma Degree in Technical College or engineering in the specific area of assignment or recognized apprenticeship program in a specific area of assignment from an accredited institution would be preferred. He said that the responsibilities/duties of the workforce would be carried out general cleaning duties within workshop or plant room areas, and assist tradesmen with duties such as painting.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Denmark Jakob Linulf meeting with Romina Khurshid Alam, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, alongside Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights, in the Federal Capital. APP

Role of youth imperative for country's uplift :Haider

RAWALPINDI: The challenges being faced by the country can be countered by inculcating youth in national affairs. The young graduates must contribute their role in practical fields for the country's prosperity and stability. This was remarked by the Governor Punjab, Sadar Saleem Haider Khan while delivering his speech at the 1st Convocation of the Rawalpindi Woman University (RWU), which was held here on Tuesday. He said that everyone should value the country which has the honor of being the sole nuclear country in the Islamic world. "Our enemy wants to create division among us on the basis of ethnicity, but together we will not allow anyone to succeed in such a malicious conspiracy against the country", he said. The governor while congratulating the graduating students highlighted the responsibilities they would have to render in their future. He underlined the need for collaborative efforts by all the stakeholders towards improvement in diverse fields including the national economy. The governor stressed for further enhancing the women's role in national development and said "The majority position holders in the university education are our daughters which is encouraging towards creating gender equity in the society". He extended his felicitations to the parents of the graduating students saying it was a special day for them. "Parents have surely faced the difficulties and sacrificed to get their daughters graduated today. I salute and present my tribute to them", he said and urged the students to generously respond to their parents in the days to come. He further urged the parents to allow and encourage their daughters to contribute their efforts for the country's peace and stability. The governor also expressed his pleasure of attending the event for being the first chancellor on the university's first convocation. He hoped for the further flourishing of the university in future. In his address, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) informed the audience that HEC's journey to take higher education at new heights since 2002 has been successful. He said that are 265 universities in Pakistan with 13% students' access rate as compared to that of in 2002 having 51 universities with an access rate of 2.1%. He further highlighted that presently 48% of the total students in the universities were female students which was 32% in 2002. Moreover, 40,000 research papers are published each year, which were only 865 per year in 2002, he added.—DNA

EU boosts stability, resilience through WFP in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The European Union's financial support, through the World Food Programme (WFP), has played a crucial role in helping flood-affected communities in Pakistan to recover and stabilize. Over the course of 18 months, this partnership has focused on rebuilding lives, strengthening local communities, and preparing them for future challenges. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has completed its 'Enhanced Food and Nutrition Security for Vulnerable People in Flood-affected Areas of Pakistan' project, funded by the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FP), this initiative aimed to support communities in Pakistan that were severely

affected by flooding, said a press release. For eighteen months, WFP supported the most vulnerable households in Pakistan's worst flood-hit districts to facilitate early recovery, rehabilitation, and stabilization. The European Union contributed EUR 5 million to this effort, which helped transition from emergency relief to early recovery. The initiative used a community-based approach to not only provide immediate help but also reduce local tensions, promote cooperation, and encourage social unity. By forming village committees and ensuring that resources were distributed fairly, the project worked to rebuild infrastructure and strengthen livelihoods. One key com-

ponent was restoring important community assets, such as water systems, and promoting activities that generate income. This approach helped these communities become more resilient and better prepared for future challenges. Through this EU-funded project, WFP provided direct assistance to more than 97,000 people and indirect support to 700,000 people across seven vulnerable districts in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Sindh. More than USD 3.6 million in cash assistance was distributed, enabling participants to access nutritious food in exchange for their involvement in community asset creation and skills development activities. The EU Ambassador to Pakistan Riina Kionka reaf-

firmed the EU's dedication: "Community resilience is at the core of our efforts in Pakistan. The EU is proud to have contributed to building stronger, more resilient communities in the face of adversity by strengthening local capacities and fostering solidarity." Part of the project involved rehabilitation efforts that restored both physical and natural assets. This included the construction of 550 water management systems and 650 flood protection walls, which helped safeguard 76,000 acres of agricultural land and 40,000 homes. Additionally, 1,700 fuel-efficient stoves were distributed, and 10,000 trees were planted to reduce the environmental impact.—APP

FBISE, LUMS launch Pakistan's first-ever Mathematics Olympiad

ISLAMABAD: In an exciting development for students passionate about mathematics, the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) and Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) have announced the launch of Pakistan's first-ever national-level "Pakistan Mathematics Olympiad". According to the FBISE, the competition, to be held in mid of December, is set to be a landmark event aimed at encouraging mathematical excellence among high school students across the country. The PMO is open to all students enrolled in Secondary School Certificate (SSC) or O Level, and Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) or A Level, as well as equivalent qualifications from all educational streams across the country. This Olympiad will provide participants with a platform to showcase their mathematical skills. With prestigious prizes up for grabs, including cash rewards, medals, laptops and scholarships for admission in top universities in Pakistan, the event promises to attract the best young mathematical minds from across Pakistan. These incentives aim to encourage students to pursue excellence in mathematics and inspire a generation of problem solvers and critical thinkers. The registration fee for the competition is set at PKR 1000 per candidate, and interested students can register and access the syllabus, model question papers, and further details visit on the official FBISE website: www.fbise.edu.pk/pmo.php. As part of this collaboration, LUMS has developed a comprehensive syllabus tailored specifically for the PMO. —APP



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Briefs

ANF recovers
159 kg
drugs in five
operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations across the country managed to recover 159 kg drugs worth over Rs 12.5 million and arrested five accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that ANF had also accelerated its ongoing operations against drug dealers supplying drugs to students of educational institutions. 100 grams hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused rounded up near a hostel on Multan Road in Dera Ismail Khan. In another operation, 500 grams hashish was recovered from an accused near Giga Mall, Islamabad. In the third operation, 2 kg hashish was recovered from a drug dealer arrested near Fateh Chowk, Hyderabad. 65 grams heroin and 50 grams hashish were recovered from an accused nabbed from the Mehran Town area in Karachi. The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to students of different educational institutions. The spokesman said that strict legal action was being taken against those who endanger the future of youth. He said suspicious persons are being closely monitored around educational institutions. In other raids, 141.6 kg hashish and 14.4 kg opium were recovered from a Suzuki pickup intercepted near Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad and an accused was arrested. Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused and further investigations are under process.—APP

PM felicitates
Abdelmadjid
Tebboune

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday felicitated Abdelmadjid Tebboune on his re-election as the President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. The prime minister wrote on his X timeline that he looked forward to continue working closely with him to strengthen Pakistan-Algeria ties in all spheres of mutual interest, especially in trade and investment. According to the media reports quoting the country's electoral authority ANIE, Abdelmadjid Tebboune has been re-elected for a five-year term with almost 95 percent of the vote. In the electoral contest, he defeated Abdelali Hassani, who won 3.17 percent of the votes, and Youcef Aouchiche, who won 2.16 percent votes.—APP

IRSA
advisory body
to meet today

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) convened the meeting of its advisory committee today (Wednesday) to finalize water availability plan for the upcoming Rabi season, scheduled to commence from Oct 1 to March 31. of the IRSA's technical committee already held on September 26, while meeting of the advisory committee has been convened on October 2, sources told APP here Tuesday.—APP

Credit for exchange rate stability goes to Army Chief

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, the former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), stated on Tuesday that Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir deserves the credit for saving Pakistan from bankruptcy. General Asim Munir was also behind on the approval of the IMF loan, which was necessary to save Pakistan, he said. He has also managed to keep the exchange rate stable for a long time, an achievement that would not have been possible without stopping the smuggling of dollars and controlling the unruly currency dealers. In a statement issued today, Shahid Rasheed Butt stated

