



# Islamabad POST

Saturday, October 19, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

**Pak, France strengthen educational ties: A growing partnership**

Detailed News On Page-03

**N. Korea sends troops to fight with Russia**

Detailed News On Page-08



**Nadal to face Djokovic one last time**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Reserved seats

# Changes to election laws can't undo verdict, says SC

ECP "bound to implement judgment" passed by Supreme Court without seeking any further clarification

STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has reiterated that parliament's amendment to the Elections Act does not have a retrospective effect and it cannot undo the top court's judgment in the reserved seats case. The second clarification comes after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) separately approached the apex court last month, seeking a clarification on its order to grant reserved seats to the Imran Khan-founded party. The top court declared on July 12 that the embattled PTI was eligible for seats reserved for women and minorities. However, the government passed an amendment to the Election Act, 2017, forcing the ECP to seek clarification from the top court. In response, the apex court's judges, who issued the order, stressed that the request was "misconceived" and ordered the poll organising authority to follow through on the verdict. Then, the court on September 23 issued a detailed verdict declaring the PTI a parliamentary party, stating that 39 of the 80 MNAs are affiliated with the PTI, while the remaining 41 have the chance to resubmit their party affiliations. However, despite the court's clarification and the detailed verdict, the ECP has yet to allot reserved seats to the PTI. The ECP, in its civil miscellaneous application (CMA), submitted that the top court's short order was based on the law which has since been altered by the amendments made to Sections 66 and 104 of the Elections Act, 2017 and a new Section, namely 104-A, has also been inserted with retrospective effect from the date of the commencement of the act, the SC stated in the clarification. On the other hand, PTI submitted in its CMA that the short order passed by the SC was based on the interpretation and enforcement of constitutional provisions, therefore the amendments cannot supplant the effect of the short order, it added. "The court [SC] granted the relief in the short order to enforce

Continued on Page 06

## ECP legal team 'advises' to restore suspended lawmakers

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) legal team has advised to restore the lawmakers who were suspended after the Supreme Court landmark verdict on the reserved seats. According to sources, the ECP meeting headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja concluded, with legal team advising the commission to implement its decision after the election act as every institution is bound to do so. Sources revealed that the legal team told ECP after the election act amendment the Supreme Court reserved seats verdict stands ineffective hereby the suspended lawmakers shall be restored. Earlier, the ECP moved the Supreme Court, to seek guidance on the allocation of reserved seats to the PTI. The ECP filed a review petition in the top court, challenging the clarification of majority of SC judges on the reserved seats verdict issued on September 14. The ECP noted that ECP is not responsible for delaying the verdict by the SC as it challenged the July 12 verdict on July 25 but the clarification was issued on September 14. The commission also stated in its review plea that neither PTI, nor the electoral body was issued notices regarding the relevant documents of the PTI.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding relief efforts in Gaza and Palestine by the Government of Pakistan. - DNA

## Indian Forces intensify raids in Poonch

Daily searches and sieges have become the norm, raising concerns over human rights abuses in the region

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: In the Indian-administered region of Poonch, Indian occupying forces have ramped up their use of helicopters during search operations, particularly in the village of Mohri Shah. Reports indicate that joint searches by the Indian army and police are underway, highlighting a significant increase in military activity in the Pir Panjal and Poonch districts. Since the revocation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, Kashmir has witnessed an alarming rise in military sieges and search operations, now an everyday occurrence. According to reports, nearly 240 Kashmiris have been martyred during this period.

Continued on Page 06

## PM calls for donations

# Pak establishes relief fund to support people of Palestine, Lebanon

PM condemned the impediments being created by Israel in the relief efforts

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday reaffirming Pakistan's support to the suffering people of Palestine, Gaza and Lebanon, urged the countrymen to donate generously to the relief fund established by the government. The prime minister, chairing a meeting to review the relief efforts for dispatching the relief assistance for Palestine, Gaza and Lebanon, appealed the people to supplement the government's efforts and particularly the affluent people should donate wholeheartedly to the fund. He said the locals as well as overseas Pakistanis should send their donations to IBAN:PK11SBPD000001111114292 or Raast ID: 0111114292 to assist the suffering people of Palestine and Lebanon. He told the meeting that Pakistan would soon dispatch another 3,000 tents and 12,000 blankets besides eatables and medicines for the people of Palestine and Lebanon. He sought a report from the Pakistan's ambassadors in the neighboring countries of Palestine and Lebanon on the required

Continued on Page 06

## Hamas confirms Sinwar martyred in Israeli strike

He remembered Sinwar as "one of the noblest and bravest men, a man who dedicated his life to Palestine"

FOREIGN DESK

DOHA: Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar has been martyred in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza's Rafah city, a senior Hamas official confirmed. Khalil Hayya, head of Hamas in Gaza, delivered a statement on Friday, a day after reports of Sinwar's martyrdom. "We mourn the great national leader, the Mujahid Martyr Brother Yahya Al-Sinwar (Abu Ibrahim), Head of the Political Bureau of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas)

Continued on Page 06

## Briefs

### Conspiracy being hatched to disrupt peace

Warns people against giving threats calls

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari said on Friday that few political elements tried to play with the lives of innocent children by misusing social media. Speaking to reporters, the provincial minister said that a conspiracy was being hatched to disrupt peace in Punjab. She warned against giving threats calls, adding that whoever was accusing the college of alleged incident should bring evidence. She said lives and honour of girls especially in Punjab were not 'cheap', adding that teachers, parents and media should also fulfil their responsibilities.

### Naqvi pays tribute to police constable

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Mohsin Naqvi has paid tribute to Police Constable Ehsan Kyani, who was martyred in a shootout with drug peddlers in Rawat Police Station areas, Rawalpindi. Interior Minister expressed heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the bereaved family of Martyr Constable Ehsan Kyani, saying, "Constable Ehsan Kyani achieved the noble rank of martyrdom while performing his duty."

### Holiday Notice

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday. - Editor

## PTI, JUI-F near consensus

# 'Final decision after Imran's directions'

We exchanged pleasantries with Bilawal at Fazl's residence, but there was no conversation on draft, says PTI chairman

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said on Friday that a consensus has been nearly reached with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman regarding the 26th Constitutional Amendment, and a final announcement will be made after consultations with PTI founder Imran Khan. Speaking to the media following a meeting with Maulana Fazlur Rehman in Islamabad, Barrister Gohar explained that PTI held a meeting with its allies, including the JUI-F chief, to discuss the constitutional amendments. He stated that there was a strong possibility of reaching an agreement during the previous talks, and Friday's meeting further solidified that understanding. "We are still in talks. Once we finalise our position, we will seek Imran Khan's instructions. Today, we will request a meeting with him, and we aim to meet him tomorrow."

Continued on Page 06

## PTI stages protests in major cities

Karachi police resort to baton charge, tear gas shelling at PTI workers staging protest near Empress Market

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The major opposition party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has staged protests in major cities against the proposed 26th constitutional amendment amid the imposition of Section 144 banning public gatherings and demonstrations in Punjab and Sindh capital. Karachi witnessed a tense situation as police personnel fired tear gas shells and restored to

Continued on Page 06

## PPP picks Bilawal as its parliamentary leader

Naveed Qamar has submitted documents pertaining to election of Bilawal as parliamentary leader at NA Office

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: As efforts to build consensus among all political parties ahead of the highly anticipated tweaks to the Constitution continue, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has nominated its chairman, Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, as the party's parliamentary leader. The development comes at a time when members of

Continued on Page 06

# Parliamentary committee 'greenlights' amendment

Development comes after committee meets under chairmanship of PPP leader Syed Khurshid Shah

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a major breakthrough, the special parliamentary committee - comprising government and opposition members - has "unanimously approved" the draft for 26th constitutional amendment. The development comes after the special committee formed to debate the contentious judicial package met under the chairmanship of PPP lawmaker Syed Khurshid Shah on Friday. Speaking to the reporters, Shah said the draft would be presented in the federal cabinet meeting tomorrow for approval. "The draft has been approved unanimously," he said adding that the committee has also agreed on allowing overseas Pakistanis to contest the elections. Leaders from all major political parties, sans Awami National Party's Aimal Wali Khan, were present in the meeting. MQM-P leader Farooq Sattar claimed that PTI principally agreed on the draft but the party had reservations on some points. PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, however, said that consultation on the fourth draft shared by the government today is underway, adding that they would make final decision on

Continued on Page 06

## 'PML-N, JUI and PPP consensus is almost final'

BUREAU REPORT

ISLAMABAD: PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that PML-N, PPP and JUI have almost reach consensus on constitutional amendments and they are moving towards legislation, adding that the government has political powers and they will get the draft of the amendments approved from both houses of the parliament. Addressing a meeting of PPP parliamentary leaders in Islamabad on Friday, Bilawal said that PPP was going to fulfil its commitment which was yet unfulfilled. He said, "We are moving towards

Continued on Page 06

# Asian Cuisine

Let's Wok it at Sizzling Wok

All the ingredients used at our restaurant are carefully sourced, MSG free and without preservatives or food colours.

**40+ MEALS**

**Sizzling Wok**  
ASIAN CUISINE

Join Us for Timeless Flavors!

Opening Hours  
12:00 PM - 12:00 AM

Location: Kohsar Market, F6/3, Islamabad.

# President for efforts to reduce mortality rate of breast cancer

President Zardari called for women's access to screening and early detection services which were critical in detecting breast cancer early and saving lives. Calling the media's role critical in raising awareness about this disease, he urged print, electronic and social media to educate people about breast cancer to save thousands of precious lives

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has emphasised the country-wide public awareness and collective efforts at individual and national levels to reduce the mortality rate due to breast cancer in Pakistan. The president, in his message to the nation on the International Day Against Breast Cancer annually observed on October 19, said that breast cancer was not only the most frequently diagnosed cancer but was also the leading cause of death among women in low and middle-income countries. He said the incidence of breast cancer was more common in South Asian countries, majorly due to a lack of breast cancer awareness in women. "In our country, one in every nine women is at risk of breast cancer and the late diagnosis of the disease considerably

contributes to the high mortality rate. Moreover, economic obstacles deter many from receiving the required treatment," the president added. He said the International Day Against Breast Cancer was observed to raise awareness about the disease and to promote timely diagnosis and treatment. He said that this year's theme "No One Should Face Breast Cancer Alone" for Breast Cancer Awareness Month reminded us of the importance of support, solidarity, and care for every person dealing with this disease. He stressed the need to raise awareness about the disease by addressing misconceptions and prioritizing healthy lifestyle adjustments. He said that Pakistan needed the broader level efforts to educate women about breast cancer, regular self-examination and mammographic screening. He urged the

policymakers and health officials to plan and prioritize disease control activities, including improved treatment and individual patient care. President Zardari called for women's access to screening and early detection services which were critical in detecting breast cancer early and saving lives. Calling the media's role critical in raising awareness about this disease, he urged print, electronic and social media to educate people about breast cancer to save thousands of precious lives. "Let us recommit to giving more support, care, and hope to patients, families and survivors of breast cancer," he said and expresses the hope that the collective efforts at the individual, institutional and national levels would enable the country to improve the overall health and well-being of the people and breast cancer-related deaths.

## Health sector-related issues to be resolved in S.Waziristan: Advisor

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) from Upper South Waziristan Asif Mehsud called on the Advisor to the Chief Minister on Health Ehtisham Ali and discussed various issues pertaining to the health sector in the area. The meeting was also attended by Health Secretary Adeel Shah, Director General Health Dr. Muhammad Saleem, and District Health Officer (DHO) Dr. Tufail from Upper South Waziristan. MPA Asif Mehsud highlighted the major issues of the area, stating that since the district's formation, there had been a lack of adequate medical staff and an absence of an established health administrative structure at the district level. Additionally, restoring and reactivating the destroyed and non-functional health centers was also a major challenge, he added. Health Advisor Ehtisham Ali assured the MPA that immediate action would be taken to address the health concerns in Upper South Waziristan. He stressed that resolving health issues in remote areas was key to the overall development of the health department. He further said that it was among his top priorities to strengthen and activate the administrative framework for health services in Upper South Waziristan. MPA Asif Mehsud pointed out that despite the district status, there was no District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) in the area. The provincial advisor promised to upgrade the existing health center to a Category A hospital. Moreover, they also discussed the dismissal of absent medical staff, deployment of surveillance teams for disease control, expansion of the Sehat Card program, establishment of TB and Hepatitis control centers, and the operation of Primary Care Management Committees in the district. — APP

## Four including two attackers killed in fresh Kurram firing

Tribal elders from the Turi and Bangash tribes have expressed concern that the continuous closure of roads has caused shortage of food and fuel supplies, raising the fear of a major humanitarian crisis

PESHAWAR: At least four people including two attackers were killed and three others injured in firing in the troubled Kurram district, police informed on Friday. According to police, local residents were busy working in their fields in the Shinguk when armed motorcycle riders came and opened fire on them. As a result, two persons identified as Hidayat Hussain and Hashim Ali sustained multiple bullet injuries and died on the spot, while three others were wounded. Sources in the District Headquarters Hospital said that they had received two bodies and injured persons. Police added that local armed area people chased the assailants and

shot both of them dead. Terming it an act of terrorism, Deputy Commissioner Javedullah Mahsud said that they were investigating the incident, saying that certain elements were involved in violence. It may be noted that unknown gunmen had killed two persons in the same area in the same fashion a week ago. Police further said that intense firing still continued in the area while firing on passenger vehicles in Kanj Alizai area near Pak-Afghan border further aggravated the situation. Meanwhile, the elders have said that continuous closure of main and link roads would lead to massive humanitarian crises due to acute shortage of edibles, medicines, petrol

and diesel reserves in District Kurram. Tribal elders from the Turi and Bangash tribes have expressed concern that the continuous closure of roads has caused shortage of food and fuel supplies, raising the fear of a major humanitarian crisis. They said that suspension of 3G and 4G services had also caused distress for students and citizens, affecting studies and businesses alike in the area. After incidents of firing on passenger vehicles a few days ago, the main Parachinar-Peshawar and other routes have been closed owing to fear of more such incidents. Violence had stopped last month and the authorities also reopened the Pak-Afghan border crossing at Kharlachi.

