



# Islamabad POST

Wednesday, October 09, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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**Former Spain and Barcelona football great Iniesta retires**

Detailed News On Page-06

**Aurangzeb sees inflation easing further**

Detailed News On Page-08



**Fresh polls only way forward, says Ali Durrani**

Detailed News On Page-08



## Fund for Palestine & Lebanon approved

# Repeat of "gory tale" of 2014 sit-in not to be allowed

"We will not tolerate this at all. This is my promise to the nation," says Premier Shehbaz

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has vowed that he will not allow the Imran Khan-founded Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to repeat what it did through its 2014 sit-in. The ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has time and again blamed the PTI for compromising Pakistan's economy as Chinese President Xi Jinping had cancelled his visit to Islamabad due to the 126-day-long dharna. Currently, as the main opposition party's protests take place in the federal capital, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) head of states' summit is set to take place on October 15 and 16. Top officials from China, Russia, India, and other nations who are part of the regional organisation will attend the conference — in Islamabad's Red Zone — and if a protest is going on in the capital, it will pose a security threat.

"I will not allow the repeat of 2014 [...] the conspiracy that took place. We will not allow this, we will not tolerate this at all. This is my promise to the nation," the prime minister told his cabinet members on Tuesday. Recalling 2014 once more, he said that the Chinese president's dates for the visit were fixed, but the PTI went ahead with its sit-in, disregarding its economy and global image. "The Government of Pakistan tried its best, but they [PTI] refused to postpone their sit-in. I was shocked to know about the delay of the Chinese president's visit," the prime minister said. Moving on, he informed the cabinet that after meeting the Chinese ambassador in Pakistan a day earlier, he had assured him of foolproof security for Chinese nationals in Pakistan, following the deadly airport blast. "Indeed, the Chinese [officials] are saddened. However, we have assured them that we have made complete security arrangements for the upcoming SCO summit." He stressed that the economy is

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## DPM Dar praises Saudi support in crisis recovery

Dar graces the signing ceremony for reconstruction and rehabilitation projects and services in Pakistan by KSrelief

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, graced the signing ceremony, today, held for a series of key reconstruction and rehabilitation projects, to be undertaken by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief), marking a significant step in strengthening Pakistan-Saudi humanitarian cooperation. The ceremony was attended by a high-level delegation from KSrelief, led by Eng. Ahmed Ali Abdullah Al-Baiz, Assistant Supervisor General for Operations & Programs, who is currently on a visit to Pakistan. In his opening remarks, the DPM/FM expressed his gratitude to The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for their unwavering support to

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Pakistan Peoples Party calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. — DNA

## SC judge meets CJP Qazi Faez

Differences between the SC judges on constitutional matters have been making headlines

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Justice Yahya Afridi of the Supreme Court (SC) has met with Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa to play his role in resolving differences between the apex court judges. Quoting its sources, the channel reported that the CJP agreed with the proposals put forward by Justice Afridi to make the relationship between the judges harmonious and assured him of his complete support in this regard. Differences between the SC judges on constitutional matters have been making headlines for the last several months. There are two groups of like-minded judges whose views on different matters are quite opposite to each other.

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## 'Threatening judicial freedom' Imran Khan seeks UN's support against constitutional package

Changes to Constitution aimed at restricting PTI founder's ability to challenge cases faced by him, reads letter

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: As the ruling coalition government strives to secure the magic numbers to execute its planned constitutional amendments, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has written to the United Nations warning that the prospective tweaks to the Constitution, if they come into effect, would threaten judicial independence and human rights in the country, a Pakistani newspaper reported on Tuesday. The publication, citing doughtystreet.com.uk, added that the former prime minister has filed an urgent appeal to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers Margaret Satterthwaite via Edward Fitzgerald KC and Tatyana Eatwell and Jennifer Robinson — both of whom have been instructed by Khan's family to conduct UN engagement and international advocacy on his behalf.

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## Asad Qaiser bemoans 'attack' on KP House

Chief Minister of a province had been insulted

DNA

PESHAWAR: Former National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser said on Tuesday an attack on KP House (in Islamabad) was tantamount to an attack on the constitution. Speaking to media, he declared the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's protest at D-Chowk successful. He said the chief minister of a province had been insulted. "The attack on KP House is an attack on constitution."

Continued on Page 06

## UN slams Karachi attack

"Civilians should never ever be the targets"

AGENCIES

NEW YORK: The United Nations on Monday condemned the terrorist attack near Karachi's Jinnah International Airport, which left two Chinese nationals dead, saying civilians should never be targeted. Late on Sunday night, a massive explosion occurred on a road near the Airport, killing a total of three people and injuring at least 11 others, including a Chinese citizen. "We condemn this act of terror that we saw in Pakistan," the UN Secretary-General's Spokesperson, Stephane Dujarric, said in response to a question at the regular

Continued on Page 06

## Islamabad Airport outsourcing Turkish company's proposal approved

The investors from Germany, France, Netherlands, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, and Turkiye as well as local groups have shown their interest in outsourcing of three airports of Pakistan

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: A Turkish company's bid has been technically approved for the outsourcing of the Islamabad International Airport, according to sources. The Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA) headquarters in Karachi received bids for the outsourcing process, and technical evaluation was conducted under the supervision of the Secretary of Aviation. Sources revealed that a Turkish company's bid and documentation have been technically approved after two companies were disqualified for submitting their bids

late. The process of reviewing the Turkish company's documents has already begun, with the bid set to be presented to the Pakistan Airports Authority's Board of Directors. Upon board approval, the Turkish company will take over the outsourcing of Islamabad International Airport. The tender opening process was closely monitored, and the federal cabinet's approval will also be sought before the outsourcing agreement is finalized. The Secretary of Aviation, Ahsan Mangi, is expected to brief the Prime Minister on the progress. Following Islamabad, the government is

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## Briefs

**MOFA Consular services to remain suspended**

Liaison offices will continue to offer consular services

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Consular Services at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad will remain suspended from 14-17 October 2024 on account of the security arrangements for the Council of Heads of Government Meeting of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) taking place in Islamabad. The Liaison Offices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Gujrat will continue to offer consular services without interruption.

## PTI devises new protest strategy

PTI will now shift its focus to district-level protests instead of heading towards major cities

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: After facing challenges in rallies held in Islamabad, Lahore, and Rawalpindi, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has decided to change its protest strategy. According to sources, the PTI will now shift its focus to district-level protests instead of heading towards Islamabad and major cities. PTI senior leader Asad Qaiser confirmed the new strategy. "A plan for district-level protests is being developed, and the party spokesperson will soon announce the policy," said Qaiser. Many ministers were upset over the excessive expenses and difficulties faced during the rallies in Islamabad and Lahore.

## PTI should learn from ban

# Tarar accuses PTM of anti-state activities

Group not only burned Pakistani flag but also attacked our embassies abroad, says information minister

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday said the ban on the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) was imposed on the basis of evidence that showed its close contacts with the terrorist organizations and its involvement in a campaign against the country. Talking to media, the minister brushed aside speculations about ban on PTM which has been declared a proscribed organization by the Federal Cabinet the other day. He pointed out the PTM's past practices including burning of the flag of Pakistan, attack on Pakistani Embassies and their involvement in promoting a narrative against the country under the garb of protecting the Pashtuns. Tarar said during the investigation into the attack on a Pakistani Embassy, it was found that not only PTM workers were involved in this heinous

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## K-P Assembly descends into chaos as lawmakers clash

PTI member Nek Wazir clashes with Iqbal Wazir of PTI Parliamentarians, both of whom hail from Waziristan

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: A brawl broke out between government and opposition members in the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, with lawmakers exchanging punches and kicks following a heated dispute on Tuesday. The scuffle erupted after opposition members grew frustrated over the speaker's refusal to give them the floor.

Continued on Page 06

## No elections before reforms in Bangladesh, says Yunus

"None of us are aiming at staying for a prolonged time," says country's interim chief executive

NEWS DESK

DHAKA: In a major development, Bangladesh's interim leader Muhammad Yunus has refused to give a timeframe for elections before electoral reforms in the country. The Nobel Peace Prize winner was appointed the country's "chief advisor" after the student-led uprising that toppled ex-premier Sheikh Hasina in August. The 84-year-old microfinance pioneer is helming a temporary administration, to tackle what he has called the "extremely tough" challenge of restoring democratic institutions. "None of us are aiming at staying for a prolonged time," Yunus said in his caretaker government, in an interview published by the Prothom Alo newspaper. "Reforms are pivotal," he added. "If you say, hold the election, we are ready to hold the election. But it would be wrong to hold the election first." Hasina's 15-year rule saw widespread human rights abuses, including the mass detention and extrajudicial killings of her political opponents.

Continued on Page 06

## IIOJK elects first regional govt in a decade

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Indian-occupied Kashmir (IoK) elected on Tuesday its first government since the territory was brought under New Delhi's direct control, as voters backed opposition parties to lead its regional assembly. In August 2019, India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had revoked IoK's special status by repealing Article 370 of the constitution. The law had limited the power of the Indian parliament to impose laws in the state, apart from matters of defence, foreign affairs and communications. Since then, the Muslim-majority territory of some 12 million people has not had an elected local government.

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OCTOBER 2024

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Kerrya Bush (Grandmother of Rakapatti)

Nabazwan PM awarded a worth while visit to Pakistan

LARGEST CIRCULATED DIPLOMATIC MAGAZINE



# Pak adopts national vision for disaster management

Chairman NDMA, Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik highlighted the establishment of most modern National Emergencies Operation Center, inaugurated by the Prime Minister on October 5, 2023, which is equipped by cutting-edge satellite feeds, advanced software, and AI tools

## STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik on Tuesday emphasized Pakistan's National Vision for Proactive Disaster Management, highlighting the transformative shift from a reactive to a proactive disaster management approach. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) marked National Resilience Day with a full-day event at the National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC), NDMA Headquarters. This annual observance reflects Pakistan's solidarity with the victims of the 2005 earthquake and all those affected by past disasters, while reaffirming the nation's unwavering commitment to advancing disaster preparedness and building resilience against future crises,

a news release said.

Chairman NDMA, Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik highlighted the establishment of most modern National Emergencies Operation Center, inaugurated by the Prime Minister on October 5, 2023, which is equipped by cutting-edge satellite feeds, advanced software, and AI tools. He apprised that the NEOC developed a futuristic National Common Operating Picture (NCOP), which enhances digital risk assessments, early warning systems, and preparedness strategies to safeguard Pakistan's future. The event also featured messages by NDMA's global partners addressing critical issues for Pakistan's resilience, climate change and opportunities for Pakistan to explore COP29 avenue in November 2024. They also emphasized the importance of gender equality and micro-

finance in empowering vulnerable communities and enhancing their ability to recover from disasters.

In his closing remarks, NDMA expressed gratitude to the guests and distinguished speakers for their valuable insights and recommendations. He reiterated NDMA's commitment to fostering a disaster-resilient Pakistan, equipped to navigate future challenges with enhanced preparedness and a collaborative spirit.

This year's National Resilience Day brought together government officials, experts, and key stakeholders, generating meaningful discussions on climate finance, gender equality, and national resilience. The event reinforced Pakistan's dedication to building a more sustainable and resilient future, honoring the memory of disaster victims while focusing on forward-looking strategies to protect the nation.



