



Islamabad POST

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CPEC no win its second phase: Envoy

Detailed News On Page-08



Govt aims to cherry-pick CJP: JI Chief

Detailed News On Page-08



PM welcomes Chinese Premier Pakistan-China voice satisfaction over strategic partnership

During the meeting, both the leaders exchanged views on the entire gamut of bilateral relations as well as matters of mutual, regional, and international importance

STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD and Beijing have expressed satisfaction on the Pakistan-China strategic cooperative partnership, based on mutual trust and shared principles. The understanding was reached at a delegation-level meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Premier Li Qiang in Islamabad today (Monday). The two sides said this partnership is growing stronger with each passing day. During the meeting, both the leaders exchanged views on the entire gamut of bilateral relations as well as matters of mutual, regional, and international importance. Both leaders reaffirmed their support for each other on all core issues and expressed their commitment to the high-quality development of the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. They also emphasized the need for the timely completion of all ongoing projects in various sectors, including industry, agricultural modernization, information technology, and science and technology, for mutual benefit and Pakistan's socio-economic development. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif assured Pakistan's unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety of Chinese nationals and projects in Pakistan. Both leaders agreed to continue high-level exchanges, which include strengthening cooperation in all bilateral areas. The meeting discussed the relocation of Chinese industries to Pakistan and also exchanged views on strategies to increase Chinese investment in Pakistan. It was reiterated during the meeting that Pakistan and China will continue close consultation at multilateral forums as well as on issues of regional and global importance.

Shehbaz, Chinese Premier inaugurate Gwadar airport

Pakistan, China sign 13 accords to strengthen bilateral cooperation in different areas

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Premier Li Qiang, who landed in Islamabad on a four-day official earlier today ahead of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, virtually inaugurated the Gwadar International Airport part of the multi-billion dollars CPEC project. "The completion of Gwadar airport is an important milestone," the visiting dignitary said while addressing the signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) between the two countries aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation. He also commended the person-hours efforts of Pakistan and China to complete the project. The two sides also signed 13 accords to boost bilateral cooperation in multiple sectors including security, education, agriculture, human resources development and

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Premier Li Qiang unveiling a plaque to mark the completion of New Gawadar International Airport. - DNA

Karachi protest: Cops suspended for manhandling

PPP leadership including Senator Sherry Rehman, Bakhtawar Bhutto condemn police brutality on protesters

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: At least ten police personnel, including Eidgah Station House Officer (SHO) Zaheer Ahmed, on Monday were suspended for manhandling women protesters during a demonstration in the port city a day earlier. According to South Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Syed Asad Raza, departmental inquiry has been initiated against the cops involved in the violence and disciplinary action recommended against two senior police officers deployed on security duty at the Karachi Press Club. The police in metropolis

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Canada, India expel diplomats

India-Canada relations have been tense since 2023 when Trudeau said Canada had credible evidence to link Indian agents to the assassination of Sikh leader

DNA

OTTAWA: Canada has expelled six Indian diplomats after a police investigation into "criminal activity" uncovered a "campaign of violence" against dissidents. A US newspaper reported on Monday that the diplomats had been expelled, and it in a tit-for-tat move, the Indian foreign ministry said that New Delhi had expelled six Canadian diplomats, giving them until Saturday to leave the country.

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PTI still believes Maulana on its side

Fazl hints at 'closing in on consensus' with government

"We are not in the assembly to pass a law against the interest of the people," says JUI-F leader

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Pakistan-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman — considered the last man standing in the way of the much-touted Constitutional amendments — on Monday hinted at closing in on a consensus with the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). The constitutional package, among other things, aims to set up a federal constitutional court and fix the tenure of the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) for three years. The government had attempted to present the bill to amend the Constitution last month, but its allies as well as members from the opposition benches vehemently opposed the proposal, forcing the ruling party to begin a consultation process. During his interaction with journalists in Tando Allahyar, Fazl, who had been an ally of the ruling coalition, said that the government was ready to remove the contentious points from the proposed draft of the constitutional amendment bill. "We had rejected the government's draft

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PPP and MQM leaders hold meeting

PPP is actively engaging all stakeholders in the process of constitutional reforms

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Vice President of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Senator Sherry Rehman, and Dr. Asim Hussain met with the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) delegation at Sindh House. The MQM delegation included Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori, Dr. Farooq Sattar, and Amin ul Haque. During the meeting, both parties reached a consensus on moving forward with constitutional amendments in a

Continued on Page 06

World recognizes Pak as 'emerging economy'

Tarar informed that a modern media center had been set up for the coverage of the conference

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Ataulah Tarar said on Monday that Pakistan was no longer isolated in the world as international monetary organisations had now acknowledged the reforms the government had introduced to resurrect the country's economy. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, he said that the inflation rate had now dropped to 6.9 per cent, while investment worth \$64 billion had been made under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). "A considerable increase has

been witnessed in exports in the IT sector," the minister said, adding, "Bloomberg has declared that Pakistan is the world's emerging economy." Tarar said the government was proud that it was hosting the SCO summit. "It is after 27 years that such an event is being held in Pakistan." He informed that a modern media center had been set up for the coverage of the conference. "China's Prime Minister Li Qiang has said he has immense love for Pakistan," the minister said. Regarding the PTI, he said everything could be expected from the party, which could go to the extent of damaging government and military installations on May 9.

Briefs

Li Qiang's visit will help strengthen ties

She said both the sides have actively delivered on the important common understandings

FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: China says Premier Li Qiang's visit to Pakistan will strengthen strategic communication and expand bilateral cooperation across the board. Speaking during regular media briefing in Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning said China and Pakistan are ironclad friends and all-weather strategic cooperative partners. She said China looks to working with Pakistan to expand cooperation across the board and accelerate building of a closer bilateral community with a shared future in new era and jointly work for regional peace, development and prosperity.

PTI pushes ahead with D-Chowk protest

Party determined to make protest a large-scale event, tying its success to release of Imran Khan

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is intensifying preparations for a large-scale protest, directing its ticket holders and workers from across the country to converge at Islamabad's D-Chowk on October 15. The protest is part of a broader strategy to demand the release of the party's detained founder Imran Khan, as party leaders emphasise that demonstrations will continue until their demands are met.

Alleged rape of girl 28 injured as students stage protest in Lahore

According to Rescue 1122 officials, 28 people — 24 students and 4 police officers — were given first aid after the clash

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: At least 28 people suffered injuries after clashes erupted between the students and police during a protest held against the alleged rape of a college girl in Lahore. According to Rescue 1122 officials, 28 people — 24 students and 4 police officers — were given first aid after the clash. The incident took place outside a private college in Lahore's Gulberg area. A security guard of the college was arrested recently after reports related to the alleged rape of the student went viral on social media platforms. Addressing a press conference today, Lahore Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Operations Faisal Kamran said that they were investigating the incident of alleged rape of a student. The police officer said he visited the private college's Gulberg campus and questioned everybody about the incident. He said that none of them had the correct information. "Nobody reported the incident so far."

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Father beats to death 10 year old daughter

DNA

LONDON: The father of Sara Sharif, a 10-year-old girl who was found dead in her home in Britain, told police "I beat her up too much", prosecutors said at his murder trial on Monday. Sara was found dead in August 2023 at her home in Woking, a town southwest of London, after what prosecutors say was a campaign of "serious and repeated violence". Her father Urfan Sharif, 42, his wife and Sara Sharif's stepmother Beinash Batool, 30, and the girl's uncle Faisal Malik, 29, are on trial at London's Old Bailey court charged with her murder.

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Constitutional package PML-N double-minded about PPP proposals

Experts who have reviewed the PPP's draft warn that, if implemented in its current form, it could destabilize Pakistan's judicial system, creating a chaotic situation

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) appears to be reconsidering its stance on the proposed constitutional amendments put forward by PPP. According to insiders, the PML-N may not fully back the amendments as originally expected. Sources close to the development have revealed that while the PML-N is open to the idea of establishing a Constitutional Court, it differs from the PPP on the approach. The PML-N is more focused on reforming the process for appointing the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Specifically, the party prefers the selection of a judge from among the top three most senior judges of the Supreme Court. Notably, the PML-N is believed to have a favorable view of Justice Yahya Afridi. If the government decides to pick the chief

justice from the top five judges then ostensibly Justice Aminud Din stands bright chances to become next CJ. Additionally, the PML-N perceives that the PPP's push for these amendments may be an attempt to align itself more closely with the Establishment. The success of this package, insiders suggest, could strengthen Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's candidacy for the prime ministership. In light of these suspicions, the PML-N is reportedly hesitant to rush the approval process. Senior PML-N leader Irfan Siddiqui hinted at this in a recent interview, suggesting there would be no harm in delaying the proposed amendments by "three or four months." This unexpected development indicates the potential for heated debates between the two major parties on this issue. Experts who have reviewed the PPP's draft warn that, if implemented in its current form, it could destabilize Pakistan's judicial system, creating a chaotic situation.

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Political activity in capital must be under the law: MCCI president

MULTAN: Multan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) President Mian Bakhtawar Tanveer Sheikh said on Monday that any political activity in the federal capital must be followed under the law, especially during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit. Talking to APP here Monday, he asked the government to take appropriate measures for maintaining peace and order in the capital after understanding the gravity of the situation. He said there should be no unlawful gatherings in Islamabad, especially during the SCO summit.

The government's role is to ensure equal rights for all citizens to balance the situation while maintaining peace, he added. He said the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was a business conference and a key event for fostering economic collaboration among SCO member states. He said there would be an active participation from business leaders, investors and policymakers from across the region. The MCCI President said Multan was a trade hub in Southern Punjab. Highlighting the city's agricultural exports, particularly mangoes, textiles, and handicraft, the MCCI seeks to attract investment and promote bilateral trade with member countries, especially China, he maintained. The MCCI President noted the strategic alignment between Multan industries—APP

Governor inaugurates Passport, NADRA offices

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Monday inaugurated passport and NADRA offices in the provincial assembly. The event was attended by Speaker Babar Salim Swati, Deputy Speaker Suraya Bibi, Opposition Leader Dr. Ibadullah, PPP parliamentary leader PPP Ahmad Karim Kundi, Director General of Passport Mustafa Kamal Qazi, and NADRA Director Khalid Inayatullah, along with other assembly members and secretariat staff. The Governor's visit aimed to provide assembly members, secretariat staff, and press gallery representatives with the convenience of computerized identification cards and passports right at their doorstep. This marked Kundi's first visit to the provincial assembly as Governor, during which he also reviewed the assembly hall and the jirga hall. Talking to media, Kundi expressed gratitude to the Federal Interior Minister for their significant support for the project. He acknowledged the critical role played by Speaker Babar Salim Swati in establishing the parliamentary jirga and emphasized the need to set aside political differences to focus on restoring peace. Kundi assured that the demands of the Pashtun jirga would be taken seriously and that all political parties would collaboratively address constitutional demands within the framework of Pakistan's constitution. He lamented that despite the 1991 agreement, the provision of water to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa remains incomplete.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar cutting the ribbon to inaugurate Media Facilitation Centre at Pakistan-China Friendship Center ahead of SCO Summit.—DNA

Romina lauds \$10m boost to Pakistan's climate fight

MULTAN: The US\$10 million climate funding Pakistan secured just recently from ICIMOD would give much needed boost to an ongoing national effort aimed at addressing climate change impacts on communities and environment. Romina Khurshid Alam, the Coordinator to PM on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination said in a statement on Monday that the funding was approved by the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) at its Adaptation Fund Board to help Pakistan counter climate challenges. Romina termed it as an achievement of the federal government led by Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and added that it reflected government's unwavering commitment to tackling the escalating threats posed by climate change and ensur-

ing the nation's resilience against climate-related disasters. ICIMOD was an intergovernmental institution leading the global effort to protect Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) which it described as the pulse of the planet, and it's people, resources and culture that define it. Romina Khurshid Alam said: "We're delighted to see this project get the go-ahead, which aligns perfectly with the Pakistan government's priority to address climate challenges and strengthen resilience in the face of increasing climate-related disasters." The federal government's tireless efforts in securing international support for climate initiatives reflect its forward-thinking policies and dedication to protecting both the environment and the future of Pakistan. This \$10 million fund was a testament to the glob-

al recognition of Pakistan's strategic climate vision and the government's effective leadership in spearheading projects that will fortify the nation against environmental challenges. The funding would be utilized in executing "Sustainable Actions for Ecosystems Restoration in Pakistan" (SAFER) initiative, in next three and half years by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MOCCEC) in partnership with ICIMOD. It will focus on climate-resilient infrastructure and water resource management in Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Sindh. It is aligned with Pakistan's National Adaptation Plan and the Living Indus Initiative, targeting nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches to protect natural resources and the people, she said.—APP

