

Islamabad POST

Friday, October 18, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Donald Trump calls Capitol riot a 'day of love'

Detailed News On Page-08

Nawaz foresees thaw in Pakistan India relations

Detailed News On Page-06



Sajid breaks Mushtaq's 24-year-old record

Detailed News On Page-06



Disagreement on military courts

'Consensus' on constitutional bench evolved

PML N draft: Constitutional Division instead of court; parliament may reappoint CEC; Services chiefs to get protection; Suo motu right to be abolished; dissidents vote to be counted; dual national to context elections

ANSAR M BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: All the political parties, including the opposition appear to have finally reached a consensus on the formation of a constitutional bench after the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) took a step back on the matter of the constitutional court, sources privy to the development claimed. However, sources close to this development are of the view that there are still disagreements on the issue of the appointment of the next chief justice of Pakistan and the Chief Election Commissioner. The JUI and the PTI want Justice Mansoor to be the next chief justice. They are of the view that the new formula of the appointment of the chief justice from among the top three judges can be implemented after Justice Mansoor. Similarly, there are disagreements on the issue of the trial of the civilian in the military courts. The JUI and PTI want this clause to be deleted from the draft. The matter, initially focused on the constitutional court, has now advanced to the formation of a constitutional bench, they told Geo News on Thursday. After high-level discussions, four leaders of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the PPP claimed an agreement had been reached among all the political parties on the formation of the constitutional bench, as per the insiders. This comes after another meeting of the special committee on constitutional amendments draft concluded on Thursday.

Continued on Page 06

PTI senators being bribed for vote, claims Omar Ayub
Alleges, PTI leaders' houses are being raided

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Opposition and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader has claimed that the incumbent government had not required number of votes for constitutional amendment and PTI senators were being bribed for the said purpose. Before joining Parliament's Special Committee session, Omar Ayub made shocking revelations to journalists, saying, PTI leaders were being offered one billion for vote on the constitutional amendment. Opposition leader stressed that "Committee doesn't mandated for amendment in the constitution. The PTI is opposing the amendment." He also alleged that homes of PTI leaders and workers including

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Secretary General Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Zhang Ming calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. - DNA

Punjab: Section 144 imposed for 2 days

During the period, all kinds of protests, rallies will be prohibited across Punjab

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The Punjab government has imposed Section 144 in the province. The Punjab Home Department has issued a notification regarding the enforcement of Section 144 through the province. According to the notification, the implementation of Section 144 will be effective from Friday, October 18, to Saturday, October 19. During the period, all kinds of protests, rallies and similar activities will be prohibited across Punjab.

UN report 1.1 billion living in acute poverty

Index shows that 83.2 percent of poorest people live Africa and South Asia

WEB DESK

NEW YORK: More than one billion people live in acute poverty, with nearly half of them in countries experiencing conflict, according to a new United Nations report. Countries at war have higher levels of deprivation across all indicators of "multidimensional poverty", according to an

Continued on Page 06

Meets SCO secy general Pakistan is ready to work with SCO states: PM Shehbaz

The SCO Secretary General also appreciated Pakistan's constructive contributions to SCO's work and activities across all domains and expressed satisfaction over Pakistan's leadership role as Chair of the SCO Council of Heads of Government

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: The Secretary General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization Zhang Ming has felicitated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on the successful organization of SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting and its positive outcome. He expressed these views during a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on Thursday. The SCO Secretary General also appreciated Pakistan's constructive contributions to SCO's work and activities across all domains and expressed satisfaction over Pakistan's leadership role as Chair of the SCO Council of Heads of Government. In his remarks, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif,

Continued on Page 06

Senate felicitates govt on successful SCO meeting

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Senate on Thursday passed a resolution felicitating the government for successfully holding the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's (SCO) Council of Heads of Government meeting in federal capital. PPP Senator Sherry Rehman tabled the resolution in the upper house of the parliament. The resolution stated that

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

PTI to hold protest today

Protest would also be staged against the constitutional amendment

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) would stage massive protest tomorrow (Friday) demanding release of party founder Imran Khan and all the detained workers. In his message to party workers, Gandapur said that PTI would stage countrywide protest after Friday prayers. "We are not allowed to meet the party founder Imran Khan in Adiala Jail and we'll hold protest for his release," said CM Gandapur. He added that protest would also be staged against the constitutional amendment that the government is planning to bring in the parliament.

Mengal to return to Pakistan

BNP chief expected to arrive in Islamabad today

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Akhtar Mengal, leader of the Balochistan National Party (BNP), has decided to return to Pakistan in light of the country's current political situation. According to sources, Mengal, who had resigned from the National Assembly in protest and left the country ahead of the constitutional amendments, is now planning to return due to the evolving political landscape. He is expected to arrive in Islamabad today from Dubai and will announce his next steps after consultations. Two days ago, Mengal claimed on social media that two of his party's senators were being harassed for not supporting the constitutional amendments.

No comment from Hamas

Israel probing whether Sinwar martyred in Gaza

There have been enormous resources in coordination with the United States and Israel that have been invested in trying to track Yahya Sinwar down now

DNA

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM: Members of Israel's security cabinet have been informed that Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar is very likely dead, two officials with knowledge of the matter said on Thursday. Two of Israel's broadcasters, KAN and N12 News also cited Israeli officials as saying Sinwar was dead. In August, Hamas appointed its Gaza leader Yahya Sinwar as the political chief at-large to succeed Ismail Haniyeh, following the latter's assassination. The Gaza-based Palestinian leader is public enemy number one in Israel. So, by choosing him as the head of its political bureau, Hamas sent a message of defiance to the Israeli government. Sinwar has been imprisoned before in Israeli jails. He has a long history of fighting back against Israel, and he was released in a prisoner swap deal in 2011. Later on, he took leadership of the Hamas movement in Gaza and he has also been responsible for carrying out plenty

Continued on Page 06

Bangladesh issues arrest warrant for ex-leader Hasina

FOREIGN DESK

DHAKA: A Bangladeshi court has ordered an arrest warrant for former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who fled to India in August after she was ousted by mass protests. Hasina is wanted by Bangladesh's International Criminal Tribunal (ICT) for her alleged involvements in "crimes against humanity" that took place during the demonstrations, in which hundreds were killed. Hasina, who was in charge of Bangladesh for more than 20 years, was seen as an autocrat whose government ruthlessly clamped down on dissent. Arrest warrants have also been

Continued on Page 06

Untaxed sectors will be integrated into tax net soon

The finance czar reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to reforms during a meeting with Ambassador Blome

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has announced plans to integrate untaxed sectors into the tax net, aiming to boost Pakistan's tax-to-GDP ratio to 13.5%. In a meeting with US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome, Aurangzeb outlined the government's



commitment to Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) reforms, which include appointing experts to the Pakistan Revenue Automation Limited (PRAL) board. Finance czar emphasised that the government has approved Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) reforms and is committed to increasing the tax-to-GDP ratio to 13.5%. He further stated that untaxed sectors will be integrated into the tax net. Additionally, the Finance Minister mentioned that experts have been included in the Pakistan Revenue Automation Limited (PRAL) board as part of the FBR reforms. While referring to the reforms as "work in progress," Aurangzeb pointed to climate change and child malnutrition as significant threats to Pakistan's long-term development. These issues, he warned, could exacerbate inequalities and hinder economic growth and stability. The minister stressed Pakistan's need for global cooperation to build climate resilience and address malnutrition, calling for technical and financial support from development partners to achieve holistic development goals. Ambassador Donald Blome commended Pakistan's macroeconomic reforms, particularly in the taxation and energy sectors, and reaffirmed his commitment to enhancing bilateral cooperation. He also highlighted the importance of promoting high-quality US investment in Pakistan to foster economic growth.

SECOND CUP COFFEE COMPANY

FRESH BREW FOR A Fresh Day

Islamabad/Rawalpindi Outlets:
F-6 Markaz, f11 Markaz, Park View City,
Blue World City, Gulberg Greens, Jinnah Park.

secondcup.pk

Kundi calls for collective efforts to eradicate poverty

Call for action against VCs for appointment of teaching faculty on administrative posts

DNA

PESHAWAR: Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday underscored that eliminating poverty was a national duty, stressing the collective efforts. He said this on the eve of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. He highlighted the need for concrete actions and effective policies aimed at uplifting the marginalized segments of society, enabling them to pursue a path toward prosperity. Governor Kundi pointed out, "Various developmental and welfare projects are crucial for poverty alleviation in KP, particularly given the role of terrorism in exacerbating unemployment and poverty in the province." He said, "Achieving economic stability hinges on maintaining peace, promoting

women's empowerment, and engaging youth." He stressed the importance of improving education, healthcare, and employment opportunities as essential steps to uproot poverty. "Pakistan's development is contingent upon providing economic opportunities to its vulnerable populations and fostering self-sufficiency," Kundi asserted. The governor also urged the public to actively participate in efforts to eradicate poverty and contribute to the construction of a strong and prosperous society. Meanwhile, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governor and chancellor of public sector universities has expressed grave concern over appointment of teaching faculty on administrative posts in public sector universities and warned strict legal action under section 12(7) of KP universities act 2012 (amended 2016). A letter available with this

agency revealed that the governor addressed the vice chancellors (VCs) of all public sector universities in the province and noted it with grave concern that despite instructions the certain universities had still assigned the charge of administrative posts to faculty members in violation of section 17-A of KP universities act 2012. He sought a detailed report of the administrative positions, name of incumbent and his post in the university and duration of his occupation of the administrative post. The governor further directed legal action under section 12(7) against all the VCs violating the legal provision of the act. It is pertinent to mention here that following the directives of the governor, the Agriculture University, Peshawar and Islamia College University Peshawar have repaired all the teaching faculty members to their respective departments.



ISLAMABAD: Rescue 1122 Faisalabad CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) performing rescue skills during the annual CERT Challenge competitions at Central Rescue Station GTS Chowk. —APP

Secretary Health stresses proactive efforts for polio free KP

PESHAWAR: The Secretary of Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Adeel Shah on Thursday stressed making proactive efforts at all levels to ensure the eradication of this crippling polio disease once and for all from the province. Chairing a meeting on the role of District Health Officers (DHOs) in polio eradication, especially in reversing the current virological trends in the province at the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) in KP, he said, "Collective measures are needed to eradicate the polio disease in the region. On the occasion, special secretary of health Abdul Basit gave a detailed presentation on the current situation of polio in KP. The meeting provided a platform for stakeholders to assess and discuss the role of DHOs in reversing the current virological trends. The meeting was attended by Director General Health Services of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dr. Muhammad Saleem Khan, Director EPI, Technical Focal Person PEI, Team Lead WHO, Team Lead NSTOP, Deputy Team Lead UNICEF, and partner representatives.—APP

FIA nabbed three 'hawala/hundi' operators

MULTAN: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) composite Circle Multan on Thursday arrested three suspects allegedly involved in the hawala/hundi and illegal currency exchange. According to the spokesperson here, the suspects, identified as Hassan Adeel, Shahbaz Aslam, and Khuram Mukhtar residents of Burewala, were operating illegal currency exchanges without licenses. The team also recovered huge amount of local and foreign currency including Rs. 2.45 million Pakistani currency, 10,020 Saudi Riyals, 5,170 UAE Dirhams, 1,000 Malaysian Ringgits, 550 Australian Dollars, 520 Euros, 350 British Pounds, and 301 Omani Riyals. A case was registered against them.—APP

Police arrest over 200 suspects in 15 days

BAHAWALPUR: The district police arrested over 200 suspects including proclaimed offenders during the last 15 days. Police said here on Thursday that on the directions of District Police Officer, Bahawalpur, Asad Sarfaraz Khan, the teams of different police stations had arrested over 200 suspects including 42 category "A" outlaws and 157 category "B". He said that 28 suspects were taken into custody for having illegal weapons. The police recovered 25 pistols, two repeaters as well as two rifles from the possession of the suspects. He further said that the police had recovered narcotics from the possession of 44 drug pushers including over 19 kilograms hashish, 255 grams crystal ice, eight kilograms cannabis and 871 liters liquor. Further probe was underway.—APP

Govt's primary agenda to eradicate poverty from South Punjab: Fawad

He said innovations were being introduced in farming and corporate dairy farming while model projects for shrimp and fish farming were launched on barren lands

MULTAN: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) of south Punjab, Fawad Hashim Rabbani said on Thursday that the government's primary agenda was to eradicate poverty from the region with ensuring provision of basic necessities to the commoners. The South Punjab Secretariat was actively working on the region's development under a comprehensive programme, he said while addressing to officers of the 41st mid-career management course who paid visit to South Punjab Secretariat here. He emphasized that healthcare facilities and hospitals were being expanded in proportion to the population and adding that the rapid completion of major hospitals brought positive changes in the healthcare sector. Secretary Services South

Punjab, Amjad Shoaib Khan Tareen and Director of the National Institute of Management Islamabad, Ejaz Ahmed Bajwa, were also present on the occasion. The Additional Chief Secretary highlighted development of agriculture and livestock sectors and said that it could play vital role in bringing prosperity to the region. He said, innovations were being introduced in farming and corporate dairy farming while model projects for shrimp and fish farming were launched on barren lands. He further mentioned that artificial intelligence and digital technology were being utilized for the development of all sectors in the region. He said South Punjab Secretariat was proud to be the first in the country to launch an e-filing system, a credit that went

to the current Punjab Chief Secretary what he said. He added that a recent project titled "Zero Out of School Children" was launched in district Layyah where data compiled to enroll 10,492 children and so far, 3,600 boys and girls were enrolled in the schools. He further noted that the Chief Minister's School Nutrition Programme was successfully running in three districts of South Punjab. Secretary Services, Engineer Amjad Shoaib Khan Tareen, briefed the officers on the profile, working, e-filing e-procurement systems and the various initiatives were taken in education, agriculture, modern irrigation systems and other departments of South Punjab.—APP

