



Islamabad POST

Monday, October 21, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Indian diplomats in Canada 'clearly on notice': FM Melanie

Detailed News On Page-08

Israel writing new chapters of Nazism

Detailed News On Page-08



Mbappé included in lineup

Detailed News On Page-06



26th Constitutional Amendment

Despite all odds govt gets it done

Maulana Fazl eleventh-hour support makes it possible for the government to get it done with a smaller number of turncoats; Lawyers bodies to challenge the amendments; experts believe the amendment may not stand in the court of law; PTI alleges worst-ever horse-trading

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: In a dramatic turn of events, the government successfully passed the 26th Constitutional Amendment through both houses of Parliament. The Senate approved the amendment first, followed by the National Assembly. The government's success was largely due to the last-minute support from JUI Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, which played a crucial role in securing the necessary votes. Without Maulana Fazlur Rehman's backing, the government would have faced the difficult task of persuading a significant number of PTI parliamentarians, potentially through coercion, to ensure the amendment's passage. The 22-clause included in the amendment was passed in the Senate by 65 votes. Other than 58 votes of the ruling coalition, BNP Mengal two Senators and the JUI F 5 Senators cast vote in favour of the amendment. Four votes against the amendment. The BNP Mengal senators reportedly were forced to vote in favour of the package. A few days prior to the voting both the Senators sent missing. The party chief Akhtar Mengal, on the day of voting reached the Senate in search of his Senators however by that time those Senators were not produced in the House. However, after a while both the Senators, escorted by security personnel, reached the House and cast their vote. Kamran Murtaza of JUI-F moved amendments one by one which were incorporated in the bill after not opposing by the government. Earlier, speaking in the House, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar said that the government, its allied parties and JUI-F reached a consensus on the draft of the constitutional amendment bill. As part of the government's efforts, a special parliamentary committee comprising representatives of all the political parties including the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) discussed the proposed constitutional package. The minister conceded that 19th Amendment was passed in haste to change the composition of the judicial commission (JC) and parliamentary committee on appointment of judges. Hence, the powers of parliamentary committee were reduced, he added. Azam Nazeer said even the bar councils and other lawyers representative organizations including Pakistan Bar Council criticized and demanded to revisit the decision. They demanded to make appropriate amendments in Article 175-A of the constitution, he said. Now, he said that the JC, responsible for the appointment and confirmation of judges would consist of the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), four senior Supreme Court judges, four parliamentarians, the Law Minister, an advocate having at least 15 years experience, and the Attorney General.

Continued on Page 06

Mengal mocks parliament session as a "circus"

Mengal speculated that his party's two senators might be at Jati Umra, Bilawal House, or Aabpara, adding

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Speaking informally to reporters at the Parliament House, Mengal said his party has lost contact with its senators. "We are here to find our senators. We've checked their lodges, but they are not there," he stated. Mengal speculated that his party's two senators might be at Jati Umra, Bilawal House, or Aabpara, adding, "But they certainly can't be in Bani Gala." The comments came as Pakistan's federal cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, approved the draft of the 26th constitutional amendment.

PTI Ali Zafar calls process 'unconstitutional'

Parliamentary leader alleges individuals being coerced into voting, says genuine consent not involved

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: During his speech in a Senate session on Sunday, the parliamentary leader for PTI expressed his concerns, stating that the constitution unites the people rather than divides them. He argued that without consensus on a constitution, it loses its legitimacy. He drew comparisons to the 1956 and 1962 constitutions, noting that both lacked national consensus and ultimately failed.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet. - DNA

Despite serious challenges

Judiciary protected rights of citizens: Justice Jahangiri

Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri says SC has been at forefront of fighting for freedom of judiciary

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Islamabad High Court's (IHC) Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri has said that judicial independence is essential for any society, its progress and its survival through the maintenance and implementation of the rule of law. The IHC judge was speaking at the Annual Law Conference organised by the International Lawyers (global), a group of Pakistan-origin lawyers working in the UK as solicitors and barristers. IHC Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir and Justice (retired) Shahid Jamil, who recently resigned from the Lahore High Court, also addressed the conference, held at the Society of Lincoln's Inn. Justice Jahangiri said: "In Pakistan, judicial independence is enshrined in our Constitution as a fundamental pillar. Judicial independence means that the courts must be free from any kind of pressure and interference. It allows judges to make decisions solely on the basis of law and nothing else. Pakistan's Constitution safeguards independence of the judiciary and it also safeguards the judiciary from

Continued on Page 06

SC has no authority to interpret Constitution

NRO to the PTI founder will not be given

DNA

LAHORE: Reacting over the Supreme Court's (SC) explanation issued yesterday, Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari said apart from Parliament, no institution has the authority to interpret the Constitution as it likes. Azma Bukhari said in a statement issued here on Sunday that a consensus on the constitutional amendment is a good thing, but talking to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is a waste of time. The Punjab Information Minister said a constitutional court is being established according to the Charter of

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Investigation underway into leak of US intelligence

DNA

WASHINGTON: US House Speaker Mike Johnson said there was an investigation underway into the leak of classified US intelligence documents related to Israel's preparations for an attack on Iran, Reuters reports. Speaking to CNN, Johnson said: "There's a classified-level briefing ... we are following it closely." He did not provide details on the briefing.

Multiple bomb threats to Indian airlines

NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI: More than 90 fake bomb threats have been made against flights operated by multiple Indian airlines this week, Indian media reported Sunday, sparking fear among passengers and global delays. All flights landed safely, but the spate of threats has resulted in planes being diverted to Canada and Germany, and fighter jets scrambled to escort aircraft in the skies above Britain and Singapore. India's government and civil aviation authorities have warned that "very strict action" will be taken. New Delhi's civil aviation authorities have not said how many threats have been received in the past week, but The Times of India and broadcaster News18 reported more than 70 hoaxes targeting both domestic and international flights since October 13.

'Mutton, coffee, coconut juice'

Jail reveals Imran's menu after claims of ill-treatment

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Gohar Khan says electricity supply to Imran Khan's cell was suspended for five days

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Adiala jail authorities have rubbished the claims made by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) about ill-treatment meted out to the former prime minister Imran Khan, while revealing exquisite menu of meals provided to the party founder in prison. The menu was revealed after PTI Chairman Gohar Ali Khan mentioned about alleged mistreatment towards the deposed prime minister in the jail following the former's meeting with the latter in Adiala - where Imran remains incarcerated for over a year now. Addressing journalists in Islamabad, the PTI chairman said it was for the first time after his imprisonment at the Adiala jail that Imran mentioned about conditions of his prison cell. He said electricity supply to his cell was suspended for five days,

Continued on Page 06

Govt wants to control judiciary: Hafiz Naeem

"Well done all," he sarcastically berated all parties

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman on Sunday mocked the ongoing tussle on the 26th constitutional amendment saying "well done all". In his message on social media site X, he wrote that Bilawal asserted that Maulana Fazlur Rehman has 100 percent agreed with the PPP over

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan Navy ship seizes narcotics

The seized items have been handed over to ANF for further legal proceedings

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: On 08 Oct 24, an intelligence-based counter narcotics operation was conducted by Pakistan Navy and ANF in North Arabian Sea in which approximately 2000 Kgs of Hashish, 370 Kgs of Ice and 50 Kgs of Heroin were seized by Pakistan Navy Ship HUNAIN. The consignment includes one hundred thousand illegal Indian made pills used as drug which was to be transported via sea to international destination. Value of narcotics in international market is approximately US\$ 145 million.

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan, India should decide themselves scope of dialogue: US

"The US values its relations with both Pakistan and India," says State Dept Spokesperson Matthew Miller

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: After some ice finally melted between Pakistan and India during the recently held Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government summit in Islamabad, Washington has said that it is for both the nations to decide the scope and role of any bilateral dialogue. Matthew Miller, the spokesperson for the United States Department of State, reacted to the positive development between the two rival countries in the mega diplomatic event held in the federal capital last week. "We have bilateral relations with Pakistan and India. The US values its relations with both countries," said Miller in an exclusive conversation with Geo News in Washington. Reacting to the meeting between India's External Affairs Minister Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar with Pakistani leaders during the summit, the spokesperson said that it is now up to both the nations to decide the scope and role of any dialogue that they may have with regards to bilateral ties. Both Pakistan and India witnessed their usually contentious relations ease

Continued on Page 06

KSA arrests over 21,950 illegal immigrants

At least 1,421 people were found to be trying to illegally cross the border into Saudi Arabia, says Saudi Press Agency

AGENCIES

RIYADH: The authorities in Saudi Arabia have arrested 21,971 people in one week for breaching laws related to border security, residency and labour. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA), on Saturday, reported that the Ministry of Interior conducted inspection campaigns in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) between October 10 and October 16 to ensure compliance with the residency, labour and border security laws. The authorities found 13,186 people non-compliant with

Continued on Page 06

SERENA HOTELS

Experience Autumn's Magic in Gilgit-Baltistan

Book Your Stay Now!

For more information, please contact: 03555997984 | reservation.hsh@serena.com.pk

Pak, UK for enhancing educational collaboration

The meeting, which also included Chairman of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chapter, Malik Habib Malik Orakzai, and vice chancellors from various universities in the province, focused on enhancing educational collaboration and addressing modern educational needs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Professor Sarah William, Dean of the University Business and Law School in Buckinghamshire, UK, met with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi along with a delegation here on Sunday to focus on enhancing educational collaboration. The meeting, which also included Chairman of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chapter, Malik Habib Malik Orakzai, and vice chancellors from various universities in the province, focused on enhancing educational

collaboration and addressing modern educational needs. Governor Kundi emphasized the importance of aligning provincial universities with global standards, saying that while students possess talent, they require guidance and encouragement. He expressed regret over the lack of attention given to education and stressed the need to develop an exemplary educational system for future growth and prosperity. He highlighted the necessity of acquiring and promoting quality education to achieve goals like women's empowerment and youth engagement. Discussions also centered on fostering international cooperation in

education. Sarah William committed to strengthening ties with educational institutions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, while Governor Kundi underscored the significance of establishing robust connections with the British education system. Vice-chancellors exchanged ideas on opportunities for development and collaboration with international institutions. The meeting was seen as a positive step towards enhancing education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and fostering international collaboration. During the visit, Professor Sarah William presented Governor Kundi with her book, "Women Work in Public Relations."



ISLAMABAD: Austrian ambassador to Pakistan, Andrea Wicke visit Sports Carnival 2024 under the auspices of Ministry Of Federal Education and Professional Training at Pakistan Sports Board, Liaquat Gymnasium, in the Federal Capital.

Pak-Korea Cultural Week to be from Oct 23

ISLAMABAD : The Prime Minister's Youth Program (PMYP) in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, Islamabad, will observe the Korea-Pakistan Cultural Week 2024. According to the PMYP office, the vibrant celebration will showcase the rich cultural heritage of both nations, strengthening their friendship and cultural exchange. The event will feature two exciting programs including the Korea-Pakistan Cultural Gala on October 23 at Liaquat Gymnasium which will showcase mesmerizing music, dance, and art performances from Korea and Pakistan. Additionally, the Korea-Pakistan Movie Day will screen four critically acclaimed films from October 24 to 27 at PNCA, Islamabad. Korean movies "Ode to My Father" and "The Himalayas" would be showcased alongside Pakistani hits "Nayab" and "Superstar." These films would highlight the diversity and creativity of both countries' cinema. Regarding the occasion, Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Program Rana Mashhood said "We are thrilled to partner with the Embassy of the Republic of Korea to bring this cultural extravaganza to Pakistan. This event embodies the spirit of friendship and cooperation between two countries." The Korea-Pakistan Cultural Week 2024 underscores the growing bilateral relations between Korea and Pakistan and promises to attract a diverse audience, including dignitaries, cultural enthusiasts, and students.—APP

CM approves establishment of three authorities

The newly proposed bodies are Punjab Development Authority, Punjab Water and Sanitation Authority, and Punjab Horticulture Authority

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, chairing a meeting here on Sunday, approved the establishment of three key provincial authorities aimed at enhancing development, water and sanitation services, and horticulture. The newly proposed bodies are Punjab Development Authority, Punjab Water and Sanitation Authority, and Punjab Horticulture Authority. Formal legislation will be made for the establishment of these provincial authorities,

which would develop policies and plans at the central level. At the local level, these agencies will ensure the implementation of development projects, water and sanitation services, and horticulture initiatives. These authorities will be governed by a central board, with director generals at the helm. Proposals are under review to establish local management boards and appoint managing directors for execution at the local level.

