



Islamabad POST

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Israel's 'promised land delusions' doomed to fail

Detailed News On Page-08

We will not let country fall, says Maryam Nawaz

Detailed News On Page-08



Root goes past Younis, Lara's record

Detailed News On Page-06



Power sector overhaul

Cabinet approves ISMO to end govt sole buyer role

Furthermore, the independent operator will also allow the power consumers to purchase electricity from suppliers other than power distribution companies

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Cabinet Committee on Energy (CCoE) on Wednesday approved the establishment of an independent multi-player market for power generation and purchase to create a competitive environment and gradually end the government's role as a sole purchaser of electricity. In the meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the committee principally approved the constitution of an Independent System and Market Operator (ISMO) which will be later endorsed by the federal cabinet and registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan under the Companies Act 2017. "The ISMO is aimed at gradually decreasing the government's role as a sole buyer of electricity and turning the electricity market into a multi-player independent, transparent and competitive market," stated a statement from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Furthermore, the independent operator will also allow the power consumers to purchase electricity from suppliers other than power distribution companies. Under the ISMO, long-term planning would be made to produce low-cost electricity and its transmission besides reducing the power prices and circular debt. The ISMO Board will comprise experts from the power sector. The participants of the meeting were briefed on the circular debt of the power sector. Speaking on the occasion, PM Shehbaz said the priority measures were being taken for the power sector reforms and instructed accelerated actions to reduce power theft and losses besides taking disciplinary action against the employees of the distribution companies involved in the theft. The prime minister also directed the authorities concerned to utilise

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\$2bn MoUs expected as high-level Saudi delegation arrives

Saudi Arabia's Minister of Investment Khalid Al-Falih arrive in Islamabad on official visit

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: A high-level Saudi business and investment delegation has arrived in Pakistan amid expectations that Riyadh and Islamabad will ink bilateral agreements worth \$2 billion. The delegation led by Saudi Arabia's Minister of Investment Khalid Al-Falih arrived in Pakistan ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Islamabad later this month. Officials said that the top minister will oversee the signing of several memorandums of understanding (MOUs) and also hold business-to-business meetings. Saudi companies from various sectors including construction, engineering, financial services, IT, hospitality, agriculture, food, energy, and petroleum are part of the visiting delegation. The Saudi investment minister will address a business forum at a

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INDONESIAN ARMY DAY



ISLAMABAD: Air Marshal Shaikh Ghazanfar Deputy Chief of Air Staff Personnel, acting Charge d'Affaires Ferry J. Murdiansyah, Budi Wiman, Defence Attache and others cutting cake to celebrate the 79th Anniversary of the Indonesian Armed Forces Day. Mr Ferry in his speech highlighted the role of the Indonesian armed forces in world peace and stability. He also dilated upon various aspects of relations between Indonesia and Pakistan. - DNA

Russian PM likely to visit Pakistan

He will be accompanied by a delegation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Russian Prime Minister (PM) Mikhail Vladimirovich is expected to arrive in Islamabad on October 14, a private news channel reported, citing sources. As per sources within diplomatic sources, Russian Federation's Prime Minister Mikhail Vladimirovich Mishustin will attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Heads of State meeting. He will be accompanied by a delegation, and a large number of Russian journalists will also arrive in Pakistan with him, according to diplomatic sources.

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Pakistan dispatches aid to Lebanon

Aid package was prepared in collaboration with the NDMA, Pakistan Army, and Al-Khidmat Foundation

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The first aid shipment from Pakistan to Lebanon has been dispatched. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had ordered the provision of assistance for the victims of the war in Lebanon on humanitarian grounds. According to a spokesperson for the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), a chartered aircraft carried three tonnes of medicines and other essential items to Lebanon. The aid package was prepared in collaboration with the NDMA,

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Ethnic division cannot be tolerated

Security czar Mohsin Naqvi warns PTM ahead of Khyber jirga

The security czar said the government decided to not allow a "parallel judicial system" at any cost, adding that the ban was based on the alleged rhetoric by the PTM against state institutions and the police

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday criticised the recently proscribed Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM) for its rhetoric amid reports of violence ahead of the three-day Pashtun Quami Jirga in Khyber district. He said that the government was ready to talk on rights-related issues with anyone if done in a "proper manner". On Sunday, the federal government imposed a ban on the PTM, citing threats to national peace and security. A day ago, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government prohibited its officials and employees from engaging with the three-day Pashtun Quami Jirga, also called the Pashtun Quami Adalat, organised by the PTM and issued a public warning against any association. Khyber Deputy Commissioner retired Captain Sanaullah Khan also imposed Section 144 in the district for 30 days.

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KP CM warns of action against violence on provincial officials

During a cabinet meeting, CM Gandapur expressed outrage over recent incidents in Islamabad

DNA

PESHAWAR: Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur said that severe action would be taken if the province's government officials faced violence in the federal capital Islamabad. During a cabinet meeting, he expressed outrage over recent incidents in Islamabad, where he claimed that peaceful protesters from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) faced 'undue' aggression. He alleged that uniformed police officers and rescue workers were unlawfully detained. Gandapur stated, "If it is proven that Islamabad police

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At least 3 killed in police firing against PTM activists

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Situation turned violent and worst when police personnel Wednesday reportedly resorted to opening of fire against activists of banned Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM) assembled in connection with three days grand Pashtun Jirga at Ghundai-Reggi near Peshawar. Though neither police nor any other from civil administration said anything about firing incident but banned PTM activists alleges that three persons were killed and 15 other injured. Killed PTM activists belong to Quetta,

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Briefs

IHC moved against sealing of KP House

Sealing of KP House, confiscation of government vehicles was illegal, pleads KP government

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: A petition was filed in the Islamabad High Court against the sealing of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) House on Wednesday. The petition was submitted by the secretary admin in the court. Federal secretaries to law and interior, FIA DG, and CDA were made as respondents in the petition. Moreover, the Inspector General (IG) of Islamabad police and the CDA's Director Building Control have also been nominated as the respondents. The KP government requested that the court declare the sealing of KP House and the confiscation of government vehicles as illegal.

Elahi denies any plea bargain with NAB

Says NAB has spread false information about recovery from him

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Chaudhry Parvez Elahi, the president of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, has claimed that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has circulated false news today. In his statement, Elahi accused NAB of abducting and coercing hundreds of government employees into plea bargains, asserting that the money involved was being unjustly linked to him. He stated that all these claims were false, and denied any involvement in corruption or plea bargaining.

Two terrorists killed

FC personnel martyred as forces foil suicide attack

Security forces of Pakistan, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan, and such sacrifices of our brave men further strengthen our resolve

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: A Frontier Corps (FC) official was martyred on Wednesday, while 13 people were injured when security forces foiled a suicide attack in Zhob, officials said. According to Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), the attempt to enter the camp was effectively thwarted by the security forces, and resultantly two terrorists, including a suicide bomber and high value target terrorist Umar alias Umari, were sent to hell, before they could cause the intended damage. Terrorist Umar alias Umari was involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces as well as innocent civilians, including recent attack on convoy of Deputy Commissioner of Sherani. However, during intense exchange of fire,

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Security forces give befitting reply to Afghan aggression

Pakistan's response inflicts heavy losses on Taliban forces at the Naushki-Ghazni sector of the Pak-Afghan border

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan's security forces thwarted an aggression attempt by Afghan Taliban forces at the Naushki-Ghazni sector of the Pakistan-Afghan border. According to security sources, Afghan forces opened fire on Pakistani posts. In response, Pakistan targeted Afghan checkpoints during its counteraction. The exchange of fire occurred while Pakistani

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No deadline for constitutional amendments, says Bilawal

PPP chairman says govt has the option to seek votes based on conscience, yet efforts for consensus are ongoing

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari stated that there is no deadline for constitutional amendments from their side, although the government may face one. Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, he stressed that the issue of a timeline for passing the proposed constitutional amendments is not a concern for the PPP. "However, the government may have a deadline," he noted. Bilawal highlighted that the government has the option to seek votes based on conscience, yet efforts for consensus are ongoing. "The PPP aims to work collaboratively with all political parties," he said, expressing a desire to include various factions, including Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F), in the discussions. Regarding the status of constitutional amendments, he mentioned that the JUI-F has not yet provided a draft for the proposed changes. "Once the draft arrives, we will review it and engage in dialogue with JUI-F to determine the way forward," he stated.

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Many things are being done unconstitutionally: CJP Qazi Faez Isa

SC adjourned the hearing till Oct 11 (Friday)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa on Wednesday remarked that most of the things in Pakistan were done illegally and unconstitutionally. He made these remarks during the hearing of Diamir Bhasha and Mohmand Dam Fund case. Additional attorney general informed the court that the apex court couldn't keep the dam fund amount, adding that the SC registrar was responsible for

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Twin cities report over 3,700 dengue cases

DNA

ISLAMABAD :Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon has chaired a high-level meeting and reviewed the ongoing dengue outbreak in the Federal Capital and Rawalpindi, urging officials to step up efforts in controlling the spread of the virus. In the meeting, they reviewed the dengue prevention efforts, and thoroughly examined the rising number of dengue cases in the twin cities. The meeting aimed to assess the current situation and the measures being taken to control the virus. The officials informed that so far, Islamabad has recorded 1,676 dengue cases, while the total number in Rawalpindi has reached 2,113. The authorities are monitoring hospital capacities to ensure that infected individuals receive timely medical attention. In this regard, the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) has allocated 104 beds specifically for dengue patients. While, Polyclinic Hospital has set aside 50 beds, and Capital Hospital has dedicated 30 beds for the treatment of dengue.

The data from the meeting revealed that men are disproportionately affected by the virus, making up 67% of the cases, while women account for 33%. In the last 24 hours alone, 67 new cases have been reported in Islamabad, highlighting the urgency of the situation. The health department has also been actively conducting inspections and monitoring dengue prevention efforts. Over the past week, authorities identified 1,821 positive dengue larvae in various parts of the city. From September 30 to October 3, a total of 214 inspections were carried out to ensure compliance with anti-dengue Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). During these inspections, 60 people were arrested for violating SOPs, and 23 cases were registered. Authorities are treating violations seriously, as these contribute to the spread of the virus. The DC of Islamabad has called for a more aggressive approach to tackling the outbreak. He instructed all relevant teams to speed up their operations to curb the increasing number of dengue cases. Meanwhile, The Punjab Health Department confirmed 143 new dengue cases on Wednesday,

with Rawalpindi experiencing the highest surge, reporting 131 cases. Lahore reported two cases, while Attock registered four and Gujranwala three cases. Single cases were identified in Faisalabad, Sialkot, and Sahiwal. In the past week, 902 new dengue cases were reported, raising the total number in Punjab for 2024 to 2,867. A spokesperson for the Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department reassured the public that the necessary precautions and measures are in place to manage the outbreak. Government hospitals across the province are fully stocked with the required medicines and treatments for dengue cases. The Health Department has issued an advisory urging citizens to maintain clean and dry surroundings to reduce mosquito breeding and minimize the spread of the virus. Public cooperation is vital as health teams intensify efforts to control the situation across the province. For more information, treatment, or complaints, citizens can contact the free helpline at 1033. Health officials stress the importance of vigilance and preventive measures to curb the spread of dengue in Punjab.

Police nab Chakri murder case proclaimed offender

ISLAMABAD :The Chakri Police on Wednesday arrested a proclaimed offender Arslan involved in the murder case. According to a police spokesman, the accused Arslan along with his accomplices had shot dead Mohammad Bashir due to an old enemy in September 2022. His two accomplices were already in the custody while the police were making efforts to arrest the rest ones, he added. Superintendent of Police Saddar Muhammad Nabil Khokhar, while appreciating the Chakri Police, said the police would present concrete evidence against the accused in the court to get him punished for the heinous crime. —APP

ADB delegation visits BISP one window center

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Executive and Alternate Executive Directors from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) visited the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) One Window Center in G-7, Islamabad, to review its operations. Led by Mr. Donald Bobiash, the delegation included Mr. Shigeo Shimizu, Mr. Supak Chaiyawan, Mr. Noor Ahmed, Mr. Shantanu Mitra, and Mr. Llewellyn Roberts. During the visit, Mr. Naveed Akbar, Director General NSER/CCT at BISP, briefed the team on BISP's core programs, including Benazir Kafalat, Taleemi Wazaif, Nashonuma, Undergraduate Scholarship, the NSER database, Mobile Registration Vehicles, and the payment mechanisms. —APP

Call for providing cellular services smoothly in rural areas

SARGODHA :The local residents on Wednesday urged the government for taking steps to provide mobile phone services smoothly as the cellular companies were not providing their services properly in rural areas which lie under the vicinity of Tehsil Sahiwal. Haji Ghulam Ali told APP that the Cellular Companies like Mobilink, Zong and Telenor were operating in Mozas like Thatha Hakiman, Pindiwala, Chitror and Azmatwala which contain population of hundreds of thousands people. He informed the operators were not provided their services smoothly in these areas, adding the consumers were facing much difficulties in receiving internet and calls services. Through smooth internet services, the people could pay their taxes easily to revenue department, taxes of agricultural machinery and other vehicles to Excise and Taxation Department and Utility bills, he observed. —APP

Chairman CDA, FCDO discuss various key areas for support

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD :Chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, chaired an important meeting where a team from the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the senior officers of CDA participated in it. In the meeting, FCDO presented their findings from the CDA Scoping Mission Report which outlined potential areas where the FCDO could provide their technical support and cooperation to improve overall CDA's working and operations. The discussion focused on key areas analyzed for potential support: the property tax regime, own-source revenue, solid waste management, climate governance, and asset management with public-private partnerships (PPP). Chair-

man CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa stated that the goal of these initiatives is to enhance the overall efficiency of the CDA's operations. During the meeting, the FCDO team recommended strengthening CDA's revenue generation capacity by conducting an Own-Source Revenue (OSR) Diagnostic Study and introducing a SAP system to streamline financial management. This would enable CDA to better mobilize its own resources for urban development projects. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa directed the Finance Wing to implement the SAP as soon as possible. The importance of climate governance was also highlighted. The FCDO proposed establishing a Climate Finance Unit within the CDA to spearhead climate-focused projects. Additionally, the

FCDO would assist in preparing a PCI project proposals, which could attract international funding from entities such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), and Adaptation Fund (AF). Another key area of discussion was asset management. The FCDO team recommended developing a comprehensive Asset Management Plan for non-financial public assets to optimize their usage and ensure long-term sustainability. Chairman Randhawa expressed his appreciation for the FCDO's insights and emphasized the significance of these initiatives in improving the working of CDA and stressed the need to take the practical steps in implementing these initiatives. He reaffirmed the CDA's commitment to working closely with the FCDO for a modern, vibrant and better Islamabad.



