



Islamabad POST

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What is happening in region is collective genocide: Qatar Emir

Detailed News On Page-08

Pak, Ethiopia to enhance cooperation

Detailed News On Page-08

Usman Qadir retires from Pakistan cricket

Detailed News On Page-06



Anwar awarded Nishan-e-Pakistan Pakistan, Malaysia reaffirm commitment to boost cooperation

Welcoming the Malaysian Prime Minister, the President said that Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with Malaysia and was committed to further enhance bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual interest

ANSAR M BHATTI /DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Malaysia have reiterated their commitment to further enhance bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade, economy, banking sector, food technology and agriculture. The two sides also agreed to cooperate on issues of bilateral importance. This was discussed during a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and the visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Chairman Pakistan People's Party, MNA Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Minister of Commerce, Mr Jam Kamal Khan, Senator Sherry Rehman, and senior government officials also attended the meeting.

Welcoming the Malaysian Prime Minister, the President said that Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with Malaysia and was committed to further enhance bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual interest. He added that the visit of the Malaysian Prime Minister would further boost bilateral cooperation between the two brotherly countries. He expressed concern over the current situation in Gaza and called on the international community to take measures to prevent Israel from committing genocide and atrocities against the Palestinian people. The Prime Minister of Malaysia apprised the President that he held a very good discussion with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. Later, during a special investiture ceremony, President Asif Ali Zardari conferred the award of Nishan-e-Pakistan upon Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim in recognition of his support for Islamic causes and for being a great friend of Pakistan. During the ceremony, it was highlighted that the Malaysian Prime Minister was an avid reader of Allama Iqbal and acknowledged that his work has been a

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Malaysia welcomes Pak engagement with ASEAN

PM Shehbaz, Malaysian premier Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim discuss mechanisms to achieve concrete results

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his Malaysian counterpart Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim on Thursday reiterated their commitment to bolster mutually beneficial ties between the two countries. Holding a one-on-one meeting in Islamabad, the two premiers underscored the rich history of close bilateral cooperation between the two countries, said the statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The development comes as PM Ibrahim, along with a high-level delegation, reached Islamabad on Wednesday on a three-day visit to the country. During today's meeting, the PMO statement added, the two sides discussed a wide range of bilateral, regional, and international issues of mutual interest including those being faced by the Muslim Ummah. They also touched upon the mechanisms to enhance bilateral cooperation to achieve concrete results in these areas.

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ISLAMABAD: President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari conferring the award of Nishan-e-Pakistan upon the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim, during a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr. - DNA

Bangladesh recalls 5 envoys including India's

They were asked to hand over their responsibilities immediately

AGENCIES

DHAKA: Bangladesh's interim government has recalled five envoys, including the ambassador to neighbouring India, in a major diplomatic reshuffle, a foreign ministry official said on Thursday. Major political changes in the South Asian nation ushered in the interim government led by Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus after weeks of violent protests forced then-prime minister Sheikh Hasina to resign on

Continued on Page 06

Fazl accepts SC ruling

JULF chief urges govt to defer constitutional amendment bill ahead of upcoming SCO summit

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Hours after the Supreme Court annulled its 2022 verdict on the interpretation of Article 63(A) of the Constitution, JULF chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said he accepts the verdict but warned against any 'match-fixing' amid the government's efforts to pass judiciary-centric constitutional package. Deemed a major win for ruling coalition, the apex court unanimously accepted a review petition against its 2022 verdict related to the defection clause, which barred lawmakers from

Continued on Page 06

Article 63(A) review SC annuls verdict barring lawmakers from defection

CJP Isa-led 5-member bench approves review plea filed by Supreme Court Bar Association against 2022 ruling

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Thursday annulled its 2022 verdict on the interpretation of Article 63(A) of the Constitution, which barred lawmakers from going against party directions when voting in parliament. Hearing the Supreme Court Bar Association's (SCBA) plea, the five-member bench led by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa announced the unanimous verdict and approved the review petition with the top judge saying that the detailed verdict will be issued later.

The case revolves around the apex court's previous ruling, which stated that the votes of parliamentarians who deviated from their party's directives and policies were to

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Alvi accuses CJP of fostering floor-crossing

He has damaged the country more than Justice Munir, says former president

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Former president and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Dr Arif Alvi has accused Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa of creating

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Vawda accuses Imran of inciting violence

He remarked that the PTI was trying to provoke conflict, calling for protests to incite violence

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Senator Faisal Vawda has claimed that the PTI was calling for protests that could endanger innocent lives. During a press conference in Islamabad, Vawda stated that a political party was playing a nefarious game for power, expressing concern that the PTI founder was worried about the improved economy. He criticised Imran Khan for speaking about freedom and liberation, urging him to first free himself from mental slavery. Vawda accused the PTI of planning to create unrest, saying they were now seeking casualties.

'No change in NFC award'

Fin Min says agreement will focus on raising tax revenues

DNA

ISLAMABAD: ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has said that there would be no immediate change in the NFC regarding the financial agreement between the federal and provincial governments. "At the first stage, there will be no changes in the NFC Award at the moment but the fiscal space will be created through shifting provincial nature projects from the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) to the federating units," said the finance minister while talking to reporters after launching the Pakistan Economy Dashboard.

Hazif Naem meets Bilwal

PPP announces support for JI Gaza million march

Calling for national unity on Palestine, PPP Chairman expresses support for Jamaat-e-Islami's Gaza Million March

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, was invited to participate in the Gaza Million March by Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman, during a meeting between the two leaders. A delegation led by Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman reached Zardari House in Islamabad for the meeting with Bilawal Bhutto. Liaqat Baloch and Mayor of Karachi Murtaza Wahab were also present on the occasion. Hafiz Naeem extended the invitation to Bilawal Bhutto for the Gaza March. Speaking to the media after the meeting, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman, alongside Bilawal Bhutto, condemned Israel for state terrorism, highlighting its recent attack on Lebanon. He called on the government to focus on the Gaza situation. "On October 7, we will take to the streets across the country at 12 pm to protest. Despite political differences, we must unite for Palestine," he stated.

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Qureshi warns Bilawal against constitutional amendment

COURT REPORTER

RAWALPINDI: Former foreign minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) senior vice president, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, on Thursday, urged the government and its allies not to rush the 26th constitutional amendment, which would create a new Federal Constitutional Court apart from fixing terms of senior judges. In a press statement issued from his confinement at the Kot Lakhpat Jail in Lahore on Thursday, Qureshi made a strong appeal to Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman

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'No leniency to be shown if PTI onrush on Islamabad'

Imran Khan-founded party plans to stage protest demonstration at D-Chowk tomorrow for "independence" of judiciary

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday warned that strict legal action would be taken against those involved in the "onrush on Islamabad" as the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) plans to stage a demonstration at the federal capital's famous D-Chowk on Friday (tomorrow). Amid its anti-government campaign, the former ruling party - founded by Imran Khan - is holding protests for the "independence" of the judiciary and the release of the former prime minister from jail. "The PTI's top leadership should review its protest call [...] No one will be allowed for an onrush on Islamabad," the security czar said while addressing a presser along with officials of the federal police. The interior minister said Section 144 was already in place in Islamabad, warning that the authorities were already prepared to deal with any potential protests. The foreign delegations including from China and Saudi Arabia would be arriving in the federal capital, the minister said adding that the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, scheduled for October 15 and 16 in Islamabad,

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Three Islamabad bar associations reject constitutional changes

Lawyers vow to stand firm against amendments, citing judicial independence concerns

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad's three major bar associations have rejected the recent constitutional amendments and announced their intent to resist them. The Islamabad High Court Bar Association, Islamabad District Bar Association, and the Islamabad Bar Council, in a joint press conference, declared that they will not only oppose the amendments but will actively work to prevent them from being implemented.

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SECOND CUP COFFEE COMPANY

GOOD MORNINGS MADE BETTER
Second Cup Breakfast Options

Grilled Brioche Sandwich

Islamabad/Rawalpindi Outlets:
F6 Markaz, F11 Markaz, Gulberg Greens, Jinnah Park, Park View City, Blue World City.

Punjab, Sindh to face 16% water shortage during Rabi season: IRSA

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Advisory Committee on Wednesday approved an anticipated 16 per cent water shortage for Punjab and Sindh during the ongoing Rabi Season 2024-25 than began on October 1.

"The Basin-wise shortage for Rabi 2024-25 was approved as 16%," said IRSA after a meeting of its Advisory Committee presided over by its chairman/member Balochistan Abdul Hameed Mengal. The meeting approved anticipated water availability criteria for Rabi season. The meeting was participated by IRSA members, Engineering Advisor (Civil) MoWR, Secretaries irrigation of Punjab and Sindh, senior Technical Advisors of WAP, DA, senior representatives of Tarbela, Mangla and Chashma Reservoirs, T4 and T5 HPPs, senior representatives of Provincial Agriculture Departments and Director (Opr)/Secretary IRSA, along with senior technical personnel of IRSA. IAC reviewed the Kharif 2024 system operation and observed that the actual Rim-Station inflows of 105.81 MAF till 30 September were 1% more than the maximum forecasted volume of 104.60 MAF and 7% more than 10 year average of 99.34 MAF.—APP

Romina for environmental-sustainable cities for green economy goals

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Thursday said that climate change-caused extreme weather events, particularly heat waves and urban flooding incidents are posing grave risk to the lives and livelihoods of the people and public infrastructure.

Building climate-resilience of the cities against adverse impacts of climate change is crucial for making the urban environmentally-sustainable and resilient livable places, Alam highlighted. During the meeting with a delegation led by Capital Development Authority (CDA) Chairman, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, she outlined several initiatives aimed at transforming the capital into a model of environmental sustainability. Presiding over the meeting, the PM's climate aide stressed promoting concepts and implementing policies for climate-resilient urbanisation not only can help us address immediate environmental and climate change-related challenges but also promote long-term sustainability, equity, and quality of life in urban areas. She further said that making cities climate-resilient is not possible without involving a multifaceted approach that includes planning, infrastructure development, community engagement and relevant policy implementation. The PM's climate aide highlighted that the country's several cities are facing significant climate risks, including Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad and Peshawar. With increasing temperatures, erratic rainfall, and rising sea levels, the need for climate adaptation strategies has never been more urgent. "The climate change and environmental ministry is taking all-out measures and implementing policies and frameworks to create sustainable urban environments for making cities environmentally-sustainable and climate-resilient so that they can withstand the impacts of climate change.—APP



BAJUR: Children joyfully engage with colorful blocks alongside their teacher during the inauguration of the Child Protection Unit's counseling room at District Bajaur.—APP

Child Protection Unit inaugurated in Bajaur tribal district

DNA

PESHAWAR: In a significant step towards ensuring the protection and welfare of children in the merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a Child Protection Unit (CPU) was inaugurated in District Bajaur on Thursday. The CPU aims to safeguard and promote the rights of children, providing prevention and response to cases of child abuse, neglect, and exploitation, said a press release issued here.

The Chief Guest was Additional Secretary Social Welfare Department KP, Muhammad Farooq, Director Social Welfare Department (MDs), Muhammad Naem, Deputy Commissioner Bajaur Shahid Ali, Obaid Ur Rahman Deputy Director Social Welfare MDs, representatives from members of District Child Protection Committee Bajaur, Male and fe-

male members of the community Based Child Protection Committees. The establishment of this CPU reflects the Government's strong commitment to ensuring the protection of children at risk and fostering a safer environment for the most vulnerable members of society. In his Opening Remarks, the Additional Secretary, Social Welfare, Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, expressed his appreciation to the Department of Social Welfare for the successful inauguration of the Child Protection Unit Bajaur. He said that the establishment of Child Protection Unit, is a direct response to this persistent need, adding that children face various forms of abuse, neglect, and exploitation, here and it was a shared responsibility to build stronger systems to protect them from all forms of abuse and exploitation. He said the unit would focus on identifying, preventing, and responding to child

at risk, ensuring their fundamental rights to life, development, participation, and protection. Muhammad Farooq also stressed the importance of collective action in addressing the complex challenges of child abuse, violence, exploitation, and neglect. He urged all relevant line departments to closely collaborate with the CPU Bajaur and emphasized the significance of building strong partnerships with parents and communities to create a protective environment for children. He thanked to UNICEF, especially Sohail Ahmad Child Protection Specialist for his continuous technical and financial support for the Child Protection in MDs, and he hoped that the partnership would continue in future to provide every possible support to protect child rights. In his remarks, Deputy Commissioner Bajaur Shahid Ali added that the establishment of the Child Protection Unit is a

direct response to the protection needs of the child at risk. "Our responsibility is to strengthen systems that will protect children from abuse, neglect, exploitation and provide them a safe environment." He added that District Child Protection Committees had been notified under the KP Child Protection Act 2010, chaired by the Deputy Commissioner which reflected the Government's commitment at the district level to uphold children's rights. This committee held monthly meetings, served as a platform for discussing child protection challenges and formulating strategies to improve referrals and case management processes, he informed. On the occasion, he presented the journey of child protection system development in KP with a focus on the Child Protection data in MDs and shared statistics of District Khyber with participants. At the end of the

event ribbon cutting ceremony of the Child Protection Unit, District Bajaur was held. Additional Secretary Muhammad Farooq, Director Social Welfare MDs, Muhammad Naem, Deputy Commissioner Bajaur Shahid Ali, Obaid Ur Rahman Deputy Director Social Welfare MDs and Staff of PMU and CPU Bajaur attended the ceremony. The Director of Social Welfare (MDs), Muhammad Naem extended thanks to UNICEF for their ongoing support in strengthening the Child Protection Units in MDs. He acknowledged UNICEF's valuable contributions to building the capacity of staff, enhancing the effectiveness of the community-based Child Protection Committees (CB-CPC), and supporting district-level training initiatives for the social workforce. These efforts have significantly improved the referral and case management system, he added.