The chief minister emphasized the need to convert streetlights to solar energy, signaling a shift towards sustainable infrastructure. Provincial Food Minister Bilal Yasin, Minister Local Government Zeeshan Rafiq, Chief Secretary Zahid Aktar Zaman, Chief Secretary to CM Sajid Zafar Dall and relevant departmental secretaries attended the meeting. The Secretary of Housing and Local Government participated via video link.

Green Tractors to be given to 9,500 farmers

LAHORE: The Punjab government has announced distribution of 9,500 green tractors under Kisan Programme, but more than 15 lakh applications had been received. The government received more than 1.5 million applications under the Green Tractor Programme announced for farmers. The CM office sources told APP that following the directions of the Punjab CM, the list of those who would be included in the draw would be posted on Oct 20. Meanwhile, the scrutiny of application had been completed. The applicant's land was verified by the Patwar Circle concerned. CM Maryam Nawaz ordered for draw of green tractor scheme as soon as possible.—APP

Dengue cases surge with 97 new infections reported

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab continues to face a rise in Dengue cases as the Health Department reported 97 new infections on Sunday. Rawalpindi remains the epicenter, accounting for 84 of the new cases, while Lahore and Sialkot each recorded 3. Other districts like Attock and Chakwal reported 2 cases each, with one case each in Gujranwala, Sargodha, and Bahawalnagar. Over the last week, a total of 826 new cases were identified, raising the cumulative count for 2024 to 4,217 in the province. The health authorities reassured the public that hospitals are fully stocked with medicine and necessary resources to manage the outbreak. In an effort to curb the virus, the department urged citizens to keep their surroundings clean and eliminate stagnant water where mosquitoes can breed. Officials also called for public cooperation with ongoing efforts to prevent the virus from spreading further. For assistance or to file Dengue-related complaints, the Health Department has set up a toll-free helpline at 1033. The department stressed the need for continuous vigilance as the province battles the ongoing outbreak.

Olive grafting: Achieving self-sufficiency in edible oil

PESHAWAR: As the government embarks on agricultural transformation shifting to corporate from traditional farming, peasants are embracing to novel technologies and techniques to enhance cash crops productivity for attaining food sufficiency and economic stability. This voyage to economic resilience, like other parts of the country can also be seen in merged districts of erstwhile FATA where in Bajaur district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the farmers opted for olive grafting for locally enhancing olive oil production. Taking advantage of land and climate suitability in Malakand division, farmers like Barkat Shah have started uncovering the potential for significant financial gains from their limited mountainous land. His five-acre lush green olive grove on Mohmand-Bajaur road not only present an eye catching view but also makes

him confident to earn sufficient dividend for his family. "Bajaur's climate and soil conditions are ideal for wild olive grafting," Barkat Shah said. "Response from farmers is overwhelmingly due to grafting technique's cost-effectiveness and high oil yielding efficiency." Known locally as 'Ustad' for his expertise in olive grafting, Haji Barkat reveals, the process of olive grafting involves a precise and skilled technique where a scion—a young, healthy olive variety—is joined to a robust rootstock, typically an older olive tree, resilient to diseases. "This method enhances health and productivity of olive trees and ensures farmers to maximize gains from their land," he said. "We select a scion at growth stage, cut the scion and rootstock carefully for a snug fit and bind them together securely." This careful union, he said, leads to formation of a strong new branch, capa-

ble of yielding high-quality olives in just four to five years. "The optimal period for grafting is from February to April and July to September." As the region provides suitable land environment, Ziaul Islam Dawar, Director, Agriculture Extension appreciates people's response in Malakand towards olive grafting. "Growers are getting aware of this farming and start using best quality olive varieties," he informed. "A good quality scion can easily be grafted onto a rootstock of rare variety to prepare a high-yielding and disease-resistant olive tree in a few years." He stated that by grafting these rare varieties, the farmers can ensure better productivity for a longer period. "Besides their personal food and nutritional needs, olive also helps them earn living for their families and reduce import burden on national kitty."—APP

India temporarily to restore SAARC as credible organization. Iftikhar

KARACHI : Former President of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, former President of FPCCI, and former Chairman of the United Business Group, Iftikhar Ali Malik, has commended the recent statement by Dr. Muhammad Yunus, the Chief Advisor of Bangladesh's interim government. In his statement, Dr. Yunus called on India to temporarily set aside its issues with Pakistan to restore SAARC as a credible organization. In his own statement, Iftikhar Ali Malik praised Dr. Yunus's call and emphasized the importance of regional cooperation for the economic prosperity of all SAARC nations. He pointed out that political differences between India and Pakistan have long kept the organization inactive, resulting in a negative impact on trade, connectivity, and development across South Asia. Highlighting the importance of unity within SAARC, Malik stated that reopening dialogue and fostering cooperation could lead to unprecedented regional growth. He emphasized that SAARC has the full potential to address common challenges such as poverty, unemployment, and underdevelopment. Multilateral cooperation could not only help reduce bilateral tensions but also strengthen social and cultural ties among the member countries. Malik urged all SAARC members, especially India and Pakistan, to heed Dr. Yunus's advice and work together for the collective benefit of the region.—DNA

Sindh reports two new poliovirus cases, nationwide tally surges to 39

Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) officials, on Sunday, said the two new victims are kids — a boy from Mirpurkhas and a girl from Sanghar. Both are the first known instances of the disease in their respective areas this year

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Two new victims include a boy from Mirpurkhas and a girl from Sanghar, Polio Eradication Initiative officials say. Two new victims include a boy from Mirpurkhas and a girl from Sanghar, Polio Eradication Initiative officials say. The emergence of the new cases shows the extent of deterioration with regards to the poliovirus crisis in Pakistan. Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) officials, on Sunday, said the two new victims are kids — a boy from Mirpurkhas and a girl from Sanghar. Both are the first known instances of the disease in their respective areas this year. According to the PEI officials in Islamabad, Sindh is experiencing an increase in virus transmission, particularly after multiple environmental samples from Mirpurkhas tested positive for WPV1 earlier this year. After Balochistan recorded 20 cases, Sindh has now confirmed 12, while five have been diagnosed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and one

each in Punjab and Islamabad. At least three children have also died due to the disease this year in Pakistan, according to National EOC sources. These victims belonged to Karachi and Balochistan. The EOC sources said the child, Abdullah, who died of poliovirus hailed from Karachi's Bin Qasim Town in the Malir district. While the other two children belonged to Balochistan's Killa Saifullah and Quetta. The government, on the other hand, is set to kick off a nationwide anti-polio vaccine campaign from October 28, said the EOC. Misinformation and conspiracy theories continue to fuel vaccine hesitancy across Pakistan, especially in regions like Balochistan and KP. Many parents refuse polio vaccines due to baseless myths, such as the false claim that vaccines cause infertility or are part of a foreign conspiracy. These unfounded fears, spread via social media and local communities, have led to widespread vaccine refusals. The PEI officials urge parents to rely on scientific facts and consult health-care professionals. "Vaccines are

safe and essential to protect children from paralysis. Listening to conspiracy theories is putting children at grave risk," the official added. Meanwhile in a significant effort to combat climate change, Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Tandojam, in collaboration with the Breathe Green organization, launched a large-scale tree plantation drive at Isra University Hyderabad. This event marked the commencement of the "1 Million Tree Plantation Drive," an ambitious campaign announced by SAU Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Marri. Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Marri, former Vice Chancellor Dr. A.Q. Mughal, and students from both SAU and Isra University participated actively in the drive, planting over 200 trees of various species. The initiative aims to address critical environmental challenges such as climate change, promote biodiversity, and foster stronger community engagement. Dr. Fateh Marri emphasized the importance of the initiative, noting that the "1 Million Tree Plantation Drive" will continue across various areas of Sindh

Province. He remarked, "Every tree planted today is a step towards a greener and more sustainable future. It is essential for mitigating the negative impacts of climate change." Former SAU Vice Chancellor Dr. A.Q. Mughal echoed these sentiments, stating, "Tree planting is crucial for ensuring environmental sustainability for future generations." Prof. Dr. Ismail Kumbhar, Director of University Advancement and Financial Assistance at SAU, highlighted the environmental benefits of the initiative, adding, "This drive not only enhances ecosystem services but also fosters a deeper sense of community responsibility toward environmental conservation." The event garnered strong support from SAU students, faculty members, and key figures, including Prof. Suresh Kumar Wadhvani, Dr. Dost Muhammad Balouch, Dr. Panjwani, Dr. Haroon Iqbal, and Dr. Aijaz Ali Khooharo. Their collective efforts underscored the power of community action in addressing environmental challenges and promoting sustainability.

WE WELCOME YOU AT
ASIAN WOK, MURREE

30 Minutes Drive From
Islamabad - Murree Toll Plaza

TIMINGS:
12:30 PM - 12:00 AM

Park Ridge Apartments, Lower Topa, Murree Expressway, Murree
0300 8403004 | 0300 8503004

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.....112 & 16
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 Exchange9270831-5
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

NLC gets 500 trucks to boost regional connectivity

This initiative aligns with NLC's first commercial TIR operation launched in 2021. Since then, the organization has expanded its land-based transportation network to Central Asia, China, Russia, Turkey, Azerbaijan, and plans to extend further into Eastern Europe

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's National Logistic Corporation (NLC) has acquired 500 high-powered trucks from China to enhance regional connectivity under the International Road Transport (TIR) system, as stated by NLC. These advanced vehicles,

designed for long-haul operations, were transported to Pakistan via the Khunjerab Pass, significantly reducing time and costs compared to sea shipping. "The introduction of these trucks is a strategic move to bolster regional connectivity under TIR," the statement noted, according to Gwadar Pro on Sunday. This initiative aligns with NLC's

first commercial TIR operation launched in 2021. Since then, the organization has expanded its land-based transportation network to Central Asia, China, Russia, Turkey, Azerbaijan, and plans to extend further into Eastern Europe. The trucks, equipped with advanced technology and delivering 390 horsepower, are intended for long-distance

transportation and will facilitate cross-border logistics to various destinations, enhancing NLC's capacity to support regional trade. In June 2024, NLC successfully transported cherries to China, delivering the first cargo of six tons via the Khunjerab Pass. To maintain freshness, specialized refrigerated containers were used, and the cherries,

sourced from Gilgit-Baltistan, reached their destination in just three days, with more shipments planned. Additionally, in October 2023, the National Highway Authority declared the Karakoram Highway an all-weather route, ensuring year-round access between China and Pakistan as part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).



ISLAMABAD: Contestants are trying to outdo each other in bull race held in Sector 1-15 in the Federal Capital.

IG Islamabad reviews new projects, recruitment process

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi on Sunday presided over an important meeting at the Central Police Office regarding the recruitment process and ongoing projects in Islamabad Police. The meeting was attended by AIG Establishment and General Abdul Haque Umrani, along with other senior officers, a police spokesperson talking to APP said. During the meeting, IG Islamabad reviewed the ongoing recruitment process in Islamabad Police. AIG Establishment Abdul Haque Umrani provided a comprehensive briefing on all matters related to recruitment and other projects. Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, directed the senior police officers to initiate new projects and enhance existing ones while ensuring transparency. —APP

DC directs wholesalers to follow notified price list

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon on Sunday directed the authorities concerned to take indiscriminate actions against wholesalers, who were not following the notified price list. According to Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Spokesperson, the Deputy Commissioner urged the citizens to pay the price of food items as per the rate list. On the special directives of Irfan Nawaz Memon, the ICT administration arrested eight shopkeepers from the Sunday markets of the G-10 and G-11 sectors for not implementing the notified price list. It is pertinent to mention here that action against shopkeepers selling food items at high prices to the citizens was taken on a regular basis. —APP

Death anniversary of renowned actor Saleem Nasir observed

ISLAMABAD: The 35th death anniversary of renowned TV actor Saleem Nasir was observed on Saturday. Saleem Nasir was born in Nagpur, India on 15th November 1944. The versatile actor made his professional cinematic debut in film 'Zaib-un-Nisa' in 1976. He starred in a variety of TV shows, including Aakhri Chatan, Nishan-e-Haider, Ankaahi, Dastak, and Aangan Terha. He was awarded the Pride of Performance Award for his contributions to the Pakistani entertainment industry. Salim Nasir died on October 19, 1989, in Karachi. —APP

PBS to host first-ever Data Fest 2024 at Pak-China Friendship Centre

Key activities of the event are thematic discussions that will comprise engaging sessions on governance, climate resilience, and more, with participation from stakeholders including NADRA, SUPARCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, and the World Bank.

