



Islamabad POST

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'No red lines' in defending itself, Iran FM Araghchi

Detailed News On Page-08

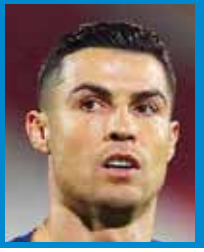
Shah Farman steps down as advisor CM KP

Detailed News On Page-08



Ronaldo extends Int'l goal tally in Nations League

Detailed News On Page-06



Boosting economic, regional ties

SCO summit to be a game changer for Pak

Regarding the economy, Tarar reported that inflation has decreased to 6.9% from over 32% last year, and all economic indicators are showing positive trends. The trade deficit continues to shrink

ANSAR M BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaullah Tarar, stated on Sunday that Pakistan has made significant progress this year in both foreign policy and economic sectors, adopting an open approach towards trade and investment. Speaking with foreign media correspondents about the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit scheduled for October 15, Tarar emphasized that "Pakistan is emerging on the international stage, and the world is beginning to recognize its true potential." He highlighted the recent successful visit of Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim to Pakistan, during which key discussions on bilateral relations, investment, and cooperation took place. During this visit, the Malaysian PM announced an increase in imports from Pakistan, including rice and Halal meat. Tarar remarked, "Exports of rice, Halal meat, and other commodities to Malaysia will further strengthen the relationship between our two countries." Additionally, Tarar noted a high-level delegation from Saudi Arabia, led by the Saudi Minister of Investment, recently visited Pakistan and signed several memoranda of understanding (MoUs) valued at \$2.2 billion to enhance bilateral cooperation. He mentioned that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has shown interest in increasing trade with Pakistan. Regarding the economy, Tarar reported that inflation has decreased to 6.9% from over 32% last year, and all economic indicators are showing positive trends.

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Amid protest fears Stringent security plan adopted for SCO summit

"Comprehensive" security plan chalked out for all-important summit in federal capital, says police chief

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: The federal authorities were preparing on Sunday to shut down the capital ahead of a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit — an event of international importance. In a statement, Islamabad Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Nasir Ali Rizvi said that a 'comprehensive' security plan had been chalked out ahead of the all-important summit in the federal capital. "Security personnel will be deployed at funnel areas, hotels and places where foreign delegations are staying," he said, adding that they ensured the security of foreign leaders, delegations and guests. Furthermore, Rizvi said search and information-based operations were underway, with personnel of Pakistan Army, intelligence agencies,

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Army wins gold at Cambrian Patrol

This year, 128 teams from 42 Countries participated in the Exercise

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Army's Team participated in Exercise Cambrian Patrol - 2024, which was held at Wales, UK from 04-13 October 2024. This year, Exercise Cambrian Patrol celebrated its 65th year. The exercise has retained its demanding professional standards; patrols all across from the globe had to move tactically across inhospitable terrain, covering a distance of 60 kms within 48 hours, completing specialist tasks in a contested environment. This year, 128 teams from 42 Countries participated in the Exercise and out of all these teams, Pakistan Army's Team showed Exceptional Performance in the exercise and has been awarded with the Gold Medal. It is indeed a proud moment for the whole Nation and Pakistan Army, which is known for its professionalism and highest standards of training. Pakistan Army has always held Country's flag high, Alhamdulillah.



LONDON: Pakistan Army's Team participated in Exercise Cambrian Patrol - 2024, which was held at Wales, UK from 04-13 October 2024. Pakistan team won gold medal. — DNA

Saner elements trying to call off strike

PTI divided on Oct 15 protest call amid SCO summit

Barrister Gohar, KP CM Gandapur oppose Hammad Azhar, Gill's stance favouring D-Chowk demonstration amid SCO summit

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur are among the minority in the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) political committee who are against holding a protest at D-Chowk on October 15. Saner elements in PTI are trying to get the protest call withdrawn. They believe it is not in the interest of Pakistan to hold such a protest on the occasion when many foreign dignitaries will be attending the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in the capital city. Asad Qaiser, Hamid Khan and Raouf Hasan are also among the minority that believe it is not in the interest of Pakistan to hold such a protest. Ali Muhammad Khan though not a part of the PTI's political committee, is also upset with the protest call for October 15. PTI sources have said that Shehbaz Gill, Hammad Azhar,

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Govt disallows meeting with Imran Khan

The application for meeting was moved by Barrister Gohar and Sahibzada Hamid Raza

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The interior ministry on Sunday officially received the application moved by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) seeking permission to hold meeting with party founder Imran Khan in Adiala Jail. However the Ministry initially disallowed meeting with Imran Khan. The application was moved by PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar and

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Chinese PM Li due today

He will also attend the Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of SCO

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang is scheduled to undertake a four-day bilateral visit to Pakistan from October 14-17, 2024 to meet Pakistan's civil and military leadership and attend the meeting of the council of the heads of government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Premier Li will be accompanied by ministers and senior officials including from the ministries of foreign affairs and commerce, the National Development and Reform Commission and the China International Development Cooperation Agency, according to a certain raiser issued by the Foreign Office on Sunday. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Premier Li Qiang will lead their respective delegations to comprehensively discuss all aspects of Pakistan-China relations including economic and trade ties and cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The two sides will also discuss regional and global developments. The Chinese premier will call on President Asif Ali Zardari and hold meetings with

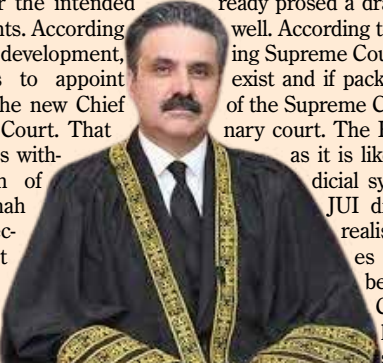
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Govt wants to appoint Yahya Afridi as new SC CJ

To pass the constitutional amendments, the government needs two-thirds majority in parliament, while it is short of 13 votes in the National Assembly (NA) and nine in the Senate

ISLAMABAD: The successor of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa will be picked from the three most senior judges of the Supreme Court; the government has proposed in its draft for the intended constitutional amendments. According to sources close to this development, the government wants to appoint Justice Yahya Afridi as the new Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. That is why the government is withholding the notification of Justice Mansoor Ali Shah as the new CJP. The selection for the coveted post will reportedly be made by an eight-member parliamentary committee. To pass the constitu-

tional amendments, the government needs two-thirds majority in parliament, while it is short of 13 votes in the National Assembly (NA) and nine in the Senate. The PP has already proposed a draft and made it public as well. According to the PPP draft the existing Supreme Court shall virtually cease to exist and if package is passed the status of the Supreme Court shall be like an ordinary court. The PPP package if approved as it is likely to turn the entire judicial system upside down. The JUI draft unlike seems more realistic and logical. It proposes a special constitutional bench within the Supreme Court instead of establishing a separate Constitutional Court. — DNA



Briefs

Mohsin Naqvi meets PM

Briefs about security arrangements for SCO summit

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi arrives at the residence of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Model Town Lahore on Sunday night to brief the PM about security arrangements during Shanghai Cooperation Council summit. Federal Interior Minister also briefed the Prime Minister about jirga of PTM in Khyber district. The meeting between the Prime Minister and the Federal Minister continued for one and a half hours. The Prime Minister also gave important instructions to the Federal Interior Minister regarding SCO security. Special security plan for foreign guests of SCO conference was discussed in detail.

Mustafa Kamal slams PTI protest plan

Criticises PTI's approach as detrimental to Pakistan's long term interests

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) Pakistan leader Mustafa Kamal criticised PTI for its planned protest at D-Chowk during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, stating that it is not in the national interest. He emphasised that the country's sovereignty should be prioritised above political interests. During a press conference in Karachi, he acknowledged the economic challenges, including inflation and unemployment, while highlighting recent macroeconomic stability and international investment projects. Kamal stressed that the upcoming summit in Islamabad would place Pakistan in the global spotlight, attracting potential investments and bolstering economic growth.

'In national interest'

DPM Dar urges PTI to postpone Oct 15 protest

Says Pakistan is fully prepared to welcome participants of the SCO summit

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar has said that holding protests during a nationally important event does not send a positive message, urging those wishing to protest to wait until after the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit. Talking to media in Islamabad, Dar highlighted Pakistan was fully prepared to welcome participants of the SCO summit, including leaders and delegates form member and observe states. He emphasised this event marked a significant diplomatic opportunity for Pakistan, occurring after 27 years, with around 1,000 foreign delegates expected. Dar urged the PTI leadership to postpone its protest planned for October 15, stressing the importance of national unity during such critical international engagements. The deputy prime minister further stated that the Chinese prime minister will also pay a bilateral visit to Pakistan, while the Indian foreign minister

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Stronger ties with regional Partners urged

He said China has shared its desire with Pakistan in achieving sustainable development goals

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani said that Chinese companies working in Pakistan were contributing positively in the national economy of the country. Addressing a ceremony in Islamabad, he said Pakistan offered immense potential in trade, investment and joint ventures in various sectors. He said Pakistan

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IMF terms Pakistan's capacity to repay external debt as fragile

Global lender's figures suggest finance demands will not go down even after three-year programme is over

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has termed Pakistan's capacity to repay external debt as fragile, while assessing that the country's external financing requirements have inflated to \$62.6 billion over the period of three years under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) programme. If the external funding needs are projected for a five-year period — from 2024-2025 to 2028-2029 — they will increase to \$110.5 billion. The country's external funding needs are estimated by the IMF staff report to be \$18.813 billion for the current fiscal year, \$20.088 billion for 2025-2026, and \$23.714 billion for 2026-2027. According to IMF figures, finance demands will not go down even once the three-year programme is over. In 2027-2028, it would be valued at \$24.625 billion, and in 2028-2029, it would be valued at \$23.235 billion. The IMF issued a warning, saying that Pakistan's ability to repay debts is subject to "major risks" and "heavily hinges on" the implementation of policy and timely exter-

nal financing. With purchases related to the request, the Fund's exposure would reach Special Drawing Rights (SDR) 6,816 million (336% of quota) by September 2024. "Exceptionally high risks — notably from high public debt and gross financing needs, low gross reserves and sociopolitical factors — could jeopardise policy implementation and erode repayment capacity and debt sustainability," it added. Restoring fiscal and external viability is critical to ensure Pakistan's capacity to repay the Fund. This depends on strong and sustained policy implementation, including, but not limited to fiscal consolidation and external asset accumulation, as well as decisive reforms to enable stronger and more resilient economic development. On external financing, IMF says multilateral disbursements are projected to reach \$14 billion over FY25-28 (including \$7.1 billion from the World Bank and \$5.6 billion from the Asian Development Bank) with key bilateral creditors fully maintaining their exposure through new financing activities.

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Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur awarded a warm welcome in Pakistan

Malaysian PM awarded a warm welcome in Pakistan

LARGEST CIRCULATED DIPLOMATIC MAGAZINE

Geoeconomic shifts demand greater eco integration: Gilani

He said that CPEC entering its second phase, bilateral cooperation would further expand into areas such as agricultural modernization, industrial growth, mining and mineral exploration, science and information technology, and educational and cultural partnerships, thereby transforming Pakistan's socioeconomic landscape

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, said on Sunday that the fast-paced geoeconomic and geostrategic shifts at regional and global levels underscore the growing importance of economic integration. "It is high time to harness our collective strengths and forge a path towards sustainable growth and prosperity by promoting regional connectivity and cooperation," he said while addressing participants at the launching ceremony of reports by the China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan (CCCCP). The Chairman lauded the reports titled "The Glorious 11 Years - How Chinese Companies Reshaped the Power Sector in Pakistan" and "Business Climate Index of Chinese Companies in Pakistan" as success stories. "Pakistan seeks to strengthen regional cooperation by fostering economic ties with our partner nations, and China stands at the very top," Gilani said. He highlighted Pakistan's strategic location, abundant natural resources, and a sizeable workforce as factors that make it an attractive destination for foreign investment. He stressed the importance of busi-

ness-to-business linkages, noting that sustainable partnerships can attract foreign direct investment, promote technology sharing, and facilitate knowledge exchange between the two nations. Commending the China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan for organizing the event, Gilani said that the reports offer valuable insights into the contributions, operational status, and investment confidence of Chinese companies in Pakistan. "The reports effectively showcase CCCPK's commitment to promoting economic growth and business development in Pakistan through the efforts of 122 Chinese companies operating in the country, both state-owned and private enterprises," he added. Gilani said that Pakistan offers immense potential for trade, investment, and joint ventures in sectors such as energy, infrastructure, agriculture, and technology. He acknowledged the government's role in providing a conducive environment for businesses to thrive. He further praised organizations like CCCPK for paving the way toward prosperity through economic cooperation and said that local entrepreneurs and companies in Pakistan can learn a great deal from their Chinese counterparts. Expressing satisfaction, Gi-

lani noted the significant role played by the Belt & Road Initiative and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in reshaping Pakistan's energy and infrastructure sectors. He added that with CPEC entering its second phase, bilateral cooperation would further expand into areas such as agricultural modernization, industrial growth, mining and mineral exploration, science and information technology, and educational and cultural partnerships, thereby transforming Pakistan's socioeconomic landscape. Gilani also highlighted the importance of the Global Development Initiative, launched by President Xi Jinping in the post-COVID world, describing it as a timely move that institutionalizes cooperation required for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). "It is a matter of satisfaction that China shares Pakistan's aspirations in achieving the SDGs," the Chairman said. He emphasized the need to enhance people-to-people connectivity and cultural linkages to realize the shared goal of an integrated, peaceful, and cooperative region. He expressed his gratitude to Mr. Wang Huihua, Chairman of the China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan, and his team for organizing the event.



