



Islamabad POST

Tuesday, October 08, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Victory in Gaza may be delayed, but it is coming

Detailed News On Page-08

CJP questions influence of 'gangsterism'

Detailed News On Page-08



Pak vs Eng: Masood aids Pak with ton

Detailed News On Page-06



Nobody from Palestine embassy invited Pakistan reiterates unwavering support for Palestinian cause

PTI did not attend conference; speakers call for immediate end to Gaza ceasefire

ANSAR M BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The All-Parties Conference (APC) to express solidarity with Palestinians kicked off here at Aiwan-i-Sadr on Monday. Interestingly, nobody from the Palestine embassy was invited for the all-parties conference, which was all about the Palestine issue. President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif hosted the conference. PTI did not attend the conference despite the fact the government invited them. The PTI leaders said that under the prevailing circumstances in which the PTI had almost been pushed to the wall, there was no point in attending the conference. Political leaders of major political parties, including PML-N President Nawaz Sharif, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman, ANP Chief Aimal Wali Khan, Khalid Magis of Balochistan Awami Party, MQM leader Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, PML-Zia Ijazul Haq, former caretaker prime minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar, and Abdul Aleem Khan of Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party are attending the conference. Earlier, President Asif Ali Zardari welcomed the participants. "The brutal actions of Israel will destroy the peace of region," said Asif Ali Zardari. He urged the international community to take stern action against the brutalities of Israeli forces in Palestine and Gaza. According to President Zardari, more than 41,000 Palestinians embraced martyrdom during last one year due to the barbarism of Israeli forces. Meanwhile, a "Day of Solidarity" with Palestinians is being observed across the country today (Monday) to express support to the men, women and children facing the worst brutalities committed by Israeli forces. Speaking on the occasion, PML-N President Nawaz Sharif said Israel is committing barbarism against innocent people of Palestine, including women and children. He questioned the strange silence adopted by the world community on this issue of humanity

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' Hamas shattered dreams of those who recognize Israel'

JI leader during address in captial challenged "peace advocates" asking why they fail to see children massacre

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Pakistan chief Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman stated that Hamas has shattered the dreams of those who recognise Israel. While addressing a gathering at Melody Market in Islamabad to mark the one-year anniversary since Israel's genocidal war on Gaza which has killed nearly 42,000 women and children so far. The JI chief emphasized that the day of solidarity with Gaza is being celebrated, with the entire Pakistan taking to the streets. He claimed that the United States, Israel, and some other countries are supporting Israel, while the rulers of Muslim countries remain asleep and are afraid to speak out about Gaza. Hafiz Naeem further noted that Jamaat-e-Islami has engaged with both the government and the opposition. He noted that following the JI's proposal, "Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif convened an all-party conference for solidarity with Gaza, which nearly all political parties are attending". "Hamas, through its sacrifices,

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif records his remarks at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China. - DNA

56 prisoners in SL jails repatriated

Chartered plane brings Pakistani nationals back after three-month long coordination between nations

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: As many as 56 Pakistani nationals imprisoned in Sri Lankan jails were repatriated on Monday as a result of successful efforts by the Ministry of Interior. A chartered plane was dispatched to bring the prisoners back to Pakistan. The repatriated Pakistani nationals include five women and 51 men. The repatriation followed three months of coordination between the Ministry of Interior, under the direction of Mohsin Naqvi and Sri Lankan authorities. Speaking on the occasion, one of the repatriate women thanked the government for bringing them back to the country.

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Promises swift action Pakistan reaffirms commitment to Chinese security after attack

"Pakistan reaffirms its unwavering commitment to safety of Chinese nationals," says Foreign Office

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has vowed to ensure that those involved in the deadly attack on a convoy carrying Chinese nationals will be punished. At least three persons including two Chinese nationals were killed in an explosion near Jinnah International Airport on Sunday night, while another Chinese national and over a dozen others were injured. The incident took place around 11pm on Sunday at a traffic signal near the Jinnah International Airport, Karachi. Citing sources a private news channel reported that the sound of the explosion was heard in various parts of the metropolis, with television footage showing massive thick clouds of smoke and a blazing fire from the site. In a statement, the Foreign Office condemned the terrorist attack and extended condolences and sympathies to the families of the victims, both Chinese and Pakistani. The FO spokesperson also offered prayers for the swift recovery of the injured. "This deplorable act of terrorism is

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan asks Afghan govt fix own domestic issues

Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, rejected the "frivolous" statement made by the spokesperson of Afghanistan MOFA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday rejected a statement by the Afghan foreign ministry regarding the political situation in the country, asking the Afghan Interim Government (AIG) to focus on fixing its own domestic problems instead of lecturing a democratic country. Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, in a statement, rejected the "frivolous" statement made by the spokesperson of the

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Briefs

Petition filed to disqualify Ali Amin

Petition said that official resources could not be utilised for political purposes while in office

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: A petition has been filed in the Peshawar High Court seeking the disqualification of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur. The petition, submitted by Advocate Azizuddin Kakakhel, named the federal and provincial governments, the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Governor, and others as respondents. The petition argued that Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has violated his oath by using government resources for political rallies. It emphasised that official resources could not be utilised for political purposes while in office.

PTI leaders creating chaos: Azma

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab's Information Minister, Azma Bukhari, has criticised PTI party, suggesting that its leaders are attempting to replicate the chaos that led to the formation of Bangladesh. Speaking at a press conference, she expressed concerns over recent PTI protests in Islamabad, stating that the party's activities are designed to incite unrest and confusion. Bukhari claimed that the PTI has been using resources from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa to fuel its agenda against the federal government. She pointed out that during a recent protest, 120 Afghan nationals were apprehended, and one police constable lost his life, questioning the rationale behind such violence.

Amid protest/rallies

Imran, 300 PTI workers booked on terror charges

Prominent leaders named in the First Information Report (FIR) include Hammad Azhar, Salman Akram Raja, Ghulam Mohiuddin, MPA Shehbaz, Musarrat Jamshed Cheema, Sheikh Imtiaz, Ali Imtiaz, and Shabbir Gujar, among others

KHAYYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: In the wake of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) D-Chowk protests, a case of sedition and terrorism has been filed against PTI founding chairman Imran Khan and several senior party leaders and workers in Lahore and Rawalpindi. Prominent leaders named in the First Information Report (FIR) include Hammad Azhar, Salman Akram Raja, Ghulam Mohiuddin, MPA Shehbaz, Musarrat Jamshed Cheema, Sheikh Imtiaz, Ali Imtiaz, and Shabbir Gujar, among others. According to the FIR, Imran Khan has allegedly been provided with extraordinary privileges inside prison, allowing him to communicate with his party leaders. It is claimed that from jail, he incited these leaders to engage in violent actions against the state. As a result, these leaders, along with PTI workers,

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Punjab 'bans' all meetings inside Adiala jail

PTI founder Imran Khan prohibited from meeting family members, lawyers and party leaders till October 18

FAISAL SHEIKH

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab government has imposed restrictions prohibiting all meetings inside Rawalpindi's Adiala jail, the facility where Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former prime minister Imran Khan is

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FBR poised to bring 2.8 mln households into in tax net

The incumbent government had embarked upon a comprehensive plan to enhance tax-to-GDP ratio and resultantly the number of tax filers

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) is all set to bring around 2.8 million potential households into the tax net that would contribute approximately Rs1.6 trillion to the national economy. "There are around 3.5 million top households liable to pay taxes to the government, however out of which 2.8 million are not paying taxes," Spokesperson FBR, Bakhtiar Muhammad told. The incumbent government had embarked upon a comprehensive plan to enhance tax-to-GDP ratio and resultantly the number of tax filers as well as tax collection went up during the current fiscal year (2024-25). Bakhtiar said the filing of tax returns witnessed an impressive increase of 105 percent by going up from last year's 1.8 million to 3.7 million owing to prudent policies adopted by the government. The board has decided to impose 15 restrictions on

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Stocks hit new all-time high mark

KSE-100 index closed at 84,910 mark, securing 1,378.34 points as investors upped bets on scope of SBP rate cuts

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Stocks on Monday raced past the record high of 84,900-points mark, driven by a massive rally in the energy sector and an evergrowing optimism over potential interest rate cuts, traders said. Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Shares Index ended at an all-time high of 84,910.29 points, up 1,378.34 points, or 1.65% against its last close of 83,531.96 points on Friday. Samiullah Tariq, Head of

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CDA seals KP House

Sources stated that Blocks A and B of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House have been sealed

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) on Monday sealed the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House over building by-laws violations. According to CDA sources, several blocks of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House have been sealed due to building rule violations. Documents received by Dunya News indicate that the lease of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House was not extended,

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During SCO summit Twin cities to observe 3-day public holiday

All educational institutions and govt offices in the twin cities will remain closed from Oct 14 to 16

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The government has declared a three-day public holiday in Islamabad and Rawalpindi to ensure the smooth conduct of the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit. According to a notification issued on Monday, all educational institutions and government offices in the twin cities will remain closed from October 14 to 16. The decision was approved by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in a bid to facilitate the SCO Council of Heads of Government

meeting, scheduled for October 15 and 16 in Islamabad. Leaders from across the Eurasian region, including the Russian and Chinese prime ministers, are expected to attend the two-day summit. Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will also travel to Islamabad for the event. This marks the first visit by an Indian foreign minister to Pakistan in nearly nine years, with Sushma Swaraj being the last in December 2015. Swaraj's visit came just before Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a surprise stopover in Lahore.

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PPP KP Assembly demands removal of CM Gandapur

The petition filed by Advocate Aziz Uddin Kakakhel said the Chief Minister had acted against his oath of the office and should be declared as disqualified for the CM's position under the Article 62 of the Constitution

PESHAWAR: Parliamentary leader of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Ahmad Karim Kundi on Monday calls for Chief Minister's resignation. Addressing press conference, outside KP Assembly Hall, Ahmad Karim Kundi said that the chief minister is mentally retarded and not suitable for this post. He described the Chief Minister as a "self-imposed absentee" and accused him of evading accountability during a crucial time for the province. Kundi emphasized the urgency of convening a meeting of the Council of Common Interests within the next 90 days, which he claimed had not been called, further undermining governance. He pointed out the deteriorating law and order situation in the southern districts, saying that the Chief Minister failed to communicate with anyone during his periods of absence. "He talks about traversing 12 districts, but that is simply unbelievable," Kundi asserted, insisting that the sensitive province needs a serious and engaged leader not a film star. He criticized the Chief Minister's past six-hour disappearance and called

for a leader capable of facing the media rather than avoiding it. Ahmed Kundi, revealed that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership has passed a resolution in KP Assembly regarding the Chief Minister's disappearance. Kundi criticized the Chief Minister's fitness for the role, saying, "Mentally, he is unfit for the position." Kundi affirmed that the PPP will protest against these "incompetent leaders" at every forum available. He also highlighted the lack of leadership in the province, saying that there are currently 25 vacant vice chancellor positions in public sector universities. Kundi's remarks were followed by fellow PPP member Ehsanullah Miankhel, who described the situation as akin to a "film dialogue," suggesting that the Chief Minister was misleading party workers and hiding from accountability. Miankhel called for a more responsible and transparent leadership approach in light of the ongoing security challenges facing the region. Ehsanullah Miankhel, has urged the Chief Minister to resign in order to preserve his dignity. He announced

that a motion of no confidence would be brought against the Chief Minister. Moreover, petition seeking disqualification of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur was filed in Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Monday. The petition filed by Advocate Aziz Uddin Kakakhel said the Chief Minister had acted against his oath of the office and should be declared as disqualified for the CM's position under the Article 62 of the Constitution. The petition said Ali Amin Gandapur used provincial resources and machinery in party protests and the Constitution had barred the person holding public office from using government resources for political gains. The petition of Aziz Uddin Kakakhel further said that Ali Amin Gandapur invaded the Federal Government along with his party workers that was embarrassing. It sought a stay order to bar the Chief Minister from further holding the office of the Chief Minister of the province. Kakakhel requested the court that expenditures incurred on usage of government machinery should be collected from the pocket of the Chief Minister.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Hannes Machor, Charge d Affaires of the Austrian Embassy, along with Director General PNCA, inaugurating an exhibition held at the PNCA under the aegis of the Austrian Embassy. — Online

Dengue on prowl in KP as 75 more cases reported

DNA

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Monday reported a consecutive surge in dengue virus attacks on humans as 75 new cases of dengue fever were reported from across the province during the last 24 hours. A report of the Health Department said with 75 more cases reported, the number of active cases of dengue fever has reached 591 in the province. So far it said a total of 1447 cases have been reported in the province with the provincial metropolis mostly affected. A total of 881 dengue patients have recovered, the report said, adding that 64 patients were under treatment at various provincial hospitals. The provincial metropolis remained the top affected with a total of 501 dengue cases, followed by Abbottabad with 148 and district Manshera with 124, Hangu with 116, and Nowshera 113 cases. In other districts, Charsadda reported 62 dengue cases while Kohat 42, Haripur 40, Banu 25, Mardan 54, Bajaur 22, Swabi 22 and in Lower Kohistan 77 were tested positive. The report added that during the current years two deaths were reported from dengue fever adding both the victims belonged to Nowshera district.—APP

LDA seals 60 properties for illegal commercial use

LAHORE: The Lahore Development Authority (LDA) on Monday sealed 60 properties in its ongoing operation against illegal commercial use and non-payment of commercial fees. According to a spokesman for the authority, the town planning wing had successfully sealed over five dozen properties of the provincial capital. LDA teams focused their efforts on Johar Town, Khayaban-e-Firdousi and surrounding regions, sealing two dozen illegal commercial properties, including well-known restaurants, food outlets, showrooms, bakeries, and cafes.—APP