## Minister orders to monitor outsourcing model of sanitation

LAHORE: Provincial Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq has directed all district administrations to monitor the newly introduced outsourcing model of sanitation, stressing that maximum involvement of citizens was necessary for the success of the new system. While presiding over a video-link meeting of commissioners and deputy commissioners across Punjab along with Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman at the Civil Secretariat, he said that the outsourcing process has been completed in 64 tehsils. "All waste management companies except Lahore and Sahiwal divisions will complete the rest of process this month," he added. During the meeting, necessary instructions were issued while reviewing the progress on Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's Suthra Punjab program in detail. Zeeshan Rafiq said that, after outsourcing, zero waste work should be completed in each tehsil before handing over the responsibility to private contractors. "Secretary Local Government has formed a coordination committee in each tehsil. The concerned Assistant Commissioner should call a meeting of the Coordination Committee and ensure zero waste and other arrangements," added the minister. Zeeshan Rafiq further said that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif will inaugurate the outsourcing model next month. — DNA

## 3,220 Dengue cases report in Rawalpindi, 2,276 in Islamabad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon on Friday chaired a review meeting to assess the current dengue situation in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. On the occasion, he called for stronger efforts to combat dengue as cases continue to rise in both the capital and its neighboring city, Rawalpindi. All the assistant commissioners and health department representatives participated in the meeting, focusing on the comparison of dengue cases in twin cities. During the meeting, officials were briefed on the alarming rise in cases. Rawalpindi has recorded a total of 3,220 dengue cases as of October 17, while Islamabad has reported 2,276 cases so far. In the past 24 hours alone, 55 new cases reported in Islamabad. Health officials also highlighted the spread of dengue through mosquito breeding sites. In the last week, 1,143 positive larvae samples were found in various locations across the city, indicating

the need for increased measures to control the spread of the disease. Following the briefing, the Deputy Commissioner directed all relevant authorities to step up anti-dengue operations. Meanwhile, he also emphasized the importance of swift and coordinated actions to prevent further escalation of the outbreak. Moreover, in a continued collaborative effort to eradicate dengue, Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) led the rest of the district in the anti-dengue campaign. In collaboration with the District Health Authority, the campaign has been intensified in various wards of the Cantt. According to the details, 142 dengue cases were completely addressed till 17th October, as mentioned in the DVR Response report received by the APP here on Friday. The report shows zero response in terms of degree of dengue in RCB areas. The statistical data released by the health authority shows an average of 20 dengue patients per day with 100 percent response by the health workers. Talking to APP here on Friday, Additional CEO RCB Haider

Shuja said that RCB was engaged fully in indoor and outdoor activities along with the public reps which resulted in positive outcomes. He said the efforts being made by the district administration demanded collective efforts to directly engage citizens through surveillance and awareness campaigns. To a question, Haider highlighted that despite RCB was facing multifaceted challenges, it didn't hamper the required actions and activities to eradicate the menace of dengue. However, the Add'l Chief underlined the need for continued citizens cooperation in this regard. "Our teams are rendering at their best with available resources which require equating continuous response by the citizens," he said and added that the remaining period of the month of October would remain a high favouring weather for dengue growth to which RCB would remain vigilant. The health data shows 17 new patients were diagnosed in RCB localities during the last 24 hours, out of a total of 95 in the district which is 18 percent.



ISLAMABAD: Pak Army soldiers patrolling at Jinnah Avenue during security high alert in the Federal Capital.

## Unannounced loadshedding, gas pressure issues resolved

SHEIKHUPUR A: General Manager Sui Northern Gas Department Mian Sohail Akram said on Friday that complaints of unannounced gas loadshedding and reduction in gas pressure have been removed and citizens are now satisfied with the department's performance. In an interview with media representatives, Mian Akram emphasized that providing gas to thousands of customers as per the daily schedule is the department's top priority. He said that the department has taken effective measures to address these issues and the trust of the public in the officers and employees of the department has increased. He further mentioned that in line with the federal government's instructions, the department is conducting intensive operations to prevent gas theft. Field teams are visiting various areas daily and actions are being taken against gas thieves including the imposition of hefty fines. He stated that these measures are being monitored by the department's officers to ensure that no one dares to engage in such illegal activities in the future. The General Manager also highlighted that the Sui Northern Gas department is actively working to provide all services to its customers including arranging for internet services to facilitate customer access to information about the department.—APP

## Humayun drives initiatives to empower inmates in KP

PESHAWAR: A meeting was held with key industry leaders under the chairmanship of Special Assistant to the Chief Minister for Prisons, Humayun Khan for enhancing the welfare prospects of inmates in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's prisons. According to information, the meeting was attended by Hassan Nisar, CEO of Metrix Pakistan, and Huzaifa Bahram, CEO of Lets Grow, along with their teams, the Superintendent of Central Jail Peshawar was also present at the meeting. The meeting reviewed the measures aimed at improving the welfare prospects of prisoners, particularly by facilitating access to both national and international markets for products developed within

the prison system. The participants acknowledged the potential of these products to generate income for inmates while fostering community engagement and social entrepreneurship. Additionally, the meeting highlighted the importance of offering Information Technology (IT) courses to educated youth in prisons, which would provide them with critical skills for better employment prospects after release and encourage continuous learning within correctional facilities. The conversation also involved establishing startup opportunities for educated prisoners with IT skills, aimed at supporting them in launching small businesses while incarcerated, thus promoting entrepreneurship

and self-sufficiency. Humayun Khan expressed his commitment to rehabilitation and reintegration, stating, "By empowering inmates with skills and opportunities, we can significantly impact their futures and contribute to a more productive society." The meeting concluded with an agreement to develop a comprehensive working plan, which will be presented at the next session. This plan will outline the steps for implementation, including the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to formalize the collaboration. Special Assistant to the Chief Minister for Prisons, Humayun Khan, told APP that the initiatives are set to begin at Central Jail Peshawar as a pilot project.—APP

## Railways employees receiving late salaries due to grant in aid

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Railways, Muhammad Usman Awaisi on Friday submitted before the lower house of the Parliament that the lower cadre staff of Pakistan Railways was receiving late salaries due to grant in aid provided by the Ministry of Finance. The Parliamentary Secretary was responding to a calling attention notice of Member National Assembly (MNA) Aliya Kamran regarding failure of Pakistan Railways to pay monthly salaries to its employees on the due date, causing grave concern amongst the public. Muhammad Usman Awaisi apprised the House

that basically the Railways payment of salaries awaits grant in aid to ensure disbursement of its salaries. However, the Finance Ministry needs to resolve the matter by disbursing grant in aid at the end of the previous month instead of start of the month to ensure swift transfer of salaries, he added. He expressed his support for the employees receiving late salaries and assured the move to take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance and Revenue citing the calling attention notice to resolve the matter. The mover, MNA Aliya Kamran said the issue is persisting for

the past three years and the former Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique had vowed to address the matter. She underlined that almost 85% of this staff belonged to the lower cadres who were given salaries on the 17th, 18th, and 19th day of every month that made it impossible to manage their household expenditures. The pensions, gratuity, leave encashment payments were delayed, leaving the retired employees unable to get their post retirement benefits, she added. The Minister should be directed to ensure timely disbursement of salaries to the Railways employees, she urged.—APP

**CENTRAL POWER GENERATION COMPANY LTD. GUDDU**

**GENCO-II TENDER NOTICE FOR INVITATION TO BID**

Sr. No.	Tender No. & Sections	Description of material	Last Date of Issue of tender	Last Date & Time of Receiving bid	Date & Time of Opening of bid
01.	No.CEO/CPGCL/MM M/NCB/T-RFP-03	Hiring the Services of Custom Clearance and forwarding agent for the period of 03 years for the clearance of imported consignment / goods from sea ports / dry ports / air ports in Pakistan and transportation upto CPGCL Guddu.	05.11.2024	06.11.2024 12.00Hrs.	06.11.2024 12.30Hrs.

Bidding documents containing detailed terms and conditions, method of procurement, procedure for submission of bids, bid security, bid validity, opening of bid, evaluation criteria, clarification / rejection of bids, performance guarantee etc. are available for the interested bidders can be requested from :

- 01 Eligibility of Contractors: Well established / Bonafide firms registered with collector of Customs Karachi and active Tax Payer of FBR having 05 years experience of custom clearance of heavy machinery, Power Plant equipment's and spare parts.
- 02 Tender Cost/Fee: **Rs.2,000/- and by post Rs.2,500/-** for each tender (Non-refundable).
- 03 Earnest Money : **PKR: 50,000.00** in the form of Call Deposit/Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee (refundable) **drawn in favor of "Central Power Generation Company Limited"**.
- 04 Estimated Cost: As per prevailing market rates.
- 05 Proposal: The Bid (T-RFP-03) shall comprise of **single stage single envelope procedure as per PPRA Rule 36(a)**.
- 06 Tender documents can be purchased from:
  1. O/O C.E.O. CPGCL, Genco-II, Guddu-Kashmore Pakistan Tel. (Direct) # 0722-691030, Fax No.0722-679085
  2. O/O CEO, Genco Holding Company Limited, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, OPF Building, Sector G-5/2, Shahrah-e-Jamhuriat, Islamabad, Tele No.051-9217601, Fax No.051-9217602
  3. O/O The Chief Resident Representative Wapda, C-26, Block-5, Sardar Ali Sabri Road, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi, Tele No.021-34823591—95
- 07 Place of Tender Opening: **Chief Engineer / T.D Office of the Chief Executive Officer, GENCO-II, TPS, Guddu**

The bids, prepared in accordance with the instructions in the bidding documents, must reach at the office of **Manager (Material Management, CPGCL, GENCO-II, Guddu on or before opening date as shown against each tender**. Bid will be opened on the same day at 12.30hrs. The advertisement is also available on PPRA website at [www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk).

**Note:**

1. RFP documents will be issued to nominated agent of presentation of Authority Letter of their firm and providing the Newspaper clipping.
2. The Bid Shall comprises of single stage single envelop procedure as per PPRA Rule 36(a).
3. In case Government announces any public holiday or due to unavoidable circumstances, the tender will be opened on next working day.
4. The C.E.O. CPGCL reserves all right to reject tender in the light of PPRA Rules 33(1)
5. Successful / responsive bidder will deposit Rs. 1,000,000/- (01 Million PKR) as PBG to CPGCL before issuance of service order.

**CHIEF ENGINEER/T.D**  
**FOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, GENCO-II, GUDDU**

PID (I) 2698/24

## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### OCTOBER

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

### Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



### Emergency

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



### Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115  
PIA Flight Info.....114  
PIA Cargo.....9280979  
Railway Inquiry.....117  
Railway Exchange 9270831-5  
WASA Rawalpindi.5555489  
CAA.....9281092



### Hospitals

CMH.....5611111  
MH.....5611116  
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

# Economy heads on right direction:FPCCI President

President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Nasir Mansoor Qureshi while welcoming the distinguished guest made the mention of his vision to uplift the performance of the Chamber by constituting a Think Tank at the pattern of the FPCCI and its digitalization. He said that promotion of entrepreneurs, skills development and result oriented exchanges will remain the focus of his attention for the broader benefit of the business fraternity.

ISLAMABAD: Atif Ikram Sheikh, President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FPCCI) has said that Federation is resolute to resolve the challenges being faced by the business community by providing it the congenial atmosphere for the ease of doing businesses. He said this while addressing a big gathering of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry's (ICCI) Council Members, Executive Members, Members during his visit to the Chamber to extend greetings to the newly elected office bearers. Atif Ikram Sheikh apprised the attendees that both the FPCCI and FBR have agreed to collaborate on a rational taxation reform agenda for the betterment of country's economy by broadening the tax base, simplifying the taxation system and incentivizing the tax culture. He added that country is heading towards the right direction, IPPs issue is going to be resolved amicably, interest rate and inflation are coming down which are vital for the revival of the industry as well as for the enhancement of exports. Talking about the key decisions adopted by the Shanghai Cooperation Council (SCO) summit, he said that he adeptly advocated the business community at the mega event and that next phase of China - Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) can be the real game-changers for the national



economy. He said that the single currency regime also came under discussion at the summit and that if adopted, will go a long way for the benefit of all the member states. President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Nasir Mansoor Qureshi while welcoming the distinguished guest made the mention of his vision to uplift the performance of the Chamber by constituting a Think Tank at the pattern of the FPCCI and its digitalization. He said that promotion of entrepreneurs, skills development and result oriented

exchanges will remain the focus of his attention for the broader benefit of the business fraternity. He termed maintenance of peace and stability, skill development and infrastructure development as prerequisites for the growth of regional trade by vowing unwavering support to the fraternity at all levels for the provision of level playing field to it. Chairman Founder Group Khalid Iqbal Malik by mentioning the challenges facing the community expressed optimism that FPCCI and ICCI unitedly will be able to overcome them.

Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari described FPCCI President as pride of business community. Former President Khalid Javaid hailed the FPCCI President for effectively representing the community at the SCO summit. Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui in his vote of thanks said that business community despite all odds will continue to play its role for the prosperity of the country. Vice President Nasir Mehmood effectively performed as the stage secretary. A large

number of business leaders including, Tariq Jadoon, VP FPCCI, Karim Aziz Malik, Incharge Capital Office, Malik Sohail Hussain, Chairman Coordination, Former Presidents ICCI Zubair Ahmed Malik, Mian Akram Farid, Khalid Javaid, Ejaz Abbasi, Shaikat Masood, Zahid Maqbool, Muhammad Ahmed, Executive Members Ishaq Sial, Malik Moshin Khalid, Aftab Gujjar, Zulqurnain Abbasi, Waseem Chaudhry, Irfan Chaudhry, Tahir Ayub and members were present on the occasion.—APP

## Pakistan, France strengthen educational ties: Nicolas

The Ambassador said, it is crucial for Pakistani students to select institutions in France that offer state-recognized degrees. Campus France Pakistan plays a pivotal role in guiding students and families through the process of finding suitable programs and universities

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: France Ambassador to Pakistan, Nicolas Galey on Friday said the partnership between Pakistan and France in higher education is gaining momentum, with increasing academic cooperation and student exchanges. This relationship, bolstered by the "Choose France" initiative, is paving the way for more collaboration between universities in both countries. Mr. Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, esteemed members of the Choose France delegation, and representatives of the media, welcome to the French residence. This event marks the visit of a high-level academic delegation from France. We gather to highlight the achievements and ongoing efforts in educational cooperation between France and Pakistan. Strengthening ties in higher education remains a key objective in the bilateral roadmap of both nations. The Amba-

sador said that the occasion was particularly timely, as we concluded the 3rd edition of the Choose France Education Tour in Pakistan, which took place in Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad. The Choose France initiative aims to achieve two main objectives: first, to engage students by providing direct interaction with leading French universities; and second, to foster collaboration between French and Pakistani universities through individualized visits, laying the groundwork for long-term partnerships, he said. He said, in the past two years, eight agreements between universities from both countries have been signed, resulting in active academic and research cooperation. These agreements are just the beginning, as we seek to take the relationship further. One area of focus is establishing a double degree system between the two countries, which would enhance the quality of education and open up opportunities for joint participation in programs such as

Erasmus Mundus. Nicolas Galey said, this year's edition of the Choose France Education Tour attracted significant interest from both sides. A total of 2,200 Pakistani students attended education fairs, while 22 bilateral visits between universities were organized. The response from France has also been encouraging, with 21 Pakistani representatives participating in this edition, compared to just five universities in the first edition two years ago. These interactions are essential in building mutual understanding and fostering friendship between our nations. He also mentioned that France was keen to welcome talented Pakistani students with clear academic goals. The growing number of Pakistani students choosing France for their studies is a testament to the increasing awareness of the opportunities available. Over the past three academic years, the number of Pakistani students accepted into French institutions has increased sixfold, and many have received scholarships to support their studies.

Most of these students pursue courses in English, he expressed. The Ambassador said, It is crucial for Pakistani students to select institutions in France that offer state-recognized degrees. Campus France Pakistan plays a pivotal role in guiding students and families through the process of finding suitable programs and universities. As the official organization supporting students in their educational journey, Campus France provides free advice and assistance to help students make informed decisions. This year, the embassy has expanded its team to provide better support, with the addition of new personnel, including a dedicated staff member at the embassy and four Campus France officers in Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad, all of whom are alumni of French universities. The success of these initiatives would not have been possible without the support of the Prime Minister's Office, the Government of Punjab and Sindh, the Higher Education Commission, and various Pakistani universities.

## ISSI in collaboration with Xinhua host Hong Ting Forum Dialogue

ISLAMABAD: China Pakistan Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration with Xinhua News Agency organised the Hong Ting Forum: Dialogue in Islamabad titled "Understanding China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and Chinese-Style Modernization Development Path." The event highlighted China's unique national modernisation and the importance of the China Pakistan All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership. Participants included notables from the diplomatic community, academia, think tanks and civil society. During his welcome remarks, Jiang Chao, Bureau Chief Xinhua News Agency, stated that under the strategic guidance of the leaders of both countries, the China Pakistan friendship has stood the test of time. He added that comprehensive reform and promoting the Chinese style modernization under the 18th CPC Central Committee has led to a new milestone. This has also facilitated strengthening the China Pakistan All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership. Mr. Mudassar Iqbal, Deputy Director Associated Press of Pakistan, commended China's people centered approach to modernization which has resulted in the fruits of growth reaching the people. Pakistan also aspired to follow a similar path to modernization and development. Furthermore, China's sustainable and ecological development is also a guiding beacon that can serve as a model for developing nations including Pakistan. Dr. Salma Malik, Associate Professor Quaid-i-Azam University, stated that the Chinese modernization is rooted in Deng Xiaoping's cardinal principles which included rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, strengthening China's global position, envisioning a new type of the development of Communist Party's own principles. She said that the cardinal principles create harmony between nature and humanity which is reflected in the greening of CPEC and BRI projects. Dr. Hassan Daud Butt, Associate Professor Bahria University Islamabad, stated that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) remains the buckle of the belt in the Belt and Road Initiative, where CPEC is still the most inclusive, vital and progressive of all BRI corridors. Developing countries can also walk the Chinese path to middle and higher income levels by following the Chinese model of development and modernization. Mr. Farrukh Pitafi, Senior Anchorperson, emphasized that storytelling has always been vital in building positive narratives and that the China story has always been a part of Pakistan's national narrative. It is high time that a retelling of the story of Pakistan-China relations is undertaken by media of both countries.—APP

## Call for coordination with stakeholders for unified climate action

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has urged the Pakistan Climate Change Authority (PCCA) to play its role to ratchet up collaboration and cooperation among various federal and provincial governmental organisations for achieving climate resilience, environmental sustainability and low-carbon development goals. Presiding over the 2nd meeting of PCCA held here, the PM's climate aide said, "Driving the Pakistan's long-term sustainability and climate resilience actions is inevitable for ensuring that the country is better prepared to cope with the present and the future exacerbating impacts of climate change in various socio-economic sectors, particularly agriculture, water and energy." Romina Khurshid Alam said further that the Authority, which has been

established at the federal level, has been entrusted with a crucial responsibility of achieving the climate resilience, environmental sustainability and low-carbon development goals by spearheading the country's response to the growing threats of climate change, coordinating efforts across sectors and implementing policies that promote climate resilience through various evidence-based policy measures. She noted that lack of collaboration and cooperation among federal and provincial governmental organisations for implementing long-term and short-term national climate change policy measures for coping with the adverse fallouts of climate change has only increased the climate vulnerability of not only various socio-economic sectors but also infrastructure, lives and livelihoods of the people. However, she called upon the PCCA to

strengthen its role and pace up efforts to bring together all federal and provincial organisations and national and international non-governmental organisations together through enhanced collaboration and cooperation for implementation of the national climate change policy for protecting the country and its people from aggravating climate risks, particularly floods, heatwaves, sea-level rise, shifting rainfall patterns and paced glacial melting. The PM's climate aide also urged the authority to develop national programmes for climate adaptation for reducing the impacts of floods, droughts, and rising temperatures and mitigation programmes for cutting down greenhouse gas emissions through sustainable practices and renewable energy projects and actionable low-carbon development plans.—APP

## Meeting reviews preparations about Kashmir Black Day

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and State & Frontier Regions (SAFRON) Engineer Amir Muqam on Thursday presided the meeting and reviewed the preparations regarding October 27 Kashmir Black Day. In a statement, the minister said that Pakistanis had already given a clear message to the world that Kashmiri people were residing in their hearts. He categorically stated that India had oppressively occupied Kashmir, which had been rejected by the Kashmiris. He emphasized that an all-parties conference should be called on Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) to pressurize India to impede its barbarism and genocide on innocent Kashmiris. Amir Muqam said that Pakistan would continue its unwavering support to its Kashmiri brothers and sisters, adding that it was our national duty to remain Kashmir issue alive till independence. "Pakistan would continue to provide political, moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri brothers until they achieve the right of self-determination according to the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), he said.—APP

## CPDI advocates for sustainable, equitable, inclusive food systems

ISLAMABAD: On this World Food Day, the Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) reaffirmed its commitment to the urgent cause of global food security, emphasizing the need for sustainable, equitable, and inclusive solutions to address hunger and malnutrition in Pakistan and worldwide. This year's theme, "Investing in Food Systems for Resilience," calls upon governments, communities, and organizations to work collaboratively to create food systems that are both resilient to climate change and capable of nourishing people in a way that respects environmental sustainability. CPDI believes that access to nutritious food is a fundamental human right, and a key pillar for peace, prosperity, and development, said a press release on here Thursday. While significant strides have been made in reducing hunger, CPDI remain deeply concerned about the millions of people who continue to suffer from food insecurity and malnutrition, exacerbated by conflict, climate shocks, economic disparities, and geopolitical challenges. It is crucial that all actors recognized the interconnection between food systems, human rights, and conflict prevention. Adequate food systems not only help eliminate hunger but also contribute to lasting peace by addressing one of the root causes of social unrest.—APP

### OCTOBER 2024

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:

www.centrelines.com.pk  
www.dnanews.com.pl  
www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@PostIslamabad/ @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

## Islamabad POST

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



## Briefs

## Gas supply cut to captive power destructive for textile export

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PHMA) North Zone Chairman Abdul Hameed on Friday denounced the government plan to withdraw gas supply to co-generation captive power and captive power plants, leading to catastrophic consequences not only for the industry but also for the overall economy. In a letter, written to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Abdul Hameed asked to take immediate cognizance of the aggravated situation and rescue the export industries, as it has invested billions of rupees in co-generation equipment and captive power machines which will be rendered useless if gas supply is withdrawn. "This will not only lead to colossal financial loss but also waste the valuable resources spent on establishment of these facilities up," he added in the letter. Abdul Hameed said that the withdrawal of gas supply will force the industry to rely on expensive electricity, raising production cost and rendering them uncompetitive in the international market. This will lead to a significant setback for the industry, he added.

The NZ Chairman further stated that our economy is passing through a very crucial time and we should jointly work for the growth of our economy particularly for the export sectors of Pakistan. He said that the value-added knitwear exporters stood with the government to surpass its revenue generation target despite all odds but the government should come forward with compressive planning and facilitate the exporters so that they can play their significant role effectively for the growth of the economy as well as collection valuable foreign exchange for the country as well. He further said that the export-oriented sectors already pay higher cost of utilities as compared to the regional countries and electricity from the grid is more expensive as compared to captive power.—APP

## Zahid hails establishment of TCC

ISLAMABAD: Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry former Vice-President Zahid Iqbal Chaudhry said that the formation of Talagang Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) led by Malik Shabbir Awan and his team, would be a major milestone for the development and progress of the district. Zahid Iqbal Chaudhry said that this move would promote economic activities and resolve issues related to the business community, said Zahid Iqbal Chaudhry, former Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Speaking at a reception held for the establishment of the Chamber of Commerce in Talagang, Zahid Iqbal Chaudhry stated that Malik Shabbir Awan's election as the unopposed President of the Islamabad Goods Forwarding Association for the past ten years is a testament to his services to the business community.—APP

## Chief of Naval Staff visits Italy, attends seapower symposium

Referring to the forthcoming AMAN Dialogue, concurrent with the Pakistan Navy's multinational exercise AMAN in 2025, Admiral Naveed Ashraf said that it will provide an opportunity for participating Chiefs of Navies and Coast Guards to promote a shared understanding of maritime security issues, including the protection of underwater resources for future generations

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, visited Italy and attended the Trans-Regional Seapower Symposium (TRSS). He delivered a talk on 'Preserving the Underwater: The Secure and Sustainable Use of the Underwater.' The Naval Chief also held meetings with naval leaders from various countries. The Trans-Regional Seapower Symposium (TRSS) took place in Venice, Italy. The event aimed to address the growing importance of the underwater environment from different perspectives, highlighting challenges and opportunities, and facilitating a fruitful debate within the maritime community. During his talk, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf emphasized that the preservation of underwater ecosystems and the sustainable use of marine resources are critical to ensuring global biodiversity and economic stability. "Through a combination of stringent international regulations, innovative technologies, and effective conservation strategies, we can secure a sustainable future for underwa-



ter environments while balancing human and environmental needs," the Naval Chief added. Referring to the forthcoming

AMAN Dialogue, concurrent with the Pakistan Navy's multinational exercise AMAN in 2025, Admiral Naveed Ashraf said that

it will provide an opportunity for participating Chiefs of Navies and Coast Guards to promote a shared understanding of maritime securi-

ty issues, including the protection of underwater resources for future generations. On the sidelines of TRSS, the Naval Chief also interacted with naval leaders from various countries. He had meetings with the First Sea Lord of the Royal Navy, Admiral Sir Ben Key; Chief of Naval Operations of the U.S. Navy, Admiral Lisa Franchetti; Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Navy, Admiral Chonlathit Navanukroh; Chief of Staff of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, Admiral Akira Saito; Advisor to the Ministry of Defence of Italy, Professor Andrea Margelletti; and Managing Director of MBDA Italy, Mr. Giovanni Soccodato. Later, the Chief of the Naval Staff visited the Headquarters of the Secretary General of Defence of Italy and met with Secretary General of Defence Dr. Luisa Riccardi, Director of Naval Armament Vice Admiral Giuseppe Abbamonte, and Deputy Chief of Defence Vice Admiral Giacinto Ottaviani. During these meetings, matters of mutual interest, emerging shared security challenges in the maritime domain, and bilateral naval collaboration were discussed.