Mansehra police organizes Khuli Kutchery in Lubar Kot

MANSEHRA: Following the directives of DPO Mansehra Shafeeullah Gondal, SP City Arshad Khan organized a Khuli Kutchery in the jurisdiction of Lari Adda Police Station, Lubar Kot, to directly address public issues. The purpose of the open court is to bridge the gap between the police and the community, fostering a sense of ownership among residents that the police are there for them. SP City Arshad Khan while addressing the Khuli Kutchery said that a lists of patrons for habitual drug offenders are being compiled, and legal action will be initiated against these guarantors to ensure that offenders receive the maximum penalties. Residents are encouraged to approach District Reconciliation Committees (DRC) for resolving domestic issues, land disputes, and property conflicts. He said that to help eliminate crime and establish peace, the community is urged to support the police. During the open court, SP City Arshad Khan also marked the applications from complainants for legal action to be taken by the relevant SHO and police stations. The open court aims to enhance public access to senior police officers, raise awareness about community issues, reduce crime, and secure public cooperation for maintaining peace in the district. (SP City Arshad Khan) Local elders, public representatives, and citizens from various fields praised SP City Arshad Khan for the initiative, affirming that the residents of Lubar Kot will fully cooperate with Mansehra Police to combat social crimes.—APP

27 more Palestinian students arrive in Pakistan

LAHORE: Twenty-seven more Palestinian students arrived in the country to acquire medical and dental education on Monday. Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan President Dr Hafeez ur Rehman, Vice President Air Marshal (Retired) Arshad Malik, Health Services Chairman Prof Dr Zahid Latif and government officials warmly welcomed the students at Lahore airport. Dr Hafeez ur Rehman said that in the first phase, 192 Palestinian students were coming to Pakistan through different flights. He said that the students would continue their medical and dental education

in universities of Pakistan, adding that the Alkhidmat Foundation, Global Relief Trust and Doctors of Rehman would extend cooperation for the purpose. He thanked the government of Pakistan, Palestinian Embassy and medical colleges and universities which helped the students continue their education. "After meetings with Palestinian Embassy officials, the government of Pakistan and different colleges and universities, we were able to bring the students to Pakistan. The students will be provided with all possible facilities including education,

food and residence," he added. "The Alkhidmat Foundation continues a relief and rescue operation in Gaza from the first day of war. It is providing facilities like food, medicines and shelter there. It has also set up schools," he said, adding that cooperation was also being extended to Palestinian students in Egypt, Turkey, Pakistan and other countries. Earlier, officials of the Pakistani Embassy in Egypt and representatives of the Alkhidmat Foundation saw off the Palestinian students at Cairo airport.—APP

Ayaz for making visually impaired persons productive citizens

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Monday said that the white cane is a symbol of independence, confidence, and freedom for those with visual impairments. While paying tribute to the courage and resilience of visually impaired persons on the occasion of White Cane Safety Day, he said that this day serves as an encouragement for all of us to support and empower visually impaired individuals and include them in the national mainstream. The Speaker emphasized that visually impaired individuals are an important part of our society, and ensuring their well-being and empowerment is our collective responsibility. "By harnessing their potential, we can turn visually impaired persons into productive and active citizens," he added. Ayaz Sadiq stressed the need to take steps to utilize their abilities more effectively and enable them to play a vital role in social life, allowing them to live with dignity and contribute as valuable members of society. He further added that if visually impaired persons are provided with equal opportunities in education, employment, and other sectors, they can significantly contribute to the development and progress of society. The Speaker remarked that White Cane Safety Day is a moment to renew our commitment to safeguarding the rights of visually impaired persons and making every effort to improve their lives. He affirmed that Pakistan's Parliament is committed to ensuring the protection of special persons' rights and making their lives easier through effective legislation. Additionally, the Speaker noted that the National Assembly has prepared the Constitution of Pakistan in Braille and made its website accessible for visually impaired persons.—DNA

Chinese premier's visit to strengthen Pakistan-China eco ties

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik said on Monday that Chinese Premier Li Qiang's four-day visit to Pakistan marks another significant milestone in further deepening bilateral economic and trade relations between the two countries besides fortifying the invincible bonds of brotherhood and steadfastness of

friendship. In his statement issued here, he said the visit underscores the unwavering friendship and brotherhood that has characterized China-Pakistan ties for decades. Both countries share a deep-rooted bond that has been described as "higher than the mountains and deeper than the sea," and Premier Li's visit is set to solidify these ties even further. He said the visit will help expanding cooperation in various sectors, particularly in

trade, infrastructure development, and energy projects. China is already Pakistan's largest trading partner and a key player in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which has brought billions of dollars in investments to Pakistan. This visit will further enhance these economic initiatives, fostering mutual growth and development, he added. Iftikhar Ali Malik said in addition to trade and economic discussions,

the visit will also reaffirm the strategic partnership and political cooperation between the two countries. Premier Li's visit symbolizes the steadfastness of the China-Pakistan friendship, a relationship built on mutual respect, trust, and shared interests. It serves as a reminder of the enduring and invincible partnership between these two nations, committed to working together for a prosperous future, he concluded.

Fine art exhibitions develop creativity among students

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Monday attended a "Thesis display exhibition" organized by the Fine Arts department of Benazir Bhutto Shaheed University at Governor House as the chief guest. The event aimed to promote the creative talents of young women and showcase their artworks and designs to the public. The exhibition featured a variety of stunning creations by Fine Arts students, including vibrant paintings, sculptures, modern fashion garments, and unique designs. Governor Kundi praised the students' work, highlighting their expertise and potential as future great artists and designers. He said, "This exhibition has provided a platform to highlight the creative skills of these students. There is a need for

further development of the arts and fashion industry in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and the government will provide all possible support in this regard." He emphasized the significant role educational institutions play in fostering student talents through such activities. The Governor said that hosting such events at the Governor House aligns with the women empowerment agenda. He took the opportunity to closely examine the fashion designs and artworks, commending the hard work of the students. Kundi remarked that there are immense opportunities for young women in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa within the fields of fashion design and fine arts, and such exhibitions could serve as crucial milestones in their creative journeys. The event was also attend-

ed by Professor Dr. Safia Ahmed Vice Chancellor of Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Women University, Anila Muddasir Head of the Fine Arts department, as well as faculty, students, and other dignitaries. They acknowledged the exhibition as an important step for the creative development of students and praised Governor Kundi for hosting the event at the Governor House. Guests at the exhibition expressed admiration for the students' work and emphasized the need for more such events in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to provide opportunities for the youth in the fields of arts and fashion design. The exhibition was an important step for the creative development of students and praised Governor Kundi for hosting the event at the Governor House.—APP

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Chairperson BISP, Sindh education minister discuss promotion of technical, vocational education in Sindh

KARACHI: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, held an important meeting Monday with the Sindh Education and Literacy Minister, Syed Sardar Ali Shah, at his office. The discussion focused on the skill development of BISP beneficiaries, the allocation of campsites in schools during BISP's quarterly payment disbursements, and the promotion of technical and vocational education in the province. Also present were the Secretary of School Education, Zahid Ali Abbasi, BISP Sindh Director General Zulfiqar Ali Shaikh, and other senior officials. During the meeting, Chairperson BISP emphasized that the program is working on various initiatives related to skill development and technical education to enable beneficiary families to become



self-sufficient through technical training. She added that BISP and the Government of Sindh can collaborate on providing technical training under this flagship initiative. Chairperson Rubina Khalid highlighted that beyond financial assistance, BISP is

making significant efforts to help families achieve self-reliance. "We aim to focus more on the technical education of children from BISP-registered families," she said. Provincial Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah praised BISP's efforts and commended the

Chairperson for her dedication. He remarked that Shaheed Benazir Bhutto's vision of economic stability and self-sufficiency for Pakistani women remains clear. He stressed the importance of helping children who cannot complete their education

due to family obligations. "By imparting both education and technical skills, we can empower our youth to achieve economic stability," the minister added. Both parties agreed to develop an action plan for enhancing technical education.

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 Independence Day

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Marriott.....051- 2826121
Monal.....0334-5421812



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



Enquiry

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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



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Reports on performance of Chinese companies in Pakistan released

The Chinese Ambassador, H. E. Jiang Zaidong, expressed gratitude for Pakistan's support in creating a conducive environment for Chinese companies. He noted that with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) now in its second phase, more investments from China were anticipated, as several projects from the first phase were set to be operationalized.

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The two reports, "Glorious 11-Years - How Chinese Companies Reshaped the Power Sector in Pakistan" and "Business Climate Index of Chinese Companies in Pakistan," were released by the China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan (CCCCP) in collaboration with the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). Yousaf Raza Gilani, Chairman of the Senate, noted that the reports highlight the strong partnership between Pakistan and China in various sectors, particularly business and energy. He remarked that Chi-

nese companies in Pakistan have greatly enhanced the country's economic prosperity and contributed significantly to the development of the power sector. He underscored that these reports exemplify the transparency of Chinese operations in Pakistan. The Chinese Ambassador, H. E. Jiang Zaidong, expressed gratitude for Pakistan's support in creating a conducive environment for Chinese companies. He noted that with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) now in its second phase, more investments from China were anticipated, as several projects from the first phase were set to be operationalized. The Fed-



eral Minister for Finance, Muhammad Aurangzeb, emphasized the important role and performance of Chinese companies. He mentioned that the support provided by Chinese companies to the energy sector

was significant and expressed hope for more cooperation in the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which he described as crucial and rewarding. Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Mr. Atta Tarar emphasized the importance of Pakistan-China relations, stating that both countries share a strong emotional bond that has continued to grow over the years despite the challenges posed by spoilers. He added that China supported Pakistan at a time when no investor was ready to invest in the country and when it was facing long hours of load shedding. Senator Saleem Mandviwalla

stated that the two reports highlight China's steadfast commitment to supporting Pakistan's economic prosperity and the close cooperation between the two countries. Liu Yanggang, Vice General Manager of Three Gorges South Asia Investment Company in Pakistan, remarked that this was a historic moment as the contributions of Chinese companies in Pakistan gained recognition. Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President of the IRS, emphasized that both reports were vital for boosting confidence in the business communities of both countries and would facilitate increased investments in Pakistan.

Islamabad fully prepared for SCO summit with security, beautification

Army Officials were also appreciated for their unwavering commitment to national security and their support in maintaining a peaceful environment in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority Muhammad Ali Randhawa Monday confirmed that Islamabad was fully prepared to welcome esteemed international guests for the SCO summit, with the city's beautification and security measures significantly enhanced to ensure a pleasant and secure experience. In an exclusive talk with a private news channel, Muhammad Ali Randhawa confirmed, "Islamabad is fully prepared under the strict instructions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's where CDA, in collaboration with other security departments including Army officials has implemented stringent security measures to ensure a secure experience for international guests." Ali Randhawa expressed pride and honor that Islamabad had been chosen to host esteemed international guests for the SCO Summit. "We are thrilled to welcome distinguished guests to our city," Randhawa said. "Islamabad's roads and bridges have been transformed with illuminating decorations, creating a warm and welcoming ambiance ahead of the summit," he added. He said, "This vibrant display reflects Islamabad's commitment to showcasing its beauty and hospitality to the world." "The city's enhanced infrastructure and beautification efforts demonstrate its readiness to host high-profile international events like the SCO summit," he added. Chairman CDA also proudly announced that Islamabad's roads and bridges were being upgraded and beautified under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's vision. "This initiative aims to provide a warm welcome to esteemed international guests attending the SCO Summit," he added. "As part of this effort, the city's infrastructure is being enhanced with digital and eco-friendly streamers, creating a visually stunning and environmentally conscious experience for residents and visitors alike." Randhawa also expressed his gratitude to key stakeholders for their invaluable support in maintaining a peaceful environment in Islamabad, particularly in the lead-up to the SCO summit. The Business Community also received praise for their contributions to the city's economic growth and development. Moreover, Chairman Randhawa acknowledged the Traffic Police for their tireless efforts in ensuring the smooth flow of traffic and maintaining order on the city's roads. Army Officials were also appreciated for their unwavering commitment to national security and their support in maintaining a peaceful environment in Islamabad.—DNA