Governor KP marks one year of ongoing violence against palestinians

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday expressed deep sorrow and concern over the ongoing violence and brutality against the Palestinian people. While marking one year since the escalation of the conflict, the Governor emphasized the urgent need for the international community to take concrete actions to protect Palestinian rights and support their quest for freedom. Kundi remarked that October 7 serves as a reminder of the decades of oppression, violence, and inhumane treatment faced by Palestinians. He highlighted that in the

past year, innocent civilians, including women and children, have been targeted, and violations of their fundamental human rights have intensified. Palestinians are being forced to live in an environment of uncertainty and fear in their homeland, he said. The Governor urged the global community, the United Nations, and Muslim countries to listen to the voices of the Palestinian people and unite to take action against Israeli aggression. He said that Israel's illegal settlements and atrocities not only threaten Palestine but also pose a risk to peace worldwide. Kundi reaffirmed Pakistan's longstanding sup-

port for the Palestinian struggle for freedom, stating, "We stand with the Palestinian people." He pledged to continue advocating for the restoration of their rights and the liberation of their lands on every possible platform. He called on human rights organizations and global powers to take practical steps against this oppression, ensuring that Palestinians receive their rightful entitlements and can live freely in their own country. The Governor concluded his statement with a prayer for the Palestinian people, asking for divine assistance in overcoming their suffering and achieving freedom.—APP

Large quantity of substandard meat, honey seized

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority continued its crackdown on businesses involved in adulteration and unhealthy food supply across the province. The Authority informed on Monday that major operations were carried out in Peshawar and Lower Dir the other day, where the authorities recovered hundreds of kilograms of substandard meat, dead chickens, and fake honey. Legal action has been initiated against the involved, it said. According to details released by the Food Authority spokesperson, food safety teams conducted

inspections while setting checking points at the Peshawar Motorway Toll Plaza, Ring Road, and near Haji Camp Bus Station. During these inspections, a vehicle arriving from Punjab was found carrying 300 kilograms of spoiled and unhealthy meat and liver, which was immediately disposed of on-site. In another activity, based on a tip-off, the food safety team raided a shop in Peshawar's poultry market, where they seized over 300 kilograms of dead chickens, which were also destroyed on the spot. In Lower Dir, according to details, the food safety team inspected a hotel on

Timergara Bypass. Inside the hotel, a room was being used to manufacture fake honey. The team seized over 200 kilograms of the fake product, which was confiscated by the food authority officials. Giving details, the spokesperson also told that hefty fines were imposed on the owners, and further legal proceedings have been initiated under the Food Safety Act. Director General Food Authority, Wasif Saeed, lauded the food safety teams for their successful operations. He emphasized that strict action would be taken against those involved in the sale of substandard.—APP

192 arrested during anti-smog crackdown in Lahore

LAHORE: The district police claimed to have arrested 192 individuals besides registered 180 cases on complaints of district administration and line departments during anti-smog crackdown on Monday. Police spokesman said that the crackdown resulted in the arrest of 55 suspects in the city division, 61 in the Cantt area, 21 in Civil Lines, five each in Saddar and Iqbal Town as well as 45 in Model Town division. Meanwhile, Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Bilal Siddique Kamyana mentioned that legal actions were being taken against vehicles, factories, stubble burning and brick kiln owners contributing to smog. A strict compliance with government directives was ensured, along with necessary support provided to the district administration, Environment Protection Department and other departments. The CCPO directed the field officers to intensify action against violators of law and maintain effective coordination with the Public Prosecution Department to ensure that offenders were penalized, he ordered.—APP

Brick kiln owners warned

FAISALABAD: The Environment Protection Department has warned brick kiln owners in the district to shift their units to zigzag technology as no kiln in future will be allowed to operate. Deputy Director Environment Johar Abbas Randhawa said here Monday that inspection of brick kilns continues on a daily basis and strict legal action is being taken against violators. He said that during inspections at Chak No 117JB, Chak No 205RB, Chak No 720RB, Chak No 210RB and Chak No 229RB, owners had been directed to follow SOPs.—APP

SBP urged to ensure facilitation for businesses

LAHORE: Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Mian Abuzar Shad Monday urged the government and State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to ensure adequate facilitation to the business community. "Enabling the business sector to function smoothly is essential for driving the country's economic growth and prosperity," he remarked in a meeting with Chief Manager of the State Bank of Pakistan Tariq Riaz here at Lahore Chamber. The meeting was also attended by the LCCI Executive Committee members. Mian Abuzar Shad acknowledged the efforts of the Federal Shariah Court which has directed that the country's conventional banking system be transitioned to Shariah-compliant Islamic banking by 2027. He said that the State Bank of Pakistan is already taking various steps toward achieving this goal. He commended these initiatives and described them as both timely and crucial

given the increasing demand for Islamic banking across the country. The LCCI chief added that the Lahore Chamber is focusing on several key areas including taxation reforms. He urged the government to take swift action in digitizing the economy as this is essential to modernizing the financial system and making it more transparent and efficient. Mian Abuzar Shad also raised concerns of the business community regarding the Federal Board of Revenue saying that traders have voiced their reservations over certain practices. He urged the government to address these concerns to create a more business-friendly environment. The LCCI President stressed the need for the State Bank of Pakistan to automate its processes, particularly in the area of banking transactions. He said that the current monopoly of commercial banks in the opening of Letters of Credit has created hurdles for businesses. He urged the State Bank to ensure that commercial banks are fully

under its control allowing for more fair and transparent banking practices. Mian Abuzar Shad also called upon the State Bank to address the concerns of traders, especially in areas where commercial banking practices have led to complications for business owners. He urged the Chief Manager of the State Bank, Tariq Riaz, to issue clear instructions to all commercial banks, ensuring full cooperation with LCCI members. He stressed that traders and entrepreneurs should be treated as valued partners in the country's economic growth rather than facing obstacles in their daily business transactions. One of the key areas that Mian Abuzar Shad appreciated was the State Bank's efforts to enhance financial access for women entrepreneurs and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). He welcomed the initiatives aimed at facilitating easier access to financing for these sectors describing them as vital for Pakistan's economic growth.—APP

SCCI for prioritize solution to issues of small business, industry

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Fazal Moqem Khan has urged the government and relevant authorities to address small-scale business and industries' issues on priority basis to boost the economy and create employment opportunities in the province. Moqem Khan was speaking to a delegation of Small Industrial Estate Association Kohat Road Peshawar led by its president Wahid Arif Awan here on Monday. SCCI senior vice president Abdul Jalil Jan, vice president Shehryar Khan, Executive committee members Muhammad Nadeem, Aftab Iqbal, Muhammad Ashfaq and Hamood ul Rehman also present on the occasion. Patron in chief of the Association and former president of the chamber Engr Maqsood Anwar Pervaez, former senior vice president Imran Khan Mohmand, Aurangzeb Mohmand, association members, and small manufacturers were amongst the delegation. The delegation congratulated the newly elected office bearers of the SCCI. Members of the delegation pointed out several issues, especially relating to electricity, gas, property tax and others that has brought de-industrialization in the province. SCCI chief highlighted that small business and industries have played a pivotal role in the economic growth. Fazal Moqem fully endorsed issues that had been highlighted during the meeting and promised to take up all these issues with relevant authorities to resolve promptly. He vowed no stone will remain unturned to resolve the business community issues. The SCCI chief emphasized the need of demonstrating unity among traders to early address all problems. The chamber president asserted that a special fiscal incentive must be announced for war-affected businesses and industries. Earlier, the Association president Wahid Arif Awan and patron in Chief Engr Maqsood Anwar Pervaez and others also spoke on the occasion and congratulated the newly elected office bearers of the chamber and presented garlands to them.—DNA

Balochistan govt appoints 150 religious leaders, 290 FWW

QUETTA: Balochistan govt appoints 150 religious leaders including 290 family welfare workers in order to create awareness regarding family planning and to make the delivery service smooth at the union council level. "Due to the province's scattered population, the Population Welfare Department is integrating services with the health sector to improve outreach. The Population Welfare Department has limited resources to expand FP/RH services in rural areas, but it is working closely with the Balochistan Human Capital Investment Program (BH-CIP), WHO, and UNFPA to provide services," said Ab-

dullah Khan, Balochistan Secretary population welfare department. The rapid population growth increases challenges for the province. Balochistan accounts for 43% of Pakistan's land area and faces significant challenges, including providing health and education to children, developing infrastructure, creating job opportunities, addressing poverty, distributing resources across districts, and equipping the youth with technical skills to contribute to Balochistan's development. The latest census data for Balochistan, released in 2023, reveals a substantial population growth, raising the population from 12.34 million in 2017 to

19.26 million in 2023. This represents the highest growth rate among all provinces in Pakistan. Balochistan's annual population growth rate stands at 3.2%, significantly higher than the national average of 2.55%. Talking to APP, Secretary Population Welfare, government of Balochistan Abdullah Khan said implementing population-related policies in Balochistan can be particularly challenging due to several cultural and societal norms, such as cultural traditions that emphasize large families, socioeconomic factors, and healthcare access policies. The views of local leaders and influencers can impact the acceptance

of population policies. Referring to Balochistan government stance on rapid population growth, the secretary said Balochistan prefers the term "balance" rather than "control" when addressing the rapid population growth. "The Population Welfare Department has committed in FP2030 to increasing the Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) to 36% by 2025 and 46% by 2030," he said adding that service integration with the health department is another strategy to manage population growth by engaging health professionals and healthcare providers. He said awareness campaigns are also being con-

ducted in all districts to educate the public about the issue of overpopulation. Improving maternal and child healthcare can help reduce fertility rates, as better access to prenatal and postnatal care may encourage families to have fewer children. It may be recalled that the current maternal mortality ratio (MMR) in Balochistan remains significantly higher than the national average, with estimates indicating around 298 deaths per 100,000 live births, although specific provincial data might vary. The infant mortality rate (IMR) is similarly high, with approximately 60-70 deaths per 1,000 live births.—DNA

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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

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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



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PIA Cargo.....9280979
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Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi..5555489
CAA.....9281092



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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



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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Ahsan for empowering youth with science, technology

ISLAMABAD: Highlighting the importance of professional education, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan said here on Monday that the government's focus was on promoting science and technology in the country. Addressing the 'World Space Week' function at Islamabad Model College, the minister asserted that the future of the Muslim Ummah lies in the revival of science and technology. It is pertinent

to mention here that International Space Week is being celebrated globally from October 4 to 10. The planning minister said that when Muslims abandoned knowledge and research, they became victims of decline, citing the example of Israel, a population of 10 million dominating two Arab countries. He was of the view that Muslims' honor has been affected due to their distance from knowledge and research adding Muslims today were plagued by intellectual

decline and polluted thinking. Ahsan Iqbal quoted the Quran's encouragement to unravel the mysteries of the universe and reminded that Allah has commanded humans to conquer the moon and stars, but Muslim countries have failed to do so. Ahsan Iqbal urged returning to science and research in accordance with Quranic teachings. He regretted Muslims' weak role in unraveling the universe's mysteries. He said, Allama Iqbal called youth 'Shahen' and encouraged them to

move forward. The minister said the current era is driven by technology and artificial intelligence adding the Fourth Industrial Revolution and Big Data were changing human leadership and predicted that future progress belongs to nations that excel in science and technology. Ahsan Iqbal said that the Ministries of Planning and Education plan to utilize Space Week as a platform for youth and stressed the importance of increasing young people's interest in science

and research. He also directed the organization to organize events during Space Week. Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the need to escape economic slavery and achieve self-sufficiency. He also highlighted how scientific advancements could better combat natural disasters. He praised the government's significant improvement in educational standards within six months and also congratulated students on their successful space project exhibitions.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Russian Federation Albert P Khorev calls on Defence Minister Khawaja Asif. Both sides discussed matters of mutual interest. — DNA

KSRelief to ink MoUs for aid, humanitarian projects

ISLAMABAD: The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief) is set to sign several agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with various organizations in the Federal Capital on Tuesday. According to the Saudi Press Attaché, Dr. Naif Al-Otaibi, the event will be attended by the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki along with government officials and representatives from international and local humanitarian organizations. These agreements will encompass aid and construction projects in multiple underprivileged regions of Pakistan, in alignment with KSRelief's comprehensive aid plans, he added. Briefing on the KSRelief, Dr. Naif said it was an international organization dedicated to relief and humanitarian work. It was launched in May 2015 under the direction and patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. This organization is based on high humanitarian goals in its operations, which aim to provide assistance to the needy and disaster victims anywhere in the world. These tasks are carried out under right monitoring procedures and modern methods of rapid transition, which are carried out by United Nations organizations and international and local non-profit organizations. The plans and programmes offered by the KSRelief vary according to the needs of the beneficiaries and their circumstances. These aid projects cover all areas of relief and humanitarian work, including food security, camp management, shelter, initial rehabilitation, conservation, education, water and environmental reform, nutrition, health, humanitarian aid support, includes logistics services and emergency communications, he said.—APP

Health minister directs for anti dengue measures

RAWAL PINDI: Punjab Health Minister, Khawaja Salman Rafique has directed the district administration to utilize all resources in the fight against dengue issues which has hit with accelerated momentum. "Act on an emergency basis as our top priority is to reduce the dengue outbreak in Rawalpindi," said the minister while charging a meeting to review the recent dengue situation. He directed the administration to further accelerate and widen the outgoing awareness campaigns along with strict surveillance and

monitoring. Salman Rafique urged the public representatives to consistently visit their constituencies for a regular eye on the situational developments of dengue. He said that CM Maryam Nawaz has been reviewing the dengue situation in the district and has directed the public representatives to play their due role in the dengue eradication. He further observed that the dengue issue could be completely defeated by the support of citizens. The meeting which was held at the DC Office was attended by the

parliamentarians including the Focal Person on Dengue, Tahira Aurangzeb, Parliamentary Secretary Information and Culture Shazia Rizwan, Malik Iftikhar, Zeib-Nisa, Mohsin Khan, Ziaullah Shah, and Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Hasan Waqar Cheema. Talking during the meeting, Tahira Aurangzeb informed that public representatives were conducting field visits with the health department teams on the instructions of CM Maryam Nawaz, to assess the dengue situation.—DNA

IPRI hosts special lecture on Gaza's aggression, genocide

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) on Monday marked a year of aggression and genocide in Gaza by hosting a Special Lecture of His Excellency Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the State of Palestine, Nader K. Alturk, who spoke eloquently on "A Year of War in Gaza." Addressing the special lecture, he listed out the trials and tribulation of a year, and said hapless Palestinians and Gazans were on the receiving end as more than 50,000 were killed, millions are displaced, and almost 80 percent of Gaza has been obliterated.