CDA chief for timely launch of integrated solid waste management system

The Chairman concluded the meeting by calling for strong teamwork among all stakeholders, including the consultants from NESPAK. He reiterated that collective efforts are necessary to address the population's needs regarding solid waste management and to make Islamabad a cleaner city

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A meeting was held under the chairmanship of CDA (Capital Development Authority) Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa on solid waste management for Islamabad. The meeting was attended by consultants from NESPAK, Members Environment, and relevant officers from the Sanitation Directorate of CDA. The meeting was aimed at devising an integrated solid waste management system for Islamabad that meets the

needs and requirements of population and city. The meeting reviewed the progress made so far. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa stressed the importance of completing all necessary documentation swiftly to ensure a timely launch of the integrated solid waste management system. He also emphasized that the process should be completed as soon as possible in consultation with NESPAK. The Chairman further urged NESPAK's team to examine successful

waste management models across Pakistan, including mega cities like Lahore, Rawalpindi, and others where outsourcing services has already been implemented. He emphasized that efforts must be made to maintain high standards of solid waste management services. During the meeting, it was highlighted that the solid waste management services would cover all areas of Islamabad, including urban, rural, and industrial zones. It was also

decided that the team of NESPAK would visit various parts of the city, as well as local Union Councils (UCs) in Islamabad, to better understand the waste management needs and requirement of the local population. The Chairman concluded the meeting by calling for strong teamwork among all stakeholders, including the consultants from NESPAK. He reiterated that collective efforts are necessary to address the population's needs regarding solid waste management and to make Islamabad a cleaner city.

Call for effective efforts to fight drug abuse

PESHAWAR: The speakers at an awareness seminar on Thursday called for collective and effective measures to curb use of drug among youth and serious social issues arising out of it. The one-day seminar was organized by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Center of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism (KPCEVE) on prevention of increasing drug use among youth and elimination of crime. The aim of the seminar was to create awareness and awareness regarding the increasing use of drugs among the youth and the serious social and security issues arising out of it.—APP

Tareen vows quality education provision in S Punjab

LODHAN: Jahangir Khan Tareen, founder of the Tareen Education Foundation, said on Thursday that the foundation's primary goal was to provide quality education to students in Lodhran and across south Punjab. He stated that he was determined to improve the facilities in public schools and provide as many resources as possible to these institutions. "If schools are better, Pakistan's future will be better," Jahangir Khan Tareen said in his speech. He further highlighted that the foundation has fully supported strengthening the public school system. Tareen expressed these views while addressing students participating in the South Punjab Mathematics Contest, organized by the Tareen Education Foundation. He shared that his motivation is purely driven by a sense of public service, "There is nothing behind this effort but the desire to serve the people. Though I have left politics, both my son and I will continue our welfare initiatives. The people of Lodhran are close to my heart, and I want to give back the immense love they have shown me."—APP

Naval chief inaugurates Bahria university college of medicine

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf on Thursday inaugurated Bahria University College of Medicine (BUCM) in the Federal Capital. Speaking on the occasion, Admiral Naveed Ashraf appreciated the Bahria University's services and achievements in providing quality education in various fields, a Pakistan Navy news release said. Advertisement - He underscored that while there were many opportunities and challenges ahead, BUCM would evolve into a premier institution for providing top-quality medical education. The Naval Staff emphasized that the professionalism, commitment and dedication of faculty members were crucial to establish the campus as one of the leading medical institutes in the country. Earlier, during his welcome address, Rector Bahria University Vice Admiral (R) Asif Khaliq acknowledged the support provided by Pakistan Navy in developing the campus. The Project Director of Bahria University Health Sciences Islamabad presented details of the project and highlighted the facilities available for students. The Naval Chief also visited various facilities at the campus and appreciated state of the art infrastructure.—APP

Higher Education Development in Pakistan

Higher Education Commission

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Country: Pakistan

Name of Project: Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP)

Assignment Title: Selection of Consulting Firm to conduct Tracer Study for Pakistani Startups Graduated from Academic Incubators at HEIs of Pakistan (Facilitated through ORICs, BICs and ISF Programmes)

Loan No./Credit No.: 6438-PK

Reference No.: PK-HEC-447295-CS-CQS

1. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for procuring services of a credible Consulting Firm to conduct Tracer Study for Pakistani Startups Graduated from Academic Incubators at HEIs of Pakistan (Facilitated through ORICs, BICs and ISF Programmes).
2. The Higher Education Commission now invites eligible Consulting Firms to express their interest in providing the said Services as further detailed in the Terms of Reference, which may be downloaded from the website <https://www.hec.gov.pk/english/news/Pages/TendersRFPs.aspx> without any fee(s)/charge(s).
3. The attention of interested Consulting Firms is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 [revised November 2017 and August 2018] ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
4. The Consulting Firm will be selected in accordance with the Consultant's Qualifications Selection (CQS) method as set out in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016, revised November 2017, and August 2018.
5. A virtual Information Session shall be held on **October 15, 2024, at 10:00 AM (Pakistan Standard Time)** to familiarise the potential applicants with the **Terms of Reference** (available at the HEC website) and **ensuing procurement process**. Interested Consulting Firms may obtain the respective meeting link/ invite via writing an email addressed to the undersigned (procurement.hedp@hec.gov.pk) between **October 11, 2024, and October 14, 2024** (during business hours).
6. The Expression of Interest must be delivered to the address below (in person or by surface mail) not later than **1500 hours (Pakistan Standard Time) on October 22, 2024**. For expressions sent electronically, Project Coordination Unit will acknowledge receipt of the same via return email. In the absence of such confirmation/ receipt, please contact the address given below.
7. The address(es) referred to above is (are):

Procurement Specialist (HEDP)

Project Coordination Unit (PCU)

Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP) Project Higher Education Commission

Sector H-9/4, Islamabad, Pakistan 051-90400120

procurement.hedp@hec.gov.pk

PID/02378/24

ISSI signs working protocol with Myanmar think-tank

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) and the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS) today signed a Working Protocol aimed at fostering deeper collaboration between the two think-tanks. The virtual signing ceremony marks a significant milestone in enhancing cooperation on both sides. The event was attended by the Myanmar Ambassador in Islamabad and the Pakistan's Cd'A in Yangon. Dr. Khurram Abbas, Director of the India Study Centre at ISSI, moderated the event, who highlighted that this Protocol is a testament to the commitment of both institutions to develop joint research and promote policy adviso-

ry on issues of mutual interest. In his remarks, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood emphasized the importance of this collaboration, particularly in the wake of rapidly evolving international landscape. He noted that robust research, informed analysis, and scholarly cooperation are essential in understanding global changes and their impacts. Furthermore, he underlined Pakistan's long-standing relationship with Myanmar, noting that the two countries share decades of cooperation across diplomatic, economic, security, and cultural spheres. Additionally, he stated that the Protocol is part of ISSI's broader efforts to strengthen ties with think-tanks in ASEAN member states, and lauded the valuable contributions of the Embassies in Islamabad and Yangon to the establishment of ASEAN Corner at ISSI. Ambassador U Thant Kyaw, Chairman

of MISIS, expressed gratitude to all those involved in bringing this Protocol to fruition. He stressed that it symbolizes mutual respect and trust, laying a solid foundation for future cooperation and joint research endeavors. Myanmar's Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Wunna Han, described the signing as a milestone in the relationship between the two sides. He noted that this Protocol will further promote collaborative research projects, serving as a positive reflection of Pakistan-Myanmar relations. Ambassador Han also recognized the crucial role that think-tanks like ISSI and MISIS play in shaping future policy directions. Pakistan's Chargé d' Affaires in Yangon, Mr. Anwar Zeb, reiterated the commitment of the Pakistan Mission

to support collaboration between ISSI and MISIS. He highlighted the importance of think-tank cooperation in advancing the development of cordial bilateral relations and assured continued support for future joint initiatives. The Protocol sets forth a framework for collaborative activities, including the exchange of researchers and data, joint events, and programs, as well as the initiation of research projects on pressing regional issues. Both institutions agreed to designate focal persons for coordinating follow-up on collaborative projects and sharing relevant publications. The signing ceremony concluded with a reaffirmation of mutual commitment to explore new avenues for academic and research cooperation, contributing to a deeper understanding of regional and international issues.



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
- October 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
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Excise dept. fleecing people by imposing unwarranted fines

It is common practice for tax authorities to notify taxpayers via SMS or written communication when payments are due. However, the Excise Department has failed to send such reminders to vehicle owners regarding their token dues

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Excise and Taxation Department in Islamabad has come under criticism for imposing hefty fines on vehicle owners for using private number plates or for having unpaid vehicle tokens. Excise officials have set up multiple checkpoints across various roads in the capital, where they stop vehicles to check for non-standard number plates or pending token taxes. Motorists have complained that these fines are excessively high, with no leniency shown. One vehicle owner shared his experience, explaining that he was stopped at a checkpoint and asked to

present his vehicle registration card. Upon inspecting the card, the official immediately suspended the vehicle's status, citing the use of a non-standard number plate. The owner explained that he had just acquired the new plate and intended to replace it later that day. Despite this, the official refused to accept his explanation. The situation worsened when the official pointed out that the vehicle's token was overdue. Although the outstanding token amount was only Rs 6,000, the Excise officials imposed a fine of Rs 10,000. The owner pleaded that he was willing to pay the due token amount on the spot, but the official remained

adamant and did not relent. It is common practice for tax authorities to notify taxpayers via SMS or written communication when payments are due. However, the Excise Department has failed to send such reminders to vehicle owners regarding their token dues. Furthermore, vehicle owners have raised concerns about the quality of the number plates provided by the department. Many complain that the plates are substandard, with the numbers fading over time, forcing people to purchase replacement plates from the open market. MEANWHILE, The excise department is providing civic facilities to residents of the Federal Capital

to get their vehicle registration as well as access to various essential services at Trail 3 on Thursday under the ICT doorstep initiative. According to the spokesman of the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration, the service aimed to streamline essential civic services and bring them closer to the community, and the excise team will be stationed at Trail-3 parking of from 3 to 5 pm. The excise staff will be on-site, offering a hassle-free experience for vehicle owners seeking registration, transfers, and token tax processing. This unprecedented initiative not only caters to vehicular paperwork but also introduces the ICT Doorstep

Service. The citizens are encouraged to avail the opportunity to obtain your Domicile Certificate, Birth Certificate, Power of Attorney, International Driving Permit, Fuel Permit (Domestic/Commercial), or Motor Vehicle Registration, all at one convenient location. The spokesman emphasized that the Facilitation Center's Doorstep ICT Vehicle will be present, providing a seamless and efficient solution for various administrative needs. Whether you are a vehicle owner looking to sort out your paperwork or in need of essential documents, this event promises efficiency with a touch of convenience to the masses.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Health Dr. Mukhtar Bharath visited NIRM Hospital to review the medical facilities. —APP