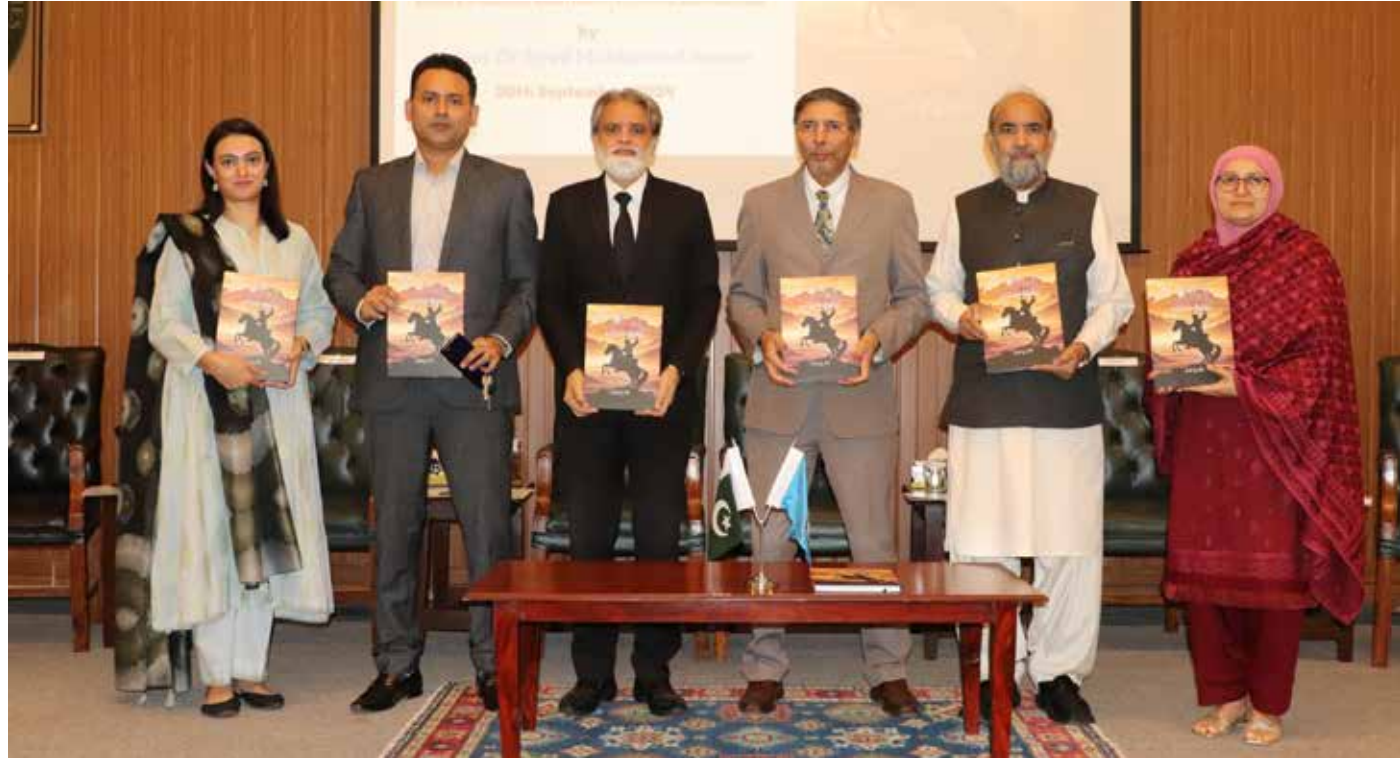
Syed M Anwar's book
launching held at the IRS

The former chairman of the Islamic Ideological Council Dr. Qibla Ayaz made a detailed analysis of the book. The author of the book, Justice Dr. Syed Muhammad Anwar, while expressing his opinion on the contents of the book, said that Al-Mahallab is a person of unique importance in the history of Pakistan

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Justice Dr. Syed Mohammad Anwar's book "Al-Mahallab, Khita-e-Pakistan main Islam ka pehla Alambardar" was launched in Institute of Regional Studies Islamabad. The event was attended by a large number of professors, writers, journalists and scholars. Dr. Khurram Iqbal of NDU gave the introduction and highlighted the importance of the book in the context of the history of Islam. Dr. Anjum of the History Department of Quaid-e-Azam University presented the thematic review of the book.

The former chairman of the Islamic Ideological Council Dr. Qibla Ayaz made a detailed analysis of the book. The author of the book, Justice Dr. Syed Muhammad Anwar, while expressing his opinion on the contents of the book, said that Al-Mahallab is a person of unique importance in the history of Pakistan, who took Islam through the Khyber Pass about forty years before Muhammad Bin Qasim in the region of Pakistan. Al-Mahallab is considered to be the most important figure in Islamic history to end the Kharijite



lamic history to end the Kharijite sedition. The audience expressed deep interest in the book written on the life of this unsung hero of Islamic history and was greatly impressed by the effort of the author. In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President IRS congratulated the author of the book and referred the book as a milestone for young people involved in research.

Workforce: Pakistan,
Oman agree on MoU

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Oman agreed on the early finalization of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on labor and manpower exchange which would facilitate the enhancement of Pakistan's workforce and its smooth movement from Pakistan to Oman. This was decided in a recent meeting held in Muscat between Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain and Minister of Labour of the Sultanate of Oman Dr. Mahad bin Said bin Ali Baowain, said a press release issued here. Chaudhry Salik Hussain is on a three-day visit to the Sultanate where he will meet several ministers of Oman and will inaugurate a new branch of Pakistan International School in Muscat. During the meeting, Chaudhry Salik Hussain apprised the Omani side of the major reforms the government was undertaking to improve the emigration process of Pakistani workers, their professional capacity enhancement, and the marketing of the Pakistani workforce abroad. He said that the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis was upgrading the technical training centers in Pakistan on modern lines which would train the workforce according to the certification requirement of each country or region. Chaudhry Salik Hussain informed that the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis was going to start a compulsory pre-departure orientation program for all the workers going abroad which would educate them about the labor laws of the host country, workers' rights and duties, cultural sensitivities of the host country and reprieve mechanism in case of any eventuality during ones stay abroad. Dr. Mahad bin Said bin Ali Baowain said that Pakistan and Oman were enjoying very cordial relations and Pakistanis are contributing to the development of Oman. He said Pakistanis were very skilled workers and worked in a vast variety of fields. He expressed the commitment of the Government of Oman to streamline the process of migration of workers to Oman and remove any irritants thereof. Chaudhry Salik Hussain invited his counterpart to Pakistan to see the technical training facilities and possible collaboration in training in the future. He also proposed the possibility of Oman investing in skill development centers in Pakistan, focusing on training workers according to the demands of the Omani market. The two sides agreed to enhance official engagements between the two countries.

Samina elected President
IWCCI unopposed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Secretary General of United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawri has said that women's empowerment is crucial to the advancement of the country and cannot be overstated. He said that we cannot achieve progress and equality unless we give women, who make up the majority of Pakistan's population, more power. Speaking at the Islamabad Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IWCCI) Annual General Meeting, Chief Guest Zafar Bakhtawri stated that women's empowerment is very important for national development. He went on to say that despite many obstacles, there has

been a notable change in pub-



lic views, laws, and programs meant to promote gender equality. Education, according to the business leader, is one of the main tenets of women's empowerment, and we are improving the percentage of female literacy. Positive

changes have resulted from initiatives to build schools, give scholarships, and raise awareness of the value of education for girls. Adil Sheraz, Country Manager Care Pakistan, Muqadas Ali, CEO of Power Play, Ammara Batool, Head of Business Development Jazz Cash, and others also spoke on the occasion. They said that women need economic empowerment to achieve independence and engage actively in society. Microfinance initiatives, vocational training, and support for women entrepreneurs will significantly enhance the economic prospects for women. They pointed out that protecting women's rights requires legal improvements in tackling issues including harassment, discrimination.

Helpdesk
to facilitate
taxpayers in
filing returns

ISLAMABAD: Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Dr Asif Mahmood Jah on Tuesday established taxpayer facilitation helpdesk at its headquarters in collaboration with Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to assist taxpayers in hardships with filing of returns. This initiative aimed at easing the tax return process, comes as the deadline for filing has been extended to October 14, 2024, said a news release. This result oriented initiative will assist taxpayers with issues such as password retrieval and other issues with tax return filing on the FBR website. Trained FBR officials will be available to offer hands-on support to tax filers. Please note that queries will only be addressed in person at the FTO Secretariat in Islamabad—no assistance will be provided via phone calls. The FTO encourages all taxpayers to visit the desk for any filing assistance. FTO secretariat remains committed to facilitating taxpayers and looks forward to resolving their tax related issues.—APP

Railways to
restore Jaffar
Express

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways is all set to restore the Jaffar Express passenger train run between Quetta and Peshawar by the next week, after a weeks-long suspension. "The 39-Up and 40-Down Jaffar Express, which operates between Quetta and Peshawar Cantonment will resume its service during the second week of October according to the summer timetable," an official in the Ministry told APP. He said that the train services were suspended across the country on August 26 after a key railway bridge between Kolpur and Mach was destroyed in a blast carried out by the banned organization of Balochistan. The official said the blast was a part of multiple coordinated attacks carried out that night by dozens of armed militants in Lasbela, Musakhail, Kachi, Kalat and Mastung districts. He said following the destruction of the railway bridge, Pakistan Railways halted all incoming and outgoing passenger and goods train services from Quetta to Karachi, Lahore, and Peshawar. The official said that 90 percent of the repair work of the bridge had been completed, and matters had also been settled with the local administration and the FC to ensure the safety of the railway track, bridge, and train. "A trial run will be conducted after the railway track is laid on the newly constructed bridge, which is expected next week," the official added. Currently, the official said that no passenger or goods train services are operational between Quetta and the rest of the country. To a question, he said the expenditure of only three heads including regular salaries, pension, and operational fuel (HSD) is about 89 percent of the total expense, thus leaving only 11 percent of its total budget for utilities, repair, and maintenance of its operational assets.—DNA

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CPEC to be
completed
soon: Minister

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, in his message on the occasion of China's National Day here on Tuesday, congratulated the Chinese people and leadership. The federal minister said that Pakistan-China friendship spans many decades and the Pakistan-China strategic partnership will remain forever. Qaiser said that China's development model is a beacon for us, China and Pakistan have always supported each other on international forums. He said that maritime sector is working with China on Blue Economy. The minister has ensured the protection of Chinese investment in every sector including maritime. And expressed gratitude to the Chinese investor for showing confidence in SIFC.—APP