RAWALPINDI. Principal Ms Victoria presenting bouquet to welcome MNA Mr. Isphanyar Handara during his visit to Station School Rawalpindi.—DNA

Maryam Ki Dastak' App surpasses 150,000 downloads

LAHORE: The 'Maryam Ki Dastak' initiative, launched by Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Maryam Nawaz and executed by the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), has transformed public service delivery across the province, while also creating jobs for individuals interested in becoming a Dastak facilitator. More than 150,000 citizens have downloaded the 'Dastak Doorstep Services' app, utilising it to obtain critical documents directly at their doorsteps. Services can be requested online or through the 1202 helpline. Trained 'Dastak Facilitators' deliver the services at citizens' doorsteps and also earn livelihood through a commission-based model. Since its launch on June 4, 2024, the programme has rapidly expanded from offering 10 essential public services in the Lahore district to over 60 services across 11 districts within just three months. The app offers services related to Driving Licences, Police Department, Excise and Taxation Department, Local Government, Board of Revenue, Lahore Development Authority (LDA), Social Welfare Department, and Livestock & Dairy Development Department, among others. In this regard, PITB Chairman Faisal Yousaf stated, 'Maryam Ki Dastak' initiative is setting new benchmarks for public service delivery in Punjab.—APP

Kundi urges youth to play role in addressing challenges

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday said that the province is facing multiple challenges, urging the youth to adopt a positive mindset and actively participate in addressing these issues. He said this during a meeting with a delegation from the Young Leaders Parliament (YLP), led by President Naveed Ahmad Khan, visited the Governor House Peshawar. During the meeting, the YLP delegation briefed the Governor on initiatives aimed at engaging the province's youth in positive activities through the platform of the Young Leaders Parliament. They also requested the Governor's support and participation as a guest of honor for the upcoming three days entrepreneurship event in Peshawar. The young members of

the YLP engaged in a Q&A session with the Governor, discussing various issues affecting the province, particularly regarding the welfare of the youth. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi welcomed the delegation, expressing his focus on advancing the interests of youth and women across all sectors. He acknowledged the talent among the province's youth but said that they often lack adequate opportunities for progress. He announced that 100 percent scholarships have been allocated for tribal youth at Edward College and that free IT courses will be initiated to help young people pursue online businesses and job opportunities from home. Kundi also highlighted that the provincial government has not effectively utilized its powers following

the 18th Amendment. He encouraged young people to share their proposals via email at any time, emphasizing the importance of their input for improving the education sector. Meanwhile, another delegation from the Pakistan Association of the Blind (PAB), led by President Qari Said Noor, called on Governor Faisal Karim Kundi to discuss critical issues regarding the education and essential facilities for visually impaired students. During the meeting, the delegation highlighted the challenges faced by visually impaired individuals, particularly the obstacles to accessing higher education. They urged the Governor to develop a comprehensive policy that would allow these students to pursue their education without hindrance.—APP

NAB presents Rs 36.8m recovery amount cheque to Punjab

LAHORE :National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Lahore reported a significant recovery in a corruption scandal involving former Punjab chief minister Ch Pervaiz Elahi and others linked to kickbacks in construction contracts. NAB Deputy Chairman Sohail Nasir presented a cheque worth Rs 36.8 million to the Punjab government, which was received by Additional Secretary Finance Abdus Samad in the presence of NAB Lahore Director General Amjad Majeed Aulakh, said a spokesperson here Wednesday. The recovery was a part of an ongoing investigation into corruption in public contracts. Additionally, the NAB Lahore

successfully retrieved Rs 17.2 million from former chief financial officer Ikram Naveed through a plea bargain. The NAB deputy chairman emphasized that recovering national wealth was the bureau's top priority, ensuring that all actions were taken in the public interest. Under the leadership of DG Amjad Majeed Aulakh, the NAB Lahore had achieved remarkable success, recovering billions of rupees in 2024 alone. He affirmed that all NAB initiatives were designed to benefit both the public and the national treasury. To further enhance its outreach, an accountability facilitation cell (AFC) had been established for par-

liamentarians and the business community, aligning with the chairman's vision for accountability, he informed. The scope of the AFC had also been extended to include bureaucracy after the National Assembly and provincial legislatures, he mentioned. According to the chairman's vision, the NAB was promoting transparency and accountability within the bureaucracy, business community and lawmakers, he said. Sohail Nasir said the NAB Lahore continues to hold monthly open hearings as part of its commitment to public service, which had significantly bolstered public trust in the institution.—APP



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari administering the oath of office to the Chairman of the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC), Lt General (Retd) Akhtar Nawaz Satti, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Doli Roti: A unique culinary experience thrives in Multan

Though Doli Roti is deeply rooted in the traditions of Multan. Its rising popularity among locals and tourists alike shows how culinary traditions continue to thrive, blending the old with the new here

MULTAN :Doli Roti is a quite traditional food practice thrives in bustling city of Multan, known for its rich culture and historical landmarks. It's a thick, fluffy bread made with whole wheat mixed with sizeable quantity of yeast is served with a variety of local dishes, offering a taste of the region's centuries-old culinary heritage. The name "Doli Roti" comes from the custom of preparing this special bread for wedding feasts. Traditionally, it is sent in large, ornate baskets known as "dolis" to the

bride's home, signifying the community's celebration of love and union. While this practice was once confined to family weddings, it has now evolved into a popular cultural symbol and is served at numerous events and social gatherings across the city. It's gained a commercial fame especially in parts of the old city including Dehli Gate, Pak Gate, Sutri Watt and Suri Miani where vendors sell this bread paired with chickpea curry attract food lovers from all over the region. Dr. Tariq Mahmood, a histo-






rian commenting on the fluffy dish said Doli Roti is a reflection of how food is intertwined with the culture and history of Multan. Its origins dates back to the days when families would send large meals to one another as a sign of unity and hospitality, he added. Dua Zahra, a food critic, sharing her thoughts about Doli Roti, said it's more than just food, it's a symbol of celebration, togetherness, and tradition in Multan. According to her, the food reflects the value placed on community and hospitality in this re-

gion. Sidra Itikhar, resident of Multan currently is serving as Dietician in hospital of Karachi added: "It reminds me of my childhood, especially during functions in my native town, when Doli Roti was a highlight at every gathering. I'm happy to see that this tradition is still alive, even as modern food trends take over." Though Doli Roti is deeply rooted in the traditions of Multan. Its rising popularity among locals and tourists alike shows how culinary traditions continue to thrive, blending the old with the new here.—APP

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

OCTOBER

- Oct 01/China National Day
- Oct 01/Cyprus National Day
- Oct 01/Republic of Korea Armed Forces Day
- Oct 01/Nigeria Armed Forces Day
- Oct 02/Guinea National Day
- Oct 03/Germany Unification Day
- Oct 03/Republic of Korea National Foundation Day
- Oct 05/Indonesia Armed Forces Day
- Oct 06/Egypt Armed Forces Day
- Oct 09/Uganda Independence Day
- Oct 12/Spain National Day
- Oct 23/Hungary National Day
- October 24/United Nations United Nations Day
- Oct 25/Romania Armed Forces Day
- Oct 26/Austria National Day
- Oct 27/Turkmenistan Independence Day
- Oct 28/Czech Republic National Day
- Oct 29/Turkey Republic Day

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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



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Edhi Ambulance.....115
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PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Pakistan ideal place for spiritual tourism: Mushahid

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Speaking at 'Tourism for Peace Islamabad: Speaking at 'Tourism for Peace Dialogue' organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), and Walnut Travel and Tour Consultancy (WTTTC), Senator Mushahid Hussain highlighted the potential of 'spiritual tourism' to transform Pakistan's tourism landscape and stressed increased public-private partnerships, while noting that the government cannot manage tourism alone. He praised 'Kartarpur Corridor' as an excellent soft power and spiritual transformation hub that needs to be effectively projected globally. He also underlined the need for translating existing goodwill and linkages such as strong ties between Pakistan and China, the enrolment of Afghan and African students in Pakistani universities, and Pakistan's cordial relations with Muslim countries into



a greater promotion of tourism. He commended IRS for expanding its strategic focus to include promotion of tourism that could help build interfaith harmony and peace in the region. Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President of IRS, highlighted

the significant global impact of tourism, contributing 10% to the world GDP. Not only leading developed countries such as the US and France generated hundreds of billions from tourism, but also emerging economies like Turkey, UAE and Thailand were earning

more from tourism than Pakistan's total exports. Recalling that Pakistan was a major tourist destination for western tourists in the 1960s and early 1970s, he underscored the need to rebuild 'Brand Pakistan' since tourism, trade and investment mostly flowed to

countries with a befitting soft image. He also felt that unlike many countries in the region such as India, Sri Lanka and Maldives, Pakistan did not fittingly show case its tourism prowess internationally. Ms. Sadaf Khalid Khan, CEO of WTTTC, called for public-private collaboration to build international standards tourism infrastructure in Pakistan, while noting that Pakistan was recognized as the safest tourist destination worldwide in the 2023 UNWTO report. Vice Admiral Ahmed Saeed, President of the National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA), shared that 80 percent of global tourism was maritime and brought out Pakistan's untapped maritime tourism potential. NIMA had identified key areas and made policy recommendations to the governments of Sindh and Balochistan, which were currently under review, he said and hoped that implementing these recommendations will significantly boost maritime tourism.

World Space Week to conclude today

ISLAMABAD: The World Space Week 2024 celebrations will conclude on Thursday after commemorating the occasion through a number of space related activities organized by various departments, highlighting this year's theme "Space and Climate Change". The World Space Week activities were mainly arranged by Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), Institute of Space Technology and various educational institutions and organizations from October 04-10. The inauguration ceremony of World Space Week 2024 was held on October 04 at the National Centre for Remote Sensing and Geo-Informatics (NCRG), SUPARCO Complex, Karachi with Vice Chancellor of Fatimiyah International University, Dr. Jamil Kazmi as a

chief guest. As the national coordinator of World Space Week since 2005, SUPARCO took lead in organizing a series of activities and contests to raise awareness and promote interest in space science across Pakistan. SUPARCO's Space Education and Awareness Drive (SEAD) engaged schools, colleges, universities, astronomy and science societies, and the general public through various contests and activities including the 'Best Space School Contest', 'Space Ambassador Contest', 'University Contest', and 'Contests for the Public'. A series of webinars were conducted, focusing on the role of space technology in monitoring climate change, managing resource sustainability, and developing climate adaptation strategies. Space Vans visited schools in Islamabad, Karachi, and La-

hore to deliver lectures and academic visits will also be arranged. Additionally, live astronomical observations were broadcasted on SEAD's Facebook page. The Spaceacademy Society also arranged an exciting series of interactive space science activities for students from different schools. Spaceacademy Society arranged various activities under the theme "Explore the Universe - A Journey to the Cosmos" in coordination with the Space Education and Awareness Drive of SUPARCO. Maintaining its past trend of celebrating World Space Week, IST has also marked this important occasion through a number of activities continuing from October 08-10. Designed for students from Grades 6 to 12, the event has featured 10 categories and 70 educational modules, offering a range of activities

including space recitations, trivia, creative writing, technology demonstrations, models and collectibles, art and design, performing arts, life and sustainability, and space for climate change. IST and NCGSA continue to empower the next generation of scientists, innovators, and climate leaders by providing an exciting platform for students to explore the intersection of space technology and climate action. For the past 19 years, the Institute of Space Technology (IST) has proudly led the celebration of World Space Week (WSW), a global event endorsed by the United Nations to honor the remarkable achievements in space science and technology and their profound contributions to humanity. Since 2005, IST has served as a dynamic platform for students to engage in immersive STEM.—APP