ISSI hosts Pak, Malaysia think-tank dialogue

ISLAMABAD: In the wake of Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's visit to Pakistan, the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted Pakistan-Malaysia think-tank dialogue with its Malaysian counterpart, the International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS). The IAIS delegation was led by former Minister of Education and Chairman of IAIS, Dr. Maszlee bin Malik, said a news release issued here Wednesday. The dialogue focused on Pakistan-Malaysia relations and Pakistan's growing relations with ASEAN. The event culminated with the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ISSI and IAIS, marking steady progress in their partnership aimed at reinforcing different aspects of Pakistan-Malaysia relations and fostering closer collaboration between the two think-tanks. DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood extended a warm welcome to the distinguished delegation, noting that the dialogue marked a significant moment in the evolving relationship between ISSI and IAIS. He expressed appreciation for the first in-person visit, which coincided with the historic visit of Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim to Pakistan. He noted the exceptional cordiality of Pakistan-Malaysia relations and Malaysia's steadfast support to the growth and expansion of Pakistan-ASEAN relationship. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood also emphasized the importance of ISSI-IAIS institutional collaboration in reinforcing different aspects of Pakistan-Malaysia relations and broader policy objectives on both sides; deeper understanding of their respective regions' dynamics through regular mutual dialogue; efforts to combat Islamophobia, and closer people-to-people exchanges. Prof. Dr. Maszlee bin Malik reflected on the deep-rooted historical ties between Malaysia and Pakistan, particularly the strong people-to-people connections that predate the establishment of both countries. He emphasized the significance of cultural diplomacy and highlighted the importance of collaboration between think-tanks in addressing regional and global challenges, enhancing mutual understanding, and advancing Malaysia-Pakistan relations, particularly in the fields of education, IT, AI, and tourism. He expressed optimism for future cooperation, especially in ASEAN as Malaysia prepares to assume the chairmanship in 2025. Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director of the China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at ISSI, highlighted the Institute's efforts in strengthening Pakistan's ties with ASEAN, including through close collaboration with ACI (ASEAN Committee in Islamabad). He also noted the establishment of "ASEAN Corner" in ISSI Library last year to raise awareness and support for partnership with ASEAN. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI highlighted the importance of strengthening Pakistan-Malaysia bilateral relations and advancing collaboration in key areas such as trade, diplomacy and enhancing cooperation on multilateral forums. The event concluded with the exchange of each other's publications and Dr. Maszlee's visit to the ASEAN Corner.—DNA

Protest in Rawalpindi 4000 cops to perform security duties

RAWALPINDI :Rawalpindi district police would deploy 4000 police personnel to ensure security arrangements and law and order during the possible protest of a political party, City Police Officer (CPO), Syed Khalid Hamdani said here on Thursday. He said that police personnel would remain deployed on all entry and exit points and main roads. Trained squads would be deployed to deal with such elements who try to disturb law and order. The CPO said that strict legal action would be taken against the rules violators. With the help of CCTV cameras throughout the city, miscreants and lawbreakers would be identified, he said adding, no one would be allowed to disturb law and order or damage the public and private property. Enforcement of the law would be ensured in any case, he added. He urged the parents not to allow their children to be part of any illegal activity.—APP

Dengue hits back with 134 highest one day cases

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Dengue surge is at its peak as an increased number of patients have been reported every passing day in Rawalpindi. During the last 24 hours, 134 new positive cases have been reported which the new highest one day count in Rawalpindi, making a total of 1610 patients reported since January 2024. According to the details released by the District Health Authority (DHA) today, the under treatment patients in various allied hospitals have also increased to 225 after admission of 23 new cases, reaching closer to the beds capacity in dengue specified wards with 300 beds. However, the recently announced plan by Khawaja Imran, the minister for Primary Health Punjab, which he unveiled during his recent visit to the district of enhancing the beds occupancies to double, has also been placed. The report shows that Holy Family Hospital (HFH) is treating the highest 80 patients admitted

in its dengue wards out of total 225 indoor patients. 76 patients are present in Benazir Bhutto Hospital, 35 in Rawalpindi Teaching Hospital and 34 patients are under treatment in Fauji Foundation Hospital. The report further reveals that the ratio between indoor patients and the discharged ones from the hospital has also increased. To further the awareness campaign, the health authority has placed banners in and around the new kachehri premises with messages regarding dengue preventive measures and control. Meanwhile, The district administration has launched an awareness campaign to sensitized people about the prevention and control of dengue fever in the Federal Capital. The administration bringing together various institutions and experts and held a series of training and awareness sessions to combat the rising spread of dengue in the city, said the spokesman of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration here. Representatives from several ministries participated on behalf of the Health

Department and they discussed ways to handle dengue prevention. On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, emphasized that the campaign's scope should expand further to ensure maximum coverage. He stated that the awareness efforts would be carried out in collaboration with all relevant institutions to ensure effectiveness. During these sessions, training on standard operating procedures (SOPs) to prevent dengue was provided. This included key information on recognizing symptoms and preventive actions the public can take to reduce the risk of dengue. Meanwhile, the dengue awareness campaigns are also being conducted in public places to inform people about the dangers of dengue and what they can do to protect themselves and their families. The administration's goal was to ensure that people from all walks of life have access to accurate information about the disease and preventive measures, helping to reduce the number of cases in the region.

Political unity urged for national progress

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate, Syed Ali Khan, on Thursday called on all political parties to play an active role in steering the nation out of its current crises. Speaking during a meeting with a delegation that included Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training, Senator Bushra Anjum Butt; former Member of the National Assembly, Agha Syed Mahmood Shah; Balochistan Provincial Assembly Member, Fazal Qadir Sherani; former District Nazim, Mir Nizam-uddin Lehari; along with tribal elders, social workers, journalists, and students, he stressed that the country cannot afford political instability and unrest at this critical time. He said that the government is actively working to provide relief to the public and address the nation's pressing issues. He urged all political forces to unite for the country's development and prosperity, adopting strategies that offer real solutions to the people and propel the nation towards progress. He further noted that Pakistan is blessed with abundant natural resources, making it essential for all stakeholders to collaborate for the nation's advancement. He reiterated that through unity and effective planning, both the public and the country can achieve long-term prosperity and success.—APP

IG Islamabad holds law and order meeting at CPO

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Inspector General of Police (IGP), Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, chaired an important meeting on Wednesday at the Central Police Office (CPO) to review the law-and-order situation in the federal capital. According to a police statement, the meeting was attended by Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Islamabad Syed Ali Raza, Director General (DG) Safe City Shakir Hussain Dawar, DIG Headquarters Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer, and other senior police officers. IG Islamabad holds law and order meeting at CPO He said the officers provided the IGP with a detailed briefing on the security measures in place to maintain law and order.—DNA



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Briefs

Public cooperation sought to contain 'Dengue outbreak'

ISLAMABAD: In light of the escalating dengue fever situation in Islamabad, District Health Officer Islamabad, Zaeem Zia Thursday sounded alarm and appealed residents to strictly follow the health advisory for dengue control as it is vital for individuals to remain informed, adopt preventive measures and seek medical attention promptly if symptoms appeared. In an interview with a private news channel, he stresses the need for collective responsibility in containing the outbreak, adding, by taking proactive steps, individuals can significantly reduce the risk of transmission, safeguarding not only their own health but also that of their community. The public is advised to wear protective clothing, use mosquito repellents and eliminate standing water in and around their homes to prevent mosquito breeding, he advised. Maintaining cleanliness and following the Ministry's guidelines is crucial to reducing the spread of dengue and protecting public health, he mentioned. The Dengue Surveillance Team of the District Health Office, Islamabad has also been carried out extensive surveillance activities, he said, adding, as part of the dengue case response, Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) operations and thorough surveillance were being conducted to prevent further spread of the disease.

He said meetings were also being held between the Executive Director of the National Institute of Health and the District Health Officer, Health Department, Islamabad, to strategize on enhancing dengue surveillance and response efforts amid the current surge in cases.—APP

SUPARCO to celebrate world space week

ISLAMABAD: The Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) will mark World Space Week 2024 celebrations across Pakistan through a series of activities from October 04-10 under the theme "Space and Climate Change". This annual celebration, recognized by the United Nations, focuses on space exploration, innovation, and education. This year's theme highlights the critical role that space technology plays in addressing urgent climate change issues. Given Pakistan's vulnerability to climate impacts, this theme holds particular significance for the country, emphasizing the importance of space-based solutions for sustainable development. According to an official source, the inauguration ceremony of World Space Week 2024 will be held on October 04 at the National Centre for Remote Sensing and Geo-Informatics (NCRG), SUPARCO Complex, Karachi. Vice Chancellor of Fatimiyah International University, Dr. Jamil Kazmi will be the chief guest of the ceremony.—APP



RAWALPINDI: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq inaugurated Silo Grain storage facility. MNA Isphanyar M. Bhandara is also present on this occasion.—DNA

Federal capital schools to be connected with internet

This will eliminate the need for patients to revisit the hospital where they initially received treatment. Instead, they can visit any hospital in the federal capital, where doctors can access their medical records using the identity issued under the 'One Patient, One Identity' system

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Under the "Smart Islamabad" project, all schools in the federal capital, including those in both rural and urban areas, will be centralized and provided with internet connectivity and other resources to enhance the quality of education. "The Ministry of Education is actively collaborating with the Ministry of Information Technology on this initiative,"

said an official from the Ministry of Information Technology. He further explained that the centralized education system would improve educational standards in the capital without requiring additional resources. Under the "Smart Islamabad" initiative, the Ministry of Information Technology will soon introduce the "One Patient, One Identity" system in the federal capital. This system will store a patient's complete medical

record, making it accessible across all hospitals in the area, including basic health units. "This will eliminate the need for patients to revisit the hospital where they initially received treatment. Instead, they can visit any hospital in the federal capital, where doctors can access their medical records using the identity issued under the 'One Patient, One Identity' system," he added. The official also said that separate police stations

would be established across the city to serve the public, with the Inspector General of Police, Islamabad, actively working on the project. These centers will refer complaints to relevant police stations for resolution. Currently, one center is operational, with work on four more in progress. The Capital Development Authority (CDA) is contributing to the project, which will soon provide Islamabad residents access to 150 ser-

vices, including document attestation, certificate issuance, and token tax payments. Islamabad will serve as the pilot project for this initiative, which aligns with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's vision of digitalization. The broader plan for digital smart cities has already been presented to the Prime Minister, and the Federal Government is working with the provinces to further digitalization efforts across the country.

PWD requires additional Rs 135m for repair work

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Public Works Department (PWD) requires an additional Rs 135 million to complete the repair and renovation of government flats and blocks in Sector G-8, Islamabad. An official from the Ministry told APP that while PWD has partially completed repair and renovation works in G-8, the project will only be finalized once the required funds are made available. The remaining works are expected to be completed within six months after the funds are received. He said the scope of the repairs includes internal and external painting of all flats, replacement of worn-out shutters, bathroom repairs with all necessary accessories, replacement of glass panes, and roof treatment. To a question, the official said that the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) is actively conducting operations against unauthorized commercial use of residential buildings in Sectors G-13 and G-14 of Islamabad. The official said the authority has already issued notices to property owners engaging in illegal commercial activities within residential areas. According to the Islamabad Capital Territory Building Control Regulation 2020, the FGEHA has committed to taking legal action against property owners involved in the unlawful commercial use of residential buildings in these sectors, he added.—APP

Omer honors 'Breast Cancer Awareness Month'

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to stem Pakistan's escalating breast cancer crisis, Omer Aftab, CEO of Pink Ribbon Thursday stresses the need for collaborative efforts, focusing on family-centric care, expanded rural healthcare, and impactful awareness drives to reduce the staggering 1 in 9 incidence rate. As Breast Cancer Awareness Month begins, Omer Aftab shared disturbing statistics with PTV News that over 90,000 Pakistani women face breast cancer diagnoses each year, highlighting the need for immediate attention and collective action. Globally, breast cancer remains the most diagnosed cancer in women. However, early detection and advanced treatments have significantly improved survival rates in developed countries, he said. Worldwide, authorities are strengthening screening programs, raising public awareness, and investing in research to improve early detection and treatment outcomes, he added. Unfortunately, despite these advancements, the overall incidence of cancer continues to

rise globally, he highlighted. CEO of Pink Ribbon emphasized that despite joint efforts by the Pakistani government and his organization to combat breast cancer through awareness drives, societal conservatism, and familial reluctance continue to hinder progress. "We are making strides, but cultural barriers and stigma surrounding breast cancer discussions hold us back," he noted in an interview. Omer Aftab highlighted another critical factor contributing to Pakistan's alarming breast cancer rates: the widespread use of chemicals in agriculture and food production. He emphasized that both the government and Pink Ribbon are intensifying efforts to address this issue. He emphasized the need for innovative therapies to combat breast cancer in Pakistan. He said we plan to introduce cutting-edge treatment techniques, enhancing patient outcomes and improving survival rates. Omer Aftab further praised Bait-ul-Mal's pivotal role in supporting the treatment of underprivileged breast cancer patients in Pakistan.—APP

Khurram Dastgir challenges Gandapur

ISLAMABAD: A senior leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Khurram Dastgir Thursday challenged Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur to shift focus from criticizing and prioritize development in his province, drawing inspiration from Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's progress. In an exclusive interview with a private news channel, Dastgir highlighted the stark contrast between the leadership styles of the two provinces, praising Maryam Nawaz Sharif's historic public welfare initiatives and significant strides in Punjab. By prioritizing development and learning from Punjab's successes, Gandapur can improve the lives of citizens and drive economic growth in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he mentioned. Dastgir criticized Ali Amin Gandapur's politics, specifically his tenure as Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, adding, Gandapur's is just only focused on personal goals, rather than the well-being of his people. As a leader, it is essential to prioritize the needs of the people, particularly in areas like education, healthcare, and infrastructure, he added. In contrast, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's initiatives demonstrate a commitment to progress and development, he mentioned. Her focus on education, skills development and infrastructure projects sets a positive example for other leaders to follow, he appreciated. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has been accused of hindering the country's progress, particularly during Mian Nawaz Sharif's tenure when he was tackling critical issues like load shedding, Karachi target killings, terrorism and inflation. In 2013, PTI Chairman Imran Khan initiated protests and blamed the government, allegedly disrupting their efforts, he said.—DNA

Quick implementation of reforms must for Pak survival

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IWCCI), Farida Rashid, said on Thursday that we have wasted a lot of time, and now the rapid execution of reforms is essential to Pakistan's continued existence.