Modern
system being
installed at bus
terminals: DC

RAWALPINDI: A modern system is being installed at all bus terminals for the safety of the passengers, said Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi Hassan Waqar Cheema here on Tuesday. He informed that the administration had taken solid steps to ensure the safety of the passengers traveling in public transport. A modern system, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) scanners would be installed at all bus stands in Rawalpindi. All the public service vehicles would be screened under the new system, he added. The vehicle fitness certificates, driving licenses of the drivers, vehicle registration books, and route permits would be checked with the help of IT company. The public service vehicle without a fitness certificate, driving license, registration book, and an expired route permit would not be allowed to enter Rawalpindi or depart the bus terminal with passengers. No public transport vehicle would enter Rawalpindi without screening, he added. The DC said that the vehicles would be screened at the time of entry and exit from the bus stands. The purpose of introducing the new system is to make people's journey safer, Hassan Waqar Cheema said adding, that the new system would help significantly reduce road accidents. The condition of all public transport vehicles has to be improved for the safety of the passengers, he said.—APP

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ASEAN needs new plan

As the world awaits the results of the most closely watched and most consequential election in November, Asean needs to have a strategic game plan regardless of who wins. The peace and prosperity of Southeast Asia cannot be left to the whims of polarised US politics and uncertain American policy towards China. While China was not at the centre of the debate between Donald Trump and Kamala Harris, both candidates promised to be tough on China. Trump vowed to continue his trade war against China, while Harris promised that the United States will win the competition with China. For members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the state of US-China relations has profound implications. It is therefore imperative for Asean members to plan for different scenarios that could unfold in the years to come. Asean leaders will be gathering in Vientiane, Laos, from October 6-11 – a month before the US election – to talk about connectivity and resilience. These are two catch-all words for all the tasks Asean member states have to undertake to remain relevant and shape their own destiny amid great power rivalry and in the face of complex regional challenges. In recent years, Asean's credibility and centrality has been called into question because of its inability to achieve substantive progress in its community-building efforts, managing rising tensions in the South China Sea and implement the five-point consensus on Myanmar. When Asean started in 2003 to pursue deeper integration, globalisation was in full swing, the security environment was benign and there was broad strategic and political stability. Two decades later, Asean faces rising economic nationalism, geopolitical uncertainties and a climate emergency. None of these forces show signs of abating and without sound and pragmatic leadership, the regional and global environment may only deteriorate further. The proliferation of unilateral groupings such as Aukus and the Quad challenges the centrality of Asian-led mechanisms, while increasing division within Asean on how to deal with Myanmar and how to respond to the situation in the South China Sea has dented Asean's credibility. Indeed, in a new State of Southeast Asia survey published by the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore, more than 75 per cent of respondents from around the region expressed concern that Asean is becoming an arena of major power competition, and that Asean is too slow and ineffective in coping with the fluid political and economic developments. Asean is at a crossroads. It is under internal pressure from its own citizens to do more at a time when it also facing increasing doubts over its ability to deliver on the strategic goal of keeping the region peaceful and stable through dialogue and diplomacy. Asean-led regional mechanisms such as Asean Regional Forum and the East Asia Summit are under stress; and Asean agencies such as the Asean Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management and the Asean Institute for Peace and Reconciliation need to develop more capacity to deal with increasing humanitarian crises that result from climate change and sociopolitical tensions. The emerging and long-term challenges faced by Asean require that member states actively engage civil society, businesses and think tanks to seek ideas and expertise and work collaboratively to co-create solutions, to foster an open and inclusive community that is focused on delivering peace and prosperity for its population.



Resistance, patience, and defiance

SINCE the large-scale Israeli invasion of Palestinian lands in 1948, supported by Britain and the Western alliance led by the United States, Israel has managed to establish a doctrine of "deterrence." This doctrine is based on instilling fear in anyone who tries to challenge Israel militarily, politically, or economically. Israel reinforced this not only within the borders of occupied Palestinian territories but extended it across many Arab countries through both major and minor conflicts. One of the most significant of these conflicts was the June 1967 war, in which Israel occupied Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, Gaza, the West Bank in Palestine, and Syria's Golan Heights. With this sweeping victory, Israel forged alliances on its own terms with those who submitted to it. This was evident in the positions of many Arab regimes and their formal armies, especially after the Camp David Accords. Conversely, Israel responded to those who resisted with brutality, committing massacres against those nations that had historical grievances with the occupying power. At the heart of this resistance was the Palestinian people, who have been suffering the horrors of occupation for decades. They have continuously organized revolts and formed various resistance factions, despite having only rudimentary resources compared to Israel's unmatched military arsenal in the Middle East, along with its limitless Western support. For nearly eight decades, the Israeli occupation has committed heinous crimes, violating all international laws and norms. Yet, it has never enjoyed true peace or stability, especially in the face of the resilient Palestinian people. Israel's attempts to erode the foundations of resistance and create generations that crave security and forget their cause have consistently failed. Instead, every so often, Israel awakens to a new Palestinian uprising or a heroic act, reminding it that there is no safe haven for the occupier and that resilience is the prevailing culture of the proud Palestinian people, regardless of the challenges, pain, and wars they face. During the "Al-Aqsa Flood" battle, one of the longest and most brutal confrontations in the history of the conflict with Israel, the occupation and its allies, as well as many observers, believed that the Palestinians would crumble under the intensity of the strikes. It was anticipated that the popular support for the resistance, which initiated the war, would collapse, as some viewed it as a reckless act that threw the Palestinian people into an uncertain future. However, reality unfolded as another chapter in the Palestinians' remarkable history, with them astonishing the world with their steadfastness and their attachment to their land, preferring death over being displaced. A full year of relentless bombing on homes and infrastructure in Gaza has resulted in the martyrdom of over 41,000 people and the injury of nearly 100,000 others. Gaza's infrastructure and vital sectors have been completely destroyed, leaving it resembling a barren desert devoid of basic life necessities. Yet, its people remain, resilient and supportive of their resistance, in scenes that have driven the Israeli enemy to madness due to the failure of its plans.

Forging ahead: Pakistan-Malaysia bilateral ties and opportunities

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



Energy cooperation is another area of mutual interest. With Pakistan's growing energy needs and Malaysia's expertise in renewable energy, both countries have an opportunity to collaborate on sustainable energy solutions. Malaysia has made considerable progress in solar and hydropower, and Pakistan could benefit from this expertise as it works to diversify its energy sources and address chronic power shortages. Both nations recognize the importance of energy infrastructure and are likely to explore partnerships that promote...

THE longstanding relationship between Pakistan and Malaysia is rooted in shared cultural, religious, and political values, reinforced by mutual respect and cooperation across various sectors. Both nations, being Muslim-majority countries, have developed close diplomatic ties, often collaborating in regional and global forums. The upcoming visit of Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim to Pakistan highlights the strength of these ties and presents an opportunity to expand cooperation in key areas like trade, energy, and tourism. Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, accompanied by a high-level delegation, will visit Pakistan from Wednesday to Friday at the invitation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. This visit underscores the importance of Pakistan-Malaysia relations, with discussions set to focus on enhancing cooperation in trade, connectivity, agriculture, the halal industry, and cultural exchanges. The two leaders will also address regional and global developments, reflecting their mutual commitment to progress in the broader Islamic world. Historically, the relationship between Pakistan and Malaysia has been shaped by shared aspirations for development. Diplomatic engagements have emphasized economic cooperation, defense collaboration, and educational exchanges. Since the 1960s, when both nations were newly independent, high-level bilateral visits have played a crucial role in strengthening ties. Notably, Malaysia's long-serving Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamad was instrumental in expanding trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. His multiple visits to Pakistan highlighted Malaysia's desire to collaborate on trade, education, and technology. On Pakistan's side, leaders like President General Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Imran Khan have also played significant roles in strengthening the relationship. The signing of the Malaysia-Pakistan Closer Economic Partnership Agreement (MPCEPA) in 2007 was a turning point, as it significantly boosted bilat-

eral trade by reducing tariffs and facilitating market access. As a result, both nations have benefited from expanded trade, with Pakistan exporting textiles, rice, and agricultural products, while Malaysia supplies palm oil, electronic goods, and machinery. Malaysia is currently one of Pakistan's largest trading partners in Southeast Asia, and both nations are now looking to further expand this relationship. Areas of focus during Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's visit will likely include agriculture and the halal industry, as both nations seek to capitalize on the growing global demand for halal products. The halal industry holds significant potential, with both Pakistan and Malaysia being well-positioned to lead global production in sectors ranging from food to pharmaceuticals. Energy cooperation is another area of mutual interest. With Pakistan's growing energy needs and Malaysia's expertise in renewable energy, both countries have an opportunity to collaborate on sustainable energy solutions. Malaysia has made considerable progress in solar and hydropower, and Pakistan could benefit from this expertise as it works to diversify its energy sources and address chronic power shortages. Both nations recognize the importance of energy infrastructure and are likely to explore partnerships that promote innovation and sustainable growth. Education has also played a key role in strengthening ties between the two countries. Over the years, many Pakistani students have pursued higher education in Malaysia, benefiting from the country's high-quality universities. This exchange of knowledge not only enhances individual capacities but also strengthens people-to-people ties. Expanding these academic exchanges would further enhance the intellectual and professional capabilities of both nations, deepening the relationship on a societal level. In defense, Pakistan and Malaysia have collaborated closely over the years, engaging in joint military exercises and sharing expertise

in defense technologies. Both countries are committed to maintaining regional stability, and defense cooperation is likely to remain an important aspect of the relationship. In multilateral forums such as the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Pakistan and Malaysia often align on key issues affecting the Muslim world, including the plight of the Rohingya and the Palestinian cause. A lesser-known but highly significant aspect of Pakistan-Malaysia cooperation lies in the intellectual domain, particularly in the area of economic development. Dr. Mehboob-ul-Haq, a renowned Pakistani economist and architect of the Human Development Index (HDI), played a key role in advising Malaysia on its economic policies during the 1980s. His work was instrumental in shaping Malaysia's development strategies, focusing on human development, poverty reduction, and equitable growth. His contribution is a testament to the intellectual bonds that have tied Pakistan and Malaysia together in their pursuit of economic progress. As Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim's visit approaches, it is evident that both Pakistan and Malaysia are looking to strengthen their historical ties in ways that will benefit both nations in an increasingly interconnected world. The focus on trade, energy, education, and people-to-people contacts will likely drive future cooperation. Both countries recognize the strategic importance of enhancing their partnership in light of regional and global challenges, from climate change to economic instability. In conclusion, the relationship between Pakistan and Malaysia is built on a foundation of shared values and strategic interests. The upcoming visit provides an opportunity to further enhance this relationship in areas that matter most to both nations—economic development, sustainable growth, and regional stability. As both countries look toward the future, this visit is expected to mark another step in deepening their partnership, benefiting Pakistan, Malaysia, and the broader region.