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) will be hosting Pakistan's first-ever Data Fest-2024 at the Pak China Friendship Centre from October 21-22, 2024, bringing together experts, researchers, and data enthusiasts from diverse fields to explore the critical role of data in shaping policies and driving innovation for a better future. This first-of-its-kind festival aims to foster collaboration, knowledge sharing, and actionable strategies to tackle pressing challenges in Pakistan, including healthcare access, social equity, and sustainable development. Prominent data scientists, statisticians and Information Technology experts will deliver inspiring speeches, showcasing the transformative power of data in policy-making and innovation. Attendees participated in hands-on workshops, exhibitions, and a data visualization competition, showcasing the latest advancements in data technologies. Key activities of the event are thematic discussions that will comprise engaging sessions on governance, climate resilience, and more, with participation from stakeholders including NADRA, SUPARCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, and the World Bank. Further keynote speeches will be delivered by international and regional experts from organizations such as the United Nations and Asian Development Bank. A total of 50 workshops will be conducted across six dedicated workstations and will cover various data integration and visualization topics. The event features 80 stalls showcasing cutting-edge data products and tools, including participation from organizations like NADRA, SUPARCO, KPITB, AJK (IT Board), Pakistan Software Export Board, World Bank, UNICEF, UNFPA, Provincial Bureau of Statistics, IT Firms. Panel Discussions of Data experts on six topics including Harnessing Demographic Data for Policy and Legislation to address Pakistan's high population Growth Rate, Welfare Monitoring for Better Policy Decision-making, Climate Change Issues, Data Gaps, Bridging Data Gaps for Inclusive Data Systems for Effective Policy Making, Data Integration for Growth and Development, Closing Human Capital Gaps (Education) will also be held. Delegations from International statistical offices, including the Maldives Bureau of Statistics, Nepal Statistical Office, National Center for Statistics and Information, Oman, Delegates from the Asian Development Bank and UNICEF will also attend the event. Further, there will be virtual presentations from Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Iran. An incubation center for research and innovation is specially designed for academia and researchers to showcase their projects, and research work using different data sets using integrated data sets. Various foundations and social welfare organizations also participated in the event. From Academia, Institutions like LUMS, FAST, NUST, and Quaid-e-Azam University will attend Data Fest-2024. It is believed that Data Fest-2024 will increase awareness and utilization of data for policy planning. It helps in strengthening collaboration among government, private sector, academia, and civil society. This festival will lead to innovations in data analytics and visualization techniques and will enhance data literacy and analytical skills among participants. Data Fest-2024 will be the beginning of numerous collaborative projects aimed at utilizing data for societal betterment. The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics invites all stakeholders to join this vital initiative to leverage data for improving lives and driving sustainable development across the nation. —DNA

10 outlaws held, drugs and weapons recovered

Citizens are urged to report any suspicious activities to the relevant police station, emergency helpline "Pukar-15," or via the "ICT 15" app to help make the city crime-free through cooperation between the police and the public

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police apprehended 10 criminals involved in different criminal activities, including drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons recovered during the event. A police spokesperson told staff, under the directives of Inspector General Police (IGP) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the ICT Police has intensified its crackdown against the criminal elements to eliminate crime from the city. 10 outlaws held; drugs and weapons re-

covered In this regard, the ICT Police Ramna, Tarnol, Sihala, Humak and Bhara Kahu police station teams took legal action against the accused involved in drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons and arrested six accused. He said Police teams also recovered 1245-gram heroin, 530-gram hashish, 10 liquor bottles and two pistols along with ammunition from their possession. Moreover, four absconders were also arrested from various areas of the city during the last 24 hours. DIG Syed Ali Raza, said that the Islamabad Po-

lice is actively working to ensure the safety of citizens' lives and property in the federal capital, emphasizing that no elements will be allowed to disrupt citizens' peace. Protecting the lives, property, and dignity of citizens is the Islamabad Police's top priority, DIG added. Citizens are urged to report any suspicious activities to the relevant police station, emergency helpline "Pukar-15," or via the "ICT 15" app to help make the city crime-free through cooperation between the police and the public. —APP

Commerce minister secures 2nd position in pistol shooting

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan secured the second position in the Tactical Pistol Shooting Competition 2024, organized by the Islamabad Capital Territory Police. The event saw participation from 45 professional shooters in various categories, showcasing their skills in a highly com-

petitive environment, said a press release issued here. Nouman Ali clinched the first position in the Pistol Shooting Category, with Khurram Adil taking third place, while Jam Kamal Khan impressed by finishing in second. The event also featured a Sub-machine Gun (SMG) category, where Irfan Jan secured first place, followed by Khushab Khan in second, and Zahid Iqbal in third. In addition to competing, Jam Kamal Khan

served as the chief guest of the event, reinforcing his commitment to supporting healthy and constructive activities. At the awards ceremony, Assistant Inspector General (AIG) Police Inayat Ali distributed trophies, medals, and certificates among the top performers. Notably, Jam Kamal Khan's son, Prince Jam Muhammad Khan, received the award on his father's behalf. Speaking at the event, Jam Kamal Khan emphasized the importance of organizing such competitions, stating, "Healthy competitions like these are essential, and the government fully supports such activities as they contribute to the physical and mental well-being of participants." AIG Inayat Ali echoed these sentiments, highlighting the social benefits of these events, describing them as "symbols of liveliness" and a source of "positive energy" for the community. The competition was a testament to the strong skills and sportsmanship displayed by the participants, underscoring the importance of promoting sports and healthy activities within society.



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

Public pinning high hopes on Army Chief

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Business leader and former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Sunday that the people who are suffering from inflation and unemployment have high expectations from Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir. He said the actions of the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) have changed the direction of the economy, which is improving the situation. He added that the confidence of the public and the business community is increasing, and Pakistan's reputation at the global level is improving.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that the economy is improving due to a host of initiatives. Still, it will never grow as it should unless the circular debt issue is resolved. Expensive electricity is a direct result of circular debt, which has reached 2.26 trillion rupees. This debt is increasing at the rate of 66 billion rupees per month and may reach three trillion rupees by December. The business leader said that this debt results from corruption, mismanagement, and incompetence of the concerned authorities, while ordinary citizens have to bear the consequences. Due to the high cost of electricity, its use is constantly decreasing, but installing new IPPs is also continuing. Shahid Rasheed Butt informed that a one percent reduction in electricity price leads to an increase in its consumption by 0.3 percent, which provides relief to the public while increasing economic activity. Therefore, he said, it is necessary to make electricity cheaper, but the circular debt problem has to be solved.

ICT admin bans sale, purchase of tinted glass papers

ISLAMABAD: The district administration of the federal capital has intensified the crackdown against vehicles with tinted glasses and banned the purchase and sale of black mirrored paper, non-model number plates, flashers and HID lights. According to a notification issued by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) East, Mahin Baloch on Saturday, buying and selling papers with black glasses, and fancy number plates is illegal in the city, the use of black glasses has been banned since March 31, 2013. It added that the Ministry of Interior has not issued any NOCs (No Objection Certificates) allowing exemptions for any vehicles from this ban. The administration has emphasized that strict legal action will be taken against individuals found violating these regulations. This initiative aims to improve safety and security in the city by curbing illegal vehicle modifications.—APP

RCCI organizes session on stress and depression management

RCCI President Usman Shaukat, Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, and Vice President Fahad Barlas warmly welcomed guests and attendees. Executive committee members, distinguished members and a large number of audiences attended the informative session

FAISAL SHEIKH

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), in collaboration with Maroof International Hospital, held an informative session on "Stress and Depression Management and Oral Health" at the Chamber House. The session aimed to equip participants with practical strategies for coping with mental health challenges, fostering a supportive community for those affected. RCCI President Usman Shaukat, Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, and Vice President Fahad Barlas warmly welcomed guests and attendees. Executive committee members, distinguished members and a large number of audiences attended the informative session. Guest speakers Dr. Sania, a psychiatrist, and Dr. Waheed Ullah shared valuable insights on managing stress and depression, emphasizing the importance of mental health awareness. Dr. Waheed Ullah also led a segment on oral health, highlighting the connection between oral hygiene and overall mental well-being. He discussed effective dental care practices and the importance of regular check-ups to prevent complications.



Integrated efforts urged to combat poverty and climate change nexus

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Speaking as guest speaker at the Islamabad Crescent Lions Club monthly meeting here Saturday, Executive Director Devcom-Pakistan Munir Ahmed said: As climate change intensifies, it poses a significant threat to natural resources, disproportionately affecting poor populations contributing to a cycle of increasing poverty. The depletion of vital natural resources such as water, soil, and biodiversity, droughts, floods, and changing weather patterns disrupt agricultural production, which is often the primary livelihood for impoverished communities. This resource depletion means less food, reduced income, and greater insecurity for

those who rely on these resources for survival.

Munir Ahmed said: Poor communities typically have limited economic diversification. When climate change negatively impacts sectors like agriculture, fishing, or forestry, these populations face immediate economic challenges. Loss of income can lead to heightened poverty levels, as families struggle to meet basic needs like food, shelter, and healthcare. Pakistan's poverty index has climbed up in recent years mainly because of two factors, political instability and climate change. There is no repair to the losses of the devastating floods despite international commitments. "With agricultural productivity declining due to erratic weather and resource scar-

city, food prices can skyrocket, making it harder for low-income families to access nutritious food. Food insecurity can lead to malnutrition and related health problems, further trapping families in poverty. Meanwhile, climate change has exacerbated health issues, particularly in poor communities lacking adequate healthcare access. Rising temperatures and changing ecosystems can lead to the spread of diseases, respiratory issues from pollution, and increased mental health challenges. Poor health can diminish work capacity and economic stability, perpetuating the cycle of poverty," he said. Ahmed said that thousands have been displaced from the flood-hotspots, losing their properties and means of livelihood. They have no

economic resources where they have migrated to, so their living has become more awful. As natural disasters become a frequent phenomenon, poor people may be forced to leave their homes in search of safety and better living conditions. This displacement can lead to overcrowding in urban areas, where resources are already strained, creating further economic and social challenges for both newcomers and existing residents. He said Pakistan's philanthropy amounting to billions of rupees is mostly spent on religious seminars and on free-meals. This shall be used in uplifting the economic conditions of the vulnerable groups through interest-free micro-enterprises, shops and other skill-based earning outlets.

Climate justice agenda to be promoted

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights, Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, and Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam, have reached a consensus to advocate for the integration of human rights into climate change policies in Pakistan. During a bilateral meeting with PM's aide Romina Khurshid here on Sunday, both sides also agreed to jointly work to roll out a viable action plan to ensure that climate actions not only address environmental issues but also uphold and protect the rights of vulnerable communities affected by climate change in the country, especially in the highly climate vulnerable Balochistan province. "Integrating human rights into climate change policy is essential to ensure that actions to tackle climate risks do not exacerbate existing inequalities or infringe upon basic human rights," Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri highlighted during the meeting with the PM's climate aide. She said, "Climate change significantly undermines fundamental human rights, including the right to life, health, food, and water, reflecting an increasing awareness of these pressing issues." The Senator Zehri remarked, "I personally believe as various studies show that managing human rights into climate risk management action plans and discourse is crucial for creating and promoting a more just and equitable approach to tackle the climate crisis, particularly for resource-poor and marginalized communities in the vulnerable areas in Balochistan." She pointed out, "Being a large and arid region in the southwestern part of the country, the Balochistan province is extremely vulnerable to climate change due to a combination of its geographic features, socio-economic challenges, and existing environmental stresses." "The region's vulnerability is aggravated more due to its dependence on agriculture, water scarcity, and limited and shabby infrastructure, making it highly sensitive to adverse climate risks, particularly devastating hill torrents, flash floods, cyclones, sea-level rise, heatwaves, declining rainfalls, and droughts," Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri added. She called for strategies that prioritize equity and justice in confronting this critical challenge of climate change for both mitigating adverse fallouts of climate change and promoting a fairer society with access to equitable access to resources required for climate resilience building. Senator Zehri urged for well-coordinated and cooperative national efforts that uphold and protect these rights.—DNA