Eight officers transferred in mild reshuffle in KP Police

PESHAWAR: The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has ordered the posting and transfer of 8 police officers in a mild reshuffle of the officers, said a notification issued by Central Police Office (CPO) here on Thursday. According to the notification Mr Sajjad Hussain Provl: SP (BS-18) who was awaiting posting at CPO, Peshawar has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commandant Police Training Centre (PTC) Hangu while Mr Iftikhar Ahmad DSP (BS-17) Acting SP Security Division Hazara, Abbottabad has been posted as Acting SP Security Division Hazara Battagram in his pay and scale. Similarly, Mr Jehanzeb Khan DSP (BS-17) Acting SP Investigation Battagram has been transferred and posted as Acting SP Security Division Hazara, Abbottabad in his own pay and scale and Mr Muhammad Saeed DSP (BS-17) Security Division Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been transferred and posted as Acting SP/Director Police School of PDRM Mardan in his own pay and scale. Attaullah Khan DSP (BS-17) Acting SP Frontier Reserve Police (FRP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been transferred and posted as Acting SP HQrs: Swat in his own pay and replaced Mr Zahoor Ahmad DSP (BS-17) who has been closed to CPO Peshawar. Furthermore, Raza Muhammad Khan DSP/L BS-17 Acting SP Rural Bannu has been transferred and posted as Acting SP City Bannu in his own pay and scale replacing Mr Mehmood Nawaz DSP (BS-17) SDPO Rural Bannu-II who has been transferred and posted as Acting SP Rural Bannu in his own pay and scale.—APP

SCO success to boost Pakistan's global role: Iftikhar

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik lauded Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's leadership and diplomatic initiatives, expressing hope that the positive outcomes of the SCO conference would enhance Pakistan's influence in regional and international affairs. In a statement issued here on Thursday, he emphasized that the successful holding of the summit will enhance Pakistan's international image, showcasing its ability to host high-level global events in a peaceful and secure environment. He added that this gathering of key regional players is a testament to Pakistan's commitment to promoting cooperation and peace within the region.—APP

Court awarded six years jail to official

SARGODHA: Special Judge Anti-Corruption Sargodha Shehzad Hussain Bhatti on Thursday awarded six years jail to an official involved in a corruption case. According to the prosecution, Shahid Parwaiz had launched an application against Muhammad Nisar, Assistant Enforcement Inspector District Council Sargodha, alleging that Nisar had demanded one lakh rupees for approving Firdous Market map. On receiving the application, the regional director Anti-Corruption had ordered officer Sargodha region Muhammad Akram to look into the matter who caught the accuse with bribe and sent the challans to court.—APP

Media's crucial role stressed amid current challenges

RAHIM YAR KHAN: Senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N) and former Deputy Speaker National Assembly Chaudhry Muhammad Jafar Iqbal has said that conspirators would not succeed in their nefarious designs to destabilize the country and stressed the need for media's positive role in this regard. He was talking to a delegation of media persons led by senior journalist and anchorperson Rana Imran Latif, and President of District Press Club Qaiser Ghafoor Chaudhry, which called on him here. Chaudhry Jafar Iqbal said Pakistan's future was bright and impregnable being an important country of the region and a major military power of the Islam-

ic world. e said the current challenges faced by the country demanded a united resolve by all segments of the society. In this regard, he said, the role of journalists was significant being the 'eyes and ears' of the society. He said the federal and provincial governments of Punjab were determined to provide relief to common man and paid tribute to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz of fulfilling the vision of party's president Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. He recalled that the previous PML-N governments also took the country to new heights of development and prosperity. Rana Imran Latif said

it was the time for politicians to rise above their political differences and contribute towards the stability of the country. Terming journalists the "fourth pillar" of democracy, he said their role was crucial in highlighting the problems concerning the masses. He called upon the government to address the issues of journalists and ensure their security. President District Press Club Qaiser Ghafoor Chaudhry said the entire political leaders, religious fraternity and intelligentsia should join hands in tackling the grave challenges. Advocate Tauqueer Khan and Chaudhry Zahid Gujjar were present.—APP

Seminar on Cinema, Filmmaking Held at UoS

SARGODHA: A seminar on Screening and Talk on Film Inception was held on Thursday at the Department of Communication and Media Studies, the University of Sargodha (UOS). The event emphasized the need for emerging filmmakers in Pakistan to explore realism and rational cinema to foster social reasoning through creative mediums like cinema and television. Prof Dr Ahmad Bilal, Director of the College of Arts and Design at the University of the Punjab, Lahore, highlighted in his keynote address that cinema and television in the region had traditionally focused on emotional storytelling. He urged young filmmakers to experiment with realistic and rational themes to introduce a more thoughtful approach to filmmaking and drama, shaping societal perspectives. International filmmaker, producer, and writer based in New York, USA, congratulated the Vice Chancellor of UOS Prof Dr Qaiser Abbas, for launching innovative, market-driven programs in theater, film, and television in Sargodha. He emphasized the potential of the creative industry, a multibillion-dollar sector globally, encouraging Pakistani professionals to tap into this lucrative market. Dr Mudassar Hussain Shah, Chairman of the Department of Communication and Media Studies, highlighted the University of Sargodha's commitment to introducing new academic and creative initiatives. He noted that the screening of Inception marked a significant milestone in the history of media studies at the university. Adjunct faculty members Agha Rizwan Ali and Muhammad Usman led a technical discussion on the cinematography of Inception, delving into the film's innovative techniques and visual storytelling methods. The event reflects the University of Sargodha's growing efforts to engage with the global film industry and equip students with knowledge of cutting-edge filmmaking techniques.—APP

Two Pakistani startups join Google's inaugural AI academy

Designed to help startups refine their AI solutions and advance their business growth, the program kicked off this week with an interactive three-day boot camp in Singapore, bringing together all participating founders from Pakistan and six other countries—Korea, Japan, India, Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia, said a news release

ISLAMABAD: Two innovative startups from Pakistan are among the 23 chosen from across the Asia-Pacific (APAC) to participate in Google's first-ever AI Academy in the region. Designed to help startups refine their AI solutions and advance their business growth, the program kicked off this week with an interactive three-day boot camp in Singapore, bringing together all participating founders from Pakistan and six other

countries—Korea, Japan, India, Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia, said a news release. Startups in the program will receive over 170 hours of tailored mentorship from AI and Cloud experts, up to \$350,000 in Google Cloud credits, and opportunities to connect with fellow AI innovators across the APAC region. Pakistani startup AdalFi is increasing access to financial services with its AI-powered credit scoring system, promoting finan-

cial inclusivity for millions of individuals and small businesses. Meanwhile, Adlytic AI is enhancing retail analytics by transforming CCTV cameras into intelligent tools for businesses, helping retailer's better use visual and geospatial data to grow their business. These startups are pushing the boundaries of AI innovation in Pakistan and contributing to the region's vibrant AI ecosystem. "We're excited to kick off Google's first AI Academy in APAC,"

says Michael Kim, Head of Google for Startups, APAC. "AI has the potential to be an incredible force multiplier, and it's incredible to see these 23 startups harnessing AI's potential to impact some tough challenges, ranging from addressing underserved sectors, like expanding access to financial services and healthcare, to building AI collaborators for lawyers, democratizing influencer marketing with AI-generated avatars.—APP

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 Enquiry.....117
Railway Exchange.9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Commemorative postage stamp to mark Tarbela 50 years

The Chairman thanked the Pakistan Post for issuance of the commemorative postage stamp. He said that Tarbela Dam is a testament to Pakistan's engineering prowess and commitment to the socio-economic development of the country. The commemorative postage stamp is a fitting tribute to this iconic project

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Post issued commemorative postage stamp worth 50 Rupees to mark 50 years of Tarbela Dam. A ceremony was held at WAPDA House for showcasing the commemorative postage stamp with Chairman WAPDA Engr Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd) as the chief guest. Additional Director General (Operation)

Pakistan Post Rizwan Javed Hashmi unveiled the commemorative postage stamp. The ceremony was attended by Post Master General (Central Punjab), Deputy Post Master General (Admn), WAPDA's Member Finance, Member Water, Member Power, Secretary and GMs from across the country. Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman thanked the Pakistan Post for issuance of the commemorative postage stamp.

He said that Tarbela Dam is a testament to Pakistan's engineering prowess and commitment to the socio-economic development of the country. The commemorative postage stamp is a fitting tribute to this iconic project. The postage stamp will serve as a reminder of Tarbela Dam's significance for generations to come. Later, Additional Director General (Operation), on behalf of the Pakistan Post,

presented album of the commemorative postage stamp to the Chairman. It is important to note that Tarbela Dam, completed in 1974, has been playing an instrumental role for economic development and social uplift in Pakistan during the last 50 years. The contribution Tarbela Dam Project has made towards progress in the country can be judged from the fact that it has released 406 million acre feet (MAF)

of stored water from the reservoir for agriculture and contributed 590,361 million units of low-cost and environment friendly hydel electricity to the National Grid. Economic and financial benefits of one MAF of water in Pakistan are estimated at US\$ 1,000 million (US\$ 1 billion). Therefore, total benefits accrued from Tarbela Dam during the last 50 years stand at more than four hundred billion dollars.



ISLAMABAD: Vendors selling and displaying dry fruits to attract the customers at their roadside setup along IJP Road. —APP

CPEC-II to bring economic prosperity for people of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday said that CPEC Phase-II, would help bring economic prosperity for the people of Pakistan. The ML-1 railway project from Karachi to Hyderabad and up-gradation of Karakoram Highway would also provide best travelling facilities to the people in near future, he said while talking to a private television channel. Commenting on SCO summit, he said organizing the summit was a pride for Pakistan and added that cooperation with member states would play vital role in enhancing trade and business relations. He said promoting regional connectivity is also important to achieve prosperity goals for the people. To a question about Indian diplomatic relations with Pakistan, he said that leaders of India must resolve the core issue of Kashmir through dialogue. He said permanent peace in the South Asian region is only possible if India also agree to hold talks on the long-standing issue of Jammu and Kashmir. To another question, he said that doctors after the check up of the PTI founder have declared him fit in the jail and he was availing all required facilities there. —APP

SCO summit boosts Gwadar port's regional significance

Ayaz praises Pakistan's pivotal role in fostering regional coop via SCO platform

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh Thursday praised SCO summit as a resounding success, highlighting its potential to unlock new regional connectivity, opportunities and expressed optimism that exports will receive a significant boost through Gwadar Port, particularly as China relocates its industries to Pakistan. Federal Minister expressed optimism about Gwadar Port's potential to drive Pakistan's economic growth while speaking to PTV news channel. He emphasized that the port's success is crucial for the country's economic progress, he added. China's decision to relocate its middle industries to Pakistan is expected to significantly boost

the country's economy, he further mentioned. This strategic move will not only improve economic growth but also create numerous job opportunities for the local workforce, ultimately enhancing the overall standard of living, he said. Responding a query, he said the SCO summit's successful conclusion has earned Pakistan widespread appreciation for its exceptional hospitality. It is an honor to have hosted this prestigious event, showcasing our country's capability to organize high-profile international gatherings seamlessly, he added. Pakistan and China's relationship has been a cornerstone of regional cooperation, and their bilateral trade has witnessed significant growth over the years, he highlighted. Moreover, Speaker Na-

tional Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has extended heartfelt congratulations to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and all other stakeholders for the successful organization of the 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit. The prestigious event, attended by heads of governments and senior officials from member states, showcases Pakistan's growing stature on the international stage. In a statement, Ayaz Sadiq emphasized the significance of the SCO in strengthening cooperation and collective action across key areas, including sustainable development, regional connectivity, economic integration, climate action, and poverty alleviation. "The outcomes of this summit will undoubtedly contribute to a safer, more prosperous future for the region and the world

DC revives open-door policy for citizens' complaints

DNA

ISLAMABAD: After the successful completion of the SCO summit in the Federal Capital, the activities in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration offices have returned to normal. In this regard, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon on Thursday listened issues of various complainants and issued directives to the department concerned for their resolution. DC Memon assured that all citizens would have the opportunity to voice their concerns under the district's open-door policy. On the occasion, he instructed the relevant authorities to address these issues without delay, highlighting that resolving public problems is the district administration's primary focus. Memon emphasized that no case would be left unattended, and action would be taken against any officer found delaying the resolution of citizens' complaints. The DC reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring that the administration works efficiently to serve the masses.