Sherry hails SCO summit as "Significant Honor" for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: A prominent leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Sherry Rehman Monday expressed her enthusiasm about the SCO summit, considering it a significant honor for Pakistan and believed that this pivotal event would not only bolster regional ties but also stabilize the country's foreign policy as international trust in Pakistan grows. In an exclusive talk with a private news channel, she emphasized the significance of the SCO Summit in restoring confidence and strengthening diplomatic ties for Pakistan, which were damaged in the previous regime. "The SCO Summit presents a crucial opportunity for Pakistan to deepen its economic ties with member states, particularly China and Russia and position itself as a hub for trade and transit, facilitating greater economic integration within the region," she added. "By actively participating in the SCO, Pakistan can enhance its geopolitical and economic standing, strengthen security cooperation and promote regional connectivity," she mentioned. "The SCO framework provides a platform for Pakistan to engage in diplomatic dialogues, address bilateral and multilateral issues and amplify its voice in international forums," she said. "India's participation in the SCO Summit alongside Pakistan is a significant development where India can get opportunity to discuss issues on table talks," she added. Responding to a query, Sherry Rehman expressed optimism about the upcoming SCO summit. "India's participation alongside Pakistan presents an opportunity for meaningful dialogue and cooperation," she highlighted. She noted that during the previous conference, India missed the chance to engage constructively with Pakistan. However, Rehman hoped that this time around, India would demonstrate maturity and engage in mutually beneficial discussions. Sherry also emphasized that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party should demonstrate maturity and understand the significance of the SCO summit. "The SCO summit, founded by China and Russia in 2001, focuses on key areas such as political, economic, international security, and defense matters," she added.—APP

New era of cooperation begins with Premier Li Qiang's Pakistan visit

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Premier Li Qiang's arrival in Islamabad on Monday for the SCO summit has generated enthusiasm among analysts, praising strengthening China-Pakistan ties as historic visit will solidify relations, fostering a secure business environment for global investments in Pakistan. Analysts Agha Iqar Haroon speaking to PTV news channel believe this visit marks the beginning of a new era of cooperation between the two nations, adding, China visit to Pakistan is expected to focus on enhancing cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, infrastructure development, and CPEC phase 2. Agha Haroon Iqar highlights the potential for Pakistan's economic growth, adding, Pakistan has faced various economic challenges in the past, but with the right policies and investments, it can capitalize on its strategic location, young population, and natural resources to drive growth. Director China Pakistan Study Centre at The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad Dr. Talat Shabbir believes the Chinese Premier's visit holds great symbolic significance for the region. He said this visit will not only provide Pakistan with economic benefits but also shatter the notion of diplomatic isolation. The visit is expected to breathe new life into the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a game-changing project that has been gaining momentum since its inception, he added. Dr. Talat Shabbir is also optimistic that the Chinese Premier's visit will bring a comprehensive agenda, building on the momentum of CPEC Phase 2. He credits the current government and the Chinese government for reviving hopes and commitments, especially after the 13th Joint Cooperation Committee meeting, where five new corridors for Phase 2 of CPEC were identified. This development is a testament to the strengthened partnership between Pakistan and China, he added.—APP

Senator Siddiqui criticizes PTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-N Senator Irfan Siddiqui Monday slammed PTI for consistently obstructing Pakistan's progress, urging them to prioritize national dignity and warned that choosing the SCO summit day for their actions would have severe repercussions. In an exclusive interview with a private news channel, he said, "PTI is habitual for disruption of the country's advancement, emphasizing the need for patriotism over political point-scoring." He further criticized that despite senior leaders from PML-N and PPP being jailed, the country's matters were not derailed by similar blackmailing tactics, adding, the current disruptions were being driven by political agendas rather than genuine concerns for the nation's well-being. He said, "PTI has a history of causing trouble whenever important events are on the horizon, adding, in the past, they disrupted the Chinese president's visit to Pakistan and now they are poised to do it again."—APP

SCO Summit: City streets shine with lights, decorations

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has finalized all administrative arrangements, with final touches in place, and the city is ready to welcome the delegates of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit. Meanwhile, the streets, buildings, and public spaces have been carefully prepared for the international event. According to the spokesman of ICT administration, in preparation for the SCO meeting, the city has been fully decorated. Before the guests arrive, streets have been adorned with lights and decorations, giving the city a fresh look. Major highways now feature green spaces and crescents, adding a touch of nature to the urban landscape. As part of a beautification drive, various statues have been installed at key intersections. Government offices, private business centers, and buildings have also been revamped, ready to greet the visiting dignitaries.—APP

Routes established for SCO Summit under ITP's supervision

ISLAMABAD: Under the supervision of Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Muhammad Sarfraz Virk, the Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) will lay the routes on Monday according to the traffic plan for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) 2024 summit. According to ITP statement, traffic on the Expressway will be halted from morning until noon. While Springar Highway will be halted from afternoon to late evening, he added.—APP

Grand search operation conducted in various City Zones

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), under the supervision of zonal Superintendents of Police (SPs), conducted a grand search and combing operation late at night in various areas of city including Tarnol and Aabpara police limits. According to public relations officer, under the special directions of Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the ICT Police has intensified its crackdown on criminal elements to eliminate crime from the city, he told APP. In this regard, a heavy contingent of police participated in the operation, which also included the lady police force. Prior to the operation, zonal SPs briefed the personnel on the details of the mission, he added. He said during the search, 150 suspicious individuals, as well as 189 households, shops, inns, hotels, and motels, were thoroughly checked. Additionally, the operation involved inspecting 105 motorcycles and 26 vehicles, he said. He added total of 42 suspicious individuals were taken to police stations, and 12 individuals faced preventive action. He said during the operation, one suspect was arrested, and illegal weapons along with ammunition were recovered from his possession. He said the primary aim of the search operation is to curb crime in the area. IG Islamabad has issued orders for grand search operations throughout the district to combat criminal activities, he added.—DNA

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Briefs

Conference on frontiers in chemical sciences to begin

ISLAMABAD: A two-day International Conference on Frontiers in Chemical Sciences, organized by the Institute of Chemistry, University of Sargodha, will begin on October 30. Talking to APP, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Shair said that scientists, researchers, scholars and students from Pakistan and other countries like Turkey, Australia, Austria etc. will fully participate in the conference. More than 600 people have registered in this two-day long conference, including the papers of 100 researchers. This conference will be patronized by Vice Chancellor of University of Sargodha Prof. Dr. Qaiser Abbas, he added. The last date of registration for participation in the conference is October 20. For registration and thesis, contact the focal person of the conference, Dr. Faizur Rahman. It is hoped that this conference will be a great one with the platform of Industry and Academia linkage, in which the role of Maple Leaf as cement industry will be valued. —APP

ISNET, Iranian space agency to host workshop on space technology for disaster management

ISLAMABAD: As a part of its efforts towards enhancing global disaster management efforts, the Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology (ISNET), in collaboration with the Iranian Space Agency (ISA), has announced an international workshop focused on "Space Technology Applications for Disaster Management." According to an official source, the event scheduled to take place from December 15-17 in Tehran, promises to be a unique platform for exchanging knowledge on how cutting-edge space technology can be leveraged to enhance disaster preparedness and resilience. The workshop will bring together global experts, researchers, and professionals to explore the latest advancements in space technology and their potential to mitigate the impact of natural and man-made disasters. ISNET and ISA have called on participants to engage in discussions that cover various aspects of space-based solutions for disaster management, including satellite monitoring, early warning systems, and post-disaster recovery applications. The workshop will not only highlight technological innovations but also foster international cooperation in addressing shared challenges in disaster risk reduction. With an emphasis on building a more resilient world, the event will offer participants the opportunity to collaborate and contribute to shaping the future of disaster management in the age of space exploration. —APP

World sustainability Day
Pakistan's 1st sustainability summit and awards on October 24

DNA

ISLAMABAD / KARACHI / LAHORE: In a pioneering effort to mark World Sustainability Day, Devcom-Pakistan (Development Communications Network), the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, and NUSTainable (the NUST office of sustainability), have joined forces to organize the first-ever "Pakistan Sustainability Summit and Awards". The event will take place on Thursday, October 24 at Best Western Premier Hotel, Islamabad. The summit aims to address Pakistan's rising environmental challenges and promote sustainable development. It is being organized to mainstream World Sustainability Day, which is globally celebrated on October 26

but remains less recognized in Pakistan. The Executive Director of Devcom-Pakistan, Munir Ahmed emphasized the urgency of addressing sustainability: "Sustainability practices are less understood and often compromised in Pakistan, despite mounting environmental challenges such as climate change, resource depletion, and biodiversity loss. We face economic disasters that require an urgent transition toward sustainable development." He added the summit aims to bring key stakeholders together to explore strategies for promoting green practices and building a resilient, sustainable Pakistan." The summit will serve as a platform to foster collaboration between government agencies, private enterprises, NGOs, academia, and other key stakeholders. It will promote the responsible use

of resources, economic growth, environmental protection, and social equity. Pakistan's premier sustainability event is set to promote sustainable development, facilitate knowledge sharing and innovation, encourage public-private partnerships, raise environmental awareness, showcase green business opportunities, and promote best practices in sustainability. The summit will feature technical sessions on topics such as "Healthy Planet, Thriving Economy, and People's Wellbeing," followed by a closing ceremony and awards distribution. The summit will engage a diverse audience, including government officials, and key decision-makers from national and provincial government departments, diplomats, private sector leaders such as CEOs, sustainability officers, and industry representatives, envi-

ronmental advocates, activists, and organizations focused on conservation, academia and researchers, representatives from global organizations committed to sustainable development, and young innovators and green startups contributing to sustainable solutions. The summit is expected to yield policy recommendations, commitments to sustainable business practices, new public-private partnerships, increased environmental awareness, showcasing of green technologies and business opportunities, recognition of contributions through sustainability awards. Another important segment of the event is "Leaders in Sustainability Awards" that will be conferred upon the development and corporate sector organizations in ten categories, including Climate Action Award: For initiatives reducing

greenhouse gas emissions, Biodiversity Conservation Award: Recognizing efforts to protect ecosystems and wildlife; Nature Based Solutions, Sustainable Water Management Award: For innovative water conservation and management solutions, Renewable Energy Excellence Award: Acknowledging advancements in clean energy, Circular Economy Innovator Award: For businesses embracing recycling and waste reduction, Green Business Leader Award: Recognizing sustainable business practices, Sustainable Agriculture Award: For promoting eco-friendly farming techniques, Health and Wellness Initiative Award: For projects improving public health through sustainable practices, Community Impact Award: Recognizing programs that uplift communities sustainably, Education and Awareness Award.

PM welcomes Palestinian students

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday welcomed the first batch of Palestinian medical students who arrived in Lahore to complete their medical education. "Pakistan warmly welcomes Palestinian medical students for completion of their studies. Their presence further strengthens the bonds of solidarity between our peoples," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline. He reiterated that Pakistan stood firmly with the people of Palestine in support of their inalienable rights to education, health, and a brighter future for all. Earlier, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar also said that the first batch of Palestinian students arrived at Lahore and from Wednesday onwards, more students would reach Islamabad. He said a total 190 students will be arriving in Pakistan for medical education. In July, the Government of Pakistan had announced to allow medical students from Gaza to complete their medical education in Pakistan on humanitarian grounds. The decision was made to enable Gaza students to continue the final years of their medical education in the fields of cardiology, orthopedics, oncology, pediatrics and surgery to address critical needs in Gaza's health care system. —APP

New ADB country director for Pakistan assumes office

ISLAMABAD: Asian Development Bank's (ADB) newly appointed Country Director for Pakistan, Xiaolin (Emma) Fan joined the Pakistan Resident Mission here Monday to officially commence her role. Country Director, Ms. Fan will oversee ADB's operations in Pakistan, including the implementation of the country partnership strategy (CPS) that prioritizes lifting growth, increasing resilience, and boosting competitiveness, said ADB press release issued here. She will also lead the consultation for the new CPS covering the period from 2026 to 2030, it added. I am delighted to be back in Pakistan to lead the country office. I look forward to promoting ADB's longstanding partnership with the government and people of Pakistan," said Ms. Fan. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Security officials are on high alert as security beefed up in the Federal Capital for the 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit. —APP

SCO Summit: An event of immense significance for fostering regional stability

We pray to Almighty Allah for a successful conference and a peaceful, prosperous outcome that benefits not only Pakistan but the entire region, President Qureshi concluded

DNA

in a statement issued here

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad is honored to host the prestigious Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) conference, an event of immense significance for fostering regional stability, prosperity, and socio-economic development. We are confident that the agreements and memorandums of understanding (MOUs) formed during this conference will have the potential to transform the economic landscape, bringing new opportunities and partnerships for member countries. With China and Russia's capable leadership, we believe this conference could create a balanced global power dynamic, enhancing the socio-economic influence of the entire region, this has been stated by President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry



on Monday. Despite the multiple challenges being faced by it, the business community of Islamabad fully understands the importance of this event for Pakistan and the region. We view our economic sacrifices during this period as a contribution to the greater national interest and regional stability. It is our belief that the short-term losses we are

enduring will ultimately pave the way for long-term peace, security, and economic growth. This sacrifice is not just for the benefit of Pakistan, but for the collective good of all SCO member states. We hope and pray that the outcomes of the SCO conference will lead to lasting peace and security, both regionally and internationally. We urge the government to consider measures that can mitigate the economic impact on local businesses, while also ensuring that such sacrifices are recognized as an integral part of our national contribution to fostering regional cooperation.