World Post Day celebrates to mark 150 years historic milestone

ISLAMABAD: The World Post Day was celebrated on October 9 every year to commemorate the establishment of Universal Postal Union (UPU) on this day to mark a historic milestone-150 year of global postal cooperation and innovation. The theme of the World Post Day this year is "150 years of enabling communication and empowering people across the nations" underscores the pivotal role UPU has played as a leading forum for postal collaboration unifying the world into a single postal territory, said a press release issued the office of Director General Pakistan Post here on Wednesday. To celebrate the World Post Day, a UPU flag hoisting ceremony was held at the ECO Postal Staff College Islamabad. The message of the Director General UPU was read out in the ceremony. The Director General Pakistan Post highlighted the achievements of Pakistan Post. Souvenir sheets to commemorate 150th anniversary of the UPU were unveiled, followed by the prize distribution ceremony for the winner of the 53rd International Letter Writing Competition 2024 held. Similar celebratory events took place at the offices of Postmasters General, Unit Offices, and General Post Offices (GPOs) nationwide, reaffirming the commitment of Pakistan Post to serving the nation.—APP

IBCC, BISE Peshawar sign MoU for documents attestation

ISLAMABAD: In a significant development aimed at simplifying the attestation process for students, the Inter Boards Coordination Commission (IBCC) has been striving to connect its attestation portal with the database of BISEs of the country for direct verification of records. According to a press release of IBCC on Wednesday, Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE), Baluchistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BBISE) and many of the education boards of Punjab have already been connected. Another milestone achieved as the IBCC and Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Peshawar have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for data sharing. The agreement will enable IBCC to access BISE Peshawar's data through read-only access via APIs, streamlining the verification process for attestation purposes. The MoU was signed by Dr. Ghulam Ali Mallah, Executive Director, IBCC, and Prof. Nasrullah Khan Yousufzai, Chairman BISE Peshawar. The Controller BISE Peshawar, Directors of IBCC, and IT teams of both organizations were also present at the occasion. This initiative will eliminate the need to physically visit BISE Peshawar to get verification in a sealed envelope, which was previously required for document attestation by IBCC. This will also pave the way for other boards of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to connect with IBCC and benefit students across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK). "This initiative will save students both time and money by providing online verification services. Now, students can get their documents verified online and apply for attestation without any hassle," said Dr. Ghulam Ali Mallah. He highlighted that the online system will significantly reduce the commute costs for students, making the process more efficient. Prof. Nasrullah Khan, emphasized that BISE Peshawar will act as the focal point in guiding other BISEs of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in technical developments for establishing connectivity with IBCC's attestation portal benefiting all students in KPK. "Students from across the province will be able to obtain online verification of their educational documents, streamlining the process for all BISEs in KPK." Prof. Nasrullah Khan and his team also gave an elaborate presentation regarding the development of the Feedback Mechanism designed and developed by the IT team of BISE Peshawar. The tool will help the authorities make informed decisions based on its report and also indicate areas where improvement is required. Dr Mallah expressed that he intends to share the progress of BISE Peshawar with other members of the IBCC forum encouraging them to implement such developments and systems in their boards. This initiative marks a positive step toward modernizing education-related services, making it easier for students to focus on their academic and career goals.—DNA

Govt allocates Rs 7.5b to bring OOSC back: Ahsan



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday said that federal government is allocating Rs 7.5 billion to enrol back 26.2 million out of school children across the country. Addressing an International Conference: "Education System Strengthening Challenges and Opportunities - A 20-Year Retrospective" held here at COMSTECH, the minister announced that for this project the federal government would allocate Rs 25 million, while 25 millions would be given by the provinces

and 25 millions by the partners. The one-day conference was organized by Manhattan Strategy Group (MSG), a prominent US-Pakistani social and human development organization, with an aim to bring together local and global perspectives to address the critical challenges facing Pakistan's education system. Speaking at inaugural session of the conference, Ahsan Iqbal said that education is not a sector but a foundation of development and prosperity. It was revealed in the census that literacy rate in Pakistan is 60 percent but for progress and devel-

opment, we need 90 percent literacy rate in the country. He lamented that with such a huge numbers of out of school children, Pakistan can not progress. He termed education as mandatory tool to run the infrastructure of a country. The minister said that federal government is also establishing South Asia's top teachers training center in Pakistan to fulfill the need of best teaching practices. "We have to revise our curriculum as per international standards and in order to teach modern curriculum, we are working on teachers training on war-footing steps". The minister also underlined the importance of latest exams system, adding, current exam system would be reformed as per international level. Under another program, he said that campus of a university would be established in each district to facilitate the poor and needy students especially the girls at their door step. He urged that our UETs should be a brand in the world like Indian IETs, adding, this government is on path of reformation under leadership of Shahbaz Sharif. He hoped that our future generations would see a developed and prosperous Pakistan. Pakistan would be among top 15 economic countries through stability.—DNA

Ombudsman directs for online e-Protector Stamp Facility

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Wafaqi Mohtasib, Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi on Wednesday intervened to resolve the long-standing issue of affixing of e-protector stamp on the passports of Pakistanis intending to proceed abroad for employment or higher education.

As a result, the Bureau of Immigration has now started online e-protector facility also, which is available at the airports too.

It may be informed that it is obligatory for all those traveling to middle eastern or other countries for employment to get the protector stamps affixed on their passports otherwise they have not been granted permission to travel abroad and many had to return from the airports due to its non-availability. This resulted in not only the loss of foreign employment but also the money spent on buying the tickets.—APP

FDE, Allah Wala Trust to combat anemia

ISLAMABAD: In a significant move to prioritize student health, Federal Directorate of Education has joined forces with Allah Wala Trust to eradicate anemia among students in government schools of Islamabad. According to the Education Ministry, this partnership will focus on health screenings & supplementation, nutrition education & meal programs, hygiene promotion & awareness campaigns, community engagement and capacity building. "We are committed to creating a healthy learning environment for our students and ensuring they reach their full potential" the ministry said.—APP

15 Outlaws held, weapons recovered

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police apprehended 15 criminals involved in different criminal activities, including drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons, and recovered drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession. According to a police spokesman on Wednesday, under the special directions of Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the ICT Police had intensified its crackdown on criminal elements to eliminate crime from the city. In this regard, the ICT Police Kohsar, Tarnol, Koral, Bani Gala, and Shahzad Town police station teams took legal action against accused involved in drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons and arrested ten accused, he said. He said police teams also recovered 130 grams of heroin and four pistols, two SMGs, one 223-bore rifle, one 12-bore gun with ammunition, two daggers, and stolen valuables from their possession. Moreover, five absconders were also arrested during the last 24 hours. Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Syed Ali Raza said, "The ICT Police is actively working to ensure the safety of citizens' lives and property in the federal capital, emphasizing that no elements will be allowed to disrupt citizens' peace." "Protecting the lives, property, and dignity of citizens is the Islamabad Police's top priority," DIG added. Citizens are urged to report any suspicious activities to the relevant police station, emergency helpline 'Pukar-15', or the 'ICT 15' app to help make the city crime-free through cooperation between the police and the public.—DNA



Briefs

Efforts afoot to eliminate potential dengue larvae

RAWALPINDI: Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi is making all-out efforts to eliminate potential dengue larvae breeding sites, particularly in city parks and green belts, said Director General (DG), PHA Rawalpindi, Ahmed Hassan Ranjha. The DG during a visit to different parks inspected anti-dengue arrangements made by the authority. Ahmed Hassan Ranjha said that PHA was trying to provide all possible help and support to the administration and the health authorities to control dengue. He said that PHA staff was directed to take all possible steps in this regard and keep a check on water tanks and stagnant water in the parks as well as in the green belts of the city. The DG further informed that dengue control teams have also appreciated arrangements on part of PHA in view of dengue control. He said that PHA used to keep a check on the water storage mechanism in the parks and also monitor green belts to eliminate potential breeding grounds for dengue larvae.

Ahmed Hassan Ranjha during a visit to Commercial Market Rawalpindi also inspected the green area. He warned that negligence on the part of the officials concerned would not be tolerated. —APP

FIA arrests two passengers for traveling on fake documents

ISLAMABAD: In a significant crackdown on illegal immigration, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) arrested two passengers at Sialkot Airport who were attempting to travel using fake documents. According to initial investigations, the two accused, Asad Khalid and Zain-ul-Abidin, were apprehended in separate operations for attempting to travel on counterfeit visas. The first suspect, Asad Khalid, arrived at Sialkot Airport on flight G9552 from Egypt, says the press release. His passport had been confiscated by Egyptian authorities when they discovered a fake visa. Khalid had been residing in Saudi Arabia for the past 14 years. He obtained a fraudulent visa for Greece from an agent named Imran, based in Mandi Bahauddin, for 10,000 Saudi Riyals. Khalid attempted to travel to Greece via Al-Qassim Airport on the fake visa, but Egyptian authorities detained him for 15 days after confirming the forgery, before deporting him back to Pakistan. In a separate operation, Zain-ul-Abidin was arrested after arriving at Sialkot Airport on flight FZ 337 from Dubai. Zain-ul-Abidin was found to be using a fake visa for Albania, which he had obtained for 3 million rupees from an agent named Malik Sikandar in Gujranwala. —APP

Envoy lauds ICCI's role in country's economic uplift

He said that, by exploring opportunities in trade, tourism, and education, Pakistan and Maldives can strengthen their relationship and promote economic growth. He also underlined the need for the constitution of a Joint Ministerial Commission to foster multifaceted ties between the two countries

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Vice Admiral (R) Faisal Lodhi, Pakistan's Ambassador-Designate to Maldives, has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation with Maldives across all sectors. During his visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and discussions with its President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, he acknowledged the massive need for showcasing Pakistan's trade and tourism potential to captivate Maldives' business community. Lodhi considered direct flights between the two nations crucial for boosting two-way imports and exports, as well as enhancing people-to-people and business-to-business connectivity. He added that, by exploring opportunities in trade, tourism, and education, Pakistan and Maldives can strengthen their relationship and promote economic growth. He also underlined the need for the constitution of a Joint Ministerial Commission to foster multifaceted ties between the two countries. The Ambassador designate admitted the vital role the business community of Pakistan in the growth and development of multi-



dimensional relations between the countries by saying that ICCI can play an important role to enhance the volumes of bilateral

trade in construction materials, pharmaceuticals, textiles and food items, among others. Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President,

Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, highlighted that Pakistan, being the world's 5th most populous country with over 220 million people, offers unparalleled opportunities for service provision across multiple industries. He said that collaboration between the government and private sector can help address challenges, improve infrastructure, and increase competitiveness in the global market and that leather goods, sports items, cutlery, surgical instruments, and cottage industry pieces hold immense potential for growth and can greatly contribute to country's economy. President Qureshi went on to say that ICCI is ready to host trade delegations from Maldives to Pakistan in order to facilitate the Maldivian importers to have firsthand knowledge of Pakistani products from varied industries and sectors and to enhance B2B linkages. He expressed the hope that bilateral trade between the two brotherly countries will scale up and will reach new heights through capitalizing on unconventional sectors and exploration of new avenues. The meeting was also attended by ICCI members Naeem Siddiqui, Khalid Chaudhry and Secretary General Ghulam Murtaza.

World urged to settle Kashmir, Palestine disputes

ISLAMABAD: Shabbir Ahmed Shah, senior APHC leader and Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party, has condemned Israeli aggression in Gaza and expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people from his jail cell in New Delhi's Tihar Jail. Shah in a message from jail expressed regretted, "The world is silently witnessing the violence and destruction inflicted upon Palestinians and Kashmiris at the hands of oppressors." "Kashmir and Palestine share a similar struggle, having suffered greatly at the hands of Indian and Israeli colonizers. The military aggression and deprivation of basic rights in these disputed areas necessitate resolution for global peace and prosperity," he emphasized. Shah criticized the Indian BJP government's policies, particularly since August 2019, as attempts to erase Kashmiris' fundamental identity. "Indian government has altered demography and established new colonies in Srinagar, Pulwama, Islamabad, and Kulgam, posing a threat to the oppressed people of Jammu and Kashmir," he noted. Shah urged the international community to acknowledge the plight of Kashmiris and Palestinians and take decisive action to resolve these disputes before the escalating conflict worsened. He stressed the need for the world to break its silence on Kashmir, where India's apartheid regime had replicated Israel's model, silencing the people. The Gaza-Israel conflict has resulted in significant loss of life and infrastructure damage, with over 37,000 Gazans reportedly killed in the ongoing 2023-2024 war. This conflict is part of the broader Israeli-Palestinian dispute that began in 1948. —DNA

Moot on "Strengthening Pakistan's education system concludes

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The International Conference titled "Education System Strengthening Challenges and Opportunities - A 20-Year Retrospective" held at COMSTECH concluded on Wednesday. The conference was organized by Manhattan Strategy Group (MSG), a prominent US-Pakistani social and human development organization. This conference aimed to bring together local and global perspectives to address the critical challenges facing Pakistan's education system. Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives inaugurated the conference. He stated that the diaspora of any country is key to its success and development. "It is inspiring to see the Pakistani diaspora, Manhattan Strategy Group (MSG), organized such a valuable event focused on education," he added. He said that we are in the era of artificial intelligence and technology. For a good education system, it is important to train teach-

ers to meet upcoming challenges and promote digital education skills among school teachers. To address this issue, the Government of Pakistan is establishing an institution that will train teachers throughout the country. Additionally, we should always set goals and maintain a vision for the future. During the conference, experts discussed the alarming statistics revealing that over 26.2 million children in Pakistan are out of school, with 53% being girls. More than 60% of children aged three to five do not have access to pre-primary education. Key-note speakers, including Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, Secretary of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, and Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman Higher Education Commission, highlighted the importance of collaboration across sectors to overcome educational challenges. The conference featured two-panel discussions moderated by leading experts, focusing on "Foundational Learning and Systems Strengthening - Challenges and Opportunities" and "Youth Workforce for Green Skills, Science, Technology, and Innovation."

