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Detailed News On Page-08

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Detailed News On Page-08



Kamran becomes 13th Pakistani to score debut ton

Detailed News On Page-06



SCO Summit 2024

Pakistan bolsters ties with Tajikistan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan

Golovchenko congratulated Pakistan on successfully hosting the SCO meeting and expressed Belarus' commitment to working closely with Pakistan under the "Shanghai Spirit"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif engaged in multiple high-level bilateral meetings with regional counterparts during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit held in Islamabad on Tuesday. The discussions aimed at strengthening cooperation in trade, investment, and regional connectivity between Pakistan and its Central Asian partners. In a meeting with Tajik Prime Minister Qohir Rasulzoda, PM Shehbaz stressed the importance of enhancing bilateral collaboration across all spheres of shared interest, including trade, investment, energy, and regional connectivity. He praised Tajikistan's active participation in the SCO meeting and fondly recalled his productive visit to Dushanbe in July, 2023. PM Rasulzoda conveyed his appreciation for Pakistan's hospitality and thanked the country for allowing sugar exports to Tajikistan a step that will further boost bilateral trade. On his X timeline, PM Shehbaz expressed his satisfaction with the positive trajectory of the relationship between the two countries and reaffirmed the commitment to strengthening ties. Additionally, PM Shehbaz met with Belarusian Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko. The leaders discussed potential cooperation in the areas of trade, investment, agricultural machinery, and joint production of tractors. Both leaders reiterated the need for sustained high-level exchanges to build on the positive momentum of bilateral relations. Golovchenko congratulated Pakistan on successfully hosting the SCO meeting and expressed Belarus' commitment to working closely with Pakistan under the "Shanghai Spirit." PM Shehbaz also reiterated Pakistan's desire to deepen cooperation with Kyrgyzstan during his meeting with Chairman Akybek Japarov. Both leaders expressed satisfaction with

Continued on Page 06

PM welcomes state dignitaries to SCO dinner

The SCO comprises China, India, Russia, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Belarus – with 16 more countries affiliated as observers or "dialogue partners"

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif welcomed foreign dignitaries, including India's Minister for External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, to the dinner for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) first day on Tuesday. The SCO comprises China, India, Russia, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Belarus – with 16 more countries affiliated as observers or "dialogue partners". Pakistan became a full member of the SCO at its 2017 summit in Kazakhstan, which was attended by ex-PM Nawaz Sharif, who recently also expressed hope for reviving ties with India. In his capacity as

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif meets with Prime Minister of Belarus Roman Golovchenko on the sidelines of SCO Council of Heads of Government Meeting. – DNA

60th anniversary of Pak-Romania diplomatic ties

To mark this momentous occasion, the Foreign Ministers of Pakistan and Romania exchanged congratulatory messages

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Romania marked the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, highlighting a longstanding and friendly partnership built on shared values and aspirations. The milestone is a testament to the enduring bond between the two countries, which have consistently worked towards promoting global peace, stability, and development. Over the past six decades, Pakistan and Romania have cooperated across multiple areas,

Continued on Page 06

Constitutional amendments

Assembly, Senate sessions summoned

Cabinet meeting on October 17; According to sources, over 20 clauses are expected to be included in the proposed changes, affecting various key articles in Pakistan's Constitution, including Articles 51, 63, 175, and 187

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has 'summoned' a session of the National Assembly (NA) for passage of a proposed constitutional amendment. As per details, the proposed draft for the 26th amendment in the Constitution of Pakistan will be presented before the lower house of the Parliament on October 18. Sources said the lawmakers have been directed to reach Islamabad today. On Monday, Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that the parties have reached near to a consensus over the constitutional amendments. Talking to media JUI leader said that an agreement has developed over the drafts shared among parties. "I will hold meetings with Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Nawaz Sharif and the PTI's leadership," JUI chief said. "I will meet Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in Karachi, visit Lahore to meet Nawaz Sharif and also hold meeting with the PTI's leadership in Islamabad," JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said.

Continued on Page 06

'Opposition to reforms based on likes, dislikes'

PPP chief says establishment of constitutional court has been part of his party's manifesto since 2007 elections

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has said opposition to the judicial reforms including establishing federal constitutional courts is based on personal likes and dislikes. The remarks come after the government failed to secure the magic number to sail through the bill to amend the Constitution

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Pakistan, Russia kick off joint drill

Exercise aimed at refining professional skills, harnessing historic military-to-military relations, says ISPR

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan and Russian militaries have commenced bilateral exercise titled Joint Exercise Druzhba-VII – the seventh bilateral joint exercise in the counter-terrorism domain, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement on Tuesday. According to the military's media wing, the two-week-long exercise commenced on October 13 at the National Counter Terrorism Centre, Pabbi with participation of Light Commando Troops ex Pakistan Army and Russian Military Contingent. The commandant of the National Counter Terrorism Centre graced the opening ceremony of the exercise as chief guest, the statement added.

Pakistan should raise Gaza issue in SCO moot

Hafiz Naeem says Pakistan should highlight Gaza issue in all-important SCO moot

DNA

FAISALABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman has said the Shanghai Cooperation Organization carries a significant opportunity for the country to showcase its soft image. He said the issue of Gaza should also be discussed in the SCO moot. He mentioned that only the Indian delegation would not talk about the Gaza situation and in so doing, they would isolate themselves as the Palestinian issue has become a burning issue requiring immediate solution.

Reject Constitutional Court

Lawyers threaten nationwide protests

At a convention held by Karachi Bar, prominent legal figures, regional associations gathered to voice their concerns

DNA

KARACHI: Lawyers across Pakistan have come together on a unified platform to oppose proposed constitutional amendments, warning of a nationwide movement if the government proceeds with the changes. At a convention held by the Karachi Bar Association at City Court on Tuesday, prominent legal figures, including officials from the Pakistan Bar Council, Supreme Court Bar Association, and other regional associations, gathered to voice their concerns. Attendees included Munir A Malik, Hamid Khan, and Abid Zuberi, among others. However, no representatives from the Sindh High Court Bar Association attended the event. The proposed amendments were denounced as unconstitutional and illegal, with lawyers threatening a countrywide protest in response. Peshawar High Court Bar President Fida Gul expressed his determination to

Continued on Page 06

'Imran in good health' Medical reports to be available soon: Gohar

Jemima Goldsmith, the former spouse of Imran, on Tuesday, voiced concern over his treatment in prison and called for his release

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar confirmed on Tuesday that party founder and former prime minister Imran Khan was in good health and his fresh medical reports would be available soon. The development came after he said doctors were allowed to meet

Continued on Page 06

PM Shehbaz, Jaishankar rub shoulders

FIAZ CH

ISLAMABAD: In a rare exchange between the leaders of the arch-rival neighbours, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Indian foreign minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar shook hands as the former received foreign dignitaries at a dinner hosted for Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) leaders. Jaishankar arrived in Islamabad for the SCO summit earlier today, marking the first visit by someone holding this office to the neighbouring nation in nearly a decade. Islamabad is hosting

Continued on Page 06

Protests spread against alleged rape of student

Protesters stage sit-in in front of Punjab Assembly; dozens of students arrested in Multan

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Students of a private college took to streets for the second day on Tuesday to protest against the alleged rape of a girl in Lahore, a day after dozens were injured in violent clashes between protesters and law enforcers. A group of students gathered outside a private college on Monday on a protest call after reports of the alleged rape of a female student went viral on social media platforms. At least 28 people, including four policemen, were injured after the protests turned violent. Later, the protest was put off and it was decided to resume the demonstration today again. It may be noted that the police had arrested a security guard of the college, who was accused of raping the student and launched an investigation into the matter. However, the suspect denied the allegations, while the police also couldn't find the evidence to prove them. Earlier today, the Punjab police also refuted the claims related to the alleged rape of a private college student, saying that "there is no victim" linked to allegations.

Continued on Page 06

No evidence of any ghastly incident: SSP

In a video message, ASP Naqvi said the girl was admitted to hospital 10 days ago

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Shehbaz Naqvi invited on Tuesday people to come forward with evidence of rape of a college student so that police can take action. The ASP was referring to a social media post of alleged rape of a college student which caused widespread protest in the city on Monday. In a video message, ASP Naqvi said the girl who was being named in the incident was hospitalised 10 days prior to the 'incident'. She claimed that the family of the girl said she fell while getting

Continued on Page 06

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Grand operation launched against illegal gold mining

PESHAWAR: On the directives of Muhammad Musaddiq Abbasi Special Assistant to the Chief Minister on Anti-corruption, a grand operation has been carried out against illegal companies operating in the Nowshera and Kohat regions, resulting in the seizure of over 200 machines used for illegal gold extraction. Several First Information Reports (FIRs) have been filed against those involved. Abbasi emphasized that this is just the beginning of a broader effort to clamp down on illegal mining activities in the province. The Mining department through open auction of four gold mining blocks in Nowshera has been successfully concluded, generating more than 4 billion rupees in revenue. The auction, overseen by provincial authorities, marks a significant milestone in the effort to promote legal mining operations in the region. Musaddiq Abbasi has confirmed that more blocks will be auctioned in the near future, aiming to attract investment and strengthen the local economy. Musaddiq Abbasi has issued a stern warning to illegal mining operations, stating that there will be zero tolerance for mafias in the province. He urged legitimate mining companies to come forward, assuring them that the government will support their efforts to conduct

lawful and productive business. Abbasi's statements reflect the provincial government's commitment to curbing illegal activities and promoting transparency in the mining sector. In an effort to encourage investment and confidence in the mining sector, Musaddiq Abbasi has guaranteed full protection for companies awarded mining contracts. He emphasized that no interference or obstruction will be tolerated during their operations. It is pertinent to mention that President, Frontier Mines Owners Association (FMOA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sherbandi Khan Marwat has called for the registration of all mine workers to make them entitle for due rights of social and labour welfare. He made this call while speaking during a joint session on 'Documented Mining Economy' initiated under the auspices of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) in collaboration with State Life Insurance Corporation here on Tuesday. He said that out of 200,000 mine workers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa only 65,000 have been registered either with Employees Old-Age Benefit Institute (EOBI) or Minerals Department of the province. He stressed need for bringing all of the workers under the documented

regime, so that they may get due rights of social and labor welfare. He added that the State Life Insurance should come up with solid proposal of ensuring optimum coverage to the mine workers while addressing their problems, including the mobility and frequent job switching. The step, he said will also help the mine owners retain their workers for considerable time period while the safety and social needs of employees are assured. Speaking on the occasion, Sajjad Khattak (Area Manager, State Life Insurance Co.) and his team, held a detailed discussion with FMOA cabinet members on the importance of social/insurance benefits for mining sector of KP. Mr. Hafizullah Khan (Manager, SMEDA) emphasized upon the need of bankability of SMEs engaged in mining sub sector, so that this important segment can join the provincial and national mainstream. The participants appreciated the SMEDA for initiating dialogue of this long desired intervention. It was also reiterated by the participants that in order to make the mining entities bankable, this is essential to declare mining as an industry. It was decided to continue joint efforts more aggressively in the future.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Daily life suspended due to the SCO summit held in the Federal Capital.

Meeting discuss construction of Nursing College in Upper Chitral

DNA

PESHAWAR :Deputy Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Suriyya Bibi on Tuesday chaired a meeting to discuss construction of Nursing College in Upper Chitral and to acquire a rent building for starting classes in 2024-25. The meeting among others was attended by representatives of departments including health, communication and works, health services academy and district health office. Meeting was told that district health authorities and DC office upper Chitral are working to identify suitable place for construction of nursing college. It was told that whole process would complete by 31 October 2024 and after-wards PC-1 and related documents would be sent to health department. Participants of meeting were informed that executive engineer works department would also send its report and recommendations about installation of lift and installation of solar system in the building very soon. Addressing the meeting, Deputy Speaker directed to complete the process within stipulated time to complete the nursing college that was longstanding demand of people living in Upper Chitral.