MULTAN: A child throwing food for the flock of pigeons at a roadside.—APP

Ceremony held to sensitize people about dengue virus

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: A ceremony was organized here at Govt Degree College No. 3 in connection with 'Dengue Awareness' campaign to educate people about cleanliness and precautions for dengue virus. The ceremony, organized in line with the directions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Higher Education Department, was attended by College Principal, staff and students. Addressing the event, Assistant Prof. Amjad Jahangir said "we should take care of the cleanliness of our environment, and we should make people aware of how dengue spreads and how this virus is harmful for them." He also shed a light on importance of educating people about the precautions that are required to avoid dengue virus, saying, the disease could be prevented through adoption of precautionary measures. Lecturer of Zoology Asghar Khan informed the participants in detail about the dengue virus. He said that only precautionary measures against dengue fever could stop the spread of this deadly disease, therefore it is necessary to take such measures to prevent the spread of dengue mosquitoes in homes. He advised to ensure drainage of rainwater, wear full sleeves, prevent water from accumulating in pots, utensils and wooden jars kept in houses while mosquito repellent lotion should be used to avoid mosquito bites.—APP

Punjab CM approves surplus budget of Rs 34.73b

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presided over the 99th meeting of the Punjab Housing and Town Planning Agency (PHATA) governing body, where a surplus budget of Rs 34.73 billion for the current financial year was approved. The meeting highlighted significant initiatives aimed at enhancing housing accessibility and operational efficiency within PHATA. During the meeting, the Chief Minister directed PHATA to develop a plan for completing housing projects through private partnerships. She also announced the approval of the "Apni Chhat Apna Ghar" program, aimed at providing affordable housing. It was

reported in the briefing that 544,000 individuals have registered on the program's portal, with 280,000 applications received for housing construction and over 76,000 draft applications submitted. The governing body authorized PHATA to sign contracts and instructed timely verification of applicants' documents. Additionally, it approved the upgrading of data entry operators' scales and the recruitment of civil sub-engineers under the PHATA Services Regulation 2004. A key decision was made to condition budget approvals on the governing body's authorization, rather than requiring cabinet approval. The meeting also

permitted refunds to applicants from previous housing schemes who were not selected in the lottery. PHATA was authorized to conduct staff hiring for the Project Management Unit (PMU) through a job portal and was instructed to review pending housing schemes on a case-by-case basis. During the meeting, revenue was projected at Rs 17 billion, while expenditures were estimated at Rs 13.55 billion. Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Senior Minister Maryam Aurangzeb, Minister for Information and Culture Azma Zahid Bukhari, MPA Sania Ashiq, Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, and housing officials were present.—APP

PTI urged to defer protest call in national interest

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI) should stop pursuing selfish political goals and call off the October 15 protest at D-Chowk, Islamabad in the larger national interest. In an interview with APP here on Sunday, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that prime ministers of nine countries would arrive in Pakistan to attend the SCO summit on October 15 and 16 which was a matter of pride for the country and all political forces should work to present a positive image of the country instead of taking to the streets.

"I understand that PTI is a political force but when it comes to the national prestige, we should give up politics, avoid personal agenda and put Pakistan first," he said, adding that heavens would not fall if PTI called off the protest for a week or so. On destructive politics, the Governor Punjab said PTI leadership needed to understand that politics of obstinacy had brought them to the verge where one wrong step could be fatal for their firebrand politics, adding that there was no room for stubbornness in politics. He urged the PTI leadership to take the path of dialogue and play productive role in taking the country ahead rather than leading it to anarchy. Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said constructive politics also serves interests of the PTI leadership, expressing the hope that PTI had recently shown signs of change in their approach to politics. "Good or bad, the general election is over. PTI should play the role of a good opposition in the parliament and I welcome their role as opposition.—APP

Climate Change awareness good initiative of federal govt: Samina

KARACHI: Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri said that the federal government had taken a great initiative to make aware the people of climate change impacts on our daily life. She said that the new generation could face problems due to the severe impacts of climate change if precautionary measures were not taken. While talking to media persons, on the occasion, she said that the COP Simulation Program aimed at enhancing the understanding of students regarding international climate negotiations and decision-making processes in addressing the global environmental challenges based on the regional competition, organized by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination at Habib University, Senator Samina

Zehri said that COP Simulation Program was the initiative taken by the Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Romina Khurshed Alam. She said, "The new generation is our hope." and we had to take steps for their better future. Zehri said that the impacts of climate change also risked the food security. She said that the children were aware of climate change and its impacts and they were giving suggestions on it. She further said that they must come forward along with them to correct mistakes done in the past. Samina Zehri said, "We have to get use of plastic banned, which was also becoming cause of pollution." She said that there were external and internal

mistakes, which was impacting children including them. Replying to a question, she said that Pakistan would take up her climate change issues at COP 29 and seek ways to overcome them. Answering another question, she said that Sindh and Balochistan were most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to lack of resources. The houses in rural areas were more affected owing to the climate change impacts. She said that floods were faced in the past, which damaged the schools. She said that stagnant floods waters became cause of diseases outbreaks. Zehri further said that many issues had surfaced due to climate change impacts, which had affected the lives of children in particular and the people in general.—APP

No democratic person can go against constitutional package: Ahsan

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives professor Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhry on Sunday said that no any democratic person could disagree with the Constitutional Amendment Package of Pakistan. He said that the coalition government had been successful to turn around the economy of the country. He expressed these views after a meeting with MQM-Pakistan leadership including its Chairman and Federal for Education and Professional Training Minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui at MQM-Pakistan's Pakistan House. Advisor to PM on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanaullah and Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar were also present on the occasion. Ahsan Iqbal said that they provided amount of time to some parties wished to review and consider constitutional amendment. "We built a consensus, which was a democratic process", he added. He said that the leadership of MQM-Pakistan had continuously assisted with its suggestions on different issues including IPPs and along with them they successfully resolved IPPs issue. Minister said that they worked very hard to save Pakistan from economic default. It's coalition partners including MQM-Pakistan also played role in the formation of government after general elections. Recalling the events of past, he said that the democratic process of the country was derailed in the past through Article 58-2B and later a political consensus was developed and constitutional 58-2B was revoked but another way of 58-2B was paved way through courts and a series of disqualifying elected Prime Minister continued. Iqbal said that the former elected prime minister Nawaz Sharif suffered illegal sentence, which was not a sentence pronounced against us but it was also against the people and development of the country including CPEC. He said that there was only darkness and damages during the four years from 2018 to 2022 and it was suffered by the nation and the country including Karachi because no development programme was initiated. Hamza Shabaz's government was removed in Punjab by a few judges on political grounds. Iqbal was of the view that politically motivated decisions had been cause of damage to the country. He said that they wanted to keep the courts beyond any political issue and did not want anyone could point finger at them. Replying to a question, he said that MQM-Pakistan had always emphasized on article 140 A and they would collectively work to give constitutional protection to local government bodies. He further said that they had assured them that soon after the approval of constitutional amendment they could work to build a consensus over the matter.—DNA

SCO Summit catalyst for regional coop, strengthening of economic linkages

PESHAWAR: The upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit, set to take place in Islamabad on October 15-16 next week, is anticipated to serve as a key platform for fostering regional cooperation, bolstering trade and investment besides enhancing socio-economic-cultural linkages among its member states. Diplomatic and political experts maintained that this important meeting of the heads of governments of SCO's member states will not only help work together to address the pressing regional issues but also significantly enhance Pakistan's role on the global stage as a leader. Emphasizing the strategic and diplomatic importance of the SCO summit at Islamabad, former ambassador Manzoor Haq highlighted its key role in addressing security, eco-

nomical and environmental challenges besides promoting regional stability since its establishment in 1996. "Certainly, the upcoming historic summit will allow all leaders for open discussions on a range of issues from combating terrorism to economic collaboration, climate change to poverty, unemployment and cultural linkages to exchange of delegations, reflecting the organization's commitment to tackling the multifaceted challenges by supporting each other for shared prosperity," he reiterated. The SCO, which includes member states accounting for approximately 40% of the global population, and 32% of the world's GDP, presents Pakistan with an excellent opportunity to shape its economic and investment future. Ambassador Manzoor said that the extraordinary SCO meeting

at Islamabad could enhance prospects for trade and energy corridors, as well as leverage Pakistan's abundant natural resources including mines and minerals, gas and hydel power potential for foreign investment. "This is an important moment for Pakistan to take advantage of its unique strategic position and safeguard its geostrategic interests and strengthen its economy by strongly advocating its principal stand at the SCO summit," he added. The SCO's roots trace back to the Shanghai Five established in 1996, evolving significantly after Uzbekistan joined in 2001, and more recently, Pakistan became a full member in 2017 after excellently performing its observer's role during 2015-17. Manzoor said this expansion underscored the organisation's growing relevance as a forum for bilateral cooperation among countries with diverse inter-

ests and geographical importance. Professor Dr. Ejaz Khan, a former chairman of the International Relations Department at the University of Peshawar, highlighted the summit's potential to elevate Pakistan's global image. He emphasized the need for the SCO to expand economic ties in areas such as trade, investment, and innovation, stating that this great summit positions Pakistan as a vital connector in the region." Moreover, the SCO is expected to discuss crucial topics like countering terrorism, promoting bilateral trade and socio-cultural cooperation and helping underdeveloped and developing partners. He said climate change, which affects many SCO member states, required a collaborative approach to address this key issue imperative for fostering economic stability, enhancing agriculture

production and autarky in food services for the prosperity of billions of people. Dr. Ejaz Khan said SCO's commitment to regional security is evident through its focus on military cooperation and joint exercises aimed at combating terrorism, human and drug trafficking and other organized crimes in the past. He strongly believed that the summit would catalyze further collaboration in these specific areas besides reinforcing the organization's security paradigm. Professor Dr. A.H. Hilali, former chairman of the Political Science Department at the University of Peshawar, echoed the sentiment that the summit offers more than mere dialogue. He said it presents a golden opportunity for all states to redefine the SCO's role amid current geopolitical and security challenges faced by the region.—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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Bomb Disposal.....15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.....1122
& Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police.....9266044
Motorway Police.9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIA Flight Info.....114
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



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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

ICT clarifies Business, traffic adjustments during SCO Summit

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has clarified plans to manage business activities and traffic during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) conference. According to the spokesman of ICT administration, Key routes would be impacted, but the authorities assure the public that disruptions would be limited to essential areas. In a recent statement, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon

addressed concerns about possible disruptions during the upcoming SCO conference. He clarified that no blanket ban on business activities would be imposed across the Federal Capital. Only specific business centers along the designated routes would be affected. DC Memon emphasized that the district administration was in regular communication with these establishments to ensure a smooth process. "Only those business centers located directly on the route will be required to close during the conference," he said. Other businesses out-

side the affected areas would remain open and operate as usual. The Deputy Commissioner also mentioned that hiking trails in Islamabad would be closed for the duration of the SCO conference, citing security concerns. Traffic flow would be limited on the routes designated for SCO delegations to ensure safe passage for officials attending the event. In light of these adjustments, the district administration has requested cooperation from both citizens and business owners. "All measures are being taken to ensure security during the conference," Memon ex-

plained, urging patience and understanding from the public. As the conference approaches, the administration confirmed that the traffic plan was still being finalized. The route would follow the plan outlined by the traffic police, with further details to be shared with the public soon. Citizens were encouraged to limit their movement during the conference days to avoid any inconvenience. Access to Islamabad's Red Zone would be restricted, with strict measures in place to prevent unauthorized entry. The district administration also noted that activities at wedding

halls, hotels, restaurants, and similar venues located along the route would be temporarily suspended. While these measures may cause temporary disruptions, DC Islamabad apologized for any inconvenience caused, reminding citizens that the steps were necessary for the successful and secure hosting of the conference. The district administration has reiterated its appeal for cooperation, emphasizing that the smooth functioning of the city during this international event depends on collective efforts

IRSA releases 119,600 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 119,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 85,400 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1536.05 feet and was 138.05 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 44,200 cusecs and 52,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1204.20 feet, which was 154.20 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 8,600 cusecs and 35,000 cusecs respectively. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Oct13-A view of Rawal Dam Chowk Flyover decorated in connection with SCO Summit in the Federal Capital. —ONLINE

Education secretary vows to revolutionize public schools

ISLAMABAD: Secretary of the Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani Sunday made a strong commitment to revolutionize Islamabad's public schools, transforming them into beacons of excellence within just one year where half of the work already being completed. In an exclusive interview with PTV news channel, he said the government's commitment to providing quality education in public schools, equal

to or even surpassing that of private institutions. He highlighted the focus on teacher training programs and state-of-the-art art labs to bridge the gap between public and private education. This initiative aims to empower students with the latest skills, increasing their employment opportunities and equipping them for success in the digital age, he added. Secretary hailed a major milestone in the education sector, revealing that the transformative

overhaul of public schools has led to a significant shift. "Mostly, students from private schools are now transferring to public schools," he noted. This remarkable reversal underscores the success of the government's initiatives, which prioritize quality education, teacher training and state-of-the-art facilities, he added. The transformation of public schools is a significant step towards providing quality education for all, regardless of socioeconomic

background, he mentioned. Responding to a query, Wani emphasized the importance of character building, hard work and patriotism, adding, students should focus on developing strong moral values and a robust work ethic. "Character building is essential for individual success and national progress," he stressed. Wani also encouraged students to become ambassadors of Pakistan, striving to promote a positive image of their country globally.—DNA

Security plan for SCO summit finalized, 93% of force deployed

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police, under the supervision of Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, is preparing for the upcoming SCO Summit 2024, with a comprehensive security plan now in place. Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi stated on Sunday that the ICT Police have developed an integrated security strategy to ensure safety during the event. IG Rizvi said that security duties have been finalized at various venues, airports, routes, funnel areas, hotels, and residences of delegations, including the Noor Khan Air Base. IG Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi stated that the Islamabad Police have developed an integrated traffic plan to minimize difficulties for citizens during the event. "Search and information-based operations are ongoing to ensure full security for all foreign heads of state, delegations, and guests," Rizvi said. IG Rizvi, said the security efforts involve collaboration across multiple agencies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, District Administration, Pakistan Army, Rangers, Frontier Corps, other provincial police, intelligence agencies, traffic police, and the special branch. "Islamabad Police has deployed 93% of its force for the security arrangements, amounting to over 9,500 officers and personnel," IG Added. "The presence of these security forces aims to convey to our guests that Islamabad is a safe and protected city," IG Rizvi added. Ali Nasir Rizvi called for public cooperation to ensure the success of the summit, asserting that it represents the respect of Pakistan and its capital. "We are working diligently to present a successful summit, and with the help of all stakeholders, we will achieve this goal," Rizvi expressed determination. —APP