PTCL Group wins "best business strategy and expansion"

Commenting on the achievement, Hatem Bamatraf said: "PTCL Group's success at the SAMENA LEAD Awards 2024 is a reflection of our commitment to driving growth through strategic business expansion

ISLAMABAD: PTCL Group, Pakistan's largest ICT services provider, has won the 'Best Business Strategy and Expansion' award at the Leadership and Excellence Awards in Digital Development (LEAD) by the SAMENA Telecommunications Council. According to a news release, the prestigious award was presented to Hatem Bamatraf, President and Group CEO of PTCL & Ufone 4G, in recognition of the company's relentless efforts to innovate and broaden its market presence. Moreover, the award recognizes PTCL Group's exceptional business strategies, which have enabled the company to take challenges head-on, make strategic decisions, and successfully position itself on a path of sustained growth and success. Commenting on the achievement, Hatem Bamatraf said: "PTCL Group's success at the SAMENA LEAD Awards 2024 is a reflection of our commitment to driving growth through strategic business expansion. This recognition highlights the strides we have made in contributing to the telecom sector and positions PTCL as a leader in the highly competitive global telecom industry. It is a testament to our dedication to excellence, innovation, and delivering exceptional customer satisfaction across the region." PTCL Group has always been at the forefront when it comes to business strategies that have allowed it to remain competitive in the dynamic telecom landscape. The Group continues to introduce new products and services to reach a broader customer base, while also bridging the communication gap with the underserved regions in Pakistan. The SAMENA LEAD Awards 2024, organized by the SAMENA Telecommunications Council, celebrate outstanding achievements in the telecom sector, recognizing the efforts of operators, and regulators across national, regional, and global levels. The LEAD Business Excellence Awards is a platform where leading companies like PTCL showcase their transformative contributions to the telecom industry, inspiring others to pursue innovation and leadership. This recognition reinforces PTCL Group's commitment to continuous innovation, growth, and the delivery of cutting-edge telecom services.—DNA

Dengue's successive attacks after short break

RAWALPINDI: Dengue cases have once again increased due to severe attacks by dengue after a short break in Rawalpindi District. In the last three days, 372 patients have been diagnosed with dengue, including the year's highest 160 cases in one day. According to the details issued by the District Health Authority, 160, 117 and 95 positive cases were recorded on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday respectively, making an average of 124 cases per day. The rate of positive cases was recorded declining to less than 100 per day for three days from 12th October onwards. However the strike back by the endemic has again increased the dengue spread, resulting in 331 patients' admission in different allied hospitals. During the last 24 hours, 60 patients were reported from Potohar Town Peri Urban areas, which remained the most affected area of the district. Regular cases are also being reported from the Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) areas, with 54 cases during last 2 days. In a brief interaction with APP here on Thursday, the Additional CEO RCB Haider Shuja informed that anti-dengue campaign was already accelerated including surveillance and awareness. He said that the citizens were being urged to cooperate with the health workers in curbing the menace. Haider further informed that councilors and public representatives from various RCB wards have also been urged to regularly visit their respective constituencies along with the health teams to encourage and aware the citizens.—APP

IRSA releases 99,300 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 99,300 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 70,200 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1535.73 feet and was 137.73 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 37,600 cusecs and 37,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1200.80 feet, which was 150.80 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 5,300 cusecs and 35,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Tansa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 45,700, 65,400, 54,900 and 19,200 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 15,600 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 5,900 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

French defense attaché visits NUML to strengthen educational ties

During the meeting, the two sides explored avenues for promoting and strengthening NUML's relations with French universities, with a focus on academic collaboration and exchange programs

DNA

ISLAMABAD : The Defence Attache of the embassy of France Colonel Jerome and his

assistant Major Christian today visited National University of Modern Languages (NUML) and met with Rector NUML Major General (R) Shahid Mehmood Kayani HI(M). The meeting

was also attended by the Director General NUML Brig Shahzad Munir and the Head of the French Department Mr. Amir Zaheer. During the meeting, the two sides explored avenues for promoting and strengthening NUML's relations with French universities, with a focus on academic collaboration and exchange programs. The engagement underscored NUML's commitment to fostering international partnerships and advancing its mission of global education. This visit marks an important step in reinforcing NUML's international ties, and the university looks forward to a fruitful collaboration with French institutions in the near future.



OCTOBER 2024

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:
www.centrelines.com.pk
www.dnaneews.com.pl
www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@Postislamabad/ @Editordnaneews

A sister concern of

Islamabad POST

11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,
G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165



Briefs

Pakistan's hospitality wins hearts at SCO summit

ISLAMABAD: Spokesperson for Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Mumtaz Zahra Baloch Thursday expressed her delight over the successful SCO summit and praised the gracious manner in which it was conducted. In her exclusive talk with a private news channel, she noted that leaders of all SCO member states took to social media to express their gratitude and appreciation for Pakistan's traditional hospitality, showcasing the country's renowned warmth and welcoming nature. She explained, "Pakistan has received widespread praise for hosting a successful Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, which took place in Islamabad from October 15-16." The event brought together leaders from various member states, including China, India, Russia, and Uzbekistan, to discuss regional cooperation and security, she highlighted. According to Ambassador Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, the summit was a diplomatic triumph for Pakistan, showcasing the country's traditional hospitality and commitment to fostering strong regional ties. Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also expressed gratitude to Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar and the people of Pakistan for the warm welcome he received at the multilateral conference, she mentioned. "This gesture acknowledges Pakistan's hospitality during the recent Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Islamabad," she added.—APP

OECS sends female nurses to Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD: Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC) an attached department of Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD) would export the female nurses workforce to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on urgent basis, in this regard Walk-in-Interviews would be held in Lahore on October 21. An official source told APP here on Thursday, he said that the demand of Pakistani workforce specially in medical and industrial sector increasing in the Arab Countries. He said, "Our esteemed client, The Ministry of (MoH) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, is currently seeking the expertise of Female Nurses who meet the specified qualifications and experience criteria as Bachelor of Science in Nursing 16 (Years) or Post RN from the recognized institution, at least one year of experience, the candidate must have PNC registration, candidate with experience in ICU and ER are preferred not more than 45 Years.—APP

FPCCI strongly rejects baseless, untrue allegations

Under the leadership of Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, the staff of FPCCI is more motivated than ever, working diligently to achieve the organization's goals. The false claim of moving the FPCCI Head Office to Islamabad is simply a fabrication; records of FPCCI's Executive Committee Meetings show that it was the opposition group that initiated such discussions, only to be stopped by the current leadership

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) strongly rejects the unfounded accusations leveled against its President, Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, by a disgruntled and frustrated member of the previous ruling group, Statements by non-elected and unrelated persons reveal their nefarious motives, these accusations come from a failed leader who suffered a resounding defeat in the recent FPCCI elections after four years of underwhelming and mismanaged leadership. In the past 10 months, President Atif Ikram Sheikh has achieved

milestones that the previous group couldn't match in their entire tenure. Among these historic achievements are: The SCO Business and Investment Conference: Held in Islamabad with the participation of 8 member states, this event marked a significant diplomatic and economic engagement for Pakistan. The 1st FPCCI Excellence Awards at Aiwan-e-Sadr: A prestigious event, graced by the President of Pakistan, which recognized outstanding achievements across various sectors, elevating FPCCI's stature. Representation at the SCO Heads of States Meeting: A momentous occasion where Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh represented not only the

business community of Pakistan but also all SCO member countries before prime ministers and government heads of the SCO. These are achievements that reflect the dedication and dynamic leadership of Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, finally earning FPCCI the respect it deserves within government circles after four years of stagnation. It is important to remind critics that during their tenure, the FPCCI's Capital Office was in shambles, with elected Vice Presidents sidelined and unelected individuals mismanaging affairs. Misuse of funds and deteriorating management were at their peak. The individual now making false accusations has a history of

fraudulent activities and even served time in jail, making him a questionable source of criticism. Under the leadership of Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, the staff of FPCCI is more motivated than ever, working diligently to achieve the organization's goals. The false claim of moving the FPCCI Head Office to Islamabad is simply a fabrication; records of FPCCI's Executive Committee Meetings show that it was the opposition group that initiated such discussions, only to be stopped by the current leadership. We openly challenge the critics to present a report of their activities during their four years in power and compare it with the achievements under Mr. Atif

Ikram Sheikh's leadership. It is evident that they have nothing substantial to show and resort to baseless accusations out of jealousy and resentment. Individuals like the one accusing Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh are a negative influence on society—unwilling to accept their failures and the success of others. Rather than engaging in productive work, they focus on spreading false narratives. The business community stands with Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh and will continue to support his visionary leadership. InshAllah, he will remain steadfast against these fabricated claims and continue to serve the business community with unwavering dedication.

RDA inflows rise to \$8.749b in Sep

ISLAMABAD: The inflow of remittances under Roshan Digital Account (RDA) has risen to US \$8.749 billion by the end of September 2024 as compared to US \$8.581 billion by August (2024) end. The data showed that the inflows of remittances during September were recorded at US\$168 million as compared to US\$ 165 million in August and US\$ 161 million in July 2024, according to the latest data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). These accounts provide innovative banking solutions to millions of Non-Resident Pakistanis (NRPs), including Non-Resident Pakistan Origin Card (POC) holders, seeking to undertake banking, payment, and investment activities in Pakistan. The number of accounts registered under the programme also rose by 11,138 to 746,251 in September 2024 from 735,113 accounts in August 2024. By the end of September, overseas Pakistanis have invested US \$380 million in Naya Pakistan Certificates, US \$656 million in Naya Pakistan Islamic Certificates, and US \$41 million in Roshan Equity Investment.—APP

Police impound 959 unfit PSVs

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district police on the directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Syed Khalid Hamdani have accelerated their ongoing operation against unfit Public Service Vehicles (PSVs) and impounded 959 besides issuing challan slips to 7951. According to a police spokesman, Police took action in accordance with the law against the rules violators during last 52 days. He said that fines amounting to over Rs 8.6 million were imposed on the rules violators. Police were taking strict action in accordance with the law against unfit commercial vehicles. Rawalpindi district Police under special campaign launched in Rawalpindi district were taking action against unfit PSVs, checking route permits and licenses of the drivers. Legal action was taken against 678 drivers for driving vehicles without licenses, he added. The licenses of 27 drivers found guilty of negligence were cancelled, he said adding, 49 cases were also registered against drivers and the owners of public service vehicles. All possible steps were being taken to ensure safe travel on PSVs, he added. He said that the traveling time of the vehicles was also being checked. Legal action would be ensured against those endanger lives of the citizens, he said.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Machinery is being used for leveling the ground to prepare a green area along the road near Kakpul. APP

90% agreement reached on 'constitutional reforms'

Responding to another query, he said, "PTI can make decisions without Imran Khan's direct involvement, even if he is imprisoned, just like PML-N did during Nawaz Sharif's imprisonment

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-N Senator Irfan Siddiqi Tuesday expressed optimism that significant progress had been made on constitutional amendments and judicial appointments, with approximately 90% of agreements in place and hopefully reforms will commence in both houses within the next few days. Senator said three major parties, the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N), Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) have made significant headway on judicial reforms within the Constitutional Package, PML-N senator shared this breakthrough with a private news channel. He said, "Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM) has also expressed its support for constitutional reforms, with certain conditions." "Specifically, MQM has linked its support to stronger local government provisions," he mentioned. Responding to a query, he said crucial meetings took place between key political leaders, including Nawaz Sharif, JUI-F chief Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari. He said, "A complete consensus was reached on the proposed constitutional amendment." "Major political parties are shifting their focus from person-specific and time-bound goals to addressing the nation's pressing problems," he added. "This emphasis on solution-driven politics is a welcome change, prioritizing the welfare of citizens over individual interests," he added. Responding to another question about Military court and other amendments, he said, "9th meeting is scheduled for today to discuss military courts and other constitutional amendments. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) participated until the 7th meeting but has since shown a lack of seriousness in attending further discussions. The senator urged PTI to reengage and contribute to the consensus-building process. Senator Siddiqi has extended an invitation to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to participate in consensus-building efforts regarding constitutional amendments. Responding to another query, he said, "PTI can make decisions without Imran Khan's direct involvement, even if he is imprisoned, just like PML-N did during Nawaz Sharif's imprisonment."—DNA

Govt should step up efforts to eradicate blindness: Khan

Expressing concern over the growing number of eye diseases in Pakistan, he suggested building state-run eye hospitals in every tehsil to provide eye treatment to patients who cannot afford costly private treatment

FAISAL SHEIKH

RAWALPINDI: On Thursday, al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital said Pakistan's population ranks fifth globally and will double by 2050 if appropriate health interventions are not implemented. It added that at this rate, the number of people suffering from various eye problems will also rise, resulting in serious issues. Talking to media men, Major Gen (Retd) Rehmat Khan said that approximately 4% of the world's blind live in Pakistan. Almost 1.8 million people are blind while 21 million people are facing vision loss caused by common eye conditions such as cataracts, refractive errors, and Glaucoma. He added that the situation is getting serious, there-

fore, the government must launch an ambitious plan to establish eye hospitals in every tehsil of the country. He stressed that it should be realized that our population can grow to 500 million by 2050, putting great stress on infrastructure and all services. Expressing concern over the growing number of eye diseases in Pakistan, he suggested building state-run eye hospitals in every tehsil to provide eye treatment to patients who cannot afford costly private treatment. Major Gen (Retd) Rehmat Khan said that government intervention is necessary as the private sector alone cannot cope with the problem at this level. He said the Al-Shifa Trust has treated 27 million patients and conducted seven million eye surgeries in the last 30 years. He added that the trust treats 2.5 million eye patients annu-

ally at its Rawalpindi, Chalkwal, Kohat, Muzaffarabad, Sukkar, and Children's Eye Hospital Rawalpindi, and 80 percent of them are not charged. The trust also runs one of the best outreach programs to prevent blindness in the country, focusing on remote areas. This program includes school screening, free eye camps, awareness sessions, and primary eye care sessions, he informed. He said that the private sector lacks resources to cope with increasing numbers of eye patients; therefore, it is time to mobilize resources at the Government level. Al-Shifa can train doctors and paramedics to support such initiatives, he offered. Maj. Gen. Rehmat Khan said that ignorance and poverty prevent people from visiting doctors, and blindness is rising, especially among poor rural people. He said eye care facilities

were primarily concentrated in big cities. There are no state-run eye care facilities in many districts and towns. It was the need of the hour that every district and tehsil of the country must have a proper and well-equipped state-run hospital. Gen. Rehmat Khan emphasized that considering financial constraints, we must be able to offer social and physical accessibility to eye care services. Most trained ophthalmologists work in urban areas at government or private clinics, making accessible and affordable eye care a concern in rural communities. He highlighted that our promotive, preventive, and curative eye services are inclusive and focus on women, children, and the elderly. With 90% of the world's visually impaired living in developing countries.