Pak key partner with China in food security

ISLAMABAD: The Acting Consul General of the Consulate General of Pakistan in Guangzhou Sardar Muhammad said that Pakistan is a key partner in food security and trade ties with China at the 2nd Hainan International Tropical Food Supply Chain Expo 2024. He attended the Opening Ceremony and delivered a speech-themed "Further Deepening China-Pakistan Food Trade in the Context of The Belt and Road Initiative". In his remarks, according to a Gwadar Pro's report, he highlighted Pakistan's significant contributions to global agriculture, noting the country's standing as the world's 5th largest producer of cotton and sugarcane, 6th in wheat and dates, 9th in rice, and as China's second-largest rice supplier. This diverse agricultural output positions Pakistan as a crucial partner in ensuring food security and enhancing bilateral trade with China especially under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative. "The potential for further collaboration between our two nations is immense," he stated. "By deepening our cooperation in food trade, we can not only meet the growing demand for food in both nations but also contribute to regional stability and economic growth." He called on stakeholders to avail of Pakistan's agricultural advantages and explore partnership and investment opportunities in Pakistan's agricultural and food sectors. During his interactions with the media, Muhammad also highlighted Pakistan's pivotal role in the global agricultural sector. He expressed his hopes that the Expo would draw more businesspeople to the pavilion, allowing them to experience the quality of Pakistani products firsthand and ultimately opening doors for increased trade and joint ventures between Pakistan and China. After the Opening Ceremony, Sardar Muhammad visited the Pakistani Pavilion, which spanned 72 square meters and featured a diverse range of Pakistani food products, including premium rice, sesame seeds, and packaged foods. A Truck Style Karak Tea station, serving freshly brewed tea with traditional Pakistani cookies drew a significant number of visitors. These interactive experiences became standout attractions, offering visitors a unique taste of Pakistan's rich culinary and cultural heritage and enhancing the pavilion's visibility at the exhibition.—DNA

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.—APP

ICCI to nurture business, academia ties for nation building: ICCI chief

To empower youth, we need to make them entrepreneurs instead of job seekers, Qureshi said, adding that Chamber is dedicated to facilitating students' growth into successful businessmen and the plans include organizing event competitions in various business hubs, with awards for top performers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), emphasized the Chamber's commitment to nation-building by fostering academia-business linkages. Addressing a visiting student delegation of Metropolitan International United College (MIUC) headed by its Principal Nadia Sultan, he stressed that higher educational institutions must go beyond degree awards and equip graduates with comprehensive training for entrepreneurial success. To empower youth, we need to make them entrepreneurs instead of job seekers, Qureshi said,

adding that Chamber is dedicated to facilitating students' growth into successful businessmen and the plans include organizing event competitions in various business hubs,

with awards for top performers. Qureshi urged Universities to introduce business role models, incorporating their success stories into syllabi which will encourage stu-

dents to match these leaders. The ICCI will establish a Think Tank and R&D cell, inviting interested students also to contribute practical ideas for business growth, he concluded. Nadia Sul-

tan, Principal Metropolitan International University College (MIUC), expressed her desire to strengthen coordination with the Chamber to showcase ICCI's best practices to MIUC students and enabling them to align their future course of action with market needs. She said that by bridging the gap between academia and industry, MIUC seeks to equip its students with practical knowledge and skills demanded by the market. Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui and Vice President Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry took the opportunity to thoroughly brief the visiting delegation on the inner workings of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).



ISSI hosts Hong Ting Forum: dialogue in Islamabad

DNA

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-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.

MOST EXPERIENCED MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTERS OF MARTIAL ARTS UNIFORMS IN PAKISTAN

WHERE EACH STITCH IS WATCHED

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

ASHRAF INDUSTRIES (PVT) LTD
127 C, Industrial Estate
Sector-5/1340, Pakistan
Phones: +92-51-3258000 / 3257988
E-mail: info@ashraf.net.pk

Ashraf

China-UK ties

At the invitation of Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi, David Lammy, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the UK, is paying an official visit to China from October 18 to 19. Lammy is the first cabinet minister of the new British government to visit China, and he will have in-depth communication with the Chinese side on enhancing strategic mutual trust and strengthening dialogue and cooperation in various fields based on the implementation of the consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries in their August call. This is also the latest act by the Keir Starmer administration to adjust the UK's relations with China and is expected to improve and create positive conditions for China-UK relations to get back on track. It is reported that since coming to power, Starmer has had many diplomatic problems to deal with. One of them is to correct the chaos in London's China policy in recent years, which has also become an important direction of change for the current British government. Britain has realized that its engagements with China in recent years have lagged far behind compared to other major countries. In particular, the UK has developed a sense of crisis after becoming an "absolute outlier" in the G7. Domestically, after the twists and turns of recent years, the UK has realized that China and the UK should not be and cannot move toward mutual isolation, and the voices of reflection and even calls for cooperation with China are on the rise. All these constitute the background for the British side to adjust its policy toward China. After Lammy, it is reported that Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves is also considering a visit to China. From then British prime minister Rishi Sunak's shocking statement in April that China is the "greatest state-based threat" to the UK's economic security, to the new administration's move to actively improve relations with China, the underlying factor behind London's shift in tone is the intrinsic need for the development of mutual relations between China and the UK. For some time now, on the basis of mutual respect, the two countries have launched high-level interactions and dialogues in a number of fields, including foreign affairs, economy, finance, energy and defense, releasing a stabilizing signal in bilateral ties. The two countries' choice of starting by strengthening economic ties is a pragmatic decision based on the current realities of their relationship. In recent years, despite the political chill between the two countries, economic relations have remained warm. Currently, China is the UK's largest trading partner in Asia, and the UK is China's third-largest trading partner in Europe, its second-largest investment destination, and its third-largest source of foreign investment. The UK has long been one of the top destinations for Chinese companies entering the European market, and the two countries have broad prospects for cooperation in energy transition, an area the UK government places great value on. Moreover, the UK business community widely hopes to improve trade and economic relations with China, especially in the post-Brexit era, as the UK needs to explore new markets. However, whether Lammy's visit can end the UK's diplomatic and policy confusion toward China and lead to a comprehensive improvement in bilateral relations remains to be seen.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 05 Issue: 272

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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



Small gangs like Quad

The Malabar region on the west coast of India is known for its pepper production. The Malabar exercise, founded in 1992, was originally a bilateral event between the US and India, and Japan and Australia started to participate in the drill in later years. Since then, the Malabar maritime exercise has become one of the important cornerstones of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) military cooperation between the US, Japan, Australia and India, full of a "peppery" atmosphere. During the Malabar 2024 joint military exercise that will conclude on Friday, the US, India, Japan and Australia sent a frigate, several destroyers and P-8 patrol aircraft to participate, carrying out various operations, including anti-submarine warfare, air defense and joint tactical maneuvers. The objective is self-evident, to strengthen Quad's cooperation in the security field. This happened after last month's Quad Summit held in the US. According to a joint statement released by the White House, the US, Japan, India and Australia have reached consensus and cooperation projects in health security, maritime security, key and emerging technologies, quality infrastructure, climate and clean energy, cyber, space and humanities. It was also announced that joint coast guard patrols will be held in 2025 to enhance the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness. From Washington's perspective, through further integration of the original bilateral security alliance, promotion of the quadrilateral cooperation mechanism and the eventual establishment of a joint maritime cruising, it is the priority for Quad to improve the "Indo-Pacific" region maritime military cooperation, and also strengthen weapons platform and military equipment interoperability as the key cooperation content. Before 2020, India was not so active in the US' "Indo-Pacific Strategy." Citing "non-alignment" or "strategic autonomy," it tried to maintain some diplomatic balance between the major powers while seeking to integrate into the US and the Western camp. However, after 2020, China-India relations fell to a low point due to the border conflicts, and hostility from all sectors of India to China increased sharply. Driven by internal and external factors, India's policy toward China has undergone obvious negative changes, increasingly taking the side of the US on geopolitical and security issues, and becoming a new glue for Quad. This February, the US Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti, publicly said that India was in Quad's "driving seat," while the US is "in the next seat with the corrective steering wheel." To some observers, this means New Delhi, once the weakest link, is today the leader of Quad. India now is no longer content with "passive participation" in the quadrilateral security cooperation, but is actively developing its maritime security agenda and seeing the Quad as the most important platform for its geopolitical cooperation in the "Indo-Pacific" region. India's initiative to push Quad toward the direction of the mechanism's materialization can meet the realistic needs of the US in the "Indo-Pacific Strategy" and show its attitude of "alienating China and getting closer to the US." This is in line with Indian policymakers' current diplomatic thinking of "engaging the US and managing China." Moreover, this can help India make China feel its "clear and powerful signal," amplifying its leverage against China amid the border conflicts.

How Harris and Trump will seek to preserve US dollar hegemony

Shanshan Li

In terms of trade and economic policy, Harris is expected to broadly adhere to the major policy directions of the Biden administration while Trump's campaign platform includes a pledge to "keep the US dollar as the world's reserve currency". Even so, his specific economic policy orientation could inadvertently undermine the dollar's status. First, on the fiscal policy front, Biden's revised fiscal budget proposes an additional reduction of about US\$3 trillion in the federal deficit in the next 10 years. In contrast, Trump promises sweeping tax cuts without meaningful reductions to social security spending. He also proposes a universal 10 per cent tariff on imported goods, a 60 per cent or higher tariff on imports from China and even a "100 per cent tariff" on countries moving away from using the US dollar

The "Gilpin dilemma", an essential concept in international relations theory, stems from the analysis of hegemonic stability theory by American scholar Robert Gilpin. It illustrates the long-term challenges faced by a hegemonic power as it plays a leading role in maintaining international order. The hegemon shoulders the burden of providing global public goods at great cost. Over time, however, the cost of sustaining the international status quo can exceed the benefits, creating a discrepancy between the hegemon's power and its commitments. In such a situation, the hegemonic power can face the dilemma of balancing the provision of global public goods and constraints on its resources. The Gilpin dilemma also applies to the shifting influence in the international monetary system. The 2024 US presidential election is likely to be one of the most fiercely contested in recent American history. This also fundamentally reflects the challenges the country faces in navigating its strategic choices amid the Gilpin dilemma. While both major political parties aim to preserve US hegemony and safeguard core national interests, their divergent strategies are likely to produce different outcomes. Democratic Party nominee and US Vice-President Kamala Harris is expected to largely continue US President Joe Biden's multilateral approach, aiming to uphold the existing global order and maintain the role of public goods provider. In contrast, the unilateralism of former US president Donald Trump – the Republican Party's nominee – seeks to scale back this role, highlighting a divergence in strategies on how to sustain US hegemony. The provision of global public goods spans political, economic and military dimensions, but at its core lies the calculus of maintaining the dominance of the US dollar and maximizing the benefits of the dollar's status while managing the costs of upholding this position. From the perspective of foreign and military

policy, Biden advocates strengthening international cooperation with allies and reinforcing the US position in global institutions. His aim is to preserve the stability of the global financial system and support the dollar-centric international monetary framework. In contrast, Trump favours reducing US engagement in international organisations and key agreements. While Biden's positioning in Russia's invasion of Ukraine as a defender of international justice and order has provided a boost to the US dollar's standing, his reliance on sanctions and a perceived double standard over Israel's conduct in its war in Gaza have somewhat undermined the effectiveness of these efforts. However, Biden's diplomatic and military strategy is likely to be more favourable for maintaining the dollar's global status in the long run, as political and military alliances are indispensable for the formation of today's US dollar hegemony. In terms of trade and economic policy, Harris is expected to broadly adhere to the major policy directions of the Biden administration while Trump's campaign platform includes a pledge to "keep the US dollar as the world's reserve currency". Even so, his specific economic policy orientation could inadvertently undermine the dollar's status. First, on the fiscal policy front, Biden's revised fiscal budget proposes an additional reduction of about US\$3 trillion in the federal deficit in the next 10 years. In contrast, Trump promises sweeping tax cuts without meaningful reductions to social security spending. He also proposes a universal 10 per cent tariff on imported goods, a 60 per cent or higher tariff on imports from China and even a "100 per cent tariff" on countries moving away from using the US dollar. While these measures might temporarily boost demand for dollars by driving up inflation, they could also exacerbate the US debt burden and push more countries away from relying on dollar. Second, Trump's stance on immigration is markedly tougher. While immigration poli-

cy might not directly affect the dollar's global standing, it could indirectly undermine its position by affecting the country's economic growth, technological innovation, international relations and global capital flows. Third, the Biden administration's strategy to diversify supply chains, promote climate cooperation and advance technological innovation aims to uphold sustainable global economic development, thereby indirectly supporting the dollar's international status. In contrast, Trump's rejection of climate change, staunch backing of the fossil fuel industry and withdrawal from the Paris climate accord undermine US leadership on these critical issues, indirectly weakening the dollar's standing on the global stage. Fourth, on the subject of cryptocurrency, Harris is expected to introduce a regulatory framework for digital assets such as bitcoin. On the other hand, Trump's looser approach to regulation of cryptocurrencies could accelerate the trend towards decentralisation. Overall, the Democratic Party's strategy is more forward-looking in terms of preserving US dollar hegemony and managing the strategy of public goods provision. However, for a hegemonic power facing the prospect of close elections and the Gilpin dilemma, such predictions are fraught with uncertainty, especially considering the dynamic nature of policies and the intricacies of their impact. For instance, Trump's tariffs might raise the cost of imported goods, but if the US remains committed to diversifying supply chains across the globe, this could also unlock stronger economic growth and improve the trade balance, thereby being beneficial to the dollar's power. Meanwhile, Biden's meticulous layout of sanctions and strategic moves in Russia's war in Ukraine requires a high degree of control over the situation. If not handled deftly, it could ultimately have a weakening effect on the dollar's standing.