He said that Israel had attacked each and every human and civil installations, under the guise of taking out military targets, and destroyed mosques, schools and hospitals, said a press release. He said that under International Law, besieged Palestinians had every right to defend themselves and use measures at their disposal in self-defense. Alturk said that Gaza, a region of 365 km, today is in rubble and more than a million were displaced, leaving behind the rest to live in a squeezed territory of less than 30 kms. He particularly

mentioned the tactics that Israel and the United States were employing to hoodwink the definition of "Right to return" of Palestinians under the UN Resolutions. The Palestinian envoy talked about "Greater Israel" plans and showed a map wherein the Zionist state had explicit aggressive designs over almost all of its neighbours up to Iraq and Saudi Arabia. He said that one year of death and destruction had simply proved the incapacity and failure of international organisations, as well as the UN Security Council that had failed to uphold international security as per its mandate under the UN Charter. He said that the legitimate government of Palestine was doing everything in its capacity to further the cause of Palestinian Statehood, and all avenues were being tapped in lawfare and diplomacy. President IPRI Dr Raza Muhammad, in his welcome address, said that Pakistan stands with the brethren of Palestine, and termed the year-long terrorism of Israel as genocide. He also underscored the need for pushing the cause of statehood at every forum to realise Two-State solution in the volatile region of Mideast.—APP



ICT police conduct flag march

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police conducted a late-night flag march on Sunday in the City Zone, led by SSP Operations Muhammad Arsalan Shahzeb, to demonstrate the force's commitment to maintaining law and order.

According to a police statement, senior officers, traffic police, Dolphin Squad, and other law enforcement agencies participated in the march. He said the flag march aimed to reinforce the police's resolve to ensure peace and promote unity within the capital. The march commenced from Jinnah Avenue, passing through various city routes, and concluded back at Jinnah Avenue, he said.

"No one will be allowed to take the law into their own hands. Any violations will be dealt with in accordance with the law," said SSP Operations Muhammad Arsalan Shahzeb. SSP further expressed hope that the peace-loving citizens of ICT would fully cooperate with the police in maintaining law and order.

IRSA releases 150,400 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 150,400 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 125,200 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1537.10 feet and was 139.10 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 71,100 cusecs and 65,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1208.95 feet, which was 158.95 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 10,700 cusecs and 42,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Tansa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 94,200, 75,900, 61,700 and 11,100 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 20,100 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 3,600 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

90 kanal encroached land vacated in G-14 sector

ISLAMABAD: The Director Enforcement & Vigilance of Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) and Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration in its comprehensive two-day anti-encroachment operation in Sector G-14 has reclaimed 90 kanal land.

Director General FGEHA, Captain (R) Zafar Iqbal, emphasized a strict zero-tolerance policy towards encroachments, reinforcing the commitment to effective land use and the provision of housing facilities with enhanced health care system, according to a statement from the FGEHA. On first day of the operation, seven illegal houses were demolished at the hospital plot in G-14 Markaz and two unauthorized structures were cleared from plots No. 14-A and 14-B on Street 118. On the second day, the operation progressed significantly with the clearance of 12 plots on Street 65-A, 16 plots on Street 64-D, 06 plots on Street 74, and 11 plots each on Streets 74-A and Major Double Road 802. In total, over 90 kanal of encroached land was vacated, the statement said. The operation was prompted by intelligence reports indicating extensive unauthorized encroachments on the hospital site, which valued billions of rupees and threatened the planned healthcare infrastructure. Prior to the operation, the FGEHA conducted detailed assessments, coordinated strategy, ensured the presence of sufficient personnel to maintain safety and minimize conflicts. Heavy machinery was deployed for clearance while prior legal notices were served.—DNA

Organic cotton terms essential for environment, local livelihoods

ISLAMABAD: Organic cotton termed essential for the environment and local livelihoods as cotton was one of the most resource-intensive crops by adopting sustainable practices, we can transform cropping patterns and protect our resources. Through the promotion of organic cotton farming, WWF-Pakistan was eliminating the use of chemicals, preserving the environment, and empowering cotton farmers for a healthier future. This was stated by WWF-Pakistan in its press release issued on World Cotton Day on Monday. The press release further mentioned that WWF-Pakistan in partnership with other organizations has made significant strides in organic and regenerative cotton cultivation by engaging over 12,000 farmers and bringing around 43,000 hectares under organic cotton cultivation to help reduce environmental impacts. The global population worries about environmental issues, especially those related to conventional agriculture which largely relies on synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and GMO seeds. Conventional cotton cultivation was associated with the rigorous use of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides that adversely affect the natural environment and largely add to global warming. Knowing the potential risks for the ecosystem, a need arises for a way to produce organic cotton that prohibits the use of harmful substances.—APP



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Briefs

All roads reopened for traffic in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Traffic in Islamabad has returned to normal, with all major roads now open following earlier disruptions due to protests. The Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) have confirmed that routes across the city are operational. According to ITP statement SSP Traffic along with all traffic officers, are present on the roads to ensure smooth traffic flow. He said traffic officers are actively engaged in maintaining the flow of traffic and assisting citizens. Citizens can also get traffic updates by contacting 1915 or tuning into FM 92.4 for real-time information, he said. He said Rawat T-Cross has been opened to traffic in both directions. Korang Chowk has also been cleared and reopened for vehicles from both sides he said. He said Khanna Pul is now open for traffic in both directions, ensuring smooth flow in this area. Faizabad and Murree Road, along with the Expressway, have been cleared, and traffic is now moving freely in both directions, he added. He said Peshawar Mor and Golra Mor are both open for traffic from both directions. Traffic has resumed at 26 Number Chungi and Motorway Link Road in both directions, he said. He added Colonel Sher Khan Shaheed Road is now fully operational in both directions. He said Iran Avenue has been opened to traffic in both directions. The route from Khanna Pul to Lehrar Road is also open for vehicles on both sides, he said. He said Srinagar Highway at G-14 is now open, and traffic is flowing smoothly in both directions. He said Seventeen-Mile Toll Plaza at Bhara Kahu has been reopened, allowing traffic to pass freely on both sides. Katti Pahari GT Road is now operational, with traffic moving in both directions, he added. —APP

World Teachers Day celebrated at AIUO

ISLAMABAD: The National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) and UNESCO Office in Pakistan, in collaboration with Allama Iqbal Open University (AIUO), and Basic Education Community Schools (BECS), celebrated World Teachers' Day 2024 at AIUO's Main Auditorium in Islamabad. This year's theme, "Valuing Teachers' Voices: Towards a New Social Contract for Education," highlighted the essential role teachers play in shaping future generations and building a skilled, educated society. The event honored the dedication and contributions of teachers, particularly in the context of educational reforms and societal progress. Speaking at the ceremony NCHD's Director General Mr. Ali Asghar welcomed the participants, commending the dedication of teachers, especially those working under challenging conditions in NCHD and Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) schools. He highlighted the invaluable role of teachers in human development of Pakistan. —APP

MoITT launches RoW One-Window operation to expedite NOC process

This disorganized system has hindered the progress of Pakistan's National Fiberization Vision, a plan designed to expand fiber connectivity nationwide

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT) has introduced the Right of Way (RoW) One-Window Operation, aimed at simplifying and speeding up the process of securing No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for telecom operators. One significant barrier to improving fiber penetration in Pakistan is the complicated process of obtaining Right of Way (RoW) No Objection Certificates (NOCs). Telecom operators are required to seek approvals from multiple government agencies, each with its

unique procedures, causing delays and inefficiencies. This disorganized system has hindered the progress of Pakistan's National Fiberization Vision, a plan designed to expand fiber connectivity nationwide. An official from the Ministry of IT said the RoW One-Window Operation minimizes paperwork, allowing telecom operators to electronically submit their RoW applications for NOCs, eliminating unnecessary delays in approvals. The process also facilitates online fee payments, enhancing transparency and efficiency. A dedicated online system for

complaint and dispute management will ensure quicker resolutions, while Fiberization Mapping will track fiberization progress nationwide. By consolidating all procedural steps into one platform, the system aims to make the process more transparent, cost-effective, and time-efficient. Operators can track their applications in real-time, reducing delays and ensuring smoother project execution. This streamlined approach will also lower telecom companies' operational costs and accelerate the rollout of fibre optic networks, contributing to the faster implementation of the National Fiberization Vision,

which seeks to enhance connectivity across Pakistan. This initiative, he said, would be available through both an online portal and a mobile app, and it includes several key features that are expected to positively impact the telecom sector. An official from the ministry said that the initiative follows Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's vision of digitalization and his commitment to making the country's governance system entirely paperless, reducing corruption, and benefiting the people of Pakistan. The prime minister, he said has set a target of achieving US\$ 25 billion in exports over the next five years.

Ayaz condemns blast near Chinese vehicle in Karachi

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, on Monday strongly condemned the tragic blast near a vehicle carrying Chinese nationals in Karachi, expressing profound sorrow over the loss of two Chinese lives and the injuries sustained by several others. In his statement, he conveyed his deep condolences to the bereaved families of the victims, calling the loss of Chinese nationals "profoundly saddening." He expressed sympathy and solidarity with the families affected by the tragedy. He said that such heinous acts of terrorism cannot weaken the strong and time-tested bond between Pakistan and China. "The malicious intentions of our enemies cannot sabotage the strong bond of Pak-China friendship," he said reaffirming that the friendship between the two nations remains as high as the Himalayas and as deep as the ocean. Condemning the enemy's attempts to create unrest in the country, he urged law enforcement agencies to act swiftly in apprehending the perpetrators and bringing them to justice. He also directed authorities to ensure that the injured receive the best possible medical care. "Terrorists' actions will never be able to weaken the deep-rooted Pakistan-China friendship," he said, adding that both the Parliament and the people of Pakistan stand united with the grieving families during this difficult time. —APP

PTI failed to unleash violence: Muqam

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for State and Frontier Region, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs, Engineer Amir Muqam on Monday said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest had failed to unleash violence and bloodshed in the federal capital despite massive attempts. Addressing a press conference, the Minister appreciated the positive role of security forces and police in showing patience. Muqam said Ali Amin Gandapur's role has been that of a film actor from day one and that too of a villain. "Thankfully, the 'Imrani agenda' has not been completed. However, despite Article 144 in Islamabad, the deployment of the Army, and many hurdles, PTI's purpose of bringing the innocent Pashtuns to create bloodshed could not be achieved. These anti-state elements were expecting severe reaction and bloodshed but their aim was not fulfilled," he said. Engineer Amir Muqam while appreciating the role of the security and law enforcement agen-



cies said that the security agencies worked in the best interest of the country and worked patiently. "However, the martyrdom of one constable and the injuries of many are deeply regretted," he added. How the resources, machinery, and manpower of a poor province were used recklessly would have to be accounted for, he said. Engineer Amir Muqam warned and said that he would also ask the government officials of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa not to be part of the work against

the country's interest, otherwise, they too would be held accountable. "Instead of using the innocent youth against the state, it should think about employment and welfare for them," Federal Minister Amir Muqam said. The minister said that the PTI regime badly failed to launch a new mega project for the welfare of people in the province in the last six months as compared to the other all other provinces working very smoothly but the KPK Chief Minis-

ter and his team protesting against the federation. Amir Muqam said that under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, a number of mega projects have been launched and in the upcoming day Pakistan will host the Conference of Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC). The federal government will take stern action against the facilitators of PTI protestors who massively misused the resources of the poor province of KPK.

World's perception of Pak is changing

ISLAMABAD Business leader and former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Monday that global institutions are supporting Pakistan's economic policies and that the world's perception of Pakistan is changing. Although Pakistan's economic indicators are improving, he stressed the urgent need to reduce reliance on aid and loans. He added that different countries that used to avoid Pakistan due to economic and other considerations would soon start bilateral trade and investment in Pakistan. Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that the economy is stabilising and pushing the country forward while the stock market is booming. The business leader stated that the country's exports had increased by 14% and that digitizing the FBR is expensive, but it will benefit the economy greatly. He demanded the completion of talks to privatize Pakistan International Airlines and other state-owned businesses, with the aim of selling these failing enterprises to save billions of rupees. In Pakistan, the number of filers is increasing, and the time has come to bring untaxed and low-taxed sectors, as well as wealthy individuals, into the tax net. However, he said, there is an urgent need to broaden the tax net, as the government is currently spending seventy percent of revenue to pay interest on loans, which is not sustainable. He emphasized that Pakistan's tax system is ineffective, unfair, fragmented, and leaves out entire sectors of the economy, which exacerbates structural economic imbalances and is a recipe for disaster. He noted that Pakistan has been unable to expand taxation. Despite several local and donor-supported reform attempts, the tax-to-GDP ratio continues to hover around 10% of the GDP. The inability to expand tax revenue contributes to significant public service delivery gaps. In Pakistan, over 20 million people lack access to clean water, nearly one in three people lacks a decent toilet, approximately 40% of children under the age of five experience stunted growth, and more children are not attending school than in India and China, he lamented. Borrowing cannot improve the situation; therefore, an expanded tax net is necessary. The elites are not prepared to pay taxes, but Pakistan has no other choice, he noted. Currently, the government is providing power subsidies, lowering the cost of basic goods, and slashing the price of fuel, offering some respite to the people. However, the scarcity of resources prevents further action. By skewing the tax system towards import and consumption taxes, Pakistan worsens its structural economic imbalances. Pakistani firms, for example, are more incentivised to sell domestically to a protected market than to compete globally. —DNA

8 hurt as bus turns turtle in Rawalpindi

ISLAMABAD: As many as eight passengers were injured on Monday when a minibus turned turtle on Chak Beli Road, Rawalpindi. According to a private news channel and rescue, the incident happened due to high speeding. The rescue team reached the spot immediately after the incident was reported and shifted the injured to the nearby hospital. —APP

Rationalization of taxes can help broadening tax net

Tajir dost scheme: Anomalies be fixed and stakeholders should be consulted, Usman Shaukat

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The newly elected President of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) Usman Shaukat has said that rationalization of taxes can help broaden the tax net. It is very unfortunate that FBR could not get desired results of the Tajir Dost Scheme. Instead of bringing new taxpayers into the system, the scheme only involved existing taxpayers and added unnecessary additional burden. Usman Shaukat, while sharing his views about the Tajir Dost Scheme and broadening the tax net in a private TV program, said that every



year additional taxes are being passed on to the existing taxpayers. He said that the Chamber has always voiced about increasing the tax net and urged the tax authorities to increase the tax net by adding new sectors and departments rather than squeezing existing taxpayers. While

commenting on the root cause of lower number of tax return filings, Usman Shaukat said that the trust deficit had widened in the last couple of years between the business community and FBR. Trust deficit is one of the major reasons behind the failure of the Tajir Dost Scheme, he added. He urged that the loopholes in the Tajir Dost Scheme should be removed and stakeholders should be consulted, tax collection based on the size of the shop is not realistic. He said that our tragedy is that the rate of indirect tax is high and the rate of direct tax is low, the tax system should be reformed and a rationalized tax policy should be brought considering the ground realities.