Use and misuse of charter of democracy

Qamar Bashir



The second and third most important points were ensuring an independent judiciary by reinstating judges who were removed unconstitutionally and making the process of judicial appointments more transparent, as well as ensuring free, fair, and transparent elections, with an independent and autonomous Election Commission to oversee the electoral process

ONE of the biggest flaws in most Muslim societies, especially in Pakistan, is the selective and self-serving interpretation of Quranic injunctions, teachings, Sunnah, and Hadith. We have developed a habit of choosing verses from the Holy Quran and quoting Hadiths and Sunnah to suit specific occasions and events, only to forget them once those events are over. We tend to recite Quranic verses that align with our narrative and then disregard them once our objectives are achieved. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand that any system, way of life, political philosophy, agreement, or charter must be implemented fully and comprehensively; selective application defeats the very purpose of any agreement or charter. Therefore, the impact of using Quranic verses, Hadith, or Sunnah will only have the intended effect when the entire Islamic System of Shariah is practiced in both letter and spirit. Selective use, outside the context of the Shariah system or a holistic Islamic framework, is counterproductive and detrimental to any society. This selective approach may explain why not a single Islamic country, or even all Islamic countries collectively, has the courage, means, or resolve to leverage their power to put an end to the Israel's genocide of Muslims in Palestine, Lebanon, or elsewhere, despite being surrounded by Muslim-majority countries. Our selective use of Quranic verses and other religious authorities has also permeated our political ecosystem. All allied political parties are fully prepared and committed to bringing about constitutional changes to establish Constitutional Courts, arguing that the Charter of Democracy (CoD), signed on May 14, 2006, by the leaders of all political parties, including Pakistan's two major political parties—the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), led by Benazir Bhutto, and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), led by Nawaz Sharif—promised to do so. Forgetting that the main thrust of the CoD was not the formation of a constitutional court but to allow democracy to flourish, enable democratic forces to take deep roots, end military intervention, ensure free and fair elections, uphold judicial independence, and above all, guarantee the supremacy of the Constitution while working towards a parliamentary system with checks and balances to prevent military interference in politics. The most important and foremost point

was a pledge to end military involvement in politics and curb the influence of intelligence agencies in civilian matters, ensuring that the armed forces remain subordinate to civilian authorities. This included abolishing the National Security Council (NSC), which had allowed military leaders to influence national security and foreign policy matters. The agreement emphasized ending the political role of intelligence agencies like the ISI and MI, ensuring that they operate strictly within their defined mandates. The second and third most important points were ensuring an independent judiciary by reinstating judges who were removed unconstitutionally and making the process of judicial appointments more transparent, as well as ensuring free, fair, and transparent elections, with an independent and autonomous Election Commission to oversee the electoral process. The third, fourth, and fifth important elements of the CoD called for strengthening the parliamentary system, empowering the parliament, and making the prime minister the chief executive, thereby reducing the power of the president. This was coupled with establishing a fair and transparent accountability mechanism to tackle corruption without political victimization, ensuring that accountability institutions operate independently, and a commitment to good governance, devolution of powers, reforms in public institutions, and respect for human rights, freedom of the press, and the rule of law. The Charter of Democracy (CoD) also proposed the establishment of a Federal Constitutional Court in Pakistan to handle constitutional matters exclusively, ensuring the Supreme Court could focus on other judicial responsibilities. This court would comprise experienced judges who had previously served as chief justices or judges of the Supreme Court or High Courts, ensuring expertise in constitutional interpretation. The CoD emphasized a transparent and merit-based appointment process for these judges to maintain independence and prevent political interference. The aim was to strengthen judicial independence, uphold the Constitution's supremacy, and create an impartial forum for constitutional issues, reflecting the broader goals of ensuring democratic values and a fair judicial system in Pakistan. Finally, the signatory parties agreed to respect each other's political mandate, avoid political victimiza-

tion, and work together for the country's democratic and economic development. However, all sections of CoD have been trampled, disregarded, overlooked, and set aside, while only the part calling for the establishment of a Federal Constitutional Court has been selectively picked up and used as one of the most powerful arguments in favor of constitutional amendments. If these amendments are passed, they would defeat the main objectives of the CoD by selectively pushing for the establishment of the Constitutional Court, and re-endorsing the establishment's role in politics, the executive, parliament, and the judiciary. The Charter of Democracy (CoD) could have played a significant role in shaping Pakistan's political landscape if it had been applied in a holistic manner. In its proper application CoD could have served as a roadmap for restoring democratic norms, particularly after military rule, by emphasizing the need for free and fair elections, an independent judiciary, and parliamentary supremacy. It could have played a crucial role in curbing military interference in politics, reinforcing judicial independence and encouraging reforms and accountability mechanisms to promote good governance and transparency. However, the CoD has also been subject to misuse, often diverging from its original intent. Political actors have selectively implemented its provisions to suit their immediate interests, ignoring key aspects such as reducing military influence and ensuring transparent elections. Recently, parties have used the CoD's call for a Federal Constitutional Court to justify constitutional amendments that undermine judicial independence, contrary to the CoD's broader objectives. This selective approach has also reinforced political vendettas, marginalized parliamentary supremacy, and failed to establish truly independent accountability mechanisms, ultimately undermining the CoD's vision of democratic stability, fair governance, and constitutional supremacy. This pattern reflects a tendency among political parties to prioritize short-term gains over the long-term goals of the CoD.

— Former Press Secretary to the President
Former Press Minister to the
Embassy of Pakistan to France
Former MD, SRBC, CEO, ATV

Briefs

Iran launches massive...

FROM PAGE 01
The Hamas-led attacks on October 7 and more than 200 people were taken captive. Israel earlier said that its commando and paratroop units launched raids into Lebanon on Tuesday as part of a "limited" ground incursion, while Iran-backed Hezbollah said it had fired a barrage of missiles into Israel, including at its spy agency near Tel Aviv. The raids by Israeli troops in southern Lebanon that began overnight were limited and went only a short distance over the border, an Israeli security official said on Tuesday, adding that no direct clashes with Hezbollah fighters were reported. Israeli forces have been carrying out raids into southern Lebanon for months, uncovering Hezbollah tunnels and weapons caches under homes and invasion plans by the group, Israeli military spokesman Daniel Hagari said on Tuesday, adding the details were being declassified.

Hezbollah dismisses Israel's...

FROM PAGE 01
medium-range missiles toward the central part of the occupied territories "is only the beginning," hours after the resistance group targeted Israel's Gilot military base and Mossad headquarters in the outskirts of Tel Aviv with salvos of Fadi-4 rockets. In a post on X on Tuesday, the Israeli military said it is conducting a "limited ground incursion" against Hezbollah positions in southern Lebanon, warning nearly two dozen Lebanese border communities to evacuate north of the Awali River, some 60 kilometers (36 miles) from the border.

Bilawal distances...