ISLAMABAD: NDMA held ceremony to commemorate National Resilience Day at NEOC, NDMA HQs.—DNA

## Constitution to be strengthened through amendment: Governor

FAISALABAD: Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said on Tuesday the constitution was a supreme document which would be strengthened through constitutional amendment. Addressing the District Bar Association (DBA), he said amendments would be made after due process of consultation with all stakeholders including lawyers. He said that PPP wanted a strategic balance between judicial commission and parliamentary party with a focused vision to strengthen the democracy. He said that all decisions must be made on merit and there should be no room to speculate decisions on the basis of bench formulation. He said that his party had offered unprecedented sacrifices for the independence of judiciary. "I was in front of the movement for the restoration of former chief justice Iftikhar Chaudhry", he said and added that upon his restoration, Iftikhar Chaudhry smartly ignored the lawyers as well as political parties. He said that constitutional amendment had become a buzzword today. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari intended to add some constitutional amendments with a clear objective to strengthen the democracy and parliamentary system of the country. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had visited different bars in Karachi and Balochistan and he would soon visit Faisalabad to further clarify the party stand on the constitutional amendments, he added. The Governor Punjab supported the demand of High Court Bench in Faisalabad.—DNA

## Women's socio-economic empowerment interlinks with access to hygiene facilities

QUETTA: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Tuesday said that women's socio-economic empowerment and tackling hygiene issues are closely interlinked, improving access to hygiene and sanitation facilities directly impacts women's health, dignity and access to equal economic opportunities. Addressing a hygiene kits distribution event under the 'She Power' initiative here on Tuesday, the PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam said that access to adequate and safe [menstrual] hygiene and sanitation facilities for girls and women has remained mostly a neglected area

in the country, especially in rural and low-resource settings of Balochistan. "Addressing hygiene challenges in ways that directly improve women's access to education, work, and leadership opportunities, we not only promote women's empowerment but also foster healthier, more equitable communities," she stressed. The initiative launched in Balochistan in support by the Chinese government aims to improve health and quality of the life of the province's young women with a focus on health, hygiene, and education. It reflects the ongoing collaboration between Pakistan and China under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, aiming to improve socio-economic conditions in the region. 'She Power' initiative was initiated last month with distribution of hygiene kits among school-girls of government schools in Hub and Uthal towns of the province. The hygiene kits' distribution marked the beginning of the distribution of 20,000 kits across four districts of the province including Lasbela, Hub and Gwadar. Distribution of these kits, which contain essential hygiene products including sanitary pads, soap, hand sanitizers, educational materials on hygiene practices, aimed at promoting better health practices among young girls in the province.—APP

## Five-day polio eradication drive from Oct 28

SARGODHA: As many as 709,266 children under five years of age would be administered vaccine with vitamin-A during the five-day anti-polio drive starting from October 28 in the district. This was disclosed at a meeting chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner Finance and Planning Muhammad Arshad Wattoo here on Tuesday. In this connection, a total of 3,332 teams including 3,036 mobile teams, 206 fixed teams, and 89 transit teams have been formed. The campaign would involve 4,522 workers, 3,947 volunteers, 410 education department staff, 132 population welfare staff, 21 civil defence personnel, and 12 employees from other departments. Arshad Wattoo stressed the need for ensuring foolproof security and training for polio teams. The meeting was attended by Chief Executive Officer Authority Dr Asad Aslam and other officials.—APP

## KP districts report measles outbreak

PESHAWAR: Various districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday reported a measles outbreak following a surge in cases of the disease. A report from KP Health Department said during the current week 12t cases of measles were reported from different districts. It said districts Bajaur topped the tally of cases as District Headquarters Hospital Khar received 21 measles patients during one week. Given the number of measles cases from different districts, the report said from Peshawar 21 cases were reported while from Shangla 20, from Dera Ismail Khan 17 and from Malakand, 11 cases were reported. From Bannu and Dir Lower, 10 cases each were reported while from Lower Kohistan 6, and from Swabi 9 cases of measles were reported.—APP

## Hanif Abbasi visits ICCI to greet newly elected members

### STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Member National Assembly and senior member of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Mohammad Hanif Abbasi has emphasized the crucial role of political stability in achieving economic stability during his visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He congratulated the newly elected president, Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, along with SVP Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, VP Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry, and the executive body. Abbasi stressed that despite facing numerous challenges, Pakistan must focus on industrial development, fostering a tax culture, and promoting positivity

by overlooking negativity targeting national institutions. He expressed optimism that continued progress on this path will ultimately lead to achieving the country's development goals.

Abbasi expressed the hope that soon the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) issue will be resolved and bring much-needed relief to both the business community and the general public. Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), warmly welcomed the honorable guest and took the opportunity to introduce the newly elected Senior Vice President and Vice President. He reaffirmed ICCI's dedi-

cation to addressing the concerns of the business community, crucial for the nation's economic prosperity. Qureshi highlighted the challenges faced by the community and emphasized the urgent need for resolving these issues to facilitate ease of doing business, ultimately boosting Pakistan's exports. Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari also commenced the services of MNA Mohammad Hanif Abbasi for the development of the twin city. On this occasion, ICCI senior leaders Zahid Maqbool, Naeem Siddiqui, Khalid Chaudhry, Waseem Chaudhry, Rohail Anwar Butt, Raja Naveed Akhtar Satti and other were also present.



## President for focusing on constructing climate-resilient infrastructure

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has called for focusing on constructing climate-resilient infrastructure to mitigate the impacts of climate change. He stressed the need to educate the people about disaster risk management, and mitigation, and actively engage the communities to promote a culture of disaster preparedness. "Today we are observing National Resilience Day, which reminds us of the devastating earthquake of October 8, 2005, that claimed thousands of lives", he said in a message on the occasion of National Resilience Day. The destruction it brought to our cities and villages remains etched in our memory. However, amid this catastrophe, our nation displayed an unparalleled spirit of resilience and unity and generously helped the affected people, the president said. He also extended his deepest gratitude to the international community, friendly countries, civil society, welfare and charity organizations that extended their invaluable support in the aftermath of this earthquake. Their support and solidarity not only helped us rebuild our roads, education, health and other infrastructure but also gave hope to the affected people, enabling them to rebuild their lives, he said adding that in recent years, the looming threat of climate change has made Pakistan more vulnerable to natural disasters. He highlighted that rising temperatures, unpredictable weather patterns, and extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, heatwaves, and landslides posed a potential threat to the infrastructure and lives of our people. Furthermore, he added that the frequency and intensity of climate-related calamities had increased in Pakistan, it had become essential to invest in the capacity building of our national and provincial disaster management authorities and enhance their disaster preparedness. "We need to equip our relevant institutions with the latest technologies, expertise, and resources to effectively respond to emerging challenges." He stressed that improving early warning systems, enhancing coordination among national and provincial authorities, and adopting modern disaster mitigation strategies should be the key priorities to timely respond to threats. "This National Resilience Day reminds us that the Pakistani nation has displayed extraordinary resilience in the face of challenges and has always emerged stronger. I am sure that if we continue to work with the spirit of unity and resilience, we can overcome the challenges facing our country," the president added.—DNA

## ISSI launches book 'Critical issues facing South Asia, politics, security, & non-traditional challenges'

THE India Study Centre (ISC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized the launch of a new ISSI book, titled Critical Issues Facing South Asia: Politics, Security, and Non-Traditional Challenges. The book contains research articles by young researchers, prepared under the ISSI's NextGen program. Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani, former Foreign Minister of Pakistan, graced the occasion as chief guest. Other speakers included Dr. Shabana Fayyaz, Chairperson, Department of Strategic Studies, QAU, Islamabad; and Dr. Asma Shakir Khawaja, Executive Director of CISS AJK. In his special remarks on the occasion, Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani congratulated the ISSI on this initiative and appreciated

the authors for producing excellent research work, full of innovative ideas. He noted that the subjects forming part of the book included myriad dimensions of Pakistan-India relations and a number of cross-cutting regional issues, which were very relevant and had currency in discussions among diplomatic as well as political circles. In the context of terrorism, for instance, he underlined that Pakistan was not alone in suffering from state-sponsored terrorism, other South Asian states including Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal were also victims of terrorism inflicted on their lands from the common neighbor. He also highlighted the salience of nuclear issues between Pakistan and India and, recalling the firing of a nucle-

ar-capable missile from India in March 2022, stressed that it could have resulted in a larger conflagration if Pakistan had not reacted with tremendous restraint. Ambassador Jilani underlined that for resolving Pakistan-India disputes, and for ensuring durable peace in the region, it was essential to revive the dialogue process, as disengagement could ignite serious conflict in a nuclearized South Asia. Specifically, Ambassador Jilani made six recommendations: (i) resumption of Pakistan-India dialogue; (ii) revival of discussions on all issues - from the core Jammu & Kashmir dispute to Siachen, Sri Creek and terrorism; (iii) revival of Kashmir-related CBMs; (iv) respect for and adherence to the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) in letter and

spirit; (v) establishment of permanent mechanism to address nuclear-related issues; and (vi) revival of the SAARC process for regional cooperation. In his remarks, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood stated that engagement with the NextGen scholars was part of the ISSI's new vision. The Institute recognizes the youth as one of the key stakeholders and seeks to proactively draw the next generation of experts into the policy discourse with new ideas and fresh perspectives. This is important to help them develop a deeper and more nuanced understanding of the intricate issues at hand, enabling the next generation to make informed and insightful evaluations and suggest innovative approaches for addressing long-standing

challenges in South Asia. In this context, he added, ISSI is happy to serve as a vital platform for fostering new ideas and amplifying the voices of young scholars, duly mentored by senior academics and seasoned practitioners. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood lauded the innovative methodologies, sharp analyses, and creative solutions offered by the young authors in their papers and thanked the ISC team for spearheading the project. Dr. Shabana Fayyaz commended the research publication for it was solely an indigenized effort, offering local perspective based on local understanding of the context. She added that emerging technologies had made feeding insecurities of adversaries against one another and causing greater threat perceptions.—DNA

**"SAY NO TO CORRUPTION"**

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

**NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY**  
(PUNJAB-NORTH REGION, CENTRAL ZONE)

**INVITATION TO BIDS**  
FOR REPAIR/MAINTENANCE OF  
**MULLAH MANSOOR WEIGH STATION**  
(NBC&SBC) ON N-5

- National Highway Authority (NHA), Invites Bids from the Constructors, registered with Income Tax Department and who are on Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue, and registered with Pakistan Engineering Council for the Year 2025. Bid Security amounting to Rupees 2% of Engineer's Estimate for each Location in shape of P.O/CDR in favor of "National Highway Authority (Road Maintenance Fund-Security Deposit)". Details are as under:

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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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Marriott.....051- 2826121  
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### Emergency

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Bomb Disposal.....15  
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Emergency Ambulance.....1122  
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CAA.....9281092



### Hospitals

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MH.....5611116  
Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11  
DHQ.....5556311-4  
RGH.....9290301-7  
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### Departments

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### Water Tank

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# Concrete strategy in place to meet future energy demands

Regarding, power distribution companies (DISCOs), the minister said that a sum of Rs 595 billion were budgeted every year just for their losses and power theft. "It is unbelievable, unacceptable and also not sustainable and we have Rs 600 billion extra to fund institution like NUST etc," he added

### STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Power Division Sardar Awaiz Ahmed Khan Leghari on Tuesday said that concrete strategy has been put into place to meet the future energy's demands of the country. "As energy always plays a key role in economy of the country so generation, transmission and distribution system of energy sector is being revamped on modern lines," he said while addressing a function here at National Univer-

sity of Science and Technology (NUST). He said the environment friendly renewable energy was also being promoted in the country adding that around 17,000 megawatts (MW) were going to be added to the system by 2034. Generation, transmission and distribution were all part of the power sector but in the past the generation part has not been added in healthy manner means at least cost methodology. However, he said we were committed to adding generation on least cost methodology basis in the future. He said

issues with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) were being resolved amicably adding that he is grateful to IPPs for their cooperation to revise the contract condition. He was of the views that the power has to be generated by the private sector and there should not be a single purchasers like Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) in the country. There must be a competition which would not only help come down the prices of electricity but also create a competitive environment in the

country. Regarding, power distribution companies (DISCOs), the minister said that a sum of Rs 595 billion were budgeted every year just for their losses and power theft. "It is unbelievable, unacceptable and also not sustainable and we have Rs 600 billion extra to fund institution like NUST etc," he added. He said good professional board member were being put in place in Board of Directors of these companies to run it in efficient manners. "It is none of the job of me, a secretary or additional

secretaries etc to run these entities," he said. He went on to say that in next three years, three DISCOs would be privatized while two DISCOs with Rs 150 billion loss would be concession- al model reforms. Regarding transmission system, the minister said that earlier National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) board was not working but now a senior advisor of LUMS was heading it. The NTDC would be bifurcated into three entities, he added.

## Seminar held on National Youth Helpline at BUITEMS

ISLAMABAD: HEC in collaboration with ACT International organized a seminar yesterday on National Youth Helpline at Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS), Quetta. The event, aimed to promote youth well-being and mental health awareness, was attended by more than 250 participants, including students, faculty members, and youth advocates. Program Manager for Youth and Adolescent at ACT International Ms. Maria Emaan provided a comprehensive overview of the National Youth Helpline, explaining its crucial role in addressing the psychosocial challenges faced by the youth, such as anxiety, stress, and reproductive health concerns. The seminar featured expert-led sessions, including a Breast Cancer Awareness talk by Dr. Asma Yousafzai from BUIITEMS, emphasizing the importance of early detection and women's health education. The focus then shifted to Mental Health, where Ms. Hira Gulraiz, Clinical Psychologist at BUIITEMS, delivered an appealing presentation on Common Mental Health Issues among Youth.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassadors of the African group led by Mohamed Karmoune Ambassador of Morocco, who is also the Dean of the African Group, took part in tree plantation drive at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ambassadors are photographed with the Foreign Secretary Amina Baloch. — DNA

# IIUI organizes moot on 'Society, State and Nationhood in 21st Century'

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Directorate of Students' Affairs (DSA) of International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) here on Tuesday organized a lecture titled "Society, State, and Nationhood in the 21st Century" at the male Campus of the university. On this occasion, Chief Guest of the seminar, Brigadier (Retired) Tahir Mehmood, a distinguished figure renowned for his contributions as an author and freelance contributor to the national print media, briefed the students of the university as per the theme of the seminar. During his presentation, Brigadier (Retired) Tahir Mehmood shed light on the relation-

ship between society, state, and the concept of nationhood within the context of Pakistan and shared history of the sub-continent. In addition he also shared the historical foundations of Pakistani nationhood before and after the creation of Pakistan.

Brigadier Rtd. Tahir Mehmood, with a rich background of three decades of service in the Pakistan Army and his role as Director Publications and Chief Editor of four distinct monthly magazines within the Inter Services Public Relations Directorate, graced the occasion. His noteworthy achievements also include the launch of two new magazines, including one specifically catered to women's interests.