Is Israel getting itself into another Lebanese quagmire?

Yossi Mekelberg

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his far-right coalition are setting themselves up to fail because their war objectives are maximalist, relying on military force without a political horizon that could be facilitated by diplomacy. Since the widespread explosions of Hezbollah operatives' booby-trapped pagers and walkie-talkies last month, events have unfolded rapidly and equally dangerously. It initially seemed that Israel was intending to compel Nasrallah to agree to return to the 2006 UN Security Council Resolution 1701...

The sight of Israeli ground troops crossing into Lebanon, and not for the first time, reminded me of what the Spanish-American philosopher George Santayana said more than a century ago: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." It always baffles me why leaders do not learn from history, even the recent history that many of them have lived through. Admittedly, Israel and Lebanon do not have a natural border, such as a river or a mountain range, but rather a political one, the Blue Line – a demarcation established by the UN as a temporary border that the UN Interim Force in Lebanon peacekeeping operation could monitor after Israel finally withdrew from its northern neighbor in 2000. This border is more or less consistent with the Anglo-French accord of 1923, which provides a partial explanation for the volatility of this border. As a matter of fact, previous Israeli military and political attempts to establish the Litani River as a security border all ended in disaster. It took 18 years for the Israeli army to get out of the quagmire following its invasion of 1982, while in the process inflicting enormous damage on Lebanon and its people and contributing to the country's instability. Israel also suffered many casualties during years of holding to a buffer zone before it eventually withdrew to the international border, leaving the situation even more fragile and unstable. Israel's objective of ensuring the security of its northern border in order to allow 60,000 displaced citizens to return safely to their homes after being forced out by Hezbollah's constant onslaught of rockets, missiles, and drones since last October is justifiable. But the way it is pursuing it is increasingly worrying, as it is beginning to resemble the way it is dealing with Gaza. There is no fundamental border dispute between the states of Israel and Lebanon and their two armies have not confronted each other on the battlefield since 1948. The disagreement over the 28 sq. km of the Shebaa farms, most of which is generally agreed to belong to Syria and not Lebanon, and which is now occupied by Israel, is at best an excuse for Hezbollah to maintain its raison d'être in Lebanese politics and society. At the

end of the day, what justification is there for Hezbollah to continue as a well-armed militia that is capable of overshadowing the Lebanese army and that serves Tehran's interests more than those of the Lebanese people? It was also unconvincing in its declared support for the Palestinian cause before Oct. 7 of last year, as well as in its subsequent half-hearted military attempt to force Israel to change its war tactics in Gaza. Nevertheless, it has done enough for Israel to eventually turn its attention to its northern border and to what might develop into an excessive use of force to match that of its onslaught in Gaza. The Hamas attack last year shuffled the strategic cards for Israel. Until then, it had regarded the threat from Hezbollah as a greater concern in terms of its capabilities and intentions, as well as because of the Iran nexus. For years, Israel's security forces have spent much of their energy and resources attempting to slow down the transfer of weapons and ammunition from Iran into the hands of Hezbollah out of concern for what it is currently facing: rockets, missiles, and drones targeting military bases and civilians deep inside the country. Yet, despite the recent and persistent bombardment by the Israeli military of this Lebanese movement's arms storage facilities, the elimination of most of its senior leadership, including Hassan Nasrallah, and the launch of a ground campaign inside Lebanon, Hezbollah is still capable of firing rockets and launching drones into Israel. While there was international recognition among Israel's friends and allies that it had the right to respond to what Hamas and Hezbollah have inflicted on its citizens and to ensure that Israelis could return safely to their homes close to the border, this was not and should never have been a license to sow death and devastation on a vast scale, let alone with no obvious strategic endgame. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his far-right coalition are setting themselves up to fail because their war objectives are maximalist, relying on military force without a political horizon that could be facilitated by diplomacy. Since the widespread explosions of Hezbollah operatives' booby-trapped

paggers and walkie-talkies last month, events have unfolded rapidly and equally dangerously. It initially seemed that Israel was intending to compel Nasrallah to agree to return to the 2006 UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which was aimed at creating security arrangements that would prevent the resumption of hostilities along the Israel-Lebanon border. However, with Nasrallah's assassination, it appears that Tel Aviv is attempting to enforce at least one aspect of UNSC Resolution 1559 of 2004: that of the dismantling of militias in Lebanon – in this case, of Hezbollah in its entirety. If this is the case, it means that Israel is about to enter into a prolonged war unless the international community intervenes – and does so quickly – especially since the threat of an Iranian-Israeli escalation looms large. Every generation thinks that it can do better than the last, but military incursions that are not surgical and clinical, not limited in time and have no clear political objective are bound to go wrong – badly wrong. It is incontrovertible that Hezbollah has suffered massive losses over the last few weeks, but it is not defeated and is signaling that it is ready for a deal if one is achieved with Hamas in Gaza. This might be the opportunity to end the war, see the release of the hostages, and pave the way to ending the humanitarian disaster. And, with it, regional de-escalation followed by a plan to restart the reconstruction of Gaza and an Israeli-Palestinian peace process. At this point, such a sequence of events sounds unrealistic, mainly because there are no leaderships capable of compromise or who have the vision, imagination, and courage to change direction. The Netanyahu government – because it has turned the military tide in its favor, despite being far from defeating Hamas and even further away from crushing Hezbollah – now has the opportunity to accelerate negotiations for a deal in Gaza, which would make one in Lebanon easier. It must translate its current advantageous military position into a tangible and lasting political settlement, and do so before its amnesia sends the Israeli army into an endless downward spiral in both Gaza and Lebanon.

Briefs

Pakistan, India should decide themselves...

FROM PAGE 01 during the SCO Council of Heads of Government Summit that welcomed top leaders of member countries in the federal capital. India, ensuring its participation in the high-level summit, sent its External Affairs Minister Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, who termed the event as a "productive meeting", soon after his speech on October 16. Jaishankar, who attended the SCO moot held in Islamabad, was the first foreign minister of the neighbouring country to visit Pakistan in nearly a decade. "Signed eight outcome documents. India made a positive and constructive contribution to the deliberations," he wrote on X. While departing from Islamabad after the regional event, Jaishankar thanked PM Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister and his Pakistani counterpart Ishaq Dar and the government for the "hospitality and courtesies". Relations between the two countries have witnessed periods of thaw from time to time but have been largely strained since Islamabad downgraded diplomatic ties with New Delhi in 2019 following the abrogation of Article 370 — revoking special status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Pakistan has linked its decision to normalising ties with India with the restoration of the special status of the IIOJK. Despite the frosty ties, the two countries agreed to renew the 2003 ceasefire agreement along the Line of Control (LoC) in February 2021.

KSA arrests over 21,950 illegal immigrants

FROM PAGE 01 the laws of residency, 5,427 of border security, and 3,358 of labour laws across the country, as per an official report. The SPA said 1,421 individuals were found attempting to illegally cross the border into the KSA. It said 34% of them were Yemenis, 64% Ethiopians and 2% of other nationalities. Whereas, 53 people were arrested for trying to leave the Kingdom illegally. Furthermore, the ministry officials arrested 18 people involved in transporting, sheltering and employing violators. The SPA said 8,370 people detained for violating laws were instructed to contact their countries' embassies or consulates to obtain proper travel documentation. While, 2,054 of them were told to make booking arrangements for their departure, and 12,355 were repatriated. Total 15,775 immigrants (13,885 men and 1,890 women) "are currently undergoing procedures for enforcing regulations", the news agency said. The Saudi interior minister has warned that any person who facilitates the illegal entry of individuals into the Kingdom, transports them to its territory, provides them with shelter or any other assistance or service may be penalised with up to 15 years in prison and a fine of up to SAR1 million, and that the vehicles used for transport or houses used for shelter may be confiscated. The ministry stressed that such acts are major crimes that warrant arrest. It also urges people to report any violations by calling 911 in the Makkah, Riyadh, and eastern regions, and 999 and 996 in the rest of the Kingdom.

Pakistan Navy ship seizes narcotics

FROM PAGE 01 The seized items have been handed over to ANF for further legal proceedings. Successful operation by Pakistan Navy and ANF resulting in seizure of large quantity of drugs is a testament of PN resolve to fight against illegal activities as a national obligation. Pakistan Navy will continue to shoulder its national obligations and responsibility to establish lawful order at sea.

NZ ends 36-year-wait with victory over India

'It was extremely difficult,' says new captain Tom Latham

SPORTS DESK

AUCKLAND: New Zealand sealed their first test win in India since 1988 after chasing down a tricky target in hostile conditions to overcome the hosts by eight wickets on the final day of the first test on Sunday. After dismissing India for their lowest home total of 46 and making 402 in reply, New Zealand bowled out Rohit Sharma's side for 462 in the second innings to lay the platform for a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. Will Young (48 not out) and Rachin Ravindra (39 not out) remained calm in the pressure storm after the loss of two early wickets to help New Zealand score the 107 needed, earning their team only a third win on Indian soil in 69 years. That New Zealand achieved the famous result in the absence of injured batting mainstay Kane Williamson was credit to their belief, as they became only the third team after England and Australia to beat India at home since 2013. Pace bowlers Matt Henry and Will O'Rourke claimed a combined 15 wickets in the match. "It was extremely difficult," said new captain Tom Latham, who took the role permanently after Tim Southee stepped down following their 2-0 defeat in Sri Lanka last month. "There have been a lot of teams that have come here over a long period of time. It was 36 years ago that we last won here so it's a



really special feeling to be in this position. "The work we did in the first and second innings with the ball and bat really set the game up for us. It's a proud moment for this group and one we'll celebrate." New Zealand got off to a bad start when play began after a rain delay when Latham fell lbw to Jasprit Bumrah to

body blows, balls that whizzed past the blade and unfriendly glares from the bowlers amid jeers from partisan fans at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium before falling lbw to Bumrah for 17. The wicket appeared to turn placid after the arrival of first-innings centurion Ravindra, and the Wellington-born left-hander with roots in Bengaluru superbly steered New Zealand out of rough waters before Young hit the winning runs. Rohit rued India's batting effort in the first innings but took the positives from their second, where Sarfaraz Khan made 150 and Rishabh Pant hit 99 to give them a fighting chance to avoid only a fifth home loss in 11 years. "It was brilliant, especially being behind in the game. It's easy to let the game drift away but that's not what this team is about. This team wants to fight back, stay in the game as long as possible and not give in to the opposition," Rohit said. "I thought except the first couple of hours, three hours (on day one), we played very good test cricket." The series, which also features matches in Pune and Mumbai, is part of the World Test Championship. India arrived in Bengaluru seeking a big win over the 2021 champions to improve their chances of making a third successive final in June 2025, but will now need to battle to keep alive their run of 18 straight home series victories since 2012.

Leverkusen's Boniface involved in car crash

LONDON: Bayer Leverkusen striker Victor Boniface was involved in a car crash on Sunday, a day after the club's 2-1 victory over Eintracht Frankfurt. Boniface, who scored a 72nd-minute winner in Saturday's match, on Sunday shared pictures and video of a smashed car in since-deleted posts on Instagram, as well as what appeared to be a picture of his hand covered in blood. A club source said Boniface was doing well after incident. German tabloid Bild reported that the Nigeria international was a passenger in the car en route to Frankfurt airport and suffered minor hand injuries before being taken to hospital. In a post on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, Boniface wrote: "God is the greatest". The Hessen state police website said the accident occurred on Sunday morning. "A 28-year-old was driving a Mercedes in the middle of three lanes in the direction of Frankfurt when, according to his own account, he lost control of the vehicle due to fatigue and collided sideways with a truck that was driving in the right lane next to the Mercedes," the report added. Boniface's management agency did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment. — Agencies

Kasatkina lifts Ningbo title

BEIJING: Daria Kasatkina overcame Russian compatriot Mirra Andreeva 6-0 4-6 6-4 to win the Ningbo Open final in China on Sunday and capture her second title of the season. Eastbourne champion Kasatkina, who has lost four finals this year, breezed through the opening set in double quick time as the 17-year-old Andreeva looked nervous. After winning the opening game of the next set, Kasatkina faltered and her close friend Andreeva rallied to draw level when the world number 11 sent a backhand wide. — Agencies

Mbappé included in Madrid lineup amid rape allegations

Real Madrid coach opted Kylian Mbappe in attacking lineup for their upcoming match against Celta

WEB DESK

SPAIN: Real Madrid star Kylian Mbappe will start for the Spanish champions at Celta Vigo in La Liga on Saturday amid reports he is being investigated for an alleged rape during a visit to Sweden. The 25-year-old France striker, who visited Stockholm during time off granted by Madrid, said the reports were "fake news" and his lawyer said Mbappe will take action for libel. A Swedish prosecutor confirmed that an investigation has been opened, without naming Mbappe. Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti selected Mbappe in attack for the visit to face Celta,



along with Vinicius Junior. Ancelotti said Friday Mbappe looked a "different player" after the international break, having worked on his fitness following an injury, and said he thought the player seemed unaffected by the investigation reports. "In this moment (the reports) are speculations, I see him working every day, he is happy, content, he doesn't seem affected to me at all," Ancelotti told a news conference. "He's looking forward to keep on helping the team." Mbappe completed a dream move to Madrid in the summer after seven years at French champions PSG. The striker scored five goals in his first seven La Liga appearances before suffering a thigh injury.