ANF foils drug smuggling attempt

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting an operation managed to foil a drug smuggling attempt and recovered 60 kg Ice, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that a consignment of drugs was seized in a successful intelligence based operation conducted near Makran coastal line. The ANF while conducting hours long surveillance chased a speedboat going to the Gulf of Oman and recovered total 60 kg ice in deep-sea operation near Jiwani. The recovered ice was tactfully concealed in various boxes and packets. The accused taking advantage of the deep sea managed to escape, while the operation to net the accused is going on. This is a very successful operation of the ANF despite limited resources and manpower, the spokesman said adding, the force would continue its successful operations against drug trafficking. —APP

Police bust street criminal gang, arrest two

RAWALPINDI: Police have busted a street criminal and bike-lifting gang by arresting two active members of the Tata gang allegedly involved in street and other crimes and recovered cash of Rs 36,000, two snatched iPhones, stolen motorcycles, weapons, and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Rattaamral police held two street criminals namely Suleman alias Tata and Abdul Wahab, and recovered two iPhones, Rs 36,000, a stolen motorcycle, a weapon, and other items. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is under process. The accused have been shifted to jail for identification parade, he added. Superintendent of Police, Rawal, Muhammad Haseeb Raja said that police are making efforts to net other members of the gang. —APP

PFIC: A childhood disorder

HAFSA RIAZ



PROGRESSIVE Familial Intrahepatic Cholestasis (PFIC) is a rare liver disorder that starts affecting in early childhood. It is accumulation of bile in the liver cells. Bile formation is vital for liver function, aiding in fat absorption and toxin removal. However, when bile secretion is impaired, it can lead to

serious health issues, including liver failure. This can lead to liver damage and a range of health issues. PFIC is typically caused by mutations in genes those regulate the movement of bile out of liver cells. Children with PFIC may experience symptoms such as jaundice, itching, an enlarged liver or spleen, and problems with growth and development. In severe cases, PFIC can progress to liver failure, a life-threatening condition that may require a liver transplant.

In most cases age of patients ranges from few weeks to two years. The prevalence of PFIC varies across different populations. While it is considered rare, affecting an estimated 1 in 50,000 to 100,000 births worldwide, the prevalence may differ among ethnic groups. Some forms of PFIC are more common in specific populations, but the condition can affect people of any ethnicity. Although PFIC mutations have been identified in various

populations, including European and American, research in Pakistani patients, despite the population's high consanguinity, has been lacking. Research suggests that certain genetic factors may contribute to the development of PFIC. Among the genes implicated in PFIC are ATP8B1, ABCB11, ABCB4, and others, each associated with different types of PFIC. PFIC2, for instance, results from mutations in the ABCB11 gene, which encodes the bile salt export pump (BSEP). BSEP plays a crucial role in transporting bile salts out of liver cells into bile ducts. These genetic mutations can be inherited from one or both parents, but in some cases, they occur spontaneously. Diagnosing PFIC can be challenging, as its symptoms overlap with other liver disorders. Clinicians recommend hematological and pathological laboratory parameters. Early detection and diagnosis are crucial for implementing appropriate treatment and preventing complications.

This can be done through genetic analysis. Treatment for PFIC focuses on managing symptoms and improving quality of life. This may include supportive medicine, special diets to support liver function, and supportive care to address nutritional needs. Sometimes liver transplantation is recommended. Despite advances in understanding PFIC, much remains to be learned about this complex disorder. Ongoing research efforts aim to uncover the underlying causes of PFIC, develop more effective treatments, and improve outcomes for affected individuals. But it is correlated with advancement correlation with description of genetic etiology. The molecular analysis will help in provision of an opportunity for genetic counselling, prenatal/preimplantation diagnosis, carrier testing in the extended family members and within-family marriage planning. Genetic counselling and carrier screening help to reduce the burden of these disorders in our population and managing affected individuals.

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Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 05 Issue: 260

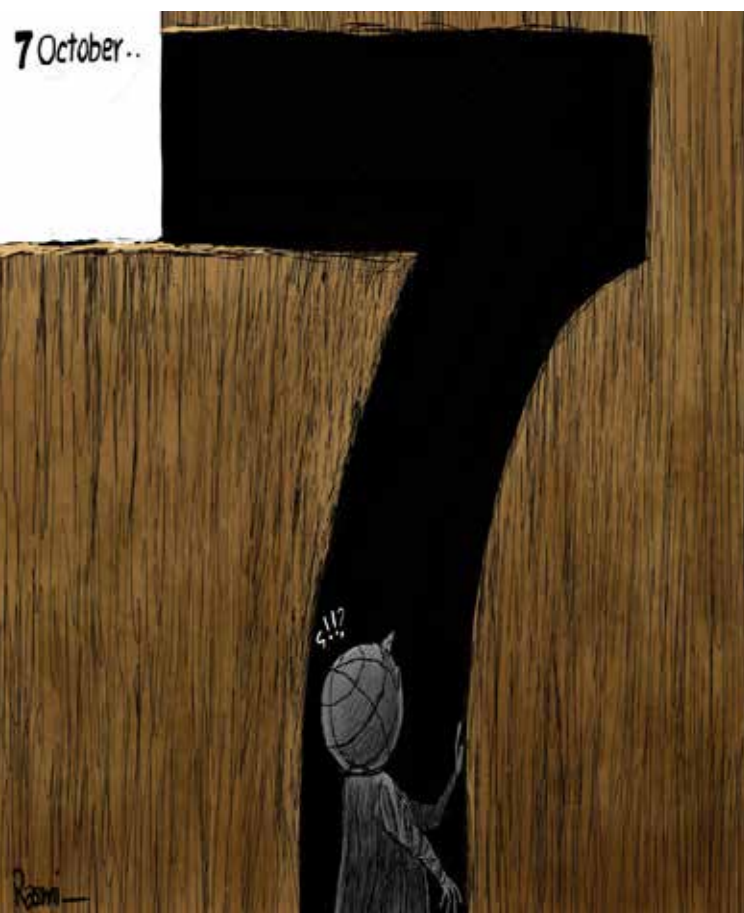
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A year of genocide

EURO-Med Human Rights Monitor has released a comprehensive report marking one year since Israel launched its genocidal campaign against civilians in the Gaza Strip on 7 October 2023. During this period, Israel has committed grave war crimes, with the explicit complicity of the international community. Titled De-Gaza: A Year of Israel's Genocide and the Collapse of World Order, the report details the most prominent crimes committed over the past 12 months, thoroughly documented by Euro-Med field teams. It traces the clear elements of genocide perpetrated by the Israeli army, explores the legal frameworks defining the crime of genocide, and scrutinizes both the context and ongoing circumstances. The report also addresses the international judiciary's response, and, significantly, the global community's complicit role in allowing the genocide to continue. The report sheds light on the appalling conditions and systematic atrocities Israel has inflicted upon the occupied Palestinian territory, with a particular focus on the Gaza Strip. These long-standing crimes include the illegal blockade, the deliberate isolation of Gaza from the rest of the Palestinian territory and the world, the systematic deprivation of basic human rights to the Strip's residents, and the deliberate destruction of essential services. Since the start of the genocide in Gaza, more than 50,000 Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli army, including around 42,000 recorded by the Gaza Ministry of Health, the majority being women and children. In addition, approximately 100,000 have been injured, with thousands of bodies still lying under the rubble and in the streets, unreachable by rescue and medical teams. An estimated 10 per cent of Gaza's population has been killed, injured, reported missing, or detained as a result of Israeli military assaults. Of the 50,292 Palestinians killed—including those still buried under the debris—33 per cent were women, and 21 per cent were children. Thousands more have been forcibly detained, with 3,600 still languishing in various Israeli prisons and detention centers. Around 3,500 families have suffered multiple losses since October 2023. Of these, 365 families have lost more than ten members, while over 2,750 families have lost at least three. The report details the systematic acts of genocide committed in Gaza, such as the targeted killing of civilians in homes, shelters, displacement camps, and humanitarian-declared zones. Civilians were also killed by military vehicles and tanks, in field executions, through drone strikes, in crowded markets, and even while waiting for aid at relief trucks. The report notes the Israeli military's starvation tactics, the deliberate killing of prisoners and detainees, and the assassination of humanitarian workers, qualified professionals, and Palestinian elites. The Israeli army employs explicit methods designed to inflict severe physical and psychological trauma on the population. These include launching thousands of systematic military assaults on civilians, dramatically increasing deaths among people of reproductive age, separating families, targeting the healthcare system, and imposing brutal living conditions marked by starvation and malnutrition. The obstruction of humanitarian aid further exacerbates these atrocities, creating life-threatening situations for thousands.



Ethnic debate in Taiwan

ACCORDING to Jorge Luis Borges, the ancient Chinese had a very simple system of taxonomy. There were all the animals that belonged to the emperor, and the rest. To be fair, it was a little more complicated. There were further classifications under the latter "not-emperor's" category: animals that look like flies, those that have recently broken an expensive vase, stray dogs, and suckling pigs (presumably mature pigs became the emperor's property). Then there were untrained animals, embalmed ones, innumerable ones plus all those included in this classification, those drawn with a very fine camel hair brush, fabled animals, et cetera. Two further comments from me, and I will stop. This is one of those typical imaginative fantasies of Borges' that set the mind alight with a thousand thoughts. It's good he only wrote short stories. Imagine a long novel from him, it would literally blow your mind. The "fabled ones" in the classification presumably included the legendary dragon. Does that mean dragons didn't belong to the emperor? Also "et cetera", as in other things, is itself an animal category. Some readers initially thought Borges was serious. However, some Chinese thought his "in-joke" was racist and that he was making fun of our culture. I don't know if he was. But I have always found it funny, and much more. Anyway, Borges' little flight of fancy came to mind when I recently read about a controversy between some Taiwanese secessionists and Japanese ethnographers, over mainland China's classification of ethnic minorities, of which there are 55 plus the Han majority. By itself, it's just another ideological storm in a teacup, by Taiwanese secessionists and their supporters in a futile exercise to assert independence whenever they can. But look a little closer, and it relates to the whole question of minorities and majority in racial relationships in China, something that is almost always either misunderstood or misrepresented in the Western popular media, chief among which is the notion of the Han itself. I feel sorry for the staff at the National Museum of Ethnology in Osaka, the world's largest institution of its kind. It has been featuring programmes on regional cultures in East Asia, with a section on ethnic minorities in China. Naturally, it includes indigenous groups in Taiwan, who almost certainly share ancestral DNA with some minority groups on the mainland. It was a good-faith effort in educating the public about the latest ethnological research in the region. But some Taiwanese secessionists and their supporters have now cried foul, such as those from the Taiwan Research Forum. Why? They claim those indigenous groups belong to the island only, and so cannot fall under the 55 ethnic groups classification used officially on the mainland. Well, only if you believe in an independent Taiwan entirely separate from mainland China. Otherwise, the museum's display makes perfect sense, and is in accord with the official policy of practically all the governments around the world, except for about a dozen that still recognise the island as an independent state or as representing the whole of China. The secessionists' objection is ridiculous. One of the points that I think Borges was making is that all classifications are artificial and arbitrary – even if you claim God, the Chinese emperor, science, history or nationalism to be your foundation.

Of protests and Shanghai meeting

Qamar Bashir



This background raises two important questions. Does the federal government or the Punjab government have the right, power, or constitutional backing to label all protestors from a legitimate political party originating from KP province as anarchists? Peaceful protests are legitimate democratic expressions, and conflating them with criminal or terrorist activities erodes these rights, undermining the rule of law and democratic norms. Additionally, international human rights obligations emphasize the need to protect peaceful assembly, not suppress it through force or fear. Such actions set a dangerous precedent, stifle political discourse...