Tailored IPP audits, SEZ uplift vital for efficient power sector management

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Targeted solutions for power generation issues, based on case-by-case evaluations and audits of independent power producers (IPPs), along with strategic efforts to optimize the use of the country's installed generation capacity and stimulate electricity demand through special economic zones (SEZs), can lead to more equitable and efficient outcomes for both producers and consumers. To achieve targeted solutions, a more transparent and tailored approach is essential. A case-by-case evaluation of IPPs is crucial, as each operates under distinct financial and operational conditions. Similarly, conducting phase-wise, priority-based audits of individual IPPs would more effectively address contractual and operational challenges by focusing on their specific issues. Moreover, efforts should prioritize increasing electricity demand, particularly by accelerating the development of SEZs, which offer a strategic opportunity

to boost power consumption Asad Mahmood, a renewable



and improve sectoral efficiency. This was discussed during a consultative meeting on "Unpacking the Issues in IPP Contracts: Insight from Experience and Emerging Scenarios," held at the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad. The insights were shared by Naveed Siddique, a consulting Engineer with diversified experience in various subsector of power sector of Pakistan, including Ministry, regulatory authority, vertically integrated utility, and IPPs, Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Mirza Hamid Hassan, former federal secretary, water and power, and

energy expert. Muhammad Wali Farooqi, IPS research officer, presented a comprehensive study on mapping Pakistan's IPPs, supported by detailed infographics. The study provided a thorough overview of the country's power generation landscape, highlighting the distribution and operational metrics of IPPs to better understand the challenges within the sector. Addressing inefficiencies in the transmission and distribution (T&D) infrastructure and industrial growth, the discussants emphasized the need for the government to focus on identifying

and tagging transmission constraints across different timeframes - daily, monthly, and seasonal - to optimize dispatch operations. The current forced lower and higher dispatches, driven by these limitations, result in inefficiencies and inflated costs through capacity payments and higher tariffs. In line with these concerns, the participants recommended that the government commission an independent technical and cost evaluation of the T&D system through NESPAK, supported by international expertise. This evaluation should identify any undue payments to IPPs and recommend a new framework for agreements with retired but operational plants, focusing on ancillary services under a "take-and-pay" model. Moreover, the evaluation will offer a roadmap for improving the power sector's efficiency and guiding future privatization and deregulation efforts. The experts voiced concerns over the government's focus on increasing installed capacity, despite having sufficient capacity to meet demand.

ANF recovers 44 kg drugs in five operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations across the country managed to recover 44 kg drugs worth Rs 9.4 million and arrested four accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday. He informed that in an operation, 1500 intoxicated tablets were recovered from the possession of an accused arrested near Hayatabad Toll Plaza on Ring Road Peshawar. In another raid, 500 grams hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused netted from Murree Road in Abbottabad. Seven kg hashish was recovered from an accused nabbed near a university in Tando Jam, Hyderabad. The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to the students of educational institutions. The spokesman further informed that 12 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted near Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad and an accused was arrested during the operation. 24 kg hashish was recovered from an abandoned motorcycle near Afghan camp in Orakzai. —APP

Police held two rape accused

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) in a significant action by the police teams of Sumbal Police Station and Special Sexual Investigation and Operations Unit (SSIOU), two accused of raping a woman were arrested on Wednesday. According to a police statement, the victim, M, and a resident of G-12, Islamabad, filed a written complaint at the Parthana Sumbal police station. She reported that Tahir Abbas had deceived her into believing that he could solve her personal problems through taweez (amulets) and spiritual guidance. Using this pretense, Tahir Abbas, along with his accomplice, Taswar Abbas, took her to a room and allegedly raped her. The female victim further stated that Tahir Abbas took advantage of her fears and convinced her to follow his instructions, which caused her significant mental distress. She added that several other women had also fallen victim to the accused's deceit in the name of black magic. The police spokesperson said that based on the victim's complaint and the gravity of the situation, a case was registered under section 376 of the Pakistan Penal Code. Sumbal police station team and the SSIOU team have arrested the accused by using scientific methods and human intelligence. DIG Syed Ali Raza said that the accused will be presented before the court with concrete evidence, ensuring they face the full weight of the law. DIG Syed Ali Raza emphasized that "women and children are a red line, and any individual involved in rape or violence will not escape the grip of the law." Moreover, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police on Tuesday launched a city-wide crackdown against vehicles with tinted glasses and black paper, following the directives of Inspector General (IG) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi. According to a police statement, special squads have been formed to take action against violators across the city. Islamabad Police aim to enforce a zero-tolerance policy as it is a moral responsibility to spread awareness regarding road safety while enforcing laws, he added. He said the crackdown is part of ongoing efforts to curb the use of unauthorized tinted glasses and black paper in the capital. He said that the operation reflects the police's commitment to enforcing a zero-tolerance policy regarding road safety laws. —APP

OPF set up PGFRC to assist returned overseas Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development has set up a Pakistani-German Facilitation & Reintegration Centre (PGFRC) in Lahore with an advisory desk at Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) here at the head office. An official source told APP that the objective was to facilitate the return of overseas Pakistanis in terms of their skill development in Pakistan's social and economic fabric for gainful employment. It is being implemented in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and Overseas Pakistanis Foundation, Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development on technical assistance to the facilitation & reintegration centre for Pakistani workers has been signed. This initiative is helping to create more job opportunities/employability for Pakistani workers, which will improve economic development in the long run. The centre provides various services including advice on training and skills development. Technical and vocational training, advice on job market trends and opportunities, advice on finding a job in Pakistan Entrepreneurship and start-up support, psychosocial support and information on the health system in Pakistan and information on living conditions, advice on getting microfinance and loans. —APP

Cellular subscribers reaches 193m

ISLAMABAD: The number of cellular subscribers in Pakistan reached 193 million, with a mobile teledensity of 79.41 percent, by the end of August 2024, according to data from the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA). The data also revealed that mobile broadband subscribers have grown to 138 million, achieving a mobile penetration rate of 56.72 percent. In addition, fixed telephone subscribers stood at 3 million, reflecting a fixed teledensity of 1.06 percent, while broadband subscribers totaled 142 million, with a broadband penetration rate of 58.19 percent. —APP



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US going 'all in' on Africa

THE United States is all in on Africa and all in with Africa" was a slogan declared back in 2022. How exactly is the US all in on Africa? Now we have the answer: just as US president is about to leave office, he finally remembers to visit the continent. But wait, the visit is being postponed again. President Joe Biden has put off his overseas trip this week due to Hurricane Milton, the White House announced on Tuesday local time without mentioning a new date for the trip. He was previously scheduled to make his first visit to Africa during his presidency in Luanda, the capital of Angola, located on the west-central coast of southern Africa, from October 13 to 15. Some Western media have characterized this visit as fulfilling an earlier promise - Biden's commitment to visit Africa in 2023 made at the US-Africa Leaders Summit in 2022. However, this promise has not been genuinely realized. Although figures such as Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and even US First Lady Jill Biden visited Africa last year, the president himself did not set foot on the continent in 2023. Clearly, the fulfillment of this promise will have to wait even longer now. Furthermore, when the US is mentioned, Africans are concerned about whether American policies toward Africa will remain consistent over time. The turnover of political parties in the US creates inconsistencies in government policies. More importantly, there has always been a disconnect between US policies and Africa's actual needs. African countries wish to achieve their own development. Yet US strategy toward Africa has largely been a stress response, Shen Yi, a professor at Fudan University, told the Global Times. Shen explained that when the Soviet Union cooperated with Africa, the US competed for dominance. After the fall of the Soviet Union, the US gradually withdrew from the continent, showing little interest in supporting sustainable development there. Now, with China's rise and the rapid increase in cooperation between China and Africa, the US has become increasingly concerned about China's growing influence and status on the continent, prompting it to turn its attention back to Africa, seeking ways to counter China. In this process, the US has often played the role of disruptor in Africa rather than a constructive partner. In recent years, the US has tried hard to use infrastructure as a tool to engage in major power competition in Africa. For example, in 2023, the US and its European allies launched the Lobito Corridor project, a railway project stretching from the Angolan port of Lobito on Africa's Atlantic coast to the city of Kolwezi in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The US hails it as "the largest US infrastructure investment in Africa ever," and proudly announced that itself and its partners have committed over \$4 billion to Lobito Corridor projects, with Washington now funding \$250 million. Ironically, Nigerian journalist David Hundeyin pointed out that a simple glance at the map of the railway tells a clear and unmistakable story about the purpose and intentions behind the Lobito Corridor, evacuating resources quicker and with less local participation. The route of the railway, almost entirely devoid of any kind of meaningful interaction with African industrial or population centers, shows an obvious aim to transport Congolese minerals from mine to port as quickly as possible.



Winter, Gaza's imminent nightmare

IN most parts of the world, people eagerly await the winter season, filled with cherished memories and traditions, hoping for quiet days and warm family gatherings. But for the people of Gaza, winter brings anxiety and fear. They brace for rainstorms while enduring displacement and living in tents due to ongoing Israeli aggression. A year has passed since the relentless war on Gaza began, and most residents are living in what they call "tents," though they fall far short of that description. These makeshift shelters are often made from cloth and nylon, with the fortunate few having their tents covered with tarps or receiving rare aid in the form of ready-made tents. For this reason, winter has become a nightmare haunting Gazans even before the season arrives. Recent light rains at the start of autumn have already sounded alarms, as tents flooded, were torn apart by winds, and their many flaws became glaringly apparent. To make matters worse, the prices of materials that could help repair these tents and make them somewhat suitable for the coming winter have skyrocketed. According to a report by the Palestinian Information Center, the cost of tarps ranges from 400 to 600 shekels (with 1 USD equaling 3.8 shekels), while nylon sheets can cost between 10 and 30 shekels per meter—prices ten times higher than normal. Abu Mohammed, a father of three sons and four daughters from Rafah, currently lives in a 20-square-meter tent made from cloth and nylon sheets. Wandering through the market in Deir al-Balah, he searches desperately for materials to repair his tent and prepare for the upcoming rainstorms and harsh winds. He tells our reporter, "Anyone trying to fix or build a new tent needs a loan," referring to the exorbitant costs involved. He adds, "Everything is so expensive, and with the current situation, the lack of work, and our inability to earn a living, we can't keep up with these prices." Abu Mohammed worked as a construction worker before the ongoing brutal war. Even then, his income barely covered the necessities. After losing his job, he now relies on rare aid, which has become even scarcer due to the Israeli blockade, particularly after the military offensive in Rafah and the closure of the Rafah border crossing. The situation is not much different for Umm Manal, who lost her husband and father of her five children in an Israeli airstrike that targeted the street outside their home in the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza. After fleeing to the town of al-Zawaida to escape continuous shelling near the so-called "Netzarim Axis," Manal and her children found themselves exposed to the weather elements in a large refugee camp. They spent the summer under cloth without any roof—a situation that, while barely manageable in the heat, is unthinkable in the approaching winter. She says, "My husband, who was martyred, used to work for daily wages. Since his death, we've had no provider, and we rely on the food aid from a nearby soup kitchen. But we have no idea how to even build a small tent to shield us from the winter's cold and rains, which have already begun this year." A few days ago, heavy rains flooded all her belongings, forcing them to flee to a nearby overcrowded tent until the rain subsided.

Despite war horrors, hope remains for Gaza's universities

Hassan El-Nabih

Since the start of this war, Israel has restlessly targeted Gaza's infrastructure, including telecommunication, which has made it impossible for instructors to teach online. Just to check my email and WhatsApp messages, I have to walk or bike a long distance to purchase an internet ticket and use a very low-speed connection. Despite the grave circumstances over the past year, I have tried to stay in touch with my students. We communicate through phone calls, text messaging or WhatsApp and sometimes in person. We exchange greetings, inquire about health, and talk about IUG and the English Department, unable to hide our sorrow and indignation. However, I remain optimistic and determined not to give up. Optimism is a source of resilience...