Inter Miami to play in FIFA Club WC in 2025

WEB DESK

MIAMI: Lionel Messi and Inter Miami will feature in next year's expanded FIFA Club World Cup, FIFA president Gianni Infantino announced on Saturday. Messi and his teammates will kick off the tournament in the opening game at Hard Rock Stadium, home of the NFL's Miami Dolphins, on Sunday, June 15, Infantino added. The FIFA president was speaking on the field at Inter's Chase Stadium moments after Messi scored a hat-trick as the team broke the MLS regular season points record with a 6-2 win over the New England Revolution. Miami, who this month won Major League Soccer's Supporters' Shield for the best regular season record, will take the qualification slot designated for the host nation. "Inter Miami qualifies as the host country representative team on the basis of the club's outstanding and consistent 34-match campaign that saw them secure the shield with two MLS matches to play," FIFA said in a statement. The official champions of MLS are determined by the MLS Cup playoffs which begin next week and conclude with the final on December 7. Inter Miami are the favourites

to win the playoffs but the FIFA decision to select the regular season winners ensures the involvement of the Argentine superstar. The participation of the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner Messi is a much-needed boost to the profile of the new-look tournament, which FIFA hope will capture the imagination of the global television audience as well as fans in the United States ahead of the World Cup in 2026. The competition could pit Messi against top European club opposition for the first time since he left



Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) last year to move to Miami. The 32-team tournament will feature title-winning teams from each of FIFA's continental confederations. Real Madrid, Manchester City and Bayern Munich are among the 12 European teams who have qualified for the tournament while Argentina's River Plate and Boca Juniors and Brazil's Flamengo are among six South American teams. FIFA has yet to announce any broadcast deals or sponsorship contracts for the tournament and the competition has faced some opposition within the game. Players union FIFpro and the European Leagues body filed a joint complaint to the European Commission against FIFA over the introduction of the tournament into the international match calendar. Opponents of the new tournament have said it adds further congestion to an already crowded schedule and increases the workload of players. The last version of the Club World Cup featured seven teams in a knockout format and was won by Manchester City who beat Brazil's Fluminense in the final in Saudi Arabia. FIFA plan to hold the expanded tournament every four years although no host as yet to be chosen for the 2029 edition.

Despite all odds govt gets it done

FROM PAGE 01

Out of four parliamentarians, two members each from Senate and National Assembly, he added. He said one member of the JC would be either a woman or a non-Muslim qualified to become a senator on a technocrat seat, clarifying the nomination would be made by the Speaker National Assembly. He said no changes have been made to the provincial Judicial Commissions, where the Chief Justice of the High Court, a senior judge, and the provincial law ministers would continue to assess judges' performance. The minister said that the amendment outlines the procedure for appointing the CJP, clarifying that the Prime Minister would no longer exercise this authority, instead delegating it to the Parliament. A 12-member committee would finalize the nominations and forward them to the PM, with the CJP serving either until retirement or for a maximum of three years, he said. He said that the

appointment of the CJP was a part of the reform package, with three senior judges being considered for the position, from which one would be selected as Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP). The minister said that the mechanism for forming constitutional benches at the Supreme Court and provincial levels had been clarified, with logistical preparations needed at the provincial level. Provincial assemblies, with a 51 per cent majority, could pass a resolution to establish a provincial constitutional bench, he said. He said the formation of these benches would be under the authority of the JC headed by the CJP. He said setting up constitutional court was part of Charter of Democracy (CoD) signed by Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in 2006. The Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto also took up the matter which was pending agenda part of the CoD, he added. He said in past, elected prime ministers were removed from their offices by exercising Arti-

184 of the Constitution although there was clear procedure given in the Article 195 of the constitution. In 2022, the elected prime minister was removed under the Article 195 devised in the constitution through vote of no confidence, he added. He clarified that incumbent CJP Qazi Faez Isa was not interested in any extension adding, "During the pre meetings that I had held with the top Judge, he reiterated his disinterest in his extension of his tenure, saying that any amendment would come into effects after his retirement". Azam Tarar said that the JC would have the authority to draft rules and establish a clear process for evaluating judges' professional capabilities. The JC, in collaboration with the CJP and provincial high courts, would regularly review judges' performance, he added. He said that the JC would provide reports on judges' professional skills, and five technical advisors could be appointed in the National and Provincial Assemblies under the constitution. He said Kamran Murtaza of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) proposed five amendments which have already been included in the draft.

Jail reveals Imran's menu after claims of ill-treatment

FROM PAGE 01

while he had not been provided a newspaper or TV facility for the last fortnight and he was allowed to spend just two and a half hours out of his cell in a day. Condemning the "ill-treatment", Gohar said the authorities should look after the rights of the former prime minister and provide him the facilities he was entitled to in his "solitary confinement". He asserted that keeping him in a small cell was a serious violation of constitutional and legal rights. The PTI leader said the party founder was not even aware of the arrest of his sisters and he rued over the event. However, Imran said he and his entire family would render sacrifice for the sake of people's struggle, he said, requesting the entire nation to remain peaceful. Contrary to his expectations, Gohar said they were given 45 minutes to meet Imran. Nevertheless, he said the former PM was fine. "We were expecting to be given enough time to talk, but were given only 45 minutes. We will try to meet him again on Monday," he maintained. Responding to the allegations, the Adiala jail authorities an official statement, saying that Imran was being provided with all amenities he was entitled to under B-Class jail rules.

Govt wants to control judiciary: Hafiz Naeem

FROM PAGE 01

the constitutional amendment. The PTI chairman also claimed to have consensus with the Maulana. JI emir added that Rana Sanaullah declared that the Maulana supported the government's draft on the proposed constitutional amendment. "It shows that all parties are agreed that the next Chief Justice of Pakistan would not be Mansoor Ali Shah; the most senior judge would not be the CJP," Hafiz Naeem wrote. These tactics showed that the government would control the judiciary, "well done all," he sarcastically berated all parties. Meanwhile, the PTI has decided to boycott the voting process for constitutional amendments while the coalition government is determined to pass the amendment, come what may, today.

Judiciary protected rights of citizens...

FROM PAGE 01

any kind of interference, ensuring it operates as a distinct and equal branch of the government. Justice Jahangiri said the Supreme Court of Pakistan has been at the forefront of fighting for the freedom of the judiciary and the rights of the people as enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan. He accepted that there are huge backlog of cases but largely it has happened due to adjournments and litigants as well as the systematic deficiencies which should be fixed and that can happen when the judiciary is empowered through resources to deal with the burdens. The judge praised the role of the Supreme Court and high courts in how they have delivered under challenging circumstances. "Despite the challenges the judiciary has faced over the decades, it has made commendable strides. The SC and high courts have performed well despite several limitations and have introduced many game-changing reforms.

SC has no authority... to interpret Constitution

FROM PAGE 01

Democracy (CoD). She said when the PTI delegation went to Adiala yesterday to discuss the constitutional amendment, the PTI founder kept crying about his issues in jail for 45 minutes. Azma Bukhari stated that NRO to the PTI founder will not be given. She also said that drinking coconut and beetroot juice in jail does not lead to revolution.

Briefs

US, Iran in 'tug of war' over Lebanon: analysts

BEIRUT: With Iran-backed Hezbollah on the defensive after a series of heavy Israeli blows, the United States and Iran are locked in a showdown over Lebanon's future, analysts said. Hezbollah, the most powerful regional force backed by Iran, which arms and finances it, has long held sway in Lebanon. But the group's influence is now in question after Israel's assassination of its leader, Hassan Nasrallah, in a significant setback. Hezbollah's losses have left Lebanon in a "tug of war between Iran and the United States," said Michael Young of the Carnegie Middle East Center think tank. "The Israelis with the Americans... are trying to use military force to try to transform the balance of power in Lebanon to their advantage," he told AFP. "There are no signs that the Iranians are going to accept this without a fight." Hezbollah is considered better armed than Lebanon's national military and remains the only group that did not put down its weapons after the 1975-90 civil war. Last year, it opened a new front with Israel over the conflict in Gaza, in support of its ally Hamas. It carefully calibrated attacks to avoid a full-blown conflict, which eventually came on September 23 when Israel stepped up bombing of Hezbollah strongholds, including south Beirut. The United States has pushed for ceasefire, but has also expressed support for Israeli attempts to "degrade Hezbollah's infrastructure." US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said this month that "it's clear that the people of Lebanon have an interest — a strong interest — in the state asserting itself and taking responsibility for the country and its future." Kim Ghattas, the author of "Black Wave," a book on the Saudi-Iran rivalry, said: "Lebanon is caught between Iran and Hezbollah on the one hand, and Israel and the US on the other." But "Washington's vision doesn't necessarily align with Israel's in terms of war goals and tactics," she said. "The US would certainly like to see a weakening of Hezbollah, maybe even the disarming of the group, but it is wary of Israel going too far with the military campaign.—APP

UAE President, EU chief urge Gaza, Lebanon ceasefire

DUBAI: UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, held a phone conversation to address the urgent need for a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon. Both leaders emphasized the importance of protecting civilians in line with international law and ensuring the safe and sufficient delivery of humanitarian aid to alleviate their suffering in the conflict zones. They also discussed efforts to prevent the further escalation of tensions in the Middle East, stressing the need for collective action to contain the conflict, which poses a serious threat to regional security and stability. The two leaders reiterated their support for a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region, grounded in the two-state solution. Sheikh Mohamed underscored the UAE's commitment to working alongside international and regional partners, including the EU, to prevent the expansion of conflict in the Middle East and provide humanitarian aid to civilians. Sheikh Mohamed and President von der Leyen also reviewed relations between the UAE and the European Union, exploring ways to strengthen ties and achieve shared interests. Sheikh Mohamed reaffirmed the UAE's commitment to enhancing strategic relations with the EU and its member states, with a focus on mutual development and cooperation in areas such as trade and investment. He also expressed his support for further Gulf-European collaboration to benefit both regions.—APP

Palestine conference in Ankara

Mushahid urges Erdogan to take lead on Palestine issue

Proposes 3 points action plan before the gathering of some 1000 guests from over 50 countries



ANKARA : On invitation of President Erdogan's AK Party, Mushahid Hussain Sayed gave Keynote Address at the 'Global Palestine Conference' held here at the Turkish capital, where he presented a 3-point Action Plan. President Erdogan was Chief Guest on the occasion. Mushahid Hussain, who is Member of Executive Board of the Istanbul-based 'Al Quds Parliament', as well as Co-Chairman of International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), hailed the resistance of Hamas, Hizbullah and Iran to Israeli aggression and Zionist expansionism, terming these as exemplary models of 'Might is not Right, but Right is Might'. During his speech, Mushahid Hussain appreciated the leadership role of President Erdogan, terming him as the 'Lion of the Muslim World', and congratulated him on his victory in the Turkish Presidential elections. Condemning Israel for committing the first televised genocide in history, Mushahid also condemned Western double standards and absence of morality as they were actively aiding and abetting Israeli crimes, he added 'most of the Muslim regimes have also failed to rise to the occasion due to either fear or expediency'. Presenting his Action Plan before the gathering

of some 1000 guests from over 50 countries, Mushahid said the first step should be for President Erdogan to take the lead and constitute an International Leaders Delegation, comprising leaders from the Global South, including Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Africa, Algeria and Brazil, who should visit Washington immediately after the November 5 US Presidential polls to meet the American

President-elect, and urge the new US President to reverse the one-sided American policy of blatantly supporting Israel. He said Muslim leaders must move beyond talk and words by taking concrete actions. Second, given their strong Navies, Turkiye, Pakistan and Indonesia should form a Joint Naval Flotilla for Peace & Humanitarian Assistance, to help break the Israeli blockade of Gaza after getting authorisation

from the UN General Assembly. The Naval Flotilla should carry medicine, food and relief goods to alleviate the sufferings of the Palestinians besieged in Gaza, terming it the 'world's largest open air prison'. This will send a powerful and positive message to the oppressed Palestinian people that the Muslim Ummah is not an impotent entity, rather it has the vision and political will to undertake concrete initiatives.