Speaking on the occasion President (IIUI), Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sarwar appreciated the organizers for arranging the seminar for youth of the university and hoped that in future such seminars would be organized to further foster the ambitions of the students studying at campus. He said that the role of teachers is vital for nation building as teachers are the basic source of nation building. He added that we should give respect to each other, respect for the law and humanity, which are vital for nation building. Addressing participants of the seminar Dr. Muhammad Sarwar urged students that the future is based on our learning process so we should focus on our learning to live in a society peacefully.

The seminar was also graced by Director General, International Institute of Islamic Economics, (IIIE), IIUI Prof. Dr. Abdul Rashed, Dr. Hafiz Ghufuran Ahmed Students Advisor (male), Deputy Students Advisor Dr. Masood ur Rehman Khattak, senior faculty members while a large number of students attended the seminar. Dr. Hafiz Ghufuran Ahmed thanked the speaker, IIUI leadership and students for participation in the event. He vowed that the Directorate of Students Affairs will be eager to work for more activities of dialogue and counseling as well. Later, Brigadier Rtd. Tahir Mehmood also called on Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sarwar, President IIUI.

# KS relief announces major public facilitation projects worth Rs 4b for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief) on Tuesday announced a series of key public facilitation projects worth Rs. 4 billion, aimed at rebuilding the communities in Pakistan, affected by natural disasters. During the 'Signing Ceremony for Joint Cooperation Programmes and Implementation Contracts for Educational, Health, Recovery and Rehabilitation Projects in Pakistan', Assistant Supervisor General of Operations at Ksrelief, Engineer Ahmed Ali Al-Baiz signed four different joint cooperation programmes with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Commission for Human Development (NCHD), Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), and State Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (SERRA) and above all, eight different contracts for public facilitation projects were formalized. Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, Nawaf Bin Said Al-

Maliki, representative from NDMA, Chairman of PRCS, and representatives and country heads from various UN missions in Pakistan, were the special guests at the signing ceremony. These initiatives reflect KSRelief's commitment to sustainable recovery and long-term development for communities affected during different natural disasters in Pakistan. These projects cover various sectors, including housing, education, health, WASH and disaster preparedness. One of the major efforts is the construction of the National Humanitarian Response Facility for NDMA, which will significantly enhance its ability to store and distribute relief supplies during emergencies. In total, 1,000 permanent houses for families displaced by the 2022 floods, will be constructed in a bid to provide safe housing for around 7,000 individuals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Punjab. Each house is designed to offer two rooms, a kitchen, and a washroom, ensuring a dignified living environment for the affected families. In addition, KSRelief will construct 300

Community Feeder Schools across Pakistan, particularly in underserved regions like Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. These schools, equipped with green energy solar power and clean drinking water facilities, will serve approximately 15,000 children, while indirectly benefiting over 100,000 people, including local communities and teachers. Upon completion, these schools will be handed over to the National Commission for Human Development (NCHD), ensuring long-term sustainability and management. KSRelief will also reconstruct four government schools in Azad Jammu and Kashmir for SERA, which were damaged by the 2005 earthquake. These schools will provide a safe learning environment for 3,400 students and contribute to the region's long-term development. Additionally, 22 critical facilities, including schools, health centers, and water projects previously constructed in response of 2005 earthquake and 2010 floods by the King of Saudi Arabia, will be renovated to improve access to education, healthcare, and clean water.—DNA

## Modern education essential to tackle challenges

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday emphasized the need for collaborative efforts for the broader interests of Pakistan, highlighting that quality and modern education is essential to tackle the challenges faced by the nation. He made these remarks as the guest of honor at the Students' Council ceremony at Beaconhouse College Program, Margalla Campus, Islamabad. During the event, the Governor distributed awards to the Students' Council members and shields to the faculty. The ceremony also featured speeches from the Regional Director of Beaconhouse College Program, Khawaja Haider Latif, Principal Ayesha Ansar, and Senior Headmistress Ayesha Hafeez, who expressed gratitude to the Governor for his visit and participation. Governor Kundi stressed that education is the fundamental guarantee for societal development and prosperity. He said that education equips individuals with knowledge, skills, and experiences, enabling them to improve their lives.—APP

## AIOU launches "English Access Scholarship" program to empower students

ISLAMABAD: Prioritizing women's education is top priority for the Government, as women are a vital part of this society, and the education and training of women is the mission of the Higher Education Commission. These thoughts were expressed by the Chairman, Higher Education Commission, Pakistan, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, while addressing an Opening Ceremony of the English Access Scholarship Program at Allama Iqbal Open University. He further mentioned that the enrolment ratio of female students in Pakistan's universities is 52%, and we are continuing our efforts to increase this number. During this occasion, the Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, stated that education is the only path for the development and prosperity; without education, no nation has a future. He encouraged students to pay special attention to their education to secure a wonderful future. Dr. Nasir thanked the US Embassy and the English Department, AIOU for their support in teaching English to Pakistani children. He added that learning English will bring many benefits, giving students opportunities for higher education and job prospects in various countries. The Regional English Language Officer at the US Embassy, Gerald Frank, said that Pakistan is the only country among 80 nations where 27,000 students have received this scholarship. He noted that due to the efforts of Allama Iqbal Open University, 250 new students have been enrolled from three districts of Pakistan (Mianwali, Bhakkar, and Attock). He mentioned that under this program, students will not only gain proficiency in English but also can develop critical thinking, digital literacy, and an understanding of world cultures. Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir emphasized that English is a major global language and the language of international communication. He advised students to learn English with full attention so that they can master the language and become capable of reading, speaking, and writing well in it. During the event, students shared their thoughts about the English Access Program. They also presented traditional dances of Attock, Mianwali, and Bhakkar. The Chairman of the English Department, Dr. Muhammad Kamal Khan, and the program coordinator, Dr. Amjad Khan, explained that this program is a gateway to a brilliant future, equipping students with communication skills, critical thinking, and collaboration skills needed in a globalized world.—DNA

### Court Notice

In the court of Muhammad Asif Civil Judge Gujrat

Title: Tasub Hussain etc. Versus Israr Ahmad Abbasi.  
Notice to:  
2B-Azeem Ahmad S/o. Ghulam Rasool, 2C-Nadeem Ahmad S/o. Ghulam Rasool, 3A-Muhammad Taj, 3B-Gul Hussain, 3C-Ashiq Hussain Sons of Rehman Dad, 3D-Shaheen Bibi, 3E-Parveen Bibi D/o. Rehman Dad R/o. Garri Bahau Tehsil & District Gujrat.  
Suit for Possession through Separate Partition Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 10-10-2024, otherwise case will be decided ex parte.





## Briefs

## Targeted policies can drive economic growth

ISLAMABAD: Coherent national strategies that develop talent and expand digital creative industries can help developing countries tap into the global creative economy, generating high-quality jobs that contribute to economic growth, according to a new report published today by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). "Digital disruption of creative industries can present huge economic potential in Asia and the Pacific," said ADB Director General for Climate Change and Sustainable Development Bruno Carrasco about the launch of A Review of Digital Creative Industries in Asia: Opportunities and Policies to Foster Growth and Create High-Quality Jobs. "Yet the policy environment does not always allow creatives to thrive and connect with the global value chain," added Mr. Carrasco. "This report can help industry and policy makers shape Asia and the Pacific's digital creative industries, foster opportunities to bridge the region's rich cultural heritage with the rest of the world and drive economic growth," he added. Based on more than 40 interviews with key individuals across India, Indonesia, Thailand, and Viet Nam—including with industry associations and creative professionals in the film, gaming and music industries—the report highlights opportunities for emerging countries to boost their digital creative industries, assess domestic talent development, and encourage policies that create high-quality jobs. While there is strong demand from global entertainment companies to produce local content and work with local talent, there are not enough skilled local producers, screenwriters, and programmers. —DNA

## PHA starts renovation, maintenance work of Liaquat Bagh

RAWALPINDI: The Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi has started renovation and maintenance work of Liaquat Bagh with plantation of flowers to provide the residents of Rawalpindi a fragrant airy environment during the winter. Hundreds of people used to visit the historic Liaquat Bagh Rawalpindi daily due to its cultural importance and that was why the Authority had prioritized its maintenance, PHA Rawalpindi Director General Ahmed Hassan Ranjha said in a statement issued here. He said that the PHA always tried to ensure all respective arrangements in the iconic Liaquat Bagh which was the main centre of cultural activities in the city. Plantation of winter flowers and flowering Trees was underway while pedestrian paths were also repaired with proper lights and sitting arrangements for the visitors, he added. Ranjha reiterated that the PHA had been fulfilling its responsibilities. —APP

## Three Tons of Pakistani pine nuts arrive in Ezhou, China

The newly established "Ezhou Lahore" international cargo route, launched on January 13 this year, enhances trade relations between China and Pakistan, facilitating smoother access for Chinese brands into the Pakistani market and easing the entry of Pakistani products into China



DNA

ISLAMABAD: A fully-loaded SF Airlines freighter carrying 3 tons of "Pakistani gems" pine nuts imported from western Pakistan arrived at Ezhou Huahu International Airport via the "Ezhou-Lahore" international cargo route. After clearing customs, these fresh,

## Dr. Mukhtar highlights urgent need for resilient health systems

The panelists emphasized that without integrating these considerations, Pakistan's health system may struggle to adapt to future challenges

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination, Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath Tuesday highlighted the urgent need for resilient health systems amid global health security challenges and climate change. He was speaking at the inaugural session of one-day International Conference on Sustainable Health Systems and Resilience: Challenges and Opportunities held at COMSTECH. The conference was organized by the Manhattan Strategy Group, a prominent US-Pakistani social and human development organisation, in collaboration with partner organizations. In his opening remarks, Dr. Bharath commended the organizers for their dedication and emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in strengthening

Pakistan's health systems. Dr. Bharath addressed the significant impacts of the 2022 floods, which displaced millions and highlighted gaps in healthcare delivery. He advocated for enhanced primary healthcare access, innovative financing models like health insurance schemes, and a collaborative One Health approach to integrate human, animal, and environmental health sectors. He concluded by emphasizing the need for evidence-based policymaking and strengthening partnerships to effectively tackle health challenges. The conference underscored the essential contributions of public health workers in Pakistan. The conference featured keynote addresses from prominent figures in global health. Dr. Erin Sorrell, a global health practitioner and Associate Professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, opened the discussions by highlighting the importance of innovative approaches

in combating health crises. Following her, Dr. Hammad Ali, adjunct Associate Professor Brown University and Associate Branch Chief at the US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided insights on integrating public health strategies into community health initiatives. The final keynote was delivered by Prof. Dr. Aamer Ikram, former Executive Director, National Institute of Health Pakistan, Country Representative, MSG, who addressed the intersection of public health and national security. Throughout the day, the conference hosted five technical sessions that delved into critical areas of health system transformation. The topics included health system strengthening, universal health coverage, public-private partnerships, data integration, and climate resilience. Experts from around the globe engaged in meaningful discussions, focusing on strategies to tackle significant challenges

facing Pakistan's health sector, particularly in the context of rising global health risks. The key discussions revolved around the need for robust data integration systems to inform policy decisions and the critical role of climate resilience in public health planning. The panelists emphasized that without integrating these considerations, Pakistan's health system may struggle to adapt to future challenges. In conjunction with the conference, Shezad Habib launched the Manhattan Strategy Group platform in Pakistan. As the president and founder of the group, Habib highlighted the contribution and explained that this initiative aims to enhance the organization's focus on healthcare issues and foster partnerships with government bodies, NGOs, and private organizations. "The establishment of this platform signifies our commitment to addressing the healthcare challenges faced by Pakistan and our dedication to creating sustainable

solutions," he stated. Vice President of International Development at MSG, Salik Malik conducted the proceedings of the conference. The conference attracted over 150 attendees, including health professionals, government officials, academic researchers, and representatives from international organizations. This diverse gathering marked a pivotal moment for stakeholders invested in the future of healthcare in Pakistan and beyond. The attendees participated in workshops and networking sessions designed to cultivate partnerships and facilitate collaboration among various stakeholders. The conference concluded with a call to action for all stakeholders to prioritize investment in health system resilience and sustainability. The organizers emphasized the importance of ongoing collaboration and dialogue, stating that the insights gained from the conference should inform future policy and programmatic efforts.