## Textile export increases 9.51% to \$4.520b

The textile exports from the country during September 2024 were recorded at US \$1,604.481 million against the exports of US \$1,360.902 million in September 2023

ISLAMABAD: Textile exports witnessed an increase of 9.51 percent during the first quarter of the current financial year (2024-25) as compared to the same quarter of last year. The textile exports from the country were recorded at US \$4.520 billion during July-September (2024-25) against the exports of US \$4.127 billion during July-September (2023-24), the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) said. The textile commodities that contributed in trade growth included cotton cloth the export of which increased by 10.20 percent to \$523.63 million from \$475.187 million while the export of knitwear surged by 14.13 percent to \$1,268.908 million from \$1,111.818 million. The other commodities that witnessed trade growth included bed wear, the export of which rose by 13.31 percent to \$794.972

million from \$701.570 million, towels increased by 7.04 percent to \$261.316 million from \$244.134 million, tents, canvas, and tarpaulin up by 5.43 percent to \$28.796 million this year compared to the exports of \$27.312 million last year. Similarly, the export of readymade garments grew by 23.17 percent to \$996.831 million from \$809.316 million, art, silk and synthetic textile rose by 15.79 percent to \$96.482 million, made up articles (excl. towels and bed wear) increased by 12.10 percent to \$191.050 million from \$170.422 million while the export of other textile materials surged by 8.73 percent to \$187.145 million from \$172.112 million. The textile commodities that witnessed negative trade growth included cotton yarn, the exports of which declined by 48.45 percent, from \$315.404 million to \$162.579 million whereas the export of raw cotton

dipped by 100 percent from 6.621 million to zero export during the months under review. Likewise, the export of yarn other than cotton yarn also dipped by 15.15 percent from \$10.096 million to \$8.566 million. Meanwhile, year-on-year basis, the textile exports witnessed an increase of 17.92 percent during September 2024 as compared to the same month of last year. The textile exports from the country during September 2024 were recorded at US \$1,604.481 million against the exports of US \$1,360.902 million in September 2023. On a month-on-month basis, the textile exports from the country however witnessed a nominal decrease of 2.40 percent during September 2024 as compared to the exports of \$1,644.333 million recorded in August 2024, the PBS data revealed.—APP

## SPI inflation up by 0.28%

ISLAMABAD: The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.28 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on October 17, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. According to the PBS data, the SPI for the

week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 319.79 points as compared to 318.91 points during the past week. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 15.02 per cent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 = 100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. Likewise, SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732 witnessed increase of 0.27 percent and went up to 313.74 points from last week's 312.91 points. The SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,732 to 22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175, decreased by 0.28 percent, 0.27 percent, 0.28 percent and 0.28 percent respectively.—APP

## Education key to country's future: Dr. Musadik

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik, said on Friday that education is crucial for securing the nation's bright future. Delivering the closing remarks at a seminar on sustainable tobacco control policies, Dr. Malik stressed the need for concerted efforts to prevent children from dropping out of school. He highlighted the importance of encouraging children to attend school to secure both their personal futures and the country's future. The Minister also underscored the health hazards associated with smoking, labeling it a leading cause of cancer and a contributor to numerous preventable deaths. He urged the public to avoid smoking in the interest of their health. Dr. Malik further said that while smoking rates are declining in most parts of the world, South Asia is witnessing an alarming increase, particularly among women and children.—APP

## Govt congratulated on holding SCO conference

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, as well as former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Friday that Pakistan is gaining the confidence of the international community due to the efforts of the government and the army chief. He said successfully holding the SCO conference will open new avenues for Pakistan's economic development. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the Army Chief's efforts to restore the confidence of the people and the business community have been very well received by the stakeholders. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the government and the army chief's efforts have reduced the smuggling of dollars and commodities and stopped the flight of capital from the country. He observed that IPPs are being controlled, contracts with five IPPs have been canceled, which will save billions of rupees, and negotiations are underway with other IPPs. The business leader said that the tax net is expanding, the economy is recovering, the rupee is stable, and foreign investors are investing in Pakistan. Mian Zahid Hussain said that Prime Minister Mian Shabbaz Sharif and the Army Chief had accepted the challenge of restoring the country's reputation and economy at a time when the economy was destroyed, jobs were lost, electricity bills were more than the people's income, and many were fleeing the country. Pakistan's status in the international community was at the lowest ebb. Still, the army chief did not limit his plan to statements and speeches. Still, it took practical steps in the form of SIFC, which is being welcomed across the country and abroad. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the Army Chief is not ignorant of economic matters, but his grip on these issues is strong.—APP

## Rawalpindi Police holds flag march

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Police on the instructions of City Police Officer Syed Khalid Hamdani carried out a flag march in different areas of the city on Friday to express its commitment for ensuring law and order. The flag march, led by Senior Superintendent of Police - Operations Flight Lieutenant (retd) Hafiz Kamran Asghar, started from the Police Lines and after passing through Mall Road, Rawal Road and Murree Road, culminated at the starting point, a police spokesman said. Besides, senior high officers, including Superintendent of Police-Security, personnel of District Police, Elite Force and Dolphin Force participated in the march, he added. The spokesman said the police was fully committed to uphold the rule of law, and protect the lives and property of citizens.—APP

## ANF recovers 13 kg drugs in two operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in its ongoing crackdown against drug dealers managed to recover 13 kg of drugs worth Rs 900,000 and arrested four accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday. He informed that in an operation, 950 grams hashish was recovered from a rickshaw intercepted near Iqbal Shaheed Toll Plaza, Attock, and an accused was arrested. The accused confessed to selling drugs to the students of educational institutions. He said that the force is making efforts for drug-free educational institutions. In another operation, 12 kg hashish was recovered from a car near Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad, and three suspects were arrested.—APP

## Police bust dacoit gang; arrest two

RAWALPINDI: Police have busted a dacoit and street criminal gang by arresting two active members of the gang and recovered cash Rs 82,500, a stolen motorcycle, a mobile phone, weapons, and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, R.A. Bazaar police held two dacoit and street criminals namely Ethesham and Bilal, and recovered Rs 82,500, a stolen motorcycle, mobile phone, weapons, and other items. — Agencies



Mongolia's Prime Minister, Luvsannamsrain Oyun-Erdene, captures memorable moments with Pakistani officials before departing for his homeland on October 2024, wrapping up a successful visit to Pakistan.

**MOST EXPERIENCED**  
MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTERS OF  
MARTIAL ARTS UNIFORMS  
IN  
PAKISTAN

**WHERE EACH STITCH IS WATCHED**

JUDO  
KARATE  
KUNG-FU  
JU-JITSU  
TAEKWONDO  
UNIFORMS AND  
COLOURED BELTS

**Ashraf**

ASHRAF INDUSTRIES (PVT) LTD  
127 C, Industrial Estate  
Sialkot-51340, Pakistan  
Phones: +92-52-3256000 / 3255768  
E-mail: info@ashraf.net.pk

## 'Spirit of resistance'

HAMAS has confirmed that Israel killed its political and military leader Yahya Sinwar in Gaza. The Israeli military said on Thursday that Sinwar had been positively identified after he was killed the day before. On Friday evening, Hamas confirmed Sinwar's death. Iran's mission to the United Nations spoke of Sinwar as a "martyr". "When Muslims look up to the Martyr Sinwar standing on the battlefield – in combat attire and out in the open, not in a hideout, facing the enemy – the spirit of resistance will be strengthened," the mission wrote in a post on X. Al Jazeera's Hani Mahmoud spoke from Gaza about how Palestinians were viewing the reported incident. "The way it's been perceived, even by those who opposed Sinwar's strategies, is that he was blessed with a warrior's death, fighting oppression." Sinwar had operated from Gaza throughout Israel's 12-month war on the enclave, assuming overall control of the group following the assassination – widely believed to be by Israel – of Hamas politburo head Ismail Haniyeh in late July. Under Sinwar's direction, Hamas maintained its military pressure in Gaza – despite reportedly being affected by Israeli assaults – launching attacks on Israeli positions, as well as maintaining civil administration across the Gaza Strip. Sinwar has been a high-profile target of the Israeli military throughout its Gaza campaign, with numerous claims of the Hamas leader having been trapped or even killed proven false. Numerous reports from rights agencies, including the United Nations, have documented the frequent use of torture by Israeli interrogators. In addition to being sought by the Israeli military, Sinwar, along with Haniyeh and Deif, had been the focus of attempts by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to seek warrants for their arrest for war crimes "from at least 7 October 2023". All have since been killed by the Israeli military, leaving only Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Yoav Gallant on the ICC charge sheet. Sinwar, also known as Abu Ibrahim, was born in 1962 in a refugee camp in Khan Younis. His family was displaced by Zionist gangs during the 1948 Nakba. Sinwar's family were from the Palestinian village of al-Majdal, which was razed to have the Israeli town of Ashkelon built on its ruins. In 1982, Sinwar, not quite 20 years old, was arrested for the first time by Israeli authorities for "Islamic activities". In 1985, he was arrested again. During this second stint in prison, he met and became close to Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin. At 25, he helped establish Hamas's internal security organisation, al-Majd, earning himself an uncompromising reputation for dealing with Palestinians who collaborated with Israel. In 1988, at 26, Sinwar was arrested again and given four life sentences. He had been charged with plotting the murder of two Israeli soldiers and killing 12 Palestinians. He would spend 22 years in prison. Sinwar is said to have remained strictly disciplined in prison, learning to speak and read Hebrew fluently and becoming a leader among his fellow prisoners and a focal point for negotiations with prison staff. He was released by Israel in 2011 in a prisoner swap for Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit with more than 1,000 other Palestinians. Even at the time, Sinwar was considered to be the most senior and prominent of all of those released. His younger brother, Mohammed Sinwar, is also an armed commander with Hamas. Some suspect he helped plan the cross-border raid in which Shalit was captured.

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



## Terrible example of democracy

AMERICAN politicians like to blast China for undermining democracy and spreading authoritarianism around the world. That's true to an extent but not in the way it's usually intended by its claimants. At least China's ruling system has worked better than most had originally anticipated while that of the United States has not quite worked out as advertised. So maybe the Chinese experience does have something to offer for at least some developing countries, even though it has never claimed universal application. That's far from spreading or imposing its ideological system on the rest of the world, unlike America's supposed promotion and imposition, often by violent means, of its brand of "democracy" on smaller and weaker countries for more than a century now. Please note that I make no spectacular claims about the superiority of Chinese rule or the unworkability of Western democracy. I am pretty agnostic about both governing systems as much as I am about the existence of God. Still I would describe myself as "religious" – I do read a lot of canonical religious texts – as much as I am political. I also read a lot of political treatises. I respect a Muslim as much as a Christian or a Hindu. If you want theocracy or democracy for your government, hey, that's none of my business. You can, however, judge whether a Muslim is really being a Muslim by his or her own avowed standards, just as you do with a religious ruler or a democrat by whether they are living by their creed. What I do claim is that American leaders today are making a mess of their own political system – they are less and less accountable to voters than ever. And that is not China's fault. But if that's how American democracy is supposed to be like, well, maybe the US is doing the world a profound disservice by pretending to be democracy's greatest champion. It's pretty clear that some smaller democracies have worked out far better than the US, but they don't have a global empire – along with the media domination – to constantly blow their own trumpet in your ear. Maybe that's why so many people around the world have become deaf to America – pun intended. Look no further than the two presidential candidates in next month's election. Donald Trump and Kamala Harris have been described as "the two most perfectly clownish figures to lead this election circus". But they are only the symptoms, the exact outcome of what you would expect a country to produce by a political and media-driven culture such as that in the US. Presidential candidates are expected to be able to read the script and written answers prepared for them; the elderly Joe Biden had to quit because he couldn't even manage that much. But they can't be expected to debate or present a cogent argument on their feet – simply because they themselves lack mastery or basic knowledge of the issues. That's why Harris and her supporters were outraged by right-wing Fox News when the presenter went off script and asked tough questions – such as why she said nothing about Biden's obvious mental decline. Harris had the gall to complain that her interlocutor was being too "aggressive". A while back, when asked about Ukraine, she gave her widely mocked kindergarten answer: "So Ukraine is a country in Europe. It exists next to another country called Russia."

# US Elections: Anti-Immigrant Rhetoric vs. Economic Extravaganza

Qamar Bashir



This immigrant workforce not only fills these essential roles but also contributes billions to the U.S. economy. According to the American Immigration Council, immigrant workers make up more than 17% of the U.S. labor force, generating substantial tax revenue and driving consumer spending. Any threat to this workforce through anti-immigrant policies risks destabilizing key sectors, which depend on their labor to function efficiently...