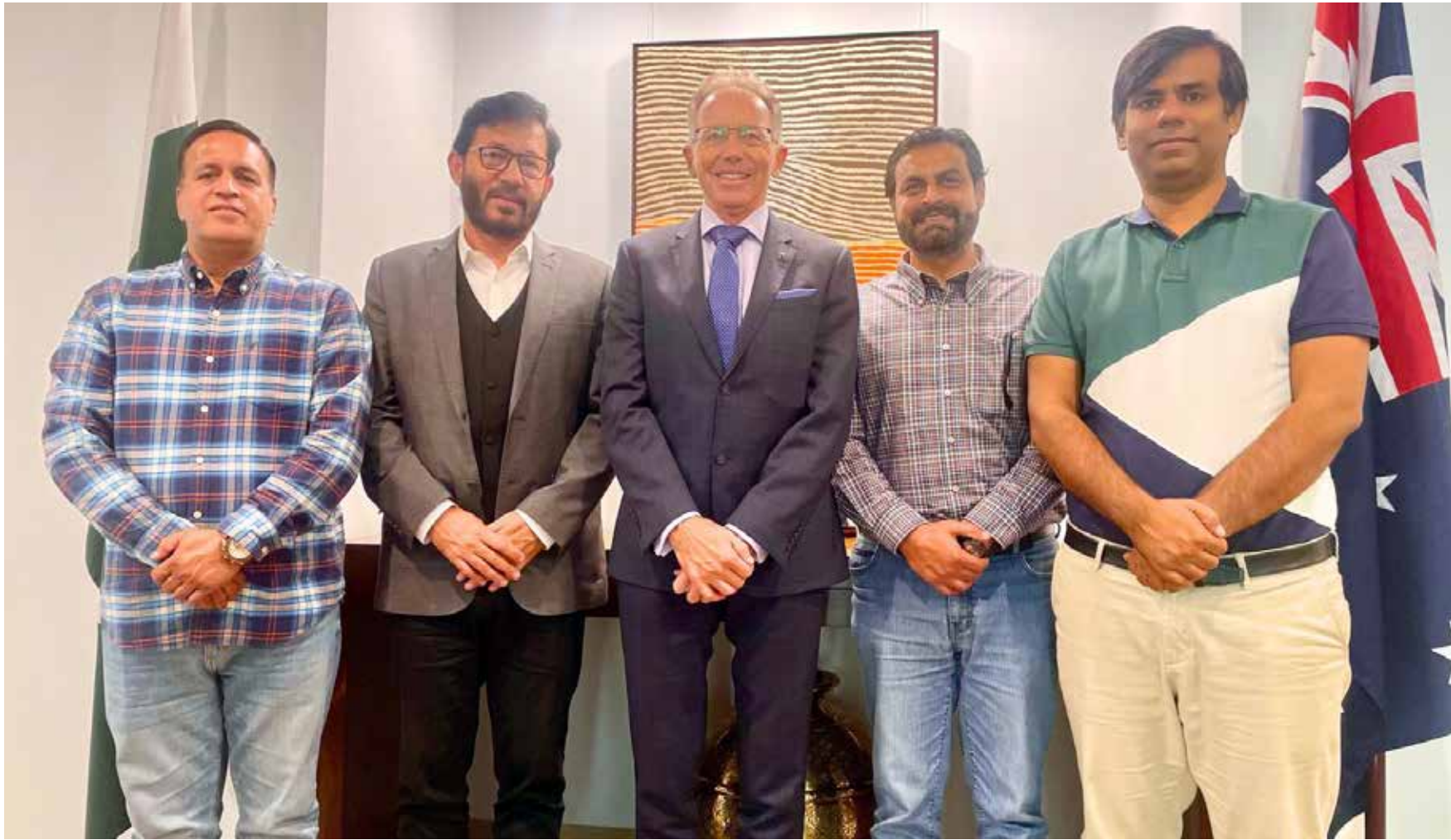
FROM PAGE 01
mine," he added. Expressing a profound respect for Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, he asked if he would accept the constitutional court, if the constitution said so. The government last month pushed the proposed constitutional package amid speculation about a potential extension in the tenure of Chief Justice Isa, who is set to retire in October this year, following the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) request in August for the early issuance of a notification regarding the appointment of the next top judge.

FBR extends...

FROM PAGE 01
line for submission of tax returns for financial year 2024 till October 14. "In exercise of powers conferred under Section 214A of the Income Tax Ordinance 2001, the Federal Board of Revenue is pleased to communicate that the date of filing of Income Tax return for the Tax Year (TY) 2024, for the persons who are required to file their returns by September 30, 2024 is hereby extended up to October 14th, 2024 in view of the requests from various trade bodies, Tax Bar Associations and general public," stated a notification issued on late Monday.

Law will act if K-P...

FROM PAGE 01
about a revolution, let them do so in the fields of education and healthcare in K-P," he remarked. Tarar praises Prime Minister's UN visit Tarar also praised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to the United States for the United Nations General Assembly, which was lauded internationally. He highlighted how Pakistan's delegation boycotted the Israeli Prime Minister's speech, setting an example for other nations who followed suit. "The hall was nearly empty during the Israeli Prime Minister's speech, and it was our Prime Minister's leadership that sparked the walkout," he noted.



ISLAMABAD: Olympian Khawaja Junaid met with Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins to discuss hockey matters. The Hockey Australia has donated hockey sticks and other gadgets for young players. Junaid, Sohail and Mehmood are seen in the picture. — DNA

Olympian Sadaf selected for IOC Course abroad

Sadaf, represented Pakistan in the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China as well as in Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, SAF Games and other international sports events

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Olympian Sadaf Siddiqui has been selected for the International Coaching Course in General Conditioning starting in the first week of October at the Hungarian University of Sport Sciences, Hungary. The course is a part of International Olympic Committee (IOC) efforts to impart latest training to improve the overall standard of coaches and officials in the developing countries. Sadaf Siddiqui, who met with the Pakistani Olympic Association (POA) Vice President Begum Ishrat Ashraf and POA Secretary General Muhammad Khalid Mahmood to share her future plans in the field of women sports development and management. Begum Ishrat Ashraf during her interaction with Sadaf said that the international coaching and management course will provide the platform to Sadaf to improve her skills.

"This course is very important as it would help educate our women coaches in the



longer run. The Course provides coaches with a systematic way to improve their knowledge and skills in the theoretical, technical and practical aspects of coach-

ing," she said. Sadaf, represented Pakistan in the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China as well as in Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, SAF Games and other international sports events. She also represented the Army in many national events and carried out the national duty to find and groom fresh talent in the field of athletics. "It's an honour for me to represent my country and my mother department Pakistan Army. I respect the Olympic values of dedication, teamwork and passion," said Sadaf Siddiqui adding that this experience will allow her to attain key skills and qualities such as leadership, teamwork, and a deep commitment for the development of women's sports in Pakistan. "As a passionate advocate for women's participation in sports, I am determined to inspire the next generation of female athletes in Pakistan," she said. "My participation in the IOC Program will not only help improve my own skills and experience, it will also serve as an opportunity to support the IOC in its commitment for women's empowerment in sports on a global scale."

Individual records not important anymore: Ronaldo

"My goal against Al-Rayyan was different and important because my father would have been happy with it if he was alive, as Monday was his birthday," he said

SPORTS DESK

RIYADH: Cristiano Ronaldo says he "no longer cares" about being the best player in the world and is focused on helping his team-mates. Ronaldo, 39, joined Saudi Pro League side Al-Nassr in January 2023 after leaving Manchester United. On Monday the former Real Madrid and Juventus star scored in Al-Nassr's 2-1 win against Qatari side Al-Rayyan in the AFC Champions League group stage. "It is not important anymore whether I am the best or not, I no longer care about that," the Portugal captain said after the match. "It is good for a player to score goals, but for me it is better for the team to win. "I am used to breaking records and I no longer look for them. The most important thing for me now is to enjoy and help Al-Nassr and my team-mates to win." The attacker has won the Ballon d'Or on five occasions but has not been shortlisted for the 2024 award. After scoring the 904th goal of his career, Ronaldo pointed to the sky rather than performing his usual goal celebration. "My goal against Al-Rayyan was different and important because my father would have been happy with it if he was alive, as today [Monday] is his birthday," he said.

Pak women cricketers upbeat for ICC T20 WC

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani women cricketers are optimistic about their preparations for the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024, scheduled to take place in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from October 3. According to details, players Tuba Hasan, Najiha Alvi, and Tasmia Rabab expressed satisfaction with the benefits derived from the fitness camp in Lahore, citing similarities between Multan and Dubai's conditions. "We gained significantly from the Lahore fitness camp. Our group is challenging, but we're confident in our abilities to perform well in the World Cup," Tuba said. Najiha echoed similar sentiments, highlighting the minimal difference between Multan and Dubai's conditions. — Agencies

India set new records with series sweep

India maintain run rate of 7.36 – highest-ever in Test cricket history, breaking South Africa's record of 6.80

NEW DELHI: As India defeated Bangladesh in the second Test in Kanpur on Tuesday, it also shattered a bunch of records including setting a new benchmark with a staggering run rate of 7.36 – the highest ever in Test cricket history. The record was previously held by South Africa with a run rate of 6.80 against Zimbabwe in Cape Town in 2005. India pulled off a remarkable victory over Bangladesh by seven wickets in a rain-hit second Test in Kanpur that lost two-and-a-half days to bad weather. The host completed a 2-0 series sweep and extended their record with an 18th consecutive Test series victory on home soil after they grabbed a 280-run win in the series opener in Chennai. India's record-extend-

ing 18th consecutive Test series victory on home soil was never in doubt after their 280-run romp in the series opener in Chennai. The hosts bundled out Bangladesh for 146 before lunch on the fifth and final day and, needing 95 for victory, reached 98-3 in just 104 balls in the second session. India delivered a batting masterclass in a record-breaking display, setting new benchmarks for the fastest team 50, 100, and 200 in a single innings. Scoring at an astonishing rate of 8.22 runs per over, they posted a total of 285, taking a 52-run lead over Bangladesh, ICC reported. Alongside these records, Indian opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, who played a crucial role in his side's victory and earned the "Player of the Match" title, also broke Sunil Gavaskar's record for most runs by an Indian under 23, amassing 929 runs in 2024. Gavaskar had scored 918 runs in 1971, the highest by any Indian batter in a calendar year before turning 23. However, 22-year-old Jaiswal racked up 929 this year with more matches still to come, according to Indian media. In the second innings, Jaiswal reached his second 50 of the match in 43 balls including eight fours and one six before falling to Tajjul Islam, ending a 58-run stand with Virat Kohli. Former captain Kohli hit 29 and was there at the end as Rishabh Pant hit the winning boundary. Bangladesh spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz had earlier removed Rohit, for eight, and Shubman Gill, for six. — Agencies

Nothing happens behind...