PPP's manifesto includes implementation of welfare projects for farmers

MIRPURKHAS: Member National Assembly (MNA) Pir Aftab Hussain Shah Jilani has said that the implementation of welfare projects for farmers was included in the manifesto of Pakistan People's Party (PPP). This, he said while addressing the opening ceremony of Benazir Hari card distribution ceremony held here. The MNA further said that the distribution of Benazir Hari Card reflected the great love of Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for the poor farmers. Earlier MPA, Hari Ram Kishori Lal said that Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had fulfilled his promise for distributing Benazir Hari Card to the people which he

made during his election campaign and said that the farmers having less than 25 acres of agricultural land would be get the cards in the first phase. The farmers having more than 25 acres would achieve the facility after consultation with the party high leadership, he added. Earlier, Commissioner Mirpurkhas, Faisal Ahmed Ugeli said that the agriculture sector was the backbone of the country's economy and the efforts of the Sindh Agriculture Minister, Muhammad Bakhsar Mahar for improving the agriculture sector were commendable. He said that the farmers were striving for the improvement of agriculture sector keeping in view the modern principles and

said that the Sindh government had introduced a banking system to maintain transparency in the distribution of Benazir Hari Cards. Earlier, Director General of Agriculture Sindh, Allah Warayo Rind and Additional Director Agriculture Extension, Zulfikar Ali Jagirani said that after the heavy rains of 2022, 2,75,000 small farmers across the province had less than 25 acres of agricultural land were registered. According to the decision of the Agriculture department, Benazir Hari Cards are being distributed among the farmers with the support of Sindh Bank so that more farmers get benefit from the subsidy given by the agriculture department.—APP

TikTok removes 78,827,465 videos for 'breaching' its community guidelines

ISLAMABAD :In its ongoing efforts to foster a safe and positive user experience, TikTok has removed 78,827,465 videos for breaching its community guidelines. Notably, 144,430,133 of these videos were removed through automated systems, highlighting the platform's innovative use of its detection technology to eliminate harmful content in real time. According to TikTok Q2 2024 Community Guidelines Enforcement Report, over 30,709,744 videos were removed from TikTok in Pakistan, in the latest reporting period, as the platform continues to strengthen its content moderation systems to safeguard its diverse community. Key findings show that 99.5% of these videos were proactively removed before users reported them, with 97% taken down within 24 hours. These figures highlight TikTok's commitment to avoiding harmful content, ensuring a safer platform for Pakistani users, said a news release issued here on Tuesday. The report sheds light on the platform's proactive approach to content moderation in Pakistan. This quarterly report provides transparency into the content and accounts removed during the reporting period for violating the platform's Community Guidelines. With over a billion people and millions of pieces of content posted on TikTok every day, the platform continues to prioritise and enhance automated moderation technology. This technological advancement enables TikTok to scale its moderation efforts and maintain a secure environment for its growing global community. With a proactive detection rate now at 98.2%, TikTok is more efficient than ever at addressing harmful content before users encounter it. The report also highlights a 50% reduction in the number of restored videos, reinforcing the accuracy and effectiveness of TikTok's content moderation systems. As TikTok continues to invest in cutting-edge moderation technologies, its commitment to transparency and platform safety remains at the forefront, ensuring a secure environment for its diverse user base across Pakistan and globally.—APP

KP CM directs for implementation of minimum monthly wages

He has also directed the speedy completion of the digitization process for better management of the Employees Social Security Institute (ESSI)

PESHAWAR:KP Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has ruled out compromise on the rights of the labourers and directed the concerned authorities for the implementation of minimum monthly wages in any circumstances. He issued these directives while presiding over a meeting of the Labour Department here on Wednesday. Besides, the Provincial Minister for Labour, Fazal Shakoor, the Secretary Labour and Advocate General and other concerned authorities also attended the meeting. The meeting took various steps and decisions for the welfare of labourers and workers of the industrial units and brickkilns. The chief minister directed the authorities for the opening of the bank accounts of labourers and workers of the

industrial sector to transfer their salaries to them. The chief minister also directed the authorities to sit with the owners of industries and framed a comprehensive policy for the protection of the rights of labourers. He further directed for provision of protection to the employment of the workers of the industrial sector and a platform for the redressal of the complaints and prevention of injustice in this regard. The chief minister further directed for fixation of a job quota for employment of the local labourers and its strict implementation. He on this occasion said that workers of brickkilns are met out cruelty and excesses and said that they will not allow the exploitation of those workers in any circumstances and directed

for special focus on the prevention of excesses with workers of brickkilns. The chief minister said that the provision of justice and protection to the rights of such oppressed class of the society is the responsibility of the government and directed the concerned authorities to register brickkilns and compile data of the labourers working in them. The chief minister also directed the authorities of the Labour Department to prepare a line of action to protect all rights of the brickkiln workers and ensure the provision of incentives announced by the government for them. He has also directed the speedy completion of the digitization process for better management of the Employees Social Security Institute (ESSI).—APP



KARACHI: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari shaking hands with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman to welcome him during his visit to Bilawal House.—DNA

Governor for implementing PWD's job quota

QUETTA: Governor of Balochistan, Jafar Khan Mandokhail, on Tuesday urged the government to strictly enforce the quota allocated for differently-abled individuals in public sector jobs. He also recommended the launch of the "Himmat Card" initiative for such individuals, following the model of the Punjab government. He expressed these views while addressing participants at a ceremony held in honor of World White Cane Safety Day on October 15. Governor emphasized that public offices related to these individuals should be situated on the ground floor

of government buildings to ensure accessibility. He expressed pride and satisfaction, noting that humanity has reached a stage of progress and civilization where it is now considered inappropriate to refer to differently-abled individuals as "disabled." He termed losing sight may be a physical limitation, but the greater tragedy is a lack of insight. He added, "If you have vision, the loss of sight becomes a minor setback." Governor Mandokhail shared his personal observation that individuals with a missing physical organ often develop greater capabilities in

their remaining senses, which makes them more optimistic and energetic than others. Governor Mandokhail highlighted that, in this age of remarkable advancements in science and technology, physical disabilities no longer carry the same sense of fear or helplessness as before. He observed that today, individuals with visual impairments are excelling in educational and other fields. He cited the example of Stephen Hawking, one of the greatest scientists of this century, who demonstrated that physical disability is not a limitation. De-

spite being unable to speak or hear and partially paralyzed, Hawking's contributions to modern science have proved that knowledge, vision, determination, and hope can overcome any physical challenge. In conclusion, Governor Mandokhail announced a cash donation of 200,000 PKR for the Balochistan branch of the Pakistan Association of the Blind. The event was attended by Social Welfare Secretary Shujaat Ali Khosa, Professor Dr. Farkhanda Aurangzeb, Fauzia Shaheen, and Ghulam Dastagir, President of the Pakistan Association of the Blind.—APP

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

OCTOBER

Oct 01/China National Day

Oct 01/Cyprus National Day

Oct 01/Republic of Korea Armed Forces Day

Oct 01/Nigeria Armed Forces Day

Oct 02/Guinea National Day

Oct 03/Germany Unification Day

Oct 03/Republic of Korea National Foundation Day

Oct 05/Indonesia Armed Forces Day

Oct 06/Egypt Armed Forces Day

Oct 09/Uganda Independence Day

Oct 12/Spain National Day

Oct 23/Hungary National Day

October 24/United Nations United Nations Day

Oct/25/Romania Armed Forces Day

Oct 26/Austria National Day

Oct 27/Turkmenistan Independence Day

Oct 28/Czech Republic National Day

Oct 29/Turkey Republic Day

Hotels & Restaurants

Serena Hotel.....111 133 133

Marriott.....051- 2826121

Monal.....0334-5421812

Turkish Airlines.....8494949

Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15

Bomb Disposal.....15

Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16

Emergency Ambulance.....1122

& Rescue Services.....4451122

Motorway Police.....9266044

Motorway Police.....9270601-20

Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596

Rawalpindi.....9270601-20

Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115

PIA Flight Info.....114

PIA Cargo.....9280979

Railway Inquiry.....117

Railway Exchange.....9270831-5

WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489

CAA.....9281092

Hospitals

CMH.....5611111

MH.....5611116

Canth 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

Dengue tends to decline after continued spike

RAWALPINDI: The long-spanned dengue rise has started declining as the rate of per-day positive cases is decreased in Rawalpindi district. During the last three days, a total of 267 positive cases were recorded, which equates to an average of 89 patients per day. According to the dengue statistical data shared by the District Health Authority, during the last three consecutive days, dengue-positive cases remained at 85, 87, and 95, which shows a marginal but continuous declining tendency in the dengue cases. Beyond the last three days, the positivity rate was recorded as 110 patients per day during October 1–October 12, which put the district administration on high alert. An intensified and targeted anti-dengue campaign was organized after a ‘Dengue Emergency’ was declared in the district. The campaign is still underway, which has resulted in the declining trend in the dengue graph. The dengue data regarding punitive actions being taken against dengue SOP violators shows a zero tolerance policy was adopted by the authority in which approximately Rs. 20.0 million financial penalty was imposed, 1670 buildings were sealed, and 4328 FIRs were registered against those who irresponsibly committed violations. Besides surveillance and detection in fields, the relevant authority also took actions against health officials showing negligence in performing their duties. Also, some government buildings were sealed, including IESCO, ET&NC, Railways, and Agriculture departments, for non-compliance with the prescribed SOPs. Leading the hectic indoor and outdoor anti-dengue activities, Dr. Asif Arbab Niazi, CEO of the of the District Health Authority, in a brief interaction with APP on Tuesday termed the decline in dengue cases as a result of collective efforts. “We are rendering our best efforts in the fight against dengue endemic through an inclusive, multi-pronged strategy. “Particularly, following the directives of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, Health Ministers Khawaja Salman Rafique and Khawaja Imran, the focal person on dengue, and public representatives along with the district administration are playing their vibrant role,” he said. Dr. Asif also hailed the tireless efforts being made by the health officials. “The surveillance and monitoring teams are working very hard with the best of their abilities,” he added. He also highlighted the LHV’s for their outstanding performance, especially those from Pothohar Town who regularly travel to other remote areas. To a question, Dr. Asif appreciated the response received from the citizens in cooperation with the health officials during the ongoing campaign. It is worth mentioning here that dengue has claimed six lives in the district, which the hospital resources claimed were late reported cases. Despite the declining trend, dengue fever remained a part of the dengue vectoring threat. Dr. Asif has urged the citizens to keep on cooperating with the health teams and follow the dengue preventive measures, as October is the most favorable month for dengue growth.—APP

ANF recovers 259 kg drugs in four operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting four operations across the country managed to recover over 259 kg drugs worth Rs 10 million and arrested four accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that in an operation, 1.2 kg hashish and 165 grams ice were recovered from the possession of an accused rounded up from Super Highway Karachi. The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to students of educational institutions. In another operation, 252 kg hashish concealed for smuggling in Gwadar area was recovered. 502 grams heroin was recovered from the possession of an accused netted in Korangi Karachi. 4 kg opium and 1.250 kg intoxicated tablets were recovered from Anarkali Bazar in Lahore and two accused were arrested during the operation.—APP

FO spokesperson visits SCO Media Facilitation Center

ISLAMABAD :Foreign Office Spokesperson, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch here on Tuesday visited the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Media Facilitation Center and observed various arrangements being made to facilitate local and international media. The Foreign Office spokesperson was briefed by Principal Information Officer (PIO), Mobashir Hassan on various facilities including digital library, media Facilitation room, studio and media room. The foreign media journalists also held a brief interaction with the foreign office spokesperson during her visit. Meanwhile, former caretaker prime minister, Senator Anwar ul Haq Kakar also visited the Media Facilitation Center and held brief interaction with local and foreign media journalists.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani arriving for meeting with Chinese Premier Li Qiang.

Pakistan calls for comprehensive action against ‘transnational organized crime’

ISLAMABAD :The 12th session of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the UN Convention against ‘Transnational Organized Crime’ (UNTOC) started in Vienna the other day. Pakistan is being represented at the 12th COP by the Director Generals of FIA, the Anti-Money Laundering Authority, and Pakistan’s Permanent Representative to the UN in Vienna. The UNTOC is the main international instrument in the fight against transnational organized crime. The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNTOC, held every two years, serves as a vital platform for member states to discuss and develop strategies to enhance cooperation in combating organized crime and to review progress made in implementing the Convention and its protocols. Addressing the 12th session, Director General of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), Ahmad Ishaque Jehangir, reiterated Pakistan’s commitment to tackling the challenges posed by transnational organized crime and emphasized the need for a holistic approach to address its root causes. DG FIA highlighted that the economic disparities, conflict, and a lack of opportunities create fertile ground for criminal enterprises. Therefore, promoting inclusive and sustainable development was crucial. He called for international cooperation grounded in mutual respect and shared responsibility, stressing the importance of strengthening the capacities of developing countries in combating organized crimes such as money laundering, human trafficking, and cybercrime. The DG FIA also underscored Pakistan’s ongoing efforts to counter various forms of organized crimes, particularly in tackling human trafficking and migrant smuggling.—APP

SCO opens doors for Pak rise on world stage: Nasir

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Nasir Mansoor Qureshi has said that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit carries strong potential for creating investment opportunities in the country, which will strengthen Pakistan’s economy. The event offers Pakistan an opportunity to strengthen its trade and economic ties with key international partners, particularly China. It sends a clear message to global investors about the country’s openness to business and investment opportunities. In a message here on Wednesday he said that the next phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the SCO summit could be the real game-changers for the national economy as we have geographical contiguities, economic complementarities, regional trade advantages and ability to look East and diversify our economic partners. It offers a platform where Pakistan can work with neighbouring countries, including China, Russia, and the Central Asian states, to promote stability and prevent the spread of terrorism and radicalization. He added that this important summit will certainly enhance regional trade and reduce poverty through collaborative projects in agriculture, vocational training, and infrastructure development. Special attention is needed for climate change, with new frameworks for regional cooperation on carbon trading and the promotion of low-carbon technologies while addressing regional security concerns, including Afghanistan and the Kashmir conflict. Nasir Qureshi said that Pakistan’s dire economic situation, marked by rising inflation, dwindling foreign reserves, and sluggish growth, presents an urgent need for new economic partnerships. This is where the SCO’s economic dimension comes into play. By deepening its ties with member states, Pakistan stands to benefit from regional markets, infrastructure investments, and increased trade flows, particularly through China’s Belt and Road Initiative. Islamabad has to make the case for increased regional cooperation on economic and security issues, highlight the need for regional stability, and showcase Pakistan as a responsible stakeholder in South Asia. These new economic partnerships could be critical for pulling Pakistan out of its current crisis. In this way, economic cooperation is deeply tied to Pakistan’s broader geopolitical goals, as stronger economic ties will reinforce the country’s strategic importance in the region.—DNA