ICT's public parks in dilapidated state due to poor maintenance

The residents urged the relevant authorities to take notice of the situation and must prioritize park maintenance, allocate sufficient funds, and engage community members for equipping the parks with facilities

ISLAMABAD: Most of the public parks and playgrounds in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) are in shambles, need civic authorities' attention to make them attractive places for visitors. The city is renowned for its abundance of resorts and public green spaces. However, these green spaces are now highlighting the necessity for regular maintenance by the relevant authorities. According to a senior official of Capital Development Authority (CDA), there are more than 300 public parks and playgrounds in Islamabad whereas over 820 staff is deployed for keeping these parks clean and green. A resident of Sector G11/2, Haq Nawaz said, public parks in majority of areas including G-10, G-9, G-8, G-13 and G-7 were in poor condition with broken benches, bro-

ken lamps, overgrown grass, uneven walking tracks, trash strewn all over. Touqeer Ahmed, a regular visitor of playground in G-9 lamented the appalling condition of most parks and playgrounds, stating, "The lush greenery is overshadowed by the neglect, reflecting a lack of interest from CDA officials." Shahid Jameel, a resident of G-13/4, said, "Swings and other playing instruments installed at a park near his house had broken, posing a threat to children. It's heartbreaking to see our parks in this state. Now, I don't feel safe bringing my kids here." When contacted, Qaisar Mahmood an Assistant Director of Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) told APP that all the public parks and playing areas under the authority were renovated and revamped

time and again but the outsiders misuse these recreational facilities. He called upon the residents to also help government in maintaining public facilities by taking much care of such facilities while using them. Director Environment of Capital Development Authority (CDA) Rana Kashif said, "The capital has the largest number of parks and the directorate of environment is divided into four parts: East, West, Parks and Regional. There is no specific allocation of funds, the funds are allocated on need based for renovation and provision of the required facilities." The residents urged the relevant authorities to take notice of the situation and must prioritize park maintenance, allocate sufficient funds, and engage community members for equipping the parks with facilities.—APP

AIOU 37th Int'l conference kicks off

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is holding 37th annual conference of Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU). The three-day conference, starting from October 15, will bring together renowned education experts from over 20 countries, including Europe, Asia, the US, Canada, China, Japan, Australia, and South Africa. The 37th AAOU will kick off with a pre-workshop today, October 14, featuring participation from various international delegations. The inaugural session is scheduled for tomorrow, October 15, at 9 AM, with the Federal Minister for Education and Vocational Training, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, serving as the chief guest. Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor of AIOU, emphasized that the conference aimed to address future challenges in the education sector and to generate recommendations for enhancing social and economic development through effective educational strategies. Dr Zahid Majid, the conference coordinator, noted, "The event will attract approximately 80 international experts from 20 countries, alongside more than 200 Pakistani educators." Notable keynote speakers will include scholars from Canada, Australia, South Africa, Indonesia, and Pakistan. This significant gathering aims to foster dialogue and collaboration in the field of distance education, aiming to improve educational practices and accessibility worldwide.—DNA

Hidden dangers in frozen meat, refrigerated food

ISLAMABAD: Nutritionist Sunday issued a critical warning to the public, particularly pregnant women regarding the consumption of frozen meat and food stored improperly in refrigerators as because of such food harbor harmful bacteria could lead to severe and dangerous infections. "Effective refrigerator storage practices are key to safeguarding your family's health and preserving food quality," a renowned Nutritionist Dr Areej Haroon said while talking to a Private news channel. She said, "Proper refrigerator storage techniques, such as separation and labeling, are vital to protecting your family's well-being, adding, refrigerator storage best practices are critical to preventing food-borne illnesses —APP

No compromise on Pak honour, Talal warns PTI

ISLAMABAD: PML-N Senator Talal Chaudhry Sunday issued a strong warning regarding PTI's protest call and said that the government will not tolerate any actions that compromise Pakistan's respect and dignity. He declared the call as an attempt to blackmail the state and secure an NRO. In an exclusive interview with a private news channel, Talal said that the government will not tolerate any attempts to create chaos and called Imran Khan as "history's VIP prisoner" who enjoys all facilities while still making excuses and attempting to disrupt the SCO conference. According to Talal Chaudhry, PTI's actions are a threat to Pakistan's economic stability and national security. He reiterated the government's commitment to protecting Pakistan's respect and dignity, making it clear that no compromises will be made. He said Imran Khan leader of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party has been receiving special treatment while in jail, including separate kitchen facilities and opportunities to hold political meetings, adding, despite this, he continues to criticize the government and allegedly wants to disrupt the SCO summit and CPEC phase 2. The SCO summit and CPEC phase 2 are crucial for Pakistan's economic development and any disruptions could have significant consequences, he added. The government is focusing on addressing the country's economic woes and fulfilling its governing responsibilities instead of targeting the opposition, he added. Responding to a query, he made it clear that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) can call for protests but they will not allow to dare to disrupt the state's proceedings, especially when Pakistan is hosting a significant international conference.—APP

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Briefs

Govt successfully prevents an economic catastrophe

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Business leader and former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Sunday that the government has saved the country from complete economic collapse. The non-political finance minister has demonstrated his value as a national asset. He added that if allowed to serve for a few years, he has the potential to transform Pakistan's destiny. Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that the authorities should cooperate with the finance minister in every possible way, and no one should be allowed to stand in his way so that he can work with peace of mind. The business leader stated that Pakistan has never experienced a shortage of rice or corn due to the government's lack of involvement. However, the government consistently intervenes in the wheat and sugarcane crops, leading to recurring crises that will persist until the government ceases its intervention. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that if trade with neighbouring country is allowed, then there will be no shortage of vegetables in Pakistan. He said that the Rs 5,000 banknote is a big obstacle to increasing revenue and reducing corruption. The high-denomination currency note does not provide benefits to the people; instead, it has fostered corruption and fortified the underground economy.—APP

HEC secures 3rd position

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The team of Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan gave an impressive performance at the Inter-departmental Karate Championship held at Nishtar Park Sports Complex, Lahore, and secured 3rd position. HEC team demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication, winning a total of 18 medals, including 1 gold, 6 silver, and 11 bronze medals. In the female category, Nimra Ali won the silver medal in Individual Kata, while the team comprising Hafiza Iqra Anwar, Summaya Rafaqat, and Aayira Faisal won bronze medal in Team Kata. The team also won one bronze medal in Team Kumite. Other notable female performances included four silver medals and three bronze medals in various weight categories. The male team also gave a very good performance with Haris Nadeem winning a bronze medal in Individual Kata. The team comprising Haris Nadeem, Dilawar, Nouman Arshad, and Alyan secured bronze medal in Team Kata. The team won silver medal in Team Kumite, while Syed Wasi Haider clinched a gold medal in the below 75 kg weight category.—APP

Women's economic participation fostering productivity

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) Chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol has observed that the women's economic participation promotes agricultural productivity, enterprise development at the micro, small, and medium enterprise levels, as well as enhances business management and returns on investment. He was talking to the dinner reception hosted by PIAF Women Wing's Nabeela Intisar and Firdous Nisar, which was also attended by Mian Anjum Nisar. The PIAF chairman emphasized the need for separate representation and appropriate quotas for businesswomen in every sector. He stated that women should be given 30 to 40 percent representation in business institutions so that they can demonstrate their abilities in all fields of life.

ISSI hosts round table on "Pakistan-Russia relations"

In September 2024, the first-ever Pakistan-Russia Trade Forum was held, resulting in the signing of a Barter Trade Agreement between the two countries. This development, along with Russia's important role in Pakistan's foreign policy considerations, underscores the deepening ties. He also highlighted the upcoming visit of the Russian Prime Minister to Pakistan for the SCO Summit in Islamabad, stressing Russia's continued importance in Pakistan's diplomatic and economic strategies

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The ISSI hosted a Round Table Discussion on "Pakistan-Russia Relations Amid Changing Global World Order," with Pakistan's former Ambassador to Russia Qazi Khalilullah. The event, moderated by Dr. Neelum Nigar, Director Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP), was attended by representatives from the Russian Embassy, academics, think-tank experts, and practitioners.

DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood warmly welcomed the distinguished participants, expressing his profound gratitude to Ambassador Qazi Khalilullah as the keynote speaker. He highlighted Ambassador Qazi's extensive diplomatic career, which included key postings in Cuba, Myanmar, and the Russian Federation. With

decades of experience in the region, Ambassador Qazi has significantly contributed to the growth of Pakistan-Russia relations, particularly during his tenure as Ambassador in Moscow. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood noted that Pakistan-Russia relations have passed through many phases - from the earliest day of the cold war to the present times - evolving into a relationship now marked by friendship, mutual understanding, and trust. He stressed that this is a growing partnership encompassing diverse domains, including trade, energy, security, culture, and people-to-people exchanges, with vast opportunities for future collaboration, particularly in the fields of agriculture, aviation, and regional connectivity. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood also remarked on the significance of the efforts of Pakistan and Russia for the stabilization of Afghani-

stan and for enhanced regional connectivity. He appreciated Russia's support for Pakistan's full membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and its supportive stance toward Pakistan's quest for membership of BRICS. Both countries share a commitment to multilateralism, with the UN playing a central role. He emphasized that Pakistan and Russia are united in their desire to avoid another Cold War, given the contemporary world's challenges in the wake of accentuation of traditional and non-traditional security threats. A significant breakthrough occurred in 2014 with the signing of the Defence Cooperation Agreement, followed by a gas pipeline agreement in 2015. Ambassador Qazi noted that regular dialogues on various issues of bilateral interest have since taken place, including arms control, counterterrorism, and defence cooperation. He

emphasized that Pakistan currently enjoys a peaceful, cooperative, and trustworthy relationship with Russia, free from any demands on either side. In September 2024, the first-ever Pakistan-Russia Trade Forum was held, resulting in the signing of a Barter Trade Agreement between the two countries. This development, along with Russia's important role in Pakistan's foreign policy considerations, underscores the deepening ties. He also highlighted the upcoming visit of the Russian Prime Minister to Pakistan for the SCO Summit in Islamabad, stressing Russia's continued importance in Pakistan's diplomatic and economic strategies. There was an interactive session afterwards, which covered topics related to diplomatic ties, trade, education, military cooperation, and regional connectivity. Participants emphasized the need for stronger academic exchanges and people-to-people

contacts, noting the growing number of Pakistani students in Russia. The discussion also highlighted joint military exercises as critical to counterterrorism efforts. It also covered issues such as the Ukraine war and energy collaboration. The dialogue reaffirmed Pakistan's balanced foreign policy, maintaining strong relations with both Russia and the United States. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, BoG, ISSI, closed the roundtable by delivering his vote of thanks, reaffirming the commitment of ISSI to fostering strategic dialogue and collaboration. He noted the promising trajectory of Pakistan-Russia relations, underscoring the importance of adding substance to this partnership through enhanced integration, connectivity, trade, and commerce. He highlighted recent progress in high-level contacts as essential for fostering deeper ties.

FPCCI disregards Saudi investment delegation

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Trade leader and founder President of Attock Chamber of Commerce Mirza Abdul Rehman on Sunday said that the top leadership of the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) disregarded the Saudi investment delegation, which is shameful. Saudi business delegates, led by their Minister for Investment, Sheikh Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz Al Faleh, met with top officials, ministers, and leading businessmen during their visit, and they signed numerous Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) that will result in an investment of over two billion dollars. However, he said, not a single elected official of the Apex chamber had time to attend any meeting with the visiting delegation in Islamabad, as they were busy with activities beneficial to their businesses.

Mirza Abdul Rehman said in a statement issued here today that, at the insistence of some quarters, two unelected businessmen were sent by the FPCCI Capital Official to attend a meeting who lacked the mandate and skills to talk to any investor about anything.

This negative attitude speaks to the interest of the elected leaders of the FPCCI in national development, promoting the image of Pakistan, and attracting foreign investment. He demanded action against self-centred businessmen who focused on reaping personal benefits while ignoring national interests. He stated that FPCCI should serve as a place where local and foreign investors receive support and have their issues resolved, not as a club to enjoy life. He added that a chamber of commerce is a powerful force that can help shape the future of business for the better. It is a network of business owners who come together to network with each other and promote investments. Chambers of Commerce are independent and do not create laws or regulations themselves, but they have great influence with legislators when it comes to lobbying and are therefore seen as an authoritative figure in the business landscape, he noted. The Apex chamber should support legislation that will help businesses thrive through programs, campaigns, schemes, and discussions, but that is not the case in FPCCI.—APP



ISLAMABAD: CEO Monal Group Luqman Ali Afzal hosted dinner for the newly arrived Deputy Chief of Mission of the US embassy. Seen in the picture are Chairman REIT Zahid Latif Khan, Editor Daily Islamabad POST Ansar M Bhatti and others.—DNA

Custom-free vehicles for Gwadar free Zones on cards

The regulatory framework has been formulated with the notification of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) with the purpose to facilitate the operationalization of Gwadar Free Zone and expedite the industrialization process

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Government has shown readiness to allow import of custom-free vehicles in Gwadar Free Zone North and Gwadar Free Zone South under regulatory frameworks laid down by Federal Board of Revenue, Custom and Excise & Taxation department, Balochistan. This will give profuse impetus to Gwadar Free Zone and investors, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday. Ministry

of Maritime Affairs has prepared the draft for regulatory mechanism for the import of vehicles by Gwadar Free Zone and its operating companies. The regulatory framework has been formulated with the notification of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) with the purpose to facilitate the operationalization of Gwadar Free Zone and expedite the industrialization process. As per the amended regulatory mechanism, Free Zone investors will be authorized to import custom duty-free

vehicles for their construction and operation. This will subsequently provide an impetus to new investors to bring in more investment to the Free Zone. Previously, the exemptions were enjoyed by Gwadar Port and Gwadar Free Zone operator - China Overseas Ports Holding Company, in accordance with the Concession Agreement signed the government of Pakistan in 2007. With the revised module, concession holders of the Free Zone will be required to submit the dec-

laration form to the Gwadar Port Authority to avail the exemptions under Pakistan Customs Tariff (PCT) code. Nevertheless, the importer shall register the vehicles to the Excise and Taxation department as stipulated in the Motor Vehicle Ordinance, 1965 for regulation. Meanwhile the Cabinet Committee on Chinese Investment Projects (CCOICIP) is planning an exemption from the import and export policy order to facilitate fertilizer investors in making shipments to overseas markets.