FROM PAGE 01

on Tuesday to pick a fifth judge. Today, "I suggested the committee to include Justice Mansoor Ali Shah. But Justice Shah also refused to join the both the committee and the bench. After that we were left with no other option but to include Justice Agan in the bench," CJP Isa added. "Without disturbing other benches, we included Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan in the larger bench," he continued. Chief Justice Isa said the apex court was open now; "nothing happens behind closed doors." "Now the larger bench is complete, and the proceedings should start." The reconstituted bench is headed by Chief Justice Isa and includes Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhal.

Govt to take parties on board...

FROM PAGES 01

The government had sought suggestions from political leaders to improve the security landscape in these provinces, which have faced increased instability in recent months. Few days back, Sadiq said that there exists no chance of implementation of the Supreme Court's (SC) verdict in line with the reserved seats after the constitutional amendment. According to details, Sadiq penned a letter to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). "The Election Act has been proved following the SC verdict on August 7 and came into effect following the signature of the president." The NA speaker said: "The lawmakers who will become part of any of the political parties, their affiliation cannot be changed. The apex court's verdict was in line with the act in the past."



ISLAMABAD: Peoples offering funeral prayer of elder brother of staff photographer Online News Agency, Sultan Bashir at H-11 graveyard in the Federal Capital. — Online

Briefs

Gold prices
dip by Rs.600
to Rs 274,900
per tola

ISLAMABAD: The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.600 and was sold at Rs.274,900 on Tuesday compared to its sale at Rs. 275,500 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs 515 to Rs. 235,682 from Rs. 236,197 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs 216,042 from Rs. 216,514, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.3,050 and Rs.2,614.88 respectively. The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$6 to \$2,647 from \$2,653, the Association reported. —APP

Rupee largely
unchanged
against US
dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani rupee remained largely stable against the US dollar on Tuesday, appreciating 0.01% in the inter-bank market. At close, the currency settled at 277.69, a gain of Re.0.02 against the US dollar. On Monday, the rupee had settled at 277.71, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). Internationally, the US dollar firmed against its major peers on Tuesday after Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell pushed back against bets on more super-sized interest rate cuts. Powell adopted a more hawkish tone in a speech at a conference in Tennessee, saying the US central bank would likely stick with quarter-percentage-point interest rate cuts moving forward. "This is not a committee that feels like it is in a hurry to cut rates quickly," he said. Traders remain certain that the Fed will cut again at the next policy setting meeting in November, but slashed expectations for a 50 basis-point (bps) reduction to 35.4% from 53.3% a day earlier, according to CME Group's Fed-Watch Tool. —APP

Core inflation
decreases
to 6.9% in
September

ISLAMABAD: The core inflation measured by Consumer Price Index (CPI) decreased further to 6.9 percent during September 2024 as compared to 9.6 percent recorded during August 2024, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Tuesday. According to PBS data, the CPI based inflation during the same month of last year (September 2023) was recorded at 31.4%. On month-on-month basis, it decreased to 0.5% in September 2024 as compared to an increase of 0.4% in the previous month and an increase of 2% in September 2023. —APP

New office-bearers of
ICCI assume the charge

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Nasir Mansoor Qureshi has taken over charge as President, Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, Senior Vice President, and Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry as Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry during a simple but impressive ceremony held at Chamber House here on Tuesday. Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader, Khalid Javed, Zubair Ahmed Malik, Mian Akram Farid, Zafar Bakhtawari, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Mian Shaukat Masud, Sheikh Amir Waheed and others also attended the ceremony. Speaking at the occasion, Nasir Mansoor Qureshi said that taking over charge of the ICCI Presidency was a great honor and that his only mission is to serve the business community. He declared that he would work hard to promote the interests



of traders and industrialists and take all possible measures to resolve their key issues. He said that he would also work to develop markets, industrial areas, and the city better. Group Leader Khalid Iqbal Malik congratulated the newly elected office bearers on assuming charge of their portfolios and expressed good wishes to them. He hoped that the new team would effectively resolve the key issues of the business community. Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, senior vice president, and Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry, vice president, assured that they would make all possible efforts to deliver to the expectations of the business community. Executive Body Members and ICCI members largely attended the ceremony and congratulated the new Office Bearers by assuring them of their cooperation in the efforts to serve the cause of the business community.

Pakistan, China to
establish of Tier-Four
Data Centers in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A virtual meeting was held between the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and the Chinese officials to explore opportunities for collaboration in the field of big data and the establishment of Tier-Four Data Centers in Pakistan. The high-level meeting included the participation of executives from leading Chinese companies, and acting Chairman CDA Talat Mehmood Gondal, along with Member Technology and Digitalization Nauman Khalid and other senior officials, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. Talat Mehmood Gondal underscored Pakistan's strong commitment to advancing its digital infra-

structure and welcomed Chinese investment in the country's rapidly expanding digital economy, said a news release. He highlighted the immense potential for growth in big data and digitalization, noting that this partnership would play a key role in positioning Pakistan as a hub for big data innovation. "We see great opportunities to collaborate with our Chinese counterparts, bringing cutting-edge technology and expertise to Pakistan. This collaboration will significantly boost Pakistan's digital economy," said Nauman Khalid, Member Technology and Digitalization at CDA. During the meeting, the Chinese delegation expressed strong interest in Pakistan's digital transformation efforts,

offering their expertise in developing big data systems and Tier-Four Data Centers. Senior officials from Guizhou, China, briefed the Pakistani delegation on their capabilities and reiterated China's willingness to invest in Pakistan's growing digital sector. Both sides agreed to continue discussions, with the Chinese side committed to submitting concrete proposals for collaboration. A draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is set to be prepared and shared through Pakistan's Foreign Office. This MoU will serve as a framework for long-term cooperation between Pakistan and Chinese companies, aimed at enhancing Pakistan's digital infrastructure and fostering innovation in big data.

More than 20
kids feared
dead in school
bus crash

BANGKOK: A devastating bus accident just outside Bangkok, Thailand, has left more than 20 children feared dead after the vehicle, carrying dozens of primary school students and teachers, crashed and caught fire. The bus was returning from a school field trip in Uthai Thani, a northern province, when a tire burst, causing it to hit a barrier and ignite into flames. According to Thai authorities, 16 children and three teachers managed to escape, while 22 pupils and three teachers remain unaccounted for. The bus, powered by compressed natural gas, was engulfed in flames shortly after the crash. Emergency responders reported that extreme heat has hindered their ability to search the wreckage. Transport Minister Surinya Juangroongruangkit expressed concerns over the use. —APP

Spanish PM condemns
'routine massacres' in
Ukraine, Middle East

Barcelona Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has strongly condemned the ongoing violence in Ukraine and the Middle East, referring to the "routine massacres" taking place in both regions. Speaking at an award ceremony hosted by La Vanguardia newspaper on Monday, Sánchez stressed the urgent need for the international community to speak out against these atrocities and uphold international law. "If the international community remains silent, we will raise our voices even more to defend international law and peace," Sánchez declared during his speech, signaling Spain's commitment to defending democratic values globally. He emphasized that "those who hate democracy oppress it everywhere," and that defending democracy requires collective action against forces that undermine it. Sánchez's comments come amid escalating violence in the Middle East and ongoing conflict in Ukraine. The Israeli military continues its operations in Gaza despite a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for an immediate cease-fire after October 7, 2023, attack. The death toll in Gaza has surpassed 41,600, with most casualties being women and children, according to local reports. On the Israeli side, the war has claimed over 1,100 lives. Meanwhile, since September 23, 2024, Israel has launched a series of airstrikes across Lebanon, focusing on Hezbollah targets. These strikes have killed over 1,000 people, including several Hezbollah leaders, such as Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah, and injured nearly 3,000. The situation has further heightened fears that the conflict in Gaza could spill over into a broader regional war. On Monday, the Lebanese Ministry of Health reported that Israeli airstrikes. —APP

CDNS to
achieve Rs
200b mark in
fresh bonds

ISLAMABAD: The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has achieved a target of Rs 200 billion in fresh bonds and achieved 11 percent of the annual target in the first quarter of current fiscal year, from July 1 to September 30th. The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has set an annual target of Rs 1650 billion for the current Fiscal Year, 2024-25, which will promote the saving culture in the country, the senior official of CDNS told APP on Tuesday. Similarly, the CDNS has set a target of Rs 170 billion in investment in Islamic finance for the Current Fiscal Year, which will lead to growth of the Islamic economy in the country. —APP

Syria state
media says
3 civilians
killed in
Israel strikes

DAMASCUS: Syrian state media said three civilians were killed in Israeli air strikes on Damascus early Tuesday and nine others wounded, citing a military source. "The Israeli enemy launched an air aggression with warplanes and drones from the direction of the occupied Syrian Golan, targeting several points in Damascus," the official news agency SANA said. "Three civilians were killed and nine others injured," it added. AFP correspondents heard four rounds of heavy bombardment over around half an hour, whose sound resonated across the Syrian capital. In the Mezzeh neighborhood that is home to Syrian security headquarters and embassies. —APP