SCO summit widely termed as diplomatic triumph

ISLAMABAD: The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) conference Tuesday hailed as a resounding success, earning widespread acclaim from journalists and the general public alike for its significant contribution to economic growth and for prevailing brotherly atmosphere among neighbor countries. Journalists from various channels hailed the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) conference as a diplomatic triumph, marking a significant milestone in regional cooperation. The SCO conference has set a positive tone for regional cooperation, economic growth and peaceful development, cementing the organization’s role as a key player in global affairs, Asad ullah Khan a renowned foreign Affairs expert talking to PTV news channel said. He praised that the conference marked a new era of cooperation among SCO member states, with a focus on promoting economic growth, regional security and stability. The organization’s expanded membership and growing international influence make it an increasingly important player in global affairs, he added. “Pakistan’s peaceful narrative is being amplified on social media, producing compelling content that resonates with younger audiences and promotes a positive national identity,” said a citizen of Islamabad. “Social media platforms are also being utilized to showcase Pakistan’s peaceful face, crafting engaging content that targets impressionable segments and fosters a positive global image,” said a youngster. “The SCO’s focus on economic cooperation and regional security is a welcome shift, providing a platform for member states to address pressing issues.” Waqas Bakir a journalist from Karachi added.—APP

Over 200, 000 AMI meters installed in Rawalpindi so far

ISLAMABAD :Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) has successfully installed over 200,000 state of the art Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) meters so far in various parts of Rawalpindi City and Cantonment Circles. Terming the AMI is a revolutionary initiative in power sector by the government, Project Director Moshin Raza Gilani said that this project is successfully continue in two operation circles of IESCO i.e. Rawalpindi city and Rawalpindi Cantt. As per latest report over 200,000 old meters have been replaced with AMI meters and expressed the hope that till January 2026 all old meters in Rawalpindi city Rawalpindi Cantt circles Taxila and surroundings would be replaced with AMI meter. He said that AMI has been installed in areas of Chandi Chowk, Muslim Town, Ghangal.—APP

AIOU Int’l moot World should work on education diplomacy

ISLAMABAD: The world should work on education diplomacy and should use science not as a means of destruction but as a tool for global peace and development, said Chairman, Higher Education Commission (HEC), Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed. He was addressing the inaugural session of the 37th AAOU Annual Conference 2024 at Allama Iqbal Open University as a chief guest, yesterday (Monday). The three-day conference of Asian Association of Open Universities titled “Expanding horizons: Innovations in Open and Distance Learning” is being participated by delegates from 22 countries from different parts of the world. They will present 180 research papers during parallel sessions. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed stated on this occasion that after the COVID-19 pandemic, Pakistan like the rest of the world witnessed the rise of online education and continued academic activities though online system. He remarked that due to its inbuilt characteristics soon online and blended learning modes will become as essential mode of education. He also mentioned that HEC has introduced Open and Distance Education Policy in Pakistan to help other universities and HEIs offer Open Distance learning. Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood, Vice-Chancellor Allama Iqbal Open University in his address highlighted the significance of Open Education System. He said that distance education is no more a second chance of education. He said that ODL is still going through its initial stage of adoption. He called upon the members of AAOU to take collective measures for tackling the challenges being faced by ODL system. Dr. Nasir emphasized that digitalization has expanded AIOU’s educational outreach to remote areas across the country and gained recognition internationally. He also shared that the university’s current student body exceeds 1.2 million, including international students from 35 countries. He mentioned that under this system, they are also providing education to prison inmates and the transgender community. During the event, the official accreditation service of the Asian Association of Open Universities and the Asian MOOCs Book were also unveiled. Professor Dr. Ojat Darajat, President of the Asian Association of Open Universities and Rector of Indonesia’s Terbuka Open University, along with Professor Dr. Peter Scott, President of the Commonwealth of Learning, Canada, were the keynote speakers of the opening session.—DNA

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Briefs

CEO Pink Ribbon Pak appeals to Youth

ISLAMABAD: CEO & founder of pink ribbon Pakistan Omer Aftab Tuesday made a pressing appeal to the youth for increased breast cancer awareness through social media, particularly as Breast Cancer Awareness Month continues where despite ongoing efforts only 1 in 4 women in Pakistan undergo mammography screenings. In an Interview with a private news channel, CEO stressed that by utilizing social media effectively, the youth can play a vital role in educating their families, communities and peers about breast cancer. He encouraged them to share informative content, personal stories and experiences to create a ripple effect that can help dispel myths and misconceptions surrounding the disease. Furthermore, Omer Aftab appealed to women to prioritize their health by undergoing timely mammography screenings. He emphasized that early detection through mammography is critical in identifying breast cancer at its initial stages, significantly increasing the chances of successful treatment and survival. As Pakistan struggles with one of the highest breast cancer incidence rates in Asia, Aftab's call to action aims to mobilize the youth and encourage women to take proactive steps towards their health. By combining social media awareness with regular screenings, Pink Ribbon Pakistan hopes to make a tangible impact in the fight against breast cancer, he added. Through its ongoing efforts, Pink Ribbon Pakistan continues to work tirelessly towards educating the public, providing access to screening facilities, and supporting patients and their families affected by breast cancer, he expressed commitment. As Breast Cancer Awareness Month progresses, he give a message serves as a powerful reminder of the collective responsibility to combat this disease and ensure a healthier future for generations to come.—APP

FBISE, LUMS to hold Mathematics Olympiad

ISLAMABAD :In an exciting development for students passionate about mathematics, the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) and Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) will hold Pakistan's first-ever national-level "Pakistan Mathematics Olympiad" this year. According to the FBISE, the competition, to be held in mid-December, is set to be a landmark event aimed at encouraging mathematical excellence among high school students across the country. Students enrolled in Secondary School Certificate (SSC) or O Level, and Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) or A Level, as well as equivalent qualifications from all educational streams across the country, have registered to participate in the Olympiad. This Olympiad will provide participants with a platform to showcase their mathematical skills, encouraging them to adopt this subject in their future careers. With prestigious prizes up for grabs, including cash rewards, medals, laptops, and scholarships for admission in top universities in Pakistan, the event promises to attract the best young mathematical minds from across Pakistan.—APP

Pakistani medical device industry taps new opportunities in China

The immense consumer demand and capacity in China have prompted us to register all our products for sales licenses there," said Akif Javaid, the proprietor of NJ Enterprises from Sialkot as he exhibited a range of surgical, dental, ENT diagnostic, orthopedic, cosmetics and surgery instruments at the ongoing 90th China International Medical Equipment Fair (CMEF) in Shenzhen, China

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani medical device industry taps new opportunities in booming Chinese market, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. China ranks among Pakistan's top six export destinations for surgical instruments. The immense consumer demand and capacity in China have prompted us to register all our products for sales licenses there," said Akif Javaid, the proprietor of NJ Enterprises from Sialkot as he exhibited a range of surgical, dental, ENT diagnostic, orthopedic, cosmetics and surgery instruments at the ongoing 90th China International Medical Equipment Fair (CMEF) in Shenzhen, China. From October 12th to 15th, the Shenzhen World Exhibition & Convention Center (Bao'an) hosted the CMEF, drawing over 4,000 companies from across the globe who displayed tens of thousands of medical device products. The event attracted international professionals from more than 150 countries and regions, cementing its reputation as the global healthcare industry's "wind vane." Spanning nearly 200,000 square meters, the exhibition floor is abuzz with renowned enterprises showcasing the latest innovations in medical imaging, in vitro diagnostics, medical electronics



and other segments of the medical device industry chain. With products integrating AI, big data and cloud platforms, the fair highlighted the innovative prowess of high-end medical devices. China has emerged as one of the world's leading producers and consumers of medical devices. Industry figures show that by the end of 2022, China's medical device market was nearly 17.5 trillion yuan in size, with a CAGR of 17.5 percent. Amid steady economic growth, rising health awareness among

residents and supportive policies, the market outlook remains positive. Consequently, China has emerged as an appealing destination for international medical device companies aiming to exploit its vast market potential. NJ Enterprises, known for manufacturing high-quality surgical instruments, is well-positioned to seize this opportunity. Pakistan ranks among the top countries in surgical instrument exports and is renowned for its expertise in surgical medical equipment. According to the Trade Development

Authority of Pakistan, Pakistan exports up to 10,000 different surgical products with up to 40,000 different distinct products available in the catalogue of companies in the Sialkot Cluster. Akif Javaid's presence at the CMEF underlines Pakistan's potential to contribute to the global healthcare landscape. "We are getting product drawings and samples from Chinese companies to provide them with OEM services," he said, highlighting the growing collaboration between Pakistani and Chinese medical device

manufacturers. The CMEF exhibition area is organized into 14 major sections, including medical imaging, in vitro diagnostics, medical electronics, medical optics, hospital construction, operating rooms, sterilization and infection control, medical consumables, and orthopedics, providing a comprehensive view of the entire medical industry chain. Akif Javaid's participation in CMEF not only provides him a platform to showcase his products to a global audience.

Khurram Dastgir Khan hails SCO summit

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz prominent leader Khurram Dastgir Khan Tuesday expressed pride in the government's hosting of the SCO summit, highlighting its potential to unlock bilateral ties and create economic opportunities. In an interview with a private news channel, he said, "This historic move is seen as a significant step in strengthening Pakistan's relationships with neighboring countries, including China, with whom they have enjoyed warm and cordial relations." "The SCO summit offers a platform to forge closer ties in areas such as trade, economy, investment, industry, education, defense, agriculture, and culture," he added. Khurram Dastgir said, "It is a moment of pride for the country, reflecting the growing trust of other nations in Pakistan." "The SCO summit brings together prominent leaders from member states, including China, Russia, India, and Belarus, to foster cooperation in areas like security, economy, and culture," he added.—APP

Chinese Premier's visit to herald new era

ISLAMABAD: Director China-Pakistan Study Centre at Institute of strategic studies Dr. Talat Shabbir Tuesday said that Chinese Premier's visit to Pakistan will be a game-changer for the country, marking the beginning of a new era for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

In an exclusive talk with PTV news channel, he said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is poised to be a game-changer for Pakistan's economy, with estimates suggesting it will generate millions of jobs by 2030, adding, The Submit is expected to usher in a new era of co-operation and growth for Pakistan, with CPEC at the forefront of this strategic partnership. Hosting the prestigious SCO meeting in Islamabad is a significant diplomatic achievement for Pakistan, marking a major success in its foreign policy endeavors, he added. This milestone event not only showcases Pakistan's capability to bring together influential nations but also underscores its growing prominence on the global stage, he mentioned.—APP

FPCCI president's performance is disappointing

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Trade leader and founder President of Attock Chamber of Commerce Mirza Abdul Rehman said on Tuesday that the performance of the president of the FPCCI, Atif Ikram Sheikh, is very disappointing, which is frustrating the business community and damaging the reputation of the ruling group. He added that elected vice presidents have been side-lined by two cronies of the president who have become in charge of everything and plundering resources while damaging the organization with their negative behaviour. Atif Ikram Sheikh was voted to power following his tall claims regarding improvement and transparency in the affairs, but his output is zero, which has frustrated the business community.

So much so that the leading leaders of the United Business Group (UBG) have stopped visiting FPCCI offices and started ignoring the invitations. Mirza Abdul Rahman said in a statement issued here that the performance of the Federal Chamber is very disappointing. Nothing is being done to solve the problems of the business community. Now, under a conspiracy, efforts are being made to shift the head office from Karachi to Islamabad. He informed that important matters and financial issues are being handled by ignoring the Executive Committee which must approve all the important matters. A non-elected person is being paid hundreds of thousands of rupees per month while another non-elected person is being given food and refreshment contracts, which

insults the voters. Mirza Abdul Rahman said that Karachi is the center of Pakistan's economic activities, and most of the business community resides there, so the head office of FPCCI should be in Karachi. He said the voters dissatisfied with the businessman panel voted for UBG, but those calling for change proved to be more incompetent and corrupt. Those who promise change for success are leading things to ruin for vested interests. Atif Ikram Sheikh has been president for nine and a half months but still needs to raise his voice for business people and industrialists as expected. Mirza Abdul Rehman said that everyone in the FPCCI close to the president is making life difficult for others and trying to benefit from the situation. He informed that the president's unelected cronies get comfort in humiliating the FPCCI staff. The negative work environment and poor management result in stress, killing productivity. The semi-educated managers are using fear as a weapon, which is giving rise to anxiety, stress, and frustration, and negative impacts on the workforce. Mirza Abdul Rehman said a frustrated workforce is less productive than a satisfied one, negatively impacting engagement levels. The less engaged staff will be more likely to look for other job opportunities, less likely to perform in the workplace, and less likely to contribute to the organization's mission, he added. Most of the staff has developed negative feelings towards the president and his blue-eyed, unelected officials.