How to make maximum of food

BISMA FATIMA

FOOD is the essence of life. It's more than just sustenance; it's a universal language that brings people together, evokes emotions, and nourishes our bodies. From the simplest ingredients to the most complex dishes, food has the power to transform our lives. "Food is life" - a phrase that resonates deeply with many of us. Recent studies have shed light on the significance of food beyond mere sustenance. Our vision plays a crucial role in creating food trends, and our brains even have a "serial dependence" on food, influencing our judgments. The importance of food in our lives is also reflected in our eating habits. Toddlers obtain nearly half their calories from ultra-processed foods, highlighting the need for balanced diets. Additionally, research suggests that keeping a longer overnight fast and eating an early breakfast may be associated with a lower body mass index. The connection between food and life is also deeply rooted in culture. In Pakistan, for example, food is an integral part of family gatherings, traditions, and social bonding. The country's rich culinary heritage is reflected in its diverse cuisine, from spicy street food to flavorful biryanis. Food is essential for human survival, and its significance extends beyond sustenance to cultural, social, and emotional aspects of our lives. We get physical nourishment by food that is an energy source. Food

provide us nutrients that help us to growth and development. Food repair our body tissues and help in maintenance. It support our immune system. According to Cicero: "Eat to live, not live to eat". Ann Wigmore says: "The food we eat can either be safest and most powerful form of medicine or the slowest form of poison". Food also have emotional and social significance. It provides comfort and nostalgia, cultural identity and heritage, social bonding and community, emotional expression and creativity, celebrations and traditions. Food evokes memories, comfort and joy. Shearing meals with loved once strengthens bonds and fosters community. It realise stress, mood booster, social connection and emotional expression. According to Jacques pepin: "Food is the essence of life". Food is also so much important as a cultural and symbolic meanings. We get spiritual and religious significance, symbolism in art and literature of a society, national and ethnic identity as well as family traditions and recipes. Frances Moore Lappe said: "Food is the heart of every culture". All the mental health and mood depends on food. If someone have food that not according to his mood our having some side effects, it can affect his all activities. Food is good for physical health and save us from different chronic diseases, By eating good food we can save us from food allergies and intolerance. According to Dr. Andrew Weil: "Food is the best medicine". Food provide health and well being. It

provides physical health like nutrition and energy to body to properly work. Food provide mental well-being, like if you have your favourite recipe in front of you it will provide you with happiness and joy. Food creates the emotions of love and care. Different types of food includes are, fruits like apples, bananas, berries. Vegetables like carrots, broccoli, lettuce. Proteinous foods are meat, poultry, fish, eggs, beans. Many gains provides us energy like bread, rice, pasta, cereals. Dairy includes milk, cheese, yogurt. Healthy fats can be obtained from nuts, seeds, avocados. Sweets like sugary drinks and desserts are also good source of energy for humans. These food should be consumed in proper quantities. Access of food can cause many mental disorders, stomach diseases, vomiting, diarrhea and many other diseases. While eating we must have to notice that is the food we eat is halal or haram? Halal food should be eat. In our religion Islam, halal food have so much significance. We must prefer halal food. In Islam halal and haram foods are refers as permissible and forbidden foods respectively. Halal Food includes, meat like beef, lamb, goat, chicken, fish (with scales), fruits and vegetables, grains, dairy(milk, cheese, yogurt), honey and halal-certified processed foods. Zabiha slaughter ensures minimal stress and cruelty. Halal meat reduces risk of trichinosis, tapeworms, and other parasites. Halal certification prohibits harmful chemicals and preserva-

tives. Halal foods tend to be easier to digest due to stricter slaughter and processing guidelines. Haram foods are pork and pork by-products, animals not slaughtered according to Islamic guidelines (Zabiha), carnivorous animals: lions, tigers, bears, birds of prey: eagles, hawks, vultures, animals with fangs or claws, intoxicants (alcohol, narcotics), carrion (dead animals), blood and blood products. Health risks: Haram foods may contain harmful ingredients, additives, or contaminants. Haram foods often lack essential nutrients, leading to malnutrition. These may be contaminated with harmful bacteria or toxins. Animals should be slaughtered according to Islamic method called as Zabiha. This method includes, animal must be alive at time of slaughter, slaughtered by a Muslim. Cut throat and severed jugular vein of animals like cow. Slaughtering must be start with Allah's name. Halal certification is most important. The food should be halal certified by recognised halal food authorities. Verification of ingredients and production process should be done. Compliance with Islamic law (Shariah). In conclusion, "food is life" is more than just a phrase - it's a reflection of the vital role food plays in our lives, from sustenance and culture to health and well-being. It's a source of nourishment, connection, and inspiration. As we savor each bite, let's appreciate the profound impact food has on our lives and the world around us.

General Practice HOSPITAL

Pioneering top-tier medical care.

We are proud to announce the opening of General Practice Hospital which has evolved from a healthcare centre into a newly expanded, 20-bed, full-service, multidisciplinary hospital in the heart of Islamabad. We now provide comprehensive, holistic, and personalized 24-hour services to meet your healthcare needs.

We aim to establish long-term, trusting relationships with our patients and their families, ensuring easy accessibility and continuity of care.

Our services include:

- General Physician Services
- Medicine
- Gynecology & Women's Health
- Dermatology & Aesthetics
- General Surgery
- Ultrasound
- Pediatrics & Child Health
- Plastic Surgery
- Ear, Nose & Throat
- Cardiology
- Nutrition, Dietetics & Lifestyle
- Neurology
- Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine
- Ophthalmology
- Dental & Maxillofacial Surgery
- Psychiatry
- Gastroenterology
- Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation
- Psychology & Mental Health

For Appointments & Information

+9235 47 47 01 | +92 51 8900 682
 Pakbond Tower-2, New Blue Area, Islamabad
 /generalpracticeislamabad
 www.generalpractice.com.pk

Scan here to add us to your contacts

Israel has no place at UN

SUPPOSE you are a member of a club that you hate and despise so much you have denounced some of its staff as criminals and started killing them en masse. You have denounced the club president as a non-person and theatrically shredded a copy of its constitutional charter on stage at a general meeting for all members. The question is not so much whether you should have been expelled already as a minimal response from the club, in addition to calling the police. Rather you should ask yourself why you want to stay and pay your dues as a member at all. These questions have been raised by prominent journalist Mehdi Hasan in a new op-ed in The Guardian and a legal analysis by Saul Takahashi, a human rights professor at Osaka Jogakuin University and former deputy head of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Palestine. "Why has it [Israel] not yet been expelled from an organisation that it is relentlessly and shamelessly attacking and undermining?" Hasan wrote. "Sure, there are other human rights abusers that remain card-carrying members of the UN – Syria, Russia and North Korea, to name but a few – but none of them have killed UN employees en masse; none of them have sent tanks to invade a UN base; none of them have 'refused to comply with more than two dozen UNSC resolutions'. It has been more than 60 years since any country in the world dared make the UN secretary general himself 'persona non grata'." Hasan was referring to the killing of a record 228 UN employees over the 12 months Israel has invaded Gaza in ongoing military operations that saw the bombing of UN schools, warehouses and refugee camps. No country has managed to kill more UN staff in a single conflict during the international body's entire existence. According to Takahashi, the Israeli military has attacked the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) staff and facilities in at least 464 instances as of late September. Israel has falsely denounced the long-standing UN agency as a Hamas outfit, when it has been a lifeline for the Palestinian population over decades and predated Hamas' takeover of Gaza. It now plays a crucial role in trying to feed and save Gazans under sustained lethal conditions. The relief agency truly deserves the Nobel Peace Prize. Instead, it's being maligned by Israel, its staff murdered, while Israeli propaganda has been spread uncritically by Western politicians and the news media. Hasan also was referring to a post on X early this month by Foreign Minister Israel Katz in which he declared UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres persona non grata in Israel. Katz claimed Guterres didn't condemn Iran's latest missile attack on Israel, which Guterres actually did but without mentioning Iran by name. He also claimed the UN chief didn't denounce Hamas' terrorist attacks and "sexual atrocities" committed on October 7 last year. Actually he did condemn or denounce the Hamas attacks by name. Katz has openly considered himself Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's political successor. The man is clearly qualified. No country has defied more UN resolutions than Israel, with full US backing, over the decades. You can find a partial list of more than two dozen such resolutions, compiled by Takahashi, in *Opinio Juris*, a publication of the International Commission of Jurists.



Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 05 Issue: 270

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad

SCO 'beacon of multilateralism'

THE 23rd Meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held in Islamabad, Pakistan, on Tuesday and Wednesday. Leaders of participating member states signed and issued a joint communique. The joint communique stated the importance of implementing the decisions taken following the outcomes of the meeting of the SCO Astana Summit in July, and reaffirmed that the member states intend to further develop cooperation. This reflects the SCO's momentum, as the consensus from the Astana Summit will steadily transition into reality with a strong degree of certainty. Amid escalating conflicts in the Middle East and rising external risks, the SCO once again offers a message of unity to the world. The Astana Summit marked a new milestone in the SCO's development. Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the important initiative of building a common home featuring solidarity and mutual trust, peace and tranquility, prosperity and development, good-neighborliness and friendship, as well as fairness and justice. Xi also reached important consensus with leaders of the SCO member states on advocating solidarity and cooperation, upholding international fairness and justice, and improving SCO operation mechanisms, and set the course for SCO's development under the new circumstances. Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, chair of the 23rd SCO Council of Heads of Government, referred to the body as a "beacon of multilateralism" in his opening remarks, expressing hopes for the meeting to yield great results, which reflects the regional countries' tangible appreciation of the leaders' consensus. This is a rare and commendable achievement. While there are many regional organizations around the world, few, like the SCO, have consistently worked hard to maintain regional security and stability and promote the development and prosperity of member states. Not only has the SCO been able to overcome various differences to achieve significant consensus, but it has also successfully implemented these agreements, resulting in visible benefits for the people. Although different regional organizations face unique circumstances, many of the SCO's important experiences hold universal relevance. The SCO was not established to oppose or target anyone, nor does it operate on the basis of small circle's interests; its original intention and core principle are to engage in dialogue based on the idea of "one earth and one family with one future." Since its establishment 23 years ago, the SCO has grown from six founding member states to 10 formal members, two observer states, and 14 dialogue partners, making it the largest and most populous regional international organization. If there is any "magical power" among these changes, it is the Shanghai Spirit, which features mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diversity of civilizations and pursuit of common development. Increasingly, many countries are showing strong interest in joining the SCO family, due to their recognition of the value of the Shanghai Spirit.

Syria at risk of being dragged into regional war

Dr. Majid Rafizadeh

In addition to this, Israel has launched multiple airstrikes into Syrian territory, targeting locations said to be linked to Hezbollah and Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. So far, the Damascus government has limited its response to condemning these strikes verbally, avoiding military retaliation. However, continued Israeli military operations in Syrian airspace could eventually provoke a stronger reaction, pushing Syria closer to open involvement in the conflict. From the perspective of the Syrian leadership, directly entering the conflict in Lebanon would not serve its strategic interests. The Syrian state is still grappling with its own internal challenges, including the fact that its authority remains contested in some areas

THE ongoing Israeli war on Hezbollah in Lebanon poses a critical question: Will Syria be drawn into this conflict as it escalates? As the violence intensifies, the geographical proximity of Syria to Lebanon makes it almost inevitable that events in the latter will affect the former. Historically, Lebanon and Syria appear to have had intertwined fates, politically, economically and socially, due to their shared border and cultural ties. This raises concerns that the current conflict in Lebanon could spread across the border, especially given the complex alliances and rivalries in the region, which involve not just local actors but also global powers like Iran, the US and Russia. Conflicts in Syria and Lebanon have often spilled over from one to the other, especially during times of civil strife. The Syrian civil war, for instance, had devastating effects on Lebanon, causing severe economic strain and altering the social fabric. Over the past decade, Lebanon has absorbed nearly 1.5 million Syrian refugees, placing enormous strain on its infrastructure and public services. Now, as violence erupts in Lebanon, the reverse could happen, with refugees flooding into Syria, further destabilizing this already fragile country. The social, economic and political ramifications of this are vast and Syria is unlikely to escape the fallout if this conflict worsens. Israel's war against Hezbollah is already having a significant impact on Syria, though it has not yet drawn the country into direct conflict. One of the first effects is an influx of refugees, with more than 250,000 Lebanese civilians reportedly fleeing to Syria. For a country still recovering from a brutal civil war, this influx exacerbates Syria's already dire humanitarian crisis. In addition to this, Israel has launched multiple airstrikes into Syrian territory, targeting locations said to be linked to Hezbollah and Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. So far, the Damascus government has limited its response to condemning these strikes verbally, avoiding military retaliation. However,

continued Israeli military operations in Syrian airspace could eventually provoke a stronger reaction, pushing Syria closer to open involvement in the conflict. From the perspective of the Syrian leadership, directly entering the conflict in Lebanon would not serve its strategic interests. The Syrian state is still grappling with its own internal challenges, including the fact that its authority remains contested in some areas. The government appears to be focused on consolidating its power internally and engaging in a war with Israel could unravel the fragile gains it has made since the end of large-scale civil war. Furthermore, Syria is not yet fully stable, with much of the country still under reconstruction and grappling with international sanctions, making any involvement in a regional war a potentially catastrophic miscalculation. There are several other reasons why Syria is likely to avoid entering a direct military confrontation with Israel. From an economic perspective, Syria is struggling to rebuild after years of war and another military conflict could crush what little recovery is underway. Militarily, Syria is no match for Israel's sophisticated and well-funded defense forces. While Syria does maintain a military presence and it has some alliances with Hezbollah and Iran, its capabilities are nowhere near those of Israel. Moreover, the Syrian government is aware that a war could lead to renewed insurgencies within its own borders. Some groups could use the chaos of war as an opportunity to regroup and challenge the government's rule once again, risking a return to civil war conditions. In addition, history has shown that Syria tends to avoid direct involvement in conflicts between Israel and Hezbollah. In the 2006 war between Hezbollah and Israel, Syria refrained from entering the fray, even though it supported Hezbollah diplomatically and logistically. This strategic neutrality allowed Syria to avoid the devastating consequences of direct warfare with Israel. It is likely that the same approach will be followed now.