AS the U.S. presidential election approaches, two pivotal issues dominate the political landscape: the Republican Party's anti-immigrant rhetoric and the Democratic Party's expansive economic policies. The intensification of the Republican stance on immigration has deepened divisions across the country, leaving many Americans anxious about the future. Immigrant communities, in particular, feel targeted, as they are portrayed as threats to national security and cultural values. This rhetoric not only alienates these groups but also raises concerns among a broader base of voters who fear such sentiments undermine America's diversity. According to a 2023 Pew Research Center survey, nearly 60% of Americans believe that immigrants strengthen the country due to their hard work and talent, while only 36% agree with the sentiment that immigrants are a burden. These figures reflect how divisive and polarizing the immigration debate has become. At the same time, the Democratic Party's ambitious economic policies, which include increased government spending and social programs, have sparked significant concerns about inflation and economic stability. Inflation surged to over 6% in mid-2023, the highest in a decade, eroding the purchasing power of middle- and working-class families. In a Gallup poll conducted in early 2024, 65% of Americans cited inflation and rising costs as their top economic concern, with many fearing that unchecked spending could drive up the cost of living without proportionate wage growth. These economic worries have left voters increasingly indecisive as they weigh the long-term consequences of both parties' approaches. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, about 14% of the U.S. population is foreign-born, with key voting blocs such as Latinos, who make up 19% of the population, and Asian Americans, who represent around 7%. These communities are not only essential to the labor force but are playing an increasingly influential role in shaping the electorate. A Voter Participation Center survey showed that immigrant communities are more likely to turn out in greater numbers in 2024, driven by concerns over immigration policies and economic stability. Neg-

ative portrayals of immigrants have raised fears about their integration into society and the broader economic implications, further complicating the voting calculus for many. Multinational corporations such as Amazon, Walmart, and Kroger rely heavily on a disciplined and affordable immigrant workforce. Immigrants have become a permanent and indispensable part of the U.S. economic fabric, particularly in labor-intensive industries like retail, logistics, and manufacturing. In addition to these sectors, immigrants play critical roles in blue-collar and menial jobs—positions that many American-born workers are often unwilling to fill, such as construction, agricultural labor, food service, and cleaning services. They also support civic services in roles like sanitation, transportation, and caregiving, which are vital to maintaining the nation's infrastructure and public well-being. This immigrant workforce not only fills these essential roles but also contributes billions to the U.S. economy. According to the American Immigration Council, immigrant workers make up more than 17% of the U.S. labor force, generating substantial tax revenue and driving consumer spending. Any threat to this workforce through anti-immigrant policies risks destabilizing key sectors, which depend on their labor to function efficiently. From farms to factories, construction sites to hospitals, immigrants perform hard, physically demanding jobs that sustain critical industries and civic services. This connection between economic vitality and immigration underscores how intertwined these issues are in the 2024 election. Voter turnout among immigrant communities surged in 2020, and a Latino Decisions poll predicts that these communities will again play a decisive role in 2024, particularly in swing states like Arizona and Michigan. As Americans face this complex political landscape, they are caught between two difficult choices. On one hand, Trump's inflammatory anti-immigrant rhetoric threatens social cohesion, while on the other, Harris's expansionary economic policies have contributed to inflation and rising costs. A recent CNN Poll revealed that 51% of voters are dissatisfied with the current economic trajectory, while 48% express concern over social division caused by immigration policies. This split highlights

the challenge facing voters as they grapple with both social and economic instability. Real wages, adjusted for inflation, have failed to keep pace with rising costs, leaving many Americans feeling financially strained. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, real wages for American workers fell by 2-3% in 2023, exacerbating financial pressures. In response, the Biden-Harris administration introduced stimulus packages, such as the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan, to stimulate economic recovery. However, a Harvard-Harris poll found that 58% of Americans believe that the government's economic policies are contributing to higher inflation, suggesting a growing disillusionment with the Democratic Party's approach. Despite these challenges, Kamala Harris has made ambitious promises to support middle-class families, workers, and first-time homebuyers. Yet, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll, only 42% of Americans believe Harris has a solid plan to manage inflation, casting doubt on her leadership. Her inability to present a clear strategy to curb inflation and address wage stagnation, housing affordability, and government spending has raised significant concerns among voters. Meanwhile, Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric may alienate key voting blocs, with a Pew Research Center survey showing that 54% of Americans oppose his immigration policies. Both candidates face mounting criticism, and their shortcomings on these pivotal issues are likely to play a decisive role in shaping the election's outcome. American voters, however, are far from passive. They understand that campaign rhetoric rarely translates into effective governance. A Gallup poll from mid-2024 shows that 64% of voters believe that campaign promises, whether on immigration or economic recovery, will largely be forgotten once either Trump or Harris assumes power. This skepticism suggests that voters are carefully weighing their options, knowing that whoever wins will need to confront the realities of governing in a deeply divided and economically strained nation.

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

## Academia and Palestine

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Institutions such as Columbia University and Harvard University have found themselves at the center of the debate due to their responses to the protests and activism on their campuses. Columbia, in particular, has a history of activism related to the Middle East, with various student organizations and faculty members advocating for Palestinian causes. Similarly, Harvard has seen a surge in activism, leading to public statements...

THE 2023-2024 academic year witnessed a significant transformation across university campuses in the United States and other parts of the world, marked by a rise in pro-Palestinian sentiments alongside incidents of anti-Semitism. This shift has provoked substantial debates about the role and value of a college education, as well as the reputations of elite institutions traditionally viewed as bastions of intellectual discourse and progressive thought. This emerging trend has raised fundamental questions about the underlying principles that govern higher education, particularly in elite institutions such as Ivy League universities. The growing alignment of university narratives with political violence, under the guise of "resistance," has drawn criticism from various quarters. Critics argue that it challenges the neutrality and academic freedom that universities claim to uphold, leading to concerns about whether these institutions are nurturing environments for free expression or breeding grounds for one-sided political advocacy. Consequently, the integrity of higher education has been called into question, with skepticism growing over whether universities are providing an education that fosters critical thinking or merely pushing ideological agendas. Pro-Palestinian sentiment on college campuses is not a new phenomenon. It has evolved over decades, gaining particular momentum during periods of heightened conflict between Israel and Palestine. Historically, student groups, academic departments, and faculty members have engaged in discussions about the political, social, and humanitarian dimensions of the Israel-Palestine conflict. However, the recent surge in visible activism, demonstrations, and organized protests reflects a more pronounced and polarizing shift. The realignment on campuses can be attributed to multiple factors, including the influence of Middle East studies programs and the active role played by organizations such as the Middle East Studies Association (MESA). These programs and associations have often facilitated the organization of events, lectures, and debates on issues related to the Middle East, creating platforms where pro-Palestinian perspectives are amplified. Critics argue that this alignment has, in some cases, provided tacit endorsement of actions that cross the line from advocacy to the glorification of political violence. Middle East studies programs have been instrumental in shaping the discourse around the Israel-Palestine conflict on campuses. By offering courses that focus on the historical, political, and cultural aspects of the region, these programs have played a key role in educating students about the complexities of Middle Eastern geopolitics. However, critics claim that many of these programs have exhibited biases, promoting narratives that favor Palestinian re-

sistance while neglecting broader contextual considerations, such as Israel's security concerns and regional dynamics involving neighboring countries. MESA, as an association representing scholars of the Middle East, has also contributed to this discourse. Through its publications, conferences, and public statements, MESA has been influential in framing the conflict and its associated narratives. Supporters view these efforts as a necessary intervention to provide a counter-narrative to what they perceive as mainstream media biases, while detractors see it as a politicization of academic spaces. The association's calls for boycotts, divestments, and sanctions (BDS) against Israel have also been contentious, drawing both support and condemnation. Institutions such as Columbia University and Harvard University have found themselves at the center of the debate due to their responses to the protests and activism on their campuses. Columbia, in particular, has a history of activism related to the Middle East, with various student organizations and faculty members advocating for Palestinian causes. Similarly, Harvard has seen a surge in activism, leading to public statements from student groups and academic bodies. The administration's responses, or lack thereof, have been scrutinized, leading to significant brand damage. In some cases, university leaders have issued statements that seem to balance a fine line between acknowledging the rights of students to express their opinions and addressing the concerns of those who feel threatened by anti-Semitic rhetoric. These statements have often been perceived as either too cautious or too lenient, resulting in backlash from multiple stakeholders. For example, while some students and faculty members demand a stronger condemnation of anti-Israel sentiment, others criticize any attempt to censure pro-Palestinian activism as a violation of free speech. This balancing act has not been without consequences. Several universities have experienced a drop in donations from alumni who disagree with the administration's perceived stance on the issue. Moreover, public perception of these institutions has been affected, as they are increasingly viewed as spaces where political activism can override academic rigor. The impact on their brands has raised concerns about the long-term implications for student enrollment, faculty recruitment, and partnerships with external organizations. The rise in pro-Palestinian sentiments and associated activism has also brought to light the issue of academic freedom and intellectual diversity. While universities have long been seen as arenas where diverse opinions can be debated and discussed, the current atmosphere on many campuses has prompted questions about whether this principle is genuinely

upheld. Reports of faculty members facing pressure to align with specific narratives or students feeling alienated for expressing dissenting views suggest a narrowing of the space for open dialogue. This environment has, in turn, fueled concerns about self-censorship. Students and faculty members may hesitate to engage in discussions on sensitive topics for fear of being ostracized or penalized, which undermines the very foundation of higher education as a place for intellectual exploration. This situation has been particularly concerning for Jewish students, many of whom have reported feeling unsafe or marginalized due to the growing intensity of anti-Semitic incidents that often accompany pro-Palestinian activism. The developments on university campuses reflect a broader societal shift, where discussions on international issues are increasingly polarized. The Israel-Palestine conflict has become a microcosm of this polarization, with university campuses acting as battlegrounds for competing ideologies. This phenomenon is not limited to the United States; similar patterns have been observed in other countries, including Canada, the United Kingdom, and across Europe. In this context, universities are being challenged to define their roles. Are they merely institutions for learning, or do they have a responsibility to shape social and political discourse? The rising activism has shown that, for many students and faculty, universities are more than just places to acquire knowledge; they are spaces to engage with, and sometimes advocate for, global causes. This dual role, however, has placed institutions in a difficult position, as they navigate the expectations of stakeholders with diverse, and often conflicting, views. The ongoing protests and the responses from university administrations are eroding the academic brands of several institutions, leading to critical questions about their competence, stewardship, and commitment to their foundational principles. The delicate balance between supporting freedom of expression and ensuring a safe, inclusive environment for all students has proven to be a challenging task for many university leaders. As the 2023-2024 academic year unfolds, it remains to be seen how universities will address these issues without compromising their reputations. What is clear, however, is that the current dynamics on campuses have sparked a broader conversation about the purpose of higher education and the ethical responsibilities of institutions that serve as forums for debate and the exchange of ideas. Whether these institutions can navigate these turbulent waters without further brand damage will depend largely on their ability to foster genuine intellectual diversity, resist the pressures of politicization, and address the concerns of all stakeholders.

## Briefs

## Parliamentary committee 'greenlights' amendment

FROM PAGE 01  
the constitutional package after meeting with his party founder, who is currently incarcerated in Adiala Jail in multiple cases. Addressing a press conference following a meeting with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the PTI chairman distanced his party from the decisions made in the parliamentary committee meeting today, saying: "Our meeting was underway when we came to know that the draft was approved [by the parliamentary committee]." He said that they would announce their decision on the draft of the much-touted constitutional amendments after discussing it with PTI founder. "Soon we will reach a conclusion," the PTI chairman added. Barrister Gohar was of the view that they would move forward "in light with the directions of Imran Khan." "We will try to meet PTI founder tomorrow and will give out final version [after the meeting]." PTI leadership was not allowed to meet incarcerated Khan for the past over two weeks, he added.

## 'Final decision after Imran's directions'

FROM PAGE 01  
Based on his directives, we will announce our final stance," Barrister Gohar said. He added that significant progress was made in the discussions with Maulana Fazlur Rehman, bringing them closer to an agreement. "We had a detailed discussion with Maulana Fazlur Rehman, and we are nearly at a consensus," he noted. Barrister Gohar also mentioned that representatives from both PTI and JUI-F participated in the Special Parliamentary Committee discussions on the amendment. PTI was represented by Aamir Dogar, while JUI-F also had its representatives present. The committee approved the draft amendment, which formed the basis for negotiations between PTI and JUI-F.

## PTI stages protests in major cities

FROM PAGE 01  
baton charge on the PTI activists who gathered near Empress Market for a protest against the government's attempts to pass the contentious judicial package. A group of the party loyalists also gathered at Karachi Press Club despite the closure of several roads leading to the Governor's House. Karachi police issued an alternative traffic plan for commuters due to the closure of arterial roads — from Sharea Faisal's FTC bridge to Metropole, Coast Guard Office to Karachi Press Club, and Arts Council to press club — due to the PTI protests. DIG South Asad Raza said that 1,200 police personnel have been deployed in Red Zone area of the metropolis amid PTI protest. It is noteworthy to mention here that the Karachi administration extended the enforcement of Section 144 for an additional two days, until October 19, according to a notification issued earlier today.

## Hamis confirms Sinwar...

FROM PAGE 01  
and Commander of Al-Aqsa Storm Operation," he said. He remembered Sinwar as "one of the noblest and bravest men, a man who dedicated his life to Palestine and gave his soul for the sake of Allah on the path to its liberation." "He rose as a heroic martyr, advancing and never retreating, wielding his weapon, engaging and confronting the occupation army at the frontlines. He moved between all combat positions, steadfast and stationed on the honored land of Gaza, defending the land of Palestine and its holy sites, inspiring the spirit of endurance, patience, steadfastness, and resistance."