Pak exports 10,000 buffalo embryos to China

ISLAMABAD: In another sign of significant progress between China-Pakistan cooperation in buffalo embryo production and transfer, Pakistan exported 10,000 embryos to China in recent month. It was valued at \$2 million, Dr Qaisar Shahzad, program manager at the Royal Cell Biotechnology (Pakistan) Co. Ltd., exporter of the embryos told Gwadar Pro in an interview. The Lahore-based RCB (Pakistan), owned by China's Royal Group, has established a joint venture with Pakistan's JW Group, which specialises in production and transfer of embryos of Pakistan's superior buffalo breeds using advanced Chinese IVF technology. In August 2023, Pakistan authorised the RCB (Pakistan) to export buffalo embryos, ova and frozen semen to China. The first consignment of 5,000 buffalo embryos was sent to China on June 8, 2024, followed by a recent second consignment of 5,000 embryos exported to China, Dr Qaisar Shahzad said. The embryos were produced from oocytes of the buffaloes present at the Royal JW Buffalo Industry Co. Laboratory in Lahore, Dr Qaisar stated. Over the next decade, China intends to import at least 300,000 buffalo embryos from Pakistan. He said that as many as 100 jobs were created for local people in the process, and the JV has also produced another 10,000 buffalo embryos for sale in Pakistan. Given the growing demand for buffalo milk in China and the popularity of Pakistani buffaloes for their milk quality and production volume, China intends to further enhance Pakistan's superior buffalo breed through its advance technology.—APP

What to expect at two-day SCO CHG summit

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD, The two-day 23rd meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government (CHG) of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is starting today with the delegates from members and other invited states already arriving in the federal capital. To be held at the Jinnah Convention Center, the annual meeting of the SCO CHG - the second highest forum within the SCO - will be chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif as the current chair of the Council. Pakistan had assumed the rotating chair of the SCO CHG for 2023-24 at the previous meeting held in Bishkek on October 26, 2023. The leaders from the SCO member states attending the summit include China's Premier of the State Council Li Qiang, Prime Minister of Belarus Roman Golovchenko, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Olzhas Bektenov, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, Tajik Prime Minister Kohir Rasulzoda, Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov, Kyrgyzstan's Chairman of Ministers' Cabinet Zhaparov Akybek, Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref, and Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar. Besides, Mongolia is participating in the summit as an Observer State being represented by Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai and Turkmenistan as Special Guest represented by Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers Rashid Meredov. Among other dignitaries attending the moot include SCO Secretary-General Zhang Ming, Director of Executive Committee Rostislav Rats, Ruslan Mirzayev, Chairman of the Board of SCO Business Council Atif Ikram Shaikh and Chairman of the Council of SCO Interbank Union Marat Yelibayev.

On Tuesday evening, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will host the welcome dinner for the dignitaries participating in the moot. On Wednesday the regional leaders would gather at the Jinnah Convention Centre to discuss ongoing cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, environment, socio-cultural linkages and review the performance of the Organization. The leaders will also adopt important organizational decisions to further enhance cooperation among SCO member States and approve the budget of the Organization. Before the formal session begins, Prime Minister Shehbaz will welcome the leaders at the venue, followed by a group photo. The proceedings of the moot will start with Prime Minister Shehbaz's opening remarks before the statements by the participating leaders.

crucial organizational decisions to further enhance cooperation among SCO member States and approve the budget of the Organization. With this initiative Asia look forward for a new Era of Peace with healthy cross-borders relations, in order to preserve our History and Culture. Similarly, Regulating Economic and Trade, to bring prosperity among nations, along with a Sustainable Environment and Infrastructure, to safeguard the future.

SCO Summit 2024 Islamabad

MUNAZA KAZMI

Today is new beginning for taking a step towards better future. 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit 2024 with the strong agenda for developing Multilateral Cooperation for Regional Stability and Security is taking place in Islamabad, Pakistan on 15 - 16 October. This meeting had gathered Council Heads of Government (CHG) of the member states to discuss major concerns regarding regional Peace and Eco-

nomics Sustainability. As the current Chair of the CHG, Prime Minister of Pakistan is presiding over the CHG meeting. Further, SCO members States are represented by the Prime Minister of China, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, as well as the First Vice President of Iran, and External Affairs Minister of India. Prime Minister of Mongolia (Observer State), and Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and

Foreign Minister Turkmenistan (Special Guest) has also participating in the meeting. Along, The Prime Minister will also hold important bilateral meetings with visiting Heads of Delegation on the sidelines of this meeting. The CHG meeting is going to discuss ongoing cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, environment, socio-cultural linkages and will review the performance of the Organization. Moreover, the leaders will adopt

crucial organizational decisions to further enhance cooperation among SCO member States and approve the budget of the Organization. With this initiative Asia look forward for a new Era of Peace with healthy cross-borders relations, in order to preserve our History and Culture. Similarly, Regulating Economic and Trade, to bring prosperity among nations, along with a Sustainable Environment and Infrastructure, to safeguard the future.

HEALTH SCREENING PACKAGES

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BASIC HEALTH CHECK	COMPLETE WELLNESS CHECK	ULTIMATE VITALITY SCREENING
Clinical Measurements (Height, Weight, Blood Pressure & Pulse) Visual Acuity Lipid profile HBA1C FBC Uric Acid Liver Function Test Kidney Function Test Urine analysis	Medical History and Physical Examination by Doctor Clinical Measurements (Height, Weight, Blood Pressure & Pulse) Visual Acuity Lipid profile HBA1C FBC Uric Acid Liver Function Test Kidney Function Test Bone profile (Calcium, Magnesium, Phosphate) Urine analysis ECG Thyroid Function test Stool Occult Blood Medical Report Post Examination Review by Doctor	Medical History and Physical Examination by Doctor Clinical Measurements (Height, Weight, Blood Pressure & Pulse) Visual Acuity Lipid profile HBA1C FBC Uric Acid Liver Function Test Kidney Function Test Bone profile (Calcium, Magnesium, Phosphate) Urine analysis ECG Thyroid Function test Stool Occult Blood Vitamin D Ferritin Folate Vitamin B12 Medical Report Post Examination Review by Doctor

ULTIMATE WOMENS HEALTH SCREEN ADD ON
 Breast Ultrasound/ Mammogram
 Ultrasound Abdomen & Pelvis
 Cervical Smear
 Ovary Tumor Marker

ULTIMATE MEN HEALTH SCREEN ADD ON
 Prostate tumour marker (PSA)
 Testosterone
 Ultrasound Abdomen & Pelvis
 (Including Prostate)

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Flexing ‘nuclear muscles’

NATO began its annual nuclear exercise “Steadfast Noon” on Monday. According to NATO officials, the exercise will last about two weeks, with approximately 2,000 military personnel taking part in drills simulating missions where warplanes carry US nuclear warheads. Experts believe the primary goal of NATO’s nuclear exercises is to “flex its muscles.” NATO’s frequent displays of strength are likely to raise security concerns, potentially triggering an arms race and further exacerbating the Russia-Ukraine conflict. This exercise will be NATO’s third “Steadfast Noon” nuclear weapons drill since the escalation of the Ukraine crisis in 2022. Unlike previous ones, it takes place against the backdrop of Russian President Vladimir Putin’s updated nuclear policy in September. Although NATO officials have emphasized that the exercise isn’t a response to any recent declarations from Moscow, it is clear that NATO is intent on exerting nuclear deterrence against Russia by showcasing its nuclear capabilities. Cui Heng, a research fellow at the Center for Russian Studies at East China Normal University, told the Global Times that the purpose of NATO’s nuclear exercises is to demonstrate its strength to Russia and the world. As the Russia-Ukraine conflict nears potential negotiations, all parties are seeking to build leverage to gain an advantage at the negotiation table. Clearly, NATO’s nuclear exercises serve as a critical bargaining chip for the talks. Besides of further worsening the current stalemate in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, NATO’s nuclear exercise could also introduce numerous risks and hidden dangers. First of all, it will make Europe’s geopolitical security situation even more complex. If Europe remains under the constant threat of a nuclear shadow, countries will feel increasingly on edge. On the other hand, Cui believes greater geopolitical pressure from NATO is likely to heighten Russia’s security anxieties, potentially leading to an escalation of tensions in European security. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres recently stated, “The nuclear threat is not confined to history books,” and “nuclear weapons remain a clear and present danger to humanity, once again appearing in the daily rhetoric of international relations.” In this context, NATO’s actions are increasing the threat of nuclear war and presenting a great danger to humanity. In recent years, NATO has consistently intensified its nuclear exercises, citing increased external threats as justification. According to Newsweek, the US has deployed B61 nuclear gravity bombs in Europe as part of NATO’s nuclear sharing arrangements, where the nukes remained under the custody and control of the US military. They would be armed on allied fighter jets in the event of a nuclear conflict. This type of nuclear bomb has a high level of combat readiness, and the US’ move aligns with its ongoing goals to lower the threshold for the use of nuclear weapons. The victim of the current nuclear warfare risks will be not limited to the US, Russia or Europe; it is also causing the world to “break out in a cold sweat.” How to manage and control this nuclear crisis through communication and coordination and to avoid the use of nuclear weapons, especially tactical nuclear weapons, has become a focal point for the international community. Preventing nuclear war is a goal that all countries need to work toward collectively. As a product of Cold War mentality and a tool for bloc confrontation, NATO and its nuclear sharing arrangement has long outlived its relevance and should have been retired with the end of the Cold War. Meanwhile, NATO’s nuclear exercises are pushing the world into a more dangerous situation, warranting the vigilance of all people around the world.

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Attacks on UN peacekeepers

FOLLOWING an incident in which two Israel Defense Forces (IDF) tanks broke through the gate and forcibly entered a UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) peacekeeping base on Sunday, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres issued a statement on the same day, warning, “Attacks against peacekeepers are in breach of international law, including international humanitarian law. They may constitute a war crime.” The Israeli side defended themselves, claiming that to evacuate wounded IDF soldiers, “two tanks reversed in a spot where they couldn’t have gone elsewhere because of the threat of fire.” Since the escalation of clashes between Israel and Lebanon, UNIFIL has come under frequent attacks. Multiple peacekeepers were injured, serving as further evidence that this escalating conflict is impacting regional order and the bottom line of international law. Concerns are growing that the situation in the Middle East will spiral further out of control. Attacks on UN peacekeeping forces must be halted immediately. Peacekeepers are not conventional “forces” but operations authorized by the UN General Assembly or UN Security Council to carry out peacekeeping missions such as monitoring ceasefires, mediating conflicts, protecting civilians, and providing humanitarian aid. These actions are safeguarded by international law and their moral standing is widely respected by the international community. No country has the right to restrict peacekeepers’ freedom of movement within their operational zones, let alone threaten their safety and security. UNIFIL was established under UN Security Council Resolution 425 in 1978 and remains one of the longest-serving peacekeeping missions in the world. Following the conflict between Lebanon and Israel in August 2006, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1701, expanding UNIFIL’s mandate and increasing its personnel to maintain security in southern Lebanon. As of September 2, UNIFIL consists of over 10,000 troops from 50 countries, including 418 from China. UNIFIL’s presence is vital to ensuring the implementation of the diplomatic solution outlined in Resolution 1701, which remains the only viable path to resolve the Israel-Lebanon conflict. The attacks on UNIFIL send a dual warning signal. First, they show that certain countries or forces are challenging international law and the norms of international relations, further exacerbate the already tense situation in the Middle East. Second, these attacks represent a serious disruption to the UN peacekeeping operations in the region, potentially foreshadowing even more dangerous military escalations and raising further concerns within the international community about the future of conflict in the Middle East. We have observed a rapidly forming consensus within the international community regarding the attacks on UNIFIL. France, Italy and Spain issued a joint statement to express their “outrage.” Following this, 40 UN member states that contribute peacekeepers to UNIFIL signed a joint declaration strongly condemning the recent assaults. The international community is united on this issue: The presence of UNIFIL must be respected, and all parties involved in the conflict have an obligation to ensure the safety of its personnel at all times while supporting peace and stability in Lebanon and the broader region.

Drones in Modern Warfare

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The evolution of drones from surveillance tools to active combatants in warfare has been driven by technological advancements and strategic necessities. Initially, drones were used primarily for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) missions. Their ability to gather real-time data from above the battlefield provided invaluable information to military commanders, helping to shape strategy and tactical decision-making. By offering a bird’s-eye view of enemy movements, infrastructure and terrain, drones enhanced the military’s situational awareness and improved overall battlefield management

THE concept of drones as the future of warfare has gained significant attention over the years, as advancements in technology have dramatically reshaped the landscape of military operations. Drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), offer a distinct set of advantages that make them increasingly attractive to military strategists and defense planners. Their lightweight design, high maneuverability and ability to deliver payloads with precision, all while minimizing direct human involvement in combat, highlight their growing importance. These factors have already been observed in several conflicts, with the United States leading the way in utilizing drones extensively in campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq for precision strikes as well as broader military operations. One of the most significant benefits of drones is their ability to operate without placing the lives of their operators at risk. Traditional aerial combat and reconnaissance missions often require manned aircraft, which, despite their advanced capabilities, expose pilots to direct enemy fire and other combat-related dangers. By removing the human element from the aircraft itself, drones ensure that military personnel can conduct missions remotely, often from locations thousands of miles away from the combat zone. This remote operation reduces the likelihood of casualties and allows for more strategic flexibility in decision-making. In addition to reducing risks to human lives, drones are cost-effective compared to traditional manned aircraft. Producing and maintaining manned fighter jets is not only expensive but also time-consuming, requiring extensive resources for both pilot training and aircraft maintenance. In contrast, drones are relatively inexpensive to produce and maintain. Their lightweight design allows for simpler engineering, reducing the need for heavy-duty components, which, in turn, lowers costs. Furthermore, the absence of human pilots allows for more flexibility in terms of fuel usage and operational endurance. Drones also offer greater operational flexibility due to their size and maneuverability. Unlike traditional manned aircraft, which often require large airstrips and specific weather conditions to operate, many drones are designed to take off and land in minimal space and can operate in diverse environmental conditions. This versatility makes drones highly effective in both urban and remote settings, enabling military forces to deploy them in a wide range of missions, including surveillance, reconnaissance, target acquisition and combat strikes. The evolution of drones from surveillance tools to active combatants in warfare has been driven by tech-