We pray to Almighty Allah for a successful conference and a peaceful, prosperous outcome that benefits not only Pakistan but the entire region, President Qureshi concluded.

IRSA releases 115,100 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 115,100 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 79,800 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1535.73 feet and was 137.73 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 41,100 cusecs and 50,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1203.50 feet, which was 153.50 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. The release of water at Kalabagh, Tansa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 50,800, 62,900, 54,900 and 15,800 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 18,300 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 3,500 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala. —APP

SCO media center launched to facilitate media

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Monday launched the 'Media Facilitation Center' equipped with most modern facilities to assist international and local media during the regional Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit 2024 being hosted by Pakistan for the first time on October 15-16.

The SCO media facilitation center was launched here at Pak-China Friendship Center by the Minister for Information and Broadcasting flanked by senior officers of the Ministry. The center has been decorated with thematic pictorials, banners and decorative material, fountains, highlighting the national landmarks of the members states participating in the two-day regional summit. The SCO conference would be participated by nine full member countries being represented by the prime ministers of China, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan along-with the vice president of Iran and the external affairs minister of India. It is to mention here that the organization was established in 2001 by China and Russia to discuss security concerns in Central Asia and the wider region. The media center has SMDs projecting banners of different SCO members, whereas a dedicated multimedia showcasing eye catching landscapes and cultural heritage of Pakistan has been installed. The Ministry has also set up a display center providing literature regarding notable literary figures, cultural heritage, archeological sites, tourism potential and other information valuable for the visiting dignitaries and the international media. A high speed wifi internet, studio, printers facilities have also been provided in the centre. Member National Assembly, Barrister Daniyal Chaudhary visited the different stalls and cafeteria of the facilitation center and appreciated the Minister and his team for making all out efforts to establish an international standard facility. —DNA

Bridging horizons: A blueprint for boosting Pak strategic role in SCO regional connectivity

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Multilateral collaboration through regional organizations provides a vital and stable framework for enhancing regional cooperation and connectivity. These organizations, such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), provide the foundation for effective partnerships, playing a crucial role in fostering peace, security, and stable economic growth. Coinciding with the 23rd Council of Heads of Government meeting of the SCO in Islamabad, the Institute of Policy Studies has published 'Bridging Horizons: Unraveling the Enigma of Connectivity between Pakistan and Central Asia'. Authored by Dr. Faisal Javaid, Dr. Uzma Siraj,

and Polish scholar Prof. Dr. Arkadiusz Zukowski, this study offers a comprehensive analysis of the historical, geopolitical, and economic dimensions that connect Pakistan and other SCO member states, particularly the Central Asian nations. As Pakistan and other regional countries deepen their relationships, the book emphasizes the strategic importance of connectivity in achieving regional prosperity, echoing the legacy of the ancient Silk Road and modern infrastructure projects like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Since joining the SCO in 2017, Pakistan has actively contributed to regional initiatives promoting security, stability, and economic development. Bridging Horizons explores how the SCO's mission pro-

vides a crucial platform for collaboration, essential for fostering regional connectivity and economic growth. Through its various initiatives, the organization aims to enhance infrastructure, energy cooperation, and financial integration across member states. The study also highlights the alignment of SCO goals with key projects such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which positions Pakistan as a vital transit hub linking Central Asia to South Asia and the Middle East. While the book highlights numerous opportunities for economic collaboration, including energy projects like the TAPI gas pipeline and CASA-1000, it also addresses critical challenges. Infrastructure

deficits, vast distances, difficult terrain, and geopolitical tensions often hinder regional cooperation. The authors argue that the SCO should adopt an integrated approach to overcoming these barriers by engaging external partners, international organizations, and the private sector to boost expertise and resources. The book offers actionable recommendations for enhancing connectivity between Pakistan and regional countries, in alignment with the SCO's long-term goals. Key suggestions include leveraging Pakistan's strategic location as a transit state, optimizing the functionality of Gwadar port, breaking down trade barriers, and promoting free trade agreements. Additional recommendations focus on establishing

direct air links, improving transport infrastructure, harmonizing cross-border regulations, and facilitating people-to-people contacts through liberalized visa policies. The study also examines the responses of global and regional powers — the USA, China, Russia, and India — to the evolving dynamics in Central Asia. These actors, alongside the European Union, Türkiye, and Afghanistan, shape the region's future connectivity and cooperation.

This publication provides timely insights into the challenges and opportunities of fostering regional cooperation. It is an essential resource for understanding the potential of a more interconnected and prosperous future between Pakistan, Central Asia, and other SCO member states.

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Resistance pact

ON October 7, it was announced that Iran's parliament is drafting a defense and security pact, which will formally bind the Resistance, "and their supporting countries," together in a common, collaborative military structure to counter external threats, "particularly from the US and Israel." Unremarked upon in the West, this is a seismic move, representing the most monumental nail hammered into "Israel's" coffin since Palestinian freedom fighters struck deep inside the Zionist entity's putrid heart a year prior. The proclamation's timing was absolutely no coincidence. All the pact's signatories - be they governments or Resistance movements - will provide "comprehensive" economic, military, and political assistance to one another, should they come under attack from the Zionist entity or its allies. Significantly, a dedicated joint military headquarters, to "facilitate coordination" between members of the Resistance, will also be established. This will serve as a "central command for managing military operations and crisis response, reinforcing operational capabilities through planned joint military exercises." The pact "aims not only to enhance military cooperation," but also "bolster infrastructure development" for the Resistance - "collaboration in building military bases and training centers is expected to improve readiness against potential threats." If implemented, Islamic Republic lawmakers believe "this alliance could significantly shift the balance of power in the region, presenting a formidable counterweight to Western influence seeking to wreak havoc in West Asia to Israel's benefit." Of course, recent events have made it clear that West Asia's "balance of power" has already decisively shifted in favor of the Resistance. The scale and severity of Iran's unprecedented October 1 strike on the Zionist entity amply indicated Tehran not only didn't expect retaliation of any serious kind to be forthcoming from "Israel" or its Western puppetmasters but had calculated that in the event Tel Aviv was sufficiently foolhardy to declare all-out war in response, the Resistance would inevitably prevail. In the wake of that devastating assault, this journalist postulated Tehran had thrown down a gauntlet to its regional and international adversaries, safe in the knowledge any resultant conflict would mean the Zionist entity's final end and the Empire's concomitant retreat from West Asia more widely. The rapid emergence of a formal Resistance military alliance tends to confirm this analysis. Now, it is up to "Israel" to make the next move, which could well be its very last. Hours before Iran struck the Zionist entity, Israeli occupation forces criminally launched an expanded aggression on Lebanon. True to form, the IOF have savagely targeted civilian areas and infrastructure ever since, claiming at least 1,400 innocent lives to date and injuring countless more. Initially framed by Israeli leaders and pliant Western journalists as a "limited ground intervention," based on "precise intelligence" on Hezbollah, the government of Benjamin Netanyahu is already openly seeking to escalate it into an all-out war. Netanyahu is evidently unconcerned that many statements he and his ministers have made since October 7, 2023, rank highly among the voluminous mountain of evidence the Zionist entity is acting with genocidal intent toward the Palestinians and may have contributed significantly to his ICC indictment for "crimes against humanity."



US climate change fight

IT'S mid-October in Washington, when the outdoors types can hike without an ample supply of bug repellent, sit around fire pits, replace the shot of gin with whisky and generally embrace the autumnal spirit. Except that it hit 27 degrees Celsius (80 degrees Fahrenheit) this past weekend. That was not bad enough to keep us confined to the air-conditioned indoors - like we are for most of the summer - but certainly not cool enough to break out the jumpers and flannels. Not that anyone should cry over these tribulations. The absence of crisp autumn air doesn't compare with the deprivations of the millions of Americans affected by hurricanes Helene and Milton. Milton ripped the roof off a stadium, left at least 24 dead and millions without power and caused flooding across Florida. Helene, which utterly destroyed a region that few people saw as being at risk for such a natural disaster, was the storm that showed us our new reality. The fate that our scientists warned us about - the one that too many of us swiped past on our news feeds - is here and getting worse. Many of us who have listened to the climate scientists, watched Al Gore's An Inconvenient Truth and thus wonder why more people aren't alarmed about what's happening are hoping for the one and only possible silver lining to these tragedies: that they turn out to be the October surprise of this year's US presidential election, one that finally makes Republican opposition to measures meant to lower carbon emissions a losing issue. To prevent this, however, Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, Georgia Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene and others willing to trade in the most outlandish of conspiracy theories let loose with a tsunami of lies. They know that voters confronted with the most violent effects of climate change will want an easier target for their anger than an accumulation of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere, something for which we are all responsible. They resorted to the accusation that US President Joe Biden's administration diverted money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to illegal immigrants, a move that put a target on the backs of federal officials trying to rescue people and alleviate the damage. Another accusation - that the US government is creating the hurricanes and directing them towards Republican strongholds - has caused American meteorologists to receive death threats. For Trump and those working hardest to put him back in the White House, there is no move too reckless if it ensures the staying power of the Republican Party's climate change denialism in the face of all objective reality. For all of his determination to portray efforts to address climate change as a scam, however, Trump has - perhaps without realizing it - hit on a policy point that would help to wean the United States off fossil fuels. Trump's pledges to use tariffs to keep Chinese-made vehicles out of the US get more attention than the other, more significant and surprising, aspect of his plan to boost manufacturing in the country. If we are to take him at his word - which is admittedly a dicey proposition - he does not oppose Chinese companies which might want to open auto factories in the US. US policymakers on the right and left point to the massive subsidies and other breaks that Beijing has given its electric vehicle (EV) manufacturers. They should, because these moves were part of the sprawling "Made in China 2025" plan to transform China into the world's EV manufacturing base, regardless of the effect that this ambitious industrial policy would have on global competitors.