## ANF recovers 37.183 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 11 operations across the country managed to recover over 37 kg drugs worth Rs 6.8 million and arrested 13 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that a special campaign was launched to net drug dealers supplying drugs to students of educational institutions. In an operation, 4 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused rounded up near a university in Hyderabad. 500 grams ice was recovered from an accused netted near a university on Old Shajab Road, Multan. 667 grams opium and 1.128 kg hashish were recovered near a university in Faisalabad and an accused was arrested during the operation. 310 grams hashish was recovered from a drug dealer nabbed near a college located on Pindi Road, Kohat. 150 intoxicated tablets were recovered from an Afghan national from Khannapal Expressway Islamabad. 600 grams hashish was recovered from two suspects arrested near Azam Basti Qayyumabad, Karachi. —APP

## IRSA releases 143,100 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 143,100 cusecs of water from various rim stations with inflow of 120,000 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the 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 65,000 cusecs each. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1208.25 feet, which was 158.25 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 14,900 cusecs and 38,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 83,500, 69,100, 63,100 and 11,100 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 19,000 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 3,500 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala. —APP

## October 8's grief still fresh, says Mushaal

ISLAMABAD: Senior Kashmiri leader and wife of Chairman Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front Yasin Malik, Mushaal Hussein Mullick, on Tuesday said that the haunting scenes of destruction caused by the October 8, 2005 earthquake are still vivid in her memory, even after 19 years. In her message on the 19th anniversary of the catastrophic earthquake, she reflected on the immense devastation that unfolded that day, private news channel reported. "It's been 19 years since the tragic earthquake, yet the horrifying images of entire towns and villages being wiped off the map in mere moments are still fresh in my mind. It is heartbreaking to remember how entire communities were erased in a matter of seconds," she expressed. —APP



ISLAMABAD Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi chairing a meeting regarding preparations of SCO Summit at CDA Headquarters. —DNA

## Naqvi reviews SCO summit preparations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi chaired an important meeting at the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to review preparations and arrangements for the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit. The meeting also focused on the beautification efforts underway in Islamabad and other development projects. During the session, Minister Naqvi emphasized the need for extensive beautification of key areas, particularly the Red Zone and VIP routes. He directed that attractive landscaping be implemented along major roads and instructed that the entire city be adorned with vibrant flowers and decorative lights in preparation for the international event. Minister Naqvi highlighted the importance of completing renovation work on the Jinnah Convention Center, assigning the task of finishing the project promptly. He stressed the significance of hosting the SCO Summit, noting it as a reflection of the government's successful foreign policy efforts. "Special attention must be given to the beautification and cleanliness of Islamabad, with a focus on VIP routes and

the Red Zone," said Naqvi. He added that these measures were vital to enhancing the city's appearance ahead of the summit. Security arrangements for the SCO Summit were also reviewed during the meeting. The Interior Minister gave clear directives to take firm action against illegal housing societies, stressing the importance of keeping Islamabad free from unauthorized constructions and encroachments. "There should be no leniency in actions to remove illegal constructions in the city," Naqvi stated firmly. In addition to the summit preparations, the meeting addressed public health concerns, particularly dengue prevention. Minister Naqvi instructed the Commissioners of Islamabad and Rawalpindi to work together to enhance coordination in boundary areas and to focus on eliminating dengue breeding grounds through joint operations. The Interior Minister further emphasized that surveillance should be intensified around areas where dengue cases have been reported. Chief Commissioner of Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, provided a detailed briefing on the progress of preparations for the SCO Summit, ensuring that all necessary arrangements were on track.

## Efforts afoot to protect country from disasters

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan and SAFRON Engineer Amir Muqam on Tuesday said that the incumbent

government would take all possible measures to protect the country from disasters. The minister said in his statement, he said that today we

are observing the 19th National Resilience Day in memory of the devastating earthquake of October 8, 2005, which caused hundreds of thousands of precious lives. Expressing heartfelt sympathy to the families affected by the earthquake, Amir Muqam paid rich tributes to the people of Pakistan who showed courage during the devastating earthquake. —APP

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## Chinese hacking threat

THE US is particularly keen on discrediting China, and hyping up the "Chinese hacking threat" has practically become routine. Recently, US media outlets once again "revealed" that Chinese hackers "may have gained access to systems used by federal authorities for court-approved eavesdropping" and "breached at least three major US telecommunications providers." Notably, these accusations lack any concrete evidence to substantiate them. They rely solely on vague terms like "may," "potentially" or "premature," which offer no substantive proof. We still remember that just a few months ago, the US launched a disinformation and media manipulation campaign under the label "Volt Typhoon," aimed at smearing China's reputation. Now, people cannot help but suspect that the US is fabricating yet another narrative - dubbed "Salt Typhoon" - to falsely accuse China, once again resorting to the unoriginal farce of "a thief crying stop thief" to throw mud at China. In response to this smear campaign, China's Foreign Ministry said in a statement to Reuters on Sunday that it was not aware of the attack described and said the US had "concocted a false narrative" to "frame" China in the past. Experts believe that the fictional stories concerning "Chinese hacking threat" in US media, meticulously crafted by US intelligence agencies, serve a simple purpose - to deceive taxpayers and expand Washington's surveillance capabilities. Shen Yi, director of the Research Center of Cyberspace Governance, Fudan University, believes this exposes a common tactic used by the US - "shooting the arrow and then painting the target around it." US intelligence agencies first create a so-called threat, then spread and exaggerate disinformation to mislead the public in order to achieve their political objectives. Smearing China over hacking issues is merely a microcosm of the broader campaign by the US to discredit China across various fields. In recent years, the US has seized every opportunity to cast aspersions on China, continuously distorting facts and spreading rumors, thereby worsening China-US relations. At the root of this lies the US' unwillingness to accept China's rise, driven by fears of losing hegemony. In early September, the US House of Representatives even passed a bill allocating \$1.6 billion to fund "troll factories," attempting to hype up "China threat," manipulate public opinion and incite anti-China sentiment. When it comes to hacking, for a long time, the US has been the largest "hacker empire" in the world. The 2013 PRISM scandal fully exposed how Washington uses its powerful technological capabilities to monitor its own citizens and eavesdrop on people around the world, earning it the title of a true "surveillance superpower." China has long been one of the primary victims of US cyberattacks. A research report released by Chinese cybersecurity agencies in July showed that over the course of a year, the total number of cyberattacks by hacker groups supported by US government agencies against the Chinese government, universities, research institutions, large enterprises, and critical infrastructure exceeded 45 million times. Yet, the US often puts on a farcical act of "a thief crying stop thief," continuously claiming that China is hacking its courts, the State Department, and critical infrastructure networks, all while portraying itself as a victim of cyberattacks. Such a hypocritical performance is hardly convincing.

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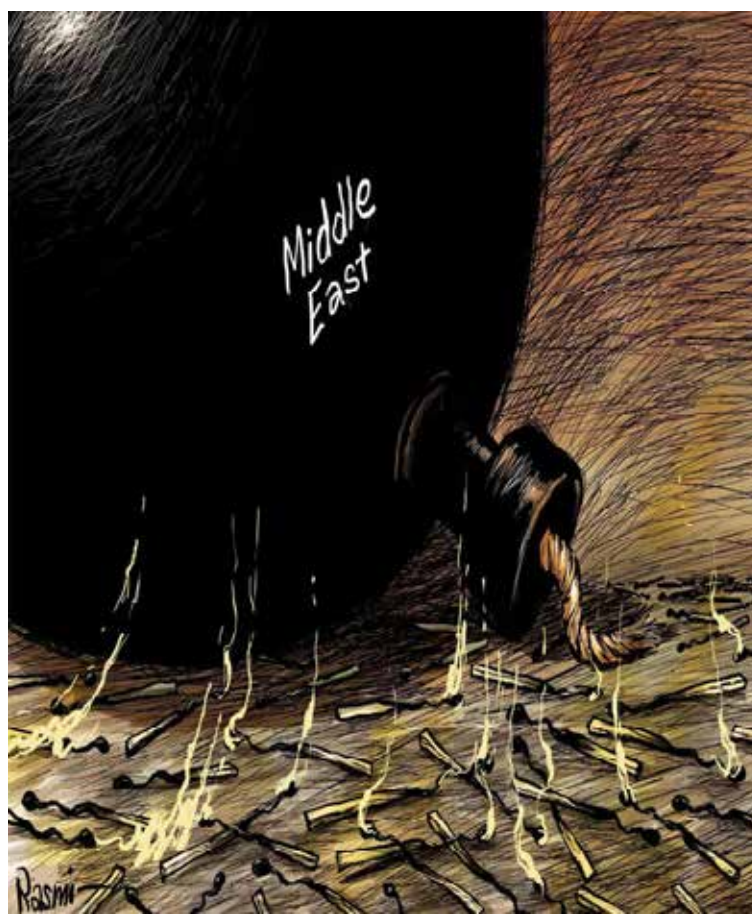
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## ASEAN's focus on development

THE 44th and 45th ASEAN Summits and Related Summits are held in Vientiane, Laos, from Tuesday to Friday. As the host, Laos set the theme this year as "ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience." The theme of each annual summit often runs through the discussions and the speeches of national leaders during the series of meetings. Certainly, there are often individual countries that attempt to involve topics with obvious geopolitical implications. For example, in an editorial published last week, Indonesia's major media The Jakarta Post warned Japan's new Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba against trying to promote his idea of building an Asian NATO during the annual ASEAN summit. It argued that Ishiba's idea would be "considered very offensive" to ASEAN and only "exacerbate tensions in the region." Contrary to ASEAN's theme of focusing on development, this is apparently why the new Japanese leader was asked to exercise self-restraint at the summits. This also shows once again that ASEAN has its own staunch stance on issues related to regional development and will not be easily swayed by other countries. The annual theme of the ASEAN Summit, as an essential part of its operation and narrative, generally demonstrates the efforts of the rotating chair country to promote ASEAN integration and community building. It usually also clarifies annual priorities and key areas of cooperation when interpreting the theme. Furthermore, the annual theme generally reflects the common concerns of ASEAN member states. For example, under this year's annual theme of "Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience," Laos proposed nine priorities to strengthen connectivity, recovery capabilities and growth resilience. These include four areas aimed at strengthening connectivity: integrating and connecting economies; forging an inclusive and sustainable future; transforming for the digital future, and culture and arts; and promoting the role of ASEAN culture and arts for inclusion and sustainability; as well as five areas to enhance resilience: developing strategic plans to implement the ASEAN Community Vision 2045; enhancing ASEAN centrality; promoting environmental cooperation: climate change resilience; women and children: promoting the role of women and children toward the systematic transformation; and health: transforming ASEAN health development resilience in a new context. This is a unanimous expression for ASEAN countries to achieve economic recovery and effectively respond to economic and other traditional and non-traditional security issues in the face of drastic changes in the international and regional situation. The ASEAN's annual theme for 2024 is a continuation of the series of themes adopted by ASEAN in recent years. Since at least 2017, the annual themes set by the rotating chair countries have generally followed a similar tone such as "Partnering for Change, Engaging the World," "Resilience and Innovation," and "We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper." These themes reflect ASEAN's consistent focus on its regional development priorities and key areas of cooperation.

# Who benefits from attacks on Chinese nationals in Pakistan?

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



The beneficiaries of these attacks are not difficult to identify. The development of CPEC is seen as enhancing Pakistan's economic and strategic capabilities, which challenges India's influence in the region. Thus, any setbacks to CPEC, such as a reduction in Chinese investment or delays in project completion, would serve India's strategic interests. Additionally, some Western powers, wary of China's global rise, may view the disruption of CPEC as part of a broader strategy to contain China's influence in Asia and beyond

THE targeting and killing of Chinese experts and residents working in Pakistan has raised concerns about both the safety of foreign nationals and the stability of long-term development projects, particularly those under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). These attacks are not random acts of violence but are part of a broader, calculated strategy aimed at undermining Pakistan's growth and the strengthening of Pakistan-China relations. Understanding the real reasons behind these targeted killings, identifying the beneficiaries, and addressing the internal and external forces orchestrating these incidents is essential for ensuring the future of joint ventures, including CPEC, and safeguarding Pakistan's geopolitical and economic interests. One of the primary reasons for these targeted attacks is to destabilize Pakistan's economic progress. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a multi-billion-dollar investment project, is the flagship of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). It represents a long-term partnership that promises significant economic benefits to Pakistan, including the development of infrastructure, energy projects, and industrial zones. This partnership has the potential to make Pakistan a regional economic hub, which does not sit well with those who want to see the country in a state of perpetual dependency and instability. By targeting Chinese nationals, these actors aim to scare away foreign investment and stall the progress of CPEC, thereby hindering Pakistan's development. External forces are believed to play a significant role in these attacks. Some regional and global powers are uncomfortable with China's expanding influence in South Asia, especially through its deep-rooted partnership with Pakistan. CPEC, given its strategic importance in terms of trade routes and energy supplies, is viewed as a direct threat to the economic and geopolitical ambitions of rival powers. These powers may seek to disrupt this partnership by sponsoring or instigating militant groups to carry out attacks on Chinese personnel in Pakistan. The objective is clear: to create friction between Pakistan and China, drive away Chinese investments, and