MoUs signed with Chinese prestigious universities

ISLAMABAD: The University of Sargodha (UoS) has taken significant steps to strengthen its international academic collaborations by signing two separate Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with prestigious Chinese institutions. These agreements, signed with the Action Academy of Beijing Film and Television Research Institute and Tang International Education, mark a new chapter in UoS's efforts to enhance educational, cultural, and technical ties with China, according to official statement released by the UoS. Prof. Dr. Qaisar Abbas, Vice Chancellor University of Sargodha signed both the agreements with Chinese officials during his visit to Beijing China, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Sunday. In the first MoU, UoS partnered with the Action Academy of Beijing Film and Television Research Institute to collaborate on initiatives in film and media studies. This agreement will facilitate joint research projects, training, and educational exchange programs, allowing participants to gain expertise in modern film and television production techniques, thus boosting the university's academic standing in media and creative arts. The second agreement the UoS has signed with Tang International Education to introduce TCM and technical education programs. This partnership emerged from a university delegation's visit to China in July-August, aimed at solidifying academic ties. The collaboration will offer students specialized training in TCM and other technical fields, enriching their educational experience and fostering global knowledge exchange.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: WBeautiful paintings adorn the walls, enhanc. — APP

ICCI to foster business growth, job creation: Nasir

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has reaffirmed the organization's commitment to supporting the business community, the backbone of Pakistan's economy, adding that under his leadership, the ICCI aims to facilitate ease of doing business by resolving existing problems and paving the way for progress and prosperity of the country. He said this in his address to a huge delegation of business leaders hailing from Blue Area who visited the Chamber under the leadership of their President Raja Hassan and Chairman Yousuf Rajput to felicitate him, Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui and Vice President Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry. Qureshi, emphasized the importance of creating a favorable business environment, crucial for Pakistan's economic prosperity and international reputation. To achieve this, he outlined key objectives, including provid-

ing equal support to all members, fostering teamwork, maintaining confidentiality, and striving for excellence. He went on to say that pharmaceutical, IT, construction and real estate sectors are aligned with Pakistan's vision to boost exports, create jobs, and drive economic progress. The President said that he is on a mission to transform the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) into a powerhouse that drives business growth and job creation in the community. He is committed to fostering industry-academia linkages, promoting entrepreneurship and startups, and opening up new business opportunities to make the community job providers rather than job seekers. With his determination and vision, the ICCI is likely to become a catalyst for economic growth and development in Pakistan, he added. In his address Yousuf Rajput while congratulating the new leadership pledged his and his fellow business leaders' full support to the Founder Group in future also and highlighted the crucial challenges, the community is facing.

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China's tech self-sufficiency

AS China navigates a post-pandemic slump and geopolitical headwinds, the future of its economy looks precarious, especially as the property sector – once deemed the economic backbone – has crumbled. Rushing to rebalance its economic landscape, Beijing has rolled out several stimulus plans to boost market confidence while doubling down on its self-reliant model to create a “dual circulation” economy. Four years in, the global economy remains lacklustre, anticipation of a recession mounts, and many wonder if China has made enough progress to turn its ship around. The Chinese government's approach to these challenges is to achieve a 5 per cent growth target through opening up its domestic market and advancing technological innovation. A case in point is Black Myth: Wukong, China's first AAA video game developed by Hangzhou-based studio Game Science that has generated over US\$961 million in gross revenue. Its tremendous success has contributed not only to the 15 per cent year-on-year growth in China's video gaming market in August, but also driven a tourism boom in Shanxi province as visitors flock to explore the numerous sites featured in the blockbuster game. Another formidable Chinese powerhouse is BYD, which took Tesla's electric vehicle (EV) sales crown for the fourth quarter of 2023 and remains firmly among the top 150 companies in the 2024 Fortune Global 500 list. Thus, Chinese government support has played a significant role in spurring the success of innovative companies. To redirect its economic trajectory and ensure long-term prosperity, Beijing has recognised it is essential to carve out new avenues of growth. To date, over 1 trillion yuan (US\$128.68 billion) has been invested in emerging industries such as artificial intelligence and green technologies. Aligned with this strategy, universities are revamping their courses to focus on high-tech fields in response to the government's call for more talent in these sectors. According to the Milken Institute's latest report on the best-performing cities in China in 2023–2024, these new productive forces are emerging as potential silver bullets for the economy. Cities that have displayed significant economic resilience tend to share a common characteristic: properly established tech hubs and diversified sectors. For instance, Hangzhou has shifted from a tourism-based economy to a flourishing e-commerce hub that hosts large tech conglomerates. Though the city remains a top tourist destination, tourism revenue plays an increasingly smaller part in the local economy. In the meantime, Shenzhen, a crucial city included in the Greater Bay Area development zone, is working to reinforce its distinction as “China's Silicon Valley”, to attract even more investors and private-sector engagement. By fostering home-grown innovations, the world's second-largest economy seeks to enhance its competitive edge by reducing its dependency on Western technologies. China is striving to achieve this by bolstering its domestic supply chains, strategically fostering tech hubs in the central regions, and strengthening its alliances with Southeast Asian markets such as Malaysia and Vietnam through the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.



SCO summit, a diplomatic milestone

PAKISTAN is set to host the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Heads of Government (CHG) meeting on October 15-16, 2024, in Islamabad. This event is a significant milestone, as it brings together leaders from SCO member states to engage in discussions, with a particular emphasis on economic cooperation. For Pakistan, this event is especially important, as it highlights the country's ongoing involvement in the SCO since becoming a full member in June 2017, after holding observer status since 2005. Hosting the SCO CHG meeting in Islamabad is not just a diplomatic moment for Pakistan but also an opportunity to enhance its standing on the global stage. The agenda for the SCO CHG meeting is shaped through collaboration between the foreign ministries and government bodies of the member countries. This year, the central theme focuses on the economy, underscoring the shared interest of SCO member states in fostering regional economic growth and cooperation. By prioritizing economic discussions, the meeting will address issues such as trade barriers, economic integration, and investment opportunities among the member states. As the host, Pakistan aims to highlight its commitment to the SCO's objectives, promoting regional stability and prosperity through economic collaboration. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization holds a unique position in the global landscape, representing nearly one-third of the world's population through its member states. This makes it a highly influential platform, allowing countries to engage in crucial dialogues that shape regional policies. Hosting the SCO CHG meeting is a testament to Pakistan's active involvement in this influential organization. It challenges the narrative that Pakistan is diplomatically isolated and instead positions the country as an important player in both regional and global affairs. The gathering of international leaders in Islamabad sends a strong signal that Pakistan remains relevant in global diplomacy. The presence of leaders representing nearly one-third of the global population further underscores Pakistan's strategic importance. The participation of 11 heads of state and about 900 delegates reflects the international community's confidence in Pakistan's security and stability. This is a significant message to the world, highlighting Pakistan's role as a key player in regional diplomacy and its capability to host large-scale international events. Successfully managing the SCO CHG meeting will not only enhance Pakistan's standing on the international stage but also serve as a demonstration of its diplomatic and logistical capabilities. The event also showcases Pakistan's ability to engage with the international community in a meaningful way. As Islamabad prepares to host global leaders, the country will be put in the spotlight for its hospitality, organizational discipline, and security measures. Successfully hosting such a high-profile event will reflect positively on Pakistan's global image, presenting it as a country open for dialogue, trade, and investment. Beyond the logistical preparations, this event serves as an opportunity for Pakistan to demonstrate that it is a stable, capable, and hospitable nation, ready to engage with the international community.

In the USA the slavery still exists...

Qamar Bashir



This research led me to question how the ecosystem of prisoner exploitation could become such a significant monetary incentive that neither side of the political spectrum addresses it directly. I discovered that, as of 2023, approximately 800,000 of the 2.1 million incarcerated individuals in the U.S. are subjected to forced labor. The value of goods and services produced by this labor is estimated to be between \$11 and \$14 billion annually...

I RECENTLY met with a former incarcerated U.S. citizen during a gathering near Detroit, Michigan, who made some startling revelations about the status of slavery in the U.S. He explained that while the 13th Amendment abolished slavery, it contains an exception for incarcerated individuals, who are treated as slaves and deprived of many rights enjoyed by free citizens. He argued that the government, Senate, Congress, and politicians are complicit in strengthening law enforcement agencies, creating stringent laws, and allocating disproportionate funds to increase incarceration. By expanding the prison population, corporations exploit incarcerated individuals as cheap labor, inflating their profits, which are then funneled into political campaigns and government officials, creating a perpetual cycle with no end in sight. He also mentioned that U.S. prisons have become hotspots for forced labor, where inmates work for large corporations and receive meager wages. For example, while free workers may earn \$20 to \$30 per hour, prisoners performing similar tasks earn as little as \$20 per month. Companies like McDonald's and Walmart have been linked to the use of prison labor for tasks such as manufacturing and packaging, where inmates are paid minimal wages. These revelations prompted me to dive deeper into the 13th Amendment and its exception clause, as I found it difficult to believe that a country known for championing freedom and democracy could still harbor any form of slavery. Further research revealed that private prison companies, such as CoreCivic and GEO Group, have spent millions lobbying for policies that promote mass incarceration, such as mandatory minimum sentences and harsher laws. These companies, benefiting from a steady stream of low-cost labor, contribute to political campaigns, ensuring that the cycle of mass incarceration continues. The business model behind prisoner exploitation, enabled by the 13th Amendment's exception clause, has gradually gained more attention, particularly in recent years. Throughout the 20th century, both major political parties largely ignored this issue, focusing instead on “law and order” policies, especially during the War on Drugs in the 1980s and 1990s, which expanded the prison system. In the 21st century, advocacy for criminal justice reform has risen, particularly during President Barack Obama's administration, though the focus remained more

on sentencing reform and addressing racial disparities, with less emphasis on the 13th Amendment exception. Progressive Democrats like Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez have recently pushed to end prison labor exploitation, advocating for more comprehensive reform. On the other hand, Republicans, particularly under Donald Trump, passed the First Step Act in 2018, a bipartisan effort to reform sentencing laws, though it did not address the prison labor issue. Despite increasing awareness from civil rights groups and progressive voices, the topic has yet to become a major focus of either party's platform in the 2024 Harris-Trump campaign. The lack of attention to prisoner enslavement from both major political parties has left a void filled by advocacy groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), led by Bryan Stevenson. These groups, along with others like the Movement for Black Lives (M4BL), Prison Policy Initiative (PPI), and Critical Resistance, are working to end the exploitation of prison labor. They argue that the prison labor system, perpetuated by the 13th Amendment's exception clause, continues to fuel economic and racial inequalities. This research led me to question how the ecosystem of prisoner exploitation could become such a significant monetary incentive that neither side of the political spectrum addresses it directly. I discovered that, as of 2023, approximately 800,000 of the 2.1 million incarcerated individuals in the U.S. are subjected to forced labor. The value of goods and services produced by this labor is estimated to be between \$11 and \$14 billion annually, with prisoners paid a fraction of what free workers earn. The relationship between corporations, lawmakers, and law enforcement agencies creates a cycle where higher incarceration rates benefit private companies. As these profits rise, they fund political campaigns and lobbying efforts, making the prison-industrial complex self-sustaining as long as corporate and political interests align. In recent years, there have been efforts to abolish the 13th Amendment's exception clause, with some states like Colorado and Utah amending their constitutions to prohibit slavery or involuntary servitude, even for prisoners. However, the political and economic incentives tied to the prison system make it a deeply entrenched issue. Without significant reform, the cycle of exploitation will likely continue, sustained by the intersection

of corporate interests, political influence, and the legal framework that enables prison labor.

The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, while abolishing slavery in 1865, contains an exception that allows for involuntary servitude “as a punishment for crime.” This exception has created a legal framework in which incarcerated individuals can be forced to work under exploitative conditions, often for extremely low wages. In 2023, the U.S. prison population stood at approximately 2.1 million people, with an estimated 800,000 engaged in some form of prison labor. These individuals are often paid far below minimum wage, sometimes as little as \$0.23 per hour. This practice contradicts the spirit of the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause and the 8th Amendment's prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment, as it disproportionately affects minority groups, particularly African Americans, who are incarcerated at higher rates and are subjected to harsh labor conditions that would be considered unacceptable for non-incarcerated workers. The exception also violates international human rights standards. The United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), to which the U.S. is a signatory, expressly prohibits slavery and forced labor in Article 4. Additionally, Article 23 guarantees the right to just and favorable conditions of work, which prisoners do not receive under current practices. Moreover, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), ratified by the U.S. in 1992, similarly prohibits forced labor except under lawful punishment, though this exception has been widely criticized as enabling the exploitation of prisoners. Additionally, the International Labour Organization (ILO) calls for the abolition of forced labor in all forms. Despite these international commitments, the prison labor system benefits both private corporations and state-run institutions despite the fact the economic incentive perpetuates the cycle of exploitation and contradicts the principles of human dignity and equality enshrined in both the U.S. Constitution and international human rights law.

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

China's strategic gamble with North Korea

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



From China's perspective, the stability of the Korean Peninsula is crucial to maintaining regional security and protecting its broader strategic interests. The possibility of a nuclear conflict on the peninsula represents a severe threat; not only because of the catastrophic human and environmental consequences but also due to the long-term destabilizing effects such a conflict would have on the region. North Korea's nuclear program, particularly its development of ballistic missile technology capable of reaching US allies...