nological advancements and strategic necessities. Initially, drones were used primarily for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) missions. Their ability to gather real-time data from above the battlefield provided invaluable information to military commanders, helping to shape strategy and tactical decision-making. By offering a bird’s-eye view of enemy movements, infrastructure and terrain, drones enhanced the military’s situational awareness and improved overall battlefield management. However, drones soon evolved beyond their ISR roles. Advances in weaponization technology allowed drones to carry and deliver a range of payloads, including missiles, bombs and other precision-guided munitions. This capability transformed drones into a critical asset for executing precision strikes. By leveraging GPS-guided weaponry and advanced targeting systems, drones could carry out highly accurate attacks with minimal collateral damage, which is crucial in modern warfare where civilian casualties and infrastructure damage are major concerns. In the United States’ campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq, drones played a pivotal role in counterterrorism and counterinsurgency operations. Drones such as the MQ-1 Predator and the MQ-9 Reaper were utilized to conduct airstrikes against high-value targets, including terrorist leaders and key insurgent positions. The precision of these strikes reduced the need for large-scale ground operations, allowing U.S. forces to neutralize threats while minimizing their physical presence in hostile territories. While the advantages of drones in warfare are clear, their use raises significant ethical and legal questions. One of the most pressing concerns is the potential for civilian casualties. Although drones are designed to carry out precision strikes, there have been instances where drone operations have resulted in unintended deaths and injuries. The complexity of modern battlefields, where combatants often hide among civilian populations, complicates targeting processes and increases the risk of collateral damage. This issue has led to debates over the proportionality and legality of drone strikes, particularly when they are conducted in countries where the United States is not officially at war, such as Pakistan and Yemen. Another ethical dilemma is the relative ease with which drone strikes can be authorized and executed compared to traditional military operations. The remote nature of drone warfare allows decision-makers to initiate strikes with minimal direct oversight, which has raised concerns about the accountability of military and political leaders. Critics argue that the detachment created by remote operations can lead to a “video game” mentality, where the consequences of lethal force may not be fully

considered. Furthermore, the legal status of drone strikes, especially in sovereign nations without formal declarations of war, remains a point of contention in international law. Looking ahead, drones are poised to play an even more significant role in future warfare. Technological innovations continue to expand their capabilities, with advances in artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning and autonomous systems enhancing their operational potential. AI-enabled drones could soon be capable of executing complex missions with minimal human input, making decisions based on real-time data and adjusting to dynamic battlefield conditions. Autonomous drones could operate in swarms, overwhelming enemy defenses through sheer numbers and sophisticated coordination. Moreover, the integration of drones into multi-domain operations, where air, land, sea, space and cyber domains are interconnected, is likely to further elevate their strategic importance. Drones equipped with advanced sensors and communication systems could act as key nodes in a networked battlefield, providing real-time data to military assets across different domains. This interconnectedness would enhance the military’s ability to conduct synchronized operations and improve overall combat effectiveness. As more countries develop their own drone capabilities, the global proliferation of military drones is inevitable. Nations such as China, Russia and Turkey have already made significant strides in drone technology and their use of drones in various conflicts highlights the growing significance of UAVs in global security dynamics. The widespread availability of drones also raises the prospect of non-state actors and terrorist groups acquiring and using drones for their own purposes, adding a new layer of complexity to modern warfare. Drones have revolutionized warfare by providing military forces with a versatile, cost-effective and low-risk tool for conducting a wide range of operations. Their ability to operate remotely, deliver precision strikes and gather real-time intelligence has made them indispensable in modern conflicts. However, the use of drones also raises important ethical and legal challenges, particularly in terms of civilian casualties and the accountability of military leaders. As drone technology continues to evolve, its role in future warfare is likely to expand, with AI and autonomous systems paving the way for even more sophisticated military applications. The global proliferation of drones will further shape the strategic landscape, making it essential for policymakers and military leaders to address the ethical and legal implications of drone warfare while harnessing its full potential for national security.

The SCO summit: some musings

Abdullah Hamid Gul

Government Initiatives and Praise: It is pertinent to appreciate the efforts made by the government of Pakistan and state institutions to prepare for the event and host the SCO Summit. Several measures undertaken to create a conducive environment for productive discussions reflect Pakistan’s desire and its responsibility as the host of the SCO and its active members. Hosting such a credible international event speaks volumes about Pakistan’s management abilities to host and facilitate discourse on pertinent regional and global issues

TODAY, Islamabad asserts its role as the diplomatic hub of South Asia by hosting the SCO Summit, signaling a new chapter in Pakistan’s foreign policy and regional integration efforts. As a crucial member of the SCO, Pakistan spearheads this significant assembly of Asian nations committed to enhancing economic, political, and security cooperation. The presence of leaders from member states, including Russia’s Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin and China’s Premier Li Qiang, underscores Pakistan’s geostrategic significance in facilitating key discussions on trade, security, and cultural exchanges. Pakistan’s diligent preparations have fostered an environment conducive to effective and positive negotiations. By hosting this summit, Pakistan not only reaffirms its strategic importance in the region but also its commitment to regional prosperity. This gathering in Islamabad represents a shift towards deeper integration and connectivity, advocating a unified vision for Asia’s future, with Pakistan playing a central role. **Summit’s Agenda:** The current SCO Summit in Islamabad is carefully focussing on the following key areas: It’s seen as a way to bring people together from different cultures, bring their economies together, or make the region safe. The goal of this year’s summit is to improve business cooperation between member countries. It plans to make the trade interchange’s infrastructure better and look into possible energy projects that could help the area economy reach a whole new level. Another big topic of conversation is security, including ways to fight terrorism, make the area more stable, and make the program of cooperative defence of SCO member states stronger. The summit also wants to improve cultural exchange, which will help people from different countries understand each other better within the SCO and make the organisation stronger as a whole. Good things about this summit, which is attended by heads of state and government as well as other top officials from SCO member countries. This shows that the SCO is an important place to meet in the area. They are also a sign of how important the summit is diplomatically and that Pakistan is ready to host important foreign talks whenever it wants to. The most important leaders in the region need to be at this meeting to support and push for reaching the big goals set at the summit, make sure that the changes that

are being made have the support they need to be successful across the region, and encourage a lot of cooperation. **Pakistan’s Role and Strategic Importance:** Since joining the SCO, Pakistan’s place within this organization has been diplomatic weightage and geopolitical location, making the country an irreplaceable part of the SCO system. It is located in a strategic position and provides a direct link between the South Asian and Central Asian regions for transit and trade. This position makes it possible for Pakistan to improve and play a strategic role in the transit of goods, energy, and people across two vibrant regions as an active member of SCO in developing economic corridors like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. This corridor positively contributes to Pakistan’s economy and gives other SCO member states more direct access to international markets. In diplomacy, Pakistan uses its SCO membership to expand relations with other large neighbors, including China and Russia, and to navigate the tensions between India and the Central Asian republics. Thus, hosting the SCO Pakistan also signals that it is able and willing to take a leading role in regional problems, confirming its role as a mediator and cooperative partner in managing regional issues. It strengthens Pakistan’s diplomacy and shapes other regional policies and cooperation processes that benefit all members within the framework of the SCO. **Government Initiatives and Praise:** It is pertinent to appreciate the efforts made by the government of Pakistan and state institutions to prepare for the event and host the SCO Summit. Several measures undertaken to create a conducive environment for productive discussions reflect Pakistan’s desire and its responsibility as the host of the SCO and its active members. Hosting such a credible international event speaks volumes about Pakistan’s management abilities to host and facilitate discourse on pertinent regional and global issues. With this in view, the government has adopted stringent security and logistical measures to enhance the holding of the summit. Security measures include hiring thousands to ensure the venue and the surroundings are safe. These measures eliminate any security threats that may threaten the dignitaries and the delegates at the summit so that the maximum focus can be achieved on the productive sessions of the summit. Regarding transportation and communication, the govern-

ment has put its best foot forward to manage the influx and movement of international visitors in and around Islamabad. Measures to avoid any hindrances to traffic flow have been observed, and unique pathways have been set aside for traffic flow in the various activities involving the participants. Further, the high-level meetings that will be held at the summit venue will ensure that all modern facilities have modern technology to facilitate the interactions between the leaders and their delegations. **The Future of Regional Cooperation:** The upcoming SCO Summit in Islamabad will undoubtedly drastically impact the further development of cooperation within the organization. It can establish an innovative platform for interstate relations for years ahead. The expected outcome of this summit includes further discussions and decisions aimed at increasing economic cooperation, the development of security cooperation, and cultural interaction in the region. One of the main topics of the summit is a resolution of the essential disturbances affecting the area, including trade restrictions, security risks, and cultural concerns, to create a stable foundation for enhanced Asian connections. As the host of the SCO Summit, Pakistan is very active by providing the right pace to this important event as the Summit is taking place in Islamabad. The opening meetings of the summit have convened leaders and representatives of the states in the region and proved that Pakistan possesses the potential to host significant multilateral talks and negotiations. The execution of this extensive event shows that Pakistan had restored plans for the continual growth of regional interaction and harmony. In the future, the effects of this summit on Pakistan and the region will be more profound. The talks and decisions made here are expected to increase the relations between the SCO member states and advance economic integration and cooperation in the sphere of security and cultural and personal exchanges. For Pakistan, the successful organization of the SCO Summit is not only an upgrade in its recognition at the international level but also a potential for expanding business and economic cooperation and new opportunities for becoming an active member of the diplomatic community. The summit acts as a vehicle for Pakistan to strengthen its participation in the regional economy and to be at the forefront of the efforts to carve the geography of Asia.

Briefs

Pakistan bolsters ties with...

FROM PAGE 01
the positive trajectory of bilateral relations, stressing the need to explore new areas of collaboration in trade, investment, and people-to-people contacts. Japarov also praised Pakistan's hospitality and its successful organisation of the SCO meeting.

PM welcomes state dignitaries...

FROM PAGE 01
the current Chair of the Council of the Heads of Government (CHG), Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will preside over the summit. Right before the SCO dinner, footage from the venue showed PM Shehbaz welcoming and shaking hands with dignitaries, including India's Jaishankar, with whom he held a brief conversation. Jaishankar arrived in Pakistan yesterday—the first such visit in nearly a decade. State-run PTV showed images of Jaishankar being received by the Director General for South Asia at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ilyas Mehmood Nizami, and other Pakistani officials after his plane touched down at the Nur Khan Air-base just before 3:30pm.

Protests spread against alleged...

FROM PAGE 01
However, the students continued their protest today and staged a sit-in in front of the Punjab Assembly on Charing Cross Mall Road amid heavy police presence. Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Defence Shehrbano Naqvi said while speaking to 'Geo Pakistan' hosts on Tuesday that the girl who is being named as alleged victim was hospitalised 10 days prior to the day that is being claimed as the day of the incident. "Her medical reports are available, the record of the hospitals she has been admitted to are also available, and information about the way she fell while getting ready for school at her own house is also available," the officer said. The ASP noted that two girls in the college had the same names, one of them was completely fine, while the other one was the girl admitted to hospital.

No evidence of any ghastly...

FROM PAGE 01
ready for school. The girl's father also confirmed that she suffered injury at home. There is no complainant, against whom police take action? ASP Naqvi said. "If anyone has evidence" come forward so that the police can take action." ASP Naqvi said the girl's medical reports were available. "The record of the hospital she has been admitted to is also available." She asked students who are spreading such messages to share evidence, so that police take action.

Lawyers threaten nationwide..

FROM PAGE 01
prevent any changes. "We will not allow these amendments to happen. The government's unconstitutional tactics will be met with resistance," he stated, adding that the creation of a constitutional court would divide the judiciary. "We will fight to the end against such amendments." Asad Manzoor Butt, President of Lahore High Court Bar, criticised the government's plans to establish constitutional courts at both federal and provincial levels, and also condemned extending the age limit of the Chief Justice of Pakistan. "The entire legal fraternity is ready for a nationwide movement," Butt warned.

England Test: Pakistan at 259/5 at end of day 1

Debutant Kamran Ghulam smashes ton to steady Pakistan's innings after hosts opted to bat first

DNA

MULTAN: Debutant Kamran Ghulam, who came in as replacement of Babar Azam, scored a century on day 1 and stabilised Pakistan's innings alongside Saim Ayub (77) as the hosts looking to comeback in the second Test against England at Multan Cricket Stadium. Pakistan scored 259/5 at the conclusion of Day 1 play with Mohammad Rizwan and Salman Ali Agha on the crease to drive the team's innings after they opted to bat first after winning the toss. Kamran completed his century off 192 balls containing nine fours and one six. He became the 13th Pakistani batter who smashed a ton on his debut followed by Javed Miandad, Saleem Malik, Muhammad Waseem, Ali Naqvi, Azhar Mahmood, Younis Khan, Taufeeq Umar, whereas, Yasir Hameed was the only batter who scored a ton in both innings. Additionally, Fawad Alam, Umar Akmal, and Abid Ali were among the batters who slammed a ton during their debut test matches. Subsequently, he also became the 2nd Pakistani to score a century debut while batting at number 4. The only other Pakistani to score a debut century at 4 was Malik in 1982. There are only 5 batsmen in Test history who made their debut at 4 and scored centuries. The last one to reach three fig-



ures on such an occasion was Aminul Islam of Bangladesh in 2000. Nawab Pataudi senior 1932, Gundappa Viswanath 1969, Frank Hayes 1973 and Malik in 1982 are others in history to do so. Kamran's top innings was concluded at 118 after he was bowled out by Shoaib Bashir. Salman came in after Kamran's departure and continued the innings with Mohammad Rizwan (37*) besides scoring 5 runs till the conclusion of today's play. Earlier, Pakistan captain Masood won the toss but was soon ruing his decision to bat first as the hosts slumped to 19-2 inside

40 minutes. After five overs of seam bowling, England captain Ben Stokes opted for spin from both ends and the decision paid off immediately. Jack Leach beat Abdullah Shafique's tentative prod and uprooted the off-stump to dismiss the opener for seven. In his next over the left-arm spinner dismissed Shan for three, getting the Pakistan skipper to flick a delivery from outside the off-stump into the hand of Zak Crawley at short mid-wicket. With Pakistan in trouble, Kamran walked in for his first test but the right-hander showed no nerves as he

stepped out against Leach hitting the spinner over his head for a big six. The duo returned after the lunch break to consolidate Pakistan's position and Kamran took a single off Shoaib Bashir to bring up his maiden test fifty. Keen to break the stand, Stokes brought himself on and proved quite a handful with his swing and awkward bounce though a wicket eluded the seamer. Stokes maintained an attacking field, however, and Saim eventually fell into the trap, pushing a ball from Matthew Potts straight into the hand of the England captain at short mid-off. Saim's 77 contained seven fours. England were bolstered by the return of Stokes, who missed their comprehensive victory in the opening test at the same venue to complete his recovery from a hamstring injury. Stung by the innings defeat, Pakistan have dropped out-of-form batter Azam and frontline pacers Shaheen Afridi and Naseem Shah.