IT has been a year now of Israel's genocidal war on the Gaza Strip. Israeli aircraft, tanks and warships have been indiscriminately bombarding the whole Strip. All aspects of life have been tremendously impacted. Tens of thousands of civilian buildings have been destroyed, including houses, schools, universities, mosques, churches, hospitals, bakeries, and United Nations shelters. Brutal Israeli attacks, along with the illegal inhumane blockade, have spared no Palestinian. The official death toll stands at nearly 42,000, with about 100,000 injured and 10,000 missing. The majority of the casualties are women and children. Although I have never been affiliated with any militant or political group, my own house was destroyed by an Israeli warplane on October 23, 2023. Since then, I have been living with my large family in deplorable conditions at a UN school shelter. Besides the trauma of homelessness and displacement, we were devastated by the loss of my beloved mother. She fell ill and could not receive the medical care she needed because the Israeli military has largely decimated Gaza's healthcare system. Her condition deteriorated, and she passed away on December 1, 2023. In addition, I have suffered a profound professional loss: my university, the Islamic University of Gaza (IUG) has been destroyed. It is one out of 18 institutions of higher education in Gaza, which served about 87,000 students before Israel reduced them to ruins. I joined IUG's English Department in 1997 after I returned from the United States, where I had finished an MA in Linguistics at California State University, Fresno. Then I obtained a PhD in language development from Boston College and returned to IUG, where I continued to teach and do research, publishing many articles in local and international journals and participating in numerous conferences, symposia and workshops. I have also supervised and served as an examiner of several MA theses in applied linguistics. IUG has 11 faculties, serving about 17,000 students, 63 percent of them women. Throughout the years, it has offered an excellent academic environment, making use of various technologies such as computer labs, e-learning Moodle and videoconferencing and other high-quality facilities, such as libraries, gardens, gyms and playgrounds. It has awarded students with physical, visual and hearing disabilities scholarships and assisted them through a professional special needs office. The English Department is the largest at the IUG, serving about 1,500 students in six different programmes: BA in English, BA in English with a minor in translation, BA in English with a minor in media and journalism, BEd in teaching English, MA in linguistics and MA in translation. I have always had a great passion for teaching and

maintained good relationships with my students; for me, teaching is a mission. I consider IUG my second home. Seeing it in ruins has broken my heart. In October 2023, Israeli fighter jets attacked IUG, destroying several buildings. Then in November, Israeli ground troops with bulldozers and tanks invaded western Gaza City, razing more buildings and setting others on fire. When they withdrew from the area two weeks later, I went to see what was left of IUG. I was overwhelmed with grief, unable to believe my eyes: everything was gone! Over the past 12 months, I have not been able to teach a single class. Even during the COVID pandemic, when the university was shut down, I was still able to give lectures online. My YouTube channel still has recordings of three online courses I have taught: Semantics and Lexicology, English Grammar 2, and Psycho-Sociolinguistics. Since the start of this war, Israel has restlessly targeted Gaza's infrastructure, including telecommunication, which has made it impossible for instructors to teach online. Just to check my email and WhatsApp messages, I have to walk or bike a long distance to purchase an internet ticket and use a very low-speed connection. Despite the grave circumstances over the past year, I have tried to stay in touch with my students. We communicate through phone calls, text messaging or WhatsApp and sometimes in person. We exchange greetings, inquire about health, and talk about IUG and the English Department, unable to hide our sorrow and indignation. However, I remain optimistic and determined not to give up. Optimism is a source of resilience, which we Palestinian educators need to nurture in order to support our students and help them cope with stressful conditions. Even in the darkest of times, there is hope. That is why I use the present tense in this article when I talk about my university. IUG is, not was. I see several reasons to be optimistic. First, it is not the first time Gaza's universities have been targeted by the Israeli army. Before the present war, Israel launched four other aggressive assaults on the Gaza Strip in 2008-9, 2012, 2014 and 2021. In each of these wars, Gaza's universities were severely damaged and prevented from functioning to their full potential. However, thanks to collective efforts, university buildings were restored and the educational process successfully resumed. Even though Israel's attacks on Gaza continue, emergency measures have been taken. The Palestinian Ministry of Education and several Palestinian academic institutions have circulated petitions against Israel's destruction of Gaza's universities, appealing to international organisations and academic institutions

to intervene swiftly and take effective measures to ensure Palestinian students' right to education. Second, many journalists and human rights activists have reported on Israel's targeting of Palestinian universities. These and other Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights have been condemned worldwide. This has strengthened international solidarity with the Palestinian people and will undoubtedly help us with the future reconstruction process. Third, several leading Palestinian universities in the West Bank have expressed their readiness to support higher education in the Gaza Strip. Last March, Birzeit University launched its "Rebuilding Hope" initiative, which aims to provide resources to support Gaza's institutional infrastructure and assist researchers and students in accessing the knowledge necessary to complete their academic journeys. The Palestinian Ministry of Education and several local and international universities have adopted the initiative, and fortunately, a few thousand students from Gaza's universities, including IUG, have already started online learning. Fourth, IUG has also encouraged students to apply for Erasmus+ exchange scholarships which provide the opportunity to study for a semester in Europe. Some of my students asked me to write letters of recommendation for them; I did so with great pleasure. I have shared all this promising information with students and acquaintances in Gaza. I have also referred English major students to my online courses uploaded onto YouTube. Recently, one of my students sent me this WhatsApp message: Dear Professor, I have decided to continue your Grammar 2 course on my own. [We started in September 2023 but couldn't finish it because of the war.] These days I am watching your YouTube recordings, and I am doing quite well. I am interested in more practice; I need the extra grammar exercises file you previously uploaded onto the Moodle, which is inaccessible now. Unfortunately, I lost my laptop with all my files in an Israeli attack on my family's house. Could you please send me the file? What a remarkably resilient girl! I thanked her and praised her strong motivation and true affection for learning. I sent her the file and told her not to hesitate to ask me for help. Similarly, I recently called one of my MA students, whose thesis I am supervising. I encouraged her to finalise her thesis for the viva voce. She happily welcomed the idea. By taking reasonable precautions, I feel we can organise this academic event somewhere in Gaza, even in a tent at a school shelter. The past year has been full of immense pain and suffering for the people in Gaza, but we must not lose hope. It will all pass! Israeli oppression will end! Gaza's universities will be reconstructed! And Palestinian higher education will be revived!

So is this just how our great free press of the West really operates?

Alex Loin

Actually most Palestinians are not terrorists. Hamad worked as a journalist documenting Israeli military atrocities. He received repeated warnings from the Israelis to stop filming in Gaza ... or else. He posted one threatening message on WhatsApp: "Listen, if you continue spreading lies about Israel, we'll come for you next and turn your family into ... This is your last warning." Since he continued, they killed him this week. Reporters sans frontieres (RSF)...

EARTH, receive an honoured guest ... In the nightmare of the dark / All the dogs of Europe bark, And the living nations wait, Each sequestered in its hate; Intellectual disgrace / Stares from every human face, And the seas of pity lie / Locked and frozen in each eye.

- W.H. Auden

"I have seen the insides of too many dead kids to ever view the mainstream Western media with anything but pure disdain," wrote independent Australian journalist Caitlin Johnstone. I know the feeling, but unlike Johnstone, I chickened out watching unbearably gruesome pictures or videos of ordinary Palestinians, most of them women and children, being torn to shreds by weapons fired by the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) and provided by the United States, but also to a lesser extent by Britain, Germany, Canada and Italy - in short, the Free World, the great protector of global freedom, democracy and human dignity. It's quite extraordinary what modern weapons can do to the human body. That's the main reason there is intense dispute over how many Palestinians have been killed. Often all you have are bits and pieces of human flesh, so it's difficult to be precise. The weight standard in Gaza is reportedly 75kg of body parts in a garbage bag for one adult, half that for a child. But what if you were a skinny young lad like

Hassan Hamad, the brave and beautiful teenage journalist blown to pieces this week at his home in a drone assassination by the IDF? You'd probably weigh somewhere in between. And of course, countless teenagers like Hamad have been killed, their mortal remains left in pieces. I have no doubt if this number, though uncertain, of people killed were Israeli or Jewish, there would have been howls of a new Holocaust, with US-led Western militaries preparing for a third world war. But these dead kids are Palestinians, killed by Israelis with Western weapons, so it's A-OK! It's a tragedy, it's nobody's fault. You haven't heard about Hamad? You really should. For a year now, the 19-year-old had been carrying out his own acts of resistance against the Israeli military onslaught. So he was a terrorist? Hmm, not quite. Actually most Palestinians are not terrorists. Hamad worked as a journalist documenting Israeli military atrocities. He received repeated warnings from the Israelis to stop filming in Gaza ... or else. He posted one threatening message on WhatsApp: "Listen, if you continue spreading lies about Israel, we'll come for you next and turn your family into ... This is your last warning." Since he continued, they killed him this week. Reporters sans frontieres (RSF) has posted on X

a clip about his work, including his remains being put in a shoebox and prepared for burial, with the gruesome bits edited out. Palestinians commit all kinds of non-violent resistance. The poet and professor RefaatAlareer, killed in an Israeli air strike, wrote about the voiceless suffering of his own people. Filmmaker ShrouqAila has continued the journalism of her late husband RoshdiSarraj, killed by the Israeli war machine, as she wears his press vest to work. But no, you don't usually hear about such acts of resistance because they don't fit the grand narrative of Palestinian terrorism and fanaticism in the Western news media. So like Hamad's murder, they are under-reported, censored or simply ignored. "At least 128 journalists and media workers, all but five of them Palestinian, have been killed - more journalists than have died in the course of any year since [Committee to Protect Journalists] began documenting journalist killings in 1992 ... [A]t least five journalists were specifically targeted by Israel for their work," said that New York-based organisation. RSF has filed complaints at the International Criminal Court alleging war crimes against reporters in Gaza. If you want to appreciate the true magnitude of the disgrace of the Western news media, just imagine their response if Hamad were a Uyghur or a Tibetan.

Briefs

Cabinet approves ISMO to...

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modern technology to bring reforms and curb power theft. The high cost of electricity has become a contentious political issue, with opposition parties leveraging public dissatisfaction to criticise the incumbent government's handling of the energy sector and agreements with independent power producers (IPPs). The burden of high electricity tariffs falls disproportionately on the middle and lower-income segments of society, fueling public outrage and eroding trust in the government's ability to manage the economy.

\$2bn MoUs expected as high-level...

FROM PAGE 01
ocall hotel in Islamabad as well as hold talks with senior leadership of Pakistan's private sector. A day earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that "Pakistan is expected to sign agreements and MoUs worth \$2 billion with Saudi Arabia" in various sectors during the upcoming visit. The administration has also secured a commitment of foreign loans amounting to \$3.2 billion from international creditors including Saudi Oil Facility (SOF) of \$1.2 billion for the next 12 months.

FC personnel martyred as forces...

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Havildar Jamshed Khan, having fought gallantly, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat. Sanitization operation is being conducted to neutralize any other terrorist present in the area. Security forces of Pakistan, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan, and such sacrifices of our brave men further strengthen our resolve. Speaking to media, Zhob Assistant Commissioner Naveed Alam said that an attack was carried out on the Joint Response Centre in Zhob's Sabakzai area at 3:40am today.

Security forces give befitting...

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forces were engaged in fence repair work. Pakistan's effective retaliation inflicted heavy losses on the Afghan forces. Sources indicate that Pakistan will continue its strong measures to protect its borders. This is not the first instance of unprovoked aggression from Afghan forces. Pakistani security forces reaffirm their commitment to safeguarding the country's territorial integrity, delivering a decisive response to this aggression from Afghanistan. Last month, the Afghan Taliban initiated unprovoked firing with heavy weapons targeting Pakistani checkpoints from the Afghan region of Ploisin, located near the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

No deadline for constitutional...

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The PPP chairman also commented on recent judicial developments, referencing an order that was issued on a holiday without the Chief Justice's prior knowledge. He reaffirmed the PPP's commitment to judicial reforms and equal rights for provinces. Bilawal indicated that there was initial agreement on constitutional courts and judicial reforms from Rehman of JUI-F. However, he noted that the government's attempts to amend Articles 8 and 51 of the Constitution were met with resistance from both the PPP and JUI-F. When asked about Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), he remarked that Imran Khan and his party were given multiple opportunities on various issues but exhibited a lack of seriousness.

Record-breaking Joe Root leads England back into Test

Root was joined by Brook and together they added an unbeaten 110 runs in 133 balls for the fourth wicket until the umpires called the Tea on Day 3

DNA

MULTAN: A marathon unbeaten fourth-wicket partnership between centurions Joe Root and Harry Brook put England into a dominant position against Pakistan at the Stumps on the third day of the first Test here at Multan Cricket Stadium on Wednesday. The touring side enjoyed a commanding session of play as they piled up 141 runs to get to 492/3 with Root closing in on a double century. The touring side are still trailing by 64 runs. Root, unbeaten on 176 and Brook, 141 not out, will resume England's first innings on the fourth day, while Pakistan will look for quick wickets. England also dominated the second session as they had reached 351-3, trailing by 205 runs, with Root (119) and Brook (64) on the crease. Pakistan got rid of dangerous Ben Duckett early in the second session with Aamir Jamal providing the breakthrough. The left-hander played a quick-fire knock of 84 runs from 71 balls, laced with eleven boundaries. Root was joined by Brook and together they added an unbeaten 110 runs in 133 balls for the fourth wicket until the umpires called the Tea on Day 3. England scored 232-2 at Lunch on Day 3 with Ben Duckett and Joe Root on the crease with scores of 80 and 72 respectively. Pakistan got the early breakthrough in the morning as they removed set England batter Zak Crawley, who was playing at 78 runs from 85 balls. However, following the dismissal, Duckett joined Root and together they attacked Pakistan bowlers, constructing a 119* run stand for the third wicket in 124 balls. Duckett, who could not open the innings yesterday due to a finger injury, particularly played aggressively with a strike-rate

of over 100. Meanwhile, the in-form Root continued to show his elegant strokeplay. At the Stumps on Day 2, England were 96/1 with Crawley, unbeaten with a run-a-ball, 64 and Joe Root, 32 not out, at the crease. The touring side had a shaky start to their first innings as they lost their interim captain Ollie Pope for a two-ball duck. But Crawley made an astounding recovery for England with a brisk knock while Root played cautiously until the end of the play. Returning Aamir Jamal claimed the solitary wicket for Pakistan on the second day. Prior to that, Pakistan lost their two wickets in quick succession in the third session after piling up a mammoth 556-run total on the board. Abrar Ahmed (3) was the last wicket to fall, falling prey to part-time bowler Joe Root. Prior to that, Shaheen Shah Afridi, who scored a crucial 26 runs, was bowled by Jack Leach. Salman Ali Agha remained unbeaten at 104 runs from 119 balls, which featured ten boundaries and three sixes. Meanwhile, Pakistan captain Shan Masood top-scored with a marathon 151-run knock from 177 deliveries, featuring 13 fours and two sixes. Opening batter Abdullah Shafique also played a brilliant innings of 102 off 184 deliveries, laced up with a dozen boundaries including two sixes. Shan opted to bat first after winning the toss and came out to bat in the fourth over after SaimAyub (4) fell to Gus Atkinson. Playing XIs: **Pakistan:** SaimAyub, Abdullah Shafique, Shan Masood (c), Babar Azam, Saud Shakeel (vc), Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Salman Ali Agha, Aamir Jamal, Shaheen Afridi, Naseem Shah, and Abrar Ahmad. **England:** Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope (c), Joe Root, Harry Brook, Jamie Smith (wk), Chris Woakes, Gus Atkinson, Brydon Carse, Jack Leach, and Shoaib Bashir.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari presenting a cheque of Rs. 100 million to Mr. Shahzaib Khan, who won World Champion Karate Combat in Singapore, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. – DNA