Following the IMF's approval of the loan, Finance Minister Mohammad Aurangzeb has made it very clear how important it is to quickly implement structural reforms to improve the situation, she said. Pakistan has a huge public sector, a huge debt load, falling human development indicators, and an environment that doesn't encourage investment or growth because of years of inadequate management, lack of fiscal discipline, political instability, corruption, and giving in to the greedy elite, she added. Talking to businesswomen, Farida Rashid, who has recently been elected as a member of the executive committee of the IWCCI, said that Pakistan needs to change its development model because it is based on the government getting involved in everything resulting in heavy losses. She noted that a small group of political, landed, and business elite have been able to take advantage by getting protectionist policies implemented and receiving special treatment through subsidies and lower taxes which has damaged the economy a lot.

While the majority of the population has to deal with an unsustainable economic burden, the country is becoming more vulnerable to shocks like natural disasters, which have destroyed communities and infrastructure worth billions of rupees and killed thousands of people, she added. According to Farida Rashid, one of the main problems with the economy is that government spending keeps going up. The public sector exhibits a culture of waste, squandering large amounts of money on unnecessary activities, and government offices consistently exceed their budgets by spending money they don't need.

MOU signed to promote voluntary blood donation

ISLAMABAD: In a landmark move aimed at promoting voluntary blood donations and raising awareness on human organ issues, the Inter University Consortium for Promotion of Social Sciences Pakistan (IUCPSS) and the Rotary Action Group for Blood and Organ Donation Pakistan Chapter formalized their partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) during a special ceremony. The event held in Lahore was attended by an esteemed group of dignitaries, including vice-chancellors, senior academics, and Rotary Club officials from across the country. The MOU was signed by Muhammad Murtaza Noor, National Coordinator of IUCPSS, and Dr. Anna Sarwar, Country Coordinator for the Rotary Action Group for Blood and Organ Donation Pakistan Chapter. The agreement outlines a wide range of collaborative efforts between the two organizations aimed at addressing critical health challenges and fostering a culture of voluntary service. Under the terms of the MOU, IUCPSS and the Rotary Action Group

for Blood and Organ Donation have committed to working together to establish a national network of experts. This expert network will facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices on issues related to voluntary blood donation and human organ donation. Both organizations will collaborate on joint research initiatives and publish findings that will contribute to the national and global conversation surrounding these vital issues. The MOU further outlines plans to organize a series of advocacy seminars, consultative workshops, conferences, and other academic activities. These events will aim to educate and engage the public, professionals, and policymakers on the importance of regular blood donation, the need for organ donors, and the ethical and legal considerations surrounding human organ donation. In addition to academic and research activities, both organizations have committed to promoting a service network and fellowship programs throughout Pakistan. This will involve engaging communities in voluntary blood donation drives and

creating opportunities for service-oriented fellowship programs across the country's universities and community centres. "This MOU is a significant step toward creating a healthier and more compassionate society," said Muhammad Murtaza Noor during the signing ceremony. "By working together, we can harness the expertise of the academic and health sectors to promote a culture of voluntary blood donation and raise awareness about the critical importance of organ donation, he added." Dr. Anna Sarwar echoed these sentiments, adding, "Our collaboration with IUCPSS will enable us to reach more people, raise greater awareness, and create a robust support system for those who depend on regular blood donations and organ transplants. This partnership is a milestone, and we look forward to making significant strides in addressing these health challenges in Pakistan, she added." The partnership between IUCPSS and the Rotary Action Group will also focus on launching national campaigns that promote regular voluntary blood donations.



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Education system in Gaza strip

IT was clear from the outset of the war on Gaza that Israel would not allow the residents of the Gaza Strip to continue their lives in any aspect, foremost among them housing, health, and education. Homes, hospitals, and most schools, which turned into shelters for the displaced, were targeted to completely eliminate the educational process within the sector. Earlier, the Palestinian Ministry of Education revealed that 10,000 students and 400 teachers had been martyred in the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip since October 7 of last year. The ministry stated that 39,000 high school students from Gaza did not sit for the general secondary examination last year due to the ongoing aggression since October 7, adding that the occupation deprived ten thousand school and university students in the enclave of their right to education, including 450 high school students, in addition to the martyrdom of 400 teachers. For its part, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) announced that all its schools in the Gaza Strip were closed due to the war, depriving 300,000 children of education. UNRWA said that more than 625,000 students have been deprived of education since the war on Gaza began, while 22,000 teachers lost their jobs in the education sector. In a post on X platform at the beginning of last month, UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said that over 600,000 children are suffering from severe trauma and are living under the rubble, still deprived of education, half of whom were in UNRWA schools. He warned that "the longer children remain out of school, the greater the risk of losing a generation." He continued, "More than 70% of our schools in Gaza have been destroyed or damaged, the majority of which have become overcrowded shelters for hundreds of thousands of displaced families and cannot be used for education." Hundreds of thousands of displaced individuals from across the Gaza Strip sought refuge in UNRWA schools, government schools, and private schools in search of safety and to escape Israeli bombardment. However, many of these schools turned into pools of blood after being targeted by Israeli aircraft. The Government Media Office (GMO) and the International Commission to Support the Rights of the Palestinian People documented Israel's targeting of 181 shelters since the onset of the war, including 152 schools belonging to UNRWA, as well as government and private schools that were occupied by the displaced. The number of martyrs among the displaced within these shelters surpassed 1,040. According to GMO documentation, the occupation army deliberately destroyed 15 vital sectors, including education. It completely destroyed 117 schools and universities and partially destroyed 332 others, in addition to killing 500 teachers and school administrators, 100 scholars, researchers, and university professors, as well as 9,000 school and university students. Ismail Thawabta, the GMO Director General said that the past months of war witnessed 9,000 deaths, along with 1.8 million cases of various illnesses due to the conditions of war and displacement. Thawabta affirmed in an interview with Al Jazeera that Israel is committing massacres and targeting all means of life in Gaza, including schools and hospitals, as part of military pressures to achieve political goals.



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Return of 'Great Game'

MEN have not always acquiesced in the perpetual quadrille of the Balance of Power. They have often wished that the music would stop and that they could sit out a dance without maintaining the ceaseless watch on each other ... The simplest 'solution' for anarchy, as Hobbes held, is that one Power should subdue all the rest." - A.J.P. Taylor, The Struggle for Mastery in Europe 1848 - 1918 RT, the controversial news media platform ideologically aligned with the Kremlin, doesn't mince words. A big op-ed headline reads: "Putin just announced Russia's own Monroe Doctrine: The president has cleared up any ambiguity about how Moscow will respond to any new threats in its backyard". Since the last century, the Monroe Doctrine has become synonymous with the practice of spheres of influence, and the idea fits the Russian leader's conception of the Ukraine war to a tee. "One of the outcomes of Russia's military operation should be a growing awareness among neighbouring countries that looking for a fight with Moscow is a bad idea, and that Nato won't be able to protect them," the RT writer declared. "Furthermore, the West must recognise that by inciting Russia's neighbours to wage war against it, it risks prompting a nuclear war. That is an approach James Monroe would certainly have approved of." The writer was referring to the early 19th century US president after whom the famous doctrine was named. While notionally anti-imperialist against the old European powers, in essence, it declared the Americas to be off limits because they were now the backyard of the United States. Rightly or wrongly, the RT writer is arguing that Putin will not tolerate Nato membership for Ukraine, to the extent that he is literally willing to go nuclear to prevent that from happening. So, when just-retired Nato chief Jens Stoltenberg said in one of his last official interviews that Ukraine's path to Nato was "irreversible", that prospect would be truly frightening. Stoltenberg had a foolhardy tendency to double down on failure, even when he recognised it as such. One can only hope his successor, Mark Rutte, will be more rational. Ukraine is not worth a nuclear war, even or especially for the Ukrainians. China's nine-dash line, which claims almost 90 per cent of the South China Sea as its own maritime territories, is usually seen as an assertion of territorial sovereign ownership. But in a less militaristic way, it may be more useful to consider it as a claim defining a sphere of influence. Asean countries, except recently the Philippines under Ferdinand Marcos Jr, understand that and play such a game of power dynamics accordingly. The US is determined to deny a sphere of influence to China - hence the Quad, Aukus, a strengthened alliance with South Korea and Japan, and flirting with Taiwan's secessionism, perhaps to provoke a cross-strait war, and a possible expansion of Nato into the Asia-Pacific. But while Washington wants to concentrate on containing China, the war in Ukraine and now a looming regional war in the Middle East are proving to be more than distracting. It's becoming doubtful whether Washington has the intellectual or strategic resources, and the commitment of allies, to truly pivot to Asia. A tempting strategy for the US, therefore, is to provoke a regional war - most likely a proxy one over Taiwan - la Ukraine - in the next few years, to derail or at least slow down China's economic development and geopolitical ambitions.

What is at the root of Israel's aggression in Lebanon?

Ata Sahit

Lebanese Health Minister Firaz Abiad confirmed that the dead included more than 160 women and children, while an estimated 2,000 people have been injured since the start of Israel's air strikes on Lebanon. The Israeli army, in a separate statement, said that 1,300 targets were struck during the air strikes. = The horror for the Lebanese people, however, started when thousands of pagers exploded simultaneously across the country on September 17, resulting in the deaths of 12 people and injuries to 3,000 others. A day later, handheld radio devices exploded across the country, leading to 20 more deaths and 450 injuries

LEBANON is experiencing its bloodiest days since 1990 when the years-long civil war ended in a maelstrom of death and destruction. Devastating Israeli air strikes on Lebanon since September 23 have killed over 1,000 people, including Hezbollah leader Hasan Nasrallah, and left about one million homeless. Lebanese Health Minister Firaz Abiad confirmed that the dead included more than 160 women and children, while an estimated 2,000 people have been injured since the start of Israel's air strikes on Lebanon. The Israeli army, in a separate statement, said that 1,300 targets were struck during the air strikes. = The horror for the Lebanese people, however, started when thousands of pagers exploded simultaneously across the country on September 17, resulting in the deaths of 12 people and injuries to 3,000 others. A day later, handheld radio devices exploded across the country, leading to 20 more deaths and 450 injuries. The prevailing hypothesis is that the explosions were the result of an Israeli intelligence operation involving the placement of explosives in the pagers and radios. However, these air strikes and explosions have brought one critical issue into sharp focus. The long-standing conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon has entered a new phase. All available evidence suggests that Israel is aiming to extend its year-long occupation and genocide in Gaza to Lebanon. This raises the moot questions: what drives Israel's increasing aggression, and how has the situation escalated to this point? When Israel's statehood and its historical trajectory are examined, it becomes evident that the state has thrived on conflict and crisis. The formal occupation of Palestinian territories and the displacement of the Palestinian people began on May 14, 1948, long before Tel Aviv launched its brutal war on October 7, 2023. The origins of this occupation can be traced to the Zionist movement that emerged in the late 19th century, the British mandate over Palestine, and the 1947 United Nations plan to partition Palestine. On the day the occupation was declared, Jewish settlers occupied approximately 55 percent of Palestinian land allocated to them by the United Nations. Through subsequent wars, the extent of this occupation expanded. By the end of the 1948 war, the occupied territories grew to 78 percent, and following the Six-Day War in 1967, Israel seized control of East Jerusalem, Gaza, the Sinai Peninsula, the West Bank, the city of Quneitra, and

the Syrian Golan Heights. Throughout this process, more than six million Palestinians were displaced and forcibly removed from their lands. Palestinians not only constitute the largest diaspora in the world, but nearly half of those living inside occupied Palestine are already displaced. From the 1948 Nakba through to Israel's current onslaught on Gaza, Palestinians forcefully displaced by Israel, in numbers. In essence, Israel has continued to occupy increasing portions of Palestinian land. Reports indicate that by the end of 2023, less than 15 percent of the land remained under Palestinian control. Historical evidence clearly shows Israel as the occupying state whose territorial expansion has been fueled by conflict and war. Although Israel's occupation is partly driven by the ambition to establish a so-called 'greater Israel', a fundamental motivation stems from the belief that Jews are a superior, God-chosen people and that Palestine is their promised land. Israel Shahak, the president of the Israel Association for Human Rights and Citizenship, notes that, from an Israeli perspective, everything is divided into categories of Jews and non-Jews. According to him, in the Jewish state, only Jews are regarded as human beings, while non-Jews are seen as lesser beings. This viewpoint suggests that non-Jews exist primarily as a means to produce resources for Jews. From this Zionist perspective, the expulsion of non-Jews from the Promised Land is considered, above all, a religious obligation. The south of Lebanon represents a significant part of Israel's expansionist ambitions. Since the establishment of Israel, the region has been repeatedly subjected to attacks by the Israeli army, and major wars have been fought. The most recent and bloodiest large-scale conflict between Lebanese Hezbollah and the Israeli army occurred in 2006. Referred to in Israel as the 'Second Lebanon War' and internationally known as the '33-Day War', it began on July 12, 2006, and ended on August 14, 2006, marking a turning point in Lebanese-Israeli relations. In this extensive war initiated by Israel, an estimated 40,000 Israeli troops were mobilised, and the Israeli Air Force conducted an average of 270 combat sorties per day. As a result of these air strikes, at least 15,000 homes were completely destroyed. Additionally, more than 30 critical infrastructure sites, including airports, commercial ports, hydroelectric power plants, oil refineries, and 80 bridges, were obliterated. The strikes also claimed the lives of nearly 1,200