Death toll from
alcohol poisoning
in Iran rises to 11

TEHRAN: At least seven people died in Iran after consuming bootleg booze, state media said, bringing the death toll from alcohol poisoning to 11 in two days in a country where such drinks are banned. The latest deaths occurred in the northern province of Mazandaran and included six men and a woman, the official news agency IRNA reported, citing judicial authorities. It had previously reported the deaths of two people from alcoholic poisoning in Mazandaran. Iran's Tasnim news agency said 57 people suffering from "ethanol or methanol" intoxication had been hospitalised since Sunday in the northern province. IRNA later revised the number down to 53 people. On Sunday, the news agency said four people died of alcohol poisoning in neighbouring Gilan province after 20 were hospitalised following bootleg booze consumption. Iran banned the production and consumption of alcoholic beverages after the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Smuggled and bootleg alcohol has ever since proliferated on the Iranian black market, with methanol often added to drinks as a cheaper alternative to ethanol. In September last year, Iran sentenced four people to death over selling poisonous alcohol that killed at least 17 people months earlier. —APP

CDA's beautification drive
Randhawa reviews renovation
work in capital, JCC uplift

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: An important meeting was held by Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa while the Member Administration, Member Engineering and other relevant senior officers also attended it. The meeting reviewed the ongoing beautification drive across Islamabad as well as the renovation and uplift of the Jinnah Convention Center (JCC) in the wake of the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting. The Chairman

CDA was briefed about the preparations which include extensive renovations at the Jinnah Convention Center and a city-wide beautification drive. He was briefed about the key initiatives which involved the lighting, renovation, and aesthetic enhancement of interchanges, overhead bridges, underpasses, and pedestrian bridges. Besides, main roads are undergoing repairs and maintenance to ensure smooth traffic flow during the international event. Furthermore, the meeting briefed about the ongoing landscaping and

horticultural work around the Convention Center, as well as along green belts and median strips on major roads across Islamabad. The restoration of fountains, lane marking, and the installation of kurb stones and signboards are being fast-tracked. The Chairman instructed that the field teams of CDA should work round the clock to complete these tasks. Afterwards, Chairman CDA, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, also conducted a detailed visit and inspected the ongoing work at the Jinnah Convention Centre. During the

visit, Chairman CDA was briefed about the various improvements being made, aimed at bringing the Convention Center at par with the international standards. He overall expressed satisfaction on the progress of the work and instructed to complete the minor work immediately. He was briefed that CDA is going to hand over the ground floor of the Jinnah Convention Center to Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Mofa) and while the remaining parts of the Center will be handed over to Mofa soon after the finishing of minor works.

Smuggling in Pakistan, Causes, Effects, & Solutions

The Customs Department is severely under-resourced in terms of manpower, technology, and equipment. The department is responsible for monitoring not just land borders but also air and sea routes, making it a daunting task with the available resources

MUMTAZ AHMED BHATTI



SMUGGLING is a critical challenge for Pakistan's economy, social structure, and security. It undermines local industries, hampers government revenue collection, and fuels corruption. The porous borders and lack of adequate enforcement mechanisms have exacerbated the issue, making it difficult for the government and institutions like the Customs Department to curb the illegal flow of goods. Smuggling in Pakistan primarily takes place along its borders with Afghanistan, Iran,

and India. The country's western borders with Afghanistan and Iran are particularly notorious for being hotspots of illegal trade. Given the long, mountainous, and poorly patrolled stretches, smugglers find these areas ideal for moving goods without detection. Boundary between Pakistan and Afghanistan, is over 2,600 kilometers long and cuts through rough, mountainous terrain. This border is often regarded as one of the most porous in the world, making it a primary route for smuggling. The tribes living in these border areas often have cross-border familial and business ties, further complicating efforts to regulate trade. Smuggling here includes not just consumer goods but also drugs, arms, and even human trafficking. Pakistan shares a 900-kilometer-long border with Iran, and this area is also known for smuggling activities, particularly in Balochistan. The primary items smuggled through this route include fuel, livestock, narcotics, and electronics. The isolated and desert-like geography makes it difficult for authorities to maintain a strong presence, allowing smuggling networks to operate relatively freely. Although the bor-

der with India is heavily fortified, smuggling still occurs, especially in regions like Punjab and Sindh. Pakistan's coastal areas, particularly around Karachi and Gwadar, also witness significant smuggling activity. Goods ranging from cars to electronic items are brought into the country illegally via the Arabian Sea, bypassing customs authorities. Smuggling in Pakistan is not limited to one or two types of goods; a wide variety of items are illegally brought into the country, affecting different sectors of the economy. One of the most visible forms of smuggling involves non-custom paid (NCP) vehicles. These are cars and motorcycles brought into Pakistan without paying the appropriate duties and taxes. The smuggling of these vehicles is particularly rampant in the border provinces of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where enforcement is weak. NCP vehicles are often smuggled from Afghanistan or via Iran and have become a common sight in these regions. Fuel smuggling, particularly diesel and petrol, is a massive issue, especially along the Iran-Pakistan border. Iranian fuel is significantly cheaper than Pakistani fuel due to subsidies provided by the Iranian govern-

ment. As a result, a large quantity of fuel is smuggled into Pakistan, particularly in Balochistan, where entire networks are involved in this trade. Electronics like smartphones, laptops, and televisions are commonly smuggled into Pakistan to avoid high import duties. These items are usually brought in from Dubai or other Gulf states through coastal areas or via the Afghanistan and Iran borders. Similarly, luxury consumer goods such as branded clothing, perfumes, and cosmetics are smuggled to evade import taxes and regulatory checks. Drugs, particularly heroin and opium, are frequently smuggled into Pakistan from Afghanistan, which is one of the largest producers of these narcotics. The narcotics trade fuels other criminal activities and contributes to lawlessness in the border regions. Similarly, arms smuggling is another major concern, with illegal weapons often making their way from Afghanistan into Pakistan, exacerbating security challenges. Livestock smuggling, especially cattle, is common along the Pakistan-Afghanistan and Pakistan-India borders. These animals are smuggled to meet demand in Pakistani markets, particularly during religious festivals. Agricultur-

al products, including fruits and vegetables, are also smuggled, bypassing quarantine and quality checks. Despite the government's efforts to control smuggling, it continues to increase rather than decrease. Several factors contribute to this trend. One of the primary reasons for smuggling is the high tariffs and import duties on various goods in Pakistan. For instance, the import duties on cars and electronic goods are prohibitively high, making it lucrative for smugglers to bring these items into the country illegally. As long as there is a significant price difference between legally imported goods and smuggled goods, Pakistan's law enforcement agencies, particularly the Customs Department, lack the manpower, technology, and resources to effectively monitor the country's vast borders and coastal areas. This allows smugglers to operate with relative impunity, knowing that the chances of getting caught are low. Corruption is another major reason for the persistence of smuggling in Pakistan. Smugglers often bribe some customs officials and the police, who facilitate the smugglers. So that they can turn a blind eye to their activities. This systemic corruption under-

mines any effort to control illicit trade. Regions like Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which are most affected by smuggling, have long been plagued by political instability, militancy, and lawlessness. This makes it difficult for the state to establish its writ in these areas and effectively curb smuggling activities. The Customs Department is severely under-resourced in terms of manpower, technology, and equipment. The department is responsible for monitoring not just land borders but also air and sea routes, making it a daunting task with the available resources. There is a lack of modern scanning and detection equipment, making it easier for smugglers to evade checks. Many customs officials lack the necessary training to effectively identify and intercept smuggled goods. The department does not have enough experts in key areas such as drug enforcement, arms trafficking, or the identification of counterfeit goods. The Customs Department often faces political pressure, particularly when influential individuals or groups are involved in smuggling activities. This interference can prevent the department from taking action against certain smugglers, further undermining its employees.

Briefs

Pakistan-Iran agree to form joint task force

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran have agreed to establish a joint task force to address challenges in the implementation of the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project. The agreement came during a meeting between Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Pakistani Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Reports indicated that the establishment of the joint task force was a promising step towards deepening bilateral economic relations. The report also highlighted a mutual vision to strengthen ties between the two neighboring countries. The leadership discussions between Pakistan and Iran reflected a strong commitment to overcoming common challenges. Moreover, the establishment of a broader road and rail network connecting regional countries was also seen as a positive development.

Massive arms and liquor haul seized in Balochistan

DNA

GWDAR: Pakistan Coast Guards, acting on intelligence reports, conducted an operation in Musa Goth area of Balochistan's Gwadar district. During the search operation, they seized 226 Glock pistols with magazines, 34 Beretta pistols, 145 30-bore pistols, and 140 extra magazines. The weapons were taken into custody, and further legal proceedings have been initiated. It is suspected that this arsenal was intended for use in terrorist activities. Additionally, Pakistan Coast Guards recovered 959 bottles of foreign liquor and 2,203 cans of beer from the Gadani area. In another operation in Gwadar, 332 kilograms of hashish was seized. Moreover, in Winder and Othal, 44.5 kilograms of heroin hidden in a suspicious house and bushes was discovered, leading to the arrest of two individuals. Legal action has been taken against them. According to the spokesperson of Pakistan Coast Guards, the estimated value of the seized liquor and heroin in the international market is approximately 60 million rupees. Earlier, the Pakistan Coast Guards carried out major anti-narcotics operations in Balochistan, recovering drugs valued at \$34.241 million. In previous operations, the coast guards had similarly seized a significant quantity of narcotics in the Parni and Uthal areas. During one of these past actions in Parni, they confiscated 187 bags of drugs, weighing over 2,000 kilograms, with an estimated international market value of \$34.241 million.