THE relationship between China and North Korea is one of the most intricate and multifaceted alliances in contemporary geopolitics, shaped by a historical, strategic, and economic interplay. This dynamic, often characterized by both cooperation and tension, remains critical for regional security in East Asia and broader international stability. For Beijing, the Korean Peninsula's stability is paramount, given its proximity and the potential consequences of the conflict or regime collapse. North Korea's nuclear ambitions, volatile leadership, and dependence on external support add layers of complexity to the bilateral relationship. **Historical Foundations of Sino-North Korean Relations:** The historical backdrop of the China-North Korea relationship dates to the Korean War (1950-1953), where Chinese forces fought alongside North Korea against the U.S.-led United Nations coalition. The war solidified the bond between the two nations, with China emerging as North Korea's most important ally. After the war, China continued to support North Korea, providing economic aid, military assistance, and political backing. This enduring partnership, however, has not been without its tensions, especially as the geopolitical landscape has shifted in recent decades. North Korea's isolation from the international community due to its human rights record, nuclear ambitions, and periodic provocations has made China its most critical ally. For decades, Beijing has been Pyongyang's economic lifeline, supplying food, energy, and other vital resources. This relationship has allowed North Korea to maintain its regime, even in the face of international sanctions and isolation. From China's perspective, the stability of the Korean Peninsula is crucial to maintaining regional security and protecting its broader strategic interests. The possibility of a nuclear conflict on the peninsula represents a severe threat; not only because of the catastrophic human and environmental consequences but also due to the long-term destabilizing effects such a conflict would have on the region. North Korea's nuclear program, particularly its development of ballistic missile technology capable of reaching U.S. allies and territories, raises the risk of an arms race in the region and justifies an increased U.S. military presence in East Asia, much to China's discomfort. Beyond the nuclear threat, China is deeply concerned about the potential collapse of the North Korean regime. A collapse could result in a humanitarian crisis, with a massive influx of refugees into China, creating security, economic, and social challenges. In addition, the fall of North Korea could pave the way for the unification of the Korean Peninsula under South Korean leadership, a close ally of the United States. This scenario would likely bring U.S. forces closer to China's borders, a situation Beijing is eager to avoid at all costs. Consequently, propping up the North Korean regime, despite its problematic nature, is viewed as a lesser

evil compared to the chaos that could arise from its collapse. China has consistently provided North Korea with economic and diplomatic support as part of its strategy to maintain stability on the peninsula. This assistance comes in the form of food aid, energy supplies, and backing in international forums such as the United Nations, where China has used its veto power to shield North Korea from the harshest international sanctions. Beijing views these efforts as a necessary investment in regional stability, ensuring that North Korea remains stable enough to prevent a collapse but not so strong, that it can pursue its nuclear ambitions unchecked. This economic support is also a strategic investment for China. By maintaining North Korea as a buffer state, China keeps U.S.-allied South Korea, and by extension the U.S. military presence, at bay. The presence of U.S. forces in South Korea, including advanced missile defense systems such as THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense), is seen by China as a direct threat to its national security. North Korea's geographical position serves as a critical geopolitical buffer, preventing U.S. military encroachment on China's northeastern border. While the relationship between China and North Korea is built on mutual dependence, it is not without significant tensions and contradictions. North Korea's dependence on Chinese support, particularly for its economy, contrasts with its pursuit of policies that frequently challenge Chinese interests. Under Kim Jong-un's leadership, North Korea has pursued an aggressive strategy of brinkmanship, conducting missile tests and advancing its nuclear program, often in defiance of international sanctions and at times against China's explicit advice. North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weapons is motivated by a desire for regime survival, as well as leverage on the international stage. By demonstrating its nuclear capabilities, Pyongyang aims to extract concessions, both from the international community and from China itself. Kim Jong-un's regime is acutely aware that remaining a global priority is essential for securing the financial, economic, and humanitarian assistance it requires to survive. On the other hand, China's broader strategic interests extend beyond the Korean Peninsula. Beijing's primary concerns include maintaining its economic relationship with the United States, which is critical for China's continued economic growth. The U.S. remains China's largest trading partner, and any disruption to this relationship could have significant consequences for the Chinese economy, which is already grappling with slower growth and structural imbalances. Furthermore, China is keen to improve its diplomatic and economic relations with South Korea. Strengthening ties with Seoul serves multiple purposes: it could create a more favorable environment for diplomatic engagement with the U.S. and potentially lead to progress on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. From China's perspective, North Korea's provoca-

tions, such as missile tests and nuclear threats, undermine these efforts by escalating regional tensions and justifying a U.S. military buildup in the region.

North Korea's nuclear program is perhaps the most significant point of contention between Beijing and Pyongyang. While China has publicly condemned North Korea's nuclear ambitions and has supported international sanctions aimed at curbing the regime's weapons program, Beijing has been reluctant to fully enforce these sanctions, fearing that doing so could destabilize the North Korean regime. At the same time, China is deeply concerned about the presence of U.S. military forces in the region, which have been bolstered in response to North Korea's nuclear threats. The deployment of U.S. missile defense systems in South Korea and Japan, ostensibly to protect against North Korean missiles, is seen by China as a direct threat to its own security. These systems could potentially be used to counter China's own military capabilities, further complicating Beijing's strategic calculations. The broader regional arms race that North Korea's actions have fueled is a source of significant concern for China, as it threatens to destabilize the balance of power in East Asia. Despite these challenges, China is unlikely to abandon North Korea. The collapse of the North Korean regime would be a geopolitical disaster for Beijing, potentially leading to Korean reunification under a U.S.-aligned government and the expansion of U.S. military influence in the region. Moreover, the humanitarian crisis that would result from a North Korean collapse would place enormous strain on China's resources, as millions of refugees would likely flee across the border into Chinese territory. Therefore, a delicate balance of support and pressure characterizes China's strategy towards North Korea. On the one hand, Beijing continues to provide Pyongyang with the economic and diplomatic backing it needs to survive. On the other hand, China seeks to exert pressure on North Korea to curtail its nuclear ambitions and avoid further escalating tensions in the region. This balancing act requires careful management of Beijing's broader strategic priorities, including its relationships with the U.S. and South Korea, as well as its domestic economic and security concerns. The relationship between China and North Korea is defined by mutual dependence, strategic pragmatism, and ongoing tensions. For China, North Korea serves as both a buffer state and a source of significant strategic headaches. While Beijing remains committed to preventing the collapse of the North Korean regime, it is increasingly frustrated by Pyongyang's provocations and nuclear ambitions, which complicate China's broader strategic goals, particularly its relations with the U.S. and South Korea. Looking forward, the Sino-North Korean relationship is likely to remain one of the most complex and challenging in East Asia. As China navigates its growing role on the global stage, it will continue to balance its support for North Korea with its broader strategic objectives.

Briefs

Stringent security plan adopted for SCO summit

FROM PAGE 01
Frontier Corps (FC) and Rangers performing their duties. The police chief pointed out that more than 9,000 personnel of the police force have been deployed for security. "An integrated traffic plan has also been issued for the convenience of citizens." Chinese Premier Li Qiang, Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar and Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin will be among the senior regional government officials attending the two-day conference on Tuesday and Wednesday (October 15-16). In the weeks leading up to the summit, the government has introduced new laws that restrict protest in the federal capital. They have also arrested hundreds of supporters of key opposition party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), who attempted to march in Islamabad earlier this month, to register protest for "independence of the judiciary" and release of jailed founder Imran Khan.

IMF terms Pakistan's capacity...

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Modest access to new short-term borrowing from commercial banks is anticipated for FY25-FY26, with a gradual return to bond markets assumed for mid-FY27, reflecting a restoration of policy credibility. The IMF sponsored programme is fully financed, with firm commitments for the first 12 months and good prospects thereafter. Financing committed for FY25 includes \$16.8 billion of roll-overs of existing short-term financing and \$2.5 billion of additional commitments, including from China, Saudi Arabia, ADB and Islamic Development Bank (IDB). The Pakistan authorities have received firm commitments from key bilateral partners to (at least) maintain their existing exposures throughout the programme, including rolling over existing short-term liabilities, which will contribute to meeting financing needs in the remaining period. Loans from foreign commercial banks totalling \$6.6 billion, which were renewed during the 2019 EFF and 2023 SBA, are also expected to continue to be rolled during the new programme.

PTI divided on Oct 15...

FROM PAGE 01
Khalid Khurshid and Hafiz Farhat are leading the hawkish elements, who prevailed in pursuing the political committee to give a call for protest at the D-Chowk Islamabad for October 15 — the first day of the two-day SCO summit. It sounds unbelievable but a source said a person like Salman Akram Raja also supported the hawkish elements and endorsed the idea of protest in the Red Zone at a time when the SCO leadership would be meeting within a few kilometres from the protest site. The lawyer could not be reached for comments. As against him, CM Gandapur, who in public appears aggressive, voted against the PTI protest on the occasion of the SCO summit.

Chinese PM Li due today

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parliamentary leaders and senior military leadership of Pakistan. He will attend the Meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization being held in Islamabad on October 15-16. Premier Li's visit to Islamabad is an expression of the importance attached by Pakistan and China to their "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership". It will be an occasion for the two sides to reaffirm mutual support on issues of core interest; advance the high-quality development of CPEC; and reinforce regular exchanges on important regional and global developments.

Pakistan announces new squad for 2nd Test against England

Selectors have decided to give rest to Babar Azam, Naseem Shah, Sarfaraz Ahmed, and Shaheen Shah Afridi. Abrar Ahmed, (who is recovering from dengue fever, was unavailable for selection

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan cricket selectors have announced their squad for the second and third Test matches against England, which will be played in Multan and Rawalpindi on 15 and 24 October, respectively. Taking into consideration the current form and fitness of key players and looking ahead to Pakistan's future assignments in the 2024-25 international cricket season, the selectors have decided to give rest to Babar Azam, Naseem Shah, Sarfaraz Ahmed, and Shaheen Shah Afridi. Abrar Ahmed, (who is recovering from dengue fever, was unavailable for selection.) The four players have been replaced by

Haseebullah, Mehran Mumtaz, Kamran Ghulam (all uncapped), fast bowler Mohammad Ali, and off-spinner Sajid Khan. Noman Ali and Zahid Mehmood, who were initially part of the original squad but were subsequently released, have also been included in the 16-player squad. Squad (for 2nd and 3rd Tests): Shan Masood (captain), Saud Shakeel (vice-captain), Amir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Haseebullah (wicket-keeper), Kamran Ghulam, Mehran Mumtaz, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Huraiza, Mohammad Rizwan (wicket-keeper), Noman Ali, Saim Ayub, Sajid Khan, Salman Ali Agha and Zahid Mehmood. Aqib Javed, member of the men's national selection committee: "Selecting the squad

for the upcoming Tests against England has been a challenging task for the selectors. We've had to carefully consider current player form, the urgency to bounce back in the series and Pakistan's demanding 2024-25 international schedule. With these factors in mind and in the best interest of Pakistan cricket as well as the players, we've made the decision to rest Babar Azam, Naseem Shah, Sarfaraz Ahmed and Shaheen Shah Afridi. "We are confident that this break from international cricket will help these players regain their fitness, confidence and composure, ensuring they return in top shape for future challenges. They remain some of our finest talents with much more to contribute to Pakistan cricket. We are fully committed to supporting

them during this period so they can come back even stronger. "At the same time, we are offering opportunities to uncapped players like Haseebullah, Mehran Mumtaz, and Kamran Ghulam, along with Mohammad Ali, Noman Ali, Sajid Khan and Zahid Mehmood. They now have the chance to showcase their skills against a formidable England side. We believe they will rise to the occasion and make the most of this opportunity in the remaining two Tests." Meanwhile, Haseebullah and Mehran Mumtaz, who were part of the Pakistan Shaheens squad for the ACC Men's T20 Emerging Teams Asia Cup, have been replaced by Maaz Sadaqat and Rohail Nazir. The tournament will be held in Oman from 18 October.

Pakistani sisters shine at Hungary Open Junior Squash c'ship

Mehwish and Mahnoor clinch titles in respective age category whereas third sister, Sehrish finishes as runner-up



WEB DESK

BUDAPEST: Three Pakistani sisters made headlines at the Hungary Open Junior Squash Championship, with two of them clinching titles in their respective age categories and the third finishing as a runner-up. Mehwish Ali, competing in the Under-17 category, dominated her competition in the 1-3 group, winning both of her

matches to secure the title. Mehwish's standout performance came in her second game, where she defeated Hungary's top seed, Tamara Pescarescu, with a convincing score line of 11-5, 11-2, 11-2. Earlier in the tournament, she had outclassed Brigitta Kovacs, the 2nd seeded Hungarian player, further cementing her dominance. This marks Mehwish's second consecutive junior title, showcasing her grow-

ing prominence on the international squash circuit. In the Under-13 category, Mahnoor Ali followed in her sister's footsteps by claiming the title. Mahnoor defeated top-seeded Hungarian player Krisztina Kun with an overwhelming scoreline of 11-1, 11-1, 11-0. Her aggressive play left her opponent with no answers, as she cruised to victory and added another title to the family's tally. However, the third sister,

Sehrish Ali, narrowly missed out on the Under-15 title. She finished second after a hard-fought final against France's Cassy Linco. Despite putting up a strong effort, Sehrish was unable to overcome Linco's skill and resilience, losing 18-20, 6-11, 3-11. The Ali sisters' achievements have brought pride to Pakistan's squash community, as they continue to demonstrate their potential at the international level.