However, the influx of refugees from Lebanon is already taking a toll on Syria's fragile stability. With more than 250,000 Lebanese refugees entering Syrian territory, the already stretched resources of the country are being tested. In a country that has not yet fully recovered from its own refugee crisis during the civil war, this new wave of displaced people could further destabilize Syria's economy, weaken public services and strain social cohesion. The country's infrastructure is still fragile and the addition of a large refugee population could exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, potentially leading to unrest. It is also important to point out that wars are inherently unpredictable and, while Syria may not be directly involved in the conflict with Israel at the moment, there is always the possibility that the war in Lebanon could fully spill over into Syrian territory. Moreover, Syria could become a battleground for proxy conflicts between Israel and Iran. Instead of engaging in direct warfare with Israel, Iran may opt to use Syrian territory as a staging ground for attacks against Israeli targets, further entangling Syria in the conflict. Such a scenario could inadvertently draw Damascus deeper into the war, even if the government tries to avoid it. In conclusion, while Israel's war on Hezbollah will most likely have a negative impact on Syria, it is expected to continue avoiding direct military involvement. Engaging in a war with Israel does not serve Syria's interests at this time. The country is still recovering from its civil war and its military and economic capabilities are too weak to handle a full-scale regional conflict. However, the ongoing war in Lebanon and the influx of refugees could create spillover effects that Syria cannot ignore, potentially drawing the country into a wider conflict against its will. The region remains volatile and the situation could rapidly change depending on how the war evolves and how external actors like Iran and Israel choose to maneuver within this complex geopolitical landscape.

EU must act quickly to prevent Serbia looking elsewhere

Khaled Abou Zahr

There is no doubt that the main issue that needs to be resolved is the relationship between Serbia and Kosovo. This is the source of a direct security risk and outside interference in European affairs. In other words, this should be a top priority for European leaders. It should not be delayed. Indeed, what can be mended today might not be fixable tomorrow in this rapidly changing conflict world map. On the other hand, if this first issue is put at the forefront, I do not think Serbia's stance and good relations with Russia should be something to put in the limelight...

IVIVIDLY remember a friend's story of how, when Yugoslavia broke up, the European identity was a salvation for many after an extremely difficult period of war and devastation. He would passionately explain that, as the Yugoslavia umbrella dissolved, Europe gave them hope and promised to fulfill their aspirations for freedom and better life opportunities. Since then, only Croatia and Slovenia have joined the EU. The path has proven longer and harder for others, particularly Serbia. This delay has created frustration both on the level of the political leadership and among the citizens. Last week, expressing this frustration, Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandar Vulin positioned the BRICS grouping as a compelling alternative to the EU, emphasizing its attractiveness for Belgrade. He noted that, unlike the EU, BRICS does not impose political conditions, such as demanding recognition of Kosovo's independence, or other internal political changes. Vulin compared the two blocs and said that BRICS controls more than 51 percent of the world's gas and 47 percent of its oil. He then emphasized the main topic of tension: the fact that Serbia will not impose sanctions on Russia or go to war just to join the EU, stressing that Belgrade values cooperation based on mutual respect, neutrality and equality. Some analysts saw Vulin's remarks as a potential shift in Serbia's global alliances, particularly as BRICS is seeking to expand its influence. The reality is more nuanced. I would disagree on the benefits BRICS could bring to Serbia versus EU access. BRICS in no way, shape or form has the benefits or strong ecosystem the EU offers its members. This is something Serbia needs to be aware of and know to appreciate. It is, in my opinion, well worth some sacrifices. If we look at

the issues still hindering Serbia's access, they are political: the status of Kosovo and its relations with Russia. It is worth noting that those same issues are also major geopolitical risks for the future stability and integrity of the EU and Europe. Therefore, Belgrade's accession to the EU should not be put aside or met with aggression from EU officials. It is not the time to sink into a tit-for-tat exchange, but a time to find acceptable solutions that preserve the interests of all parties. There is no doubt that the main issue that needs to be resolved is the relationship between Serbia and Kosovo. This is the source of a direct security risk and outside interference in European affairs. In other words, this should be a top priority for European leaders. It should not be delayed. Indeed, what can be mended today might not be fixable tomorrow in this rapidly changing conflict world map. On the other hand, if this first issue is put at the forefront, I do not think Serbia's stance and good relations with Russia should be something to put in the limelight, or fear that Belgrade is Moscow's Trojan horse. It is damaging and purposeless. There are historical and religious links that cannot and will not be erased. What is more important is to make the citizens of Serbia feel that their core is in the EU. Sometimes, when reading some European leaders' declarations, there is an underlying note that indicates that they still hold Serbia accountable for the war of the 1990s. That somehow it has not paid for its crimes and its attachment to Moscow symbolizes this. Hence, it presents a risk for the future of Europe. And so, they have placed Serbia in EU purgatory. But this situation will increase frustration and encourage greater links with non-EU powers – and this is what presents much greater risks. The EU has proven its capacity to integrate and create

opportunities. It has been highly successful in its enlargement efforts, expanding from its original six founding members to 27 countries as of 2024. Through its enlargement process, the EU has promoted stability, democracy and economic growth in regions once divided by Cold War tensions or authoritarian rule. One of the most notable successes that can serve as an example was the inclusion of former communist countries from Central and Eastern Europe, such as Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, which joined in 2004, marking a significant shift toward European integration. There are good economic initiatives attached to the new "Growth Plan" for the Western Balkans. A strategic initiative aimed at accelerating the region's economic development and fostering closer integration with the EU, backed by a 6 billion (\$6.5 billion) financial package. The plan emphasizes increased investments in infrastructure, digitalization and the energy transition, along with stronger support for small and medium-sized enterprises to drive innovation and job creation. It also prioritizes enhancing regional cooperation, improving governance and advancing the rule of law to meet EU standards. Youth and education programs are central to reducing brain drain and strengthening human capital in the region. With this comprehensive approach, the EU seeks to address socioeconomic disparities, promote long-term stability and support the Western Balkan states on their path to eventual EU membership. And so, the EU leadership needs to build momentum toward solving all political issues with Serbia and have it join the EU as soon as possible. Bringing Belgrade into its fold would remove a great risk to the stability of the continent in extremely volatile times. It should not be delayed any longer.

Briefs

Consensus on constitutional bench evolved

FROM PAGE 01
The parliamentary committee's meeting has been adjourned till noon on Friday (tomorrow). The constitutional package, among other things, aims to set up a federal constitutional court and fix the tenure of the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) for three years. The government had attempted to present the bill to amend the Constitution last month, but its allies as well as members from the opposition benches vehemently opposed the proposal, forcing the ruling parties to begin a consultation process. To pass the constitutional amendments, the government requires a two-thirds majority in parliament, with sources indicating a shortfall of 13 votes in the National Assembly and nine in the Senate. In his remarks after the today's meeting, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan said the government presented its third draft on the judicial package. In its third draft, the government had talked about a constitutional bench instead of court, he said.

PTI senators being bribed for vote...

FROM PAGE 01
his were being raided. Omar Ayub stated that Zain Qureshi's wife was abducted near the house of minister of interior and Muqdad Ali Khan was also missing. Expressing his party's stance on constitutional amendment, Barrister Gohar said the PTI had informed the ruling coalition that it would present its draft after consulting PTI Founder Imran Khan. PPP leader Khursheed Shah berated PTI leaders, Omar Ayub and Barrister Gohar, saying they didn't have mandate and PTI never put draft despite being asked again and again. A significant breakthrough has occurred regarding the 26th Constitutional Amendment, as the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) have backed away from their stance proposing the establishment of constitutional courts.

Israel probing whether...

FROM PAGE 01
of military activities and operations against the Israeli army. People here feel Sinwar holds great symbolism among the Palestinians, and his possible killing would be a great loss for everyone on the ground. They believe he has been effective in working against Israel in the past year. People here believed he was hiding underground. But now, if this assassination is confirmed while he was wearing his military uniform, it means that he was following all the latest security developments on the ground. The Israeli military said earlier on Thursday that it was checking the possibility that it has killed Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar following an operation in the Gaza Strip that it said had targeted three militants. "At this stage, the identity of the terrorists cannot be confirmed," it said in a statement. It said there were no signs that Israeli hostages had been present in the building where the three militants were killed.

Pakistan is ready to...

FROM PAGE 01
reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the SCO charter, and assured the Secretary-General that as an SCO member, Pakistan would continue to work wholeheartedly for promotion of the organization's development priorities for the benefit of all its member states and the wider region. He stressed that Pakistan stands ready to work with SCO member states so as to make the organization more effective and stronger. The prime minister also thanked Zhang Ming for his dedication and outstanding services as outgoing Secretary-General of SCO and wished him every success in his future endeavours.

Pak set 297-run target for England in second Test

Shoaib Bashir's four-fer dismantle Pakistan's top order while Brydon Carse removes Salman and Rizwan

DNA

MULTAN: Pakistan set a 297-run target for England after grabbing a handy lead of 296 runs with the help of Salman Agha's 63 in their second innings on day three of the second test in Multan on Thursday. Pakistan's top order slumped after England's Shoaib Bashir took three crucial wickets of Abdullah Shafique (4), Saim Ayub (22) and skipper Shan Masood (11), while he also removed Noman Ali (1). Jack Leach also played his part for his side by sending off Kamran Ghulam (26), Saud Shakeel (31), and Aamer Jamal (1) which further dimmed the chances of resistance from the hosts. However, Salman took the charge and responsibly brought Men in Green back to the game to stretch the lead by smashing 63 runs off 89 balls. Brydon Carse ended Salman's innings in 58th over, who also grabbed the key wicket of wicketkeeper-cum-batsman Mohammad Rizwan in 31st over. After grabbing a crucial lead of 75 runs against England, Pakistan was hit with challenges, slumping to 77-4 in their second innings. Pakistan off-spinner Sajid Khan claimed seven wickets as the Green Shirts bowled out England for 291 as the visitors tried to chase Pakistan's first-innings total of 366 in the spin-dominated contest. Ben Duckett smashed 114 for England but several of their frontline batters failed to convert starts into big knocks. On a track where the ball turned sharply and shot-making was difficult, England off-spinner Shoaib Bashir then delivered three huge blows to keep England in the contest. Kamran



Ghulam, who smashed a hundred in the first innings of his debut test, was batting on five having lost partner Saim Ayub (22) on the stroke of lunch but soon was knocked out at 26 by left-arm spinner Jack Leach. England captain Ben Stokes began with spin from both ends due to the nature of the pitch, putting in off-spinner Bashir with Leach. Stokes stayed with spin even when Leach had to be rested, pressing part-time off-spinner Joe Root into service. Bashir drew first blood when he had Pakistan opener Abdullah

Shafique caught behind for four. England successfully reviewed the original not-out decision and replays confirmed the faintest of edges. Bashir dismissed Shan Masood for 11 after the Pakistan captain tried to flick a ball only to offer an edge to Ollie Pope at second slip. Saim looked comfortable before falling to the same Pope-Bashir combination in the final delivery before the lunch break. England had earlier resumed on 239-6 and lost their remaining four wickets in the first hour to concede a first-innings lead of

75 to the hosts. Sajid dismissed Brydon Carse, Matthew Potts and Bashir to finish with impressive figures of 7-111. Left-arm spinner Noman Ali claimed the remaining three as England lost all 10 wickets to Pakistan's spin-heavy attack, which has Aamer Jamal as the lone seamer. Previously, Ben Stokes' squad had shown a strong response, particularly through Ben Duckett's outstanding century, establishing a robust position against Pakistan. Before that, the Shan Masood-led side got out for 366 with debutant Ghulam

top-scoring for the hosts with a fluent 118 and Saim contributing 77. England are 1-0 up in the three-Test series. Pakistan Playing XI Saim Ayub, Abdullah Shafique, Shan Masood (captain), Kamran Ghulam, Saud Shakeel (vice-captain), Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Salman Ali Agha, Aamer 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.

Real Madrid back Mbappe amid rape investigation reports

Real were accused of deleting Mbappe from photos they published in a promotional campaign

MADRID: Real Madrid have, for the moment at least, given their support to star forward Kylian Mbappe since the Swedish media reported that he was being investigated for an alleged rape during a visit to Stockholm. The reigning European champions, who have not commented publicly on the reports, do not appear to be overly concerned about the reports about the player who joined this summer from Paris Saint-Germain. An internal club source, who spoke to AFP on condition of their identity not being revealed, described the accusations as "the biggest fake in the history of sport". On Tuesday, Real were accused of deleting 25-year-old Mbappe from photos they published in a promotional campaign with their jersey manufacturer Adidas. Real told journalists the reason was simply because Mbappe's boot sponsor is Adidas's bitter rivals Nike. That explanation was questioned on social media though, with many people pointing out that several players in the photos are also under contract with Nike,



like Mbappe's French international teammate Eduardo Camavinga. In the midst of the media storm — and on the day his lawyer spoke to AFP and other French media to insist her client was "shocked" to be linked to a rape investigation — Mbappe trained with his teammates in Madrid on Tuesday. This time, the club had no hesitation in posting photos and videos of the Frenchman, who should be available for selection on Saturday for the visit of Celta Vigo to the Bernabeu as he is said to have recovered from discomfort in his left thigh that kept him out of France's squad for Nations League games.