Pakistan Playing XI: Saim Ayub, Abdullah Shafique, Shan Masood (captain), Kamran Ghulam, Saud Shakeel (vice-captain), Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Salman Ali Agha, Aamir Jamal, Noman Ali, Sajid Khan and Zahid Mehmood.

England Playing XI: Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (captain), Jamie Smith (wk), Brydon Carse, Matt Potts, Jack Leach and Shoaib Bashir.

Fighting racism in Spain is my lifelong mission: Williams

'My brother and I, as black people, have an important task in this life, which is fight against racism,' Brazilian footballer says

FOREIGN DESK

MADRID: Spain forward Nico Williams said fighting racism was his life goal following multiple incidents of racist abuse against Black players in the country, including himself, and Real Madrid's Vinicius Jr. The Athletic Bilbao forward suffered racist abuse at Atletico Madrid last season, leading the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) to order a partial closure of Atletico's south stand for two matches. Clubs and players alike have been outspoken about the issue with Brazilian Vinicius saying in September that Spain should be stripped of its 2030 World Cup hosting duties unless significant progress is made in addressing the issue of racism in the country. "My



brother (Bilbao and Ghana forward Inaki Williams) and I, as black people, have an important task in this life, which is the fight against racism," Williams said in an interview with Spanish daily El Mundo. "It's my number one goal. As a public figure, in order to contribute to that fight, I

cannot be sidetracked or become a freak and not have my feet on the ground." The rise in racist abuse has sparked numerous anti-racism efforts by the RFEF and LaLiga. In June, the Magistrate's Court of Valencia made history by issuing the first conviction for racist insults in a soccer stadium in Spain.

Last month, a Mallorca fan was issued a 12-month suspended prison sentence for racially insulting Vinicius and Villarreal's Samuel Chukwueze. A minor who racially insulted Real Madrid's Aurelien Tchouameni was banned from stadiums for one year and made to pay a fine. In April, Spanish TV station Movistar Plus+ fired analyst German Burgos after his comments about Barcelona's Lamine Yamal, which was interpreted as racist. "I think that Spain is moving forward on the right path and we must continue like this. I am very happy to see that progress is being made," the 22-year-old added. "There are always people who try to sell another image of immigrants, but they are a minority."

Eidevall resigns as Arsenal head coach

WEB DESK

LONDON: The north London club sit sixth in the Women's Super League (WSL) after winning just one of their opening four games of the 2024-25 season. Assistant coach Renee Slegers will take charge on an interim basis. "We thank Jonas for his commitment to the club and achievements here since joining us in 2021," sporting director Edu said. "We have great respect for the dedication and commitment he showed to our women's first team and recognise the role he has played in the growth and development of Arsenal Women." Eidevall signed a new three-year contract with the club last October after consecutive top-three finishes in the WSL, while also winning the Women's League Cup in the past two seasons. Arsenal failed to win any of their last three games under the Swede, drawing one and losing two. They suffered a heavy 5-2 defeat at Bayern Munich in the Champions League on Wednesday, before slipping to a 2-1 loss at home to Chelsea three days later. "Our focus will now turn to the process of appointing a new head coach, and in the meantime, supporting Renee (Slegers), as she takes interim charge of the team starting with two important fixtures this week," Edu added. Slegers' first match comes on Wednesday when Norwegian club Valerenga visit in the Champions League. Arsenal then make the short trip to London rivals West Ham, who are 11th and yet to win in the WSL this season. "Jonas has brought us back-to-back trophies in the last two seasons, together with many memorable moments on the pitch," director of women's football Clare Wheatley said. "We have full confidence in Renee to take responsibility for the team in the interim period." "It's really sad" - Wiegman on Eidevall resigning as Arsenal head coach Eidevall arrived at Arsenal from Rosengard after leading the Swedish club to the quarter-finals of the Women's Champions League in 2020-21.

BCB suspends Hathurusingha as head coach

Phil Simmons will be taking charge as interim coach till 2025 Champions Trophy

DHAKA: The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) suspended head coach Chandika Hathurusingha on disciplinary grounds. Insiders reveal that Phil Simmons will be taking the charge as the interim coach till the 2025 Champions Trophy scheduled to be held in February. It is worth noting that the former Sri Lankan player has been suspended for 48 hours and is to be terminated immediately. Previously in February 2023, Hathurusingha returned for his second stint as Bangladesh coach. In regard to his reappointment last year, the former captains, including BCB president Faruque Ahmed were against this decision. Considering his contributions to the Bangladesh cricket team, the Tigers gave an underwhelming performance in the last year's One Day International (ODI) World Cup and T20 World Cup of 2024, which was co-hosted by the Caribbean and the USA. His biggest achievement was the Test series between Bangladesh and Pakistan. In this series, Bangladesh achieved a 2-0 series win against the Men in Green. - Agencies

European leagues, players' union lash out at calendar

LaLiga president Javier Tebas accuses FIFA of 'acting solely in its own interest'

LONDON: A players' union, the European leagues' group and Spain's LaLiga accused FIFA of "abuse" on Monday as they filed a joint complaint about the governing body's international match schedule to European Union antitrust regulators. Elite clubs are concerned at the impact of an expanding football calendar on wellbeing, with some players struggling from fatigue, injuries and the mental toll even though they are often compensated with enormous salaries. "The complaint explains how FIFA's imposition of decisions on the international calendar is an abuse of dominance and violates

European Union law," complainants FIFPRO Europe, European Leagues and LaLiga said in a statement. European Leagues is an association that includes the Premier League, the Bundesliga, Serie A and Ligue 1 but not LaLiga. A particular bone of contention is the Club World Cup, which has been revamped for next year, with an increase from seven to 32 clubs, and is to take place in the U.S. for almost a month. As well as adding matches, that could delay clubs' pre-season tours designed to expand global fan bases. "It is getting to a tipping point. The feedback we have from players is that there

is too much football being played and there is constant expansion," Premier League CEO Richard Masters said in the complainants' statement. LaLiga president Javier Tebas accused FIFA of "acting solely in its own interest, without considering the damage to the entire football ecosystem." French captain Kylian Mbappe, in a video aired at the three bodies' news conference, said: "When it's too much, it's too much." FIFA, however, argues that the international calendar was approved by representatives of all continents including Europe after consultation with FIFPRO and leagues. - Agencies

Leweling goal secures 1-0 win over Dutch

'The first half was exceptionally good,' Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann says

WEB DESK

BERLIN: Germany booked a place in the Nations League quarter-finals on Monday after midfielder Jamie Leweling enjoyed a dream international debut by scoring the winner in a hard-fought 1-0 home success over the Netherlands in Group A3. The 23-year-old Leweling, one of two Germany debutants, had the ball in the net in the second minute but his effort was ruled offside. He did score in the 64th though, firing into the top corner after the Dutch failed to properly clear a corner. Germany are top on 10 points from four matches and guaranteed a place in the last eight, with the Dutch five points behind in second ahead of Hungary on goal difference. Bosnia are bottom with one point after losing 2-0 to the Hungarians. "The first half was exceptionally good," said Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann. "After the break they switched

things around and we did not defend as well. "But we fully deserved the win. We now want to win the remaining matches. We want to have continuity when it

comes to the results." The Germans had the visitors on the back foot from the start and apart from Leweling's goal they had more chances to score

through Tim Kleindienst and Maximilian Mittelstaedt as Ronald Koeman's team struggled to find a way into the game. The hosts kept the pressure up



after the break and again came close through Serge Gnabry in the 54th before Leweling drilled in the winner. The Dutch were anonymous for most of the game but almost scored with their first chance when Xavi Simons' shot bounced off the bar in the 77th just minutes before Mittelstaedt saw his own deflected effort sail narrowly wide of the post.

"I am not satisfied by our performance," Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman said. "The Germans were the better, faster and physically stronger. They created more chances. "We lost too many balls in the midfield. We went too far back, that was not the plan. The plan was to put pressure forward on the right side. But it did not happen," he added. Like Leweling, it was another Germany newcomer, 34-year-old keeper Oliver Baumann, who made an impact when he preserved their lead in the 90th minute, superbly punching a powerful Doneyl Malen shot wide.

Medical reports to be available soon: Gohar

FROM PAGE 01

Imran at Adiala jail after the PTI complained that its incarcerated leader was facing health-related issues. Previously, Gohar had said that since October 3, no lawyer, family member or party leader had been allowed to meet Imran despite his being ill. He added that the PTI had applied to the interior ministry to allow a party leader, family member, or health professional to meet the founding chairman. Speaking to media Gohar said that "government doctors, along with medical specialists and an ENT specialist (otolaryngologist), had arrived at the jail." He later said in a post on X the two doctors met Imran at 4pm. "We were informed a while ago that thank God, Khan sahib is in good health and had exercised for an hour today. We shall get medical reports from them soon and I will share with you," Gohar said.

Assembly, Senate sessions...

FROM PAGE 01

According to sources, over 20 clauses are expected to be included in the proposed changes, affecting various key articles in Pakistan's Constitution, including Articles 51, 63, 175, and 187. The constitutional amendments include increasing representation for Balochistan in the provincial assembly. The proposal aims to raise the number of seats in the Balochistan Assembly from 65 to 81, a move intended to ensure better representation of the province in legislative matters. Another constitutional amendment, Article 63, deals with the disqualification of members of Parliament, and will also undergo significant changes. These changes include provisions regarding the voting behaviour of defecting members of the assembly.

'Opposition to reforms based on...

FROM PAGE 01

last month, as its allies as well as members from the opposition benches vehemently opposed the proposal, forcing the administration to begin a consultation process. Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, who is a key player in influencing the passing of the bill in parliament, on October 11 showed a willingness to support the government's "constitutional package" with "ifs and buts", while stressing the need for building consensus among all political forces. On the other hand, PTI has also raised objections to the constitutional package, which among other things includes the establishment of the constitutional court.

60th anniversary of Pak...

FROM PAGE 01

enhancing bilateral relations for the mutual benefit of their peoples. A significant framework supporting this partnership is the Bilateral Political Consultation, which facilitates dialogue and collaboration across various sectors. Both nations have also worked together on international platforms, such as the United Nations, further strengthening their ties. To mark this momentous occasion, the Foreign Ministers of Pakistan and Romania exchanged congratulatory messages, reaffirming their commitment to expanding bilateral cooperation.

PM Shehbaz, Jaishankar...

FROM PAGE 01

the 23rd meeting of the SCO's Council of Heads of Government (CHG) with stringent security measures are in place to ensure the event proceeds smoothly. Indian FM's plane landed just before 3:30pm at an airbase near the capital Islamabad, a foreign office official said, as TV footage showed him receiving a bouquet of flowers from children.

Briefs

Rupee sheds 08 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Tuesday depreciated by 08 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.74 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.66. 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 42 paise to close at Rs303.04 against the last day's closing of Rs303.46, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen went up by 01 paise and closed at Rs1.86, whereas an increase of 42 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs363.21 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs362.79. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal increased by 02 paise and 03 paise to close at Rs75.61 and Rs73.97 respectively.—APP

PSX turns around to bullish trend, gains 578 points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 578.96 points, a positive change of 0.68 percent, closing at 85,840.34 points against 85,261.39 points on the last trading day. A total of 422,107,359 shares were traded during the day as compared to 477,642,675 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 24.467 billion against Rs. 23.474 billion on the last trading day. As many as 443 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 202 of them recorded gains and 174 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 67 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were PTCL with 37,868,367 shares at Rs 15.73 per share, Hub Power Company XD with 33,284,625 shares at Rs 98.83 per share and Kohinoor Spinning with 22,458,138 shares at Rs 7.59 per share. Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 126.95 per share price, closing at Rs 17,477.45, whereas the runner-up was Reliance Pakistan Engineering Company Limited with Rs 75.64 rise in its per share price to Rs 876.30. Hallmark Company Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 98.34 per share closing at Rs 885.06 followed by Sapphire Fibres Limited with Rs 93.20 decline to close at Rs 1,255.65.—APP

EU high representative reaffirms 'immense value' of strategic partnership with Morocco

LUXEMBOURG: The EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Vice-President of the European Commission, Josep Borrell reaffirmed the Immense value that the EU places on its strategic Partnership with Morocco. "The 27 member states wish to deepen the long-range, long-term dense and in-depth partnership between Morocco and the EU," said the EU High Representative, who was presenting the conclusion of the EU foreign Affairs Council, held in Luxembourg, at a press conference. "We have established friendly relations and multifaceted cooperation with Morocco, which we wish to pursue and strengthen in the coming months "he undermined, adding that the EU foreign Ministers had taken note of the ECJ rulings on the EU-Morocco fisheries and agricultural agreements. In this respect, the EU Head of Diplomacy reiterated the content of the joint declaration with the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, which reaffirmed the European bloc's commitment to further preserving and strengthening close relations with Morocco in all areas, in line with the "pacta sunt servanda" principle.—APP

Cadets of Pak Naval Academy shine at Sailing Regatta in Brazil

DNA

KARACHI: The Cadets of Pakistan Naval Academy (PNA) Sailing team achieved a historic feat by securing Silver medal and overall second position in 79th International Naval Academy Sailing Competition held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. A total of nine teams competed from around the world in J24 Boat category, a Pakistan Navy news release said. The participating teams included Cadets from Naval Academies of Pakistan, Brazil, China, Italy, Portugal, Argentina, Colombia, Peru and India. Speaking on the occasion, the PNA team captain dedicated the victory to the quality training of Pakistan Naval Academy. After securing first position during International Sailing Championship in Sri Lanka earlier in August this year, this is consecutive second extraordinary performance at international level during last three months by cadets of PNA. The Chief of the Naval Staff congratulated the victorious team of PNA. He also lauded the efforts of PNA faculty and instructors for their back to back performances at international stage.