Third, recalling the joint initiative of President Erdogan and Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir in 2019 to launch a Global Media Initiative to represent the Muslim Ummah in the 'battle of ideas and narratives', Mushahid said 'now is the right time and opportunity for such an initiative as the Gaza Genocide has demonstrated how biased and one-sided the Western media has been in the current crisis'. He said journalists, intellectuals, academics, and think tanks could be powerful instruments in the 'Battle of Ideas' crafting and presenting narratives based on truth and facts, while representing the popular aspirations of the Global South in general and Muslim World in particular on such issues as Palestine, Kashmir, Islamophobia, and Rohingya. He said such Global Media Initiative would play an important role in helping to prepare the ground for an alternative emerging equitable global order based justice and rule of law which should start by rejection of all types of hegemony, global or regional. He added that sacrifices of people of Palestine and Lebanon and blood of the martyrs of Palestine and Kashmir would not go in vain. He concluded his very well-received speech with a reference to the Latin maxim, 'Carpe Diem' (Seize the Moment).—DNA

UN chief informs SC on Royal initiative to unlock Sahel countries

DNA

NEW YORK: For the first time, the UN Secretary-General highlighted, in his annual report on the Moroccan Sahara, the Royal vision "for the Atlantic coastline becoming a gateway for trade and economic integration with Africa and the Americas by facilitating access of the countries in the Sahel region to the Atlantic." Referring to the speech of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, delivered on the occasion of the 48th anniversary of the Green March in November 2023, Mr. Guterres informed the members of the Security Council of Morocco's Initiative aimed at strengthening the role of the Moroccan Sahara as a regional economic hub, facilitating trade between sub-Saharan Africa and the rest of the world. Hence, the members of the Security Council can discover, with supporting evidence, the serious and credible efforts made by the Kingdom of Morocco, under the leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, in favor of a regional cooperation and development approach that provides solutions beyond a purely security or military approach, and offering African countries, particularly landlocked Sahelian countries, access to Morocco's road, port and rail infrastructure. The Secretary-General's report is a strong diplomatic advancement that will allow the UN executive body to invest in the Royal Atlantic strategy, based on South-South cooperation in solidarity with its African neighbors, with a view to its formal recognition and incorporation into UN policies and projects.

Russia-Ukraine conduct 190 prisoner exchange

MOSCOW: Russia and Ukraine exchanged 190 prisoners of war, each side bringing home 95 soldiers. The exchange, mediated by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), marks the latest in a series of swaps during the ongoing conflict. Russian soldiers were taken to Belarus for medical and psychological care, while Ukrainian soldiers returned to their homeland, many of whom had defended critical locations such as Mariupol. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy shared the news on social media, emphasizing the significance of these exchanges in bringing Ukraine closer to the day when "freedom will be returned" to all held by Russia. The Ukrainian Coordination Headquarters also confirmed that the bodies of soldiers killed near Avdiivka, Bakhmut, and Zaporizhzhya were exchanged earlier the same day. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine, now more than two and a half years old, has seen repeated prisoner swaps, often with international mediation.

This latest exchange occurred against the backdrop of escalating tension following reports that North Korea is providing military support to Russia. According to Seoul's National Intelligence Service, North Korea recently deployed around 1,500 elite soldiers to Russia's Far East, marking a notable shift in the international dynamics of the conflict. Satellite images showed North Korean forces being transported by Russian military vessels to Vladivostok between October 8 and 13. This development has sparked concern in the West, with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer condemning the move as a sign of Moscow's "desperation." Ukraine, alarmed by North Korea's involvement, has called for a stronger response from its European and US allies. Kyiv views North Korea's participation as a direct threat to Ukraine's military efforts and an indicator of increased Russian reliance on external military aid. Amid these developments, President Zelenskyy recently presented his "victory plan" to NATO and the European Union, seeking more weapons and fewer restrictions on long-range missile strikes inside Russia.—APP

PIAF Chairman asks overseas businessmen to invest in Pakistan

Pakistan business community welcomes Fahimur Rehman Saigol in Taiwan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF), Fahimur Rehman Saigol, has departed for a business trip abroad. Upon arriving in Taiwan, Muhammad Mujahid, the President of the Pakistan Business Community, warmly welcomed him along with a delegation. The delegation from the Pakistan Business Community included Muhammad Mujahid, Shaban Mujahid, Amjad Zafar, Asif Tanoli, Shehzad Khan, Raja Akhtar, Saif Sandhu, Muhammad Mushtaq, Umar Khan, and others. According to PIAF, Fahim Saigol is on a private

visit to China, Taiwan, and other countries, where he will discuss bilateral issues and meet with traders and investors. He will also share insights about the improving economic situation in Pakistan and inform them about the government's new investment and energy-friendly policies. While talking to various trade groups, PIAF chief said that with its unique geo-strategic location, vast human resources and a huge untapped growth potential, Pakistan provides attractive incentives and liberal policies for investment in all sectors of the economy for foreign and local investors. The traditional as well as non-traditional sectors of our economy offer the business commu-

nity great opportunities to invest in the country and to have maximum dividends on their investments, he added. Fahimur Rehman Saigol observed that the value-added textiles, food processing, information technology, logistics, automobiles and tourism sectors are some of the areas where great potential exists for investment to the mutual benefit of all. The government is cognizant of various challenges to its economy and is undertaking every possible effort to overcome these challenges and ensure a business friendly climate. He invited the foreign investors to visit Pakistan and to take advantage of investment opportunities in the country. With over 210 million inhabitants, Pakistan

offers its investors a strong and large consumer market with an ever expanding middle class. Strategic location at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia and West Asia and close proximity to the Gulf countries, makes Pakistan a promising regional hub and an important market for intra and inter-regional trade and investment. He said that Pakistan as an investment destination, offers investor friendly policies with the commitment to resolve and enhance the business competitiveness in the region. Almost all sectors of economy are open to investment with attractive incentives and liberal policies to give investors a competitive and thriving business environment.

Envoy Dr Yousaf highlighting Kashmir issue at SDE Ankara

ANKARA: Ambassador Dr. Yousaf Junaid delivered a talk highlighting Kashmir issue in connection with upcoming "Kashmir Black Day" at Institute of Strategic Thinking (SDE) in Ankara. 27th October is observed as 'Kashmir Black Day', as on this day in 1947, India forcibly landed its troops in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) for the first time, against the will of Kashmiri people. In his speech, Ambassador Dr. Yousaf Junaid underscored the importance of the resolution of Kashmir dispute as per the United Nations Security Council resolutions to ensure regional and global peace. Ambassador Junaid highlighted that Palestine and Kashmir represent unceasing situations of foreign occupation in the modern world, where brutal military occupations have not only denied the people their fundamental right of self-determination but also unleashed a reign of terror on innocent civilians. While expressing concerns over worst human rights situation in IIOJK, he stated that it is ironic that Kashmir remains as one of the oldest unresolved conflicts in the world, despite the presence of UNSC resolutions, which call for a UN administered plebiscite in Kashmir, agreed upon by both Pakistan and India. Expressing solidarity with Kashmir, Ambassador Dr. Yousaf Junaid reiterated Pakistan's unwavering political, moral and diplomatic support to people of Kashmir until the resolution of the dispute in accordance with UNSC resolutions.—APP

Improvement needed to increase exports: BMP

ISLAMABAD: As the exports from Pakistan during Sept 2024 amounted to Rs790.12 billion against Rs769.4 billion in Aug 2024, showing a nominal increase of 2.69 percent the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) stressed the need for putting the economy on a sustainable growth trajectory by providing incentives to the industry, lamenting that the economy is facing multiple challenges of low growth in exports, with fiscal accounts under immense pressure due to heavy interest payments. FPCCI former president and Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar lamented that the present situation shows the government would find it difficult to achieve the industrial growth and high export target, leading to pressure on foreign exchange reserves of the country. He asked the government to address the underlying structural vulnerabilities through smooth energy supply at competitive rates, as country's overall export proceeds continued to shrink. Quoting the exports data, he said that Pakistan's revised trade deficit for September was \$1.83 billion, compared to \$1.772bn the previous month, reflecting a 3.39% rise. Meanwhile, the trade deficit has widened by 20.69% compared to September 2023's deficit of \$1.52bn. Exports increased by 2.82% to \$2.84bn compared to \$2.76bn in August 2024. Likewise, imports in September 2024 also rose 3.61% to \$4.67bn compared to \$4.51bn in the previous month. According to the provisional figures compiled by PBS, in Pakistani rupees terms, exports from Pakistan during September, 2024 amounted to Rs790.12bn as against Rs769.4bn in August, 2024 and Rs735.69bn during September, 2023 showing an increase of 2.69% over August, 2024 and of 7.40% over September, 2023.—APP

Ex-general Prabowo to take office as Indonesia president

JAKARTA: Former general Prabowo Subianto will be sworn in Sunday as president of Indonesia, seeking a more prominent position on the global stage for the world's fourth most populous nation. The 73-year-old fiery nationalist will take an oath at parliament before heading to the presidential palace where Joko Widodo will hand over the reins after a decade in power. Prabowo has committed himself to Indonesia's non-aligned foreign policy, but has signalled that he will be bolder on the world stage. He made China his first foreign visit after his election eight months ago, before embarking on trips to a dozen other countries including Russia, Saudi Arabia and Australia, where he signed a key security deal. He will also inherit Southeast Asia's largest economy and the world's largest nickel reserves, taking lead of a



country of 280 million where about half are below the age of 30. Prabowo won by a landslide in the first round of the February vote, helped by the support of his running mate Gibran Rakabuming Raka, the 37-year-old son of incumbent Widodo, and bold

campaign pledges including a \$28 billion free meal plan for children. Security was heightened across the capital Jakarta ahead of the inauguration, with around 100,000 police and army personnel deployed — including riot squads, sniper units and an-

ti-drone teams. Prabowo will parade between parliament and the palace after an expected address to lawmakers. Tens of thousands are expected to line the streets as he becomes Indonesia's eighth leader since the country.—APP

Iraq Kurds head to polls with little hope for change

IRBIL: Voters in Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region will head to the polls on Sunday to elect a new parliament for the oil-rich region where voters express disenchantment with the political elite. Iraqi Kurdistan presents itself as a relative oasis of stability in the turbulent Middle East, attracting foreign investors due to its close ties with the United States and Europe. However, activists and opposition figures contend that the region, autonomous since 1991, faces the same issues affecting Iraq as a whole: corruption, political repression and cronyism among those in power. Originally scheduled for two years ago, the vote has been postponed four times due to disputes between the region's two historic parties, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). Each party is controlled by a powerful Kurdish family — the KDP by the Barzanis and the PUK by the Talabanis. Despite holding election rallies

and mobilizing their patronage networks, experts say there is widespread public disillusionment with the parties, exacerbated by the region's bleak economic conditions. "I am against this government," said Dilman Sharif, a 47-year-old civil servant in Sulaimaniyah, the second-largest city in Iraqi Kurdistan and a stronghold of the PUK. "I urge everyone to mobilize and vote against this regime," he said before the election, saying he planned to vote for the opposition. Opposition parties such as New Generation and a movement led by Lahur Sheikh Jangi, a dissident from the Talabani clan, may gain from a protest vote, said Sartep Jawhar, a PUK dissident and political commentator. More than 1,200 polling stations across four constituencies will open at 7:00 am (0400 GMT) and close at 6:00 pm. Political analyst Shivan Fazil, a researcher at US-based Boston University with a focus on Iraq, noted

that there was "a growing fatigue with the region's two ruling parties." "People's living conditions have deteriorated over the last decade," he said, citing erratic payment of salaries for the region's 1.2 million civil servants as problematic because the

issue is tied to ongoing tensions between Kurdistan and the federal Iraqi government in Baghdad. The two administrations have also disputed control of the region's lucrative oil exports. Turbulent elections The creation of the four new con-

stituencies for this election — a change from only one previously



money serves as "a vital source of income for households." This

stituencies for this election — a change from only one previously

Briefs

Saif urges immediate notification for reserved seats

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Information Adviser, Barrister Dr. Saif, has demanded that the Election Commission immediately issue notifications for reserved seats. In a statement, Barrister Saif expressed that further delays were unacceptable despite two clarifications from the higher judiciary. He urged the Election Commission to stop procrastinating and to issue the notification without delay. He criticised the Chief Election Commissioner for allegedly violating Article 6 in a bid to remain loyal to political interests, suggesting that actions should be taken against him for this and for contempt of court. The provincial information adviser stated that one election commissioner was attempting to disregard the orders of eight judges through delaying tactics, undermining the constitution and law while the Sharif family continued to attack the higher judiciary repeatedly.

