



Islamabad POST

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Mishaal: Hamas will continue to uphold its resistance strategy

Detailed News On Page-08

DPM Ishaq Dar to represent Pak at Commonwealth

Detailed News On Page-08



Lewandowski scores twice for La Liga leaders

Detailed News On Page-06



After constitutional amendment Countdown on for naming new chief justice of Pakistan

Coalition govt has to appoint a new top judge by Oct 22 at 12am; PTI decides to be part of the committee; Ali Zafar, Barrister Gohar, Sahibzada Hamid Raza nominated

STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The coalition government has a little over 30 hours to appoint a new Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) after the enactment of the 26th Constitutional Amendment, which mandates the top judicial slot be filled three days before the incumbent's retirement. With CJP Qazi Faez Isa's retirement scheduled for October 25, 2024, the new appointment must be finalised by October 22 at 12am, as per the new law. Pakistan Peoples Party on Monday proposed its three members for the parliamentary committee to appoint the chief justice. The party nominated former prime minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Syed Naveed Qamar and Farooq H. Naik for the parliamentary committee. Meanwhile, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) has nominated Senator Kamran Murtaza as a member of the parliamentary committee for the appointment of the new Chief Justice. JUI's parliamentary leader Maulana Atta-ur-Rehman has sent the name of Kamran Murtaza to the Senate Secretariat. Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and Syed Naveed Qamar would represent the National Assembly while Farooq H. Naik would represent the Senate in the committee. Meanwhile, PTI nominated Barrister Gohar and Hamid Raza from national assembly and Senator Ali Zafar from Senate of Pakistan as a member of the parliamentary committee for

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Constitutional tweaks come into force

Gazette notification issued following legislation's approval by National Assembly's overnight session

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday signed the 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill into law upon the advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif today following the approval of the said legislation by the parliament. A gazette notification has been issued following the president's assent to the contentious legislation. The development comes after the ruling coalition succeeded in pushing the highly contentious judicial reforms through the Parliament via a two-thirds majority with 225 and 65 votes in the lower and upper house, respectively. Under the judicial reforms — opposed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) which boycotted the

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif signs the advice for presidential assent on the 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill. — DNA

PM felicitates Indonesian President

Says, looking forward to enhance our bilateral cooperation



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday congratulated Prabowo Subianto on taking the oath as Indonesia's eighth president. In a post on 'X', the Prime Minister highlighted the fraternal ties between Pakistan and Indonesia, which are rooted in shared values and mutual respect. "I look forward to working closely with President Subianto to enhance our bilateral cooperation across all fields of mutual interest as well as to promote regional and global peace and security," the Prime Minister said. Prabowo Subianto, a former military commander, was sworn in on Sunday, becoming the leader of the world's third-largest democracy.

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'National unity achievement' 'Parliament reigns supreme,' says PM after amendment

"This is more than an amendment," says premier, calling legislation "reaffirmation of solidarity and agreement"

MEHTAB PIRZADA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif declared Sunday a historic day for Pakistan, following the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment in the National Assembly. "Today, it's been decided that parliament reigns supreme," he said, as 225 members, including coalition partners and independent lawmakers, voted in favour of the bill. Under the judicial

Continued on Page 06

ICJ derides 'blow to judicial independence'

Says, the changes brought an "extraordinary level of political influence over the process of judicial appointments"

AGENCIES

GENEVA: The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) derided Monday's passage of the 26th Constitutional

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Disappeared on father's instructions: Zain Qureshi

"I could never think of voting for this constitutional amendment," says PTI politician

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Zain Qureshi said on Monday that he had disappeared on the orders of his father, senior party leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi, ruling out government pressure. "I could never think of voting for this constitutional amendment," Zain said in a video statement as he debunked reports of him being in the National Assembly and backing the tweaks, calling it "baseless propaganda". Zain further maintained that his father summoned him to Lahore, where he remains imprisoned in a different case. Qureshi, as quoted by his son, insisted against the approval of the constitutional amendment in any case.

Amendment saved country from turmoil

Law resolved usury, federal sharia court and madaris issues

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Mufti Taqi Usmani said that the 26th Constitutional Amendment saved the country from political turmoil as it resolved longstanding issues of usury, federal sharia court and the madaris. He further expressed his gratitude, stating that after a challenging period, good news surfaced. He praised Maulana Fazlur Rehman for his wisdom in guiding the nation, leading to the achievement of several Islamic goals. Mufti Usmani added that the country was saved from a political crisis, and he prayed for the JUI-F chief's continued success. The government has included the JUI's proposed amendment in the 26th constitutional amendment.