FOR Pakistan, hosting the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Foreign Ministers Meeting is indeed an honor, but in the current charged political, security, and law and order situation, it presents an immense challenge. In many countries, especially established democracies, protests during high-profile regional and international meetings are considered a normal and routine affair. A small contingent of police is usually deployed to ensure the safety of protestors, pedestrians, motorists, and the surrounding neighborhood. Protestors are regarded as responsible citizens, and are not in any way branded as terrorists, criminals, or law-breakers. This stands in stark contrast to our current trend of labeling all protestors—whether peaceful or otherwise, including women, youth, and children—as terrorists, anarchists, and violators of the law and order. Unfortunately, in Pakistan, government leadership, whether political or from law enforcement agencies, have started labeling protestors as anarchists and vows to prevent them from reaching their intended venues as if they are an invading enemy force. It is as though they are launching an attack on the federal capital or any city in Punjab, prompting the entire security apparatus to be put on high alert. The authorities are authorized to use the full force of their arsenal to stop, defeat, arrest, or, if necessary, injure the protestors. This mindset is both alarming and dangerous. We know that Balochistan is on a perilous path. Terrorists and separatists in the region do not allow the entry of citizens from other provinces, and whenever they get the opportunity, they stop buses, check commuters' ID cards, and kill those belonging to other provinces. They also attack the residences of people from other provinces living in Balochistan and murder them mercilessly. It poses a significant challenge to our national competence and political acumen to come together, identify the core issues, and find political solutions against using force to quell dissent, counter insurgency, or separatism. While such measures may temporarily suppress the situation on the surface, the underlying flames of perceived injustice, marginalization, and tyranny continue to simmer and eventually erupt

with greater intensity once the pressure is lifted. We have seen a similar example in Afghanistan, where both the USSR and the USA, despite their might, were unable to subjugate the Afghan people and had to withdraw in total disgrace. We have also witnessed the consequences of dissent and injustice in Bangladesh, where the tyranny and might of the government could not stop the protestors, ultimately leading to the government's disgraceful exit. We are now confronting a similar scenario between KP province and the Federal Capital, as well as Punjab. The Chief Minister of Punjab, the spokesperson for the Punjab government, and the Federal Interior minister have labeled protestors originating from KP Province—whether peaceful or not—as anarchists. They have vowed to prevent citizens from KP province from entering Punjab or the Federal Capital, even though these citizens are exercising their fundamental right to move freely across the country without any restrictions, coercion, or intimidation. Additionally, they are exercising their constitutional rights to freedom of assembly and freedom of speech. This background raises two important questions. Does the federal government or the Punjab government have the right, power, or constitutional backing to label all protestors from a legitimate political party originating from KP province as anarchists? Peaceful protests are legitimate democratic expressions, and conflating them with criminal or terrorist activities erodes these rights, undermining the rule of law and democratic norms. Additionally, international human rights obligations emphasize the need to protect peaceful assembly, not suppress it through force or fear. Such actions set a dangerous precedent, stifle political discourse, and undermine public trust in institutions. For example, during the Yellow Vest protests in France, while there were incidents of violence, the French government did not label the entire movement as anarchistic or terroristic. Instead, law enforcement focused on managing the crowds and minimizing disruptions, while allowing people to exercise their right to protest. Similarly, in the US, movements such as Black Lives Matter have seen large-scale demonstrations across the country. While some

acts of violence occurred, the movement as a whole was not branded as terrorism; rather, law enforcement worked to ensure that peaceful protests could take place. These examples illustrate how established democracies maintain a balance between preserving public order and protecting the constitutional rights of their citizens, ensuring that dissent is respected as an essential part of democratic engagement rather than criminalized. The second important question is: In Balochistan, where severe waves of high-intensity insurgency have led insurgents to use violent means to stop the movement of citizens from other provinces—what would happen if the Punjab or Federal government similarly restricted the movement of citizens from KP province? If the people and government of KP respond in kind by restricting the entry of citizens from the Federal Capital and Punjab into KP, how would this impact the Federation of Pakistan? Though the possibility of the KP government resorting to such an extreme step is remote, if it does, it would cause immense harm to the country. Pakistan, as a federation, relies on the free movement of citizens across its provinces. Restricting movement between KP and Punjab would create divisions, foster provincialism, and damage the national fabric. It would signal a breakdown in the unity of the federation, where provincial interests are prioritized over national cohesion. Such actions could encourage other provinces to follow suit, further weakening the sense of collective identity as Pakistanis and promoting separatist sentiments in different regions. If the government truly seeks to defuse the protests, it has no option but to engage the protest leaders in sincere, meaningful dialogue and negotiation. The government must genuinely address their concerns and, most importantly, resolve the underlying issues. Failure to do so will only push the country deeper into chaos and unrest. If this happens, the government, being in power, will bear the full responsibility for the consequences. Now is the time for the government to show wisdom and compassion, to listen to its people, and to take decisive steps toward healing the divisions that threaten the nation's stability. Ignoring these voices will only lead to greater turmoil, and the cost of inaction will be felt by all.

Fact sheet on the spread of tensions in the West Asia

Dr. Asghar Masoudi

On the day of the Oath-taking ceremony of the President-elect of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Zionist regime assassinated the former Prime Minister of Palestine and Hamas leader, Ismail Haniyeh, in violation of all international regulations and in egregious violation of Iranian sovereignty. According to international law, Iran has the right to resort to countermeasures as an inherent, legal and enforceable right. However, due to the on-going negotiations for a ceasefire and in response to the requests of many countries..

AFTER 76 years of occupation and other crimes by the Zionist regime, Hamas and other Palestinian Resistance groups in Gaza launched the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation on October 7th, 2023 to terminate occupation and crimes against humanity. This decision was made by the leaders of the resistance front and the people of Palestine and Gaza. However, based on the principled policies, Iran supported the Palestinian nation and resistance groups to help terminate the occupation. The Zionist regime, enjoying the full support of the US and some Western countries, amid silence and inaction of the international community, has committed an unprecedented genocide in Palestine and massacred more than 42 thousand innocent people, including children and women. The regime destroyed all the infrastructures of Gaza, the West Bank of the Jordan River and recently Lebanon by attacking hospitals, schools, ambulances and journalists violating all recognized international rules and regulations and humanitarian rights. The world is witnessing genocide, infanticide, crimes against humanity, violation of human rights, breach of sovereignty and territorial integrity, use of weapons of mass destruction, recourse to cyber and technological terrorism, assassination, violation of diplomatic rights and invasion of diplomatic places, destruction of the cultural sites and the common heritages of humanity. Still American and Western officials nod to these crimes as the implementation of justice by the regime. On the day of the Oath-taking ceremony of the President-elect of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Zionist regime assassinated the former Prime Minister of Palestine and Hamas leader, Ismail Hani-

yeh, in violation of all international regulations and in egregious violation of Iranian sovereignty. According to international law, Iran has the right to resort to countermeasures as an inherent, legal and enforceable right. However, due to the on-going negotiations for a ceasefire and in response to the requests of many countries and in order to reduce part of the suffering of the defenceless people of Gaza, the Islamic Republic of Iran restrained to exercise its right to self-defence until the end of the negotiations. Meanwhile, it was proved that these requests were a conspiracy to gain more time and to complete the operational plan of the regime in Gaza and to get prepared for the invasion of the West Bank and Lebanon. After Gaza, the Zionist regime extended its aggression to Lebanon, and on September 27, 2024, in an inhumane act, the regime attacked Lebanon with 85 one-ton American bunker buster bombs leading to the martyrdom of Seyed Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah. In this terrorist operation, in addition to Hezbollah members and civilians, General Abbas Nilforoushan, Iranian senior military adviser in Beirut, were also martyred. Within the framework of the international rules and regulations, the provisions of the Article 51 of the UN Charter and after two months of restraint, in response to the aggressive actions of the Zionist regime, including the violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iran in the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, massacre of the Palestinian and Lebanese people and wounding Iranian ambassador in Lebanon during the Pagers explosion, the defensive missile operation of the Islamic Republic of Iran was launched on Tuesday, October 10th, 2024.

Unlike the Zionist regime, targeting the civilians and civil infrastructures, according to the principles of morality and Islamic principles and in full compliance with the principle of distinction in international humanitarian law, Iran targeted military and security bases that are responsible for the genocide in Gaza and Lebanon. Based on the objectives of the operation, more than 90% of the designated targets were successfully hit. The Islamic Republic of Iran never intends to invade another country and seeks for the regional and global peace and stability, still remains serious in implementing the inherent right of legitimate defence against any aggression. Iran's operation is now ended, unless the Israeli regime continues its aggression in violation of Iran's sovereignty or any other dangerous adventurism. In this case, Iran's response will prove even stronger. The Islamic Republic of Iran will give a decisive and strong response to any breach of its territory and interests by any aggressor and from any point. Instead of rhetoric, the US and western supporters of the Zionist regime should stop weaponizing and financially supporting the Israeli regime to prove their claim in preventing a large-scale regional war. The Zionist regime considers the only way out of the current state of affairs in an all-out regional and international war with the participation of the US. Therefore, the supporters of the regime, especially the US, are now more responsible for preventing a war. The international community, especially the Islamic countries, while expressly condemning the illegal acts of the Zionist regime, need to fulfil their much delayed duties to end the aggression and genocide by the Israeli regime.

— The writer is a Director General of Iran Culture Center-Lahore

Briefs

' Hamas shattered dreams of...'

FROM PAGE 01
has shattered the dreams of those recognising Israel. He questioned why people ask why Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, "JI chief asserted. Hafiz Naeem said that "Palestine has been fighting since 1948, and millions have been martyred—something that seems invisible to many". He challenged the "peace advocates", asking why they fail to see the massacre of children. He further stated that to date, the United States has provided Israel with \$310 billion in weapons. India, Israel, and the United States are collectively perpetrating atrocities in Gaza.

FBR poised to bring...

FROM PAGE 01
non-filers within two to three months through a finance bill, he said adding the non-filers would not be allowed to purchase of properties and vehicles and would not also travel abroad or open current account in any bank. He highlighted that the taxpayers enjoyed deduction in bank transaction rates while non-filers have to pay some extra amount to get this job done, however, now FBR is going to totally finish non-filer category. "This development will lead to mandatory tax filing for individuals", he added.

Stocks hit new all-time high mark

FROM PAGE 01
Research and Development at Pakistan Kuwait Investment Company (Private) Limited, pointed to rising expectations of a rate cut as the primary driver, citing a continuous drop in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation to single digits touching 6.9% in September. Key sectors fueling the gains included automobile assemblers, cement, commercial banks, fertilisers, oil and gas exploration companies, and IT marketing companies (OMCs). Ahsan Mehtani, analyst at Arif Habib Corp said stocks were hovering around all-time highs led by blue chip oil scrips amid speculations in earnings season. "Surging global crude oil prices, slump in banking lending rates and Govt deliberation on privatisation of SOEs played a catalyst role in bullish activity in PSX," Mehtani added.

Imran, 300 PTI workers booked...

FROM PAGE 01
raised anti-state slogans and engaged in vandalism. One of the workers allegedly injured Constable Bilal during the chaos. Police arrested 16 workers on the spot, and further legal action against them is ongoing. Additionally, several cases have been registered against PTI workers for violating Section 144 by holding protests in the city. The protests were prohibited under the emergency law, which was in effect at the time. Separate cases were also registered at the Millat Park and Hanjarwal police stations against PTI workers. In Hanjarwal, an FIR was filed by ASI Aqeel against 20 workers, who were arrested the previous day for protesting in defiance of the restrictions.

Punjab 'bans' all meetings...

FROM PAGE 01
imprisoned, sources told on Monday. Citing security reasons for the ban which is to remain in place till October 18, the sources added that Khan will not be allowed to meet party leaders, lawyers and family during this time. Prison sources attribute the prohibition on meetings — including those involving common prisoners — to security concerns. This measure aims to bolster the facility's security in light of the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit scheduled in neighboring Islamabad from October 15 to 16.

Masood and Shafique make England toil in first Test

At 263-3, England had hope of taking more from the day, hope that was dimmed when Babar Azam and Saud Shakeel added 61, then realised when Chris Woakes pinned Babar leg before

SPORTS DESK

MULTAN: England got a late reward at the end of a gruelling opening day's play on their tour of Pakistan, who were taken to 328-4 by centuries from Shan Masood and Abdullah Shafique. An unprecedented 3-0 win was achieved by England here two years ago, but with a different team and in different conditions, this was always likely to be a difficult proposition. So it proved after Pakistan won the toss in oppressive heat and pounced on the chance to bat first on the flattest of pitches. Gus Atkinson had Saim Ayub caught down the leg side in the fourth over, only for opener Shafique and captain Masood to pile on 253 for the second wicket. Masood overturned being given out lbw to England debutant Brydon Carse on 16 and Shafique could have been run out by stand-in skipper Ollie Pope on 34. Both men eventually fell in the space of 17 deliveries, Shafique to Atkinson for 102 and Masood to Jack Leach for 151. At 263-3, England had hope of taking more from the day, hope that was dimmed when Babar Azam and Saud Shakeel added 61, then realised when Chris Woakes pinned Babar leg before. Brendon McCullum said before this match began that England were realistic about the challenge that awaited them. Perhaps the coach had days like this in mind. McCullum also defended the late arrival of bowling consultant James Anderson, so instrumental in England's success two years ago when he was still a player. Bar coming out of retirement, it is hard to imagine what An-



erson could have done to help England combat these conditions. The toss was crucial. For all the talk of a green pitch, the surface was shaved just before play to leave a placid, run-filled batting paradise. Short of Pope calling differently when the coin went up, there was little else England could have tried. This was as tough as it gets for a pace attack that has barely played overseas, a young spinner in Shoaib Bashir and another, Leach, playing his first Test since January. Despite temperatures of 35 degrees, limited preparation time and the absence of injured captain Ben Stokes, England stuck to the task. Their effort could not be faulted and they deserved the prized scalp of Babar. The tourists can take heart from the likelihood of the pitch remaining good by the time they come to bat. When that might

be is the big question. Masood and his team are under pressure. Pakistan have gone 10 Tests without a home win and Masood has lost all five of his matches in charge, including a 2-0 defeat by Bangladesh in August. But Masood has been open about his admiration for England's attacking intent and dished out some aggression of his own after Ayub tickled down the leg side from Atkinson's 10th delivery of the day. How different it might have been for England had Carse's delivery that brought an lbw shout not pitched marginally outside Masood's leg stump, or if Pope's flick at the non-striker's stumps had hit when a diving Shafique was short of his ground. Pope possibly had time to remove the bails himself. Left-hander Masood played through the covers, Shafique towards mid-wicket. Both

attacked Bashir and were untroubled by England's bouncers. For Shafique it was a first Test hundred since July 2023; for Masood, a first in four years. Both men were struggling with cramp when they fell in quick succession. Shafique drove Atkinson to Pope at cover, then Masood patted a return catch to Leach. Babar looked ominous for his 30, only to play across Woakes, leaving Shakeel on 35 alongside nightwatchman Naeem Shah. Pace bowling was key to England's success here two years ago, so a fresh-looking attack came under the spotlight in the run-up to this match. Woakes has a terrible record overseas, Atkinson had not played away before, Carse not anywhere for England before. England lacked experience and assistance. The ball barely swung or turned, offering next to nothing for bowlers of all kinds. Woakes started well before his effectiveness waned. Carse was lively, asked to bowl bouncers as early as the 15th over of the day, a plan that England overdid. Bashir was expensive, often lacking control. England were led by Atkinson and Leach. The ball Atkinson bowled to get Ayub was probably his worst of the day and, later, he tirelessly executed the plan to drag Shafique into a loose drive. Left-armed Leach was overlooked in the home summer, though he is the only one of England's frontline bowlers to have played in Pakistan before. He was far England's most economical bowler and comfortably out-performed Bashir. As the light faded, Woakes was given the second new ball. The thud into Babar's front pad gave him just a seventh Test wicket in Asia and first since 2016.