Lebanese civilians and 180 Hezbollah members. In retaliation, Lebanese Hezbollah launched 4,000 missiles at Israel, resulting in the death of 165 Israelis. Moreover, the Israeli army executed 170,000 artillery strikes against various targets, while the Israeli navy conducted 2,500 strikes on coastal targets. Despite the war's devastating impact on Lebanon, Israel was forced to retreat due to the geopolitical realities of the time, resulting in a temporary detente between the two sides. However, this period of de-escalation appears to have ended, as tensions have risen again, and the region seems on the brink of another full-scale war. The addition of infantry and armoured troops suggests that Israel's invasion has moved beyond limited commando raids, but its military says it has no plans for a wider push. Since the onset of what has been referred to as the genocide in Gaza, history has witnessed an unprecedented level of barbarism rarely, if ever, seen in recent times. Over the past year, this genocide has resulted in the death of nearly 42,000 people, with 10,000 missing and 100,000 reported injured. Addressing the world from the podium at the 79th United Nations (UN) General Assembly, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan made a passionate plea to the international community to intervene and stop the murderous Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Recent developments indicate that Lebanon is becoming the next target in this genocidal policy. It can be argued that the primary reason for Israel intending to implement a policy similar to that in Gaza in southern Lebanon is the impunity they have enjoyed for their actions in Gaza over the past year, the lack of an anticipated response to their attacks on Lebanese Hezbollah, and the significant erosion of Iran's deterrence capabilities, as exemplified by the case of the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh. For an extended period, Israel has conducted lethal attacks against Lebanese Hezbollah, resulting in the death of numerous senior officials. However, the response from Lebanese Hezbollah has been markedly inadequate, largely limited to rhetorical statements and ineffective rocket and missile attacks. This situation has emboldened the most radical government in Israel's history, sending a message of opportunity that encourages even more radical actions. Regrettably, the primary victims of this ongoing conflict have been Lebanese civilians and, by extension, humanity itself.

The burning Middle East region

Shafaqat Rasool

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) says there are three bases near Tel Aviv targeted. Allies countries of Israel are standing with them, and world leaders call for de-escalation after Iran's missile on Israel. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned the "broadening conflict in the Middle East." Russia is a key player and a strategic ally of Iran. Russia's stance over the situation the United States approaches in the Middle

IRAN attacks Israeli aggression in Lebanon with a massive ballistic missile salvo. IDF has claimed 180 missiles fired at Israeli territory, with immediate reports of no casualties. Iran is challenging claiming that hits targeted 90% of missiles successfully, but one fact is undeniable Iranian Missiles barrage the security. Iran has vowed a crushing response if Israel retaliates. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) says there are three bases near Tel Aviv targeted. Allies countries of Israel are standing with them, and world leaders call for de-escalation after Iran's missile on Israel. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned the "broadening conflict in the Middle East." Russia is a key player and a strategic ally of Iran. Russia's stance over the situation the United States approaches in the Middle East was a "complete failure," and criticism of the White House's incomprehensible statements demonstrates its complete helplessness in resolving the crisis. However, the United States calls it a significant escalation and vows to help allies defend it. Attacks come after Israeli forces launched ground incursions into Lebanon. Hezbollah denies ground invasion; they are high in morals and ready to face any action.

The aim of the retaliation response was very strongly expressed by Jerusalem's PM Benjamin Netanyahu, who held a meeting with heads of the security establishment in Tel Aviv and sent a video message after the attack vowing to revenge his Argentine message to citizens and his statement Iran's made a big mistake, the regime of Iran did not understand

determination to defend our self, whoever attacks us we attack them. Due to tension, this fight has a high chance of escalating into a large area in the Middle East region. The ME region in the last decades has been unstable and facing a lot of security threats, civil wars, great power competition, and war and terror. This war between two regional stakeholders has consequences for the whole world. Flights have been suspended and rerouted across the Middle East; Pakistan International Airlines has stopped using Iranian airspace. Scholars of International Relations such as Professor John Mearsheimer raise concerns of a dangerous escalation in the Middle East direct war between Iran and Israel; his argument is "Israel is in trouble" due to the size of Israel and geographical location cant' allow to go full of war with Iran, and both are enemies of each other with a long history. Hezbollah leader Nasrallah was killed by the Israel strike in Lebanon; he was the game-changer leader of Hezbollah, and Iran has been under huge pressure from their people for a response to Israel for tasking revenge on Nasrallah and Ismail Haniyeh for his death on Iranian soil, which exposes the security of Iran. Massive attacks on Iran have also been embarrassing for Iran if they do not respond to their enemy. Iran's Revolutionary Guard (IRGC) said the missile attack was in response to the assassinations of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah and Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran. It attacks Iran intentionally or in desperation, but Iran's responses are well calculated. When Iran attacked Israel for the first time, the Iron Dome

was an Israeli mobile all-weather air defense system; the most advanced air radar intercepted almost all missiles. Also, scholars' criticism of Iranian defense and capability, this response accurately hits inside Israel. Attacks on Iran U.S. intelligence shared reports with the Israeli government that massive missiles will be launched by Iran-Israel authority on high alert after the U.S. shared the information with them. Israel has a powerful military to target any installation and use advanced technology to attack sites in the region, such as Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, and Yemen. Israel's eyes are on all active people or any group supporting the Palestinian cause, and recently Pager attacked thousands inside Lebanon using explosive materials intelligently. Israel-Iran tensions are escalating, while Israel's aims target Iran's leadership directly, moving beyond proxy conflict, Iranian top figures, Hamas leadership, Islamic Jihad, and Hezbollah the target of Israel. Israel is finding a solid reason to attack Iran and their strategy to launch an air strike on the nuclear plan of Iran and first-level leadership. This raises concerns over regional stability, potential humanitarian crises, and broader international. The impact of the war disturbed the sea routes of trade and rising prices of oil and gas amid tension; the Red Sea has become a battleground for shippers since the Iran-backed militant Houthis began their campaign targeting ships traveling through the waterway, which once saw \$1 trillion a year of cargo pass through. Non-State holder Houthis have targeted more than 80 merchant vessels with missiles and drones since the war in Gaza started last October.

Briefs

Pakistan, Malaysia...

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source of inspiration for him. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has been a prominent advocate of humanitarian causes and Islamic values throughout his political career. His leadership is marked by a profound commitment to promoting social justice and addressing global issues affecting the Islamic world. He has also been a voice for the causes of self-determination movements and has particularly stood against oppression across the world. He continues to work tirelessly to counter Islamophobia striving to create interfaith harmony by fostering understanding and respect between different cultures and religions. The Ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Federal Ministers, Services Chiefs, diplomats, and senior government officials. The President also hosted a state dinner in honour of the visiting Malaysian Prime Minister and his delegation.

Malaysia welcomes...

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With PM Shehbaz congratulating his Malaysian counterpart on Malaysia's upcoming Chairmanship of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, (ASEAN) in 2025, the honourable visiting dignitary welcomed Pakistan's continued engagement with ASEAN as a Sectoral Dialogue Partner and expressed support for further engagement between Pakistan and ASEAN as well as Pakistan's larger role in ASEAN. Setting the tone and future direction of bilateral relations between the two countries, the two leaders stressed the importance of dialogue and exchanges of visits at all levels and underlined the importance of the Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC), bilateral consultations and other mechanisms to enhance engagement at all levels.

'No leniency to be shown..'

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is of utmost importance for the country. "Paramilitary forces, army and Rangers have been called in. We have to ensure security in the [federal capital]," he added. Naqvi said the country's interest should be given priority over political goals, stating that no act that could tarnish the country's image should be avoided. "We hope that KP CM [Ali Amin Gandapur] will not resort to any move that could bring disrepute to the country."

Three Islamabad..

FROM PAGE 01

Addressing the press conference, Islamabad Bar Council's Ali Imran Abbasi, along with other senior members, expressed concerns over the amendments, claiming they were designed to serve specific individuals and political parties. He further added that the amendments would undermine the judiciary, reducing the Supreme Court's powers to those of a session judge. Abbasi pointed out that recent amendments aimed at curbing judicial independence by dismissing judges who opposed certain political agendas. The bar associations also demanded the Supreme Court Bar Association withdraw its review petition of Article 63A, accusing the Chief Justice of playing a facilitator's role in passing these amendments.

PPP announces..

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It is noteworthy that Jamaate-Islami will hold a Million March on October 7 on Embassy Road in Islamabad to express solidarity with Gaza and Lebanon. Bilawal Bhutto, while speaking on the occasion, said that despite ideological differences, "we stand together on this issue. The whole of Pakistan must unite, political parties are not ready to shake hands due to differences, but this is a positive step forward in Pakistan's politics." He also assured Hafiz Naem that PPP would support Jamaate-Islami on this issue, and that together, "we will send a message to the world that we stand with the people of Gaza."

Pakistan team to tour Australia on October 30

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi meets Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi met with Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins at Ministry of Interior today. Interior Minister welcomed the Australian High Commissioner upon his arrival.

During the meeting, bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest were discussed in detail. It was agreed to enhance cooperation in border management and counter-human trafficking. It was also considered to designate Islamabad Capital Territory and Australian Capital Territory as sister cities.

Mohsin Naqvi stated that Pakistan cricket team will visit Australia on October 30, and hoped that the tour will provide an excellent opportunity for the people of both countries to witness exciting games. He further said that No Objection Certificates (NOCs) will be issued to Pakistani women cricketers to participate in Australia's Women Big Bash League. Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins as-



ured that Australia will provide cooperation in training, young women's cricket, and blind cricket team. The Australian High Commissioner also presented a cricket bat autographed by the Australian Cricket team to the Interior Minister.

Interior Minister stated that a full team has been deployed for border management and counter-human trafficking, which was working day and night to prevent human smuggling to Australia and other countries. He added that efforts are being made to enhance the capacity of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in this regard. Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins offered that Pakistan can benefit from Australia's modern border management techniques and equipment. Interior welcomed the High Commissioner's offer.

On the occasion, it was agreed to hold the meeting of Joint Working Group in Australia during December. Interior Minister also said that Pakistan is providing all possible facilities for the relocation of Afghan refugees in Australia.

Broad sees 'Bazball' style as winning formula for England

England's ex-Test cricketer thinks Pakistan has 'not been playing the best cricket' lately

MULTAN: Former England Test cricketer Stuart Broad has predicted that England's 'Bazball' style "will work" against Pakistan in the upcoming Test series which is part of the ICC World Test Championship 2023-25. The first and second Test matches in the bilateral series are set to be played in Multan, starting from October 7. England's Bazball approach first proved successful for them when the team marked a historic 3-0 series win in Pakistan in 2022 and Broad believes it will work just as well this time. "I think the style will work in Pakistan, for sure," said Broad during an interview ahead of the launch of Inside Lord's, Marylebone Cricket Club's (MCC) new digital plat-

form. "It was a great tour to Pakistan in 2022, all the players really enjoyed it and ultimately, England's batting group are wonderful players of spin." The owner of 604 Test wickets further praised his national team's batting group's "positive and aggressive" skills and said that they can "find the boundary and don't get tied down by spin". He added: "England will have to play that fast-paced cricket to force results over there, because you generally do need five days to make something happen." The 38-year-old former cricketer also highlighted that the Men in Green "have not been playing the best cricket" which, he believes, the England team should see as a positive chance to

put Pakistan under pressure. Broad said Pakistan, who were defeated 2-0 at home by Bangladesh last month, would be looking to take advantage of England's inexperienced fast bowling lineup, but the visitors must capitalise on the hosts' underwhelming form. "Pakistan have not been playing the best cricket. They've been struggling, so England should see that as a positive and go there trying to apply pressure to that team as soon as they possibly can," Broad said. "But we always know Pakistan, they've got world-class talent and players that can win a game on their own. It won't be an easy challenge. "The surfaces (in Pakistan) were a bit slower and turned, but in

their recent series they've had a bit of green grass on and carried through a bit more. "I don't know which way Pakistan will lean on their pitches - they might leave a bit of grass on, seeing an inexperienced bowling group from England." Broad said there had been an inconsistency in results with England's test style, but players must focus on the positives. The youngsters might take time to adapt to it, but players like Jamie Smith were improving under McCullum and Stokes. "It's been an amazing style for young players to learn their game and have amazing freedom. The key to it is the consistency in selection," Broad added.—APP