Constitutional tweaks

Justice Mansoor concerned about judiciary's 'dilemma'

"It seems that this question will arise every day in the Supreme Court," says judge after legislation

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Justice Mansoor Ali Shah Monday expressed concerns over the dilemma that the judiciary could face after the new legislation — the 26th Constitutional Amendment — approved by the Parliament. Justice Mansoor's remarks came hours after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led coalition government passed the contentious constitutional package in the Senate and National Assembly — the process of which began Sunday evening and ended during the pre-dawn hours on Monday. The judiciary-oriented constitutional package proposed a set of constitutional amendments, including provisioning a fixed three-year term for three Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP). According to the tweaks, the constitutional benches will be established in

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Hafiz Naeem calls amendment a 'dark chapter'

Hafiz Naeem expresses disappointment with members of opposition who voted in favour of amendment

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) chief Hafiz Naeem Rehman has indicated that his party is considering challenging the recently enacted 26th constitutional amendment. Speaking at a press conference on Monday,

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Much ado about the constitutional amendment

The key question now is whether the new system will function effectively, as doubts linger. Concerns have been raised that the system could create internal divisions and confusion among the judges

OPINION

ANSAR M BHATTI

AS the dust settled? This is perhaps the most pressing question following the controversial passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment in Parliament. According to this amendment, the superior judiciary is no longer to function independently in matters such as the appointment of judges and the evaluation of their performance; these powers have been transferred to Parliament. Additionally, the amendment restricts the scope of the apex court's authority by limiting its ability to take suo motu actions. In essence, the government appears to have significantly curtailed the independence of the judiciary, rendering it effectively powerless.

It is now an open secret that the proposed constitutional amendment was not an original idea conceived by Parliament. Instead, both the PPP and PML-N were tasked with pushing it through if they wished to ensure their political survival. For the PPP, the reward dangled was the prime ministership for Bilawal Bhutto, contingent on securing the passage of the initial 60-point amendment package, which would have granted significant powers to the Establishment. However,

thanks to Maulana Fazal ur Rehman's outright refusal to support the draft, the original proposal was sidelined. A revised version of the amendment was then presented to Fazal ur Rehman, which he accepted, albeit with some conditions. For PML-N, the stakes were made crystal clear: their hold on power hinged entirely on the passage of this amendment. Moreover, it was unequivocally conveyed to the party leadership that Nawaz Sharif would not be permitted to leave the country until the amendment was approved. As a result, PML-N seemingly had no choice but to comply, even though this move is likely to cost them politically. Their public support had already diminished, and with the passage of this amendment, their popularity is expected to decline even further.

Ostensibly, the idea of controlling the superior judiciary involves multiple facets, both internal and external. Internally, from the govt and Establishment's perspective, it was crucial to maintain a firm grip on the higher judiciary to ensure favorable rulings. The lower judiciary, already under control, remains ever prepared to 'dispense justice' when directed. The Pakistan government has occasionally faced challenging situations when the apex court issued verdicts affecting foreign investors. Two prominent cases stand out. First, in the Reko Diq case, the Supreme Court nullified the entire agreement, forcing the affected party to seek legal recourse. The international court ruled against the Pa-

kistan government, resulting in a hefty penalty that the government had to pay. In another instance, the Supreme Court annulled the agreement with the Turkish power generation company, Karkey. This decision strained relations with the Turkish government. Karkey subsequently filed a claim for millions of dollars in penalties. However, with intervention from both the Pakistani and Turkish governments, the issue was eventually resolved. Then-Prime Minister Imran Khan announced that, with the help of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the dispute was "amicably resolved," saving Pakistan from a \$1.2 billion penalty imposed by the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). These cases, among others, have led to significant embarrassment for the government. This has perhaps fueled the argument by some in power that there should be more oversight or control over the judiciary to prevent such outcomes. The key question now is whether the new system will function effectively, as doubts linger. Concerns have been raised that the system could create internal divisions and confusion among the judges. The government is expected to elevate Justice Yahya Afridi to the position of chief justice, despite his being third in the seniority list. Some speculate that Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, who is widely regarded as the most deserving candidate, may also be considered for the role. Justice Mansoor is a bold and highly