SA boost T20 WC semi-final hopes

The Asian side struggled to make any headway against the South African attack. Sobhana Mostary top-scored but her 38 took 43 balls with skipper Nigar Sultana making an undefeated 32 from 38 deliveries

DUBAI: South Africa cruised to a seven-wicket win over Bangladesh to edge closer to the Women's T20 World Cup semi-finals on Saturday although their tournament destiny lies in the hands of England and West Indies. After limiting Bangladesh to just 106-3 in 20 overs, South Africa reached their target with 16 balls to spare. With three wins and one defeat, they sit top of Group B with six points. However, 2009 champions England, with two wins so far and with two games still to play, are likely to secure one of the semi-final spots. That would leave South Africa and West Indies vying for the last place. West Indies, the 2016 champions, have four points but a better net run-rate than South Africa although the Caribbean side have to face England in their concluding pool game on Tuesday. Player of the match Tazmin Brits steered 2023 runners-up South Africa to victory on Saturday with a steady 42 off 41 balls, an innings which featured five fours. Anneke Bosch made a run-a-ball 25 before Marizanne Kapp (13 not out) and Chloe Tryon (14 not out) saw their side home. "The way we started with the ball was amazing. Would have loved to chase it down faster and that was a message that went out, but we didn't get there," said South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt who bemoaned her side conceding 13 extras when Bangladesh batted. Bangladesh had won the toss and chose to bat but lost opener Dilara Akter off the second ball for nought.

The Asian side struggled to make any headway against the South African attack. Sobhana Mostary top-scored but her 38 took 43 balls with skipper Nigar Sultana making an undefeated 32 from 38 deliveries. Kapp claimed 1-10 from her four overs of medium pace while Nonkululeko Mlaba finished with 1-11. Off-break bowler Mlaba has enjoyed an impressive tournament with the ball and has nine wickets from four games, making her the leading wicket-taker. "There's a lot of intent and emotion here," said Bangladesh captain Sultana after a tournament which brought them just one victory — an opening day win against Scotland. "In this kind of tournament you have to be mentally strong. A lot of people came to support us, and it felt like we were at home. Although we couldn't do well, there was unconditional love." — Agencies

Former selector Wahab Riaz defends Usama Mir 'Usman Wahla overlooked Usama Mir's request,' claims former Pakistan selector Wahab Riaz

DNA

LAHORE: Former Pakistan team selector Wahab Riaz has criticised Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Director Usman Wahla over the handling of the no objection certificates (NOCs) for players. The former player claimed that the Pakistani bowler Usama Mir made multiple attempts to contact Wahla for the NOC, but his requests were not catered. In regard to this, the former pacer stated: "Usman Wahla overlooked Usama Mir's request." Wahla denied the allegations, saying, "I have spoken to Usama Mir about this matter. These one-sided accusations are not accurate." However, Riaz stood firm on his claims and threatened the director of showing the evidence. "Screenshots and emails don't lie. I will reveal the full story. I have a lot to say, but I only answered the question that was asked," he replied. "If anyone denies this, I will provide all the evidence." Previously, the leg-break bowler was not selected in the T20 World Cup 2024 squad. In retaliation, the 28-year-old directly messaged PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi. In his message to Naqvi, Mir mentioned taking the most wickets in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) season nine. In addition, he requested permission to play the competition in England to which they initially agreed, stating that a NOC would be issued. The player travelled to England but did not receive a NOC to feature. Meanwhile, the dispute between Riaz and Wahla continues as both sides stand by their statements.

Sabalenka downs Gauff and faces Zheng in Wuhan

'I'm really happy to be in the final,' top seed Sabalenka says

WUHAN: Holder Aryna Sabalenka fought back from a first-set stumble to beat Coco Gauff 1-6 6-4 6-4 in the Wuhan Open semi-finals as double faults proved to be the American's undoing on Saturday while China's Zheng Qinwen overcame compatriot Wang Xinyu. The 20-year-old Gauff, who has made some grip changes with new coach Matt Daly, committed 21 double faults as top seed Sabalenka, who struggled against the world number four's power earlier in the match, swung the momentum in her favour. "Couple of mistakes from her and I thought maybe I still have (a) chance in this match ... it was a very important win," Sabalenka said in the post-match interview after reaching the Wuhan Open final for the third time in a row. The Belarusian now faces fifth seed Zheng after the Olympic champion managed a 6-3 6-4 win over Wang later on Saturday. Three-times Grand Slam winner Sabalenka found it hard to control her returns when Gauff got the first serve

right, repeatedly overshooting the lines or finding the net. Former U.S. Open champion Gauff broke twice to build a 5-0 lead, with Sabalenka holding only once in the first set, which Gauff won with a forehand that left the world number two rooted to the spot across the court. Sabalenka started the second set on an aggressive note, summoning the best of her strength on the shots. She finally found success as Gauff struggled to hold her own serve. Gauff's double faults coupled with slower, nervous second serves allowed Sabalenka to pressure her with power shots as the Belarusian won four games in a row to win the second set 6-4. Sabalenka's winning momentum continued in the third set as she went 4-1 up before Gauff got her first break in the set to make it 4-4. However, Sabalenka took control again, getting another break to win the match. "I'm really happy to be in the final. One more to go and I will do everything I can to win this beautiful trophy for the third time," Sabalenka said. "It will be a great match." — Agencies

Ronaldo scores 133rd Portugal goal in Nations League

'Important victory in the Nations League. Thanks for everyone's support,' CR7 posts

WEB DESK



WARSAW: Cristiano Ronaldo scored for a third successive Nations League game as Portugal maintained their perfect record with a 3-1 victory over Poland. Bernardo Silva and Ronaldo put Portugal 2-0 up at half-time in Warsaw in the Group A1 clash. Piotr Zielinski pulled one back for Poland late in the second period before a Jan Bednarek own goal ended lingering hopes of a fightback. "We worked very hard the last few days, preparing various solutions for this game, and we were able to show it on the pitch," said Portugal coach Roberto Martinez. "I am really satisfied because we controlled this game." Portugal went ahead after 26 minutes. Ruben Neves lofted the ball into the area where Bruno Fernandes cushioned the ball down for Silva, winning his 96th cap, to score on the volley. With Poland relying on the counter-attack, Portugal were rewarded further for their positive approach with a second goal 10 minutes later. Rafael Leao powered towards the box and unleashed a fierce drive which came back off the post. Ronaldo was the quickest to react, finding the net from the rebound to register his 133rd international goal.

It was also the 39-year-old's third in three Nations League games this season after netting in wins over Croatia and Scotland. With Portugal looking comfortable, Martinez took off the five-time Ballon d'Or as well as Leao just after the hour mark to be replaced by Diogo Jota and Francisco Trincao. Poland made them sweat when Zielinski pulled a goal back in the 78th minute. The Inter Milan midfielder played a neat one-two with substitute Kacper Urbanski before tucking the ball past Diogo Silva in the Portugal goal. However, Portugal restored their two-goal lead when Bednarek put through his own goal in the 88th minute after a cross from Nuno Mendes. "We played against one of the best teams in the world, full of great players," said Zielinski. "But we allowed them to do too much, especially in the first half." Meanwhile, the 39-year-old expressed gratitude to his supporters on his X handle, sharing a photo of Portugal's team celebrating their victory against Poland. "Important victory in the Nations League. Thanks for everyone's support, let's go for it! (Vitória importante na Liga das Nações. Obrigado pelo apoio de todos, vamos tudo!)" Portugal will now be facing Scotland in Glasgow on Tuesday looking for a fourth win in four games in the tournament while Poland host Croatia.

SCO summit to be a game changer for Pak

FROM PAGE 01
The trade deficit continues to shrink, while exports have increased by 14%. He expressed gratitude to overseas Pakistanis for contributing to record foreign remittances of \$8.8 billion in the first quarter of the current fiscal year. He also highlighted the success of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Tajikistan and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to a liberal trade and investment policy. Tarar anticipated that the upcoming visit of the Chinese Prime Minister to Pakistan would be a game changer for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), further enhancing cooperation across various sectors. He reported positive progress in the second phase of CPEC. The minister expressed confidence that the SCO summit would serve as a pivotal moment for Pakistan, enhancing its positive image on the global stage. He noted that Islamabad, one of the world's most beautiful cities, has been beautifully adorned in preparation for the summit. Tarar voiced hope that the summit would foster cooperation on anti-terrorism, climate change, trade promotion, and address shared challenges among member states. He added that the event would also provide Pakistan with a platform to showcase its tourism potential and promote its rich culture and heritage.

DPM Dar urges PTI to postpone Oct 15...

FROM PAGE 01
has not requested a bilateral meeting. He mentioned that all institutions and departments have made excellent arrangements through mutual cooperation, and the SCO Secretary-General will brief the media about the conference. Dar said that the assumption of Pakistan's global isolation had been disproven, as the visits of the Malaysian Prime Minister and the Saudi delegation were highly successful, and the Chinese Prime Minister is arriving a day before the meeting. "Peace and stability in the region are essential for sustainable development. Pakistan has highlighted the issues of Palestine and Kashmir at all international forums, and the process of sending aid to Palestinians is ongoing," he added.

Stronger ties with regional...

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wanted to strengthen regional cooperation by fostering stronger economic ties with our partner nations. The Senate chairman said under the phase two of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), bilateral cooperation will further expand in agriculture, industrial growth and educational and cultural partnership. He said China has shared its desire with Pakistan in achieving sustainable development goals. Gilani stressed the need to enhance people to people contacts and cultural linkages besides strengthening economic ties for reaching the common goal of an integrated, peaceful and cooperative region.

Govt disallows...

FROM PAGE 01
chief of Sunni Ittehad Council Sahibzada Hamid Raza. "We should be granted immediate permission to meet the party founder who last met with his legal team on Oct 3," said the application. Earlier, Islamabad High Court was also approached by Noreen Khan Niazi, sister of Imran Khan, seeking permission to meet the PTI founder. Earlier, PTI has made the cancellation of its planned protest on October 15 in Islamabad conditional on a meeting with the party's founder, Imran Khan. According to sources, the PTI's core committee concluded an emergency meeting after lengthy discussions, chaired by Secretary General Barrister Salman Akram Raja.

Briefs

Iran FM says 'no red lines' in defending itself

BAGHDAD: Iran's top diplomat vowed Sunday there would be "no red lines" for the country in defending its people and interests, ahead of Israel's expected retaliation for Iran's recent missile attack. While we have made tremendous efforts in recent days to contain an all-out war in our region, I say it clearly that we have no red lines in defending our people and interests," Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi wrote in a post on X. Iran fired 200 missiles at Israel on October 1 in what it said was retaliation for the killing of Tehran-aligned militant leaders in the region and a general in Iran's Revolutionary Guards. Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant has vowed Israel's response will be "deadly, precise, and surprising". Araghchi was in Baghdad to discuss the wars in Gaza and Lebanon with Iraqi officials, according to the ministry. Ali al-Moussawi, political advisor to the Iraqi prime minister, told AFP Araghchi's visit was part of a diplomatic effort "to silence weapons and violence... to establish security and stability in the region". After Baghdad, Araghchi will head to Oman, the Iranian ISNA news agency reported.—APP

Vietnam, China to boost economic, defense cooperation

HANOI: Vietnam and China said they will boost defense and economic cooperation, Vietnamese state media reported on Sunday, despite a recent fare-up in their territorial dispute in the South China Sea. China's Premier Li Qiang met Vietnam's top leader to Lam in Hanoi on Saturday, the Nhan Dan newspaper reported. The two agreed to "maintain regular high-level exchanges and cooperation in defense, security, and foreign affairs... expanding the implementation of new mechanisms," the newspaper said. Vietnam would facilitate more high-tech Chinese investment in the country and Beijing would strengthen market access for Vietnamese agricultural products, the newspaper said. Both sides would prioritize cooperation in rail connectivity between the neighboring countries, Nhan Dan said.—APP

BMP wants revival of economic growth with businessmen consultation

Anjum Nisar asks govt to provide economic stability to avert further losses

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has asked the government to provide its economic stability plan to avert further losses, warning that numerous global issues are impacting world economies. FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar called for solid economic plan from all the stakeholders, in view of deteriorating economic crises following the tough conditionalities of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), making this fiscal year more complicated and difficult for the economy.

The government should consult the businessmen to formulate economic plan aimed at reviving growth in large-scale manufacturing, small and medium-sized segments, the service sector, he added. The BMP chairman said the government should prioritize resolving the energy crisis by pro-

viding sufficient and affordable electricity and gas to industries. The import bill should be reduced by imposing bans on luxury products. He highlighted controlling inflation to ensure affordable living costs for the masses and containing the cost of production for businesses at a local level. He stressed the need for a revisit of the economic policies, as the economic indicators throughout the 2024 remained very depressed amidst high inflation, low exports, depleting foreign reserves and continued uncertain position of the local currency. Anjum Nisar said that indicators of the economy are not very good, including volatile exchange rate, unprecedented hike in markup rate, repeated increases in electricity rates, gas shortage, price spiral, mismanagement and bad governance, becoming the hallmarks of the government. He observed the negative economic indicators and

uncertainty over resumption of the International Monetary Fund program continued to push the rupee towards a new historic low against the US dollar especially in first half of the calendar year of 2023. He said that massive fall of rupee value continued to damage the economy, as the rupee witnessed a huge depreciation; one of the highest devaluations of local currency in Pakistan's history in this period. Mian Anjum urged the policy makers to concentrate on increasing tax-to-GDP ratio which was the lowest in Pakistan in the region. The FPCCI leader warned if the govt failed to take appropriate measures for economic revival, the trade and industry will face a complete shutdown, asking the government to convene a conference, taking the business community on-board. The PIAF patron-in-chief observed that besides increasing exports and controlling imports

the government will have to take administrative measures, as a large demand of cash dollars are seen in the market. He said that the monetary tightening and exchange rate depreciation resulted in higher inflation, public debt and debt servicing. The empirical evidence showed that the one percent monetary tightening hiked the inflationary pressure by 1.3 percent in the case of Pakistan, he added. He urged the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority to reverse the proposed jump in power charges, as it has notified an additional fuel cost adjustment after a massive base tariff hike a day earlier, putting an additional burden of least Rs580 billion annually. He said the government's decision to increase the electricity tariff is anti-industry, and the BMP strongly condemns the government's move and calls on it to rescind it. He urged the power ministry to iden-

tify system constraints and communicate targets to all concerned departments in order to launch a wartime effort to upgrade the transmission system. He said that move would further burden the financially strained trade and industry. As many as 32.5 million consumers are paying an additional amount of at least Rs580 billion in this fiscal year which is over and above the existing cost of electricity. He believed such an increase in tariff was due to the mismanagement and wrong energy policies of past three decades. On June 14, Nepra had announced almost a 20pc (Rs5.72 per unit) increase in the uniform national tariff to ensure about Rs3.8 trillion in funds to the 10 Discos during the fiscal year 2024-25. On top of this capacity charge increase, commercial and general services tariff would increase by 17pc (Rs5.89 per unit) to about Rs44.—Agencies

PTDC, Discover Pakistan TV sign MoU to promote tourism in country

DNA

ISLAMABAD : Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) and Discover Pakistan TV signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) here on Friday for the promotion of tourism in Pakistan and abroad. Managing Director, PTDC, Aftabur Rehman Rana signed the MoU on behalf of PTDC while Dr. Kaiser Rafiq, CEO signed from Discover Pakistan TV. Through the MoU, both the organizations agreed to join hands to organize various promotional activities and initiatives to promote image of Pakistan as a tourist friendly destination at national and international level. The MoU also focuses on creation of high quality digital content on tourist destinations of Pakistan, promotion of responsible and sustainable tourism through awareness campaign via digital and electronic media and engagement of national and international travel vloggers to promote Pakistan as tourist destination.