Shanghai Conference and Political Point Scoring

Qamar Bashir



This assessment underscores the need for Pakistan to actively engage with the opportunities offered by the SCO, particularly in infrastructure, trade, and investment, to avoid falling further behind in regional economic integration. In this context, hosting the 23rd meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's (SCO) Council of Heads of Government (CHG) on October 15-16, 2024, becomes particularly important for Pakistan. It is crucial that the event is organized without controversy for several reasons, especially considering the opportunities it offers

AS part of a media group, we visited two provinces in China, Xinjiang and Shanxi in August this year, both of which are central to many aspects of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). We witnessed firsthand the impressive infrastructure, including railroad links, warehouses, border markets, ports, dry ports, as well as air and land links. This expansive and efficient system, with a total estimated value exceeding \$1 trillion, serves as the vital arteries for seamless trade between China, Central Asian states, Russia, and Europe, facilitating over \$600 billion in trade annually, with investments exceeding \$150 billion. This infrastructure is not only robust but also designed to operate year-round, providing multiple routes and means to ensure uninterrupted trade flows. While other SCO member countries, such as China, Russia, and the Central Asian states, have capitalized on these opportunities, Pakistan appears to be lagging in its integration into the SCO ecosystem. When we raised this issue with the Pakistani Ambassador to China, Mr. Khalil Hashmi, who happened to be my colleague during a senior management training course, he candidly acknowledged that the embassy has been consistently sharing information on project opportunities, investment openings, and research and development prospects with relevant ministries in Pakistan. However, he lamented that the response from these ministries has often been shallow and lacking in substance. There seems to be no strong push or pull factor, appetite, or desire from the ministries to exploit the opportunities provided by SCO member states. Consequently, Pakistan remains a relatively dormant member of the SCO, hindered by the lack of competency and capacity within its line ministries. This assessment underscores the need for Pakistan to actively engage with the opportunities offered by the SCO, particularly in infrastructure, trade, and investment, to avoid falling further behind in regional economic integration. In this context, hosting the 23rd meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's (SCO) Council of Heads of Government (CHG) on October 15-16, 2024, becomes particularly important for Pakistan. It is crucial that the event is organized without controversy for several reasons, especially considering the opportunities it offers. Firstly, this event provides Pakistan with a chance to demonstrate its potential as an active and engaged SCO member, a platform that holds significant economic and geopolitical benefits. Hosting this summit also gives Pakistan a unique opportunity to integrate more fully into the SCO system and build its international reputation. By successfully hosting the event, Pakistan can sig-

nal to the international community that it is serious about addressing its domestic challenges and taking advantage of the economic and security cooperation frameworks offered by the SCO. In contrast, if the event is overshadowed by domestic political conflicts or disruptions, it could harm Pakistan's credibility both among SCO member states and potential investors. Such controversies could obscure the positive outcomes of the meeting, including the potential to strengthen bilateral and multilateral relationships within the SCO. In addition, hosting the SCO meeting smoothly, without causing disruptions to public life or sidelining political opposition, is crucial for Pakistan's internal stability and its image as a competent, stable nation capable of managing both international diplomacy and domestic governance. Successfully managing this event can enhance Pakistan's standing within the SCO, attract investments, and open new avenues for regional cooperation, especially in sectors like infrastructure, trade, and technology. However, it is unfortunate that the government, political parties, and other power brokers are exploiting this event for political point-scoring. This has resulted in further suppression of opposition parties, particularly the PTI, by suspending public services, disrupting the education of thousands of children, and shutting down businesses. Major transportation arteries have been closed, turning the capital into a near ghost town. Moreover, fundamental rights have been suspended under the guise of providing security for the SCO meeting. Protests and public meetings have been banned, meetings between PTI leaders and their incarcerated members prohibited, and courts and offices closed. These actions are being used as an opportunity to push through controversial constitutional amendments, detracting from the event's potential for positive diplomatic and economic outcomes. This exploitation not only undermines the essence of hosting such a significant international meeting but also jeopardizes the opportunity for Pakistan to benefit from deeper regional cooperation and enhanced credibility. I served as Press Attaché in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for four years and in Paris, France, for another four years. During this time, I attended numerous high-level conferences and events, and never witnessed disruptions to public services, suppression of protests, or the shutdown of cities, courts, or businesses during such events. In countries with robust administrative systems and established democratic norms, high-profile international events like VIP summits are managed without severe disruptions to daily life or the suspension of fundamental rights. For instance, countries like France, Malaysia, and the United States have hosted major international

events such as the G7, APEC summits, and COP climate conferences with minimal disturbance. During the Paris Climate Agreement and G7 Summits, France implemented advanced security protocols while ensuring that public institutions remained operational, allowing citizens to carry on with their daily routines. In contrast, Pakistan's approach to hosting the SCO meeting in Islamabad reflects a different governance model. The event is being used as a political tool to suppress opposition, disrupt public services, and curtail fundamental rights. Schools, transportation, and courts have been shut down under the pretext of security measures, which serves more to suppress dissent and score political points than to facilitate smooth diplomacy. This starkly contrasts with democratic nations, where public service disruptions are rare, and the political manipulation of international events is discouraged to maintain public trust and uphold the rule of law. In this context the role of the government and political parties, particularly the PTI, should be one of responsibility, national unity, and cooperation, rather than division. The government has a duty to ensure that the hosting of such an important international event is conducted smoothly, without infringing on the fundamental rights of its citizens or politicizing the event. Its primary focus should be on showcasing Pakistan's ability to engage constructively with the international community, leveraging the SCO platform to attract investments, boost economic cooperation, and integrate more effectively into regional trade and development initiatives. Any disruptions, whether in public services or political rights, should be minimized, and security measures should be implemented without compromising the freedom and rights of the population. On the other hand, PTI and other opposition parties must approach the event with a sense of political maturity. While they have the right to voice dissent and protest, they should avoid actions that could disrupt or undermine the significance of the SCO meeting. Given the potential long-term benefits for the country, including increased trade, investment, and diplomatic relations, PTI's role should be constructive—promoting dialogue and ensuring that their political activities do not harm Pakistan's standing on the international stage. Both the government and the opposition need to recognize that hosting such events is a national duty, and political point-scoring should not take precedence over the broader national interest.

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

Social media and agenda setting – a wakeup call

Imran Ghaznavi



Consider the countless examples of individuals or organizations that have dared to speak against popular opinion, only to find themselves at the center of a digital firestorm. These aren't isolated incidents. Public figures, journalists, and even regular citizens are all subject to the whims of online outrage. And this outrage doesn't just live in cyberspace

IN recent years, Pakistan has become a battleground for an unprecedented influence of social media on policy and governance. What once started as a platform for connectivity has now morphed into a powerful tool, infiltrating public discourse, shaping collective mindsets, and ultimately driving public opinion. The extent to which this influence has grown is staggering, and its impact on national policymaking is undeniable. What was once the domain of seasoned diplomats, politicians, and strategists has now become a space dominated by algorithms, tweets, and viral trends. The question at the heart of this national dilemma is: who truly controls the narrative? It's a question that transcends politics and delves deep into the fabric of society. The strategist—whether behind a computer screen or within the corridors of power—has learned to manipulate this system with astounding precision. In Pakistan, where public sentiment can often shift quickly, these strategists ensure that those who fail to toe the line are met with harsh criticism, public shaming, and, in some cases, virtual ostracism. The tools of this trade are not new. Spin doctors and political operators have existed for as long as there has been politics. But social media has changed the playing field. What was once a slow-moving tide of opinion can now be shifted overnight with a well-placed hashtag or a coordinated online campaign. And this is where the fear begins. Fear is not just the byproduct of political or ideological criticism—it has been carefully engineered. There is an undeniable power that comes with controlling the narrative, and for those who wield it in Pakistan's complex social media environment, the stakes are high. Anyone not in alignment with a prevailing agenda is at risk. In a country where freedom of expression is already precarious, social media has become a double-edged sword. It has given voice to the voiceless, but it has also amplified those voices in

ways that sometimes lead to reckless damage. Consider the countless examples of individuals or organizations that have dared to speak against popular opinion, only to find themselves at the center of a digital firestorm. These aren't isolated incidents. Public figures, journalists, and even regular citizens are all subject to the whims of online outrage. And this outrage doesn't just live in cyberspace. It manifests in real-world consequences: careers are destroyed, reputations are sullied, and in extreme cases, physical safety is threatened. This national dilemma goes beyond mere political discourse. It extends into the psychological impact on those caught in its crosshairs. The culture of online harassment and intimidation has created an atmosphere of fear, pushing many into silence or forcing them to conform to the dominant narrative, regardless of whether they agree with it. In Pakistan, where conformity can be seen as a path of least resistance, the consequences of stepping out of line can be dire. This begs the question: where is the solution? How do we, as a nation, address this increasing encroachment of social media into policymaking and public opinion? The answer isn't simple, but the first step lies in acknowledging the seriousness of the problem. Too often, we dismiss the impact of online criticism as "just internet chatter." But when that chatter becomes the primary driver of public discourse, it must be taken seriously. The most alarming aspect of this shift is the powerlessness many feel in response to it. The average citizen, even policymakers themselves, often seem helpless against the torrent of digital noise. But this helplessness is a construct, carefully curated by those who benefit from it. The fear that has taken root is real, but it is not insurmountable. There is a way forward. For those who feel caught in this web of online outrage, the solution is not to retreat or give in. Now, more than ever, there is a need for critical thinking.

The knee-jerk reactions that social media platforms encourage are dangerous, especially when it comes to matters of national policy. Instead of reacting to every online trend or controversy, there must be a deliberate pause. Think, reflect, and, perhaps most importantly, seek the advice of professionals who understand the nuances of policy and media strategy. Pakistan has navigated complex social and political challenges before. This dilemma, while new in its form, is no different. The key is to approach it professionally, with the support of those who are well-versed in managing both public perception and policy. This does not mean pandering to online outrage, but rather, managing it effectively. Just because social media is loud doesn't mean it is right. The challenge for policymakers and citizens alike is to separate the noise from the substance. There is hope. As we've seen in the past, Pakistan is resilient. The solution lies in recognizing that the tools used to shape public opinion can also be used to shift it towards constructive dialogue. It requires a concerted effort, not just from government bodies, but from civil society, media professionals, and citizens themselves. The power of social media can be harnessed for good, but only if we approach it with caution, critical thinking, and professional insight. This national dilemma will not resolve itself overnight. But by taking a step back, reflecting on the long-term implications of this digital age, and engaging the right professionals, there is a path forward. Pakistan has faced greater challenges in the past, and with a measured, thoughtful approach, this too can be managed. Let us not give in to fear but rise above it, embracing the power of genuine dialogue and professional wisdom.

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Briefs

Shehbaz,
Chinese
Premier...

FROM PAGE 01
science and technology. They exchanged documents of the accords after PM Shehbaz and Chinese premier held the delegation-level talks wherein they discussed all aspects of Pakistan-China relations including economic and trade ties and cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Both countries exchanged the documents of a handing over certificate of Smart Classrooms project inked by Economic Affairs Minister Ahad Khan Cheema, and Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao. They exchanged the minutes of 13th meeting of the CPEC Joint Coordination Committee and 7th Joint Working Group on Gwadar under CPEC. Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal and Lou Zhaohui, Chairman of China International Development Cooperation Agency exchanged an MoU on Promoting Cooperation on Livelihood Working Group of CPEC. Pakistan and China also reached an understanding to strengthen cooperation in the fields of "Information and Communication", "Water Conservancy Facilities, Flood Control and Calamity Reduction", and "Security." The MoUs in this regard were exchanged by Economic Affairs Minister Ahad Khan Cheema and Luo Zhaohui, Chairman of China International Development Cooperation Agency.

28 injured
as students
stage...

FROM PAGE 01
He further said that they could not rely on social media reports as they did not have correct information about the incident. Meanwhile, a spokesperson of the DIG confirmed that the security guard was in police custody and an investigation was underway in this regard. "The victim girl and her family did not come forward," the spokesperson said, adding that the concerned police station or the college administration was also not informed by anyone about the incident.

Father beats
to death
10 year...

FROM PAGE 01
The trio are alternatively charged with causing or allowing the death of a child. All three deny the charges against them and blame each other for her death, prosecutors say. Prosecutor Bill Emlyn Jones told jurors on the first day of the trial on Monday that Urfan Sharif called British police, having fled to Pakistan after Sara's death. "He used what you may think is an odd expression," Jones said. "He said: 'I legally punished her and she died.'" Jones said that Urfan also told police: "I beat her up. It wasn't my intention to kill her, but I beat her up too much." The prosecutor said a note in Urfan's handwriting was also found next to his daughter's body, which read: "I swear to God that my intention was not to kill her. But I lost it."

Canada,
India expel
diplomats

FROM PAGE 01
That came hours after India said it was withdrawing its top envoy to Ottawa and other diplomats because the Canadian government is investigating them as "persons of interest" in an investigation. India-Canada relations have been tense since September 2023 when Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Canada had credible evidence to link Indian agents to the assassination of Sikh separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil earlier that year. Nijjar supported a Sikh homeland in the form of an independent Khalistani state and was designated by India as a "terrorist" in July 2020. India has repeatedly denied the allegation that its agents killed him, challenging Canada to share evidence to back its claim.