Pakistan asks Afghan govt fix...

FROM PAGE 01
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan on Sunday calling it an "unacceptable" and "deplorable" interference in the domestic affairs of Pakistan. "Instead of lecturing a democratic country, the AIG should focus on fixing its own domestic problems; prioritize inclusivity; and be responsive to needs and aspirations of its own people including the right to education for women and girls rather than curtailing their rights through misguided interpretation of religion," the spokesperson said. She said the AIG should also deliver on the commitments given to the international community by denying space to terror groups which were seriously threatening peace and security in the neighbouring countries; and by preventing Afghanistan from becoming once again the centre of global terrorism. The spokesperson reiterated that Pakistan remained committed to peace, dialogue, and cooperation in the region and expected all states, including Afghanistan, to adhere to the basic norms of responsible international conduct and interstate relations.

Twin cities to observe 3-day...

FROM PAGE 01
The SCO, an influential Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance, was established in 2001 by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The organisation has since expanded to include India, Pakistan, and Iran as full members, while Afghanistan, Belarus, and Mongolia hold observer status. The bloc is often seen as a counterbalance to Western alliances like NATO, playing a key role in promoting regional cooperation.

56 prisoners in SL jails repatriated

FROM PAGE 01
Another repatriate said that he was happy to be back in Pakistan after undergoing difficult circumstances during their imprisonment in Sri Lanka. Reacting to the return of Pakistani prisoners, Interior Minister Naqvi said that he is grateful to the Sri Lankan government and high commissioner for their role in the repatriation. He also thanked Federal Minister for Privatisation Abdul Ajeem Khan for his generosity in bearing the expenses of the prisoners as a gesture of support. It may be noted that the Ministry of Interior had been tasked by the security czar with facilitating the release and safe return of the Pakistani nationals. The return of these 56 Pakistani prisoners marks a significant humanitarian effort by the government, bringing relief to the families awaiting the return of their loved ones.

CDA seals KP House

FROM PAGE 01
unauthorised constructions were carried out, and no certificate was obtained after these constructions. Sources stated that Blocks A and B of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House have been sealed, while Block C, where families reside, has not been sealed. The rooms for guests in the KP House have also been sealed. Sources added that Special Magistrate Sardar Muhammad Asif sealed the KP House, and Assistant Commissioner Abdullah also accompanied the CDA team.

Pakistan reaffirms...

FROM PAGE 01
an attack not only on Pakistan but also on the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China. We remain resolute in bringing to justice those responsible for this cowardly attack, including the Majeed Brigade. "Pakistan's security and law enforcement agencies will spare no effort in apprehending the perpetrators and their facilitators. This barbaric act will not go unpunished," the FO said. The statement said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was in close contact with the Chinese embassy for coordination and facilitation.

Djokovic 'shakes rust off' to make 3rd round of Shanghai

'It took me a little bit of time to get the rust off and to start feeling better on the court,' Novak Djokovic says

WEB DESK

BEIJING: Novak Djokovic said it took time to "get the rust off" as he fought through two tiebreaks to make his way into the third round of the Shanghai Masters. The Serbian beat American Alex Michelsen in a thrilling two-set match that finished 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (11/9). Meanwhile Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz showed why they were top in the world as they raced through to the next stage with confident straight-set wins. Sinner dispatched Japan's Taro Daniel 6-1, 6-4, while Alcaraz made short work of China's Shang Juncheng, winning 6-2, 6-2. Four-time Shanghai champion Djokovic did not have it quite so easy against 43rd ranked Michelsen. Introduced as the



"Greatest Of All Time" as he walked onto the court, he received a rapturous welcome from the packed stadium. But Michelsen started the first set strongly, breaking Djokovic early and going 1-4 up — to the displeasure of the crowd, fully behind the 37-year-old former

world number one. To their delight, the Serbian levelled, and then hit his stride in the tiebreak, winning it 7-3. The reverse happened in the second set when it was 20-year-old Michelsen's turn to catch up to take it to the tiebreak. Djokovic admitted to being

"surprised" by Michelsen.

"It took me a little bit of time to get the rust off and to start feeling better on the court," he said. "I was very glad to keep calm when it mattered in both tiebreaks."

The crowd, already in a frenzy after Djokovic spoke Mandarin at the end of the match, went wild as he showed off a new trick — attempting a sentence in the Shanghaiese vernacular. World number one Sinner has said he is not in a "comfortable" situation, thanks to a World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) appeal against a decision by tennis authorities to clear him of wrongdoing after he twice tested positive for a steroid in March. His recent blistering winning streak was broken by Alcaraz in the China Open final on Wednesday.

Paul Pogba's suspension cut after experts supported claims

LONDON: Paul Pogba's doping suspension was cut from four years to 18 months after experts supported the French soccer player's claims of having unintentionally ingested a banned substance, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) said on Monday. The France international was provisionally suspended by Italy's national anti-doping organisation (NADO Italia) in September 2023 after testing positive for DHEA — a banned substance that raises levels of testosterone. CAS reduced the sentence last week, with Pogba saying his "nightmare is over". The 31-year-old, who has a contract with Italy's Juventus until June 2026, will be eligible to return to football in March. In a statement, CAS said Pogba had argued that his ingestion of DHEA was not intentional and had occurred after he consumed a supplement prescribed to him by a medical doctor in Florida. "MrPogba had been given assurances that the medical doctor, who had claimed to treat several high level U.S. and international athletes, was knowledgeable and would be mindful of MrPogba's anti-doping obligations under the World Anti-Doping Code..." CAS added. Advertisement • Scroll to continue "MrPogba's case was supported by several experts. Much of the evidence provided by MrPogba was unopposed. "The CAS Panel determined, however, that MrPogba was not without fault and that, as a professional football player, he should have paid a greater care in the circumstances." Pogba last played for Juventus in a 2-0 win at Empoli over a year ago. — Agencies

PFF names squad for SAFF Women's c'ship

LAHORE: The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) has announced the Pakistan women's football team squad for the forthcoming SAFF Women's Championship 2024, which will be held in Nepal from October 17 to 30. The team is scheduled to depart for Nepal via Dubai from Islamabad on October 12. Drawn into Group A, the women in green will face arch-rivals India and Bangladesh. Meanwhile, Group B consists of the hosts Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Bhutan. Pakistan will begin their campaign against India on October 17 followed by a group-stage clash with Bangladesh on October 20. The matches will be played at 4:45pm. **Travel Squad:** Goalkeepers: Nisha Ashraf, Mafia Parveen and Rumaysa Khan.

DNA

Mbappe under fire for skipping France duty

France captain Mbappe started Real's La Liga game against Villarreal on Saturday

FOREIGN DESK

PARIS: France captain Kylian Mbappe is facing criticism in his home country for skipping Les Bleus' Nations League games against Israel and Belgium while being available to play for Real Madrid. The forward picked up a muscle injury last month but made his return to the pitch in the Champions League last Wednesday. In regard to this, France coach Didier Deschamps left Mbappe out of the squad he announced on Thursday, saying the 25-year-old lacked preparation, having played too few matches. Meanwhile, Mbappe started Real's La Liga game against Villarreal on Saturday. "Either you're injured, and you don't play with your club and you're not called up in the national team," former France international Maxime-

Bossis told French sports daily L'Equipe on Monday. "But when you come off the bench in the Champions League and you start a league game, it makes things fuzzy. He's a special player. We've known that with Michel Platini, when we still wanted him with us when he was injured." Mbappe's situation is more complicated because the former Paris St Germain player is the national team captain after being handed the armband ahead of Antoine Griezmann, who last week announced his retirement from international football. Griezmann's commitment to Les Bleus was never in doubt as the Atletico Madrid forward played a record 84 consecutive matches for his country between 2017 and 2024. "As a captain (Mbappe) must be an example for the fans, and he has not been," Fabien Bonnet, spokesperson for the IrresistiblesFrancais, the main France supporters' group, told L'Equipe. "What emerges is that the real captain, Antoine Griezmann, is gone." France, second in Group A, will be facing Israel in Budapest on Thursday and travel to Belgium next Monday.

Pakistan reiterates unwavering support for Palestinian cause

FROM PAGE 01

Nawaz Sharif also commended Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for forcefully raising the issue of Palestine and grave human rights violations by Israel in Gaza during his address to the United Nations General Assembly. He said the United Nations should implement its resolutions on Palestine and Kashmir. He also urged the Muslim countries to get united and evolve a joint strategy to get the ongoing bloodshed in the Palestine stopped. JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman called for taking practical steps to help the Palestinians instead of passing resolutions and issuing condemnations. He said Palestinian Muslims are fighting for their rights and we support them. Maulana Fazlur Rehman said a joint platform of leading Muslim countries should be formed to evolve a common strategy to face multiple challenges. Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman said Israel is carrying out genocide in Palestine. He added that occupied Israeli forces are committing worst atrocities against the humanity. The JI emir said we have to take a very clear stance on the Israeli brutalities against innocent Palestinians. He said it is also responsibility of the international community to play its role in stopping the Israeli brutalities in Palestine. He proposed to convene a meeting of the Islamic countries to adopt a common stance in this regard.

He said Pakistan should play a proactive role to launch a diplomatic campaign to highlight this issue at the world level. Meanwhile, All Parties Conference passed following resolution:

- Expresses its unequivocal condemnation in the strongest possible terms of Israel's genocidal campaign that has resulted in the loss of over 42,000 lives, mostly women and children, as well as grievous injury to over 96,000 Palestinians, in addition to the widespread destruction and displacement of nearly the entire population of Gaza;
- Condemns Israeli attacks against schools, hospitals, places of worship, shelters and refugee camps and its killing of aid workers and journalists in unprecedented numbers and in complete violation of international humanitarian law;
- Demands an immediate and unconditional ceasefire and end to brutalities against the Palestinian people; lifting of the siege of Gaza; provision of unimpeded humanitarian, and medical aid; and to hold Israel accountable for its violations of international law, war crimes and acts of genocide;
- Urges the international community to take urgent measures to prevent Israel from further undermining regional peace and stability, including the prevention of Israeli aggression against Lebanon and other regional countries;
- Expresses full support for the ongoing political and diplomatic efforts by the OIC,

the League of Arab States, the United Nations, and other brotherly countries in addressing the prevailing situation in Occupied Palestine, as well as for the peace and stability of the broader region;

- Calls on the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to convene an Emergency Summit to discuss the situation in Palestine, Israel's brutal aggression in the region and its implications for regional peace and security and underscores the need for unity of the Islamic Ummah;
- Calls for full implementation of the UN General Assembly resolution ES-10/24 of 18 September 2024, which, inter alia, demands an end to Israeli occupation; the provisional measures by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that call for preventing Israel from committing further acts of genocide against the Palestinian people; as well as ICJ's Advisory Opinion of 19 July 2024 that reaffirms the illegality of the Israeli occupation;
- Recalls the Joint Communiqué of the Arab-Islamic summit of 11th of November 2023 that called for all countries to stop exporting weapons and ammunition to the Israeli occupation authorities;
- Expresses its support to the role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Refugees (UNRWA) in providing relief to the Palestinian people;
- Affirms Pakistan's determination to redouble its efforts for all possible political,

diplomatic, moral and humanitarian support for the brotherly people of Palestine;

- Appreciates the dispatch of 10 consignments of humanitarian aid from Pakistan for the people of Gaza, and medical relief assistance for the people of Lebanon; and urges continued humanitarian aid to the brotherly people of Palestine, including educational opportunities for Palestinian students and medical treatment of wounded Palestinian children in Pakistan;
- Declares unwavering support for the realization of the right to self-determination and other fundamental rights of the Palestinian people, as well as for the establishment of a viable, secure, contiguous, and sovereign State of Palestine, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, as well as for the State of Palestine's full UN membership;
- Calls on the government of Pakistan to continue extending political, diplomatic and humanitarian support to the brotherly people of Palestine and to support diplomatic efforts for bringing an end to the genocide in Gaza;
- Decides to observe, with special fervor, 29 November 2024 as a Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.
- Strongly reaffirms the right of the people of Kashmir to self-determination and call for the settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir Dispute in accordance with the wishes of Kashmiri people and the relevant resolutions of UNSC.

Briefs

PSX crosses historic level of 84,910 points

ISLAMABAD: Positive sentiments prevail over the 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) as it continued with bullish trend on Monday, gaining 1,378.34 more points, a positive change of 1.65 percent, reaching all time high level of 84,910.30 points against 83,531.96 points on the last trading day.