Fury-Uсыk 2 undercard announced

WEB DESK

NEW YORK: Heavyweights Moses Itauma and Johnny Fisher will feature on the undercard of Tyson Fury's rematch with Oleksandr Usyk on 21 December in Saudi Arabia. Itauma will take on Australian Demsey McKean, while Fisher will face fellow Briton Dave Allen. Both Itauma and Fisher are undefeated in their careers and have been touted as the next generation of heavyweight stars. Also on the undercard is Dennis McCann, who fights Liverpoolian Peter McGrail in an intriguing super-bantamweight contest. McCann is undefeated in 17 fights while McGrail has just one loss in 11 contests. Fisher, 25, takes on a seasoned veteran in 32-year-old Allen, who has six losses, two draws and 23 wins on his record. Fisher has 11 knockouts in 12 wins, while 19-year-old Itauma will also be looking to extend his stoppage record. Itauma has eight knockouts from 10 bouts and McKean represents a big step up in quality for the teenage prospect. The southpaw has one defeat - against Filip Hrgovic last year - in 23 bouts. Fury is seeking revenge against Usyk to become a three-time heavyweight world champion, after losing their undisputed contest in May. Fury-Usyk undercard in full: Oleksandr Usyk v Tyson Fury 2 - WBC, WBO & WBA heavyweight titles.

'Best I've played in a while', Djokovic moves on in Shanghai

Making his first return to Shanghai since 2019, Djokovic acknowledged the prospect of winning a landmark title is giving him "extra motivation" in the ATP 1,000 event

FOREIGN DESK

SHANGHAI: Novak Djokovic moved a step closer to a landmark 100th ATP title with another dominant performance at the Shanghai Masters. The Serb, 37, reached the quarter-finals with a 6-3 6-1 victory over Russia's Roman Safullin. Djokovic, who won his 99th title with Olympic gold in August, will face Czech teenager Jakub Mensik in the quarter-finals. The 24-time major champion is aiming to become only the third man - after Jimmy Connors (109) and Roger Federer (103) - to clock up a century of tournament victories. Asked how he rated his performance against Safullin out of 10, he said: "Very close to 10. [The past two matches] are some of the best matches I've played in a while." Making his first return to Shanghai since 2019, Djokovic acknowledged the prospect of winning a landmark title is giving him "extra motivation" in the ATP 1,000 event. Djokovic, a record four-time champion, has won more matches at the event than any other player. With a host of other top-10 players remaining in the



draw, including Jannik Sinner, Carlos Alcaraz and Alexander Zverev, tougher tests undoubtedly lie ahead. But, in his first ATP tournament since a shock third-round exit at the US Open five weeks ago, fourth seed Djokovic has looked sharp. Causing problems for opponents by serving precisely and overwhelming them in the baseline exchanges, he has not dropped a set against American youngster Alex Michelsen.

Teen breaks record by climbing 8-thousanders

The record-shattering ascent on Wednesday marked the latest in a long list of accolades for Nima Rinji, who is also the world's youngest climber to have scaled Himalayan mountains G1 and G2; the youngest climber to have scaled Kashmir's Nanga Parbat

KATMANDU: A Nepalese teenager has broken the world record for the youngest mountaineer to summit Earth's 14 highest peaks. Nima Rinji Sherpa, 18, stood atop Tibet's Mount Shishapangma at about 06:05 local time on Wednesday. In doing so, he became the latest of just a few dozen people to have scaled all of the world's "eight-thousanders" - the 14 mountains that the International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (UIAA) recognises as more than 8,000 metres above sea level. Sherpa, who started climbing high-altitude mountains at the age of 16, summited all eight-thousanders in 740 days. He reached the peak of Nepal's Manaslu, the world's eighth-highest mountain, on 30 September, 2022 - shortly after finishing his 10th-grade high school exams. On each trek the young athlete was accompanied by his climbing partner, Pasang Nuru Sherpa. The record-shattering ascent on

Wednesday marked the latest in a long list of accolades for Nima Rinji, who is also the world's youngest climber to have scaled Himalayan mountains G1 and G2; the youngest climber to have scaled Kashmir's Nanga Parbat; and the youngest climber to have scaled both Mount Everest and nearby Lhotse within 10 hours. Standing atop Mount Shishapangma on Wednesday morning, though, another life ambition was front of mind for the 18-year-old: to subvert the stereotype of Sherpas as mere helpers who assist foreign climbers on their ascents. "This summit is not just the culmination of my personal journey, but a tribute to every Sherpa who has ever dared to dream beyond the traditional boundaries set for us," Nima Rinji said shortly after scaling Mount Shishapangma. "Mountaineering is more than labour, it is a testament to our



strength, resilience and passion." Although the word "Sherpa" is commonly used to describe someone who is a mountain guide or porter working in the Everest area, it is in fact the name of an ethnic group of people who live in the mountains of Nepal. Nima Rinji said he wants to prove to

younger generation of Sherpas that they can "rise above the stereotype of being only support climbers and embrace their potential as top-tier athletes, adventurers, and creators". "We are not just guides; we are trailblazers," he said on Wednesday. "Let this be a call to every Sherpa to see the dignity in our work, the power in our heritage, and the limitless possibilities in our future." Nima Rinji comes from a family of record-holding mountaineers, who now run Seven Summit Treks: Nepal's largest mountaineering expedition company, and the group with whom he completed the Mount Shishapangma climb. Speaking to the BBC shortly after the record had been set, his father, Tashi Lakpa Sherpa, recounted the moment he delivered the news via satellite phone. "He told me, 'Dad, I reached the summit at 6:05 Chinese time.

'My colleague Pasang Norbu and I have arrived,'" Tashi Lakpa recalled. "Being highly trained and professional, he wasn't even thrilled; it was normal. I said 'I had faith in you. Return safely.'" Rakesh Gurung, Director of Adventure Tourism and Mountaineering Branch under Nepal's Department of Tourism, confirmed to the BBC that Nima Rinji had set the record. "The peak has been confirmed this morning. Now I understand that there is a matter of giving a certificate after returning to the base camp," he said. The previous record holder for the youngest mountaineer to scale all eight-thousanders was also a Nepali climber, Mingma Gyabu 'David' Sherpa, who achieved it at the age of 30 in 2019. "This record is difficult to break now," Gurung noted. All 14 eight-thousanders are located in Asia, in the Himalayan and Karakoram ranges. – Agencies

Many things are being done...

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taking care of the account. He said that no irregularity was reported in the dam fund and markup. Expressing displeasure over the title of the account, the CJP said that he always preferred constitution above court orders. The additional attorney general told the apex court that fund had total Rs23 billion with Rs11 billion as donations and Rs12 billion as markup amount. The three-member bench led by the CJP sought help from the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) and the government regarding keeping dam fund amount in private bank in order to get a good markup rate.

Security czar Mohsin Naqvi...

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The move came in the lead-up to the grand jirga, scheduled for October 11 in Khyber district. Diehard activists assembled at the venue of their three-day jirga in Jamrud on Sunday evening in clear defiance of the federal government's order and vowed to hold the gathering. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad on the matter, Naqvi recounted the ban on the group by the federal government and said no one had an issue if people wanted to organise a jirga.

At least 3 killed in...

FROM PAGE 01
Bajaur and North Waziristan. Doctors in Peshawar Hayatabad Medical Complex while confirming death of three said, conditions of several amongst eight injured still critical. Rescue 1122 also confirmed killing of three as a result of police firing. Awami National Party MPA from Bajaur along with District Mardan Mayor Himayat Ullah Mayar also rushed to Hayatabad Medical Complex whereas he denounced killing of three youngsters who were begging nothing else but peace for Pushtoons.

KP CM warns of...

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actions' are intolerable, asserting that they will not compromise on provincial autonomy and constitutional rights under the Eighteenth Amendment. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, during a fiery speech in the provincial assembly earlier on Tuesday, had issued a warning, saying, "If the Islamabad IG is not removed, our next protest will be aimed at removing him."

Russian PM likely to...

FROM PAGE 01
Recently, on September 18, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexey Overchuk completed a two-day visit to Pakistan, sources added. During his visit, the Russian Prime Minister is expected to meet with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, as well as other top Pakistani leaders, diplomatic sources revealed. A dinner will also be hosted in honor of the Russian Prime Minister and his delegation, sources stated. Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang is also scheduled to arrive in Pakistan on October 14, along with a high-level delegation.

Pakistan dispatches...

FROM PAGE 01
Pakistan Army, and Al-Khidmat Foundation. Representatives from the NDMA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Armed Forces, and Al-Khidmat Foundation were present at Karachi's Jinnah International Airport during the aid's departure. The NDMA arranged a special flight for 79 stranded Pakistanis on 9 October 2024. The flight arrived at Jinnah International Airport in Karachi, where the evacuees were welcomed by Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori, Federal Minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, and Sindh Industries Minister Jam Ikramullah Dharejo.

Briefs

PSX gains 5.30 points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) gained 5.30 points on Wednesday, a nominal positive change of 0.01 percent, closing at 85,669.28 points against 85,663.98 points on the last trading day. A total of 596,052,076 shares were traded during the day as compared to 506, 565, 368 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 31.341 billion against Rs.33.049 billion on the last trading day. As many as 448 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 208 of them recorded gains and 172 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 68 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were K-Electric Limited with 55,799,760 shares at Rs 3.98 per share, Hub Power Company XD with 39,666,232 shares at Rs 113.42 per share and PTCL with 32,226,119 shares at Rs 13.20 per share. —APP

Rupee sheds 05 paisa against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Wednesday depreciated by 05 paisa against the US dollar in the inter-bank trading and closed at Rs277.72 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.67. 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 78 paisa to close at Rs304.42 against the last day's closing of Rs305.20, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen came down by 02 paisa and closed at Rs1.86, whereas a decrease of 10 paisa was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs363.38 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs363.48. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal increased by 02 paisa 03 paisa to close at Rs75.61 and Rs73.97. —APP

Gold price witnesses further decrease of Rs 3,000 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.3, 000 and was sold at Rs.271,700 on Wednesday compared to its sale at Rs. 274,700 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs. 2,572 to Rs. 232,939 from Rs. 235, 511 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs. 213, 527 from Rs. 215, 885, 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 \$30 to \$2,617 from \$2,647, the Association reported. —APP

Israeli strike kills policeman in Syria

BEIRUT: Israeli bombardment on Wednesday killed a policeman in the south of Syria near the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights, state media said, the day after a deadly air strike on the capital. Israel has repeatedly struck Syria throughout the civil war that started in 2011, but it has ramped these up in recent weeks as it also pounds Lebanon. Citing a police official, the official SANA news agency reported "the death of a security force member and wounding of another in an Israeli strike" on the outskirts of Quneitra city. It comes after a strike in the Damascus neighborhood of Mazzeah late Tuesday, that a war monitor said targeted a building used by Iran's Revolutionary Guards and Lebanon's Hezbollah. The Syrian government said it killed seven civilians. —DNA

PRCS, KSRelief sign MoU to enhance humanitarian cooperation

ISLAMABAD: A landmark ceremony for signing agreements under the joint collaboration program of the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRelief) took place at a local hotel, signifying a pivotal moment in the delivery of humanitarian services in Pakistan. The event was graced by the presence of Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, H.E. Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki, KS-Relief Assistant Supervisor General, Engineer Ahmed Ali Al-Beez, Hon. Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, Director General National Commission for Human Development Nasir ud din Mashhood Ahmad, representative from National Disaster Management Authority among others.

During the ceremony, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and KSRelief. The agreement, focused on strengthening humanitarian efforts, capacity building, and enhancing collaboration in training and research, marks a significant step forward in the relationship between the two organizations. Chairman PRCS, Sardar Shahid Ahmed



Laghari, and KSRelief Assistant Supervisor General, Engineer Ahmed Ali Al-Beez, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari highlighted the significance of the day for the people of Pakistan, as it coincided with the

remembrance of the devastating October 8, 2005 earthquake. He expressed his gratitude to KSRelief for their firm support during the reconstruction phase and acknowledged that today's agreement brings renewed hope to millions in need. He further underscored the enduring and robust relationship between

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, rooted in shared history, values, and mutual respect. Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari paid tribute to the steadfast support provided by Saudi Arabia during Pakistan's most challenging times, particularly KSRelief's steadfast partnership in disaster response and humanitarian aid.