North Korea blows up roads connecting it to the South

PYONGYANG: North Korea blew up sections of the deeply symbolic roads connecting it to the South on Tuesday, Seoul's military said, adding it had conducted a "counter-fire" operation in response. Pyongyang's military last week vowed to permanently seal its southern border after spending months laying mines and building anti-tank barriers in the wake of leader Kim Jong Un declaring the South his country's "principal enemy". The North also accused Seoul of using drones to drop anti-regime propaganda leaflets on the capital Pyongyang, with Kim convening a security meeting to direct a plan of "immediate military action" in response, state media reported on Tuesday. "North Korea has detonated parts of the Gyeongui and Donghae roads north of the Military Demarcation Line," the Joint Chiefs of Staff said on Tuesday, referring to inter-Korean infrastructure that once connected the two countries. "There has been no damage to our military, and our forces conducted counter-fire in areas south of the MDL," it added. The roads have long been shuttered, but destroying them sends a clear message that Kim is not prepared to negotiate with the South, experts said. "This is a practical military measure related to the hostile dual-state system that North Korea has frequently mentioned," Yang Moo-jin, president of the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul, told AFP. The North may also be looking to erect more physical barriers along the border, Yang said, adding that the road detonations could be "preparatory work." South Korea's military released video footage showing North Korean soldiers in military uniforms ahead of a huge explosion, which emitted thick billowing smoke as it blew up sections of the Gyeongui road. More footage, apparently from after the blasts, showed excavators digging, while soldiers worked as large red trucks arrived. The Seoul military also released separate footage showing North Korea blowing up a section of the Donghae road, on the east coast. South Korea's unification ministry slammed the North for what it called an "extremely abnormal" provocation, adding that Seoul had shouldered millions in costs for building the infrastructure. North Korea still has repayment obligations regarding this funding," it added. China, a traditional ally of the North, called on all parties "to avoid further escalation of conflicts" on the peninsula, a foreign ministry spokesperson said. Seoul's military initially denied sending drones north but has subsequently declined to comment, even as Pyongyang has blamed them directly, warning it would consider it "a declaration of war" if another drone was detected. Later on Tuesday, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un released a statement, saying Pyongyang has secured "clear evidence" that the South Korean military was behind the drones that reached Pyongyang. "The provocateurs will have to pay a dear price," Kim Yo Jong said. Activist groups in the South have long sent propaganda northwards, typically carried by balloons, but enthusiasts are also known to have flown small, hard-to-detect drones into the North. Unlike conventional drones made of metal, the devices they used were constructed from expanded polypropylene, similar to Styrofoam, allowing them to go undetected by both South and North Korean authorities, according to enthusiasts who spoke to local media.—Agencies

Second phase of Gaza polio campaign starts well despite Israeli strikes: WHO

GENEVA: The World Health Organization said on Tuesday it had been able to start its polio campaign in central Gaza and vaccinate tens of thousands of children despite Israeli strikes in the designated protected zone hours before. As part of an agreement between the Israeli military and Palestinian militant group Hamas, humanitarian pauses in the year-long Gaza war had begun to begin early on Monday to reach hundreds of thousands of children. However, hours before then, the UN humanitarian office said Israeli forces struck tents near al Aqsa hospital, inside in the zone, where it said four people were burned to death. The UN Palestinian refugee agency UNRWA said one of its schools in the central Gaza city of Nuseirat, intended as a vaccination site, was hit overnight between Sunday and Monday, killing up to 22 people. WHO spokesperson Tarik Jašarević told a Geneva press briefing that over 92,000 children, or around half of the children targeted for polio vaccines in the central area, had been inoculated on Monday. "What we have received from colleagues is that the vaccination went without a major issue yesterday, and we hope it will continue the same way," he said. Other humanitarian agencies have previously voiced concerns about the viability of the polio campaign in northern Gaza, where an Israeli offensive is under way. Aid groups carried out an initial round of vaccinations last month, after a baby was partially paralyzed by the type 2 polio virus in August, in the first such case in the territory in 25 years.—APP

Mass displacement in Lebanon war revives spectre of sectarian strife

BEIRUT: Marjayoun, a majority Christian town in southern Lebanon, opened its schools and a church last month to house scores of people fleeing Israel's bombardment of Muslim villages, extending a hand across the country's sectarian divide. Some residents were uneasy, worried that those seeking refuge could include people linked to Hezbollah, the Shiite Muslim militia and political party at war with Israel, seven of them told Reuters. But they wanted to uphold local customs of good neighborliness and they knew that those fleeing the widening Israeli offensive had nowhere to go. Marjayoun had been spared the brunt of Israel's attacks on Hezbollah during the past year. But residents soon felt that war had arrived. On Oct. 6, two locals — a teacher and a police officer — were killed on Marjayoun's outskirts by Israeli drone strikes targeting a Shiite man on a motorbike, according to two security sources and local residents. The Israeli military did not respond to a request for comment. Later that day, a displaced man who sought to shelter in Marjayoun's bishopric fired a gun in the air and threatened staff after he was asked to move to a different location, according to three residents and Philip Okla, the priest

of Marjayoun's Orthodox Church. "You can't invite fire to your home," said Okla, told Reuters, speaking via phone from the town, expressing the fears of some residents that the displaced people would attract violence. Following calls from locals for them to leave, dozens of displaced people departed the village, along with many of the town's terrified inhabitants, according to Okla and six residents, who asked not to be identified. Lebanon's population is a mosaic of more than a dozen religious sects, with political representation divided along sectarian lines. Religious divisions fueled the ferocity of a brutal 1975-1990 civil war, which left some 150,000 people dead and drew in neighboring states. Reuters spoke to more than a dozen lawmakers, politicians, residents and analysts who said that Israel's military offensive across Shiite-majority areas of Lebanon, which has displaced more than a million people into Sunni and Christian areas, has brought sectarian tensions to the fore, posing a threat to Lebanon's stability. The antipathy is being fueled by repeated Israeli attacks on buildings housing displaced families, giving rise to concerns that hosting them can make you a target, the sources said. "Now, barriers are going up

and fears are rising because no-one knows where we are going," said Okla, who expressed regret for the increasing hostility. Lebanese militias linked to religious groups fought a 15-year civil war. The conflict ended with the disarmament of all save Hezbollah, which kept its weapons to resist Israel's ongoing occupation of the south. Israel withdrew in 2000 but Hezbollah retained its arms. It fought a border war against Israel in 2006 and turned its weapons on political opponents inside Lebanon in 2008 in street battles that cemented its ascendancy. A UN-backed court convicted Hezbollah members for the 2005 assassination of Sunni Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and opponents blame it for a string of other assassinations of mostly Christian and Sunni politicians. It has always denied responsibility for any of them. With support from Iran, Hezbollah grew into a regional force, fighting in Syria to help quash an uprising against President Bashar Assad, while maintaining effective veto power over decision-making inside Lebanon, including over the presidency, which is reserved for a Maronite Christian by convention. With Hezbollah's Shiite support base reeling from Israel's blows, Lebanon's leaders — including

caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati, a Sunni Muslim businessman — have stressed the importance of maintaining "civil peace." Even Hezbollah's rivals, including the Christian Lebanese Forces party, have largely complied by moderating their political rhetoric and urging supporters not to stoke tensions. But on the ground, those tensions are real, including around schools that have welcomed displaced people in Beirut. Members of Hezbollah-allied parties have seized control of who comes and goes and what enters some of those institutions, according to several residents. Main thoroughfares clogged only during rush hour are now lined day and night with cars belonging to people who fled Israeli bombing, straining the city's already-crumbling infrastructure. In the Christian Beirut suburb of Boutchay, aggravated residents on Friday stopped a truck from unloading a container into a depot rented to someone from outside the area, suspecting it might contain Hezbollah weapons, mayor Michel Khoury said. "There is tension. Everyone is scared today," Khoury said, adding that the vehicle was turned away without being searched. Druze lawmaker Wael Abu Faour said politicians from all sides needed

to work to preserve national unity. "Beirut could explode because of the displaced, because of the friction, because of the disputes over properties — because the South, the Bekaa and the suburbs are all in Beirut," he said. Lebanon was already reeling from the August 2020 Beirut port blast and a half-decade economic crisis — which has impoverished hundreds of thousands — when Hezbollah opened a second front against Israel the day after the Oct. 7 Hamas attack. Asked about the risks of sectarian tensions, United Nations refugee chief Filippo Grandi told Reuters that Lebanon is a "fragile country." "Any shock, and this is a major shock, can really make the country backtrack... and can cause big problems," Grandi said. The displacement crisis also presents a challenge for Hezbollah, which has long prided itself on providing for its community but now faces escalating needs and a lacklustre response from a near-bankrupt state. A Lebanese official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive matter, told Reuters Hezbollah's softening stance on a Lebanon ceasefire was in part driven by the pressure created by the mass displacement. Hezbollah did not respond to a request for comment.—APP

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US, Philippines launch war games a day after China's Taiwan drills

MANILA: Thousands of US and Filipino marines launched 10 days of joint exercises in the northern and western Philippines on Tuesday, a day after China held huge drills around Taiwan. The annual Kamandag, or Venom, exercises are focused on defending the north coast of the Philippine's main island of Luzon, which lies about 800 kilometers from self-ruled Taiwan. Beijing considers Taiwan part of its territory and has vowed it will never rule out using force to take it, calling Monday's drills a "stern warning" to "separatist" forces on the island. The joint US-Filipino exercises come amid a series of escalating confrontations between China and the Philippines over reefs and waters in the South China Sea, which Beijing claims almost in its entirety. Philippine Marine Corps commandant Maj. Gen. Arturo Rojas stressed at Tuesday's opening ceremony in Manila that Kamandag was long planned and had "nothing to do with whatever is happening in the region." The drills' primary focus will be live-fire exercises along Luzon's north coast, while other activities will be conducted on tiny Philippine islands between Luzon and Taiwan. "It's a coastal defense doctrine. The doctrine says that a would-be aggressor might be directed toward our territory," Filipino exercise director Brig.-General Vicente Blanco told reporters. "We are not exercising to join the fight (over Taiwan)," he added. US Marines representative Col. Stuart Glenn said the exercises were aimed at helping the United States and its allies respond to "any crisis or contingencies." The western Philippine island of Palawan, facing the disputed South China Sea, will also host part of the drills. The US and Philippines are fielding just over a thousand participants each, while smaller numbers of Australian, British, Japanese and South Korean forces are also taking part. An amphibious landing and training on how to defend against chemical and biological warfare were also among the activities planned, according to a press kit. As the war games began Tuesday, the Philippine government announced that one of its civilian patrol vessels had sustained minor damage on October 11 when it was "deliberately sideswiped" by a "Chinese Maritime Militia" vessel. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources said the collision, which dented the front right section of the BRP Datu Cabaylo, took place about 9.3 kilometers (5.8 miles) from Thitu, a Philippine-garrisoned island in the Spratly group. The crew were unhurt and later sailed the vessel to Thitu and completed their routine maritime patrol mission, the statement said. Beijing has for years sought to expand its presence in contested areas of the sea, brushing aside an international ruling that its claim to most of the waterway has no legal basis. China has deployed military and coast guard vessels in recent months in a bid to eject the Philippines from a trio of other strategically important reefs and islands in the South China Sea.—APP

Russian strike kills one, wounds 16 in south Ukraine

KYIV: A Russian missile strike overnight killed a woman and wounded 16 people in Mykolaiv in southern Ukraine, where Moscow has ramped up aerial attacks, authorities said Tuesday. Images distributed by first responders showed several buildings engulfed in flames and firefighters working to extinguish the blaze. "Last night the enemy attacked Mykolaiv. A woman was killed," emergency services said, adding that 16 people were injured. Mykolaiv had an estimated pre-war population of just under half a million people and was subjected to heavy bombardment when Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. Ukrainian forces pushed back Russian troops from the region in the autumn of 2022. However Russian forces have continued to strike the riverside town near the Black Sea coast and over recent weeks stepped up fatal aerial attacks on the nearby port city of Odesa, damaging civilian vessels and port facilities. The Ukrainian air force meanwhile said it had downed 12 out of 17 Iranian-designed attack drones launched by Russia at Ukraine overnight, including over the Mykolaiv region.—APP