strain the Pakistan-China relationship. Such efforts, if successful, would benefit these external actors by diminishing China's influence in the region and weakening Pakistan's economy. Internally, there are groups that are either ideologically opposed to Pakistan's cooperation with China or have vested interests in keeping certain regions of the country unstable. Baloch separatist groups, for instance, have frequently claimed responsibility for attacks on Chinese workers. These groups see CPEC as a threat to their cause, believing that it marginalizes the local population while exploiting the province's resources. While their grievances may have a local flavor, they have often been accused of receiving support from external powers that are interested in destabilizing the region. Other extremist factions operating within Pakistan may also carry out these attacks to undermine the state, create an environment of insecurity, and gain international attention for their causes. The beneficiaries of these attacks are not difficult to identify. The development of CPEC is seen as enhancing Pakistan's economic and strategic capabilities, which challenges India's influence in the region. Thus, any setbacks to CPEC, such as a reduction in Chinese investment or delays in project completion, would serve India's strategic interests. Additionally, some Western powers, wary of China's global rise, may view the disruption of CPEC as part of a broader strategy to contain China's influence in Asia and beyond. The impact of these attacks on CPEC and other joint projects is considerable. Every time Chinese nationals are targeted, it sends a message of insecurity, not only to China but also to other potential investors and foreign workers. While China has shown remarkable resilience in continuing its investments in Pakistan, frequent attacks could lead to a reevaluation of risk. Chinese companies and workers may demand stronger security guarantees, increasing the cost of these projects. In the worst-case scenario, sustained violence could lead to a reduction in Chinese involvement, which would be a major setback for Pakistan's economic future. Other countries may

also hesitate to engage in joint ventures if they perceive Pakistan as unable to protect foreign nationals. Pakistan must take immediate and concrete steps to address this issue. First, the government must significantly improve security measures for foreign workers, particularly those associated with CPEC. Additionally, intelligence sharing and coordination between Pakistan and China should be enhanced to preempt future attacks. Second, Pakistan must address the internal grievances that are fueling some of these attacks. In regions like Balochistan, where CPEC is seen as a source of disenfranchisement rather than development, the government must engage in dialogue with local communities. Ensuring that the local population benefits from these projects, through employment opportunities and social development initiatives, could help mitigate the grievances that militant groups exploit. Economic development and political inclusion in these regions will reduce the appeal of militancy. Finally, on the diplomatic front, Pakistan needs to take a firmer stance against external actors that are suspected of sponsoring or facilitating these attacks. Through effective diplomacy, Pakistan should present evidence to international forums and engage its allies to counter efforts aimed at destabilizing its relationship with China. Pakistan's foreign policy should remain aligned with China while also seeking to resolve tensions with neighboring countries through dialogue. In conclusion, the attacks on Chinese nationals in Pakistan are not isolated incidents but part of a larger strategy to disrupt Pakistan's economic progress and weaken its partnership with China. Both internal and external forces are involved in this destabilization, and their aim is to undermine CPEC and other development projects that are critical to Pakistan's future. To counter these challenges, Pakistan must take immediate action on multiple fronts: improving security, addressing internal grievances, and confronting external threats. Only by doing so can Pakistan safeguard its economic future and maintain the strong relationship it has with China.

# How the blue economy can drive national development

Muhammad Salman UI Haq



Pakistan has vast opportunities to elevate the living standards of its people especially those in coastal areas using the Blue Economy. Fisheries and aquaculture can be developed through the promotion of sustainable methods and incorporation of state-of-the-art technologies into fishing activities, which will improve yields and guarantee the sustainability of fish stocks

THE National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) is Pakistan's leading maritime research institute which is actively working with national and international partners to jump-start the Blue Economy of Pakistan. This year on 9th of October NIMA is holding its 4th International Maritime Symposium on the topic of "Realization of Blue Economy Through the Prism Sustainable Development Goals - Options For Developing Countries". Such events can not only provide people the opportunity to engage with global maritime experts but also learn to contribute towards shaping a sustainable future. The Blue Economy, which emphasizes the sustainable use of ocean resources to promote economic growth, enhance livelihoods and ensure the health of marine ecosystems, offers a transformative opportunity for Pakistan's socio-economic uplift. By investing in and developing its Blue Economy, Pakistan can diversify its economic base while aligning with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Key goals such as SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 14 (Life Below Water) are directly linked to the potential of the Blue Economy while all other goals are indirectly linked. The major areas of Blue Economy consists of fisheries and aquaculture, marine tourism, marine renewable energy, maritime shipping and marine biotechnology. Countries like Bangladesh and Indonesia are good examples of how the Blue Economy can help drive economic growth and development, job creation and increase in the national income. Pakistanhas a vast coastline of 1001 kilometres, Exclusive Economic Zone and a vibrant fishery sector which can also benefit from Blue Economy. However, Pakistan's coastal region has numerous challenges that slow down the development of Blue Economy. The communities are mostly poor and cannot even access basic necessities such as education, health and clean water. The underdeveloped infrastructure in these communities thus does not allow the people to participate in any economic activity apart from fishing. Deterioration of the coastal environment through factors such as overfishing adds on the challenges faced by these communities. Unsustainable fishing practices lead to the exhaustion of fish resources and this poses a major threat to fishermen who depend on fish as their source of income. Other problems include marine pollution, coastal erosion and various factors that make

the fishing industries unsustainable in the long run. In addition, majority of the coastal populations are not well endowed in terms of skills and capital to participate in higher value Blue Economy activities like marine tourism or production of marine renewable energy. The lack of government policies that seek to address the particularities make these communities economically neglected. The statistics are shocking to say the least. According to the United Nation Development Program's Human Development Index report, HDI of 2022, Pakistan ranked 161 countries out of 192 countries. By 2023, Pakistan ranked 164th and has regressed three places due to continuous social, economic and political issues, and the floods of 2022. The country's education standards are extremely dismal; only about 60.65% of the population is literate according to the 2023 census. This situation is more grim in the coastal rural areas of Sindh and Balochistan province where currently the literacy rate stands at 38.14% and 35.74% respectively, highlighting the wide disparity of growth between coastal and inland areas. The health indicators are also unfavourable, with high prevalence of malnutrition and high infant mortality rate in the coastal communities. Pakistan has vast opportunities to elevate the living standards of its people especially those in coastal areas using the Blue Economy. Fisheries and aquaculture can be developed through the promotion of sustainable methods and incorporation of state-of-the-art technologies into fishing activities, which will improve yields and guarantee the sustainability of fish stocks. This comprises of offering relevant training and subsidies to enable a shift from conventional methods that are less efficient and environmentally friendly. Additionally, developing marine tourism encompassing eco-friendly resorts, beach tourism and water sports can significantly stimulate related industries like hospitality, transport and handicrafts. In the renewable energy sector, focusing on offshore wind and tidal energy can diversify energy sources and create job opportunities in coastal regions. Furthermore, involving coastal communities in marine biotechnology and conservation efforts, such as coral reef restoration and mangrove planting, will preserve marine biodiversity while providing alternative livelihoods, thus promoting both environmental sustainability and eco-

economic resilience. For the blue economy to reach its full potential, the Pakistani government, together with relevant stakeholders, require a multi faceted approach. Educational and vocational training for the marginalized coastal communities will prepare them for an active participation in the maritime industries through construction of schools, health centres and clean water sources for a better and sustainable economic future. It is equally important to enforce environmental protection laws through policies that encourage sustainable fishing, protection of the exploited species and their habitats. These initiatives require the support of the government, the private sector and civil society, especially the public-private partnerships which also spearhead investment, technology and employment. Furthermore, collaboration with countries that have already implemented Blue Economy initiatives can give Pakistan the knowledge and capital required to harness the full potential of its maritime sector. The Blue Economy presents a unique opportunity for Pakistan to address the socio-economic challenges faced by its coastal communities. Through sustainable fisheries, marine tourism, renewable energy and improved infrastructure, Pakistan can uplift these marginalized populations and build a stronger, more resilient Blue Economy. However, this potential can only be realized through careful planning, investment and a commitment to sustainability. By recognizing and acting upon the value of its maritime resources, Pakistan can pave the way for a brighter future for its coastal communities, contributing to national prosperity in the process. The National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) is Pakistan's leading maritime research institute which is actively working with national and international partners to jump-start the Blue Economy of Pakistan. This year on 9th of October NIMA is holding its 4th International Maritime Symposium on the topic of "Realization of Blue Economy Through the Prism Sustainable Development Goals - Options For Developing Countries". Such events can not only provide people the opportunity to engage with global maritime experts but also learn to contribute towards shaping a sustainable future. - The author is a Research Associate at the National Institute of Maritime Affairs, Islamabad and can be reached at msalman.nima@bahria.edu.pk



## Briefs

DPM Dar  
praises  
Saudi...

FROM PAGE 01  
Pakistan during times of crisis. He praised KSR relief's vital role in delivering humanitarian assistance, particularly in response to recent natural disasters in Pakistan, including floods and earthquakes. He underscored that these new initiatives will focus on building and rehabilitating essential infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, and housing. The DPM/FM further noted that the collaboration between KSR relief and Pakistan has intensified over the years, with the humanitarian organization playing a pivotal role in various sectors including healthcare, food aid, and education. He expressed confidence that this new phase of cooperation would further cement the ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and ensure that those most in need receive timely and effective support.

Tarar  
accuses  
PTM of...

FROM PAGE 01  
crime, but also some citizens of Afghanistan. The PTM has not only been in contact with the Tehreek-e-Taliban Afghanistan, but also the proscribed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (Fitna al-Khawarij), he added. The minister said there is no restriction on anybody to protest or criticize, but nobody would be allowed to burn national flag, attack embassies and keep contacts with terrorist organizations. "If an ideology is promoted among the youth on the basis of falsehoods that undermine the state's efforts and damage the ideology of Pakistan, such actions will not be tolerated," he said, adding any political party found engaging with the PTM—whether through funding, opening joint accounts, or transferring money—would face the music.

K-P  
Assembly  
descends...

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The altercation escalated when PTI member Nek Wazir clashed with Iqbal Wazir of the PTI Parliamentarians, both of whom hail from Waziristan. Supporters of the two lawmakers also joined the fight, intensifying the chaos in the assembly. The uproar forced the speaker to call a 15-minute recess, but the session was ultimately adjourned until 3pm on Monday, October 14, due to the continued disorder. During the earlier session, Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur delivered a fiery speech, criticising the recent actions of opposition parties and defending the government's position. The chief minister condemned attack on K-P House in Islamabad as an attack the province's honour and referred to the attack on Corps Commander's House in Lahore on May 9, 2023 as "false flag operation".

Imran Khan  
seeks UN's  
support...

FROM PAGE 01  
This is not the first time the incarcerated ex-premier has written to an international body regarding domestic political matters as previously he has reached out to the IMF urging the global lender to hold an audit of the February 8 polls — marred by rigging allegations — before approving any new loan for Islamabad. The move had drawn a strong reaction from the incumbent government with ministers censuring the cricketer-turned-politician for allegedly risking the country's economic stability for political interests. The prospective constitutional tweaks in discussion, include inter alia extension of judges' retirement age and formation of a constitutional court, and have been staunchly opposed by Khan and his party. The constitutional package, initially expected to be tabled last month, was postponed after the government failed to secure the necessary numbers in the parliament owing to the special nature of the legislation which requires the approval of a two-thirds majority in both houses.

England battling in face  
of huge Pakistan total

Naseem sends England skipper Ollie Pope to the pavilion in his first over

SPORTS DESK

MULTAN: England overcame significant setbacks to reach 96-1 in reply to Pakistan's massive 556 on day two of the first Test in Multan. Ben Duckett hurt his left thumb taking the catch that ended the Pakistan innings, meaning Ollie Pope opened the batting in his place. Pope pulled his second ball to mid-wicket, where Aamer Jamal took a stunning one-handed catch. To their credit, Zak Crawley and Joe Root were assured in defying the lively hosts. Crawley is on 64 and Root 32, England still 460 behind. All this at the end of another sapping day in the heat, as England's stint in the field stretched to six sessions and Salman Ali Agha became the third home batter to register a century. Salman survived on 15 when Chris Woakes' spectacular boundary catch was ruled not out. TV umpire Chris Gaffaney adjudged that Woakes had a foot grounded beyond the rope in his attempt to throw up the ball and catch it again.

That would have been 420-7, England once more showing character on the true pitch, at one stage taking four wickets for 76 runs despite Saud Shakeel making 82 and night-watcher Naseem Shah 33. But Salman took the game away from England, dishing out some punishment to the weary visiting bowlers. England can at least take some heart from Ben Stokes bowling on the outfield during the tea break as part of the captain's bid to recover from a hamstring injury in time for the second Test. Bar the

James Anderson  
joins England  
team in Multan

MULTAN: England's bowling consultant, James Anderson has finally joined the national team in Multan. The veteran pacer's arrival was delayed as he was participating in the Scotland's Alfred Dunhill Links Championship. Despite his absence, the 42-year-old was sharing his invaluable experience with the team's bowlers via WhatsApp. It is to be noted that the second day of the first Test is underway with Pakistan resuming with their first innings. As the championship in Scotland has reached its end on Sunday, the former player is set to continue with his duties. Moreover, Anderson's presence and experience are very crucial for the team, who are missing their captain Ben Stokes due to a hamstring injury. Previously in 2022, the former player played a key role during England's tour of Pakistan, featuring in two Tests and taking eight wickets. Following his retirement in July, Anderson has been a mentor to the English bowlers. — DNA

immense challenge of batting under considerable scoreboard pressure at the end of the day, this was rinse and repeat for England, deja vu from their back-breaking slog on Monday. How different might it have been had Woakes' catch been allowed to stand? With Jack Leach the bowler, it was a hugely impressive effort for long-on fielder Woakes to backpedal and attempt the sort of catch that has become common in white-ball cricket. Knowing his momentum would carry him over the rope, Woakes relayed

the ball to himself. Salman started to walk off before Gaffaney made the check. No close-up of Woakes' right foot was available, the grainy footage was inconclusive and the benefit of the doubt went to the batter. Woakes was visibly frustrated and Salman ground England further into the dirt. A statistical quirk is on England's side. The two previous times they conceded more than 500 since Brendon McCullum became coach, they won, including the first Test in this country two years ago.