With a rare free day on his hands, Mbappe chose to go to Stockholm with a group of friends, arriving on October 9 and departing on October 11. Reports in several Swedish media say they visited a restaurant and a nightclub. Once the group had left Sweden, a woman went to police to allege she was the victim of a rape. On Monday, after Swedish newspaper Aftonbladet became the first media outlet to reveal that a rape probe had been opened, Mbappe slammed the report as "fake news" on his social media and alleged there was a link between the accusations and his financial dispute with his former club Paris Saint-Germain. A hearing into the case was held on Tuesday. "It's becoming so predictable, the day before the hearing as if by chance," Mbappe said on X, formerly Twitter. A Swedish prosecutor has only confirmed that an investigation has been opened, without naming Mbappe. His lawyer Marie-Alix Canu-Bernard told AFP on Tuesday the 2018 World Cup winner was "at ease" because "he has done nothing wrong".—Agencies

Sajid breaks Mushtaq's record

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan off-spinner Sajid Khan made history in the second Test match against England at the Multan Cricket Stadium as he picked up 7 wickets, breaking the 24-year-old record previously held by legendary Saqlain Mushtaq. Sajid Khan grabbed seven wickets to bundle England for 291 on the morning of day three of the second Test on Thursday. With bowling figures of 7-111, Sajid became the first Pakistani off-spinner to take five or more wickets on home ground since Saqlain Mushtaq achieved this feat in 2000 at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium against the same opponents. Meanwhile, Noman Ali took the remaining three wickets for Pakistan, justifying the management's decision to play one pacer and three spinners. Earlier, England resumed their innings on Day 3 at 239-6 with Jamie Smith (12*) and Brydon Carse (2*) on the crease. However, they could only add nine runs in the morning before Sajid Khan removed Carse. The off-spinner soon removed Matthew Potts (6) while Smith fell prey to Noman after scoring 21. Jack Leach played a crucial unbeaten knock of 25 runs, adding 29 runs for the last wicket with Shoaib Bashir (9) before Sajid wrapped up the innings.—APP

Premier League VAR errors down 80% - referees' chief

WEB DESK

LONDON: Referees' chief Howard Webb says there has been an 80% reduction in the number of video assistant referee (VAR) errors this season. It has now been five years since VAR was introduced in the Premier League, but the system and the way it is used continues to attract plenty of debate. According to the independent Key Match Incidents panel (KMI), there were 31 incorrect uses of VAR during the 2023-24 season. In June Premier League clubs voted 19-1 in favour of keeping VAR after Wolverhampton Wanderers triggered a vote to scrap it. An independent survey commissioned by the Premier League suggested that four out of five fans want to keep VAR in the league. The Premier League has started explaining VAR decisions using a dedicated social media channel, but the introduction of semi-automated offside technology (SAOT) — originally scheduled for after either the October or November international break — has been delayed until 2025. Webb — chief refereeing officer at Professional Game Match Officials Limited (PGMOL) — has claimed that mistakes are down 80% this season. "I don't think we managed expectations well in terms of VAR," the former Premier League referee told the Stick to Football podcast, external. "We knew it was always going to be a situation where it was going to do well on those clear situations, the ones where you think, 'that's clearly wrong on first view'. We're good at spotting those most of the time." "We have this independent panel which has got ex-players on it, and they judge each decision each week, and according to the panel — which is independent from us [PGMOL] — there has only been two VAR errors this season compared to 10 at the same time last year." Webb added that greater emphasis has been placed on reducing the time taken to reach decisions. "We've been better at hitting the mark but that can change and we're not going to get complacent, but it's been better," said Webb. "For me, the biggest thing of all is that it's been quicker. The average delay last season through VAR was 70 seconds per game and this year it's 25 seconds. It's way better." "I said to the guys, 'don't ponder for too long, if you see a situation that jumps off the screen at you then get involved, but if you're having to think about it too much and analyse it too many times then just say check complete because we'll leave it with the referee on the field'.—APP

India all out for 46 against NZ in first Test

Henry then claimed his fourth Test five-wicket haul by having Kuldeep Yadav caught in the gully. India's total was the 18th-lowest by any team in Tests

SPORTS DESK

NEW DELHI: India were bowled out for 46 by New Zealand on day two of the first Test in Bengaluru. After the entire first day was washed out by rain, India chose to bat on a lively, seaming pitch and were dismissed for the third-lowest total in their Test history. Virat Kohli, Sarfaraz Khan, KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin were all out for ducks, with seamers Matt Henry and Will O'Rourke taking 5-15 and 4-22 respectively. Rishabh Pant with 20 and Yashasvi Jaiswal, who made 13, were the only batters to make double figures for India, who are top of the World Test Championship standings. It was India's lowest total in a home Test, only beaten by their 36 all out against Australia in Adelaide in

2020 and 42 against England at Lord's in 1974. New Zealand reached 180-3 by the close, giving them complete control of the Test with a lead of 134. Tom Latham and Devon Conway went beyond the hosts' score with an opening partnership of 67 and Conway continued to make a 105-ball 91. "We were going to bat first too so it was a good toss to lose," Henry said. "It was nice when the clouds rolled in when the toss was done. "We were expecting it to be a flatter wicket but there was plenty of assistance this morning." Jaiswal and captain Rohit Sharma had edged to 9-0 in the seventh over when Rohit was bowled by Tim Southee as he advanced to attempt a wild drive. Kohli did not score in his nine balls before gloving 23-year-old O'Rourke, playing his fifth Test, to leg slip. Sarfaraz was caught one-handed by

Conway diving at mid-off attempting a counter-attack and, after a short rain delay and a 10-over partnership returning just 21 runs with Pant, Jaiswal cut O'Rourke to

point. Rahul was caught under the leg side in O'Rourke's next over and an over later, Jadeja skied a catch off a leading edge and Ashwin edged to gully in consecutive balls off

Henry. The seamer's next over returned the wicket of Pant, who poked an edge to second slip, and he produced a fine sprawling catch soon after to pouch Jasprit Bumrah's

top-edge at fine leg. Henry then claimed his fourth Test five-wicket haul by having Kuldeep Yadav caught in the gully. India's total was the 18th-lowest by any team in Tests.



Bangladesh issues arrest warrant for ex-leader...

FROM PAGE 01
issued for 45 others, including former government ministers who also fled the country. "The court has... ordered the arrest of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, and to produce her in court on November 18," Mohammad Tajul Islam, the ICT's chief prosecutor, told reporters on Thursday. "Sheikh Hasina was at the helm of those who committed massacres, killings and crimes against humanity in July to August," he added. Bangladesh's interim health ministry said in August that more than 1,000 people were killed in the violence this summer after student-led protests against government job quotas turned into mass demonstrations, making it the bloodiest period in the country's history since its 1971 independence. Hasina, 77, has not been seen in public since fleeing Bangladesh. Her last official whereabouts is a military airbase near India's capital Delhi. She was initially expected to stay in India for a short time, but reports say her attempts to seek asylum elsewhere have been unsuccessful so far. Her continued presence in India poses a challenge for the country's history since its 1971 independence. Hasina, 77, has not been seen in public since fleeing Bangladesh. Her last official whereabouts is a military airbase near India's capital Delhi. She was initially expected to stay in India for a short time, but reports say her attempts to seek asylum elsewhere have been unsuccessful so far. Her continued presence in India poses a challenge for the country's history since its 1971 independence. Hasina, 77, has not been seen in public since fleeing Bangladesh. Her last official whereabouts is a military airbase near India's capital Delhi. She was initially expected to stay in India for a short time, but reports say her attempts to seek asylum elsewhere have been unsuccessful so far. Her continued presence in India poses a challenge for the country's history since its 1971 independence.

Senate felicitates govt on...

FROM PAGE 01
the mega even will have positive impact on Pakistan's growing geo-economic profile. It added that SCO huddle would also play a key role in enhancing regional connectivity, investment, infrastructure, climate and security goals. The Senate also approved the Deposit Protection Corporation Amendment Bill, 2024, presented by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb. In his remarks, the finance minister said the bill would further strengthen the financial system in the country. A bill related to Establishment of Special Court (Overseas Pakistanis Property) was also sailed through the Senate after it was tabled by Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Chaudhry Salik Hussain. He said the establishment of special court aimed at addressing the property related issues being faced by overseas Pakistanis. The finance minister also tabled the National Forensics Agency Bill, 2024, which has been referred to the standing committee for further discussion.

1.1 billion living in acute...

FROM PAGE 01
index published on Thursday by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), reporting "markedly more severe" disparities in nutrition, access to electricity, and access to water and sanitation. Research across 112 countries and 6.3 billion people revealed that 1.1 billion people endure poverty, with 455 million of them living "in the shadow of conflict", according to the Multidimensional Poverty Index. "Conflicts have intensified and multiplied in recent years, reaching new highs in casualties, displacing record millions of people, and causing widespread disruption to lives and livelihoods," said the UNDP's Achim Steiner. The index showed that some 584 million people under 18 were experiencing extreme poverty, accounting for 27.9 percent of children worldwide, compared with 13.5 percent of adults. Child mortality in conflict settings was 8 percent, compared with 1.1 percent in peaceful countries. It also said that 83.2 percent of the world's poorest people live in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. The index, compiled jointly with the OPHI, used indicators such as a lack of adequate housing, sanitation, electricity, cooking fuel, nutrition and school attendance to assess levels of "multidimensional poverty". The index included an in-depth study on Afghanistan, where 5.3 million more people fell into poverty during 2015-16 and 2022-23.

Briefs

Gold price
ups by Rs.700
per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs.700 and was sold at Rs.277,900 on Thursday compared to its sale at Rs. 277,200 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.600 to Rs. 238,254 from Rs. 237,654 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs. 218,400 from Rs. 217,850, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs. 3,050 and Rs. 2,614.88, respectively. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$7 to \$2,682 from \$2,675, the Association reported.—APP

Rupee gains
05 paisa
against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Thursday appreciated by 05 paisa against the US dollar in the inter-bank trading and closed at Rs277.79 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.84. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs277.90 and Rs279.40 respectively. The price of Euro decreased by 81 paisa to close at Rs301.52 against the last day's closing of Rs302.33, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs1.85, whereas a decrease of 26 paisa was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs360.83 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs361.09. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal decreased by 02 paisa and 04 paisa to close at Rs75.62 and Rs73.96 respectively.—APP

CDNS
achieve Rs
210b mark
in yearly
reserves
target

ISLAMABAD: Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has realized a target of Rs 210 billion in fresh bonds and achieved 12 percent of the annual target in the first quarter of current fiscal year, from July 1 to October 16. The CDNS has set an annual target of Rs 1650 billion for the current Fiscal Year, 2024-25, which will promote the saving culture in the country, the senior official of CDNS told APP on Thursday. Similarly, the CDNS has set a target of Rs 170 billion in investment in Islamic finance for the Current Fiscal Year, which will lead to growth of the Islamic economy in the country. Replying to a question, he said that the CDNS has realized a target of Rs1.742 trillion in fresh bonds and exceeded 100 percent of the annual target in the last fiscal year 2023-24, from July 1 to June 30. National Savings has set an annual target of Rs 1.7 trillion for the year 2023-24; it is encouraging that this year, "We surpassed the 100 percent of the annual target." The CDNS surpassed the annual target and achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the previous fiscal year 2022-23, he said. He said this was an Rs 200 billion additional annual target than the target of Rs 1300 billion for the previous financial year 2021-22. The CDNS has set a reviewed saving target of Rs 1.4 trillion for the financial year (2021-22) which will promote a savings culture in the country, he said, adding that given the current market trend in the country, the ambitious target had been set to further improve the savings culture. The official said that work was being done on institutional reforms in CDNS and new reforms and innovations were being introduced. At this time Automated Teller Machine (ATM) has also been introduced in CDNS which will provide enough facilities to the users," he added. The official said that the directorate had set a target of Rs 75 billion for the new financial year 2023-24 for Islamic finance bonds.—APP

PSX raises over Rs 1t through
via GOP Ijarah Sukuk

PSX plays a pivotal role in enabling the GOP to raise funds through the Capital Market Infrastructure Institutions (CMIIs). A driving factor for its success is the diverse range of Sukuk on offer; these include discounted, fixed rate, and variable rate instruments

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) announced a significant achievement on Thursday, surpassing the Rs 1 trillion mark through the issuance of Government of Pakistan (GoP) Ijarah Sukuk (GIS). This breakthrough was achieved following the successful conclusion of the 13th GIS auction on September 16, 2024 through which an additional Rs 207 billion was raised for the Ministry of Finance (MoF), said a news release. The GIS Auctions started

on December 8, 2023, and have since witnessed robust participation from the banks, mutual funds and brokerage fraternity, with each auction contributing to the growth of the Shariah-based Government Securities market. PSX has been instrumental in the offer of GIS through provision of a state-of-the-art auction system and support for the entire lifecycle of the GIS, from issuance till maturity. PSX enjoys a unique position amongst global exchanges that offer primary issuance of Government Debt. PSX plays a pivotal role in enabling the GOP

to raise funds through the Capital Market Infrastructure Institutions (CMIIs). A driving factor for its success is the diverse range of Sukuk on offer; these include discounted, fixed rate, and variable rate instruments. This is accompanied by a wide range of tenors on offer – 1 Year, 3 Year, 5 Year, and 10 Year GIS – that were added after the inaugural auction to meet the varying needs of the government and investors alike. In addition to facilitating an active primary market for GIS, PSX also hosts an equally efficient secondary market and is

committed to enhancing its liquidity which aligns with PSX's broader goal of market development. This effort of market development includes enhancing the market depth and investor participation in the primary and secondary markets. Speaking about this landmark achievement, Nadeem Naqvi, Acting CEO of the Pakistan Stock Exchange, remarked, "Reaching the PKR 1 trillion mark in the issuance of GIS is a testament to the trust investors have placed in PSX and the ongoing demand for high-quality Shariah compliant instruments. Our

commitment to innovation and market infrastructure has helped us grow rapidly in less than a year, and we continue to improve the experience for all our market participants. The primary and secondary markets for GIS at PSX, are supported by the robust PSX Auction system and the New Trading System (NTS) respectively. We are confident that the market for GIS will continue to thrive in the years to come. We extend our gratitude to the Ministry of Finance (MoF) for their trust placed in PSX, National Clearing Company of Pakistan Limited (NC-

CPL) and Central Depository Company (CDC) to handle these auctions and to the apex Regulator, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), for their invaluable guidance and support throughout this process. Lastly, but very importantly, I would like to extend my appreciation and due acknowledgement that this initiative of conducting GIS auctions through the PSX platform began under the leadership of our respected Chairperson, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, when she was the caretaker finance minister."