Australia edge India to reach
Women's T20 WC semi final

Kangaroos win by nine runs as Blue Shirts failed to chase 152-run target at Sharjah

WEB DESK

DUBAI: Holders Australia overcame the absence of skipper Alyssa Healy to edge India in a tense nine-run win on Sunday that locked up a semi-final spot in the Women's T20 World Cup. Tahila McGrath led six-time winners Australia in Sharjah after Healy dropped out with a foot injury suffered batting in a victory over Pakistan on Friday. Healy's replacement Grace Harris top-scored with 40 and McGrath hit 32 as Australia posted 151-8 after electing to bat first. In reply, India finished on 142-9 with skipper Harmanpreet Kaur hitting an unbeaten 54 as she put on a fourth-wicket stand of 63 with Deepthi Sharma, who made 29, and took the fight to the final over. India needed 14 off the last six balls, but lost four wickets as Australian bowler Annabel Sutherland gave away four runs. The victory extended Australia's winning streak to 15 in the tournament.



ment. They officially qualified for their ninth straight semi-final of the tournament when India were 74-3 in 10.4 overs of their chase. India need arch-rivals Pakistan

to win their final group match against New Zealand. If New Zealand win, they will take second place in Group A and reach the semis. A Pakistan win would

leave them, India and the Kiwis all on four points and net run-rate would decide who advances. Medium-pace bowler Renuka Singh rocked Australia early with two

wickets on successive balls to send back Beth Mooney, for two, and Georgia Wareham, for a duck. Harris steadied the innings in a 62-run stand with McGrath, who led from the front with a 26-ball 32 including four fours. Ellyse Perry smashed 32 off 23 deliveries to drive the innings. She put on a brisk stand of 33 for the sixth wicket with Phoebe Litchfield, who hit an unbeaten 15 and finished the innings with a six. Off-spinner Deepti took two wickets, including Harris and Perry, and nearly had Litchfield lbw. The left-handed Litchfield went for a switch hit and the ball hit her pads from outside the leg-stump for a southpaw, but India protested the call to be considered for a right-hander after the change of stance. The batter was walking off but came back smiling after the third official ruled her not out. Australia fast bowler Tayla Vlaeminck was earlier ruled out of the rest of the Women's T20 World Cup after she dislocated her shoulder against Pakistan.

'Resting top
players in 'best
interest' of cricket'

Board's clarification comes as it announces squad for second, third Tests against England after humiliating loss

DNA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has backed its decision to rest top players including former skipper Babar Azam, star fast bowler Shaheen Afridi, pacer Naseem Shah, and wicketkeeper Sarfraz Ahmed, saying that the decision was made in the best interest of Pakistan cricket. A PCB spokesperson, while elaborating on the decision to rest key players, said that the players were "spared from the team to give them rest so that they can come back afresh". The board's clarification comes as it announced a 16-member squad for the second and third Tests against England following the team's humiliating loss in the first Test by innings and 47 runs. The aforesaid players, the PCB announced, have been replaced by Haseebullah, Mehran Mumtaz, fast bowler Mohammad Ali, off-spinner Sajid Khan and all uncapped Kamran Ghulam. Noman Ali and Zahid Mehmood, who were initially part of the original first Test squad but were subsequently released, have also been included in the 16-player squad as leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed is unavailable for the second Test as he is still recovering from dengue fever. Expanding on its decision, the PCB spokesperson noted that selecting the squad for the upcoming Tests against England has been a challenging task for the selectors and highlighted that the board had to carefully consider current players' form, the urgency to bounce back in the series and Pakistan's demanding 2024-25 international schedule. He also added that the board was offering opportunities to the youngsters and domestic performers to showcase their skills against a formidable England side.

SL all-rounder Kamindu Mendis
named ICC Men's Player of Month

ICC gives Women's Player of the Month title to England's Tammy Beaumont

DUBAI: Sri Lankan all-rounder Kamindu Mendis has been named the Men's Player of the Month for September 2024 by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for scoring 451 runs from his four Test matches last month, whereas, England's Tammy Beaumont won the same title in women's category who smashed 279 runs in five outings. Mendis continued a record-breaking streak in Test cricket during September to win the title, while Beaumont starred in England's short format success in Ireland to secure the ICC Women's Player of the Month award. Both players win their respective accolades for the second time — Mendis having previously won in March 2024, with Beaumont backing up her other previous award in February 2021. The Sri Lankan all-rounder won from fellow nominees Travis Head of Australia and compatriot Prabath Jayasuriya, while Beaumont overcame Ireland's Aimee Maguire and UAE's Esha Oza to win September's prize. According to the ICC statement, Mendis' win also

caps a fruitful period for Sri Lankan cricketers in the monthly award, following Dunith Wellalage and Harshitha Samarawickrama's success in August. The 26-year-old has been in red-hot form in the longest format throughout 2024 and continued his fine progress with another landmark month at the crease for Sri Lanka. Mendis registered 451 runs at an average of 90.20 from his four Tests last month, spanning crucial ICC World Test Championship series in England

and subsequently on home soil against New Zealand. Scores of 74 and 64 were standout moments in Mendis' September contests in England, but he left his best performances as Sri Lanka overcame New Zealand at his hometown of Galle — first striking a brilliant 114 on the opening day of the first Test on a challenging surface, and then going one better with a composed 182 in the second Test. His mammoth innings in the second Test meant Mendis

became the first player to pass fifty in each of his first eight Tests, and the fastest batter in 75 years to reach 1,000 Test runs. After winning the title, Mendis said: "I am honoured to be once again chosen as the ICC Men's Player of the Month, and this accolade brings me immense happiness and pride, as I believe all the hard work that was put into becoming the player that I am today is starting to pay off and being recognized consistently in the global stage." — Agencies

14-member Australian squad
revealed for Pakistan ODIs

Series set to kick off at Melbourne Cricket Ground on November 4

WEB DESK

Sydney: Cricket Australia has unveiled a 14-member squad for the upcoming three-match One Day International (ODI) series against Pakistan, which is set to kick off at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on November 4. With Mitchell Marsh and Travis Head ruled out of the series due to paternity leave, Pat Cummins has returned to the side as captain along with Jake Fraser-McGurk and Matt Short as openers, the board said on Monday. The Green Shirts are set to take on the Kangaroos in three ODIs followed by a three-match T20I series scheduled from November 14 to 18 after the culmination of the ODI series with the second and third 50-over games on November 8 and November 10 at the Adelaide Oval, and Perth Stadium, respectively. Australian chief selector George Bailey, as reported by the AFP, said: "This is our last ODI series before the Champions Trophy (in Pakistan) and the balance of the squad was focused on that as well as continuing to focus on the preparation of individuals for the upcoming Test summer."

"We view this as an opportunity to expand on that achievement in preparation for next February in Pakistan," he added while referring to the Champions Trophy set to be hosted by Pakistan next year. Apart from Marsh and Head, Cameron Green has also not made it to the squad as the 25-year-old

all-rounder will be undergoing surgery due to a back stress fracture which will rule him out for six months, said Cricket Australia in a statement. Meanwhile, Cummins — who missed the white-ball tour of England and Scotland to rest — will be once again leading the team in the 50-over format for the first time since winning the World Cup 2023. It is to be noted that the squad for the T20I series will be announced at a later date.

Australia squad
Pat Cummins (c), Sean Abbott, Cooper Connolly, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Aaron Hardie, Josh Hazlewood, Josh Inglis, Marnus Labuschagne, Glenn Maxwell, Matthew Short, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Adam Zampa

Nooh shines at
Commonwealth
powerlifting c'ship

Powerlifter ends championship with seven gold and one bronze medal

DNA

LONDON: Pakistan's Nooh Dastagir Butt made a remarkable impact at the Commonwealth Powerlifting Championship, claiming victory in both the classic and equipped classes in his maiden powerlifting event. This competition marks his first appearance in powerlifting after switching from weightlifting due to differences with the Pakistan Weightlifting Federation (PWLFF). In the equipped 120+ kg category, Butt achieved a clean sweep by winning all four gold medals. His stellar performance began with the squat event, where he lifted an impressive 340kg to secure his first gold. He continued to impress in the bench press, lifting 210kg to claim another gold medal. In the deadlift, Butt showcased his strength once more, lifting 300kg and adding another gold to his tally. Overall, Butt lifted a total of 850kg, earning him the equipped title at the Commonwealth Championship. Prior to this, he had already displayed his prowess in the classic class, winning three gold medals and one bronze, cementing his status as one of the top powerlifters in the competition.

Sabalenka wins third straight Wuhan Open title

26-year-old Belarusian now has most aces in WTA-1000 this season, surpassing world number five Elena Rybakina

SPORTS DESK

BEIJING: Top seed Aryna Sabalenka shook off a second-set blip to win three back-to-back Wuhan Open titles after beating Chinese fifth seed and home favourite Zheng Qinwen 6-3 5-7 6-3 in the final on Sunday. Sabalenka, who knocked out former US Open champion Coco Gauff in the semi-finals on Saturday, banged down seven aces and 32 winners and did not face a single break point in the opening set. The 26-year-old Belarusian now has the most aces in WTA-1000 this season, surpassing world number five Elena Rybakina. Having won all three of their past meetings in straight sets, including the Australian Open final, world number two Sabalenka lost some control in the second set against the Paris Olympics gold medalist. Just when Zheng, who was eyeing to become just the second Chinese player to claim a WTA-1000 title following her idol Li Na's triumph at 2012 Cincinnati, looked to cause an upset, Sabalenka raced up to a 3-0



double break lead in the decider. Sabalenka eventually converted her third championship point to seal her fourth title of the year and take her overall WTA singles title haul to 17. Sabalenka is the first player to win three successive Wuhan Open titles. "That sounds crazy, and this place definitely feels like home," Sabalenka said about the achievement. "But first of all, I want to congratulate team Zheng on an incredible week for her. Her and her team are doing an amazing job, well done. I'm pretty sure we are going to play many more finals against each other. "And of course, thank you guys (crowd) for coming and bringing an amazing atmosphere out there. Even though you were supporting her, I really enjoyed playing in front of you. I got support throughout the tournament, so thank you so much." Sabalenka is targeting to reclaim the top ranking in the final weeks of the season, having already qualified for the season-ending WTA Finals along with world number one Iga Swiatek.

Fazl hints
at 'closing
in on...

FROM PAGE 01

[about constitutional tweaks]," he said, adding, "The things we rejected have been withdrawn." The JUI-F leader was of the view that the government's proposed amendments would weaken the judiciary and undermine human rights. After fresh changes, both the parties are now near to reach a consensus, he added. "We are not in the assembly to pass a law against the interest of the people," said the JUI-F leader. Stressing the need for national consensus over the matter, Fazl said he would hold meetings with PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, PML-N President Nawaz Sharif, and the leadership of PTI. "Why is the government in such a hurry?" said the JUI-F leader, citing that the 18th Amendment took nine months to pass the parliament. Political observers widely believe that PML-N-led government wants to get the 26th Constitutional Amendment passed through the parliament ahead of October 25 — the date when Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa is set to retire. Responding to a question, the JUI-F chief urged the PTI to defer its protest until the conclusion of the forthcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, scheduled for October 15 and 16. Meanwhile, Maulana Fazl has shared his party's draft of the Constitution (26th Amendment) Bill, 2024 with the media wherein the JUI-F has proposed the elimination of all kinds of Riba on the state level and in all private institutions by January 1, 2028.

PPP and
MQM
leaders...

FROM PAGE 01

transparent and collaborative manner. The discussions focused on maintaining ongoing communication and fostering cooperation between the two parties. Senator Sherry Rehman highlighted that, on the instructions of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, PPP is actively engaging all stakeholders in the process of constitutional reforms. "Today, we briefed MQM leadership about the establishment of constitutional courts," she stated. The meeting is part of a broader consultation process in alignment with Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari's vision for a dedicated constitutional court to handle constitutional matters efficiently and ensure equal representation for all provinces at federal level. This reform is a critical part of the unfinished agenda of 2006 Charter of Democracy. It will ensure that no government can manipulate the judiciary for political gains, as envisioned by Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto to uphold democratic principles. In the meeting, both delegations exchanged views on their respective priorities, highlighting the importance of continuing constructive dialogue. Senator Rehman emphasized the significance of the longstanding relationship between PPP and MQM, adding, "Our discussions today were fruitful, and we are committed to maintaining this engagement moving forward."

Karachi
protest:
Cops...

FROM PAGE 01

manhandled and unleashed brutality on peaceful protesters of the "Sindh Rawadri March" on Sunday amid the imposition of Section 144. Around a week ago, the civil society had announced holding the SRM at Teen Talwar to condemn last month's extrajudicial killing of Dr Shah Nawaz Kunhar in Mirpurkhas. He was accused of sharing blasphemous posts on social media. Their march on Sunday was in protest against the lack of action against the police officials involved in the doctor's killing, and the increasing trend of religious extremism in Sindh. Members of the civil society as well as human rights defenders and activists condemned the act of police brutality towards demonstrators, blaming that the violence was being committed at the behest of the Sindh government.