Pak vs Eng: Match officials announced

Three-match Test series in Multan and Rawalpindi has been scheduled from 7 to 28 October

LAHORE: The match officials for the Test series between Pakistan and England have been announced. West Indies' Sir Richie Richardson, who is a member of the ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, will lead the playing control teams for the three ICC World Test Championship 2023-25 fixtures between host Pakistan and England. Both teams are scheduled to play three-match Test series in Multan and Rawalpindi from 7 to 28 October. The first Test match will be played at the Multan Cricket Stadium from 7 to 11 October, while the second Test match will be played at the same venue from 15 to 19 October. The third Test match will commence on 24 October and will take place at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. For the first Test, Sri Lanka's Kumar Dharmasena and Bangladesh's Sharfuddoula Saikat - both ICC Elite Panel of Umpires, will perform duties as on-field umpires. New Zealand's Christopher Gaffaney, also part of the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires, will be the third umpire, while Pakistan's Asif Yaqoob (ICC International Panel of Umpires) will act as fourth umpire. For the second Test, Dharmasena will be joined by Gaffaney for on-field umpires' duties, while Saikat will perform duties of the third umpire. Pakistan's Rashid Riaz, also part of the ICC International Panel of Umpires, will be the fourth umpire. For third Test at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Gaffaney and Saikat will perform the duties as on-field umpires, while Dharmasena will serve as a third umpire. Pakistan's Faisal Aafreedi - part of the ICC International Panel of Umpires, will be the fourth umpire.—DNA

Usman announces retirement from cricket

LAHORE: Leg spinner Usman Qadir announced retirement from Pakistan cricket on Thursday, saying each moment with the national side shaped his career and enriched his life. The 31-year-old thanked coaches and colleagues for their support in his journey in a social media post. "Today, I am announcing my retirement from Pakistan cricket, and as I reflect on this incredible journey, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude. It has been an immense honour to represent my country, and I'm thankful for the support of my coaches and teammates who have been with me every step of the way. "From unforgettable victories to the challenges we faced together, each moment has shaped my career and enriched my life. I'm deeply appreciative of the passionate fans who have always stood by me; your unwavering support has meant the world," he wrote. Usman has played one one-day international and 25 T20 internationals for the Green Shirts. His career has not been as illustrious as his father's - legendary bowler Abdul Qadir. Abdul Qadir's son said he would be continuing his dad's legacy, embracing both his love for cricket and the lessons his dad instilled in him, as he stepped into the new chapter. "I carry with me the spirit of Pakistan cricket and the cherished memories we created together. Thank you for everything."—DNA

Younis endorses Babar's decision to step down as captain

Veteran cricketer puts forward names of Mohammad Rizwan and Fakhar Zaman to lead side

WEB DESK

LAHORE: Former captain of the Pakistan cricket team, Younis Khan, has supported Babar Azam's decision to step down from captaincy, saying that the resignation will be "beneficial" for him. Younis, who led the Pakistan cricket team and lifted the T20 World Cup in 2009 after their defeat in the final of the inaugural edition of the tournament in 2007, has put forward names of wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan and left-handed batter Fakhar Zaman to lead the side. "In our culture, we often make the biggest player the captain, which I believe is a mistake," said Younis,

adding that Rizwan or Zaman should be considered for the role. Babar, on Tuesday, announced that he was stepping down from white-ball captaincy, saying that it was time for him to focus on his playing role and personal growth. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had reappointed him as the national team's captain for T20I and one-day internationals (ODIs) on March 31. He had earlier ended his years-long stint as skipper in November 2023 after he stepped down as captain of the national side. The former batter's remarks came during his visit to the Adelaide Oval earlier today where he was honoured with the official South Aus-

tralia Redbacks cap by Mark Cosgrove, former Australian cricketer and current High-Performance Coach of the South Australian Cricket Association (SACA). The legendary batter, who arrived in Australia this morning, represented the Redbacks during the 2008-2009 season. During a media briefing at the iconic venue, Younis expressed optimism about Pakistan's chances in Australia, acknowledging the presence of young talent in the current white ball squad but also pointing to issues with team selection. "I hope the Pakistan men's cricket team performs well in Australia. The current squad includes young players, and

there are certainly some issues with team selection that need to be addressed," the veteran cricketer stated. "I have played cricket with Jason Gillespie; he is working hard to improve the Pakistan team. However, there needs to be better decision-making when it comes to selection," he added. Younis is also set to take part in the upcoming Australian Summer Cricket Festival, scheduled for October 5 in Melbourne. He will join top Australian cricketers, including Glenn Maxwell and Jake Fraser-McGurk, in the highly anticipated event, which aims to celebrate the sport and bring together cricketing talent.

ICCI President vows to address business community's challenges



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), has reaffirmed the organization's dedication to tackling the challenges faced by the business community. To achieve this, he emphasized the importance of creating a favorable business environment, which is crucial for Pakistan's economic prosperity and international reputation. During an inaugural staff meeting at the Chamber House, the President

urged the staff to recognize the importance of collective efforts in achieving ICCI's success, emphasizing that teamwork, trust, and efficient performance are essential to achieving the desired outcomes. The President outlined key objectives to achieve this goal. These include providing equal support and assistance to all visiting members, fostering teamwork and collaboration among staff, maintaining confidentiality and trustworthiness, and striving for excellence in all aspects of work. Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui emphasized the crucial role of sincerity and commitment to

the institution's success and excellence. He stressed that dedication to ICCI's mission is essential for achieving its goals. Vice President Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry expressed optimism that the entire team will collaborate to further enhance the reputation of the body. His remarks reflected confidence in the team's potential to make a meaningful impact. Earlier, Secretary General Ghulam Murtaza Siddique introduced his entire team to the new portfolios by saying that he has a dedicated, devoted, and hardworking group of individuals who are fully capable of achieving the desired objectives.

China Open: Gauffin semis to face Badosa

SPORTS DESK

BEIJING: Coco Gauff survived a scare to beat Ukrainian qualifier Yulia Starodubtseva in three sets and reach the China Open semi-finals on Thursday. The 2023 US Open champion will face Paula Badosa after the Spaniard ended the fairytale run of China's 595th-ranked Zhang Shuai in straight sets. Gauff, seeded four, fought back to defeat 115th-ranked Starodubtseva 2-6, 6-2, 6-2 in Beijing. The 20-year-old American recently parted ways with coach Brad Gilbert as she attempts to regain the form that brought her a first Grand Slam crown last year. Gauff's serve has become a particular problem and it was so again as she surrendered the first set. But Gauff recovered her poise to battle back in the second - it was the first set Starodubtseva had dropped in her seventh match at the tournament. Gauff, who is chasing an eighth singles title, surged into a 3-0 lead in the deciding set on the way to sealing her place in the semi-finals. In the other quarter-final on the day, former world number two Badosa disappointed the home fans with a 6-1, 7-6 (7/4) defeat of Zhang. The 35-year-old Zhang, a two-time Grand Slam singles quarter-finalist who has been plagued by injury, arrived in Beijing on a run of 24 defeats in a row. The painful losing run, stretching more than 600 days, was the second-longest on the WTA Tour in the Open Era, which began in 1968. But the former top-25 player finally won a match to start her tournament and then rattled off three more victories to improbably reach the last eight. In front of a near-capacity crowd at the 15,000-seater Diamond Court, Zhang went a double break down in a blur of unforced errors. She finally held to get on the board for 4-1, but Badosa raced away with the first set in 23 minutes. The second was closer and they went to a tie break.

Qureshi warns Bilawal against ...

FROM PAGE 01

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to evolve broader consensus on the 26th Constitutional Amendment, hinting at an invitation to discuss it with the largest opposition party in the Parliament, the PTI. Unless consensus is evolved, Qureshi cautioned that the move could potentially ignite unrest, warning that "the 1973 unanimous Constitution might be set on fire by Bhutto's own lamp." The incarcerated PTI leader emphasised that as a federalist, Bilawal should recognise the importance of ensuring full representation of all federating units, particularly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), which currently lacks complete representation in the Senate. He voiced his concerns that pushing the amendment under the current circumstances could raise national suspicions about its timing.

SC annuls verdict barring...

FROM PAGE 01

be disregarded and not counted. During the hearing today, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawyer Barrister Ali Zafar apprised the court that he met the PTI founder, however, the meeting didn't have the attorney-client privilege as it was also attended by police officers. The lawyer further said that the incarcerated ex-prime minister has requested to appear before the court himself and that he wishes to raise certain arguments via virtual appearance. Reiterating the party's earlier opposition to the bench, he said that the PTI founder has maintained that the five-member bench hearing the said case wasn't constituted properly so they won't be a part of the proceedings.

Alvi accuses CJP of fostering...

FROM PAGE 01

an atmosphere conducive to floor-crossing, driven by a "lust" to extend his tenure. Alvi likened Isa's actions to those of the current government, which he alleged is "ruining the Constitution for its survival." "I have never seen a chief justice like Paez Isa in my life," Alvi said while speaking to reporters at the Anti-Terrorism Court, where he met with PTI lawmakers arrested in connection with the May 9 riots following the arrest of PTI founder Imran Khan. Alvi went on to criticise the chief justice, stating, "He has damaged the country more than Justice Munir," referencing the controversial former judge who was criticised for judicial overreach in the 1950s.

Bangladesh recalls 5...

FROM PAGE 01

August 5 and flee to India. The foreign ministry ordered envoys in Brussels, Canberra, Lisbon, New Delhi and the permanent mission to the United Nations in New York to immediately return to the capital, Dhaka, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. They were asked to hand over their responsibilities immediately and return, the official added, without elaborating. The step follows the recall of Saida Muna Tasneem, the high commissioner, or ambassador, to Britain, who was similarly asked to return.

Fazl accepts SC ruling

FROM PAGE 01

going against party directions when voting in parliament. In its May 17, 2022 verdict, the SC - via 3-2 judgment - ruled that votes cast contrary to the parliamentary party lines in four instances outlined in Article 63(A) should not be counted. These four instances are the election of prime minister and chief minister; a vote of confidence or no-confidence; a Constitution amendment bill; and a money bill. Three judges - then-CJP Umar Ata Bandial, and Justice Ijazul Ahsan, and Justice Munir Akhtar - had voted in favour whereas Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail and Justice Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhel were the dissenting judges.

Briefs

Rupee sheds 11 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Thursday depreciated by 11 paise against the US dollar in the inter-bank trading and closed at Rs277.74 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.63. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs278.50 and Rs280 respectively. The price of Euro decreased by 55 paise to close at Rs306.76 against the last day's closing of Rs307.31, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen came down by 03 paise and closed at Rs1.89, whereas a decrease of Rs4.53 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs364.43 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs368.96. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal increased by 03 paise 02 paise to close at Rs75.61 and Rs73.99.—APP

PSX continues with bullish trend

ISLAMABAD: The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 754.76 more points, a positive change of 0.92 percent, closing at 82,721.77 points against 81,967.01 points on the last working day. A total of 319,879,266 3 shares were traded during the day as compared to 360,987,426 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 16.414 billion against Rs.15.391 billion on the last trading day. As many as 448 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 207 of them recorded gains and 185 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 56 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 23,243,577 shares at Rs 1.20 per share, Fauji Cement with 21,628,458 shares at Rs 27.15 per share and Fauji Fertilizer Bin with 15,264,220 shares at Rs 52.83 per share. Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 204.20 per share price, closing at Rs 17,500.00, whereas the runner-up was Hoechst Pakistan Limited with Rs 89.97 rise in its per share price to Rs 2,100.00. Sapphire Textile Mills Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 54.22 per share closing at Rs 1,163.17 followed by Sapphire Fibres Limited with Rs 40.00 decline to close at Rs 1,270.00.—APP

Gold price decreases by Rs.1,100 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.1,100 and was sold at Rs.274,400 on Thursday 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 943 to Rs. 235,254 from Rs. 236,197 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs 215,650 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.—APP

Extra 30m euros for Lebanon

BRUSSELS: The European Commission announced on Thursday an extra \$33.1 million in humanitarian aid for Lebanon, which has been hit by clashes between Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah. "I am extremely concerned by the constant escalation of tensions in the Middle East. All parties must do their utmost to protect the lives of innocent civilians," said European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. This comes in addition to the 10 million euros already announced on Sept. 29 and brings total EU humanitarian assistance to the country to over 104 million euros this year.—APP

Pak-Malaysia agree for fostering deeper economic, trade coop

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Malaysia on Thursday agreed to take significant steps towards fostering deeper economic cooperation and exploring new business opportunities that benefit both nations. Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan held a meeting with Datuk Seri Utama Tengku Zafrul Bin Tengku Abdul Aziz, the Malaysian Minister for Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI). This meeting underscored the brotherly relations both countries cherish in all fields, according to a release issued. The Minister for Commerce welcomed Minister Tengku Zafrul Aziz to Pakistan and highlighted the longstanding friendship between the two nations. Jam emphasized that there is huge potential to grow bilateral trade between the two sides. The Minister urged for enhanced business engagements to transform this potential into reality. Moreover, Mr Jam Kamal Khan stressed that there is a potential for growth in almost all the sectors of Pakistan. He mentioned that Pakistan is exporting high-quality rice and mangoes all over the world.