ISLAMABAD: Labourers busy in construction work of CDA Business Facilitation Centre at G-7 sector.—APP

Gaza unemployment
surges to 80% as
economy collapses

ZURICH: Unemployment in Gaza has soared to nearly 80 percent since the Israel-Hamas war erupted, with the devastated enclave's economy in almost total collapse, the International Labour Organization said on Thursday. Economic output has shrunk by 85 percent since the conflict with Israel began a year ago, plunging almost the entire 2.3 million population into poverty, the United Nations agency said. The conflict has caused "unprecedented and wide-ranging devastation on the labor market and the wider economy across the Occupied Palestinian Territory," the ILO said, referring to Gaza and the West Bank. In the West Bank, the unemployment rate averaged 34.9 percent between October 2023 and the end of September 2024, while its economy has contracted by 21.7 percent compared with the previous 12 months, the ILO said. Before the crisis, the unemployment rate in Gaza was 45.3 percent and 14 percent in the West Bank, according to the Geneva-based organization. Gazans either lost their jobs entirely or picked up informal and irregular work "primarily centered on the provision of essential goods and services," the ILO said. Israel launched its offensive after Hamas-led gunmen attacked on Oct. 7, killing some 1,200 people and taking around 250 hostage, according to Israeli tallies. Israel's campaign in response has killed more than 42,000 people, according to Gaza's health authorities.—APP

India slams
'cavalier' Trudeau
in Sikh separatist
murder row

NEW DELHI: India slammed Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Thursday as "cavalier" over his handling of the disastrous diplomatic fallout following the 2023 killing of a Sikh separatist in Canada. New Delhi held firm its defiant stance toward Ottawa – an approach in sharp contrast to its compliant attitude this week toward the United States, where India is also accused of directing a separate assassination plot. Canada has alleged that India arranged the killing of a Sikh separatist, naturalized Canadian citizen Hardeep Singh Nijjar, murdered in the parking lot of a Sikh temple in Vancouver in June 2023. India has called the allegations "preposterous." But Trudeau, at a parliamentary inquiry on Wednesday, said Canada had "clear... indications that India had violated Canada's sovereignty." Canada's top envoy to New Delhi, Stewart Wheeler, who India has ordered to leave by Saturday night, has said Ottawa had provided "credible, irrefutable evidence of ties between agents of the Government of India and the murder of a Canadian citizen." India's foreign ministry spokesman Randhir Jaiswal on Thursday said they had not seen that evidence. "Canada has presented us (India) no evidence whatsoever in support of the serious allegations that it has chosen to level against India and Indian diplomats," he said in a statement. "The responsibility for the damage that this cavalier behavior has caused to India-Canada relations lies with Prime Minister Trudeau alone." Nijjar – who immigrated to Canada in 1997 and became a citizen in 2015 – had advocated for a separate Sikh state, known as Khalistan, carved out of India. He had been wanted by Indian authorities for alleged terrorism and conspiracy to commit murder. Four Indian nationals have been arrested in connection with Nijjar's murder. Last year, the Indian government briefly curbed visas for Canadians and this week both countries expelled each other's ambassadors. New Delhi's response to Washington has been very different, with the US State Department on Wednesday saying India had told it that an intelligence operative accused of directing an assassination plot on US soil was no longer in government service.—DNA

IIUI pays
tribute to late
Prof. Dr N.B
Jumani

ISLAMABAD: Funeral prayers in absentia were offered on Thursday at the New Campus of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) for Prof. Dr. Nabi Bux Jumani, the former Vice President of the university. A condolence reference was also held to honor his memory, with participants reflecting on his significant contributions to the institution. President Sarwar, Vice Presidents, Deans, Faculty members, DGs administrative officers and a large number of employees offered funeral prayers in absentia. The solemn occasion was marked by heartfelt prayers for eternal peace as the congregation, led by the President, prayed for Dr. Jumani's maghfirah (forgiveness) and high ranks in the afterlife. The dua, following the Namaz-e-Janaza, emphasized the sense of loss felt by the university community at the passing of a man they regarded as a visionary leader. Prof. Dr. Jumani, aged 58, passed away last Saturday during a surgery and was laid to rest in his native village in Sindh. His sudden death has left a void in the hearts of many, particularly within the academic community.—APP

Pakistani agrochemical
companies to expand
market share in China

The 2024 ACE brings together upstream and downstream enterprises in the pesticide and fertilizer production chain, including raw material suppliers, active pharmaceutical ingredient (API)

DNA

SHANGHAI: Pakistani agrochemical companies are looking forward to expand their market share in China. We are excited to be here once again, showcasing our agrochemicals and seeds to the thriving Chinese market," said Bilal Imtiaz, Director of Imports for V-GRO Group Pakistan, as he stood amidst a display of the company's agrochemical products at the ongoing 2024 AgroChemEx (ACE) exhibition in Shanghai, China. Drawing more than 600 international exhibitors, the expo is expected to welcome more than 40,000 visitors from October 14 to 16, providing a platform for industry collaboration and information exchange. According to Gwadar Pro on Thursday, this year, Bilal Imtiaz presented a variety of products including chlorothal, metaxyl, chlorfluazone and chlorantraniliprole to potential Chinese partners and customers. "China's agrochemicals industry has

been actively engaging in international cooperation, introducing advanced technologies and products from abroad. This international collaboration has been mutually beneficial, and we are proud to be a part of it," Bilal Imtiaz commented. China, recognized as one of the agricultural powerhouses globally, has been actively pursuing the modernization of its farming sector. Coupled with the country's increasing agricultural productivity and economic growth, China has emerged as a key player in the international agrochemicals market. The Pakistani agrochemicals market is also experiencing significant growth. According to Mordor Intelligence, the market size is estimated at USD 345.59 million in 2024 and is expected to reach USD 507.55 million by 2029, growing at a CAGR of 7.99% during the forecast period (2024-2029). The importance of agrochemicals in the agricultural sector of Pakistan cannot be overstated as they are essential for crop protection and increased

yield during the pre-harvest phase. The 2024 ACE brings together upstream and downstream enterprises in the pesticide and fertilizer production chain, including raw material suppliers, active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) and intermediate producers, formulation processors, pesticide auxiliaries, agricultural production and packaging equipment manufacturers, new fertilizer producers, environmental protection enterprises, and agricultural machinery manufacturers. Bilal Imtiaz revealed that dozens of Pakistani companies were participating in the ACE exhibition alongside other international exhibitors. "The Pakistani agrochemicals industry is booming, and we are proud to represent our country at such a prestigious exhibition," he said, adding, "We have made valuable connections and partnerships over the years, and we are looking forward to the coming agricultural exhibition in Tianjin, China, where we hope to make even more connections."

Egypt's El-Sisi
meets with
Iran's foreign
minister

CAIRO/DUBAI: Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi met with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi on Thursday, Egypt's presidency said in a statement. The meeting focused on regional developments, with El-Sisi reiterating Egypt's call to avoid the expansion of conflict and the need to halt escalation to prevent a full-scale regional war. Araqchi emphasized the importance of continuing efforts to explore prospects for mutual development of relations between the two countries, the statement added. Araqchi landed in Cairo late on Wednesday for talks with Egyptian officials, the first such visit in years as part of a Middle Eastern tour amid concerns of a wider confrontation in the region with Israel. Tensions are high in anticipation of an Israeli attack on Iran in retaliation for Iran's missile attack on Oct. 1. That followed a rapidly spiralling conflict between Israel and Iranian-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon. Araqchi arrived for "important talks with Egypt's high ranking officials that will be held tomorrow [Thursday]," Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said in a post on X on Wednesday, after stops in countries including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Iraq and Lebanon. Relations between Egypt and Iran have generally been fraught in recent decades but the two countries have stepped up high-level diplomatic contacts since the eruption of the Gaza crisis last year as Egypt tried to play a mediating role. Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty traveled to Tehran in July to attend the country's presidential inauguration.—APP

Biden cancels
additional
\$4.5b in
student debt

NEW YORK: US President Joe Biden on Thursday canceled another \$4.5 billion in student debt for over 60,000 borrowers, bringing the number of public service workers who have had their student loans canceled to over 1 million. In total, the Biden-Harris Administration has approved \$175 billion in student debt relief for nearly 5 million borrowers through various actions, the White House said in a statement. Republicans have described the Democratic president's student loan forgiveness approach as an overreach of authority and an unfair benefit to college-educated borrowers while others receive no such relief. Earlier this month, St. Louis-based US District Judge Matthew Schelp, an appointee of Republican former President Donald Trump, issued a preliminary injunction blocking the Biden administration from "mass canceling" student loans and forgiving principal or interest under the plan, pending the outcome of the state's lawsuit.—APP

Indian police
arrest minor
for hoax
bomb threats
on flights

NEW DELHI: Police in India's financial capital Mumbai have arrested a minor for allegedly posting online bomb threats to three flights earlier this week, India's aviation minister said. Indian airlines have this month received a spate of threats to domestic and international flights on their social media, all of which have been false alarms. "Strongly condemn the recent bomb threats to Indian air carriers. We are closely monitoring the situation and ensuring that every necessary measure is taken against such actions," Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu, the country's civil aviation minister, said in a post on X on Wednesday. He said the person arrested was a minor, meaning below the age of 18, and did not name him. Local media have reported that bomb threats were made from an account on X and alleged two IndiGo flights – one to Muscat and another to Jeddah, and an Air India one to New York had armed militants with explosives. At least eight flights of leading carrier IndiGo were subject to threats.—APP

ME crisis top-of-mind at EU-GCC moot

"Russia's war against Ukraine and the Hamas-led attack against Israel on October 7 have fundamentally undermined regional security in Europe and the Gulf," EU chief Ursula von der Leyen told the gathering in opening remarks

BRUSSELS: Gulf leaders including Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman met with European heads of state and government in Brussels on Wednesday for summit talks the EU hopes could help defuse an "extremely dangerous escalation" in the Middle East. The 27-nation European Union is seeking to work more closely with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) – which brings together Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates – in addressing conflicts in both the Middle East and Ukraine. "Russia's war against Ukraine and the Hamas-led attack against Israel on October 7 have fundamentally undermined regional security in Europe and the Gulf," EU chief Ursula von der Leyen told the gathering in opening remarks. "We need to do all in our power and mobilize all our diplomatic skills to stop the extremely dangerous escalation with now Iran

launching a massive ballistic attack against Israel, or Houthi said Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani. "We hope

The EU is the second-largest trading partner for GCC countries and the EU's push to punish

tries but talks on a trade pact have languished for years. While views differ on Russia's invasion of Ukraine – in particular the

Iran for bolstering Moscow's war effort – there was some hope of closer cooperation on that front.—Agencies



attacking our ships," she added, calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon. We need a settlement for these conflicts,"

that this first summit will be the first step to consolidate our historic ties between the GCC and the EU."

Iran for bolstering Moscow's war effort – there was some hope of closer cooperation on that front.—Agencies

Briefs

Trump calls Capitol riot a 'day of love'

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump has described the US Capitol riot of 6 January 2021 as a "day of love" during a campaign event just weeks before the presidential election. The former president claimed the thousands who travelled to Washington DC that day did so because "they thought the election was a rigged election". On 6 January, a mob breached the US Capitol building in an effort to deny the certification of Joe Biden's election win, forcing lawmakers to flee. Several deaths, including that of a police officer, have been attributed to the events that day. Trump has spent years making false claims that the vote was rigged. The event continues to divide America. During his "town hall" event in Miami, Florida, Trump was challenged to win back the vote of a man who said he had been disturbed by what happened after the Republican lost the 2020 vote. "Nothing done wrong at all," Trump said in a lengthy response. "There were no guns down there. We didn't have guns. The others had guns, but we didn't have guns. And when I say we, these are people that walked down — this was a tiny percentage of the overall which nobody sees and nobody, nobody shows. But that was a day of love." He recalled addressing a group of "hundreds of thousands" during a speech elsewhere in Washington DC. — Agencies

IRGC chief warns will hit Israel 'painfully'

DUBAI/BEIRUT: The commander of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards warned Israel on Thursday against attacking the Islamic Republic in retaliation for a missile barrage as its arch foe stepped up its offensive in Lebanon against Tehran-backed Hezbollah. Fears of a wider Middle East conflict have grown as Israel plans its response to the Oct. 1 missile attack carried out by Iran after Israeli airstrikes on Iranian-allied militants. "We tell you (Israel) that if you commit any aggression against any point we will painfully attack the same point of yours," Hossein Salami said in a televised speech, adding that Iran can penetrate Israel's defenses. US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin spoke to Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant on Wednesday about Israel's operations in Lebanon and Gaza, aiming to avert a regional war. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi landed in Cairo for talks with Egyptian officials as part of a Middle Eastern tour as tension builds. The European Union held its first summit with Gulf states and issued a statement calling for calm: "We underscore the importance of diplomatic engagement with Iran — to pursue regional de-escalation," it said. Israel shows no signs of easing its military campaigns against Hezbollah in Lebanon after assassinating several of its leaders, and Hamas in Gaza and it has vowed to punish Iran for its Oct. 1 attack. — Agencies

Huge cache of narcotics seized

DNA
KARACHI: Pakistan Navy conducted a joint operation along with Combined Task Force 150 (CTF 150) in North Arabian Sea, leading to seizure of huge cache of narcotics. Pakistan Navy ship PNS Zulfiqar and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency's ship Kolachi took part in the focused operation, which was also joined by US Navy's ship USS Abraham Lincoln. Aircrafts of coast guard and Pakistan Navy also provided assistance in the operation. Resultantly, 1.3 tons of Hashish worth approximately \$26 million was seized. Pakistan Navy recently assumed the command of the Combined Task Force 150 that aims at curbing illegal activities in international waters and promoting maritime security.