A total of 449,507,635 shares were traded during the day as compared to 381,529,555 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 30.196 billion against Rs.20.523 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 448 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 224 of them recorded gains and 86 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 3 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Pak Petroleum with 40,779,930 shares at Rs 126.69 per share, Hub Power Company XD with 28,080,507 shares at Rs 121.70 per share and Fauji Cement XD with 23,127,553 shares at Rs 28.00 per share.—APP

Gold rate Rs 275,700 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.200 and was sold at Rs.275,700 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs. 275,500 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs. 171 to Rs. 236,368 from Rs. 236,197 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs. 216,671 from Rs. 216,514, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs. 3,050 and Rs. 2,614.88, respectively. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$3 to \$2,656 from \$2,653, the Association reported.—APP

Rupee sheds 13 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Monday depreciated by 13 paise against the US dollar in the inter-bank trading and closed at Rs277.64 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.51.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs278.25 and Rs279.75 respectively. The price of Euro decreased by Rs1.47 to close at Rs304.47 against the last day's closing of Rs305.94, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen came down by 02 paise and closed at Rs1.87, whereas a decrease of Rs1.50 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs363.89 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs365.39. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal increased by 03 paise 04 paise to close at Rs75.58 and Rs73.91.—APP

Floods in Bangladesh leaves five dead

DHAKA: At least five people have died and more than 100,000 remain stranded as devastating floods, triggered by heavy rains and upstream torrents, continue to ravage northern Bangladesh, officials said on Sunday. In Sherpur, one of the hardest-hit northern districts, the water levels of major rivers have surged, submerging new areas and displacing thousands of families. Local authorities fear widespread damage to agriculture, with crops and farmlands, particularly rice fields, facing potential devastation. Many homes and roads are under several feet of water, cutting off villages and leaving residents in desperate need of rescue. "I have never seen such flooding in my life," said Abu Taher, a resident of the district.—APP

Jam for boosting rice exports, meeting EU food safety standards

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Monday emphasized the need to increase Pakistan's rice exports and ensure compliance with European food safety standards, citing the country's 25% share of the European rice export market.

He said during a meeting with the representative of the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP), a news release issued here. Pakistan holds 25% of the European rice export market compared to India's

16%. To maintain this competitive edge, Jam Kamal highlighted the necessity of collaboration between the government and exporters.

Rice exports play a vital role in Pakistan's economy, ranking second in export value after cotton. Rice exporters are a primary source of revenue and employment, with the government aiming to increase exports from \$4 billion to \$6-7 billion in the near future.

"We are focusing on improving our standards to meet inter-

national food safety requirements, especially in Europe," Jam Kamal added. Recent diplomatic developments include discussions with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on expanding rice and meat exports to Malaysia. A Pakistani business delegation, led by Jam Kamal, will visit Malaysia in November to explore new opportunities. Malik Faisal Jahangir, Chairman of the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP), said that Pakistan's rice exports face fewer

regulatory challenges, with only 74 Rapid Alerts for pesticides were issued last year, compared to 264 for India. Pakistan remains one of the lowest-risk countries concerning food safety standards. However, Jahangir expressed concern over potential harm to Pakistan's export reputation from negative campaigns. Jam Kamal stressed educating farmers to improve rice production quality and reduce alerts. Balochistan, despite producing a small quantity of rice, culti-

vates some of Pakistan's best organic rice. He called for a joint effort by stakeholders to develop a five-year strategy enhancing Pakistan's rice export capacity and compliance with international standards. Jam Kamal urged REAP to propose actionable suggestions for achieving the government's export targets within the next year, emphasizing the importance of addressing food safety concerns, especially in the European Union, where standards are becoming increasingly stringent.—APP

Iran loses contact with Quds Force leader amid Israeli airstrikes on Beirut

TEHRAN: Iran's Quds Force commander Esmail Qaani, who travelled to Lebanon after the killing of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in an Israeli airstrike, has not been heard from since strikes on Beirut late last week, two senior Iranian security officials told newsagency. One of the officials said Qaani was in Beirut's southern suburbs, known as the Dahiyeh, during a strike that was reported to have targeted senior Hezbollah official Hashem Safieddine but the official said he was not meeting Safieddine. A Hezbollah official said Israel was not allowing a search for Safieddine to progress after it bombed Beirut's southern suburbs on Thursday. The officials said the group would only announce Safieddine's fate when the search concluded. Safieddine is seen as a likely successor to Nasrallah, who was killed in an Israeli strike on Dahiyeh on Sept. 27. The Iranian official said Iran and Hezbollah had not been able to contact Qaani, named by Tehran as the head of Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps' overseas military-intelligence service, or Quds Force, after the United States assassinated his predecessor Qassem Soleimani in a drone strike in Baghdad in 2020. Israel has been hitting multiple targets in Dahiyeh as it pursues a campaign against Iran-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah. The second Iranian official also said Qaani had travelled to Lebanon after the killing of Nasrallah and the Iranian authorities had not been able to contact him since the strike against Safieddine, who was widely expected to be the next Hezbollah chief. Asked about reports that Qaani may have been killed in an Israeli strike in Beirut, Israeli military spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Nadav Shoshani said the results of the strikes were still being assessed. He said that Israel had conducted an attack late last week against Hezbollah's intelligence headquarters in Beirut. "When we have more specific results from that strike, we will share it. There's a lot of questions about who was there and who was not," he told a briefing with reporters. The Quds Force, the overseas arm of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, oversees dealings with militias allied with Tehran across the Middle East, such as Hezbollah. Iranian Revolutionary Guards commander Brigadier General Abbas Nilforoushan was killed with Nasrallah in his bunker when it was hit on Sept. 27 by Israeli bombs.—APP

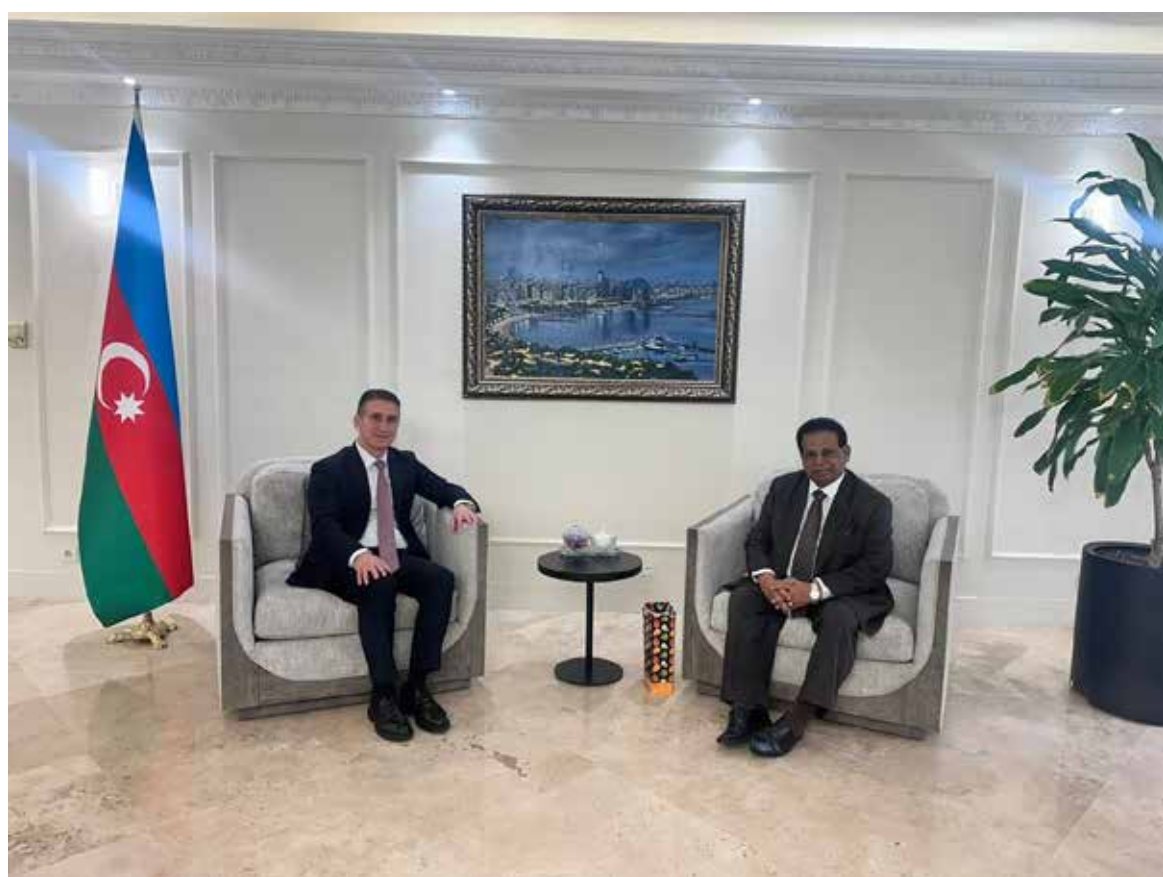
Jazz brings iPhone 16 to Pak for its customers

Registrations of interest for the iPhone 16 series are now open. Customers who register will also have the opportunity to participate in an exclusive Apple giveaway upon purchase, adding to the excitement surrounding this highly anticipated launch

ISLAMABAD: Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital operator, has announced a partnership with Mercantile, the authorized Apple distributor for Pakistan and South Asia, to officially introduce the iPhone 16 series phones to the Pakistani market. According to news release, this collaboration marks a pivotal moment in delivering world-class technology to local consumers, further cementing Jazz's position as the country's foremost digital leader. The iPhone 16 will be available at all Jazz Business Centers nationwide, ensuring a seamless purchasing experience for customers, complete with PTA approval and a limited Apple warranty claimable through Apple-authorized sellers in the country. Jazz and Mercantile will also be introducing an exclusive trade-in program, offering competitive trade-in values to make it easier for existing iPhone users to upgrade and enjoy the latest features effortlessly. To further enhance customer value, Jazz is offering complimentary bundle packages, which include e-SIM activation, up to 200 GB of monthly data, and 5,000 all-network minutes (comprising 2,000 off-net and 3,000 on-net minutes). These exclusive bundles also feature discount vouchers for popular services such as Foodpanda, Careem, Golootlo, and Tamasha, ensuring exceptional value for Jazz customers. Moreover, the package includes handset insurance coverage of up to Rs.100,000, protecting against theft and accidental damage. Ali Fahd, Vice President of Marketing at Jazz, remarked on the launch: "We are excited to partner with Mercantile to bring the iPhone 16 to our customers, reaffirming our commitment to providing cutting-edge technology, exceptional service, and tailored benefits. With the launch of the iPhone 16 series phones, we aim to offer a seamless and rewarding experience that caters to the diverse digital needs of our consumers." Registrations of interest for the iPhone 16 series are now open. Customers who register will also have the opportunity to participate in an exclusive Apple giveaway upon purchase, adding to the excitement surrounding this highly anticipated launch.—DNA

Pope slams 'shameful' failure of diplomacy in Mideast

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis on Monday slammed the "shameful inability" of world powers to end the conflict in the Middle East, on the first anniversary of Hamas's deadly October 7 attack on Israel. "A year ago, the fuse of hatred was lit; it did not sputter, but exploded in a spiral of violence, in the shameful inability of the international community and the most powerful countries to silence the weapons and put an end to the tragedy of war," he said in an open letter to Catholics in the Middle East. "Blood is still being shed, as are tears. Anger is growing, along with the desire for revenge, while it seems that few people care about what is most needed and what is most desired: dialogue and peace." The 87-year-old had previously declared Monday a global day for prayer and fasting for peace, following similar initiatives for other conflicts in recent years. In his letter, the leader of the world's almost 1.4 billion Catholics offered solidarity with followers in the region — "a small, defenseless flock" — on what he called "this sad day." But the pope also addressed "the men and women of every confession and religion who in the Middle East are suffering from the insanity of war: I am close to you, I am with you." "I am with you, who have no voice, for despite all the talk of plans and strategies, there is little concern for those who suffer the devastation of war, which the powerful impose on others; yet they will be subject to the inflexible judgment of God," he added.—APP



TEHRAN: Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Iran Noordeen Shaheid met with Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Iran Ali Alizada. Both Ambassadors of have served in Pakistan.—DNA

Swedish woman faces trial for war crimes, accused of abusing Yazidis in Syria

COPENHAGEN: A 52-year-old woman associated with the Daesh group went on trial on Monday in Sweden on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes against Yazidi women and children in Syria. Lina Laina Ishaq, who is a Swedish citizen, is accused of committing the crimes during the period from August 2014 to December 2016 in the Syrian city of Raqqa, which at the time was the seat of the militant group's self-proclaimed caliphate and home to about 300,000 people. The trial marks the first time that Daesh attacks against the Yazidis, one of Iraq's oldest religious minori-

ties, have been tried in Sweden. The hearings are expected to last about two months, most of them behind closed doors. The crimes took place under Daesh rule in Raqqa, where Ishaq was living at the time. Under Daesh rule, Yazidi women and children were "regarded as property and subjected to being traded as slaves, sexual slavery, forced labor, deprivation of liberty and extrajudicial executions," prosecutor Reena Devgun said when the charges were made public last month. The prosecution says that at her home in Raqqa, Ishaq abused Yazidis with the aim to "completely or partially anni-

hilate the Yazidi ethnic group," Devgun said as the trial opened at the Stockholm District Court, the Swedish TT news agency said. The charge sheet, obtained by The Associated Press, says Ishaq is suspected of holding nine people, including children, for up to seven months, treated them as slaves and also abused several of those she held captive. Ishaq, who denies wrongdoing, is also accused of having molested a baby, said to have been 1 month old at the time, by holding a hand over the child's mouth when he screamed to silence him. She is also suspected of having sold people

to Daesh, knowing they risked being killed or subjected to serious sexual abuse. The Daesh group abducted Yazidi women and children and brought them to Syria in 2014, when Daesh militants stormed Yazidi towns and villages in Iraq's Sinjar region. Women were forced into sexual slavery, and boys were taken to be indoctrinated in jihadist ideology. Three years later, when Daesh's reign began to collapse, Ishaq fled from Raqqa and was captured by Syrian Kurdish troops. She managed to escape to Turkey where she was arrested with her son and two other children she had given

birth to in the meantime with a Daesh foreign fighter from Tunisia. She was later extradited to Sweden. Ishaq was earlier convicted in Sweden and sentenced to three years in prison for taking her 2-year-old son to Syria in 2014, to an area then controlled by Daesh. She had claimed that at the time, she had told the child's father that she and the boy were only going on a holiday to Turkey. However, once in Turkey, the two crossed into Syria and into Daesh-run territory. Ishaq who already is in prison, was identified through information from a UN team investigating atrocities in Iraq, known as UNITAD.—APP

5 die, 100 hospitalised due to dehydration at IAF's Chennai airshow

CHENNAI: Five spectators died, and over hundred were hospitalised due to alleged dehydration during the Indian Air Force (IAF) airshow at Marina Beach in Chennai on Sunday. The event, intended to showcase the aerial prowess of the IAF, turned tragic as high temperatures and overcrowding marred attendees. Enthusiastic families flocked to the sands of Marina Beach as early as 8 AM, many holding umbrellas to shield themselves from the blazing sun in hopes of securing a good spot. The airshow began at 11 AM and continued until 1 PM, drawing a crowd of approximately 1.5 million people eager to witness the highly anticipated event of 2024.