Briefs

PSX witnesses bearish trend, loses 222 points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend, losing 222.02 points on Monday, a negative change of 0.26 percent, closing at 85,261.39 points against 85,483.40 points on the last trading day. A total of 477,642,675 shares were traded during the day as compared to 560,740,534 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 23.474 billion against Rs. 26.121 billion on the last trading day. As many as 443 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 205 of them recorded gains and 180 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 58 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were WorldCall Telcom with 41,061,425 shares at Rs 1.21 per share, Hub Power Company XD with 37,178,277 shares at Rs 98.31 per share and Pak Refinery XD with 30,172,444 shares at Rs 25.30 per share. Atlas Honda Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 62.42 per share price, closing at Rs 814.35, whereas the runner-up was Reliance Cotton Spinning Mills Limited with Rs 57.57 rise in its per share price to Rs 650.00.—APP

Rupee sheds 03 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD :Pakistan rupee on Monday depreciated by 03 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.66 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.63. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs278 and Rs279.50 respectively. The price of Euro decreased by 48 paise to close at Rs303.46 against the last day's closing of Rs303.94, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen came down by 01 paise and closed at Rs1.85, whereas a decrease of 26 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs362.79 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs363.05. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal increased by 01 paise each to close at Rs75.59 and Rs73.94 respectively.—APP

Gold price raises by Rs.200 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.200 and was sold at Rs.275,700 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs. 275,500 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs. 171 to Rs. 236,368 from Rs. 236,197 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs. 216,671 from Rs. 215,256, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs. 3,050 and Rs. 2,614.88, respectively. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$3 to \$2,659 from \$2,656, the Association reported.—APP

KSA launches air bridge to support Lebanon

RIYADH: The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief (KSRelief) has established an air bridge to Lebanon to support its people during these challenging times. In line with the directives of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammad bin Salman Abdulaziz Al Saud, the first batch of supplies has departed from King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh to Beirut International Airport, carrying essential food, medical, and shelter supplies, reported SPA.—APP

Hezbollah targets Israeli naval base after deadly drone strike

BEIRUT: Hezbollah said it targeted an Israeli naval base on Monday, a day after a drone strike killed four soldiers in the deadliest attack on Israel since the war in Lebanon began. The group said its fighters launched rockets at a naval base near Haifa in northern Israel, calling it a tribute to its leader, Hassan Nasrallah. The Israeli military said on Monday it had intercepted another launch aimed at a training camp at Bin-yamina, also near Haifa, a day after four soldiers were killed and dozens more wounded in a Hezbollah drone strike. On Monday, Israeli army chief Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi visited the Golani Brigade's training camp in Bin-yamina, and told soldiers: "We are at war, and an attack on a training base on the home front is difficult and the results are painful." Israeli volunteer rescue service United Hatzalah said its teams in Bin-yamina assisted more than 60 people with mild to critical injuries. Israel and Hezbollah have been at war since Israel intensified its strikes on Lebanon on September 23 and sent ground troops across the border a week later. Israel has vowed to secure its northern border to allow tens of thousands of people

displaced by nearly a year of Hezbollah rocket fire launched. Hezbollah says the rocket fire is in solidarity with its Palestinian ally, Hamas. The war, which saw an expansion in fighting and air strikes around Lebanon at the weekend, has killed more than 1,300 people, according to an AFP tally of Lebanese health ministry figures. On Sunday, Hezbollah threatened more attacks if Israel's continues its offensive in Lebanon, warning Israel that it saw was "nothing compared to what awaits it if it decides to continue its aggression." In Lebanon, Israel has expanded its air strikes mainly on Hezbollah strongholds, while its troops in south Lebanon have engaged in fierce fighting. Hezbollah said it shelled Israeli troops inside a southern Lebanese village Monday, after saying it targeted soldiers elsewhere along the border. Lebanon's official National News Agency reported Sunday that Israeli forces had escalated air strikes on southern Lebanon, pounding border villages. Lebanon's health ministry said Israel's strikes on Saturday killed 51 people, including 16 in Maaysra, a Shiite Muslim village in a Christian-majority area north of Beirut.

In Nabatiyeh, in the south, residents spoke of their shock and grief after its marketplace was hit on Saturday. "I'm staying here and I will not leave... Nabatiyeh is our mother. It's heartbreaking to see people's livelihoods gone," said Tarek Sadaka, barely holding back tears. Others have fled the city, with more than one million Lebanese leaving areas that morphed into war zones within weeks. A UN peacekeeping force deployed in Lebanon since Israel's 1978 invasion has been thrust onto the front lines of the latest war, with Israel repeatedly calling on it to abandon their positions. On Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on them to withdraw for their own safety and said their presence had "the effect of providing Hezbollah terrorists with human shields." Five United Nations peacekeepers were injured in a series of incidents last week, with the latest seeing the UN force accuse Israeli troops of breaking through a gate and entering one of their positions. The Israeli military later said a tank "backed several meters into a UNIFIL post" while "under fire" and attempting to evacuate injured soldiers. UN

chief Antonio Guterres said "attacks" against peacekeepers "may constitute a war crime." Three Lebanese soldiers were wounded on Sunday, the country's army said, when Israeli forces fired on military vehicles in south Lebanon. The war in Lebanon erupted nearly a year after Hamas staged the deadliest-ever attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, sparking the conflict in Gaza. The attack resulted in the deaths of 1,206 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally of official Israeli figures. The number includes hostages killed in captivity. The war in Gaza has killed, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory, 42,289 people, the majority civilians. The UN has described the figures as reliable. Gaza's civil defense agency said Israeli shelling late Sunday on a school used as a shelter for displaced people had killed 15 people. The Israeli military said it was looking into the reports. "The Al-Mufti school was bombed with a large volley of Israeli artillery, resulting in an initial death toll of 15 martyrs, including children, women and entire families, and 50

wounded," said its spokesman, Mahmud Bassal. With the wars in Lebanon and Gaza showing no sign of abating, fears of an all-out regional conflict have seen Iran, which backs Hezbollah and Hamas, engage in diplomatic efforts with allies and other powers. Israel has vowed to retaliate against Iran's missile strike of October 1, prompting a pledge from Tehran's side that it would hit back if it is hit. Iran has, for decades, financed and trained militant groups in Lebanon, the Palestinian territories and beyond, but it has yet to enter into direct conflict with its arch enemy, Israel. On Sunday, Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian spoke with his French counterpart, Emmanuel Macron, to seek support for a Gaza and Lebanon ceasefire, according to the Iranian presidential website. According to Macron's office, the French leader appealed to Iran to support "a general de-escalation" in Lebanon and Gaza. The Pentagon said it would deploy a high-altitude anti-missile system and its US military crew to Israel to help the ally protect itself from potential Iranian attack.—Agencies

Iran top diplomat meets senior Houthi official in Oman

9TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi met a senior official from Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi movement in Muscat on Monday, according to his office, the latest stop in a wide-ranging diplomatic tour of the region. The Iranian foreign ministry released pictures of the talks with Mohammed Abdelsalam in the Omani capital as Araghchi consults with allies and other Middle East powers following Israel's vow to retaliate against an Iranian missile attack. Araghchi held a "meeting and discussion with Mohammed Abdelsalam, the spokesman and chief negotiator of the Yemen National Salvation Government," read the photo caption, referring to the Houthi administration. The Houthi-run Al Masirah television also reported the meeting without providing any details on the talks. Araghchi also met with his Omani counterpart Badr Albusaidi to discuss developments in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip where Israel is fighting Hezbollah and Palestinian Islamist group Hamas. They "urged an immediate end to the Israeli regime's genocide and aggression in Gaza and Lebanon," said Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei. Oman's foreign ministry said the two officials agreed on "harnessing diplomacy as an essential tool for resolving disputes and conflicts" in the region. During the visit, the foreign minister said Iran sees "no grounds" for indirect talks with the United States via Oman, citing the conditions in the war-torn region. "Currently we don't see any ground for these talks, until we can get past the current crisis," Araghchi told reporters in Muscat, adding the process had been halted "due to the specific conditions of the region." 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. Israel has since vowed to respond.—APP

New Delhi bans fireworks to curb air pollution

NEW DELHI: India's capital New Delhi on Monday ordered a "complete ban" on fireworks in a bid to curb air pollution in a city where levels are regularly ranked among the worst in the world. The ban is the toughest in a string of restrictions on the hugely popular firecrackers — rules that have been widely flouted. "There will be a complete ban on the manufacturing, storage, selling [...] and bursting of all kinds of firecrackers," the Delhi Pollution Control Committee said in a statement. The order was made because of the "public interest to curb high air pollution", it said. It comes two weeks before Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights on November 1, where many see fireworks as integral to celebrations. The spectacular and colourful festival symbolises the victory of light over darkness, a celebration of the Hindu goddess Lakshmi. Previous restrictions in the megapolis of roughly 30 million people were routinely ignored. Police are often reluctant to act against violators, given the strong religious sentiments attached to the crackers by Hindu devotees. New Delhi is blanketed in acrid smog every autumn, primarily blamed on stubble burning by farmers in the neighbouring regions, but the surge in fireworks around Diwali compounds the problem. Levels of fine particulate matter — cancer-causing microparticles known as PM2.5 pollutants that enter the bloodstream through the lungs — often hit more than 30 times the World Health Organisation's danger limits in the city. A Lancet report in 2020 said almost 17,500 people died in Delhi in 2019 because of air pollution. In the past, fireworks were smuggled in across state boundaries or were available under the counter. Residents then launched the noisy explosives in the middle of the night or the early hours of the morning to avoid trouble.—APP

933 martyred during 5-year President's Rule in IIOJK

Over 4,000 persons were arrested during violent cordon and search operations. President's rule, imposed on August 5, 2019, was lifted on October 13, 2024, but its legacy of human rights abuses and repression remains

ISLAMABAD: Since August 5, 2019, when India's Bharatiya Janata Party government imposed President's Rule in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Indian troops have martyred 933 Kashmiris, including 17 women and 31 young boys. According to a report released by Kashmir Media Service, the 5-year President's Rule period between October 31, 2019, and October 13, 2024, was marked by extreme human rights violations, resulting in 933 Kashmiri casualties, including 17 women and 31 young boys. This period saw a significant surge in killings, extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests, torture and destruction of property, with 240 individuals dying in fake encounters or police custody. The report highlights the Indian authorities' role in these abuses, including the targeting of civilians, medical facilities and schools, which is a clear violation of international humanitarian law. Of the 933 martyred, 240 were killed in fake encounters or died in Indian police custody, including senior Hurriyat leaders Muhammad Ashraf Sehrai and Altaf Ahmed Shah. Many youths were arrested from their homes, labelled as militants or over-ground workers, and eliminated. Most were booked under black laws like the Public Safety Act and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Thousands of Hurriyat leaders, activists, religious and political leaders, businessmen, civil society members and youth were arrested before or after August 5, 2019, and remain in various Indian and IIOJK jails. Notable detainees include APHC chairman Masarrat Aalam Butt, Shabbir Ahmed Shah, Muhammad Yasin Malik and human rights activists Khurram Parviat. The BJP regime's new media policy, introduced in 2020, has restricted free information flow in IIOJK, with journalists facing detention and harassment. India has granted domicile certificates to thousands of non-Kashmiri migrants, aiming to alter the Muslim-majority status of the occupied territory. Properties of pro-freedom leaders are being confiscated, and constituencies rearranged to favor Hindus. Despite brutalities, Kashmiris remain determined to fight for their rights, including the demand for a plebiscite. The international community is urged to take notice of India's actions and push for a resolution in line with Kashmiris' aspirations and relevant UN resolutions. Recent Developments Indian troops martyred 79 Kashmiris this year, with 39 killed in fake encounters or extrajudicial killings. Over 4,000 persons were arrested during violent cordon and search operations. President's rule, imposed on August 5, 2019, was lifted on October 13, 2024, but its legacy of human rights abuses and repression remains.—DNA

SSCI president inaugurates help desk to finance revival of textile industry

PESHAWAR :Sardar Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority has established a help desk to facilitate the business community regarding the financial grant for promotion and expansion through value addition of the textile industry. SSCI president Fazal Moqem Khan along with vice president Shehryar Khan inaugurated the help desk here on Monday. On the occasion, chartered accountant Muhammad Ahmad Shahid, Syed Ejaz Ali Shah, Kamal Mehmood and officials of Smeda were present. The matching grant is being provided under the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) of the ministry of Commerce, implemented by Small and Medium Enterprises and Development, aimed at providing financial assistance to more than 1000 industrial stitching units to revive the textile industry. Fazal Moqem lauded the announcement of a matching grant for industrial stitching units, terming it as a milestone initiative toward revival and development of the textile industry. Textile industry is rapidly on the decline under the prevailing circumstances, the SSCI chief noted, stating that a number of industrial units were closed and triggered unemployment in the province. Fazal Moqem stressed the need for announcement of such a grant for other sectors, including CNG and petroleum to reactivate the business, industry and trade. He viewed that employment opportunities would be created through promotion of economic activities and industrial growth.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Girls looking a Pakistani culture painting at Pak-China center after inauguration ceremony of Media Facilitation Centre at Pak-China Friendship Center ahead of SCO summit.—DNA