## Nauman, Sajid spin Pakistan to convincing victory in Multan Test

Nauman took career-best eight wickets in the second innings

SPORTS DESK

MULTAN: Magical spin spells from Nauman Ali and Sajid Khan propelled Pakistan to a convincing win against England on day 4 of the Multan Test. Nauman took eight whereas Sajid bagged two wickets in the second innings to ensure Pakistan doesn't go winless at home this time. The continuity of dominance from the first innings helped the spin duo give a strong statement to the opposition out there. Resuming day 4 with the loss of two wickets, England came up to launch their 'Bazball' formula as they do but Pakistani spinners had another plan. Sajid removed Ollie Pope (22) in just the second over of the day followed by Nauman getting rid of Joe Root, the prominent scorer of the first Test, for 18. The two reliable batters departing in a short period already dented the hopes of the visitors. However, Harry Brook, the triple-century of the first Test, arrived at the crease to take charge. Nauman, the experienced Sanghar boy, got rid of Brook as he could only add 16 to the total. Brook's wicket left all the respon-



sibility on the shoulders of skipper Ben Stokes who returned from an injury. Stokes lost Jamie Smith in quick succession for Pakistan. Nevertheless, he resisted against the hosts with Brandon Carse, playing just his second Test, as they both stitched 37 runs together. Stokes was looking in good touch until an ideal left-arm deliv-

ery from Nauman forced him to get out of his crease where he lost his balance and also the bat from his hand. Rizwan took no time to get him stumped and as a result, Pakistan got their seventh wicket. Thereafter, Nauman didn't look back and took three more wickets to register his best bowling figures in an innings. Adding on

to his three wickets in the first innings, Nauman bagged eight wickets for 46 runs in his 16.3 overs in the match-deciding innings. Sajid bagged two wickets to complete his nine-wicket haul in the Multan Test. Previously, the Shan Masood-led side scored 366 runs in their first innings, in response to which the English team was

bowled out for 291 runs, leaving them with a deficit of 75 runs.

While bowling first on day 1, Jack Leach dismissed four batters, Matthew Potts took two, Brydon Carse bagged three and Shoaib Bashir took one wicket.

Pakistan, on the other hand, witnessed two bowlers giving their best, with Sajid taking seven while Noman dismissing three in the first innings of England. Masood XI managed to score 221 in the second innings with Salman Ali Agha scoring the highest 63 runs. England's Leach took three wickets, Bashir bagged four, Carse dismissed two while Potts took one wicket during the second innings of Pakistan. Shan Masood, during the post-match press conference, shared the reason behind going with three spin bowlers.

"When the new selection committee came, we all sat together and our only concern was about taking 20 wickets," Shan stated. "Looking at the conditions, we felt that if we played on a used pitch and gave the spinners the advantage, we had a chance." The Pakistan captain appreciated spinners Noman Ali and Sajid Khan for taking the advantage of conditions and steering the team to victory.

## Nadal to battle Djokovic one last time at Saudi exhibition

'To have Novak in front of me, it's like a nostalgic thing,' says Nadal

WEB DESK

RIYADH: Rafael Nadal will have one last chance to face old rival Novak Djokovic before the Spaniard calls time on his illustrious career with the pair set to meet at the Six Kings Slam exhibition event in Saudi Arabia. Nadal lost 6-3 6-3 to Carlos Alcaraz in the semi-finals on Thursday to set up a third-place match against the Serb, who was beaten 6-2 6-7(0) 6-4 by Jannik

Sinner. World number one Sinner will meet Alcaraz in the final at Riyadh where the winner will take home \$6 million. "To have Novak in front of me, it's like a nostalgic thing," Nadal told reporters.

"We've played each other a lot, so it'll be fun to play each other again in this match." The 22-time Grand Slam champion, who announced his retirement last week, has faced Djokovic in 60 matches — the most in men's tennis — and has

triumphed 29 times to the Serb's 31. The last time Nadal faced 24-time Grand Slam champion Djokovic was in the second round of the Paris Olympics, where he lost 6-1 6-4.

Nadal, who also teamed up with Alcaraz in the men's doubles at the Games, could do so again at the Davis Cup Final 8 in Malaga from November 19-24. "Emotionally, I'm sure I'll be ready," the 38-year-old. "Physically and in terms of tennis level there is a

month left to prepare. If I don't feel ready for the singles, I'll be the first one to say (it) and let's see if I can help in some way."

Nadal said Alcaraz was doing well in his career and did not need much advice from him. "He has a great team, a great family," he added. "He's going to do very well with what he's got. He's learning all the time. We can see he's developing in every way. But of course I'll be ready whenever he wants to call me."



## Changes to election..

FROM PAGE 01

the right of the electorate through political parties to have proportional representation in the reserved seats under paragraphs (d) and (e) of clause (6) of Article 51 and paragraph (c) of clause (3) of Article 106 of the Constitution, therefore, the amendments made in the Elections Act after the release of our short order will have no bearing and the Commission is bound to implement the judgment passed by the Supreme Court of Pakistan, in its letter and spirit, without seeking any further clarification. In its previous clarification on September 14, the top court had come down hard on the ECP for its "attempts to create confusion" on its July 12 reserved seats verdict, saying that the clarification sought by the commission was nothing but an attempt to "obstruct implementation" of the judgment declaring PTI eligible for reserved seats in parliament. "Putting together the record placed before us [top court], and considering the same in light of the short order, leaves in little doubt that the clarification sought by the commission is nothing more than a contrived device and adoption of dilatory tactics," the eight judges had stated in the clarification. In its four-page clarification, the SC said having itself issued notices to the PTI through Barrister Gohar Ali Khan as its Chairman, the Commission "gave recognition to both the party and the office holder".

## Pakistan cricket needs impactful performances not PR agencies

Hafeez praised Kamran, Nauman, Sajid Khan and Salman Ali Agha

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan's former captain Mohammad Hafeez took a dig at players' PR agencies after Pakistan beat England by 152 runs in Multan Test on Friday. Taking to X after the win, Hafeez praised the "impactful" performances of Kamran Ghulam, Salman Ali Agha, Sajid Khan, and Nauman Ali which played an important role in Pakistan's Test victory at home after almost three years. "Pakistan cricket needs impactful performances like Kamran Ghulam, Salman Agha 50, Sajid Khan 9 wickets & Noman Ali 11 wickets for winning cause. Surely not PR agencies," he wrote. For the past three-four years, PR agencies of Pakistani players have dominated the cricket corridors as also reported in the previous era of PCB heads Zaka Ashraf and NajamSethi. The ex-PCB management committee's chair Ashraf also tried to launch

a crack down on such PR agencies for blackmailing the board through players. However, Ashraf's tenure was cut short earlier this year when the PCB elections were held. Magical spin spells from Nauman Ali and Sajid Khan propelled Pakistan to a convincing win against England on day 4 of the Multan Test. Nauman took eight whereas Sajid bagged two wickets in the second innings to ensure Pakistan doesn't go winless at home this time.

The continuity of dominance from the first innings helped the spin duo give a strong statement to the opposition out there. Resuming day 4 with the loss of two wickets, England came up to launch their 'Bazball' formula as they do but Pakistani spinners had another plan. Sajid removed Ollie Pope (22) in just the second over of the day followed by Nauman getting rid of Joe Root, the prominent scorer of the first Test, for 18. The two reliable batters departing in a short period already dented the hopes of the visitors. However, Harry Brook, the triple-century of the first Test, arrived at the crease to take charge. Nauman, the experienced Sanghar boy, got rid of Brook as he could only add 16 to the total.

## Verstappen to continue giving minimal answers

And when asked whether he would talk to FIA president Mohammed Ben Sulayem about the issue, Verstappen said: "I am always open for a chat. But from my side it is not that I am the one who has to reach out. I just live my life. I just continue, nothing changes"

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Max Verstappen says he will continue his stance of giving minimal answers in official Formula 1 news conferences at this weekend's US Grand Prix. The Red Bull driver instigated his policy at the last race in Singapore after he was punished by governing body the FIA for swearing in a news conference. Verstappen said on media day in Austin, Texas:

"I haven't heard anything (from the FIA), so for me it doesn't change anything. "I prefer of course to talk less, so it's fine anyway for me." In Singapore, Verstappen limited his answers as much as possible in the official FIA news conferences to ensure he complied with the requirement to respond. He told reporters there that he was happy to answer questions more extensively outside the press conference room, and did so after both qualifying and the race.

On Thursday, speaking while surrounded by reporters at a table outside the Red Bull hospitality, he indicated that he would continue with this approach. Asked whether he still did not want to speak in the FIA press conferences, he said: "I will speak." But when asked how the media would get "proper" answers from him, he said: "This table works well." The Dutchman described the dispute as "silly". And when asked whether

he would talk to FIA president Mohammed Ben Sulayem about the issue, Verstappen said: "I am always open for a chat. But from my side it is not that I am the one who has to reach out. I just live my life. I just continue, nothing changes." "This particular scenario, yes, it's very unnecessary. Of course I know you can't generally swear but it's more about when you insult someone. "Then you hear comments, like: 'Yeah but you

don't want kids seeing that.' But when I was five years old, I never watched a press conference in my life anyway. And at school you hear way worse things than that. Because you grow up with kids and you're a bit of a rebel, so you always say bad stuff. That's just how life is. "They want you to set an example. Yeah, sure. I don't think they should make such a big deal about it." Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton said the dispute in Singapore was "not a good look".

And Hamilton's team-mate George Russell, who is a director of the Grand Prix Drivers' Association, said the F1 drivers were likely to make a collective statement on the issue next week. "Between the drivers a lot have spoken regarding swearing," Russell said. "It does seem a little bit silly that it has come to this. We have yet to speak to the FIA but we hope to do so (at the next race) in Mexico. But collectively we're all on the same page."

## 'PML-N, JUI and PPP consensus is almost final'

FROM PAGE 01

the constitutional amendments, the draft is almost final which has been prepared on the suggestions of PML-N, PP and JUI regarding judicial reforms". Bilawal said he will meet Maulana Fazlur Rehman again soon and all of his legitimate demands will be placed before the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He hoped that the Prime Minister will follow his advice and they will get into position to approve the draft of the amendments.

## Indian Forces intensify...

FROM PAGE 01

with extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, and instances of torture surging dramatically. A report by the World Forum for Peace and Justice reveals that since 1990, over 10,000 Kashmiri women have reportedly been victims of sexual violence by Indian forces. The psychological impact on these women is profound, as they continue to live under constant siege and surveillance. The cycle of collective assault, enforced disappearances, killings, and violence shows no signs of abating. A notable incident occurred in 1991 in the Kupwara area, where approximately 100 women were subjected to mass assault. The ongoing situation raises serious human rights concerns for the inhabitants of Kashmir.

## PPP picks Bilawal as its...

FROM PAGE 01

the treasury benches are scrambling to win over the opposition to vote for the 26th constitutional amendment, which mainly focuses on judicial reforms. Talking to the media before the Parliament House in Islamabad on Friday, PPP leader and chairperson of the Special Committee of parliament on the constitutional draft Khurshid Shah confirmed his party had nominated Bilawal as the parliamentary leader. Meanwhile, PPP leader Naveed Qamar has submitted the documents pertaining to the election of the party chairman as the parliamentary leader at the National Assembly Office. Under the constitution, the parliamentary leader has the authority to direct members to vote on constitutional amendments, finance bills and the election of the prime minister or speaker as per the party policy. Shah said the decision taken by Bilawal would be final and, "God willing, the constitutional amendment would take place". "Haste is not good, everything should be done calmly. This is the amendment for which 177 of our workers were martyred today," he said referring to the 2007 Karachi's Karsaz blast incident. He said former prime minister Benazir Bhutto had returned to Pakistan to campaign for the same amendment. "We will never let this sacrifice go in vain," he added.

## Pakistan establishes relief fund...

FROM PAGE 01

quantity of tents and blankets and play their part to accelerate the supply of relief goods. The prime minister condemned the impediments being created by Israel in the relief efforts and lauded the NGOs supplementing the Government of Pakistan's relief efforts. He said the government would make no compromise on the quality of the relief items and asked the authorities concerned to dispatch the fireproof tents. Expressing his concerns over the growing Israeli barbarism, he called for the international community's role to end the genocide of Palestinian people. He said the major reason behind the world war in the 20th century was the indifference of the world powers to the conflicts. In the briefing, it was told that since October 8, 2023, 12 cargos had been dispatched to Palestine through six chartered, three PAF special flights and another three through the sea route.