In these conditions, against a stronger Pakistan side, it would be remarkable to keep that run alive. The most frustrating aspect of Duckett's injury was that England should not have still been fielding. So professional across their marathon stint in the field, the tourists became ragged at the end, with Jamie Smith missing a simple stumping and Gus Atkinson a similarly easy catch off number 11 Abrar Ahmed. In the end, off-spinner Root served up one of his occasional bouncers, which Abrar steered to slip fielder Duckett, who was having treatment even before he reached the dressing room. Stand-in captain Pope has had enough on his plate, then emerged to open for the first time in his first-class career. He made a sweet connection to a short ball from Naseem, only for Jamal to cling on in his right hand and be mobbed by his team-mates. England could have folded. The pitch, so flat on day one, began to show signs of turn and low bounce on day two. Pakistan were energised, twice having strong leg before appeals against Root and another to Crawley. The second-wicket pair showed mettle to survive, particularly in case of Crawley, in his first innings since July because of a broken finger. Root needs another 39 to overhaul Sir Alastair Cook as England's all-time leading run-scorer. Duckett was assessed and deemed unlikely to be available to bat on the second evening. England had no plans for a scan in the hope the injury settles overnight.

Skipper Stirling leads Ireland  
to ODI win over South Africa

ABU DHABI: Ireland captain Paul Stirling led from the front with a dashing 88 as his side completed their ODI series against South Africa with a convincing 69-run win in the final match in Abu Dhabi on Monday. Chasing 285 to win, South Africa slipped to 126-6 with only a fine 91 from Jason Smith keeping them in the game. But Smith was unable to prevent the Irish from claiming only their second ODI win over the Proteas.

"It's a relief to get past it," said Stirling. "We talked about just winning the game and getting the job done." "We let ourselves down in the first two games. We knew if we applied ourselves and kept our wickets in hand we'll get the runs." Graham Hume, who was born in Johannesburg and played for South Africa Under 19s, was the pick of the Irish bowlers with 3-29 while Ulster-born Craig Young finished with 3-40.

South Africa took the ODI series 2-1 with the two sides sharing the preceding T20 series 1-1. Stirling set the tone for Ireland's 284-9 after he won the toss and decided to bat. That was in contrast to the first two matches when Ireland chased, failing to survive past 32 overs as they made 132 and 169 in reply to big South African scores. On Monday, Stirling and Andy Balbirnie put on 101

for the first wicket before Balbirnie fell to Lizaad Williams for a steady 45 from 73 balls. Curtis Campher accelerated with 34 off 36 balls before he fell to Othello Baartman who then bowled Stirling in his next over. The captain had hit three sixes and eight fours in his innings. Harry Tector kept Ireland moving with a 48-ball 60 while Williams, the only South African bowler to get through his full 10 overs, finished with 4-56. South Africa's reply was soon in disarray at 10-3 as Mark Adair removed Ryan Rickelton and Rassie van der Dussen, standing in for injured captain Temba Bavuma. Reeza Hendricks edged Graham Hume to Balbirnie at second slip. Kyle Verreynne (38) and Tristan Stubbs (20) steadied the innings with a 49-run partnership but once Verreynne was leg before to Young the wheels came off again. At 126-6, South Africa looked out of it but Smith made sure the Irish would have to wait. — Agencies

Spain and  
Barcelona great  
Iniesta retires

MADRID: Spain World Cup winner Andres Iniesta has retired from playing at the age of 40. Iniesta is widely regarded as one of the greatest players in history, thanks in part to the midfield partnerships he formed with Xavi Hernandez and Sergio Busquets for Spain and Barcelona. He earned 131 caps for his country, scoring the winning goal in the 2010 FIFA World Cup final and winning the European Championship in 2008 and 2012. Speaking at an event in Barcelona, a visibly emotional Iniesta said he planned to go into coaching. "Being on the pitch is over," he said. "I can't stay away from football, it's my life and will continue to be my life." "Yes, all these years we have shed these days are tears of emotion, of pride. They are not tears of sadness." "They are tears of that boy from a small town like Fuentebilla, who had the dream of being a footballer and we achieved it after a lot of hard work, sacrifice, of never giving up, essential values in my life." Iniesta spent the majority of his 22-year career at Barcelona after graduating from the club's La Masia academy. He made his senior debut in 2002 and went on to win 29 honours, including nine La Liga titles and four Champions Leagues crowns. One of his most memorable goals was a spectacular stoppage-time equaliser to knock Chelsea out of the 2009 Champions League semi-final, with Barcelona going on to beat Manchester United in the final. In 2018 Iniesta joined Japanese side Vissel Kobe before moving to the United Arab Emirates in 2023 to play for UAE Pro League side Emirates. He was runner-up in the 2010 Ballon d'Or and included in the FifaFipro World 11 for nine successive years between 2009 and 2017. — Agencies

## Repeat of "gory tale"...

FROM PAGE 01

moving towards the right direction. PM Shehbaz added that the army men are sacrificing their lives for the nation, and at the same time, Chinese nationals are being killed in Pakistan. "Internal and external enemies united [to damage Pakistan]. We all know who finances them," he said, adding: "God willing, Pakistan will move forward." He also called PTI's plans "nefarious" and said that it has been established without a shadow of a doubt that Afghan nationals were involved in the party's protests. "They [PTI] are worried that if the country excels, then there will be no one who supports them," he stressed. Meanwhile, The Federal Cabinet has approved the establishment of the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for Palestine and Lebanon to help the people affected by Israeli barbarism in Palestine and Lebanon. The approval was granted at a meeting of the Federal Cabinet, which met in Islamabad today with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in the chair. The Cabinet also issued necessary instructions to the State Bank of Pakistan to open an account for this purpose. Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal will supervise the relief operations for Palestine and Lebanon.

Pak women's football team  
denied NOC for SAFF c'ship

South Asian Football Federation Women's Championship is scheduled to be held from Oct 17 to 30 in Nepal

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) has refused to issue a no-objection certificate (NOC) to the Pakistan women's football team to participate in this month's South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Women's Championship. The tournament is scheduled to be held from October 17 to 30 in Nepal. In a letter sent to the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF), the PSB

cited delays in submitting the request and the absence of the required signature from the chairman of the Normalisation Committee (NC). These issues led the PSB to decline the NOC request. The PSB had previously reminded the PFF on September 12 about the necessary protocols for obtaining the NOC. However, the football federation's submission was not only delayed but also lacked the signature of the NC chairman. The PSB stated that such omissions made

it impossible to process the application. In the letter, the sports board noted: "Since the instructions issued by the PSB have not been followed, we regret to inform you that, due to time constraints and non-compliance with our procedural requirements, the PSB is unable to process the NOC request for participation in this event." Sources within the PFF confirmed that the NOC request for the SAFF Women's Championship was submitted on September 16.

IIOJK  
elects first  
regional...

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Instead, it has been ruled by a governor appointed by New Delhi. While voters took part in national elections in June when Modi won a third term in power, these were the first local elections since 2014. As results were announced, with an alliance of the opposition National Conference (NC) and Congress parties tipped to form a government, supporters celebrated. By mid-afternoon, Election Commission figures showed NC and Congress had won 47 of 90 seats in the assembly, an unassailable lead over the BJP with 27. Some called the vote a de facto referendum on the federal government's decision to repeal the territory's special status. "The people have given their judgement against what New Delhi did," social activist Iqbal Ahmad Bhat said.

Asad Qaiser  
bemoans  
'attack'...

FROM PAGE 01

Violation of constitution entails punishment under Article 6," he said. The PTI leader castigated the government for abusing power. He said the PTI founder had not done any wrong and he had been unlawfully detained. As for the controversial constitutional package, he said 56 changes had been proposed and human rights were being trampled upon. "We will continue our fight for constitutional rights," he resolved. He also criticised the Islamabad IGP asking him to doff his uniform and then face him. "This is not an issue of the KP chief minister alone. No one can create obstacles to our protests," he said.

Turkish  
company's  
proposal...

FROM PAGE 01

also planning to outsource Karachi and Lahore airports as part of its broader strategy to enhance airport operations. The deadline for submitting bids and opening documents for Islamabad Airport was set for October 7. The federal government had earlier decided to outsource the country's major three airports including Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad. The investors from Germany, France, Netherlands, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, and Türkiye as well as local groups have shown their interest in outsourcing of three airports of Pakistan.

SC judge  
meets CJP  
Qazi Faez

FROM PAGE 01

It is worth-mentioning here that a few days ago, both Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Muneeb Akhtar had refused to become part of the bench constituted to hear the review petition filed in the case of article 63-A of the constitution, prompting the chief justice to find their replacements.

UN slams  
Karachi...

FROM PAGE 01

noon briefing at UN Headquarters in New York. "Citizens should never be the targets and we extend our condolences to the families of the victims and to the people and governments of both Pakistan and the People's Republic of China," Dujarric said on behalf of the UN chief.

No elections  
before...

FROM PAGE 01

More than 600 people were killed in the weeks leading up to her ouster, according to a preliminary United Nations report which said the figure was likely an underestimate. Her government was also accused of politicising courts and the civil service, as well as staging lopsided elections, to dismantle democratic checks on its power. Yunus said he had inherited a "completely broken down" system of public administration that needed a comprehensive overhaul to prevent a future return to autocracy.

## Brunt steers England to victory over South Africa

WEB DESK

SHARJAH: Nat Sciver-Brunt played a brilliant knock to steer England to a seven-wicket victory over South Africa in the ninth match of the ongoing ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 at Sharjah Cricket Stadium here on Monday. While chasing a 125-run target, England achieved the target in the final over with Nat Sciver-Brunt hitting the match-winning boundary. With this victory, England topped Group B with four points after two games. In their tournament opener, they defeated Bangladesh by 21 runs. Nat Sciver-Brunt top-scored with an unbeaten 48 off 36 balls with the help of six boundaries. Meanwhile, Danni Wyatt-Hodge also made a valuable contribution of 43 runs from as many balls, featuring four boundaries. South Africa dominated the



powerplay with the ball as they removed Maia Boucher early. Marizanne Kapp impressed, starting with a maiden over and recording figures of 1-5 after her first three overs. However, Danni Wyatt-Hodge and Nat Sciver-Brunt's 64-run partnership tilted the match completely in England's favour. Earlier, South African captain Laura Wolvaardt won the toss and elected to bat. She struck a 39-ball 42 to help her side put up a 124-run total against England's dominant bowling. Sophie Ecclestone recorded bowling figures of 2-15, with the key wickets of Wolvaardt and Kapp, while fellow spinners Linsey Smith, Charlie Dean and Sarah Glenn claimed a wicket each. Heather Knight's England will return to action for their third match of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 on Sunday (13 October) when they take on Scotland at the same venue.



## Briefs

## PSX stays bullish, gains 753 more points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 753.68 more points, a positive change of 0.89 percent, reaching 85,663.98 points against 84,910.30 points on the last trading day. A total of 506, 565, 368 shares were traded during the day as compared to 449,507,635 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 33.049 billion against Rs.30.196 billion on the last trading day. As many as 448 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 193 of them recorded gains and 194 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 61 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Hub Power Company XD with 44, 845,448 shares at Rs 111.92 per share, Pak Petroleum with 21, 544,867 shares at Rs 128.12 per share and Pak Refinery with 21, 345,096 shares at Rs 25.57 per share. —APP