At least 10 killed in Israeli strikes at Gaza

GAZA: At least 10 people were killed and 40 injured in northern Gaza on Monday after Israeli tank shells hit people queuing for food, Palestinian medics said, as fears mounted in the enclave that Israel plans to displace all residents from the north. Medics said an Israeli drone had also opened fire where dozens of residents had gathered to receive food in Jabalia, one of Gaza's eight historic refugee camps. Women and children were among the victims, they said. The Israeli military said it was looking into the incident. Jabalia has been the focus of an Israeli offensive for around 10 days and the military has now encircled the camp and sent tanks into nearby Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun towns, with the declared aim of stamping out Hamas fighters who are trying to regroup there. With the Israeli military calling on Palestinians to evacuate south as they step up pressure on Hamas — and Hamas telling them not to leave be-

cause it was too risky — the past few days resemble earlier phases of the war. The northern part of Gaza, home to well over half the territory's 2.3 million people, was heavily bombed in the first phase of Israel's assault on the territory which began a year ago. Hundreds of thousands of northern Gaza residents quit their homes in the early months of the war, driven by Israeli evacuation orders and a military ground offensive in their areas, while around 400,000 people remained, according to United Nations estimates. But months after intense ground fighting there, Israel sent troops back to Jabalia to root out Hamas fighters it said were regrouping for more attacks. The armed wings of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad said their fighters have been staging attacks against the Israeli forces with anti-tank rockets and mortar bombs. For residents, there has been no reprieve. "We have been hit from the air and the ground, non-stop

for a week, they want us to leave, they want to punish us for refusing to leave our homes," said Marwa, 26, who left with her family to a school in Gaza City. People were afraid they would never be able to return if they head south, she said. Later on Monday, Hamas said Israel aimed to displace the people of northern Gaza by force through constant bombardment, and the blocking of aid, food and fuel. "The international community should act against this war crime as the occupation is closing the territory and preventing the entry of relief goods and medication," senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri told Reuters. "By doing so it causes slow death, that is in addition to daily direct killings it has been conducting," said Abu Zuhri. Some residents also fear that Israel plans to empty Jabalia and possibly, the entire northern area under a proposal floated by former Israeli generals, which calls for north Gaza to be cleared

of civilians and remaining militants to be put under siege until they surrender. "We have not received a plan like that," military spokesman Nadav Shoshani told Reuters. "We are making sure we're getting civilians out of harm's way while we operate against those terror cells in Jabalia," he said. The proposal's main author, Giora Eiland, said that his plan is meant to pressure Hamas to release hostages by ending its control of territory and aid, rather than sending Israeli forces in to battle its fighters. "What they're doing in Jabalia now is more of the same," Eiland told Army Radio on Sunday. "My plan is not being implemented." Israel's plans for the future of Gaza are unclear, beyond its stated aim of dismantling Hamas as a military and governing force. The United Nations has described dire conditions affecting the civilian population remaining in Jabalia. "Over 50,000 people have been

displaced from the Jabalia area, which is cut off, while others remain stranded in their homes amid increased bombardment and fighting," The UN's Humanitarian Coordinator Muhannad Hadi said on Sunday. "The latest military operations in northern Gaza have forced the closure of water wells, bakeries, medical points and shelters, as well as the suspension of protection services, malnutrition treatment, and temporary learning spaces. At the same time, hospitals have seen an influx of trauma injuries." The Israeli military did not immediately comment. Israel launched the offensive against Hamas after its Oct. 7 attack on Israel, in which 1,200 people were killed and around 250 taken hostage to Gaza, by Israeli tallies. More than 42,000 Palestinians have been killed in the offensive so far, according to Gaza's health authorities. —Agencies

Briefs

**Bangladesh
JI chief
supports
Hasina's trial**

WEB DESK

DHAKA: Bangladesh's top Islamist politician says he supports the extradition of ousted premier Sheikh Hasina to face trial for crimes against humanity in the same tribunal that convicted his colleagues. Shafiqur Rahman is the leader of Jamaat-e-Islami, whose members were hounded, driven underground and sentenced to death during Hasina's autocratic 15-year rule. Her government justified the crackdown on the nation's largest Islamist party by accusing it of sponsoring extremist attacks - charges Rahman denies. After Hasina's toppling and exile in neighbouring India following a student-led revolution in August, the ban on Jamaat's activities was lifted. Rahman is leading its public revival. Now back in the political mainstream, he says Hasina must be extradited to face trial with her allies for abuses committed during her tenure. "We don't believe in the theory that just because we faced injustice, someone else should also face injustice," the 65-year-old told AFP at his party office in the capital Dhaka. "But people want them to be tried. If they don't face trial, these criminals will commit more crimes." Dozens of Hasina's allies were taken into custody after her regime collapsed, accused of culpability in a police crackdown that killed more than 700 people during the unrest that deposed her.

**Govt, not
PTI, creating
anarchy**

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Aliya Hamza said on Monday the PTI was not creating anarchy in the country but the government was doing so. PTI leader Aliya Hamza moved the Peshawar High Court (PHC) for protective bail before protest in Islamabad. Speaking to media outside the PHC, she stated that circumstances in Punjab were not favourable. The sanctity of the homes was being violated as Punjab police could raid houses without a search warrant and PTI leaders and workers were being subjected to oppression. She stated that the PTI wasn't creating anarchy in fact, the government fired shells at the peace jirga. The PTI and KP CM played their role for the safety of their people. She mentioned that only the government could halt the PTI protest amid the SCO summit by allowing PTI founder's meeting and release. The PTI leader asserted that they all were thankful for a person sitting in jail, referring to Imran Khan. Imran Khan's sisters and spouse were struggling and jailed in the interest of the public. This movement wasn't for PTI political interest but Pakistanis' struggles, Aliya Hamza stressed.

**18 killed in
strike in north
Lebanon**

BEIRUT: The Lebanese Red Cross said 18 people died in a strike on north Lebanon on Monday, with the health ministry and official media reporting an Israeli raid on the Christian-majority area far from Hezbollah strongholds. "Eighteen dead and four wounded in the strike on Aito," the Red Cross said, referring to a village in the Christian-majority Zgharta district. The health ministry earlier said an Israeli strike there killed nine people, with the official National News Agency also saying Israel targeted a "residential apartment" in the village. So far, Israeli strikes have mainly been concentrated in predominantly Shia areas, where Hezbollah built its power base in a state wracked by sectarianism. An AFP photographer at the site of the strike said it had levelled a residential building at the entrance to the village. - Agencies

**Pakistan and Italian Navies
engage in bilateral exercise**

*Maiden visit of Italian aircraft carrier to Pakistan:
Italian navy carrier strike group visits Karachi*

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Italian Navy Carrier Strike Group comprising Aircraft Carrier ITS CAVOUR and Frigate ITS ALPINO, arrived in Karachi on a three-day visit followed by a bilateral exercise. Upon arrival in Karachi, the Italian Navy ships were warmly welcomed by senior officials of Pakistan Navy and the Ambassador of Italy. Following the arrival, an Italian delegation led by the Ambassador of Italy, Marilina ARMELLIN, along with Rear Admiral Stefano BARBIERI, Capability Director of the Italian Defence General Staff, called on Commander Pakistan Fleet, Rear Admiral Abdul Munib. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest including interoperability, avenues for future collaboration to enhance regional maritime security and defense cooperation were discussed. Commander Karachi, Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi also visited ITS CAVOUR and was briefed about the Aircraft Carrier's capabilities by Commanding Officer Captain Francesco FAGNANI. The capabilities of Italian defence industries were also showcased in a Defence Industries Exhibition held onboard ITS ALPINO. ITS CAVOUR also hosted a comprehensive brief for Pakistani media. During the media brief, Ambassador of Italy, Capability Director of Italian Defence General Staff, and Commander of the Carrier Strike Group endorsed the role of Pakistan Navy in regional maritime security and highlighted the importance of interoperability between the two navies.



Chinese premier meets COAS Munir

PM Li Qiang was also given guard of honour at PM House

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Premier Li Qiang and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir held a meeting at PM House on Monday. The visiting dignitary warmly met the Pakistan Army chief while Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was also present on the occasion. Earlier, Premier Li Qiang, who arrived in Islamabad on four-day official visit, was given a guard of honour at the

PM House as he arrived there for delegation-level talks. As premier Li arrived at the venue of formal welcome reception, PM Shehbaz Sharif warmly welcomed him. The smartly turned-out contingents of three armed forces presented a guard of honour to Premier Li. Later, both the prime ministers introduced their respective delegations to each other before proceeding for the bilateral meeting and delegation-level talks. During the visit, the Chinese PM will also participate in the 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.



**Indian journalist Barkha Dutt
meets Nawaz and Maryam**

Delegations from various countries have already arrived in Islamabad to attend SCO summit

LAHORE: Indian journalist Barkha Dutt met with former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz in Lahore. According to media, Barkha Dutt's visit aligns with Pakistan's preparations for the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit. Her meeting with the Pakistan Muslim League (N) leadership took place as international media representatives began arriving in Pakistan to cover the high-profile event. Pakistan is set to host the 23rd Council of Heads of Government meeting of the SCO summit in Islamabad on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Prime ministers and senior officials from SCO member countries will attend the meeting, including Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Iran's First Vice President. India's External Affairs Minister and China's Premier Li Qiang will also participate. According to media reports, delegations from various countries have already arrived in Islamabad, including a four-member team from India, 76 representatives from Russia, 15 officials from China, a two-member Iranian delegation, and four officials from Kyrgyzstan. Previously Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar ruled out the possibility of bilateral talks during the SCO summit. In response to a question at an event, he stated that while media attention is expected due to the nature of relations, the summit will be a multilateral event. - DNA



**Govt aims to cherry-pick
CJP through
amendment**

Demands provision of resources of Sindh to its residents first

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Hafiz Naeem said on Monday that the incumbent government aimed to cherry-pick chief justice through constitutional amendment. He said the JI rejected the constitutional amendment completely. Speaking at a news conference in Karachi, he highlighted the issues of residents of the largest city of the country, broken roads and rotten sewerage system. He said the city was paying the highest tax and providing resources to the whole country but it was grappling with corruption and no one could dare take an action on the corruption in Sindh. JI emir demanded the allocation of resources to the local administration and the provision of facilities to the residents of Karachi. He stressed the provision of resources of Sindh province to its residents first as deprivation of rights and resources created issues. "Fair and transparent justice system could address people's grievances", he stressed. He labelled the K-electric a mafia who was being facilitated by the government, adding that they were white-collar criminals taking stay orders from the court and looting people of Karachi.

**PTI protests
will continue
until Imran's
release**

DNA

PESHAWAR: Advisor on Information for Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Barrister Saif, stated that protests will continue until Imran Khan is released and the cases against him are dismissed. Reacting to the statements of federal ministers Khawaja Asif and Ahsan Iqbal, Barrister Saif mentioned that the PML-N ministers have once again started to panic over Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) call for peaceful protests. He emphasized that peaceful protest is their democratic and constitutional right. According to media, he added that the government is trembling at PTI's protests. The protests will persist until false cases are dismissed and the PTI founder is released. According to Saif, the illegitimate government is trying to extend its rule by turning these peaceful protests into something like the Model Town incident. Barrister Saif asserted that the government's low-handed tactics will ultimately backfire. He criticized Khawaja Asif for becoming a minister through Form 47 after losing to a woman in the elections. He referred to Ahsan Iqbal as a self-proclaimed intellectual now using the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) issue for political point-scoring.

**Right to
protest doesn't
mean violation
of law**

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Ahmed Khan asserted that the right to protest was never allowed to undermine citizens' rights, referring to the PTI protest call at D-Chowk on October 15 amid SCO Summit in Islamabad. He said it's time for all quarters of society to stay united by forgetting personal and political interests. He berated PTI for creating anarchy which it did in the past as well during the visit of the Chinese president in 2014 and impacted CPEC. He said he asked the opposition leader what would be the conditions of the protest or if it would be similar to the May 9 riots. He recalled the PTI attacks on the state institutions, including Radio Pakistan Peshawar, military installations and martyrs' status.

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