He apprised the visiting Minister that recently Government of Pakistan had removed the Minimum Export Price (MEP) for rice which will allow Pakistani exporters to negotiate

competitive prices. He encouraged Malaysia may engage more with Pakistan to import rice. A significant focus of the dialogue was on the potential for exporting halal meat from Pakistan to Malaysia. The Minister reiterated Pakistan's commitment to maintaining high halal standards, which are essential for expanding access to the Malaysian market. He called for facilitation in the accreditation process for Pakistani meat and gelatin exporting companies, emphasizing that cooperation in this sector could greatly enhance trade flows. Malaysian side acknowledged the difficulties faced by Pakistan businessmen in the procedural processes of JAKIM for exporting meat to Malaysia and reassured their commitment to ease these procedures for Pakistani businesses. Moreover, Malaysian Minister for Trade invited Pakistan to participate in the activities of the ASEAN as Malaysia is taking the chair of ASEAN. In closing, the Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to creating a conducive environment for foreign investment, expressing optimism for the future of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Malaysia.

Palestinian activist wins prize for peaceful resistance

STOCKHOLM: Palestinian activist Issa Amro on Thursday accepted the Right Livelihood prize — considered by some an alternative Nobel — for his "nonviolent resistance to Israel's illegal occupation" in the West Bank, the jury said. Amro was born in the city of Hebron, a flashpoint West Bank city where roughly 1,000 Jewish settlers live under heavy Israeli military protection amid some 200,000 Palestinians. He has dedicated his life to fighting against Israel's occupation of the West Bank. The 44-year-old founded the Youth Against Settlements group, which campaigns against the proliferation of Jewish settlements in the territory — communities widely regarded as illegal under international law. The rights campaigner has been repeatedly detained and tortured by both the Palestinian Authority and by Israel, the foundation said. "It's a miracle that I still exist," said Amro. When Palestine Polytechnic University, where he was studying, closed in 2003 during the Second Intifada, Amro successfully led a six-month civil disobedience campaign. "I managed to reopen the university with other students," Amro said in a statement. "I graduated as an engineer and as an activist — it became part of my character," he added. The Sweden-based Right Livelihood Foundation also honored Joan Carling, a Filipino champion of indigenous rights and Anabela Lemos, a climate activist from Mozambique. It also gave the nod to research agency Forensic Architecture for its work in uncovering human rights violations around the world. The foundation said the four prize winners had "each made a profound impact on their communities and the global stage." "Their unwavering commitment to speaking out against forces of oppression and exploitation, while strictly adhering to non-violent methods, resonates far beyond their communities," Right Livelihood said in a statement. Carling from the Philippines was recognized for having defended the rights of indigenous communities for three decades, particularly in their fight against mining projects. The foundation celebrated Lemos, who heads the NGO Justica Ambiental (JA), for her role in opposing liquefied natural gas extraction projects in northern Mozambique. Forensic Architecture, a London-based research laboratory known for 3D modelling conflict zones, won the distinction for "pioneering digital forensic methods" to ensure accountability of human rights violations around the world. By teaming up with Ukraine's Center for Spatial Technologies to reconstruct Mariupol's Drama Theatre before it was destroyed in 2022, the firm highlighted Russia's "strategies of terror" and "attempts to obscure evidence of their own crimes," the foundation said. Swedish-German philatelist Jakob von Uexkull sold part of his stamp collection to found the Right Livelihood award in 1980, after the foundation behind the Nobel Prizes refused to create new distinctions honoring efforts in the fields of environment and international development.—Agencies

Govt committed to transform Pakistan into cashless economy

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms Shaza Fatima Khawaja said on Wednesday that the present government was committed to transform Pakistan into cashless economy. During a meeting with Ambassador of Ethiopia Jemal Beker Abdula, she said steps were being taken to promote digital payments in the country as it had an important role in driving economic growth and efficiency. Matters of mutual interest, digitalization and e-governance were also discussed in the meeting, said a news release. Shaza Fatima said that boost in relations between Pakistan and Ethiopia in IT and telecom sector was vital. She said the IT and telecommunication sector of Pakistan was rapidly progressing. Shaza Fatima said under the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, steps were underway for digital transformation in the country. The society, economy and governance were being digitalised, she added. The minister said that Ethiopia could benefit from Pakistan's experiences in the field of Information and Communications Technology (ICT). She also assured Pakistan Government's full support to Ethiopia regarding digitalization. The Ethiopian ambassador said that the IT sector of Pakistan had great potential. He said Ethiopia wanted to increase ties with Pakistan in the field of IT and telecommunication. "We aspire to get benefit from Pakistan's experiences in the ICT infrastructure development.—APP

Morocco to spend \$260m on flood relief

RABAT: The Moroccan government said on Thursday it plans to spend 2.5 billion dirhams (\$ 260 million) on a flood relief plan that includes reconstruction aid, infrastructure upgrades and farming support. Floods ravaged several villages in the country's south-east last month, killing at least 28 people and destroying roads. The government will offer 80,000 Dirhams for partially demolished homes and 140,000 dirhams for totally collapsed ones, the prime minister's office said. The plan includes upgrading destroyed infrastructure and support to affected farmers. Separately, the government said it will continue, for the next five months, to offer cash handouts of 2500 dirhams to some 60,000 households affected by an earthquake that hit the High Atlas mountains in September 2023. One year on, just 1000 homes have been built, according to official data, as the government continues its gradual construction aid plan for some 57,000 damaged or totally destroyed homes.—APP

Turkish inflation falls less than expected in Sep at 49.4%

ISTANBUL: Turkish annual inflation slowed less than expected in September to 49.4 percent, official data showed Thursday, a figure which analysts said could disappoint central bank officials after a series of interest rate hikes. Turkey's central bank began to raise rates last year in efforts to battle soaring prices, after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan dropped his opposition to orthodox monetary policy. The September inflation figure was higher than the 48.1 percent consumer price increase forecast by Turkish economists cited by local media. Inflation had reached 52 percent in August. "The smaller-than-expected decline in Turkey's headline rate to 49.4 percent y/y (year-on-year) in September will be a disappointment to policymakers at the central bank," Nicholas Farr, emerging Europe economist at the London-based Capital Economics, said in a note to clients. He said the figure showed that a monetary easing cycle was unlikely to start until 2025 — later than most other analysts have been forecasting. Last month, the central bank kept its main interest rate stable at 50 percent for a sixth consecutive month and said it remained highly attentive to inflation risks. According to the central bank's forecast, inflation will ease to 38 percent at the end of this year, 14 percent next year and nine percent in 2026. Farr said inflation would fall further over the coming months but that the central bank's end-year forecast of 38 percent "looks way out of reach". He said a particular concern for the central bank would be that, in month-on-month terms, core inflation continued to accelerate. Inflation increased 2.97 percent on a monthly basis in September, the TUIK statistics agency said. Erdogan this week said inflation was on a downward trend. "Our people will feel the slowdown more in the bazaars, and in their shopping baskets," he added. According to the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, retail prices in Turkey's largest city Istanbul alone increased by 3.9 percent on a monthly basis and 59.2 percent on an annual basis in September. Turkey's annual inflation rate reached a decades-long high of 85 percent in October 2022, according to official data. It fell to 38.2 percent in June 2023 before rising again. It reached 75 percent in May this year but started to fall in June. The biggest price increases in September came from housing, which rose almost 98 percent on an annual basis, followed by education at 93.6 percent, and restaurant and hotels at 65.4 percent.—APP

Over 50 federal, provincial officials trained

ISLAMABAD: Over 50 federal and provincial planning officials have been trained on integrating carbon markets into government project approvals in an effort to support Pakistan to combat climate change and meet its international obligations. SPAR6C, in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination and the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, organized a two-day Carbon Market Training Workshop for Federal and Provincial planning and development officials, a news release said. The two-day workshop brought together officials responsible for appraising public investment projects. The event aimed to enhance their understanding of carbon credits and how these can be leveraged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, align with global climate goals and secure vital international financing. Funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, the SPAR6C programme supports developing countries, including Pakistan, in navigating carbon markets. This initiative is part of the Supporting Preparedness for Article 6 Cooperation (SPAR6C) programme, aimed at boosting Pakistan's participation in international carbon markets, which could generate between \$2 billion and \$5 billion by 2030. Pakistan has set a bold target of cutting projected emissions by 50% by 2030, with 35% of this reduction conditional on international financial support. The Paris Agreement's Article 6 provides new avenues for the country to access carbon markets and secure funding for sustainable projects. Speaking on the occasion, Secretary of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Aisha Humera, emphasized the importance of this opportunity: "This is a golden chance to learn how to claim carbon credits. Few in Pakistan have this skill.—APP

Spanish PM calls for ceasefire in Lebanon

BARCELONA: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez expressed his solidarity with Lebanon on Wednesday, reiterating his call for an immediate ceasefire amid escalating tensions in the region. Sanchez spoke with Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati, conveying Spain's support during Lebanon's ongoing crisis. In a message posted on X (formerly Twitter), Sanchez stated, "I just spoke with the Prime Minister of Lebanon @Najib_Mikati to express my solidarity and support in the difficult times his country is going through." He further noted that Spain has ramped up its humanitarian aid to assist Lebanon's civilian population. Sanchez emphasized the importance of respecting international law and Lebanon's territorial integrity, stressing that Spain's foreign policy remains consistent in advocating for peace. "It is essential that international law and international humanitarian law, as well as Lebanon's territorial integrity, be respected," he said. Reiterating his call for an immediate ceasefire, Sanchez added, "We demand an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon." His remarks reflect the growing concern in Spain about the intensifying conflict, which has spilled over from Gaza into Lebanon following a series of Israeli attacks targeting the Lebanese Hezbollah group. As regional tensions have escalated, Sanchez's plea for peace comes amidst a deadly conflict that began with an Israeli attack on the Gaza Strip. Nearly 41,600 people, mostly women and children, have been killed in Gaza since October 7. The violence has extended to Lebanon, where Israel has launched multiple strikes against Hezbollah, resulting in the deaths of at least 1,928 people and the injury of nearly 9,300 since September 23. Sanchez also confirmed that several Spanish military aircraft have been dispatched to Beirut to evacuate Spanish nationals from Lebanon, underlining Spain's ongoing efforts to safeguard its citizens amid the crisis. The situation in Lebanon and Gaza remains volatile, with widespread international calls for de-escalation and humanitarian aid. The conflict, which has caused significant civilian casualties and damage, continues to raise concerns over regional stability and the prospect of broader international involvement. Spain's position, echoed by Sanchez, highlights the urgent need for peace and the protection of civilians in accordance with international humanitarian law. Sanchez's statements come at a time when European leaders are increasingly calling for diplomatic solutions to the conflicts in both Gaza and Lebanon. Spain's increased humanitarian assistance and its push for a ceasefire underscore its commitment to fostering peace and stability in the region. Previously, more than 200 trade unions and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Spain initiated a 24-hour general strike to protest Israel's ongoing onslaught on Gaza and to express solidarity with the Palestinian people. The strike, themed "Against the genocide and occupation in Palestine," saw demonstrations across the country, including in major cities like Madrid, Barcelona, and Bilbao. Students in several universities also joined the protests, sending classes in a show of support. The demonstrators, led by groups such as the General Confederation of Labor (CGT), condemned Israel's attacks on Gaza, which they described as "intolerable" and accused the Israeli government of committing genocide. The protesters called on Spain's government to sever all diplomatic, military, and commercial ties with Israel in response to its actions in Gaza. As the conflict continues, the international community, including Spain, remains focused on efforts to de-escalate the situation and provide aid to those affected by the ongoing violence.—DNA

Pakistani IT companies shine at AI, Big Data Exhibition Europe

The AI and Big Data Exhibition Europe 2024 brought together top tech companies from across the world, offering an excellent opportunity for Pakistani IT firms to showcase their innovations and foster international partnerships

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Four leading Pakistani IT companies — REACH THE GLOBE, ICILtek, NorthBay Solutions, and Sofizar / ConstellationCK — proudly represented Pakistan at the 'AI and Big Data Exhibition Europe' held on 1st-2nd October 2024 at the RAI Convention Centre in Amsterdam. Sponsored by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), the companies showcased cutting-edge solutions in AI and Big Data, positioning Pakistan as a key player in the global tech arena, said a press release issued here on Thursday. The Embassy of Pakistan in The Hague played a pivotal role in promoting the participation of these companies. In collaboration with the event



organizers, the Embassy ensured seamless setup of the Pakistan

Pavilion and facilitated the booths for the participating companies. Additionally, the Embassy actively promoted the presence of Pakistani IT firms, attracting visitors from various sectors to explore innovative solutions offered by the country's top tech talent. To further strengthen ties and foster business collaborations, the Embassy hosted a networking dinner, bringing together Pakistani IT firms and key stakeholders from Dutch companies. This gathering provided an invaluable platform for both Pakistani and Dutch businesses to discuss opportunities for collaboration in AI, Big Data, and beyond. The Pakistan Pavilion emerged as a popular highlight at the exhibition, drawing considerable attention from visitors keen on discovering Pakistan's advancements in AI and Big

Data technologies. Speaking on the occasion, Pakistan's Counsellor for Trade and Investment in Netherlands, Mr. Muhammad Shafiq Haider Virk, remarked, "The participation of these four companies demonstrates Pakistan's growing expertise in the fields of AI and Big Data. The Embassy of Pakistan in The Hague will continue to support and promote Pakistani businesses on the global stage, strengthening our trade ties with the Netherlands and Europe." The AI and Big Data Exhibition Europe 2024 brought together top tech companies from across the world, offering an excellent opportunity for Pakistani IT firms to showcase their innovations and foster international partnerships.