Laghari also reflected on the devastation caused by the 2005 earthquake and the critical role played by national institutions in the recovery process. He highlighted PRCS's record-breaking support to 2.8 million affected households during the 2022 floods, demonstrating the organization's ongoing commitment to disaster relief. H.E. Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki, also addressed the gathering, expressing his heartfelt sentiments on the occasion. He remarked, "The bond between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan is deeply rooted in a shared history, faith, and unwavering brotherhood. It is a relationship built on trust, mutual respect, and solidarity, especially in times of need. Saudi Arabia has always stood by Pakistan in moments of crisis, whether in the wake of natural disasters or to provide vital humanitarian support." He concluded his remarks by expressing optimism for the future of the joint cooperation program between the two countries.

KSRelief Assistant Supervisor General, Engineer Ahmed Ali Al-Beez expressed profound appreciation for government of Pakistan for trust and support, noting that the agreements signed today will open new avenues for deepening bilateral cooperation and humanitarian collaboration

Turkiye moves to evacuate nationals from Lebanon

ANKARA: Turkiye on Wednesday sent ships to evacuate around 2,000 of its citizens from Lebanon, with its Beirut envoy saying it would be "the biggest" evacuation of its type from the war-torn country. A Turkish diplomatic source told AFP two naval ships carrying the evacuated nationals and their families would arrive at the southern Turkish port of Mersin "in the early hours" of Thursday morning. The two ships set sail overnight for the Lebanese capital whose southern suburbs were hit overnight by fresh Israeli bombardments. "These ships, with a capacity of around 2,000 people, will be ready to take those of our citizens who requested it from Lebanon to Mersin port," Turkish ambassador Ali Baris Ulusoy told TRT Haber public television. Turkiye, which is estimated to have 14,000 citizens registered with its consulate in Lebanon, announced the move on Tuesday because of the deteriorating security situation on the ground in Lebanon. Images on TRT Haber showed a crowd of people at Beirut port waiting to board the boats. The ambassador said the two ships were also bringing "approximately 300 tons of humanitarian aid" to show Turkiye's support for the Lebanese people, including tents, bedding, hygiene kits and kitchenware. Since September 23, Israel has intensified strikes on Hezbollah strongholds in Lebanon, killing more than 1,100 people and forcing more than a million to flee, the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) said on Monday. —Agencies

Turkish Airlines pilot dies mid-flight

A Turkish Airlines pilot died after collapsing in the cockpit during a flight, prompting an emergency landing in New York, the airline confirmed on Wednesday. The Airbus A350 aircraft, operating flight TK204, had taken off from Seattle on Tuesday evening and was en route to Istanbul. According to Turkish Airlines spokesman Yahya Ustun, the pilot fainted during the flight, and medical assistance was administered immediately. However, despite the efforts of the flight crew, which included a co-pilot and an additional pilot, the situation proved fatal. "The pilot of our Airbus A350 collapsed during the flight," Ustun stated on social media platform X. "After an unsuccessful attempt to administer first aid, the flight crew decided to make an emergency landing, but he died before reaching the ground." The aircraft diverted to New York, and the airline is making arrangements for the passengers to continue their journey from there. Ustun expressed condolences to the pilot's family and colleagues, stating, "As the Turkish Airlines family, we wish God's mercy on our captain and patience to all his colleagues and loved ones, especially his grieving family." —APP

Afghan national held over Daesh-linked terror plot

NEW YORK: The US authorities arrested a 27-year-old Afghan man, Nasser Ahmed Tawhedi, on October 7 in Oklahoma, accusing him of plotting a terrorist attack on US soil during the upcoming election day. According to the US Department of Justice, Nasser Tawhedi was planning the attack in support of the Daesh terrorist group. He arrived in the US in 2021 through the Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program, which allows Afghans and Iraqis who assisted US forces, such as translators, to resettle in the country. He had been living in Oklahoma and, according to prosecutors, had researched how to bypass firearm license laws in various states to acquire weapons. The criminal complaint, unsealed Tuesday, reveals that Tawhedi was attempting to gain access to live surveillance footage of key locations in Washington DC, including the White House and the Washington Monument. —APP

Jam Kamal pledges to revive cotton industry

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Wednesday vowed to revitalize Pakistan's cotton industry, acknowledging the sector's billion-dollar export potential and ensured to address challenges such as high taxation and electricity costs. In this regard, the minister held a meeting with the Pakistan Ginners Association led by its Chairman DR Jassu Mal, said a news release. The minister stressed that the government is treating this issue with urgency, particularly given the \$3.4 billion spent annually on cotton imports, which could be saved by reviving domestic production. Proposing a series of seminars and workshops, Jam Kamal expressed the government's commitment to collaborate with industry stakeholders, including APTMA and exporters, to formulate a comprehensive action plan. He also encouraged the Association to submit proposals for funding through the Export Development Fund (EDF) to help revitalize the sector and boost exports. The minister also highlighted the alarming decline in the number of ginning companies from 1,200 to just 400, leading to under-utilization of electricity resources and disruptions in the cotton supply chain. He emphasized that cotton is not merely a commodity but a livelihood, with millions of people in Pakistan depending on its growth, harvesting, and processing. He acknowledged the heavy taxation across the cotton production cycle—from pesticides to ginning and oil extraction—that has made it difficult for cotton to compete with other crops. Dr. Jassu Mal thanked the Minister for his unprecedented support and pointed out the sector's once prestigious title of "white gold." He warned that without intervention, the high taxation and electricity costs would continue to drive farmers away from cotton, despite its billion-dollar export potential. The meeting concluded with a strong resolve to restore Pakistan's cotton industry to its former glory, turning it back into a global player through urgent reforms and government support. Meanwhile, meeting with a delegation of the Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA) led by its Chairman, the minister acknowledged the immense potential for pharmaceutical exports, particularly in markets across South-West Asia and Central Asia. He encouraged the PPMA to submit a comprehensive proposal to enhance exports, assuring them that the Ministry of Commerce, through the Export Development Fund (EDF), would provide the necessary support. This meeting marks a critical step towards strengthening Pakistan's pharmaceutical industry and capitalizing on its export potential, aligning with the government's vision for economic growth through industry-driven reforms. The PPMA Chairman emphasized that 95% of Pakistan's pharmaceutical production was local, with only 5% imported, indicating a significant opportunity for export growth. —DNA

Russia says Hezbollah still organized despite Israeli attacks

MOSCOW: Russia's foreign ministry said on Wednesday that Hezbollah was still organized and had not lost its chain of command despite strikes by Israel which Moscow said was trying to stoke an armed conflict across the Middle East. "According to our assessments, Hezbollah, including the military wing, has not lost its chain of command and is demonstrating organization," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told reporters. Zakharova said that the West, in particular the United States and Britain, was stoking the conflict in the Middle East and showing hypocrisy by its support for Israel which was inflicting significant civilian casualties in Lebanon. Hezbollah was formed by Iran's Revolutionary Guards in the early 1980s to battle Israel. It is also a major social, religious and political movement for Lebanese Shiite Muslims. Russia also scolded Israel for a strike on Syria. "Once again, Israel has grossly violated the sovereignty of Syria by launching a missile attack on a multi-story apartment building in a densely populated area of Damascus," Zakharova said. "It is outrageous that such actions have literally turned into a routine practice applied to Syria, Lebanon, and the Gaza Strip," Zakharova said, adding that it showed Israel's "desire to further expand the geography of armed escalation in the region." —APP

Tribal chief strongly condemns Karachi incident

ISLAMABAD: Tribal Chief and Minister Public Health Engineering Balochistan Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran strongly condemned the recent attack on Chinese Nationals, terming it as a deliberate attempt hampering Gwadar Port project which is the lifeline of the province. Taking strong exception to this brutal act, he said as a representative of the people of Balochistan and a tribal chief, assure the Chinese brothers and sisters that their people fully stand by them in the hour of grief and sorrow. The statement added, "This cowardly act of violence is not only an affront to the longstanding friendship between Pakistan and China but also a grave violation of Baloch culture. We, the Baloch, hold our guests in the highest regard, and it is against our very ethos to ever harm them. The Chinese people, who have come here to assist in the development of Gwadar and other crucial projects, are our honored guests, and their safety is our collective responsibility. Gwadar Port is the beating heart of Balochistan's future. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is not just an economic project but a beacon of hope that promises to transform our province. The investments and hard work of our Chinese brothers are paving the way for a prosperous future for Balochistan, creating jobs, infrastructure, and opportunities that we have long awaited. Any attack on them is an attack on the future of our people. Let me be clear: those responsible for this barbaric act will not go unpunished. I urge the government of Pakistan, as well as the people of Balochistan, to stand together in ensuring the security of our Chinese friends. We must protect those who are working to build a brighter future for us. China, as a state, has always been a true brother to Pakistan, and we will not allow a few misguided individuals to harm this invaluable relationship. —Agencies

Indonesian President opens '39th Trade Expo Indonesia

ISLAMABAD: President Republic of Indonesia Joko Widodo on Wednesday Inaugurates the 39th Trade Expo Indonesia in BSD-Jakarta and in his opening speech, called it a significant international investment and trade forum in Indonesia. President Joko Widodo officially opened the 39th Trade Expo Indonesia (TEI) in 2024, held at the Nusantara Hall, ICE BSD, Tangerang Regency, Jakarta and the President emphasized that Indonesia, as the fourth most populous country in the world, must be able to protect the domestic market and strengthen exports of superior products abroad. In his remarks, the Head of State highlighted the global challenges that affect world economic growth and international trade, while emphasizing the importance of innovation in marketing Indonesian products to the global market. "The global economy is still growing slowly in the range of 2.6 percent, 2.7 percent. Inflation is also still haunting many countries. The global inflation estimate is in the range of 5.9 percent. Plus, conventional wars and trade wars are still ongoing, which have caused countries to implement trade restriction policies," said the President. The President also touched on overproduction in biggest industrial countries, which has triggered concerns in many countries regarding the flood of cheap imported products. For this reason, the President emphasized that Indonesia, as the country with the fourth largest population in the world, must be able to protect the domestic market and strengthen exports of superior products abroad. "As a country with a large market, with the fourth largest population in the world, 280 million people, we must be able to protect our domestic market, we must be able to market our products so that we can dominate the domestic market and also continue to penetrate widely in foreign markets," said the President. Facing the trade war and inflation that have hit many countries, the President sees an opportunity for Indonesia to strengthen its position in the global market. According to him, the digital era must be utilized optimally in marketing Indonesian products. "When many countries implement restrictions due to the trade war, I think there is also an opportunity there. When many countries are experiencing high inflation, I think there is also an opportunity there," said the President. This year's 39th Trade Expo Indonesia was held in a hybrid manner, both offline and online, with the aim of introducing Indonesia's superior products to the world market. The President hopes that this exhibition can encourage the growth of Indonesian exports, improve the quality and competitiveness of national products in the international market. "We must be able to take advantage of this momentum to encourage even higher export growth and improve the quality and competitiveness of our products and be able to penetrate a wider market," said the President. On the occasion of the opening ceremony of Indonesian Trade Expo, the speakers expressed the hope of \$15 billion investment and transaction in Indonesia. The Federal Minister of Commerce and Trade of Indonesia, Dr. H. Zulkifli Hasan specially praised the 55-member trade delegation from Pakistan who participated in the exhibition and described them as very important for the bilateral economic and trade relations between the two countries. The minister said that international investment and trade of \$ 15 billion will be in the Indonesian market, by the potential economic activity of this trade exhibition. Also, present accompanying President Jokowi at the event were DPD RI Chairman Sultan Bachtiar Najamudin, Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs and Investment Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, Minister of Investment Rosan Roeslani, and Acting Governor of Banten Al Muktabar and also present were a number of leaders of high state institutions, ambassadors of friendly countries, regional heads, and business actors from within and outside the country. —DNA