## Briefs

Gold price ups  
by Rs.3,000  
per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs.3,000 and was sold at Rs.280,900 on Friday compared to its sale at Rs.277,900 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.2,572 to Rs.240,826 from Rs.238,254 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.220,758 from Rs.218,400, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola silver increased by Rs.50 to Rs.3,100 whereas that of ten gram silver went up by Rs.42.87 to Rs.2,657.75. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$30 to \$2,712 from \$2,682, the Association reported.—APP

Rupee gains  
18 paise  
against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Friday appreciated by 18 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.61 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.79. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs277.75 and Rs279.25 respectively. The price of Euro decreased by 50 paise to close at Rs301.02 against the last day's closing of Rs301.52, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen came down by 01 paise and closed at Rs1.84, whereas an increase of Rs 1.19 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs362.02 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs360.83. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal decreased by 04 paise and 05 paise to close at Rs75.58 and Rs73.91 respectively.—APP

N Korean  
troops in  
Russia  
readying for  
combat in  
Ukraine war

SEOUL: North Korea has shipped 1,500 special forces troops to Russia's far east for training and acclimatizing at local military bases and will likely be deployed for combat in the war in Ukraine, South Korea's spy agency said on Friday. South Korea's National Intelligence Service (NIS) also said it had been working with Ukrainian intelligence service and had used facial recognition artificial intelligence technology to identify North Korean officers in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region supporting Russian forces firing North Korean missiles. In more than 13,000 containers, North Korea has shipped artillery rounds, ballistic missiles and anti-tank rockets to Russia since August last year, the agency said, based on the remnants of weapons recovered from the battle front in Ukraine. In all, more than eight million artillery and rocket rounds have been shipped to Russia, it said. "The direct military cooperation between Russia and North Korea that has been reported by foreign media has now been officially confirmed," the spy agency said in a statement. Earlier, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol called an unscheduled security meeting with key intelligence, military and national security officials to discuss North Korean troops' involvement in Russia's war against Ukraine. Yoon's office said, "The participants ... shared the view that the current situation where Russia and North Korea's closer ties have gone beyond the movement of military supplies to actual dispatch of troops is a grave security threat not only to our country but to the international community," it said. Yoon's office said South Korea, together with its allies, has been closely tracking North Korea's troop dispatch to Russia from the initial stages. South Korea will respond to the North's activities with all available means, it added, without elaborating on what actions it might take.—APP

Azerbaijan marks 33rd anniversary  
of restoration of independence

After that Azerbaijan embarked on the path of development, ensured stability and the country began to confidently move forward. Heydar Aliyev, the Great Leader of Azerbaijan have made great achievements leading Azerbaijan to embark on a path of real independence

DNA

BAKU: The country restored its state independence in the late 20th century after the collapse of the USSR. On 18 October 1991, the Supreme Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan adopted the Constitutional Act "On the State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan". The Constitutional Act referred to the Declaration of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated 28 May 1918 and the Declaration "On the Restoration of State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan" adopted by the Supreme Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 30 August 1991, proclaiming the independent state of Azerbaijan as a legal successor of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. Thus, ac-

ording to the Constitutional Act "On the State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan" consisted of 6 chapters and 32 articles, the people of Azerbaijan restored their independence on 18 October 1991. On 29 December 1991, the people of Azerbaijan voted for the country's independence and sovereignty in a nationwide referendum. The chaos and government crisis within the country, as well as Armenia's military aggression against Azerbaijan, seriously damaged the independent state-building process at that time. Only in 1993, when National Leader Heydar Aliyev returned to power with continuous demand of the people, the country did manage to take consistent steps to fulfill the ideas of national independence and restore the traditions

of statehood and sovereignty. After that Azerbaijan embarked on the path of development, ensured stability and the country began to confidently move forward. Heydar Aliyev, the Great Leader of Azerbaijan have made great achievements leading Azerbaijan to embark on a path of real independence. Thanks to his dynamic and forward-thinking leadership Azerbaijan overcame great difficulties and laid strong foundations for its development. The development and implementation of a balanced and serving the protection of national interests of the foreign policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan are associated, in general, with the name of the national leader Heydar Aliyev who devoted his life to the prosperity of Azerbaijan. It was thanks to his exceptional sense of statehood,

profound wisdom, and ability to deeply understand the essence of issues that it became possible to determine the correct approach to the establishment of international relations. Since 2003, Azerbaijan has been continuing to implement the policy of Heydar Aliyev, and enriching it under the leadership of H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Under the leadership of Commander-in-Chief President Ilham Aliyev, the victorious Azerbaijani Army liberated the occupied territories from the almost 30-year occupation by Armenia, implemented UN Security Council 4 resolutions of 1993 itself alone, and restored historical justice. Currently, restoration and reconstruction work based on smart and green technolo-

gies are underway in these areas. It also should be stated that, over the past years, the Republic of Azerbaijan has successfully chaired several important organizations such as the UN Security Council, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of Turkic States, and many others. Furthermore, Azerbaijan has been unanimously supported as the next host of the UN Climate Change Conference. Thus, in November of 2024 tens of thousands of delegates from all over the world, including brotherly Pakistan are expected in Baku for the COP29 Summit to discuss the future of our planet from a climate change perspective. This is another sign of Azerbaijan's strong diplomacy at a global scale and well recognized reputation of Azerbaijan as a reliable partner for multilateral negotiations.

French  
school to  
be named  
after teacher  
beheaded by  
militant

VERSAILLES, France: A school in France will be named after Samuel Paty, a teacher who worked there until he was murdered by a militant for discussing Prophet Muhammad drawings in class, local authorities said after a unanimous vote in favor of the change. Paty, a 47-year-old history and geography teacher, was stabbed and then beheaded near his secondary school in the Paris suburb of Conflans-Sainte-Honorine on October 16, 2020 in an attack that horrified France. Paty's attacker, 18-year-old Chechen refugee Abdoullakh Anzorov, was shot dead at the scene by police. He murdered Paty after messages spread on social media that the teacher had shown his class cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad from the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo. "By naming the Bois d'Aulne school Samuel Paty College, we incarnate the French ideal, the republican hope that knowledge brings progress, by giving it the face of a humble, devoted and enthusiastic man, the face of Samuel Paty," said Pierre Bedier, president of the Yvelines department where the school is located. New name plates would be put up in the course of the current school year, his office added.—APP

Putin says  
BRICS will  
generate  
most of global  
economic  
growth

MOSCOW: The BRICS group will generate most of the global economic growth in the coming years thanks to its size and relatively fast growth compared with that of developed Western nations, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday. Putin hopes to build up BRICS — which has expanded to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates as well as Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — as a powerful counterweight to the West in global politics and trade. The Kremlin leader is due to host a BRICS summit in the Russian city of Kazan on Oct. 22-24. "The countries in our association are essentially the drivers of global economic growth. In the foreseeable future, BRICS will generate the main increase in global GDP," Putin told officials and businessmen at BRICS business forum in Moscow. "The economic growth of BRICS members will increasingly depend less on external influence or interference. This is essentially economic sovereignty," Putin added. Next week's summit is being presented by Moscow as evidence that Western efforts to isolate Russia over its actions in Ukraine have failed.—DNA

Singapore  
arrests teen  
for planning  
Daesh-inspired  
stabbing spree

SINGAPORE: Singapore has arrested a teenage boy who was allegedly planning a Daesh-inspired terror attack on a busy suburb, the interior minister said Friday, adding it was a "very close shave." After watching Daesh propaganda glorifying knife attacks, the 17-year-old visited the suburb to rehearse his attack before he was arrested in August, Home Minister K. Shanmugam said. "He was quite serious because he actually practiced stabbing motions with the scissors. He checked out which place would cause death — basically the neck area — so he practiced hitting at the neck," Shanmugam told reporters. "I would say this was a very close shave. It is very fortunate that ISD (Internal Security Department) arrested him in time." The teenager, detained under the Internal Security Act, had allegedly planned a stabbing spree to coincide with school holidays in September when the area would be teeming with people. In a statement released on Friday, ISD said the teenager was exposed to the deluge of online extremist materials posted by the Daesh group after Hamas' attack on Israel on October 7 last year.—APP



AMRITSAR: Sikh youths perform 'Gatka', an ancient form of Sikh martial arts, during a religious procession on the eve of the birth anniversary of the fourth Sikh Guru Ramdas .

Belgium opens war  
crimes probe into  
soldier fighting for  
Israel in Gaza

BRUSSELS: Belgian authorities said on Friday they have launched an investigation into possible war crimes committed by a Belgian-Israeli soldier fighting for Israel in Gaza. The federal prosecutor's office said the probe focuses on a Belgian member of an elite unit of the Israeli military comprising several other dual passport holders. "We have opened a file on possible war crimes," a spokesperson for the prosecutor's office told AFP. The suspect, who has not been named, is said to be a man in his 20s from Brussels' upmarket suburb of Uccle. The investigation, officially opened Wednesday, stems from the work of Palestinian journalist Younis Tirawi. Posting on X this month, Tirawi accused an Israeli sniper unit called "Refaim," or "Ghosts" in Hebrew, of "brutal executions of unarmed civilians." Belgium's Justice Minister Paul Van Tigchelt said on Thursday the Belgian probe sought to "verify the information published in the press." "Israel has the right to self-defense, but that does not exempt it from its obligation to respect international humanitarian law," Van Tigchelt told parliament. He said the federal prosecutor's office would coordinate with the International Criminal Court in The Hague, whose chief prosecutor has sought arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant over alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza. ICC prosecutor Karim Khan also sought warrants against top Hamas leaders Yahya Sinwar, Ismail Haniyeh and Mohammed Deif — but all three have since been killed. Israel launched its offensive against Hamas in Gaza in the wake of the October 7, 2023 attack by the Palestinian militant group, which resulted in the deaths of 1,206 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally of official Israeli figures. Israel's retaliatory campaign in Gaza has killed 42,438 people, the majority civilians, according to data from the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory, which the UN considers reliable.—APP

Russia tests  
readiness  
of nuclear  
missile unit

MOSCOW: Russia is testing the combat readiness of a unit equipped with Yars intercontinental ballistic missiles in a region northwest of Moscow, news agencies quoted the defense ministry as saying on Friday. The Yars, which can be deployed in silos or mounted on mobile launchers, has a range of up to 11,000km is capable of delivering multiple nuclear warheads. Russia has carried out a series of nuclear drills this year in what security analysts say are signals intended to deter the West from intervening more deeply in the war in Ukraine. The latest one is taking place in the same week that NATO conducted its annual nuclear exercise and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky unveiled his "victory plan." Russian President Vladimir Putin said last month that Moscow had extended the list of scenarios that could prompt it to use nuclear weapons, effectively lowering the threshold for their use. Ukraine accused Moscow of nuclear blackmail.—APP

Lebanon issues  
rare rebuke to Iran  
over 'interference'

Mikati said on Friday that he was "surprised" by Ghalibaf's comments and said they were an attempt to "establish a rejected guardianship over Lebanon." He said such a negotiation was the prerogative of the Lebanese state and asked Lebanese Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib to summon Iran's Chargé d'Affaires in Beirut

BEIRU: Lebanon's caretaker prime minister on Friday made a rare rebuke to Iran and said Tehran's envoy should be summoned over reported comments by a senior Iranian official that it would be ready to help "negotiate" to implement a UN resolution on Lebanon. Lebanese PM Najib Mikati said in a statement the comments amounted to "a blatant interference in Lebanese affairs." Criticism of Iran by top Lebanese officials is unusual, particularly given Tehran's sponsorship of the powerful Lebanese armed group Hezbollah, which is currently locked in battles against Israeli troops along Lebanon's southern border. In an interview published in France's Le Figaro on Thursday, Iranian parliament speaker Mohammad Baqer Ghalibaf was quoted as saying his country would be ready to "negotiate" with France to implement United Nations Resolution 1701. That resolution, which ended the last round of conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in 2006, calls for southern Lebanon to be free of any troops or weapons other than those of the Lebanese state. Mikati said on Friday that he was "surprised" by Ghalibaf's comments and said they were an attempt to "establish a rejected guardianship over Lebanon." He said such a negotiation was the prerogative of the Lebanese state and asked Lebanese Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib to summon Iran's Chargé d'Affaires in Beirut. There was no immediate comment from Ghalibaf or from Iran's embassy in Beirut. An unnamed Iranian source close to Ghalibaf denied the interpretation of the speaker's comments, telling pro-Iran broadcaster Al-Mayadeen that any collaboration with Europe would aim to reach a ceasefire that is backed by Lebanon's government and "resistance," in a reference to Hezbollah.—Agencies

Female entrepreneurs carve out a niche for  
women's empowerment in Afghanistan

"Working as a businesswoman in the current situation not only gives me a sense of power and empowerment, but also an opportunity to prove that women are capable to overcome challenges and excel in different professional fields," said Parisa Elhami, who runs Watan Collection, a fashion brand in Herat which currently employs 15 women

KABUL: Banned from schools, restricted in public places and not allowed to work in most jobs, women in Afghanistan's western Herat province are turning to private entrepreneurship to empower themselves and others. The employment rate has dropped significantly across Afghanistan since the Taliban took control in 2021 and their administration was hit with a host of international sanctions. The situation is further aggravated by restrictions the Taliban have steadily imposed on women's participation in the public sector, their secondary and higher education, and movement. "The unemployed class is increasing, the education system is currently blocked, most women and girls are unemployed and stay at home, underage marriages have increased, and the economy is down," said Shafiq



Barak, director of Afghan Barak, a clothing company based in Herat. She is among an increasing number of businesswomen for whom entrepreneurship is a way to obtain some empowerment and independence. As

women have been absent from so many aspects of public life, Barak told Arab News that being professionally active was essential. "Afghan Bark company has created work opportunities for 18 women ... creating jobs and

creating work opportunities is today one of the basic needs of women in Afghanistan," she said. "Working as a businesswoman in the current situation, where there is no other way to improve my morale and earn income, gives me the best feeling because I make several families happy and help several women and girls get out of despair." She is not alone. Behnaz Saljoqi, head of the Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industries in Herat told Arab News that the number of women obtaining business licenses was increasing, with 800 permits received over the past three years. These female-led businesses are in sectors such as apparel, carpet weaving, miniature painting, food production, processing and packaging. "Most of them have licenses from the municipality, and some have licenses from the Department of Commerce," she

said. "Overall, the Islamic Emirate is ready to support women in the private sector, including women's participation in international exhibitions outside Afghanistan." With women only allowed to work as long as they work for women and among women, navigating the restrictions is not easy. It is further complicated by the sanctions that are in place and the fragile Afghan economy. "Working as a businesswoman in the current situation not only gives me a sense of power and empowerment, but also an opportunity to prove that women are capable to overcome challenges and excel in different professional fields," said Parisa Elhami, who runs Watan Collection, a fashion brand in Herat which currently employs 15 women. "One of the main obstacles facing women entrepreneurs is legal and financial complications.—APP

## Briefs

### UNESCO adopts Pakistan-led resolution

DNA

NEW YORK: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has unanimously adopted Pakistan-led Resolution on "Countering Disinformation for the Promotion and Protection of Freedom of Expression and Access to Information". Co-sponsored by more than 50 Member States, Pakistan-led resolution was adopted at the 220th Session of the UNESCO Executive Board in Paris. Pakistan took this initiative in the backdrop of proliferation and intensification of disinformation, misinformation and hate speech around the world. Pakistan's Permanent Delegate Asim Iftikhar Ahmad thanked all Member States for their invaluable inputs and support leading to consensus adoption of the text for effective promotion and protection of freedom of expression and access to information.