Briefs

Lawyer arrested for misbehaving with CJP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Tayyab Mustafain Kazmi, a lawyer involved in an outburst against Chief Justice QaziFaez Isa during a Supreme Court hearing yesterday, was arrested by Islamabad police on Thursday. Kazmi was taken into custody from F-7/4 and transferred to the Secretariat Police Station following his disruptive behaviour during proceedings on Article 63-A review petitions. Kazmi, a former employee of the CDA, made statements against the Chief Justice a day earlier. During the hearing, tensions rose when Kazmi, representing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), warned the court that 500 PTI lawyers were prepared to oppose any ruling against the party. Chief Justice Isa, who presided over the five-member bench, promptly called for police intervention, stating, "Do you want institutions to be run through threats? My only fault is that I have always shown patience."

Will reach D-Chowk come what may: Saif

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Adviser Barrister Saif said on Thursday that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers would reach Islamabad's D-Chowk on Oct 4 come what may. Saif stated that bewildered government was placing containers in Islamabad, adding that a caravan of KP workers led by KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur would reach the destination of protest at the said time. He warned that government against using police force again, recalling that the KP CM had earlier freed the PTI workers from police custody. He said that hindrances aimed at stopping the PTI workers would not work as all plans of the government were doomed for failure.

Bushra files plea in IHC for bail

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Imran Khan's spouse Bushra Bibi has moved IHC for post-arrest bail in Toshakhana-II case. The spouse of PTI founder Imran Khan challenged the court verdict rejecting her bail plea in Islamabad High Court. Bushra Bibi filed the plea through her counsel Khalid Yousaf Chaudhry, requesting the court to approve the post-arrest bail plea. The application mentioned that the arrest of the leader was unfair with false allegations and blackmailing witnesses to record statements against her in the Toshakhana case.

Ethiopia, Pakistan agree to foster parliamentary coop

H.E. Ambassador Dr. Jemal Beker briefed the NA Speaker about the initiatives taken by the FDR Ethiopia for regional integration, and also its pivotal role in ensuring peace and security in Horn of Africa region

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Thursday agreed to promote Parliamentary diplomacy between the two countries for further strengthening the bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation in various areas of mutual interest. The Parliamentary cooperation between the two nations came under discussion during a meeting between H.E. Dr. JemalBekerAbdula, Special Envoy, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the FDR Ethiopia to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and H.E. SardarAyazSadiq, Honorable Speaker of the National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. During the meeting, both sides also discussed matters of mutual interest including establishment of a counterpart of the Pak-Ethiopia Parliamentary Friendship Group to utilize Parliamentary channels for further strengthening the bilateral relations. H.E. Ambassador Dr. JemalBeker briefed the NA Speaker about the initiatives taken by the FDR Ethiopia for regional integration, and also its pivotal role in ensuring peace and security in the Horn of Africa region. He informed the Honorable Speaker about the home-grown economic reforms 2.0 which has been undertaken by the Government of the FDR Ethiopia to address macroeconomic imbalances, increase Ethiopia's productivity and attract the foreign direct investment. Ethiopia and Pa-



kistan relations are on upward trajectory, he said while highlighting opening of the Ethiopian Embassy in Islamabad, launching of the Ethiopian Airlines operations in Karachi and exchange of business and trade delegations between the two countries during the last two years. The Ambassador informed the Honorable Speaker about a Single Country Exhibition being held in Addis

Ababa, Ethiopia in the beginning of 2025. He said Ethiopia has a capacity and will play a central role in the Look Africa and Engage Africa policy of Pakistan as his country was a gateway to the African continent of more than 1.4 billion people. The Honorable Speaker stated that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is committed to the Look Africa and

Engage Africa policy to further increase its presence in the Africa. He lauded the launch of the Ethiopian Airlines in Karachi which has been increasing connectivity between Pakistan and Ethiopia. The meeting was concluded on the agreement between both parties to work in collaboration on contemporary challenges faced by the globe, giving emphasis on climate change management.

Indo-Israel defence coop poses security concerns for Pakistan

Experts at CASS explore the rising threat of weaponised consumer technologies and outline strategies to strengthen Pakistan's national security

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad, hosted a NextGen Tech Roundtable, 'Lebanon Explosions: Weaponising Consumer Technologies,' where experts analysed implications of the recent incidents in Lebanon for global technological security. Air Commodore Raza Haider (Retd) provided an overview of the subject and highlighted the unprecedented nature of the pager and walkie-talkie explosions in Lebanon, stressing that they exemplify the potential dangers of weaponising consumer technologies. He urged for an exhaustive analysis of these incidents due to their implications for Fifth Generation Warfare (5GW). DrHaider Abbas (TI), Director General of Pakistan's National Cyber Emergency Response Team (NCERT), discussed how the Lebanon incidents validate concerns about the weaponisation of operational technology. He urged the need for Pakistan to enhance cybersecurity preparedness by screening consumer technologies and aligning with international frameworks. Dr Abbas warned that the strengthening Indo-Israel defence cooperation could have security implications for Pakistan, acknowledging Pakistan's vulnerability due to its high dependence on import-

ed technologies. However, he also apprised that there are forensics and screening labs in Pakistan which reflect the government's commitment to auditing procured technologies and products. These labs are the basis for Pakistan's indigenous cyber security capabilities, he said. DrFatehdin Din B. Mehmood, CEO of Lunesy, underscored the need for supply chain security, physical device security, and addressing insider threats. He advocated for strengthening Pakistan's regulatory compliance and cybersecurity frameworks to protect consumer gadgets and critical infrastructure. In closing, Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd), President of CASS, reiterated the significant national security implications of the Lebanon explosions. The President of CASS stated that the growing collaboration between Israel and India indicated that disruptive technologies could soon make their way to India, urging Pakistan to develop countermeasures. He appreciated the work being undertaken at NCERT but stressed the urgency of maintaining a focus on these issues amidst the changing technological landscape, warning that Pakistan must navigate carefully through the emerging technological blocs and the evolving nature of Fifth Generation Warfare. The roundtable also included an interactive question and answer session with experts from NICAT, NASTP, retired military officers, and researchers, further enriching the discourse on this critical subject.



Iran regards Saudi Arabia, as its 'brother': Masoud Pezeshkian

Pezeshkian made the remarks on Thursday during a meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud in the Qatari capital of Doha

DOHA: Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian has underlined the need for convergence among Muslims in the face of Israeli crimes, saying Tehran regards Muslim countries, including Saudi Arabia, as its "brothers." Pezeshkian made the remarks on Thursday during a meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud in the Qatari capital of Doha. The Iranian president expressed his satisfaction with the developing trend of Iran-Saudi relations and stressed the Islamic Republic's keenness to further expand its interactions with the kingdom. "We consider Islamic countries, including Saudi Arabia, to be our brothers and emphasize the need for them to put aside [their] differences, and to boost convergence and synergy with each other," he said. This is "because we believe what caused the promotion of Islam across the world was friendship and brotherhood among Muslims." Iran and Saudi Arabia resumed ties following a seven-year hiatus under a China-brokered deal in March 2023, which saw the two sides re-open diplomatic missions. Also in his remarks, the Iranian chief executive described the bitter and unfortunate developments in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon, which are caused by Israeli aggression, as one of the most important issues of the Muslim world. He further referred to Iran's recent retaliatory missile attack against the occupying entity's military and intelligence bases, and reiterated that Tehran does not welcome any escalation of tensions in the region, and that the country's anti-Israel operation was a "legitimate response" to the continuation of Israeli crimes after the false promise of a Gaza ceasefire in exchange for Tehran's restraint. Muslims, Pezeshkian said, should not be indifferent to the sufferings and displacement of their Palestinian and Lebanese brothers and sisters. "If the Zionist regime has today dared commit crimes and genocide in Gaza, it is due to the Islamic countries' rifts and indifference," he added. "If we do not unite in confronting the aggression, today it is [against] Gaza and Lebanon, and tomorrow it will be ...[against] other Islamic cities and countries." The Iranian president also emphasized the important role of Saudi Arabia, as a leading Islamic country, in stopping Israeli atrocities through consultations with Western states. Prince Faisal, for his part, emphasized Saudi Arabia's determination to enhance relations with the Islamic Republic and resolve issues between the two friendly and brotherly countries. - Agencies

Bailout could be country's last if reforms implemented

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: International Monetary Fund's mission director for Pakistan Nathan Porter has said that the recent bailout package secured by the country could be its last if the reforms suggested by the lender are sincerely implemented and its advice is acted upon in letter and spirit. Speaking to an American media outlet, Porter said that the IMF would ensure Islamabad retained a strong macro exchange rate and fiscal and monetary policies along with liberalising its economy enabling the private sector to contribute to the country's economic development. The remarks come as the country, on September 25, secured the much-awaited approval of the Washington-based lender's Executive Board for the \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF). Ever since, Pakistan has received the first tranche of \$1.03 billion (SDR 760 million) pushing the foreign exchange reserves, as per the publication, to \$10.7 billion. The incumbent government has, time and again, expressed that it wants the existing bailout programme to be the country's last. Addressing the hurdles in Pakistan's economic progress and the Fund's role along with factors behind declining foreign investments, the IMF official elaborated on the country's 24th loan programme and said that the first review of the ongoing debt programme would start in December and probably by March or April it would be sent to the board.

Govt imposes Section 144 in Lahore

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The Punjab government has enforced Section 144 in Lahore for six days, with the provincial Home Department issuing a notification for its implementation. According to the notification, all forms of political gatherings, sit-ins, rallies, demonstrations, and related activities will be prohibited under Section 144. This restriction will be in effect from Thursday, October 3, to Tuesday, October 8. The notification stated that Section 144 has been imposed to maintain law and order and to protect human lives and property, as any public gathering could be a soft target for terrorists due to security threats. The provincial Home Department noted that the decision to enforce Section 144 was made on the recommendation of the district administration, and large-scale awareness campaigns have been directed to inform the public about the imposition of Section 144. It is important to note that prior to this notification the Section 144 was imposed in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Bahawalpur, Mianwali and Faisalabad. The PTI had called for protests in these districts.

Pak to showcase climate initiatives at COP-29

ECC approves increase in maximum retail price of anti-rabies vaccine

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet. The meeting was attended by Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, Minister for Power SardarAwais Ahmed Khan Leghari, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik, along with Federal Secretaries and senior officers from the concerned Ministries and Divisions. The ECC discussed a summary by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination regarding the short supply of Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) at Federal General Hospital ChakShahzad Islamabad. The meeting was told that the Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) used at Federal General Hospital ChakShahzad was manufactured by the National Institute of Health Islamabad and it was currently priced at Rs. 891.65 whereas the same drug was sold at Rs. 2126.40 for WHO-approved ARV and Rs. 1266.14 for non-WHO approved ARV

in the market. After due consideration, the ECC approved the proposal to increase the Maximum Retail Price of Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) manufactured by the National Institute of Health, Islamabad, from Rs. 891.65 to Rs. 1980 per vial of 0.5ml/ dose to cover the landed cost of imported material and ensure its sufficient production and supply to the public sector hospitals. The ECC also considered and approved a proposal for increase in the rate of Special Allowance (equal to 20 Daily Allowances) for the employees of Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) on a par with other federal Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs). The meeting was told that the salaries of the ANF employees were considerably low as compared to employees of other LEAs despite undertaking similar work and encountering similar dangers and hazards peculiar to their job of drug prevention and border patrol. The impact of revision to the tune of Rs. 264.744 million in DA rates for the ANF employees would be met from within the current year's sanctioned budget. The ECC also took up and approved a proposal submitted by the Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination for grant of Technical Supplementary Grant (TSG) of Rs. 150 million to meet the requirements of the COP-29 to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 11th to 22nd November 2024.

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