China says raised 'serious concerns' with US over trade curbs

NEW YORK: The United States and China on Tuesday raised concerns about trade between the world's two biggest economies, with China's commerce minister urging Washington to lift sanctions on his country's firms "as soon as possible". Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao's call with US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo was described by Beijing as "candid, in-depth and pragmatic". It comes shortly after sharp US tariff hikes on Chinese electric vehicles, EV batteries and solar cells took effect — with levies down the line on other products also recently finalised. In addition, the US is planning to ban the

sale of connected vehicles incorporating Chinese and Russian technology, citing national security risks. Washington has also restricted technology exports to China such as semiconductors and the machinery used to manufacture them. On Tuesday, Wang "focused on expressing serious concerns about US semiconductor policy on China and its restrictions on China's network-connected cars", said a statement from Beijing's commerce ministry. Wang "stressed that it is particularly necessary to clarify national security boundaries in economic and trade fields". That would allow for "maintaining the security

and stability of global industrial and supply chains", the ministry said. But a separate statement released by the US Commerce Department said Raimondo had reiterated that US national security is "not negotiable". She pointed to the US government's approach of being targeted with security policy "while leaving space for healthy trade and investment", the statement said. Raimondo flagged ongoing concerns as well from US businesses about China's "decreasing regulatory transparency", non-market policies and industrial overcapacity, the US statement added. Meanwhile, Beijing urged Washington "to attach impor-

tance to the specific concerns of Chinese companies, lift sanctions on Chinese companies as soon as possible, and improve the business environment for Chinese companies in the United States". Recent tariff hikes targeting \$18 billion in Chinese goods came weeks before November's US presidential election, with both Democrats and Republicans pushing a hard line as competition between Washington and Beijing intensifies. US President Joe Biden has largely maintained tariffs imposed by former president Donald Trump, which impacted some \$300bn in goods from China. The hikes this year affect ear-

lier products and added ones. The US defends its restrictions on sensitive high-tech goods as aimed at limiting Chinese companies' access to cutting-edge equipment purchased abroad, particularly for military purposes. China has condemned those curbs as "protectionist". And on Tuesday, Wang said trade ties between the world's two largest economies "should become the ballast of bilateral relations". Beijing, he said, was willing to push "China-US economic and trade relations back on the correct track". The US Commerce Department noted that both sides have "agreed to maintain an open channel of communication in the coming months". —Agencies

Briefs

Hamas and Fatah discuss post-Gaza plans

CAIRO: Leaders from Islamist group Hamas and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah movement discussed plans for cooperation after the war in Gaza in a new round of talks in Cairo on Wednesday, a Hamas official told Reuters. The talks are the first since the two groups met in China in July and agreed steps to form a Palestinian unity government for Gaza and the occupied West Bank. They are also part of long-running and previously unsuccessful efforts to heal a schism that hardened when Hamas seized control of Gaza in a brief conflict with Fatah in 2007. The Hamas delegation is led by Khalil Al-Hayya, the group's Qatar-based second-in-command and chief negotiator, Hamas media official Taher Al-Nono said. A Palestinian official said the Fatah delegation was led by Fatah's second-in-command, Mahmoud Al-Aloul. There was no immediate comment from Fatah. "The meeting will discuss the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, and the challenges facing the Palestinian cause," Nono said. — Agencies

Zartaj Gul released from jail

Lahore High Court Multan Bench ordered her release

DNA

MULTAN: Pakistani Tehreek-e-Insaf MNA Zartaj Gul was released from jail on Wednesday. The PTI leader was arrested and sent to jail under Section 16 of the MPO. Yesterday, the Lahore High Court Multan Bench ordered her release. Zartaj Gul was taken into custody in DI Khan because of the PTI protests, after which her husband filed a petition in court.

KP cabinet approves amendment to Police Act

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) cabinet on Wednesday approved amendment to the Police Act. The cabinet meeting was held under the chairmanship of KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur where a number of important decisions were taken. After the amendments to the act, all power of transfers and postings of grade 18 and 19 officers were transferred to the CM from the IG. Sources said a few objections were raised to the new amendments.

Changing DNA of economy for growth is a must, says FM

Senator Muhammad Auragzeb welcomed the delegation and shared with them a roundup of ongoing structural reforms and the resultant growth trajectory and improvement in key economic indicators



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Auragzeb has reaffirmed the government's commitment to implementing its reform agenda and meeting structural benchmarks to lend permanence to macroeconomic stability, promote inclusive, sustainable growth and end Pakistan's reliance on external borrowing. He made it clear that the only way this goal could be successfully achieved was by changing the DNA of the economy by moving it from away its usual boom-and-bust cycles and leading it to a sustained export-led growth encouraging

investment and FDI flows into export-oriented sectors and getting access back to the international capital market. He made this observation during a meeting with a high-level delegation from the Asian Development Bank that called on the Minister at Finance Division today. The visiting delegation was led by Mr. Donald Bobiash, Executive Director of Asian Development Bank and Mr. Shigeo Shimizu, Executive Director Asian Development Bank while Mr. Yong Ye, Country Director Asian Development Bank and other senior officers from the ADB and Finance Division were also present. Senator Muhammad Auragzeb welcomed the delegation and shared with them a roundup of ongoing structural reforms and

the resultant growth trajectory and improved in key economic indicators. He particularly highlighted an efficient management of twin deficits backed by buoyant remittances and healthy exports, a steep fall in inflation from a 38 pc high of last year to a 44-month low of 6.9 pc in September last, and reduction in the policy rate by 450 bps with expectations of more cuts in coming months. The Minister also mentioned the stability in exchange rate, growth in forex reserves to \$10.7 billion after the signing of the IMF accord and the stock exchange index crossing 85,000 figure to indicate a growing business confidence and favourable investment climate leading to further institu-

tional flows into the country. He credited Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif with personally overseeing and spearheading the implementation of wide-ranging structural reforms in key sectors, including taxation, energy, SOEs, privatization, rightsizing of government and pension reforms. He called the recent signing of a National Fiscal Pact between federation and the provinces a milestone in achieving harmony in driving the pace of structural reforms and incentivizing the provinces to mobilise greater tax resources, rationalize their development expenditures and improve their governance to meet the development goals. Senator Muhammad Auragzeb thanked ADB for its continued support to Pakistan's development agenda and its assistance provided in key sectors. He said Pakistan looked forward to further deepen its partnership with the ADB through enhanced assistance and support for its reform programme. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Donald Bobiash, Executive Director of Asian Development Bank, Mr. Shigeo Shimizu, Executive Director Asian Development Bank and other ADB officials expressed their appreciation for the bold reforms undertaken by Pakistan for stabilizing its economy and achieving sustainable growth. They reaffirmed ADB's support for ongoing reforms and strengthening the country's fiscal framework. They also assured the bank's support for Pakistan's development goals and its efforts for inclusive growth, innovation, and climate action.

'Pakistan to have two chief justices'

Farooq H. Naek stated a chief justice for the constitutional court will serve a three-year term

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Vice Chairman of the Pakistan Bar Council (PBC), Farooq H. Naek, announced on Wednesday that the establishment of a constitutional court in Pakistan will lead to the appointment of two chief justices. Naek explained that one chief justice will preside over the new federal constitutional court, while the other will lead the Supreme Court of Pakistan. The chief justice of the constitutional court will have a term of three years, with an age limit of 68 years. He also mentioned that the performance of constitutional court judges could be reviewed, with recommendations for their removal or further action made to the Judicial Commission if necessary. A committee will be formed to propose names for the position of chief justice of the constitutional court. Earlier, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Hasnat Zardari expressed his party's support for the formation of the constitutional court.

ATC grants bail to PTI lawyer

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court of Islamabad has approved the bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf lawyer Mustafain Kazmi in a case pertaining to protests by the PTI lawyers outside the Supreme Court. Judge AbulHasnat Zulqarnain made the decision. Lawyers Imaan Mazaari and Hadi Ali presented the arguments on the behalf of Kazmi and Prosecutor Raja Naveed opposed the grant of bail to Kazmi. The prosecutor said Kazmirasied slogans against the judiciary which is a sacred institution of the country. It should be mentioned that the PTI workers have become habitual to attack institutions and they should face the repercussions accordingly. Meanwhile, it was mentioned by the accused's lawyers that the medical condition of Kazmi was not well. It was also added Kazmi was in the court's premises at the time of protests.

PTI failed to spread 'political smog': Maryam

"PTI's agenda is to create chaos," says Punjab chief minister

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Firing a fresh salvo at the PTI in the backdrop of the former ruling party's recent attempt to stage protest in Islamabad and Lahore, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Wednesday said that they failed to spread "political smog" in the country. The Punjab's chief executive made the remarks while addressing the inaugural ceremony of "CM Climate Leadership Development Internship programme". CM Maryam blasted the Imran Khan-founded party for what she said promoting the culture of protests and agitation in the cash-strapped country. She accused the former ruling party of using the KP government resources for the protest and

said: "Government employees and official vehicles were brought [to stage protest in Islamabad]. PTI's agenda is to create chaos," she said, asking what the opposition party was showing to the world. "Neither they work nor let others do their work," the Punjab chief minister said while raising questions over the performance of the KP government. "We will not let the country fall come what may," she added. The chief minister also slammed the PTI's "Billion Tree Tsunami" project. Referring to the smog issue in Lahore, the chief minister stressed the need for climate diplomacy with India. Lahore remains one of the most polluted cities of the world as the main reason for the spread of smog in the mega city was the burning of residues of crops in Indian Punjab. The chief minister said that they were monitoring the smoke emitting vehicles and issuing fitness certificates. Stressing the need for effective measures, CM Maryam said that the smog could not be controlled by merely "pressing a button".



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Saudi Arabia's investors, led by Minister of Investment Khalid bin Abdulaziz, arrived in Pakistan. The delegation was welcomed by Minister for Privatisation Abdul Aleem, Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan, and Petroleum Minister Musadik Malik at the Noor Khan Airbase. — DNA

Japan's PM Shigeru dissolves parliament for snap election

WEB DESK

Tokyo: The lower house of Japan's parliament was officially dissolved on Wednesday, setting the stage for the general election as Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba seeks to secure his party's lower house majority. The general election is slated to be held on October 27, with campaigning set to begin on October 15. Ishiba won the presidential election of the ruling LDP on September 27 and was elected prime minister on October 1 in the parliament controlled by the LDP-led coalition. The timing marked the shortest period between a prime minister taking office and the dissolution of the lower house in Japan's postwar history. The general election will be the first since the LDP's political funds scandal surfaced in late 2023. In his first policy speech to the parliament last week, 67-year-old Ishiba vowed to restore public trust in politics following a series of scandals and tried to reassure the public amid rising living costs. In an effort to address public outrage, the LDP on Wednesday decided not to endorse 12 lawmakers embroiled in the political funds scandal as official candidates in the upcoming election. The LDP, which ruled Japan for most of the post-war era, previously held 258 seats in the 465-member lower house, and it governed in coalition with Komeito, which held 32 seats. The main opposition is the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan led by former Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, which held 99 seats. The election is expected to focus on key issues like political reform following the LDP's funding scandals, responses to inflation, and economic measures.

Israel's 'promised land delusions' doomed to fail

Calling Israel a "Zionist terrorist organization" over its genocidal war on Gaza, Erdoğan warned Israeli premier Benjamin Netanyahu would not stop at Palestinian territories and would set its sights on other regional countries, namely Türkiye

NEWS DESK

ANKARA: President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on Wednesday said that Israel's "promised land delusions" were doomed to fail. Calling Israel a "Zionist terrorist organization" over its genocidal war on Gaza, Erdoğan warned Israeli premier Benjamin Netanyahu would not stop at Palestinian territories and would set its sights on other regional countries, namely Türkiye. The "Promised Land" is a foundational concept in Zionist ideology, corresponding roughly to modern-day Israel and parts of neighboring countries. According to extremist Zionist belief, it represents the land promised by God to them. For centuries, this concept has held immense significance in shaping Zionist identity, serving as a spiritual and historical anchor. It has fueled aggressive actions by many Zionist followers, who have used it to justify the killing of civilians in and around Israel through attacks and airstrikes. The emergence of Zionism in the late 19th century marked a pivotal moment in the pursuit of this ideal. Today, the Promised Land continues to influence Israeli society and politics, particularly in discussions about territorial claims and national identity. At the center of Gaza, it has become a focal point in Netanyahu's speeches, motivating his Zionist base both at home and abroad. The Israeli premier, since Oct. 7 last year, has often described the war on Gaza as a righteous effort and claimed Palestinian territories were "promised" to Israel, "the inheritors of land," which he attempted to justify with quotes from the Torah. In a brazen display, the Israeli premier at last month's U.N. General Assembly procured a map titled "The Curse," which marked a stretch of land from Lebanon to Iran's easternmost borders and Syria's northern strip bordering Türkiye in black. The second map he showed did not identify the West Bank and the Gaza Strip but showed all the territory as part of Israel, which Palestinians view as a clear declaration of the annexation of the West Bank to Israel. Holding the maps, Netanyahu said the world must choose between a "blessing" and a "curse."

Palestinians defy evacuation orders

GAZA CITY: The Israeli army pounded the Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip, in the latest episode of Israel's ongoing offensive that has killed more than 42,000 people since last year. The army started its new offensive on Sunday, claiming that the operation aims to prevent Hamas from regaining strength in northern Gaza. As part of the onslaught, the Israeli army ordered Palestinian residents in Jabalia, Beit Hanoun, and Beit Lahia to leave their homes and head south. Many Palestinians, however, said they would not leave. "Death is better than leaving," Ibrahim Awda, 42, who lives with his family in a tent in the Jabalia refugee camp, told Anadolu. "The occupation is trying to force us to migrate and move south after a year of steadfastness in the north and after losing our homes and jobs," he said. Awda, who lost two sons and his home in Israeli attacks, said Palestinian residents in the Jabalia camp refuse to heed the Israeli evacuation orders. "They will not leave their homes in northern Gaza unless we die," the defiant Palestinian said. According to an Anadolu reporter, the Israeli army has slapped a tight siege around northern Gaza from all directions, cutting it off from Gaza City. The military offensive in Jabalia is the third by the Israeli army in the camp since the outbreak of the Gaza conflict last year. Hundreds of Palestinians were killed and thousands injured in Israeli artillery shelling and airstrikes in the camp in past months, according to local health authorities. Awda said Israeli army is trying to deceive residents of northern Gaza by claiming that territory's south is "safe" for them. — Agencies

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