Saudi investment vital for reviving Pakistan's economy

LAHORE: Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq said on Sunday that Saudi investment in Pakistan presents a crucial opportunity to revitalize the country's industrial and commercial sectors, which were the backbone of sustainable economic growth. Chairing council board of directors meeting here, he said the government must take a judicious approach to ensure that this influx of capital was fully utilized to accelerate industrial and commercial activities. Strategic planning and transparency were essential to channel these investments into key areas like infrastructure, energy, and manufacturing. He said prioritizing the restoration and expansion of the manufacturing sector was vital, as it served as the engine of growth. Full scale reviving manufacturing sector could generate employment, boost exports, and enhance productivity, ultimately improving Pakistan's trade balance. A stronger manufacturing base could also lead to technology transfers and skill development, which were crucial for long-term economic stability.—APP



GAZA : A Palestinian woman mourning relatives, killed in an Israeli strike on Al-Bureij refugee camp, during their funeral at the Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip on Sunday, amid the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas.

Palestinian ministry accuses Israel of state terrorism during olive harvest season

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates considers the attacks and assaults of settler militias and their armed gangs on Palestinian citizens during the olive harvest season and their theft in many areas of the occupied West Bank, as well as their burning and cutting down of hundreds of olive trees and depriving citizens from reaching their land to pick the fruits under flimsy pretexts and excuses, to be organized state terrorism and fall within the framework of the war of extermination and displacement committed by the occupation forces to stifle any opportunity to embody the Palestinian state on the ground, and their violation of the occupied West Bank and confiscation of citizens' lands and deepening the crimes of ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian presence, especially in areas classified as (C), which constitute the majority of the occupied West Bank, on the path to deepening and consecrating its annexation and the persistence of the hateful apartheid system, all under the protection of the occupation army with the aim of striking this blessed season that plays a vital role in supporting the already dilapidated economies of citizens. The Ministry reaffirms that the international failure to stop the war of extermination and displacement has become a cover for the occupation and its settlers to complete their episodes in the occupied West Bank and to attack our people's just and legitimate national rights to return, freedom and independence. For its part, the Ministry continues its follow-ups to expose the violations and crimes of the occupation and the settler militias that escape any accountability and punishment at all international and UN levels, especially what our people are exposed to in the Gaza Strip and Jerusalem and today on the olive pickers in the occupied West Bank, which requires activating the international protection system for our people and the immediate implementation of the United Nations General Assembly resolution on adopting the advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice to end the Israeli occupation of the land of the State of Palestine within 12 months

SCCI stresses signing free trade agreement on Pak-Afghan trade

The SNGPL senior officer also invited the traders in his office to discuss issues in detail

PESHAWAR :Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Fazal Moqem Khan on Saturday stressed the need for signing of a free trade agreement to improve Pak-Afghan bilateral trade. Similarly, he urged for reviewing the present duties and tariffs structures and reduce them at an optimal level. The SCCI chief demanded pragmatic steps for ease of doing business and taking the chamber and business community on board before implementation of rules and policies. Fazal Moqem was addressing a delegation of traders belonging to Khushal Bazaar, Gur Mandi Peshawar during a meeting held at chamber house on Saturday. The delegation was headed by a member of SCCI executive committee Saifullah Khan. The Meeting was attended by SCCI senior vice president Abdul Jalil Jan, vice president Shehryar Khan, executive committee members Nadeem Rauf, Ashfaq Ahmad, Haji Aftab Iqbal, and Hamoodur Rehman, Gur Mandi Khushal Bazar Peshawar office bearers and members Haji Sher Ali, Sher Afzal, Fareequllah, Shaqafat Mehmood, Rehman Gul, Baghi Jan, Sultan Aziz, Haji Sanaullah Khan, Mahazullah and Imadadullah. Traders at the meeting raised serious concerns over closure of seed supply from trade routes including Torkham, Kharlachi and Ghulam Khan, imports from Iran at various checkpoints, hurdles in supply of pesticides from Multan and Kasur, districts of Punjab, and craters unfilled by SNGPL after digging for laying new pipelines, difficulties in provision of visa for China and other issues Fazal Moqem assured the delegation to take up all issues with relevant authorities to resolve them amicably. Earlier, the SCCI chief took a prompt notice and made telephone contact with SNGPL General Manager Peshawar Region Waqas Shinwari and apprised the senior officials about gas related issues. Swiftly taking action on complaints and reservations of traders, the SNGPL GM assured the issues would be resolved by Monday next. The SNGPL senior officer also invited the traders in his office to discuss issues in detail.—DNA

New powers of Parliament of Uzbekistan

PROFESSOR ALIMJON AKILOV

THE year 2016 for Uzbekistan was marked by the beginning of a fundamentally new in essence and content stage of state and social construction, in which the main strategic goal was proclaimed – the construction of a New Uzbekistan, based on the values that served the greatest flourishing of our statehood in the 9th-10th centuries (known in world history as First Eastern Renaissance) and XIV-XV centuries (Second Eastern Renaissance). As in previous periods, the basis and priorities of the Third Renaissance of our statehood are the development of science and modern technologies, which are intended to become drivers of dramatic development of the country's economy, a radical improvement in the well-being of the people and the prosperity of the nation.

At the same time, a new paradigm of relations between the state and the individual was formed and is gradually being introduced, where the highest value is determined by the person, his life, freedom, honor, dignity and other inalienable rights, and the principle of the supremacy of human rights is proclaimed. This philosophy was reflected in the development strategies of New Uzbekistan adopted during this period, where the basic principle of the state was laid: "Everything for the people, everything for the benefit of the people." On the basis of this postulate, the main guideline for state policy and government bodies was determined: "It is not the person who serves the state, but the state that serves the person." For this purpose, the legislative foundations of the system for ensuring the constitutional rights of citizens, formed at the dawn of independ-

ence, were completely revised. One of the first initiatives of the President the Republic Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev was the idea of the need to adopt an Electoral Code that would ensure convenient use by citizens of their voting rights, enshrined in numerous and disparate acts of legislation. As a result of systematization and modernization of 5 basic laws and many by-laws, departmental documents of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Electoral Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan was developed and came into force on June 26, 2019. One of the important purposes and significance of the Electoral Code was to consolidate, firstly, of the following basic principles of electoral rights, which are fully consistent with international standards and the best democratic practices of developed countries: the universality of the right to vote, equal suffrage, direct suffrage, secret ballot and freedom of elections. Secondly, the basic principles of the electoral system of the Republic of Uzbekistan, including openness and transparency of elections. A number of other important innovations of the electoral legislation should be highlighted: the rule limiting the participation in elections of persons held in prison for crimes that do not pose a great public danger and less serious crimes has been excluded. This innovation is a significant step in guaranteeing the voting rights of citizens. In addition, the provision on creating conditions for citizens with disabilities to exercise their voting rights deserves attention. The introduction of a single electronic list of voters of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the introduction of a single ballot paper for voting on election day; creation of the possibility of affixing a voter's signature in support of several candidates or parties

during the collection of signatures by political parties. Another priority of the constitutional reform was strengthening the role of the Parliament of Uzbekistan – the Legislative Chamber and the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the system of state power by revising the main tasks in the context of the updated Constitution. What exactly did this mean? First, in order to form an effective parliament, optimize the activities of the upper chamber based on its main purpose – regional representation, taking into account the preservation of a unique platform and effective platform for interaction and coordination of the activities of the Kengashes of people's deputies, eliminating parallelism in the activities of the chambers of the Oliy Majlis, based on the goals and objectives of the administrative reforms of New Uzbekistan modernized the upper house of parliament – the Senate, and strengthened the powers of the lower house of parliament – the Legislative Chamber. If in the 1992 edition of the Constitution 5 powers were assigned to the exclusive powers of the Legislative Chamber, then in accordance with the new edition of the Constitution their number reached 12. The number of exclusive powers of the Senate increased from the current 14 to 18. Second, the number of members of the Senate has been optimized from 100 to 65, who will be elected in equal numbers, 4 people from each of the 14 regions at meetings of deputies of the Jokargy Kenes and local Kengashes from among these deputies, and 9 members of the Senate will be directly appointed by the President. In there, foreign experience in forming the composition of representative government bodies was taken into account. Thus, in foreign countries, out of 83 bicameral parliaments,

the number of members of the upper house is up to 49 people in 29 countries, 50–99 people in 31 countries, 100 or more in 23 countries. For example, in the Senate of Kazakhstan there are 50 members, in Tajikistan – 33, in Belarus – 64. The number of members of the upper chambers appointed by heads of state: Italy – 5, Belarus, Tajikistan – 8, Kazakhstan – 10, Ireland – 11. Third, consideration and approval of the Prime Minister's candidacy is enshrined as the exclusive authority of the Legislative Chamber. We introduced this innovation taking into account the parliamentary practice of Germany, the Czech Republic, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, etc. The control powers of parliament have been revised and redistributed by excluding certain of its forms from the powers of the Senate (monitoring the execution of the State Budget; hearing the annual report of the Cabinet of Ministers; hearing the report of the Prime Minister on the socio-economic development of the country, etc.) with their consolidation as the exclusive powers of the Legislative Chamber. Fourth, with the reduction of control powers, other powers of the Senate were simultaneously expanded, incl. by transferring to him a number of powers of the President, as well as strengthening his role in coordinating the activities of representative bodies of government at the local level, in particular: – election on the recommendation of the President of the Supreme Judicial Council, heads of the republican anti-corruption body and the republican antimonopoly authority; – approval of Presidential decrees on the formation and abolition of ministries and other republican executive bodies, etc. At the same time, the Senate is vested with the authority to perform the functions of parliament in

adopting laws (with the exception of the Constitution and constitutional laws) during the period of temporary absence of the Legislative Chamber caused by the early termination of its powers (dissolution). The control function of the Senate over the activities of regulatory, law enforcement and intelligence agencies are being strengthened. In particular, a procedure is being introduced for the President to appoint the Prosecutor General and the Chairman of the Accounts Chamber with the approval of the Senate, and the Chairman of the State Security Service – after consultations with the Senate. Fifth, in order to further improve the system of checks and balances in the mechanism of state power, the chambers of the Oliy Majlis are given the power to dissolve themselves, the decision on which is made accordingly by a majority of at least 2/3 of the votes of the total number of deputies of the Legislative Chamber or members of the Senate (Articles 94 and 95). At the same time, it is taken into account that parliaments also have the right to self-dissolve in a number of foreign countries, for example, Israel, Bulgaria, Turkmenistan, etc. In some countries, parliament has the power to dissolve itself based on a decision made by a simple majority – in Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Turkey; qualified majority – in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus; by a two-thirds majority in Kyrgyzstan and Poland; three-fifths of the votes of (elected) members – in Lithuania. Sixth, the control powers of the chambers of the Oliy Majlis are expanding, incl. by securing the power to conduct a parliamentary inquiry. In particular, the role of the Oliy Majlis in the fight against corruption is being strengthened by consolidating the powers of the chambers

of parliament to hear the annual National Anti-Corruption Report. The Uzbekistan-2030 Strategy is also aimed at creating a new look for the parliament of Uzbekistan. Thus, in direction IV "Ensuring the rule of law, organizing public administration focused on serving the people", in paragraph 4.1. "Reforms to organize public administration focused on serving the people and improve public administration" provide for a further increase in the role of the Oliy Majlis and political parties in the construction of the New Uzbekistan. At the initial stages it is planned: firstly, to ensure the digital transformation of the work processes of parliament and its bodies, including 100% digitalization of the processes of making and promulgating decisions; secondly, to ensure the possibility of electronic communication with voters, sending and monitoring deputy requests in electronic form; thirdly, introduce a procedure for submitting and considering proposals for legislation; fourthly, introduce a mixed (majority-proportional) system of elections to representative bodies in order to further increase the role of political parties in the process of deepening democratic reforms and modernizing the country. The last measure is enshrined in the Electoral Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan. At the same time, we are clearly aware of the possibilities for further improvement of parliamentary activities, especially in terms of strengthening parliamentary control. Thus, we see one of the tasks in this area as the development and legislative consolidation of clear and clear procedures for the implementation of all forms of parliamentary control for members of Parliament. Here, the main expectation is connected, first of all, with the institution of parliamentary investigation, which can become

an effective tool in the case of the development and legislative consolidation of clear and clear grounds for parliamentary deputies to conduct a parliamentary investigation, a detailed procedure and procedure for its conduct, which in foreign practice resemble the procedure of criminal prosecution. Another task of the new parliament should be to further strengthen and strengthen parliamentary financial control. Here we expect that the parliament will not only approve the main parameters of the state budget, but also: – actively participate in the formation of the draft state budget before its submission to the country's parliament; – have the opportunity to make all necessary, from the point of view of the electorate, changes and additions to the parameters of the state budget; – carry out systematic monitoring and control over the efficiency of spending budget funds (with the determination of specific performance indicators, on the basis of which it could make appropriate adjustments) with the right to suspend and reduce funding for ineffective projects. Of course, the solution to these and other pressing issues related to the formation of a new look for the country's parliament will ensure the further development of modern parliamentarism in the Republic of Uzbekistan, strengthen the role and place of parliament in the system of state power and administration in order to achieve such a strategic goal of state building as the construction of a democratic legal states. ,

—The writer is Chief Researcher, Institute of Legislation and Legal Policy under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Doctor of Legal Sciences.