What the Tamil Nadu's Health Minister Said? Tamil Nadu Health Minister Ma Subramanian said that the state government's full administrative cooperation was extended to conduct the Indian Air Force Air Adventure Programme successfully in Chennai. This comes after the opposition slammed the DMK government of "neglecting" basic arrangements to public calling it a "complete failure of administration." Former Chief Minister and All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) General Secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami claimed that five people lost their lives during the Air Show event due to heatstroke.

In a post on X, the Tamil Nadu Health Minister said that arrangements were made considering all the demands of the Air Force officers. He further said that the state government formed two medical teams, comprising doctors and nurses for emergency response during the show. "The Army had also sent teams for medical assistance. 40 ambulances were ready for medical assistance and emergency response at the site. Required Paramedical staffs was available. A total of 100 beds and 65 doctors at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital were prepared for any emergency," he added.—APP

Trump on the stump, Harris hits airwaves in razor-edge US election

WASHINGTON: Kamala Harris slammed her White House rival Donald Trump's "lies" over reproductive rights Sunday, as both candidates sought an edge in the final month of a deadlocked US presidential election. Polls have the Republican and Democratic candidates neck and neck, fuelling a high-cost, high-intensity scramble for each and every wavering voter in the seven key states that are likely to decide the outcome on November 5. In her bid to reach those voters, the vice president is taking to the airwaves in the coming week with a host of television, radio and podcast appearances. She began her media flurry with an appearance Sunday on the podcast "Call Her Daddy" — one of the most popular programmes on Spotify — that focuses on advice and issues affecting women. Addressing reproductive issues and abortion — which Democrats view as major vote winners among undecided voters — Harris took particular exception to Trump's repeated insistence that he is a "protector" of women's rights.

"This is the same guy who said that women should be punished for having abortions," she said. At one point Harris was asked how she felt when she heard Trump, in their presidential debate last month, say that some Democratic states allow the "execution" of babies after birth. In an impassioned reply, Harris denounced that as "a bold-faced lie," something "outrageously inaccurate" and "insulting to women."—Agencies

Briefs

Hamza condemns Israel's atrocities

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Former chief minister and PML-N Vice President Hamza Shehbaz on Monday condemned the world's silence over genocide of Palestinians, calling it a severe humanitarian tragedy. In his message on Palestine Solidarity Day, the PML-N leader noted that over 41,000 people, including innocent children and women, had been martyred as Gaza endured a year of relentless due to Israeli brutality. Hamza highlighted Israeli brutality and highlighted Israel was targeting destruction of Gaza's infrastructure, including hospitals and schools and labeled it state terrorism. He stressed Israel's war crimes had crossed all limits and expanded to Lebanon and other regional countries, reaffirming Pakistan's solidarity with the oppressed Palestinian people.

KP CM left workers to fend for themselves

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Engr Amir Muqam on Monday slammed the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur for remaining missing from the scene while leaving workers in the predicament outside the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House in Islamabad following confrontation between law enforcement agencies and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters to stop the KP CM's arrest. Speaking at a press conference, Muqam said that people were brought from KP on assurances for transfer postings, adding that resources at the KP government's disposal were misused with impunity. He lashed out at the PTI leaders for inviting Minister of External Affairs of the Government of India Jaishankar to protest while terming the KP CM a coward who fled the scene in distress.

Dr. Zakir criticises Pakistan for backlash

Comes down hard on PIA for not allowing his free baggage; says Indian would allow him hundreds of KGs of free baggage

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Prominent Islamic scholar Dr Zakir Naik has come under scrutiny after he abruptly left the stage during a recent charity event for orphans in Karachi. The incident occurred when Dr Naik was invited to present awards at Pakistan Sweet Home, a foundation dedicated to helping orphaned children. During the event, the chairman of Pakistan Sweet Home, Zamarud Khan, called girls to the stage to receive shields from Dr Naik. However, the scholar declined to interact with them, stating that they were non-mahram and he could not present the awards. The moment was captured on video and subsequently went viral on social media, igniting a firestorm of reactions. In response to the backlash, Dr Naik addressed the controversy during a public meeting at the Governor House in Sindh. He explained that he had been invited to meet orphaned children but was taken away by the focus on a photo session instead. "I agreed to attend despite my busy schedule, but the orphans were left behind while the focus shifted to photographs," he said. Dr Naik further elaborated that although the girls were termed as "daughters" by the orphanage owner, he maintained that it was inappropriate for him to touch non-mahram individuals, regardless of their age.

Security of Chinese nationals govt's top priority: Mohsin

Mohsin Naqvi visits Chinese embassy day after Karachi attack



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the Chinese embassy in Islamabad on Monday to express condolence over the death of two Chinese nationals in Karachi blast. During his meeting with the Ambassador of China to Pakistan, Jang Zaidong, the interior minister expressed his deep grief and sorrow over the death of Chinese citizens. He apprised the Chinese

ambassador about all the details of the blast and the progress in the investigation. He said the entire Pakistani nation shares the grief with their Chinese brethren. The interior minister said the elements involved in this tragic incident will be brought to justice. He said the security of the Chinese brethren working for the development of Pakistan is government's top priority. He termed the incident as an attack on Pakistan-China friendship, saying that such acts will not be tolerated.

Meanwhile, China on Monday urged Islamabad to investigate the Karachi blast in which two Chinese engineers were killed and a third was injured and ensure safety of its officials working in Pakistan. A statement issued by the Beijing embassy urged Pakistani authorities to "conduct a thorough investigation of the attack and severely punish the killers, while at the same time taking practical measures to fully ensure the safety of Chinese citizens, institutions and projects". Beijing has repeatedly

asked Islamabad to ensure the safety and security of Chinese nationals and its interests. A massive blast on Sunday night that targeted a convoy of Chinese workers in Pakistan's largest city killed two engineers in an attack claimed by a separatist group. Sunday night's attack comes a week before Pakistan hosts several heads of governments for a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, a bloc established by Russia and China to deepen ties with Central Asian states. Beijing is Islamabad's closest regional ally, readily providing financial assistance to bail out its often struggling neighbour. The CPEC has seen tens of billions of dollars funnelled into massive transport, energy and infrastructure projects - part of Beijing's transnational "Belt and Road" scheme. A suicide bomber killed five Chinese engineers working on the construction of a dam in northwestern Pakistan in March, temporarily pausing the project. The attack was not claimed, but it came days after militants attempted to storm offices of the Gwadar deepwater port at the other end of the country, considered a cornerstone of Chinese investment in Pakistan. In June 2020, Baloch insurgents targeted the Pakistan Stock Exchange, which is partly owned by Chinese companies, in the commercial capital of Karachi. In 2019, gunmen stormed a luxury hotel in Balochistan province overlooking the flagship Chinese-backed deepwater seaport in Gwadar that gives strategic access to the Arabian Sea - killing at least eight people.

PTI plotting chaos akin to Bangladesh's formation, says: Azma

'PTI leadership wanted to create a scenario akin to that of Khalida Zia's era but failed miserably,' Bukhari said

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Punjab's Information Minister, Azma Bukhari, has criticised the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, suggesting that its leaders are attempting to replicate the chaos that led to the formation of Bangladesh. Speaking at a press conference, she expressed concerns over recent PTI protests in Islamabad, stating that the party's activities are designed to incite unrest and confusion. Bukhari claimed that the PTI has been using resources from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to fuel its agenda against the federal government. She pointed out that during a recent protest, 120 Afghan nationals were apprehended, and one police constable lost his life, questioning the rationale behind such violence. "The PTI leadership wanted to create a scenario akin to that of Khalida Zia's era but failed miserably," the Punjab Information Minister stated, referencing the historical context of political turmoil. Bukhari emphasised that children and innocent people were manipulated into participating in protests, only to realise they were being used for violent objectives.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif along with other national leaders hosting All Parties Conference on Gaza. - DNA

Victory in Gaza may be delayed, but it is coming

He thanked Hezbollah, the Houthis and Iran for supporting Hamas and called on Arab countries to provide financial support to Gaza

NEWS DESK

DUBAI: Hamas' former leader Khaled Mashaal said what is happening in Gaza is a "holocaust" in a speech he delivered on Monday morning. Mashaal said the Oct. 7 attacks happened because all political horizons were closed and has achieved "strategic results" since. He thanked Hezbollah, the Houthis and Iran for supporting Hamas and called on Arab countries to provide financial support to Gaza. Mashaal said Israel opened the war front in Lebanon after failing to achieve its goals in Gaza and claimed that Israel is conspiring against Jordan and Egypt. A year after Oct. 7, Israel has opened a new front in Lebanon against Hezbollah, which has traded fire with Israel since the war in Gaza began.

Mahathir: Al-Aqsa Flood blew up the Israeli narrative

ISTANBUL: The former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said on Sunday that the Al-Aqsa Flood that took place on October 7 of last year has led to the "collapse of the Israeli narrative and renewed the nation's awareness." Mahathir delivered a speech at the opening of the 7th Kuala Lumpur Conference for Thought and Civilization, in Istanbul, entitled "Palestine: The Linchpin of Civilization Renaissance," a three-day conference marking one year of Israel's war on Gaza. - Agencies

KP-Centre row leaves provincial police in a fix

Several KP policemen along with Rescue 1122 employees held by Punjab, Islamabad police during PTI's protest

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police have been put in a tough spot after several of its policemen and officials were held by Islamabad and Punjab police amid the recent protest by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) against the federal government. At least 11 KP police personnel and 41 employees of Rescue 1122 were held by the Punjab police for accompanying a protest rally in the capital city led by KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur. The crackdown came as the federal and Punjab governments took stern action against the workers of the Imran Khan-founded party who marched into Islamabad to hold a protest rally. The federal capital has seen days of unrest owing to the PTI's protest with authorities resorting to firing tear gas and placing containers across the city to prevent the party workers' march. Apart from the provincial government's personnel and officials being held, 22 vehicles of the Rescue 1122, Peshawar Development Authority and Local Government were also impounded. "As many as 17 vehicles of the Rescue 1122 have been impounded by the police. Around 41 employees have been arrested," an official of Rescue 1122 told the publication, adding

that vehicles of other departments were also impounded. The vehicles included ambulances, fire-trucks which were provided on the directives of the provincial government for emergency services, he added. However, there were a number of other vehicles carrying heavy machinery to remove blockades on the way to Islamabad. There were reports that families of a number of the Rescue 1122 personnel held in Punjab and Islamabad announced staging protests outside the headquarters of the service if their loved ones were not released by Monday (today). The PTI leadership had directed different departments to provide ambulances and other vehicles for emergencies as well as to remove barricades while on their way to Islamabad. A large number of policemen along with official vehicles provide security to the chief minister and other cabinet members whenever they move. Scores of these cops were accompanying the chief minister, and members of the cabinet during their march towards the federal capital. "Some of these policemen have been arrested in Islamabad and other districts while they were providing security to the chief minister and other cabinet members," said an official. Policemen performing duty with the chief minister and other ministers were in a fix in this entire situation. The same was the situation with the top bosses. "You have to provide security to the chief executive of a province wherever he moves," said an official noting that the cops can't refuse security duty whether it was in KP or out of the province.

CJP questions influence of 'gangsterism' on decisions

"How can a civil judge halt the Supreme Court's orders?" the Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa queries

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faez Isa has raised concerns over potential "gangsterism" influencing decisions within Parliament, the judiciary, and media. His remarks came during a Supreme Court hearing related to residential activities in the Margalla Hills National Park. The court reviewed a contempt of court case involving private restaurant owner Luqman Ali Afzal and rescinded the contempt notice. The Chief Justice directed the Islamabad High Court to investigate the judge responsible for issuing a stay order against demolition of illegal structures in the park. "How can a civil judge halt the Supreme Court's orders?" the Chief Justice queried, suggesting that such actions warrant serious repercussions. He noted that a stay order was granted despite the absence of court fees, making the case inadmissible. Luqman Ali Afzal's legal representative stated that the restaurant's premises had been vacated, and the stay order was withdrawn on October 2. The Chief Justice emphasised that both the executive and judiciary must adhere to the Supreme Court's directives. He questioned if any concerns regarding commercial activities in Margalla Hills had been raised in Parli-

ament or the media, highlighting a trend of targeting judges instead of addressing judicial orders. The hearing also addressed the legality of the North Range Housing Society within the national park. The court has issued notices to the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Chief Commissioner, requesting ownership documents and building approval details. The session has been adjourned for one week as the court continues to scrutinise these complex issues involving land use and regulatory compliance. The Supreme Court of Pakistan has dismissed review petitions challenging its decision to remove Monal, La Montana, Gloria Jeans, and other restaurants operating within the National Park area, upholding its earlier ruling. In a brief judgement, the court maintained that the restaurants had voluntarily agreed to cease operations within three months. It criticised the filing of review petitions as "disrespectful," stressing that honouring the commitment to close the establishments was essential. The Supreme Court had previously ordered the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to prioritise these restaurants for lease in alternative locations. However, the court has now withdrawn this observation, removing any preferential treatment for new leases.

Court postpones 190 mln pound case hearing

COURT REPORTER

RAWALPINDI: The Accountability Court in Islamabad has postponed the hearing on a petition filed by the lawyer of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) until October 19. The court was hearing a reference involving PTI founder Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi related to a 190 million pound case. Judge Nasir Javed Rana presided over the proceedings at the Judicial Complex in Islamabad. PTI lawyer Murtaza Toori submitted a request for the hearing to be postponed, which the court accepted. The Accountability Court has rescheduled the case hearing for October 19.

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.