## Rupee sheds 03 paise against dollar

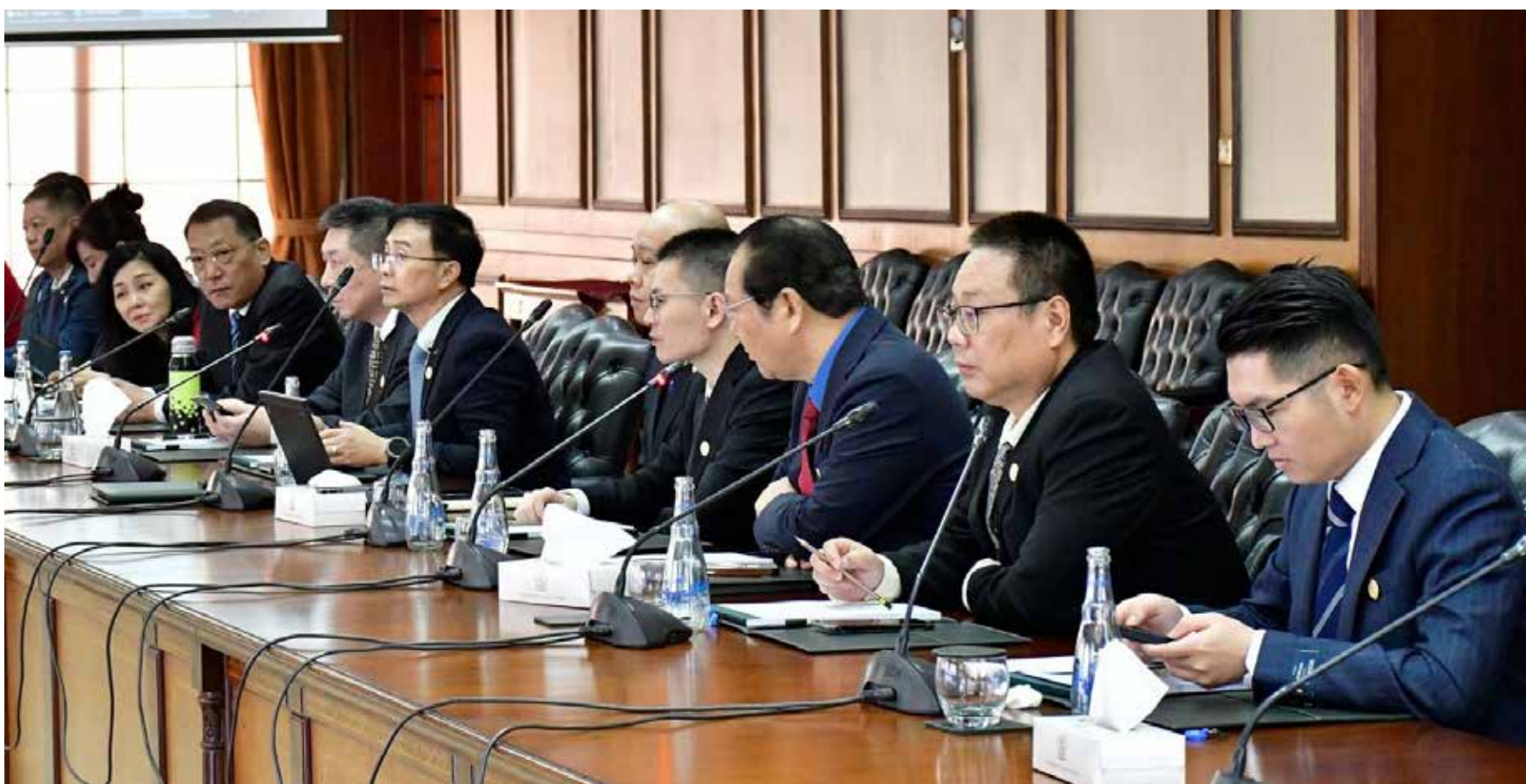
ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Tuesday depreciated by 03 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.67 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.64. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs278.25 and Rs279.75 respectively. The price of Euro decreased by 71 paise to close at Rs305.20 against the last day's closing of Rs304.47, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen went up by 01 paise and closed at Rs1.88, whereas a decrease of 41 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs363.48 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs363.89. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal increased by 01 paise and 03 paise to close at Rs75.59 and Rs73.94. —APP

## Gold rates dip by Rs. 1,000 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.1,000 and was sold at Rs.274,700 on Tuesday compared to its sale at Rs. 275,700 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs. 857 to Rs. 235, 511 from Rs. 236,368 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs. 215, 885 from Rs. 216,671, 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 decreased by \$9 to \$2,647 from \$2,656, the Association reported. —APP

## Indonesia to launch \$28b free meals programme to fight malnutrition

JAKARTA: Indonesia will open thousands of kitchens across the country next year as the incoming government led by president-elect Prabowo Subianto kicks off his multi-billion dollar free meals program, the head of the agency running the initiative said on Tuesday. Prabowo will be sworn in as Indonesia's next president on Oct. 20. In the first stage of his plan, meals will be given to around 20 million students from January at a cost of \$4.54 billion (71 trillion rupiah). When running at full scale, the free meals program, which aims to end malnutrition in the country, will reach 83 million recipients, including pregnant mothers, and cost around \$28 billion annually. Dadan Hindayana, the head of the national nutrition agency, told an investment forum that at least 5,000 kitchens, called 'service units', will be set up next year, before ramping up to 30,000 units in 2027. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Chinese business delegation visits SIFC. The delegation was briefed about the business potential in Pakistan.— DNA

## SMEs sector holds \$40-\$60b export potential: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said that the Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) had the potential of \$40-60 billion export in the next 3 to 5 years. Speaking at the 'Export-led Economy - Race to \$100 billion' ceremony, along with Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, he said that the government would facilitate SMEs sector to achieve this potential target. The minister reaffirmed the government

commitment to significantly increasing exports, setting an ambitious target of \$100 billion within eight years. He stressed that achieving this target within eight years, would be beneficial, but in case of missing, it would pose significant challenges. Ahsan emphasized the need to enhance production and leverage key sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and information technology, mining, manpower and creative industries to drive growth. In order to increase the exports, the government would collaborate with the relevant

department/ministries to develop a dashboard, outlining a clear road-map for growth in these sectors, he added. Similarly, he said that only 70 out of 500 companies on the Karachi Stock Exchange generated exports of around \$10,000, and big KSE companies earned billions in profit without contributing to dollar exports. To address this, he suggested for working on policies and incentives to encourage the private sector to contribute to the country's exports. Jam Kamal Khan attributed Pakistan's export decline to various factors, including high interest

rates, production costs, COVID-19, and the Ukraine conflict. However, he highlighted that the government had formulated a strategy to increase the country exports to \$60 billion. He said that inflation and interest rates had come down consistently while the global investors were interested in investing in Pakistan. "Investors confidence has restored after International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme", he remarked. "In the past, the focus was on textiles, now the focus is on pharmaceutical exports", he added. He said: "Pakistan's economic future

depends on significant increase in exports." He said that Pakistan's textile and manufacturing sector exports had increased by 13.8% and 15.9% while agriculture exports increased by 54.8% to reach \$7.95 billion in 2024. "Export Development Fund is being used effectively to increase export capacity," he added. He highlighted that the role of the private sector in achieving export target was extremely important and Pakistan was capable of more than \$100 billion, but definitely there was need of a robust strategy.

## Iran warns Israel not to attack its infrastructure

TEHRAN: Iran warned Israel on Tuesday against attacking any of its infrastructure amid fears of a possible Israeli assault on oil or nuclear sites following Iran's missile barrage last week. "Any attack against infrastructure in Iran will provoke an even stronger response," state television quoted Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi as saying. He spoke after Israel said it was preparing a response to Iran's October 1 missile attack on its arch-enemy, its second on the country in six months. On Monday, an official statement quoted Araghchi as saying Iran did not seek war in the region. On Friday US President Joe Biden cautioned Israel against attacking oil installations in Iran, one of the world's top 10 producers of crude. Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps General Rassul Sanairad warned Israel on Sunday any attack on nuclear or energy sites would cross a "red line." The Fars news agency quoted him as saying following the Israeli threat: "Some political leaders have spoken of a possible change in Iran's nuclear policy." In 2022, after an official said Iran had the technical capability to produce a nuclear weapon, the country stressed there had been no change in its nuclear ambitions. Last year Iran slowed the pace of its uranium enrichment, but then in late 2023 accelerated the production of 60 percent enriched uranium, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency. Enrichment levels of around 90 percent are required for military use. Iran has always denied any ambition to develop a nuclear weapons capability, insisting its activities are entirely peaceful. Any attack on Iranian nuclear sites "would have an impact on the kind of response by Iran," General Sanairad said. Tehran says its attack on Israel, when some 200 missiles were fired, was a response to the death in a Beirut air strike of Hassan Nasrallah, leader of the Iran-backed Lebanese movement Hezbollah, and of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran. —DNA

## Efforts afoot to protect country from disasters

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan and SAFRON Engineer Amir Muqam on Tuesday said that the incumbent government would take all possible measures to protect the country from disasters. The minister said in his statement, he said that today we are observing the 19th National Resilience Day in memory of the devastating earthquake of October 8, 2005, which caused hundreds of thousands of precious lives. Expressing heartfelt sympathy to the families affected by the earthquake, Amir Muqam paid rich tributes to the people of Pakistan who showed courage during the devastating earthquake. —APP

## UN warns Lebanon could face same 'spiral of doom'

The situation in Lebanon is getting worse by the day, the European Union's foreign chief Josep Borrell told the European Parliament on Tuesday, adding a ceasefire should be achieved

GENEVA: UN humanitarian officials called Tuesday for urgent action to stop the escalating conflict in Lebanon from spiraling into a similar scene of devastation as seen in Gaza. "We need to do everything we can to stop that from happening," said Matthew Hollingworth, Lebanon country director for the United Nations' World Food Programme. Speaking to reporters in Geneva from Beirut, he said he had spent the first half of the year coordinating WFP's operations in Gaza before taking the helm of its Lebanon office, and was deeply concerned by the similarities. "It is in my

mind from the time I wake until the time I sleep, that we could go into the same sort of spiral of doom... We shouldn't allow that to happen," he said. Israel's war in Gaza, launched after Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack inside Israel, has killed more than 41,900 people, mostly civilians, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory. The UN has said the figures are reliable. The October 7 attack left 1,206 dead, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures, which include hostages killed in captivity. The resulting conflict has spilled into Lebanon,

with intensifying airstrikes and Israeli troops battling Hezbollah militants on the ground. Israel's bombardment of Lebanon has killed more than 1,100 people and displaced upwards of a million in less than two weeks. Hollingworth said many people were fleeing because they "have watched over the last year as the war in Gaza has continued and neighborhoods have been decimated and pounded, and that is deep in their gut, in their hearts, in their minds." James Elder, spokesman for the UN children's agency UNICEF, warned that "the commonalities are unfortunately absolutely there to

be seen, whether it is displacement on the ground, impact upon children or language being used ... (to) soften the realities on the ground." "We are seeing the same patterns that we saw in Gaza," Jeremy Laurence of the UN rights office added. "The devastation is beyond belief for all people in Lebanon as it is in Gaza. We can't let this happen again." The situation in Lebanon is getting worse by the day, the European Union's foreign chief Josep Borrell told the European Parliament on Tuesday, adding a ceasefire should be achieved. According to figures, some

20 percent of the Lebanese population had been forced to move, he said. Last week, Israel launched what it called a limited ground operation into southern Lebanon after a series of attacks killed longtime Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and most of his top commanders. The fighting is the worst since Israel and Hezbollah fought a month-long war in 2006. Beirut's skyline lit up again late Sunday with new airstrikes, a day after Israel's heaviest bombardment of the southern suburbs known as the Dahiyeh since it escalated its air campaign on Sept. 23.

## Iran quake sparks speculation of covert nuke test

TEHRAN: Days after tremors were felt in Iran, speculation is growing of it being a possible nuclear event. A 4.5-magnitude seismic event was reported from Iran's Semnan province on Oct 5. The epicentre of the quake was reportedly around 10 kilometres beneath the surface and close to an Iranian nuclear power plant. The earthquake's depth and proximity to a nuclear facility are now raising eyebrows. Such a seismic event is typically the result of an earthquake, but speculation has arisen on social media suggesting the event was instead an underground nuclear test carried out by the Islamic Republic in response to Israeli threats to bomb Tehran's nuclear energy and oil facilities. According to Iranian sources speaking with The Cradle, the possibility that a nuclear test was indeed conducted is being discussed at high levels in Iran. Syrian sources speaking with The Cradle in September predicted that Iran would seek to develop breakout nuclear weapons capability in response to Israel's assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran. Iran launched at least 180 ballistic missiles at Israel, causing damage to three airbases on 1 October, following Israel's assassination of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and IRGC commander Abbas Nilforushan on 27 September. —Agencies

## Water gushes through palm trees, sand dunes after rare rain in the Sahara Desert

RABAT: A rare deluge of rainfall left blue lagoons of water amid the palm trees and sand dunes of the Sahara desert, nourishing some of its most drought-stricken regions with more water than many had seen in decades. Southeastern Morocco's desert is among the most arid places in the world and rarely experiences rain in late summer. The Moroccan government said two days of rainfall in September had exceeded yearly averages in several areas that get an average of less than 250 millimeters (10 inches) annually, including Tata, one of the areas hit hardest. In Tagounite, a village about 450 km (280 miles) south of the capital Rabat, more than 100 mm (3.9 inches) was recorded in a 24-hour period. The storms provided more rainfall than had been seen in decades, leaving striking images of bountiful water gushing through the Saharan sands amid castles and desert flora. In desert communities frequented by the many tourists who visit the Sahara, 4x4s motored through the puddles and residents surveyed the scene in awe. "It's been 30 to 50 years since we've had this much rain in such a short space of time," said Houssine Youabeb of Morocco's General Directorate of Meteorology. Such rains, which meteorologists are calling an extratropical storm, may indeed change the course of the region's weather in months and years to come as the air retains more moisture, causing more evaporation and drawing more storms, Youabeb said. Six consecutive years of drought have posed challenges for much of Morocco, forcing farmers to leave fields fallow and cities and villages to ration water consumption. The bounty of rainfall will likely help refill the large groundwater aquifers that lie beneath the desert and are relied upon to supply water in desert communities. The region's dammed reservoirs reported refilling at record rates throughout September. However, it's unclear how far September's rains will go toward alleviating drought. Yet water gushing through the sands and oases left more than 20 dead in Morocco and Algeria and damaged the farmers' harvests, forcing the government to allocate emergency relief funds, including in some areas affected by last year's earthquake. NASA satellites showed water rushing in to fill Lake Iriqui, a famous lakebed between Zagora and Tata that had been dry for 50 years. —APP