Attacks kill six Iran citizens near Pak border

TEHRAN: At least six people were killed on Tuesday in separate attacks in the restive southeastern region of Iran near Pakistan border, state media reported. "Four people, including three military personnel, were killed in a terrorist attack in Bent," a small town in southern Sistan-Baluchistan, the official IRNA news agency said. It also reported that two police officers were shot dead in their car in the town of Khash in the same province. There has been no claim of responsibility for the attacks. Sistan-Baluchistan, one of Iran's poorest regions, is mostly inhabited by the minority Baloch community, who largely practise Sunni Islam in a country where the theocratic government is staunchly Shiite. The province bordering Pakistan and Afghanistan has long been plagued by unrest involving drug-smuggling gangs, rebels from the Baluchi minority and Sunni extremists. - Agencies

Shall uphold rule of law regardless of insults: CEC

Raja made the remarks during hearing over re-shuffle of election tribunals for three Islamabad constituencies

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja affirmed that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will continue working under the Constitution, regardless of external pressures. "Even if we are insulted, we will follow the Constitution and the law," Raja said during a hearing regarding the reshuffling of election tribunals for three Islamabad constituencies on Tuesday. During the hearing, PTI's candidate Amir Mughal's son requested an extension due to his father's legal challenges, and CEC granted until the next day to arrange a lawyer. Raja also urged petitioners to submit separate applications for each constituency, raising concerns about their seriousness. PTI's lawyer, Shoaib Shaheen, complained about not receiving the commission's previous orders, to which CEC directed the provision of documents within five minutes and promised an inquiry into the delay. Tensions rose when Shaheen remarked that PTI felt like "outsiders" in the current system, and Raja responded that the commission operates under the Constitution and law, regardless of insults. Shaheen denied the use of inappropriate language but was advised to consult his colleagues regarding past incidents. The tribunal hearing was later adjourned until 12:30pm, with other petitions set for October.



Supreme Court's Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail has noted that the power to appoint election tribunals rests solely with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). However, in order to ensure free and fair elections, an independent machinery is necessary. "In such a view of the matter, the power to adjudicate such a delicate task, has been assigned to the judiciary. Therefore, in the case of appointing a sitting judge of a

high court, consultation with the chief justice of the high court concerned by the ECP is a condition precedent," Justice Mandokhail said. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail was part of a five-judge bench led by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa that on September 24 set aside a Lahore High Court (LHC) verdict in the Punjab election tribunal case. While hearing some writ petitions challenging the authority of the ECP to appoint election tribunals in Punjab, a single-member bench of the LHC on May 29 ruled that election tribunals in the province were to be appointed on the recommendation of the LHC chief justice. Yesterday, the Supreme Court (SC) upheld the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) appeal regarding the Punjab election tribunals while nullifying a previous decision made by the Lahore High Court (LHC) on the matter. The verdict was delivered by a five-member bench led by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa. Express News reported on Monday. The top court had completed the hearings for the case and reserved the verdict, which was announced today. The chief justice read out the decision, confirming the approval of the Election Commission's appeal against the ruling. The court's decision was unanimous, with a vote of 5-0 and no dissenting opinions from the judges. Additionally, CJP Isa noted that Justice Jamal Mandokhail and Aqeel Abbasi had provided an additional note on the verdict.

Shehbaz, Hamza seek relief in under amended NAB law

Court directs NAB to submit reply by Oct 11 after defence requested return of case to NAB chairman for reconsideration

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his son, Hamza Shehbaz, have sought relief in the Ramzan Sugar Mills reference, requesting the accountability court to declare it outside its jurisdiction under the newly amended National Accountability Bureau (NAB) law. The legal team for the father-son duo filed a petition, arguing that the accountability court no longer has the authority to hear the reference based on the recent amendments to the NAB law. They requested that the court return the case to the NAB chairman for reconsideration. The court, in response, asked NAB to submit its reply by October 11. Additionally, the court granted Shehbaz Sharif's request for a one-day exemption from personal appearance, with his representative Anwar Hussain attending on his behalf.

PPP to take all stakeholders on board

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: PPP parliamentary leader Sherry Rehman has said that in order to bag support for constitutional amendments package, PPP leadership held meetings with ANP and PML-Q. Addressing a press conference along with Nayyar Bukhari and Senator Shahadat Awan, Sherry Rehman said that parliament is creator of the constitution. PPP was trying to create consensus for the creation of constitutional court according to charter of democracy 2006. She claimed that the number of cases in apex court was increasing say by day with no decisions in sight for years. Sherry said parliament should play its constitutional role however, the constitutional packages will not move around one man.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazalur Rehman. - DNA

IIOJK votes in final round of regional polls

Decisions about IIOJK will remain in hands of Delhi, where Modi's govt can use its parliamentary majority

FOREIGN DESK

BARAMULLA, INDIA: Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) was voting Tuesday in the third and final round of polls to elect its first government since the insurgency-wracked territory was brought under New Delhi's direct control. Hindu-nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government cancelled IIOJK's partial autonomy in 2019, a sudden decision accompanied by mass arrests and

a months-long communication blackout. Since then the territory - which is divided between India and Pakistan and claimed by both in full - has not had an elected government, and has been ruled instead by a federally appointed governor. More than half a million Indian troops are stationed around IIOJK and Tuesday's vote saw a heavy security presence, with rifle-toting soldiers seen guarding polling stations in Baramulla district. A high unemployment rate and anger at the 2019 changes have animated campaigning, and local parties have promised to fight for the restoration of IIOJK's autonomy. "I voted so that there is some relief for us. Modi doesn't agree with the views of Kashmiri people," Baramulla local Abdul Rahim Rah told AFP outside a polling station. More than 55% of eligible voters cast ballots in the first two rounds of the poll. Prior elections saw lower turnout after boycotts called by separatist groups, who have waged a decades-long insurgency demanding IIOJK's independence or its merger with neighbouring Pakistan. Tens of thousands of civilians, soldiers and rebels have been killed since the conflict began in 1989, including dozens this year. Islamabad controls a smaller portion of the mountainous territory, divided since the end of British colonial rule in 1947. Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) says the 2019 changes to the territory's governance have delivered a new era of peace to IIOJK and rapid economic growth. That is disputed by homegrown political parties in IIOJK, who say the accompanying security clampdown brought a drastic curtailment of civil liberties.

'If Imran aligns with Zardari, all will be well'

Governor suggests Imran leave stubbornness behind and join Zardari for the country's progress

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Governor Sardar Salim Haider Khan has advised Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan to set aside his differences and join forces with President Asif Ali Zardari for the betterment of the country. The governor urged Khan to abandon his rigid stance, suggesting that working under Zardari's leadership would resolve the ongoing political turmoil. Speaking at the first convocation of Rawalpindi Women's University, Haider said, "Imran Khan needs to step out of his stubbornness. My advice is to sit under Zardari's leadership, and everything will improve." He also emphasised the need for patience from PTI,

stating that while they are eager for revolution, they should hold off until after the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit. "Revolutions don't happen with ministers, convoys, and official resources," he remarked, advising PTI to pause their efforts and give the country some respite. Governor Haider expressed disappointment over PTI's recent actions, accusing the party of destabilising the country during crucial foreign visits. He mentioned instances when PTI disrupted important diplomatic events, such as staging protests during the visits of foreign leaders like Chinese President Xi Jinping and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. "They send the wrong message to the world, discouraging foreign leaders from engaging with Pakistan," Haider said. He added that PTI should focus on bringing real change in critical sectors like education and healthcare in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, rather than creating instability in the country. The governor praised President Zardari, stating that he has the ability to unite political factions and steer the country towards progress.



ISLAMABAD: The newly-appointed High Commissioner of the Maldives, Mohamed Thoha, paid a courtesy call on the Acting High Commissioner of India, Geetika Srivastava. - DNA

Pakistan-Russia forum to strengthen ties, says Aleem

First Pakistan-Russia Trade and Investment Forum is in progress in Moscow

NEWS DESK

Moscow: Minister for Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan, in his remarks, on the occasion expressed the confidence that this forum marks the start of new bilateral relations between the two countries. He said Pakistan-Russia have longstanding diplomatic and commercial relations. He said Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Russia, emphasizing both sides have a great scope of joint ventures in different fields. The Minister for Privatization highlighted the attractive business environment offered by Pakistan. He said Pakistan constitutes the fifth largest market in the world and it has the most liberal trade and investment regime in the region. He said foreign investment in Pakistan is fully protected. All our economic sectors are open for investment. In his remarks on the occasion, Pakistan's Ambassador to Russia Muhammad Khalid Jamali expressed satisfaction that bilateral trade between Pakistan and Russia has crossed the one billion dollars threshold, saying this reflects the growing interest of both countries to enhance their economic and trade relations. The Ambassador said Pakistan views Russia as an important and reliable trade partner. He said Pakistan looks forward to working with Russia to enhance economic relations.

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