### US charges Indian agent in Sikh murder plot

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: The United States has charged a former Indian intelligence officer for allegedly directing a foiled plot to assassinate an American citizen who advocates for Khalistan - an independent Sikh state that would be carved out of India. The US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York said on Thursday that it had registered "murder-for-hire and money laundering charges" against Vikash Yadav for trying to kill Gurbhant Singh Pannun. The indictment of Yadav, for the first time, implicates the Indian government directly in the attempted assassination of a dissident. The Indian government has said it is co-operating with the ongoing investigation in the US. It has not responded to the specific charges against Mr Yadav yet. The development comes after Nikhil Gupta, an Indian national also charged in the case, was extradited to the US from a prison in Prague earlier this year. The FBI has accused Indian agents of involvement in an assassination attempt on Pannun, a dual US-Canadian citizen, saying Pannun was targeted for exercising his "First Amendment rights" to free speech. "The FBI will not tolerate acts of violence or other efforts to retaliate against those residing in the U.S. for exercising their constitutionally protected rights," said FBI director Christopher Wray in a statement. India has labelled Pannun a terrorist, though he denies the allegation, claiming to be an activist advocating for Khalistan.

# LHC forms full bench for students' harassment cases

*LHC CJ expresses displeasure with police over failure in restricting provocative videos, controlling protesters*

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) announced constituting a full court bench to hear the case of different incidents of harassment of female students, saying that the matter was of immense importance. LHC Chief Justice Aalia Neelum on Friday directed the authorities to take the statement of alleged victim linked to the much-hyped claims of "rape" of a private college's student in Lahore that sparked violent protests in the province that continue till date. Nearly 400 individuals protesting harassments and sexual abuse against female students at educational institutes have been arrested in Rawalpindi alone as Section 144 has been imposed in the province, banning gatherings and demonstrations. Several hundred others have been booked in Lahore and other cities for the violation of Section 144. Meanwhile, all private and public schools, universities and colleges in the province remained closed today. As unrest shrouds Punjab, the LHC took up the matter of three separate incidents including the protests against alleged rape, an alleged suicide in Punjab University and a case of harassment in Lahore College of Women University (LCWU). During the hearing, Punjab Inspector General of Police Usman Anwer and other officials appeared before the court with complete report sought by the court. LHC CJ Neelum expressed displeasure with the police chief over failure in preventing the videos from going viral on the social media and controlling

## Over 380 protesting students arrested, 1,500 booked in Pindi

MEHTAB PIRZADA

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested more than 380 participants of student protesters in Rawalpindi and booked more than 1,500 unidentified persons in eight cases, it emerged on Friday. A large number of Rawalpindi students on Thursday staged demonstration against the alleged rape of a college-going girl in Lahore. Police said the protesters infringed Section 144, interfered in the state affairs, damaged and torched properties, hurled stones at police mobile vans. As per the FIRs, the demonstrators injured police officials and spread terror, as the students ransacked a hostel after forcefully entering the hostel premises, pelted stones and damaged the vehicles there. The police resorted to teargas shelling to disperse the students and evacuated the teachers and staff who were initially besieged in the building. The cases have been lodged, police said, at various police stations including Airport, Gujjar Khan, Saddar (Wah), Morgah and Naseerabad. Meanwhile, as a measure to control the crowd, the road leading to Faizabad from Murree road has been partially closed by placing containers on them. The 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.

enraged students from taking to streets. She asked the reason for delay in reaching out to the relevant agencies for restricting the viral videos. At this, IGP Anwer informed the court that they had reached out to Pakistan Telecommunication Authority. When asked what role did the provincial government play, Punjab advocate general said that the relevant assistant superintendent of police met family of the private college-goer being linked to alleged rape and checked the CCTV footages. "Every child protesting was claiming that rape had been committed but no one has the evidence," he said. He, however, admitted that there were some failures on the authorities' part. At this, CJ Neelum remarked that the opportunists benefitted from the unrest. "It is

quite unfortunate if all this happened due to a fake news," she stated. Moreover, the chief justice inquired about the number of complaints regarding harassment in the LCWU. The government lawyer and college registrar apprised the court that there was only one such complaint and the person who is facing the allegations has been suspended from his post. CJ Neelum asked if the students were in such a "state of mind" that they can join their colleges again. She directed the authorities to regain the trust of parents. The LHC CJ also ordered the authorities concerned to prohibit presence of men where ever there are female students in the educational institutes. While directing the authorities to take the statement from the girl who is being named in the claims pertaining to alleged rape, CJ Neelum warned against pressurising the student in this regard of face action. The court also ordered the formation of a committee headed by Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) director general (DG) to probe all three cases. Azam Butt, a citizen of Lahore had filed an application in the LHC, highlighting the case of suicide at PU and alleged on-campus harassment and rape of separate students. The ongoing protests saw the students ransacking a hostel after forcefully entering the hostel premises, pelted stones and damaged the vehicles there. The turmoil eventually warranted a strong response from Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz who, while speaking to the media persons on Wednesday, announced a crackdown on those spreading fake news regarding the rape of a student.

## N Korea sending troops to Russia: Seoul

SEOUL: North Korea has started sending troops to fight with Russia in Ukraine, South Korea's spy agency has said as Seoul warned of a "grave security threat". The allegation comes a day after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he believed 10,000 North Korean soldiers could join the war, based on intelligence information. South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol called for a security meeting on Friday and said the international community must respond with "all available means". According to the spy agency, 1,500 troops have already arrived in Russia - with anonymous sources telling South Korean media the final figure could be closer to 12,000. This comes as evidence mounts that North Korea is supplying Russia with ammunition, as recently demonstrated by the recovery of a missile in Ukraine's Poltava region. Moscow and Pyongyang have also been deepening their cooperation in recent months. Last week, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un greeted Russian President Vladimir Putin on his birthday, calling him his "closest comrade". - Agencies

## UNIFIL condemns 'deliberate' Israeli attacks

GENEVA: The UN peacekeeping mission in Lebanon said on Friday it had come under several "deliberate" attacks by Israeli forces in recent days and efforts to help civilians in villages in the war zone were being hampered by Israeli shelling. The UN mission, known as UNIFIL, is stationed in southern Lebanon to monitor hostilities along the demarcation line with Israel - an area that has seen fierce clashes this month between Israeli troops and Iran-backed Hezbollah fighters. Two peacekeepers were wounded by an Israeli strike near a watchtower last week, prompting criticism from some of the 50 countries that provide troops to the 10,000-strong force. "We've been targeted several times, five times under deliberate attack," UNIFIL spokesperson Andrea Tenenti said by video link from Beirut. "I think the role of UNIFIL at the moment is more important than ever. We need to be here." - Agencies

## JUI-F denies claims of forward bloc in party

JUI-F spokesperson Aslam Ghauri says party in contact with all its members, except senator Abdul Ghafoor

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: JUI-F has firmly denied reports suggesting the formation of a forward bloc within the party in the backdrop of the proposed 26th Constitutional Amendment, reiterating that all their lawmakers will follow the party's direction on the matter. The denial comes in response to reports suggesting that a faction within the JUI-F had emerged, consisting of four to five parliamentarians, with regards to the proposed 26th Constitutional Amendment. These members are reportedly in favour of supporting judicial reforms as part of the proposed amendment. The sources claimed that these parliamentarians believed the JUI-F should back the proposed amendment. Speaking to a private channel on Friday, JUI-F spokesperson and senior leader Aslam Ghauri dismissed the speculation, saying: "There is no truth to the claims. We are in regular contact with all our members." However, he noted that out of the party's eight MNAs and five senators, only Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri has

not been reachable currently, "but we are making efforts to get in touch with him". Ghauri categorically denied division within the party. He clarified that JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazlur-Rehman had given clear instructions to all members through notices to vote according to the party's official policy under Article 63(A) of the Constitution. Following a meeting with the PTI leadership late Thursday, the JUI-F chief reiterated that the government's initial draft of the 26th amendment was rejected by his party and it still remains unacceptable to him. "We continue to reject the initial draft even today," he said, but also noted that "some issues are still open for discussion". Fazl also expressed his concerns about the alleged harassment of opposition members, saying, "On one hand, negotiations are taking place, and on the other, members are being abducted and offered large incentives." In yet another meeting held overnight at his residence in Islamabad, the top leaders, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Pakistan Peoples Party chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, extended assurances to the JUI-F leader to convince him to agree to a majority of proposals in the constitutional amendment.

## SC axes job quota policies for govt employees' children

Setting aside PHC verdict, SC also declared provincial legislation void

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan declared all the packages and job quota policies for government employees' children void. The top court issued the landmark judgment regarding the children of the federal government. The court admitted the GPO appeal set aside the Peshawar High Court 2021 verdict on the job quota issue. Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan wrote the order that overturns the 2021 Peshawar High Court judgment in favour of such appointments. The court struck down Section 11A of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Civil Servants Act and invalidated sub-clause 4 of Section 10 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Civil Servants Rules, 1989. Likewise, Clause 12 of the Balochistan Civil Servants Rules,

2009, has also been repealed. The ruling highlights that the quota system contradicts several key articles of the Constitution, including Articles 3, 4, 5(2), 25, and 27, which guarantee equal rights and non-discrimination. The court directed all provincial and federal governments to immediately halt the practice of appointing the children of government employees without open advertisement or merit-based competition. However, the ruling exempted the heirs of martyrs from terrorist incidents, ensuring that they continue to receive the benefits of existing packages and policies. Muhammad Jalal, the petitioner, sought a class IV position on medical grounds following his father's retirement. The Peshawar High Court had ordered his appointment on a contractual basis. The GPO later appealed to the Supreme Court, which led to this significant ruling.

## 4 including two attackers killed in Kurram firing

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: At least four people including two attackers were killed and three others injured in firing in the troubled Kurram district, police informed on Friday. According to police, local residents were busy working in their fields in the Shinguk when armed motorcyclists came and opened fire on them. As a result, two persons identified as Hidayat Hussain and Hashim Ali sustained multiple bullet injuries and died on the spot, while three others were wounded. Sources in the District Headquarters Hospital said that they had received two bodies and injured persons. Police added that local armed area people chased the assailants and shot both of them dead. Terming it an act of terrorism, Deputy Commissioner Javedullah Mahsud said that they were investigating the incident, saying that certain elements were involved in violence. It may be noted that unknown gunmen had killed two persons in the same area in the same fashion a week ago. Police further said that intense firing still continued in the area while firing on passenger vehicles in KanjAlizai area near Pak-Afghan border further aggravated the situation. Meanwhile, the elders have said that continuous closure of main and link roads would lead to massive humanitarian crises due to acute shortage of edibles, medicines, petrol and diesel reserves in District Kurram. Tribal elders from the Turi and Bangash tribes have expressed concern that the continuous closure of roads has caused shortage of food and fuel supplies, raising the fear of a major humanitarian crisis.

## PM seeks Dr Aafia's release in letter to Biden



"It is my solemn duty to intervene when it becomes absolutely necessary to ensure citizen's well-being," says premier

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has written a letter to the United States President Joe Biden, seeking Dr Aafia Siddiqi's release as she continues to languish in an American prison for several years. In his letter, written to Biden on October 13, the premier wrote about seeking the US president's intervention in the matter that deserves to be viewed with compassion, as Siddiqi remains incarcerated at the

Federal Medical Center (FMC) Carswell in Texas. The FMC Carswell houses female inmates of all security levels, primarily with special needs pertaining to their medical and mental health. She has been serving an 86-year sentence there, without the possibility of parole, imposed by the Southern District Court of New York. "Now 52 years old, she has spent approximately sixteen years behind bars in the US," PM Shehbaz wrote in the letter. Dr Aafia, a Pakistani neuroscientist, was indicted by a New York federal district court in September 2008 on charges of attempted

murder and assault, stemming from an incident during an interview with the US authorities in Ghazni, Afghanistan - charges that she denied. After 18 months in detention, she was tried and convicted in early 2010 and sentenced to 86 years in prison. She has since been imprisoned in the US. The premier further mentioned that numerous Pakistani officials have paid consular visits to Siddiqi at the prison facility over the years and have raised "serious concerns about the treatment she has received". The treatment meted out to her has severely impacted her "already fragile mental and frail physical health". "In fact, they even fear that she could take her own life," the prime minister mentioned in the letter. PM Shehbaz further praised Biden for passionately fighting for the rights of US citizens, particularly those stranded or held captive abroad. Therefore, the premier added, it is his "solemn duty" as Pakistan's premier to intervene when it becomes absolutely necessary to ensure a citizen's well-being, particularly when the circumstances are as dire as they are in her case. "Keeping these facts in view, I request you, Mr President, to kindly exercise your constitutional authority and accept Dr Siddiqi's clemency petition and order her release, strictly on humanitarian grounds," he wrote urging the American president to pardon the neuroscientist. The prime minister added that he trusts Biden to accord the most serious consideration that the request deserves. "Her family, and millions of my fellow citizens join me in seeking your blessings for a favorable outcome of this request," the prime minister wrote, concluding the letter.

### NOW IN PAKISTAN

Invisible Braces  
Dental Implants

**Dr. Abrar & Associates**  
DENTAL SURGEONS

House # 6-A, Ismail Zabeeh Road, (Service Road Parallel to Faisal Avenue) F-8/3, Islamabad.  
e-mail: abrar\_associates@yahoo.com | www.drabrarassociates.com  
Ph: +92 51 228 7691 | +92 51 228 7692 | Fax: +92 51 228 7693