## Randhawa chairs meeting on financial position, revenue generation



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, chaired an important meeting to review the financial position of the CDA. The meeting was attended by Member Finance and other CDA members, along with senior officers from other Wings and Directorates. During the meeting, the Finance Wing provided a comprehensive briefing on the fiscal status of the CDA, with a focus on revenue generation. It was briefed that CDA is consistently pursuing its financial targets set for the fiscal year. Apart from auction receipts, recurring resources of revenue are generating considerable revenue. The Member Finance also presented a comparative analysis of revenue generation among the various directorates, including the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) and Directorate of Municipal Administration (DMA). Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa emphasized the need for consistent oversight by the Finance Wing to ensure progress and directed that the Finance Wing take a leading role in tracking and managing the efforts for revenue generation on regular basis and achieving the set targets for ongoing fiscal year. The key issues were discussed during the meeting regarding Estate Management-I and II. The Chairman directed to issue notices to all public and private leaseholders across the board whose lease agreements have been expired. The Chairman directed to resolve the issue of electricity supply for Park Enclave II and III, as well as expediting decisions on the cancellation of allotments for defaulters in Park Enclave. The Chairman also instructed the Estate Wing to address the issues related to Built-Up Properties (BUP) in Park Enclave and the E-12/1 and E-12/4 Phases of Islamabad. The Planning Wing was directed to prioritize the resolution of pending commercialization cases to streamline CDA's operations and collection of revenue. The Building Control Section was instructed to enhance its field force formation. The Chairman also directed to resolve the issue of shortage of human resource affecting the operations and working of Building Control as well as Estate Management Wing. At the end, Chairman Randhawa stressed the importance to devise plans for timely recovery of outstanding revenues ensuring that development projects across the city remain unaffected. —DNA



**Briefs**

**Aleema, Uzma's remand extended**

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court in Islamabad extended the physical remand of PTI founder Imran Khan's sisters Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan by two more days. Judge Abdul Hasnat Muhammad Zulgarnain heard the terrorism case registered at the Kohsar Police Station. The police presented Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan before the court after completing their one-day physical remand, requesting an additional 10-day remand. They claimed that the sisters incited workers who attacked the police, resulting in around 30 officers being injured. The prosecutor argued that it was all part of a conspiracy and further investigation was needed, as a megaphone had been recovered from the accused. The PTI lawyers requested the discharge of Aleema and Uzma Khan, stating that the case was not about recovery but illegal detention. The women had been recovered from the police station through a court bailiff and had no weapons, with video evidence available. Later, the judge reserved the decision and, after a brief period, announced the extension of their physical remand by two more days.

**Breakthrough reported in Govt-JUI talks**

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The government has achieved breakthrough in talks with JUI's Maulana Fazlur Rehman over the proposed 26th constitutional amendment, reported a private news channel citing sources on Tuesday. Sources said that the government has reached to an agreement with the JUI Leader over establishment of a constitutional court. "The constitutional amendment will be tabled in the parliament after the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) session scheduled on October 15 and 16 in Islamabad," sources said. Proposed amendment in the constitution was thoroughly discussed in a meeting in the Presidency attended by President Asif Ali Zardari, PM Shehbaz Sharif, Nawaz Sharif and Maulana Fazlur Rehman, sources said. Sources said that the government at the end agreed over the suggestions of Fazlur Rehman on the proposed constitutional amendment. Earlier, Senator Kameran Murtaza said that the JUI has received a draft of constitutional amendment proposals from the People's Party. He confirmed meeting of President Asif Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Nawaz Sharif and Fazlur Rehman adding they have cordial relations. He said the JUI didn't yet received constitutional proposals from the PML-N.

**Fin Min sees inflation, policy rate easing further**

Chinese engineers targeted in Karachi were working with power minister Awais Leghari on IPPs projects, says Aurangzeb



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Warning against 'actions' that impede hard-earned economic growth, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, on Tuesday, hinted at a further drop in consumer price inflation and the central bank's policy rates in the coming months. "The government has strived hard to bring about economic stability," said the finance minister asserting the efforts of the ruling coalition have started paying off. Announcing that the much-resisted structural economic reforms were finally underway, the finance czar forecast the inflationary pressures to ease further and central bank's hawkish monetary outlook to continue. "Inflation has dropped to single digits," said Aurangzeb expecting it to hit new lows. Consumer Price Index- (CPI) based inflation fell to 6.9% year-on-year in September 2024, the lowest since January 2021, down from 9.6% in August, driven by the high base effect, easing commodity and energy

markets, and a stable currency, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). Last month, the SBP's Monetary Policy Committee slashed the key policy rate by 200bps to 17.5% from 19.5%, citing a steep fall in both headline and core inflation over the past two months. Expressing his condolences over the loss of Chinese engineers working in Pakistan, Aurangzeb said that no amount of money could be placed on the loss of life. "Chinese nationals targeted in Karachi were the officials of independent power producers (IPPs) engaged in talks with the

government of Pakistan to revise the agreements." Deceased engineers were collaborating with Minister for Energy (Power Division) Awais Leghari on IPPs projects, he said adding that talks were ongoing with IPPs to provide further relief to the public. At least three persons including two Chinese nationals were killed in an explosion near Jinnah International Airport on October 6, while another Chinese national and over a dozen others were injured. Highlighting their negative impacts on growth and stability, Aurangzeb said that strikes and agitation were taking a toll on the economy and bleeding the national exchequer. "Such actions cost the country around Rs190 billion per day, severely affecting economic growth" He urged those calling for strikes to consider their repercussions and instead engage in negotiations to resolve their issues. He urged those calling for strikes to consider their repercussions and instead engage in negotiations to resolve their issues. Meanwhile, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb hold a meeting with Mr. Reza Baqir, Managing Director of the Sovereign Advisory Services of the Alvarez & Marsal (A&M), a leading global professional services contracted by the Government of Pakistan to provide it expert advice and consulting support for operationalization of the Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund established pursuant to the Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund Act, 2023. During the preliminary meeting held today, Mr. Reza Baqir and his team discussed their strategy and the way forward with regard to their work in line with the assigned responsibility.

**Duo wins Physics Nobel for key breakthroughs in AI**

STOCKHOLM: American John Hopfield and British-Canadian Geoffrey Hinton won the Nobel Prize in Physics on Tuesday for pioneering work in the development of artificial intelligence. The pair were honored "for foundational discoveries and inventions that enable machine learning with artificial neural networks," the jury said. "This year's two Nobel Laureates in Physics have used tools from physics to develop methods that are the foundation of today's powerful machine learning," the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences said in a statement. Hopfield, 91, a professor at Princeton University, was spotlighted for having created "an associative memory that can store and reconstruct images and other types of patterns in data." The jury said Hinton, a 76-year-old professor at the University of Toronto, "invented a method that can autonomously find properties in data, and so perform tasks such as identifying specific elements in pictures." "I'm flabbergasted... I had no idea that could happen," Hinton told reporters via a phone interview as the winners of the award were announced in Stockholm. - Agencies

**Son of Osama bin Laden deported from France**

PARIS: A son of Al Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden was deported on Tuesday from France, where he lived for years painting landscapes in a Normandy village, and barred from returning after posting comments on social media deemed to have glorified terrorism. Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau said he had signed an order banning Omar bin Laden from France and that he had previously been deported. He gave no details about the timing of the deportation or where he had been sent. "Bin Laden, who has lived in the Orne region for several years as the spouse of a British national, posted comments on his social networks in 2023 that glorified terrorism," Retailleau said in a post on X. "The administrative ban ensures that bin Laden cannot return to France for any reason whatsoever," he added. - Agencies

**Curse on hypocrites: KP CM reiterates loyalty to Imran**

Chief minister reveals how he evaded arrest at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House and reached provincial assembly

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Following a strong backlash from friends and foes alike over his 'day-long mysterious disappearance' during the recent PTI's protest in Islamabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur voiced his loyalty to party founder Imran Khan and cursed the hypocrites. "May Allah destroy them and their families who are disloyal to PTI, the party's ideology and Imran Khan [...] Don't buy their claims, they [the government] are afraid of your unity and passion," the chief executive said while addressing the members of the provincial assembly. Referring to his criticism over his mysterious disappearance by the PTI members, he said that he wouldn't ask anyone, who according to him made false claims, to tender an apology "as they are my brothers". "I'm here for those who have reservations [...] But don't become part of the conspiracy as the hypocrites are tricking you," Gandapur said, urging the lawmakers and party workers to remain united and continue the struggle for the Constitution, independence of judiciary, and the release of incarcerated Imran Khan. The remarks came as ambiguity still surrounds the KP CM's "absence" following the Islamabad protest saga, with Defence Minister Khawaja Asif insisting that the PTI leader was a swindler. "I have been saying from day one that this man [Gandapur] was a swindler," said Asif, adding that the Khan-founded party's workers were themselves criticising the CM on social media. Meanwhile, Adviser to the KP CM Barrister Mohammad Ali Saif categorically ruled out any deal between the provincial chief executive and institutions, maintaining that he was inside the KP House and never left the compound.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan, Khazar Farhadov calls on Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani. - DNA

**'Fresh elections only way forward'**

Former information minister Muhammad Ali Durrani said that the government is not delivering and it will not stay for long

PESHAWAR: Senior politician and former Information Minister Muhammad Ali Durrani said on Tuesday that in the current situation, fresh elections are the only way forward for Pakistan. In a statement issued here, Muhammad Ali Durrani emphasised the need for fresh elections in Pakistan. "Fresh elections are the only way forward for Pakistan," he said. The former information minister said that the current situation demands national reconciliation and dialogue. "The reconciliation has become a national duty now and there should be dialogues with parliament," he added. Muhammad Ali Durrani said that he decided to keep a mum after 2012 and speak up for the people's rights and the constitution. Earlier, the former information minister said that the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit is a bigger challenge than the proposed constitutional amendments. In a conversation with a private news channel, he said that hosting the SCO Summit meeting has been a milestone for Pakistan. "Keep all your contentious affairs including amendments in the constitution on the back burner," the former minister advised all political forces. "Any type of tension before the SCO conference can not be in the interest of Pakistan," he said. - DNA

**Israel says it killed a senior Hezbollah commander as more rockets are fired**

The military said the strike killed Suhail Husseini, who it said was responsible for overseeing logistics, budget and management of the group. There was no immediate comment from Hezbollah. Sheikh Naim Kassem, the acting leader of Hezbollah, said in a defiant televised statement that his group's military capabilities are still intact

BEIRUT: The Israeli military said Tuesday it killed a senior Hezbollah commander in a strike on Beirut while the militant group's acting leader promised more fighting against Israeli troops in southern Lebanon and rocket fire into Israel. The military said the strike killed Suhail Husseini, who it said was responsible for overseeing logistics, budget and management of the group. There was no immediate comment from Hezbollah. Sheikh Naim Kassem, the acting leader of Hezbollah, said in a defiant televised statement that his group's military capabilities are still intact. He said that Hezbollah has replaced all of its senior commanders after weeks of heavy Israeli airstrikes across large parts of Lebanon, including targeted strikes that killed much of its top command in a matter of days. Palestinian militants in Gaza fired a barrage of rockets into Israel on Monday, the anniversary of Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, underscoring their resilience in the face of a devastating Israeli offensive in Gaza that has killed about 42,000 people, according to local medical officials. A year ago, Hamas-led militants blew holes in Israel's security fence and stormed into army bases and farming communities, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting another 250. They are still holding about 100 captives inside Gaza, a third of whom are believed to be dead. Israel is now at war with Hamas in Gaza and its ally Hezbollah in Lebanon, which began firing rockets at Israel on Oct. 8, 2023. On Monday, Lebanon's Health Ministry said an Israeli strike in the country's south, part of a wider bombardment, killed at least 10 firefighters. Hezbollah fired new barrages despite its recent losses. - Agencies

**Deputy Chief: Hezbollah's capabilities still intact**

BEIRUT: Hezbollah's deputy chief Naim Qasim said in a televised speech on Tuesday that the Iran-backed group's capabilities were still intact and fighters were pushing back ground incursions into Lebanon despite Israel's claims and "painful blows." Vowing to continue the "resistance", Qasim said more Israelis will be displaced from northern Israel as the militant group expands its rocket fire. "We are firing hundreds of rockets and dozens of drones. A large number of settlements and cities are under the fire of the resistance," he added in his address the day after the first year anniversary of the October 7 attacks which prompted the Israeli bombardment of Gaza and later Lebanon killing thousands and displacing millions. "Our capabilities are fine and our fighters are deployed along the frontlines." He said, "Israel said it will return its settlers to northern Israel, but we vow to displace thousands more." Qasim noted that the displacement of one million Lebanese people amid the escalating violence was a "burden and sacrifice for the resistance." "The enemy thinks that it will weaken us by targeting innocent civilians, so the only solution for us is to resist and persist," said Qasim. - Agencies

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