Chinese investment to boost sanitary ware manufacturing in Punjab

LAHORE :In a significant development for Pakistan's industrial sector, Modern Ceramics Sanitary Ware (Pvt) Limited, a leading Chinese company, is set to invest over Rs8 billion in Punjab. The development emerged during a high-level meeting between the company's delegation and Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT) leadership here on Monday. PBIT Chairman Muntaha Ashraf, and CEO, Suhail Saleem, BoD Member Ahmad Ali Tariq met with representatives from Modern Ceramics to discuss the company's ambitious plan to establish a cutting-edge manufacturing facility in the Allama Iqbal Industrial City (AIIIC). This new facility is poised to not only meet the growing local demand for sanitary ware but also position Pakistan as an exporter of premium sanitary products to key markets across the Middle East, Africa, and beyond. The investment is expected to generate over 500 jobs, contributing to local economic growth, while playing a vital role in import substitution. By reducing dependence on imported sanitary ware, Pakistan will also save millions in foreign exchange, strengthening its trade balance. The Chairman PBIT reassured the delegation of comprehensive support, highlighting PBIT's commitment to facilitating the smooth establishment of the production unit through its dedicated facilitation wing. This move marks a significant step towards boosting Punjab's industrial capacity and enhancing Pakistan's standing in global export markets.—DNA

Russian man survives two months adrift on dinghy

MOSCOW: A Russian man was found alive after drifting for two months on an inflatable boat while another man and a teenage boy died, prosecutors said Tuesday. The two men and a 15-year-old set off to the Island of Sakhalin from the far eastern Khabarovsk region on August 9, transport prosecutors said. "After a time, communication with them was lost, their boat's location remained unknown," they said. "On October 14 around 10:00 pm, the boat was discovered as it passed a fishing boat.. Two people died, one remained alive, he is receiving medical help," prosecutors said. The dinghy was found in the Sea of Okhotsk, around 1,000 kilometers from its starting point. Prosecutors published a video showing the bearded survivor in a life jacket shouting at the fisherman.—APP

Briefs

Taliban-run media stops showing images of living beings

WEB DESK

KABUL: Taliban run-media have stopped showing images of living beings in some Afghan provinces to comply with morality laws, an official confirmed Tuesday. In August, the country's Vice and Virtue Ministry published laws regulating aspects of everyday life like public transportation, shaving, the media and celebrations reflecting authorities' interpretation of Islamic law, or Sharia. Article 17 bans the publication of images of living beings, sparking concerns about the consequences for Afghan media and press freedom. A spokesman for the Vice and Virtue Ministry, Saif ul Islam Khyber, said government media in the provinces of Takhar, Maidan Wardak and Kandahar have been advised not to air or show images of anything with a soul — meaning people and animals. Khyber said a day earlier that the ministry was responsible for implementing the morality laws. He did not clarify if the rules affected all media, including foreign outlets, or only Afghan channels and websites. Nor did he say how the laws would be enforced or if there was a deadline for compliance. No other Muslim-majority country imposes similar restrictions, including Iran. During their previous rule in the late 1990s, the Taliban banned most television, radio and newspapers altogether.

Balochistan government unveils security plan

DNA

QUETTA: The Balochistan government has developed a security plan to maintain law and order on national highways. Official sources indicated that law enforcement agencies would increase their patrolling across the province. Enhanced security would include the presence of police, Balochistan Constabulary, Levies, and FC personnel. Sources also reported that the checking mechanisms along the routes from Quetta to Karachi, Sibi, and Loralai have been revised to improve safety and security.

Govt not interested in solving problems

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Adviser Barrister Saif said on Tuesday that the federal government was not interested in solving problems faced by the people. In a statement, Saif said that the recently-held "All Pakhtun Jirga" in Jamrud was organised and concluded peacefully under the 'sincere leadership' of KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur. He claimed that the KP CM helped reach an agreement among all the participants while blaming the federal government of spreading anarchy. He lauded the KP CM for steering the province as well as whole country out of a crises, adding that CM Gandapur believed in politics of dialogue instead of confrontation.

MBS in Egypt to meet Sisi

RIYADH: The Saudi Royal Court announced on Tuesday that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman arrived in Egypt. During his visit, the Prince Mohammed will hold talks with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, who received the crown prince on arrival. The discussions will center on enhancing bilateral relations between Saudi Arabia and Egypt, as well as addressing key issues of mutual concern. — Agencies

Pakistan, Belarus discuss security and defence coop

Belarus PM Praises Pakistan Armed Forces for Regional Peace Efforts

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: His Excellency Roman Golovchenko, Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus, met General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), in Islamabad. During the meeting, discussions were held on regional dynamics and the enhancement of bilateral security and defence cooperation between the two nations. COAS reaffirmed Pakistan's appreciation for Belarus's contributions to global and regional affairs and expressed the desire to further strengthen the military partnership between both countries. Prime Minister Golovchenko commended the Pakistan Armed Forces for their pivotal role in promoting regional peace and stability, and acknowledged their professionalism and sacrifices in the fight against terrorism.



Chinese PM assures support for Pakistan's sovereignty

Asif Ali Zardari said the time is ripe to fully leverage China's economic growth, particularly through the opportunities presented by CPEC and the Gwadar Port

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have reaffirmed their commitment to further deepen strategic cooperation across key areas, including the economy, investment and regional connectivity. This was discussed during a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and the visiting Chinese Premier Li Qiang in Islamabad today. Both sides also emphasized the need to expedite the implementation of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects. Welcoming the delegation, the President emphasized that Pakistan's friendship with its all-weather partner remains a cornerstone of the country's foreign policy. He stressed the importance of exploring new avenues for cooperation as there is more space to expand bilateral relations. He also underscored the need to enhance connectivity through all-weather road networks to strengthen trade and people-to-people linkages. He said Chinese companies should benefit from the investment opportunities in Pakistan by investing in the Pakistan Stock Exchange. Asif Ali Zardari said the time is ripe to fully leverage China's economic growth, particularly through the opportunities presented by CPEC and the Gwadar Port. He said he will be visiting China in November and looks forward to reconnecting with old friends and engaging in discussions to further strengthen bilateral ties. Reflecting on his previous visits to China during his earlier tenure, he noted Pakistan has consistently enjoyed China's unwavering support on key issues of mutual importance. The President also expressed his heartfelt condolences over the tragic loss of two Chinese nationals in a terrorist attack,

stating that the heart-breaking incident deeply grieved the entire nation. He emphasized that the enemies of the Pakistan-China friendship are trying to undermine bilateral relations by targeting Chinese nationals and attempting to disrupt CPEC projects. He added that such malicious efforts would not succeed. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to tracking down the perpetrators and ensuring they receive exemplary punishment. He assured the Chinese Premier that Pakistan would take all necessary measures to enhance the security of Chinese nationals working in the country. President Asif Ali Zardari appreciated China's support to Pakistan on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. He reiterated Pakistan's support to China on all its core issues, including the "One China" policy, Taiwan, Tibet, Hong Kong, Xinjiang, and the South China Sea. Speaking on the occasion, Premier Li Qiang reaffirmed that Pakistan and China are good brothers, neighbours, partners, and friends. He emphasized that Pak-China strategic cooperation would continue to deepen under the leadership of President Xi Jinping. He acknowledged the contributions of President Asif Ali Zardari in promoting stronger Pakistan-China relations. Premier Li Qiang highlighted that both nations had consistently supported each other, regardless of global challenges, and expressed confidence that they would continue to cooperate to take their partnership to new heights. The Chinese Premier emphasized the need to accelerate the progress of development projects under CPEC. He highlighted that China would continue to support Chinese companies to invest in Pakistan. He also expressed optimism about the future of Pakistan-China relations and that it would continue to grow stronger.

China trust worthy, sincere friend of Pakistan: Ayaz

Sadiq underscored the need to enhance cooperation in fields of education and science

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, met with Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Tuesday and said China is a trustworthy and sincere friend of Pakistan and the country takes great pride in its everlasting friendship with China. According to a news release issued by the National Assembly Secretariat, during the meeting, both sides discussed parliamentary and economic relations, as well as matters of mutual interest. Both countries agreed to further expand parliamentary and economic ties. Welcoming the Chinese Premier to Pakistan, the Speaker expressed confidence that the Premier's visit would serve as a significant milestone in strengthening bilateral relations. He lauded the Shanghai

Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit being hosted in Pakistan, stating that it was a great honor for the country. He expressed hope that the SCO summit would enhance regional cooperation and strengthen regional stability. He reiterated that Pakistan attaches great importance to the SCO platform and that the summit would help project Pakistan's positive image on the global stage. He also affirmed Pakistan's commitment to working for regional development through the SCO platform. Highlighting the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, the Speaker noted that CPEC holds special significance for both nations and that its completion would usher in a new era of development and prosperity in the region. The two leaders agreed to make joint efforts for regional peace and stability. The Speaker highlighted the vast opportunities for investment in various sectors in Pakistan and stressed the need to further expand cooperation in education and science between the two countries. The discussion also touched on the importance of joint projects in the energy sector and the need to enhance collaboration in technology and the digital economy. Emphasizing the significance of parliamentary diplomacy, the Speaker reaffirmed the commitment to enhancing cooperation between Pakistan's National Assembly and China's People's Congress and to promoting future exchanges of parliamentary delegations. Chinese Premier Li Qiang appreciated the Speaker's goodwill towards the Chinese leadership and people. He reiterated that Pakistan holds great importance in China's foreign relations.

Israel poses real threat to entire region: Hezbollah

The Hezbollah official emphasized the importance of resistance in the face of the massacres Israel and its backers perpetrate

FOREIGN DESK

BEIRUT: Hezbollah's deputy secretary general has warned that the Israeli regime's occupation of the Palestinian land poses a threat not only to Palestine but to the entire region and beyond. "Israel is a usurper and an occupying regime, and a real danger to the entire region and the world," Sheikh Naim Qassem said on Tuesday in his third televised address since the martyrdom of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah. "This regime does not limit its occupation to Palestine; it seeks to expand its control, as Palestine alone is insufficient for its ambitions. Israel also aims to dominate the territories of Arab and Muslim states." The Hezbollah official emphasized the importance of resistance in the face of the massacres Israel and its backers perpetrate. "Israel and those behind it wage war and commit massacres, leaving us no choice but to take a stand." The Hezbollah official also exposed the joint US-Israeli scheme in West Asia. "America, the biggest devil, wants a new Middle East. Netanyahu shares the same vision. This means the US and Israel are deliberately carrying out this genocide." Sheikh Qassem said Hezbollah would not be defeated in its longstanding conflict with the Israeli regime. "The Resistance will not be defeated because it owns the land and because its fighters are martyrs who accept nothing but a life of honor. Your army is now defeated and will

be defeated more." The Hezbollah official said if Tel Aviv wants the Zionist settlers to return to their homes in northern occupied territories, it must halt its assaults on Gaza and Lebanon. "I tell the home front that the solution is to cease fire and after the ceasefire, according to the indirect agreement, the settlers will return to the north." The Hezbollah leader warned that if the aggression persists, the number of abandoned settlements will grow, placing hundreds of thousands—potentially over two million—settlers at risk. In his address, Sheikh Qassem referred to Operation Al-Aqsa Flood of October 7, 2023 on the Zionist entity, saying the Palestinians, led by Hamas, "attempted to get rid of the occupier." He said the Palestinian Resistance sent a message to the world. "75 years have passed, and the occupation is still there on our land, killing us." The Hezbollah official said the Palestinians have the right to take action that will "shake the occupation and stop it from expanding." Instead of questioning why Al-Aqsa Flood occurred, the Hezbollah official urged the international community to ask, "Why is the occupation still there?" Sheikh Qassem said Hezbollah's conflict with the Israeli regime cannot be separated from the fight for the liberation of Palestine. Hezbollah moved from a supporting role to directly "confronting" Israel after the September 17 pager attacks and September 27 assassination of Nasrallah. "Our war with Israel began with the pager explosions." An estimated 3,000 pagers carried by Hezbollah members beeped several times before exploding simultaneously, killing at least 12 people and injuring hundreds more across Lebanon and parts of Syria. Referring to the Israeli expansionist ideology of "Greater Israel," Sheikh Qassem stated, "Lebanon is included in Israel's expansionist project."

Harris warns Trump is out for total power

WASHINGTON: Kamala Harris is responding to Democratic panic about her White House prospects by turning up the heat on Donald Trump. The vice president warned Monday that the ex-president was "unstable," "unhinged" and out for "unchecked power" as she sent a jolt of urgency through her campaign with 21 days to go. "Watch his rallies. Listen to his words. He tells us who he is, and he tells us what he would do if he is elected president," Harris told a large crowd in Pennsylvania after a weekend when Trump's authoritarian rhetoric reached chilling new levels and hinted at the extreme nature of his potential second term. Democratic vice presidential nominee Tim Walz. — Agencies

Israeli forces ramp up north Gaza siege

Gaza City: Dozens of Palestinians have been killed in Israeli attacks across the Gaza Strip, including in Jabalia in the north where the Israeli military launched an offensive 11 days ago. At least 55 people were killed in the past 24 hours in the enclave, Gaza's Ministry of Health said on Tuesday, with at least 12 bodies recovered after an Israeli attack near al-Falaja in the besieged Jabalia refugee camp. Mahmoud Basal, the spokesman for the Palestinian Civil Defence in Gaza, said seven of those killed belonged to the al-Sayed family. He said their bodies were buried in their family home. The other five bodies were recovered from the streets of the neighbourhood, said Basal. In a separate incident, Israeli forces attacked the Birkat Abu Rashid area of the camp, killing at least three people and wounding several others, according to Al Jazeera's Anas al-Sharif, reporting from the scene. — DNA



ISLAMABAD: Indian FMS Jaishankar landed in Islamabad to take part in SCO Council of Heads of Government Meeting. — DNA



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