Briefs

SCO summit seen as catalyst for regional coop

MEHTAB PIRZADA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has expressed hope that the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit being held on October 15-16 will serve as a catalyst for further regional connectivity and cooperation between the states. RCCI President Usman Shaikat in a statement said that SCO summit is paramount in enhancing bilateral relations between the member states. Pakistan being the host of this year's summit will play a key role in promoting bilateral relations and regional connectivity, he added. A pivotal moment for regional cooperation and shaping a shared future, he said. Usman Shaikat further added that Pakistan's strategic location positions it as a natural hub for trade and connectivity within the SCO. With direct access to the Arabian Sea and proximity to China and Central Asia, initiatives like CPEC are unlocking new trade routes and boosting regional cooperation. The SCO member states represent 40% of the global population and 32% of the world's GDP—highlighting their powerful potential to influence the future of the global economy and international relations.

Shah Farman steps down as advisor to KP CM

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Former Governor Shah Farman on Sunday tendered his resignation as senior advisor to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister. The CM appointed him as the senior advisor on political affairs a few days ago. He said he was grateful to the chief minister for appointing him as the senior advisor. However, he highlighted that he was also a member of the accountability committee formulated by the PTI founder. As its member he said he had to keep a watchful eye on the performance of the provincial government. The post of senior advisor could affect his performance and role in the committee. For that reason he said he had resigned from the post.

President, PM mourn death of former Chinese VP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have expressed condolences over death of former Vice Premier of China Wu Bangguo. In a statement, President Zardari described Wu Bangguo as a sincere friend of Pakistan, and acknowledged his commendable role in strengthening Pakistan-China relations. Asif Ali Zardari extended heartfelt sympathies and prayers from the people of Pakistan to the Chinese government, the Chinese people, and the bereaved family. In a post on social media platform X, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Wu Bangguo was an outstanding leader of the CPC and a true friend of Pakistan, who made a profound contribution in strengthening China-Pakistan bilateral cooperation. The prime minister said Wu Bangguo's visit to Pakistan in 2006 remains a significant milestone. Shehbaz Sharif said our thoughts and prayers are with his family and the people of China in this difficult moment.

Karachi attack 'conspiracy' to undermine Pak-China ties: CTD

CTD says horrific attack that left 2 Chinese engineers dead was carried out with support of a hostile country's spy agency

DNA

KARACHI: A week after the deadly explosion targeting a convoy of Chinese engineers in Karachi on October 6, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) has termed the attack "a conspiracy to undermine Pakistan-China relations". On the night of October 6, a suicide bomber had rammed his explosives-laden vehicle into the convoy of Chinese engineers, resulting in the deaths of two Chinese nationals among three fatalities, while 16 others, including another Chinese national, were injured. The attack also caused significant damage to more than 15 vehicles. Responsibility for the attack was claimed by banned Balochistan Liberation Army's (BLA) Majeed Brigade via social media. The CTD, in the copy of its initial report submitted to the administrative judge of the anti-terrorism courts, revealed that the bombing was made possible with the involvement of the banned outfit. According to the report, the horrific attack was carried out with support from an intelligence agency of a hostile country. The attacker drove his vehicle close to a convoy

carrying Chinese nationals and detonated his charge, the report said, adding that the explosion took place near the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) guardroom. An FIR No 142/24 has been filed under the Pakistan Penal Code's sections 302 (murder), 353 (assault to deter public servant from discharging duty), 324 (attempted murder), 186 (obstructing public servant in discharging public functions) and 427 (mischievous causing damage). The case registered at a Counter Terrorism Department police station on the complaint of the Airport Police Station's House Officer (SHO) Kaleem Khan Moosa also includes sections 3 and 4 of the Explosive Substances Act, and Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act. The FIR quotes the SHO as saying that while he was on duty at around 11pm, a loud explosion was heard. Upon investigation, it was found that the explosion had occurred on the road in front of the CAA guardroom, near the outer signal of the Jinnah International Airport Terminal Road. Several vehicles were destroyed in the blast, and fires broke out. Multiple individuals, including Rangers, police personnel

and civilians, were injured, while two Chinese nationals were killed on the spot. Their bodies were found near the coaster, while parts of a third body were retrieved from a nearby drain. The complainant stated that when the police arrived at the blast site, witnesses informed them that an unidentified man driving a Toyota Hilux had intentionally crashed his explosive-laden vehicle into the convoy of Chinese engineers, which was heading towards Sharea Faisal from the Jinnah Terminal. The explosion occurred as the convoy was passing by. The FIR notes that through media outlets, the banned BLA claimed responsibility for the suicide bombing, and that the key masterminds behind the attack are associated with the militant outfit, including BLA chief Bashir Ahmed Baloch, alias Bashir Zaib, and Abdur Rahman, alias Rehman Gul. They, along with other accomplices, brainwashed the suicide bomber and carried out the attack using a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device. The motive behind the attack was to harm Pakistan-China relations, promote terrorism in Pakistan with the support of a hostile foreign spy agency, and

disrupt the security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan. The FIR also states that the attackers aimed to undermine the morale of the country's security agencies, and destabilise the region for financial and ideological benefits linked to their banned group. BLA, following the attack, released a video message recorded by Shah Fahad, the suicide bomber involved in the attack. In the video running for six minutes and nine seconds, Fahad, a member of BLA's Majeed Brigade, was seen wearing a light blue shalwar kameez and sitting in a car. The clip appears to have been recorded shortly before the attack. Both at the beginning and at the end of the video, which was published on BLA's media channel 'Hakal', he can be heard issuing a warning. It is important to note that a high-level team of Chinese investigators also visited in Karachi to inspect the site of the suicide attack near the airport signal that targeted a Chinese delegation and their security convoy. The Chinese investigation team visited the blast site and, after inspecting the area, were briefed by Pakistani investigation officers on the findings thus far.

Governor Punjab following PTI's actions: Azma Bokhari

'Sardar Saleem Haider Khan should relax in the Governor's House, enjoying tea, coffee, and dry fruits'

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari criticized Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, claiming that he has begun taking actions similar to those of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). In her statement, the Punjab information minister remarked that it is unfortunate to have to remind the governor that his role is ceremonial, and he has no involvement in administrative matters. The provincial minister suggested that he should relax in the Governor's House, enjoying tea, coffee, and dry fruits, while leaving governance and the management of provincial affairs to Maryam Nawaz, who is well-versed in handling such responsibilities. Azma Bokhari highlighted the dire state of education in Sindh, stating that schools are virtually non-existent in many areas, and those that do exist are often used to house animals. She pointed out that exam malpractice is rampant, with entire exam centres being sold off, and that the education system in Sindh, where the government has been in power for 16 years, still operates as if it were in the 19th century.

'No red lines' in defending itself: Iran

BAGHDAD: Iran's top diplomat vowed Sunday there would be "no red lines" for the country in defending its people and interests, ahead of Israel's expected retaliation for Iran's recent missile attack. "While we have made tremendous efforts in recent days to contain an all-out war in our region, I say it clearly that we have no red lines in defending our people and interests," Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi wrote in a post on X. Iran fired 200 missiles at Israel on October 1 in what it said was retaliation for the killing of Tehran-aligned militant leaders in the region and a general in Iran's Revolutionary Guards. Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant has vowed Israel's response will be "deadly, precise, and surprising." — Agencies



ISLAMABAD: A view of Rawal Dam Chowk Flyover decorated in connection with SCO Summit in the Federal Capital. — Online

'Mob-led narcissism': Sherry condemns PTI's planned protest

She added that no one had forgotten "PTI's violence" when Chinese President Xi Jinping cancelled his visit over the party's mass anti-government demonstrations in Islamabad in 2014

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: PPP Vice-President Senator Sherry Rehman on Sunday said that PTI's "worst legacy" was that it had "incessantly shrunk the space for democratic politics by resorting to extremes no one has gone to before" as the opposition prepared for a protest at D-Chowk on October 15. Her statement came as the PTI announced the suspension of its protests in Punjab and issued a nationwide call urging party leaders and workers to converge in Islamabad on Oct 15 when the two-day Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit will begin. The PTI has also demanded immediate access for party leaders and family members to its founder, Imran Khan, who is incarcerated in Adiala Jail. The government earlier banned visits to prisoners at the prison until Oct 18 due to security concerns related to the high-profile SCO summit.

"If the PTI goes forward [with] its call for protest in Islamabad on the day of the SCO summit when 7 Prime Ministers are visiting, then no one should be faulted for shaming them as the worst face of mob-led narcissism. This is not politics," Senator Rehman said in an X post. She added that no one had forgotten "PTI's violence" when Chinese President Xi Jinping cancelled his visit over the party's mass anti-government demonstrations in Islamabad in 2014. "That's not going to happen again," she said. "We have all been under arrest in worse conditions but no one has done this." The former federal minister went on to say that much of the PTI's concerns could be addressed after the summit, however, the party's "worst legacy" was that it had "incessantly shrunk the space for democratic politics by resorting to extremes no one has gone to before." Responding to her post, PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja questioned whether she was aware of the "assaults underway on PTI MNA's homes". "How can horror be painted as national beauty on display?" he said. "Let his personal physician see Imran Khan sahib in jail." A day prior, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal had strongly condemned the PTI's call for the protest, terming it "political terrorism aimed at maligning the country and stopping its development and economic progress."

Northern Gaza under siege as over 300 killed in 9 days

The GMO added that these nine consecutive days of a clearly defined war of extermination are being waged by the Israeli army as part of the genocide being executed in northern Gaza

NEWS DESK

GAZA: Israeli occupation forces continue their operations of extermination and genocide in northern Gaza for the ninth consecutive day, killing over 300 citizens while dozens of martyrs remain in the streets and under the rubble of destroyed homes, alongside hundreds of injured individuals. The Government Media Office (GMO) said in a release on Sunday that the Israeli army is waging a war of extermination and genocide in northern Gaza and is preventing rescue teams and civil defense from retrieving dozens of martyrs from the streets, seeking to completely eliminate the health system and hospitals. It confirmed that the occupation has killed more than 300 martyrs over the course of 9 continuous days of killing and extermination, in a systematic crime and a total siege against civilians, particularly children and women, and residential areas. The GMO added that these nine consecutive days of a clearly defined war of extermination are being waged by the Israeli army as part of the genocide being executed in northern Gaza. The statement accused the U.S. administration of engineering the genocide and providing complete cover for the atrocities of the occupation. According to the statement, the occupation army is committing crimes against humanity and practicing intentional

killing through bombing displacement and shelter centers, perpetrating several horrific massacres against civilians by deliberately targeting gatherings of children and women. The occupation army is also targeting all vital sectors in northern Gaza and aims to turn the area into a zone of destruction, killing, and extermination. GMO warned that the Israeli occupation army is vigorously pursuing a clearly defined plan for displacement, which is the largest and most dangerous American-Israeli colonial plan of the 21st century and modern era. It pointed out that this has been stated by ministers in the Israeli government, warning that the criminal displacement plan has been approved by US President Joe Biden and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who granted the occupation the green light to implement the malicious forced displacement plan against civilians, in a blatant violation of international law, international humanitarian law, the Geneva Conventions, and all international agreements. They are collectively committing 19 types of crimes against humanity in the Gaza Strip. The GMO emphasized that what is happening in northern Gaza, especially in Jabalia and its refugee camp, constitutes a clear crime of extermination, particularly as the occupation seeks to uproot, burn, and eliminate all vital sectors. It noted that the occupation army has rendered all hospitals in the north non-operational and is preventing fuel from reaching these hospitals for the seventh consecutive time. These hospitals, which house dozens of injured and sick individuals, especially in intensive care units, have become akin to martyrdom due to their proximity to ground zero. It said, "This means that the US administration and Israel have condemned hundreds of thousands to death."

Police clash over violation of section 144 in Karachi

TV and social media footage of the protest showed police performing baton charges on the demonstrators outside the KPC, including women

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Police on Sunday clashed with protesters outside the Karachi Press Club (KPC) for violating Section 144 when they demonstrated against the killing of blasphemy suspect Dr Shah Nawaz Kunbhari and "extremism in Sindh". Section 144 is a legal provision that empowers district administrations to prohibit an assembly of four or more people in an area for a limited period. Organised as the "Sindh Rawadari March", the protesters had gathered outside the press club today to condemn the "extrajudicial" killing of Dr Shah Nawaz, who had been accused of sharing blasphemous posts on social media and was shot dead under mysterious circumstances during a gun battle with the police in Mirpurkhas on September 19. Following an inquiry into the killing, Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar acknowledged that the police had "staged the encounter". The Sindh Rawadari March included progressive voices from across the Sindh province including human rights defenders, trade unions, and feminist movements. TV and social media footage of the protest showed police performing baton charges on the demonstrators outside the KPC, including women. At the same time, the religious-political party Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) called a counter-protest at the KPC, however, police stopped them at Teen Talwar and near Capri cinema. Later, TLP protesters, too, ended up clashing with the police and Rangers. KPC president Saeed Sarbazi told media that the "police closed all routes leading to the press club with containers and buses, and even reporters and camera persons were not allowed entry." South Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Syed Asad Raza told media persons outside the KPC that protesters "belonging to both groups have been arrested."

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