Qureshi untraceable, family fears abduction

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) member Zain Qureshi has gone missing, his sister MehrBano Qureshi confirmed. MehrBano Qureshi stated that the family lost contact with him on October 16. The family is concerned for his safety, fearing he may have been abducted. In a statement, MehrBano Qureshi expressed deep concern, saying, "Our family hasn't been in touch with Zain since the morning of October 16. We are praying for his safety and hope he is in hiding as per the party's policy, but I fear he has been kidnapped." MehrBano added that their family has been facing intimidation, authoritarian pressure, and abuse for more than a year, aiming to break their principles and beliefs. She also noted that, despite the challenges, her father, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, has stood firm and continues to make sacrifices for the cause. She emphasised that they remain committed to their leader, Imran Khan. Last week, Mahmood Kabir, the wife of Zain Qureshi, safely returned home, just hours after her sister-in-law MehrBano Qureshi had claimed on social media platform X that masked men had abducted her. Earlier, MeherBano had posted that Mahmood was forcefully taken by masked men near their home. She described how multiple cars had blocked Mahmood vehicle and taken her away.

Forward block is about to be formed in PTI

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Senator Faisal Vawda has made a bold claim, stating that PTI will form a forward block led by what he described as "subservient politicians". Speaking to the media, Senator Vawda suggested that certain PTI members have deliberately sabotaged the party by boycotting the vote on the constitutional amendments. He indicated that this move was orchestrated, and the public deserves to know the truth. According to Vawda, had the opposition been involved, they would have voted against the amendments. He further claimed that a clever politician will lead the PTI forward block. Earlier to this, Vawda had posted on X (formerly Twitter), hinting at developments regarding the 26th constitutional amendment, writing, "Anyone wants to come is welcomed, otherwise there are more numbers than needed, Inshallah today after the amendment we will cut the cake."

Experts urge learning from Chinese-style modernization

Symposium held in Islamabad on China-Pakistan cooperation to drive modernization



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Hong Ting Forum themed "Understanding China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and Chinese-style Modernization Development Path" was held in the federal

capital city of Islamabad the other day. The symposium drew about 100 participants, including diplomats, scholars, and media representatives. It was co-convened by Xinhua News Agency and the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), an Islamabad-based think tank. Speaking at the event, Shi Yuanqiang, minister of the Chi-

nese Embassy in Pakistan, said that China is ready to share development opportunities with the rest of the world. "China and Pakistan are good neighbours and all-weather strategic cooperative partners, and mutually beneficial cooperation benefits both countries," he added. Masood Khalid, former Pakistani ambassador to

China, said the third plenary session of the 20th Communist Party of China Central Committee has adopted a grand strategic blueprint for Chinese-style modernization. "Pakistan greatly value our time-tested relationship with China, and both countries are tied in a relationship which is unbreakable," Khalid said, adding that Pakistan should learn from the development model of Chinese-style modernization to embark on the path of self-reliance and better benefit both nations and regional development. Mudassar Iqbal, deputy director of the Associated Press of Pakistan, said that China's approach to modernization is not only benefiting its own people but also contributing to global development.

"The ironclad friendship between Pakistan and China will enable the two countries to stand and move forward side by side and forge a future of shared prosperity and unshakable friendship," he added.

Hassan Daud Butt, senior advisor at the China Study Center of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, an Islamabad-based think tank, said that Pakistan should fully utilize the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to expand cooperation with China in various fields such as industry, agriculture, science and technology, digital economy, green energy and technological innovation.

On the occasion, Khalid Mahmood, chairman of the ISSI Board of Governors, said efforts should be stepped up by the media and think tanks of Pakistan and China to contribute to deepening the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries.

Punjab govt finalises measures to fight smog

Lahore ranks on top among most polluted cities in world with AQI of 186

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The Punjab government has finalised measures to fight the smog in the province, where the air quality situation becomes dangerously bad for the health of citizens during the winter season. As the colder days approach, provincial government's Senior Minister Marriyuh Aurangzeb on Sunday said that all arrangements to tackle with smog have been made. She said that the option of artificial rain will be implemented in the province in case of rise in smog levels, with a cost of Rs5 million to Rs7 million. Moreover, the crackdown against factories and vehicles producing toxic smoke will continue. "Artificial rain will not be needed if we improve the environment through measures against smoke," Aurangzeb said, urging the masses to report such vehicles, factories or instances of stubble burning on government helpline 1373.

As per a report published in a Pakistani newspaper, Lahore ranked on top of the ten most polluted cities in the world on Saturday, with an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 186. Data collected from IQ Air website revealed that Lahore was on top of the list, Delhi, India was on second with AQI of 172 and Dhaka, Bangladesh was third with AQI of 157. The city witnessed a hazy day and many citizens complained about irritation in throat, burning of eyes and difficulty in breathing. The citizens appealed Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz to ban all kind of ongoing construction activities in the city for the next two months as rising dust was the major source of PM2.5, which last year was named as fugitive dust by the provincial government's Environmental Protection Department (EPD). According to sources in the country's Environmental Protection Agency claimed that use of substandard fuel such as plastic and rubber especially in cottage industry around Bund Road was contributing a lot in increasing the smog in Lahore. The sources further added that vehicular pollution was also one of the major contributor of the smog but no strict action was being taken against smoke-emitting vehicles.

Indian diplomats in Canada 'clearly on notice': FM Melanie



'Govt to not tolerate any diplomats who put lives of Canadians at risk'

FOREIGN DESK

OTTAWA: Days after expelling a group of Indian diplomats in connection with the assassination of a Khalistan leader on Canadian soil, Foreign Affairs Minister Melanie Joly has said that remaining New Delhi envoys were "put on notice". Earlier this week, Canada had formally expelled India's High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma and five other diplomats, ahead of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) revealing new details about the Indian government's connection to "violent criminal activity" in Canada, mainly targeting pro-Khalistan separatists. Soon after Canadian officials notified India of the expulsion of the six diplomats, New Delhi recalled them, the Canadian sources said. Addressing a press conference, FM Joly warned more than a dozen Indian diplomats, who are still in the country, to respect Canadian law. "They're clearly on notice. Six of them have been expelled, including the high commissioner in Ottawa. Others were mainly from Toronto and Vancouver," confirmed the minister. "Clearly, we won't tolerate any diplomats that are in contravention of the Vienna Convention." Her comments came days after the head of the RCMP accused India's government, its agents and diplomats of links to widespread criminal activity in Canada, including "coercion, extortion and killings", CBC News reported.

100 killed in Israeli genocidal attacks in Beit Lahiya

"This is a war of genocide and ethnic cleansing. The occupation has conducted a horrifying massacre in Beit Lahiya," Hamas media office said

NEWS DESK

GAZA CITY: A total of 87 people were killed or missing under the rubble after an Israeli attack on Saturday on northern Gaza's town of BeitLahiya, the Palestinian enclave's health ministry said in a statement on Sunday. More than 40 others were injured, it added. Medics said they targeted a multi-floor building and damaged several houses nearby. The Israeli military said they were checking the report. Palestinian health officials said rescue operations were being hampered by the cut-off of telecommunication and Internet services for a second day. Earlier in the day, the Gaza health ministry said Israeli military strikes killed 35 Palestinians across the enclave. "This is a war of genocide and ethnic cleansing. The occupation has conducted a horrifying massacre in Beit-Lahiya," the Hamas media office said. Residents and medics said Israeli forces had tightened their siege on Jabalia, the largest of the enclave's eight historic camps, which it encircled by also sending tanks to the nearby towns of BeitHanoun and BeitLahiya and issuing evacuation orders to residents. Israeli officials said evacuation orders were aimed at separating Hamas fighters from civilians and denied there was any systematic plan to clear civilians out of Jabalia or other northern areas. In Jabalia, residents said Israeli forces besieged several shelters housing displaced families before they stormed them and detained dozens of men. Footage on social media, which Reuters could not immediately verify, showed dozens of Palestinian men sitting on the ground next to a tank, while others were led by a soldier to a gathering site.

Israeli strikes hit Beirut

JERUSALEM: The Israeli military said about 70 projectiles were identified crossing from Lebanon into Israel within minutes on Sunday, following its attack on Beirut. "Following the sirens that sounded between 11:09 (0809 GMT) and 11:12 am in the Western Galilee and Upper Galilee areas, approximately 70 projectiles were identified crossing from Lebanon," the military said. On Thursday, Hezbollah had vowed to launch a new "escalatory phase" in its war with Israel. Hezbollah said it launched rockets on Sunday at an Israeli army base east of the northern town of Safed. Hezbollah fighters fired "a big rocket salvo" at an Israeli army base east of Safed, the group said, adding the attack was "in defense of Lebanon" and "in response to the Israeli enemy's attacks on villages and homes." The Israeli military said it carried out a strike Sunday on a Hezbollah command center and underground weapons facility in the Lebanese capital Beirut. "Earlier this morning (Sunday), the IAF (Israeli air force) conducted an intelligence-based strike on a command center of Hezbollah's intelligence headquarters and an underground weapons workshop in Beirut," the military said in a statement. Lebanese state media reported two Israeli strikes on Sunday morning in HaretHreik and one in Hadath — all in Hezbollah's southern Beirut stronghold of Dahiyeh after the Israeli army warned civilians to evacuate the stronghold of Lebanon's Hezbollah movement. — Agencies

J. Mansoor will be next Chief Justice

Hails Fazl's draft on the appointment of high courts judges

DNA

LAHORE: Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry claimed that Justice Mansoor Ali Shah would be the next chief justice of the Supreme Court. Sharing his message on social media site X, Fawad Chaudhry hailed the draft of Maulana Fazlur Rehman on the appointment and performance of high courts judges, saying it was credible. He stated the appointment of judges would not be made on the principle of seniority. The 12-member committee needed 2/3 majority which could only be met through support of opposition, therefore Mansoor Ali Shah would be the CJP, Chaudhry emphasised. He stressed that the concept of constitutional bench was reasonable and there was no problem in finalising rules for appointment on benches. Declaring the constitutional amendment unfavorable for the chief election commissioner, he said the fear and chaos created for this amendment was unfathomable.

Hamas calls for besieging Israeli, US embassies

DOHA: An official with the Palestinian Hamas resistance movement called on Arabs and Muslims to besiege Israeli and American embassies around the world to halt Israel's genocidal war on Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip.

"The Arab and Islamic masses must besiege the [Israeli] occupation embassies and the American embassies," Khalil Al-Hayya was quoted as saying by Al Jazeera on Sunday. He said, "the occupation's massacre in the BeitLahiya project must not go unnoticed," likening such criminal acts to modern Nazism. The Israeli regime forces attack on BeitLahiya on Saturday evening killed at least 73 Palestinians.

Al-Hayya said the Israeli and American leaders want to push Palestinians out and seize control of the besieged land. "The Zionist occupation [Israel] is carrying out a programmed operation to displace our people in northern Gaza," he said.

CJP seeks explanation on clarification by 8 SC judges

Public Relations Department of apex court has not issued any press release in this regard

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) QaziFaez Isa, for a second time, expressed apprehension over the clarification issued by eight judges on the reserved seats case. According to the clarification, the amendments made in the Elections Act 2017 cannot overrule the apex court's July 12 judgment pertaining to the matter. Seeking an explanation from the relevant department on the second clarification issued by the judges, CJP Isa on Saturday questioned how the eight judges issued a clarification without filing the original file of the case. He has sought an explanation from Deputy Registrar Mujahid Mahmood, Assistant Registrar Shahid Habib and Web Master AsimJaved. The eight-member majority judges of the apex court in the reserved seats case on Friday held that the amendments made in the Elections Act cannot undo their judgment with retrospective effect, so the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was bound to implement the judgment in letter and spirit. In response to the Civil Miscellaneous Applications (CMAs) filed by the ECP and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) seeking clarification, the eight judges of the Supreme Court issued the clarification in chambers at Islamabad and Karachi. The eight judges included Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha A Malik, Justice AtharMinallah, Justice Syed HasanAzhar Rizvi, Justice ShahidWaheed and Justice IrfanSaadat Khan.

MURREE SPARKLETTS
Bottled Drinking Water

WATER TASTES BEST IN GLASS!!

CARBONATED WATER ALSO AVAILABLE IN GLASS BOTTLE

For Sales & Supply Contact:

Adeel Butt 03334131756
Kaiser Waheed 03325808422
Riaz Muhammad 0335 5111043