Nawaz foresees thaw in Pak-India ties after SCO summit

Indian cricket team should visit Pakistan for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy 2025, urges PML-N president



BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif said on Thursday that the SCO summit, which was also attended by an Indian foreign minister in a rare visit, could be a beginning of normalisation of ties between India and Pakistan. He made the statement in a meeting with a delegation of Indian journalists who came to Pakistan for the coverage of recently concluded Shanghai Coop-

eration Organisation (SCO) moot attended by foreign leaders from 10 countries. The meeting was also attended by Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and senior minister Marriyum Aurangzeb. Stressing the need to revive cricket diplomacy between the South Asian nations, Nawaz said that the Indian cricket team should visit Pakistan for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy 2025. "If you ask the Indian cricket team, they would also suggest playing in Pakistan. Despite they are ready to play, however, those who have power to allow

them don't grant them permission," he told the journalists. He said it would have been better had Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the SCO conference in Pakistan, however, the arrival of the neighbouring country's foreign minister was also a good sign. Jaishankar, who attended the SCO moot held in Islamabad, was the first foreign minister of the neighbouring country to visit Pakistan in nearly a decade. While departing from Islamabad after the regional event, Jaishankar thanked PM Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister and his

Pakistani counterpart Ishaq Dar and the government for the "hospitality and courtesies". In his interaction with the journalists, the three-time former prime minister said although the two countries had a bitter past, there is need to look forward and talk about the future. Shedding light on mutual issues which could be points of collaboration, the PML-N president said that Islamabad and New Delhi needed to immediately work on climate change and bilateral trade. Pointing towards suspended trade ties between the neighbours for years, Nawaz told the foreign journalists that the cost of different Indian commodities and vegetables has increased in Pakistan as the products arrived in Pakistan via Dubai. "Improved Pakistan-India relations would allow transportation of essential commodities to Pakistan within two hours," he added. Prior to this meeting, Nawaz was also interviewed by renowned Indian journalist BarkhaDutt earlier this week before the commencement of the high-anticipated SCO conference. In the interview, the former prime minister had expressed optimism about meeting Indian premier Modi in the near future as he advocated improved relations with the neighbouring country. "I have always been a supporter of good relations with India," Nawaz said, expressing hope that there was an opportunity to revive the relationship. "It would have been a great thing if PM [Narendra] Modi had also attended the SCO summit. I do hope that he and us will have an opportunity to sit together in the not-so-distant future," the former premier said.

At least 28 dead in Gaza strike on school

FOREIGN DESK

CAIRO: At least 28 Palestinians including children were killed on Thursday in an Israeli strike on a shelter in the northern Gaza Strip, a Gaza health ministry official said, while Israel said the attack targeted tens of militants at the site. Dozens were also injured in the strike, said the official, Medhat Abbas, adding: "There is no water to extinguish the fire. There is nothing. This is a massacre." "Civilians and children are being killed, burned under fire," said Abbas. The Israeli military said in a statement the strike targeted militants from Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups, who operated from within the Abu Hussein School in Jabalia that had been serving as a shelter for displaced people. It said dozens of militants were present inside the compound when the strike took place, and provided the names of at least 12 of them, which Reuters could not immediately verify. The military said it took precautions to mitigate harm to civilians and accused Hamas of using them as human shields — a practice Hamas denies. Hamas said in a statement that allegations there were fighters at the school were "nothing but lies," adding this was "a systematic policy of the enemy to justify its crime."

SC dismisses pleas challenging constitutional amendments

Three-member bench's decision comes after petitioners sought withdrawal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

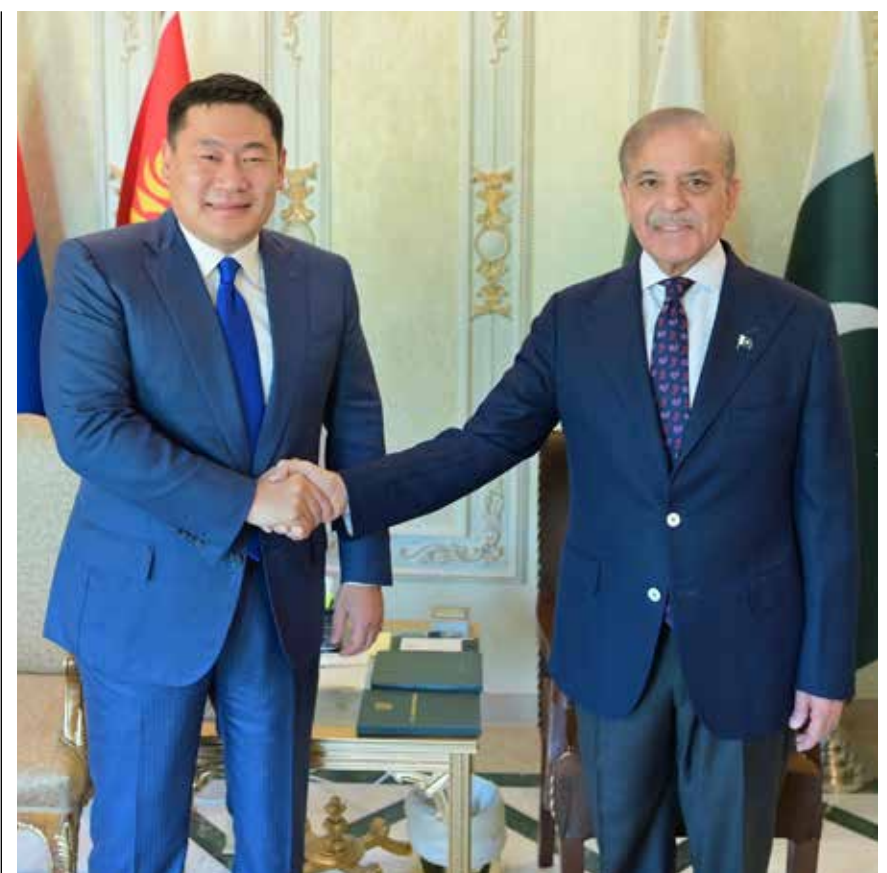
ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court dismissed petitions on Thursday challenging the 26th proposed constitutional amendments after the petitioners sought withdrawal. The government's much-talked-about constitutional package aims, among other things, to establish a federal constitutional court and set a three-year tenure for the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP). A three-member bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice QaziFaez Isa and comprising Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan, heard the joint petition. The petition was filed by former president of the Supreme Court Bar Association and current member of the Pakistan Bar Council, Abid S Zubairi, along with other council members, against the proposed constitutional amendments. During the hearing, lawyer Hamid Khan requested the bench to withdraw the petitions. At this, the CJP wondered whether the petitioners had only hired Hamid, a leader of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), to withdraw their pleas. "AbidZubairi could have withdrawn the petition himself [...] Six lawyers had filed the petition; they could have appeared before the court themselves to withdraw it," the top judge said. The CJP then told the lawyer that two cases — the main petition and the plea against the objections to the petition — had been fixed for hearing. The lawyer said that his clients wanted to withdraw all the pleas. Zubairi, along with other Pakistan Bar Council members, had filed the petition in the apex court under Article 184(3) of the Constitution on September 16. The petitioners requested the Supreme Court to declare that the separation of powers, judicial independence, and its authority to enforce fundamental rights are sacrosanct under the Constitution and beyond the power of Parliament to withdraw, interfere with, or alter in any way.

More than 200 arrested in Pindi as protests turn violent

Police urge students to abstain from participating in "illegal" activities, warn of stern action

MEHTAB PIRZADA

RAWALPINDI: Police spokesperson on Thursday confirmed the arrest of as many as 250 people after students' protest turned violent in the city's DhokeGangal area. The students, demonstrating against the alleged rape of a college-going girl in Lahore, ransacked a hostel after forcefully entering the hostel premises, pelted stones and damaged the vehicles there. Meanwhile, the police used tear gas to disperse the students and evacuated the teachers and staff who were initially trapped in the building. Today's demonstrations come amid the ongoing unrest across the province over rape allegations which went viral on social media platforms prompting students to hold multiple demonstrations across various cities in recent days. More than two dozen people, including four policemen, were injured in violent protests in Lahore on Tuesday. The turmoil eventually warranted a strong response from Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz who, while speaking to the media on Wednesday, announced a crackdown on those spreading fake news regarding the rape of a student. Rawalpindi Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations Hafiz Kamran Asghar said that the police had dispersed the protesters and the situation was fully under control. "Several protesters have been arrested. All angles of the protest are being investigated," said the cop, adding that heavy police contingents have been deployed at various locations. Meanwhile, Elite Force troops have also been deployed on the Sixth Road to maintain law and order situation. Rawalpindi Deputy Commissioner Hassan Waqar Cheema also reiterated that the overall situation in the city was under control. "Negotiations with student leadership have been successful. After the protest, the students left for their homes," he said. Cheema stated that many protesters who damaged property under the guise of protest have been arrested, while an additional police force has been stationed outside educational institutions.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receives the Premier of Mongolia Luvsannamsrain Oyun-Erdene. — DNA

World silence over killing of Afghans in Iran

SHAMIM SHAHID

RECENT reports reveals killing of around 300 Afghan nationals in a border village of Seestan province of Iran. The incident occurred at border village of Kalgan Sarwan of Seestan of Iran which is bordering also with Baluchistan province of Afghanistan. Further details are awaited but reports reveal that personnel of Iranian border security forces opened indiscriminate firing against these Afghan nationals while they making attempt to enter Iran. From onward Iran, almost these Afghan immigrants are struggling to land in Pakistan or any other part of the region not only for their livelihood but for their survival. No one can exonerate the hard line Taliban who are governing war devastated Afghanistan of miseries, hardships and even killing/dying of Afghans not only by border personnel of Iran but throughout the world. Like of Iran, Pakistan is also responsible for all happenings to Afghans. But most important, the main culprit is no other than United State-which is engaged in experiment after experiment on the sole of Afghans from last several decades. But unfortunately, not only common countries but even UN and EU like so called prestigious and effective global bodies are helpless before US. Whatever may be claims and justification on the part of US but it and its powerful spy agencies had made a key role in surrendering of Afghanistan for a term to Taliban. In fact, Taliban are no any new or strange force but it is the second generation of Afghan Mujahideen, manufactured and financed by US, trained by Pakistan and religiously polished by Saudi Arabia. Now it is confirmed that US agenda regarding South and Central Asia is yet to be accomplished and for the purpose, the Jihad against former USSR is now converted into religious terrorism or Islamic extremism. The characters are not new in the second play being produced and carried out by US spy masters with collaboration of its paid and contributing partners or allies. All are considering Islamic Republic of Iran-a rival to US in

Islamic world. But on the issue of Afghanistan, Iraq and other regional countries both US and Iran are friends and have always assisted each other's since 70's. Iran had not only backed the US led war (Jihad) against —ex USSR but had also backed the US in its aggressions against Iraq, Egypt's HussniMobarak and Libya's Col Gaddafi. Whereas position of Pakistan is very clear as its powerful effective military establishment is always proud of its what it called "relations and partnership" with United States. On the issue of Iran, both Pakistan and Iran had not only remained as forefront allies of US led world but both on the other hand broken away all previous records of treating war affected Afghans like slaves, hostages and even criminals. Despite earning and receiving a lot from UNHCR and other global organs on the name of refugees, Iran had confined the Afghans to some camps and localities whereas Pakistan's law enforcing agencies had camouflaged all sort of its failures, inefficiencies and failure through Afghan refugees. One was expecting a change after 9/11 when the US apparently suffered a lot at hands of Al Qaeda and its affiliated militant groups including Tehrik Taliban Afghanistan. But the US despite extending much more help and contribution in restoration of a centralised authority and reconstruction process had doused its own installed democratic regimes of Afghanistan by re-establishing contacts with Pakistan based and Pakistan helped Taliban through Qatar instead of Saudi Kingdom some when in 2010 after 2009 second Presidential polls. Later US had completely ignored the democratically elected government of Dr. Ashraf Ghani in so called Doha Accord 2020, ultimately helping Taliban militants in returning to power on August 15th 2021 last. Pakistan through its former ISI chief Faiz Hameed had jubilated returning to power with a cup of tea at Serena Kabul. One was expecting positive change in attitude of both Pakistan and Iran after empowering of Taliban but the situation is now different. Prior to this brutal incident, Iran and Pakistan are forcibly deporting Afghans from last two years. But the Afghans are reluctant to stay in country.

LALA

WWW.HOUSEOFLALA.COM | LALAPRINTS | LALAOFFICIAL