competent judge. If anyone can match the intellect, insight, presence of mind, and eloquence of the outgoing Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, it is Justice Mansoor. While Qazi Faez Isa was undoubtedly an exceptional judge, his perceived bias against the PTI has overshadowed his tenure as chief justice. Justice Afridi, by contrast, is seen as a more low-profile and less assertive figure. However, it is possible that once in leadership, he could defy expectations and prove himself to be a strong chief justice. The lawyers are expected to initiate a movement opposing these amendments. The PTI has signaled its intention to challenge the matter in the Supreme Court. According to the amendment, all such petitions will now be heard by a Constitutional Bench, appointed by the government. This bench may consist of five or more judges. From a legal and technical standpoint, the amendments may not hold up, as the intent behind them appears questionable. Additionally, the timing of the amendment's passage is likely to influence the bench's decision-making process. Bilawal Bhutto, speaking in the National Assembly before the vote on the amendment, referred to the Charter of Democracy (CoD) signed between the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in 2006. He emphasized that this historic agreement laid the foundation for the establishment of the constitutional bench and made it clear that neither party would ever

come to power with the assistance of the establishment. His remarks alluded to how both parties had once committed to standing independent of such forces. Bhutto also criticized certain judges, holding them responsible for the disqualification and ouster of former Prime Ministers Yousaf Raza Gillani and Nawaz Sharif. However, he seemingly ignored the broader context that the judiciary often acts in collaboration with the establishment. This reflects a harsh reality of Pakistan's political dynamics, where judges and the establishment work in tandem to influence political outcomes. Despite this, Bhutto's criticism focused solely on the judges, perhaps overlooking the deeper entanglements of both the PPP and PML-N with powerful elements in the establishment. Both parties have, at times, been brought to power with the backing of these influential forces, which might explain why their leadership tends to deflect full responsibility onto the judiciary. The international stakeholders, particularly those with vested interests in Pakistan, have been eager to see the judiciary's influence reduced. These foreign countries are concerned about their investments in cases like Karkey and Reko Diq, may have pushed for these judicial constraints to protect their economic interests. This reflects a broader international dimension to Pakistan's internal power struggles, where foreign economic stakes sometimes drive domestic political changes.

National Days and Armed Forces Days

OCTOBER

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

Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



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PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Enquiry.....117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

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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

Govt committed to boost IT, Telecom sector: Shaza

Shaza acknowledged the telecom sector's significant contribution to the national economy. She added that the upcoming 5G spectrum auction, scheduled for early 2025, alongside policies such as the National Fiberization Policy and Spectrum Sharing, would further accelerate growth

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja said that innovations in data networks, cloud computing, artificial intelligence and 5G are crucial for Pakistan's economic growth and in addressing key challenges such as healthcare, education, and sustainable development. Speaking at the SANOG-42 Conference, the Minister highlighted the importance of regional cooperation

in enhancing the country's digital infrastructure and in developing inclusive, secure and sustainable technologies. She reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening the IT and Telecom sectors through various initiatives. "We have launched IT Parks in Islamabad and Karachi, supporting over 1,300 startups through our National Incubation Centers. Our Digital Pakistan Policy aims to boost e-governance, cybersecurity, and entrepreneurship," she stated. She acknowledged the

telecom sector's significant contribution to the national economy. She added that the upcoming 5G spectrum auction, scheduled for early 2025, alongside policies such as the National Fiberization Policy and Spectrum Sharing, would further accelerate growth. The minister noted Pakistan's remarkable progress in cybersecurity, placing it among the top-tier nations in the ITU 2024 Global Cybersecurity Index. "This advancement reflects our strong commitment across all cybersecurity pillars, posi-

tioning us alongside leading countries in cybersecurity readiness," she said. She highlighted the IT sector's thriving exports, which have already surpassed \$3 billion. Initiatives such as local Chromebook manufacturing by Google and Islamabad's transformation into a Model Digital City underscore the country's vibrant IT landscape. "We continue to focus on training young people, particularly in cybersecurity, to ensure a skilled workforce for the future," Shaza Fatima remarked. She outlined

comprehensive policies that aim to enhance access, affordability, and innovation, ensuring sustained growth and global competitiveness. The minister also called for strengthened partnerships across South Asia, leveraging SANOG's experience for policy alignment and capacity building. "Our focus remains on optimizing Internet Exchange Points and enhancing network resilience. We invite international partnerships and investments to further drive the growth of our IT sector," she added.



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Isphanyar Bhandara shook hands with the Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Quaid of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) at the pivotal moment of the constitutional amendment and cast his vote for a better Pakistan.—DNA

Bukhari praises Bilawal's key role in passing 26th Constitutional Amendment

The 26th Amendment, approved by both the Senate and National Assembly, he said was presented by a special parliamentary committee, a mandatory part of the parliamentary process

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Secretary General Syed Nayyar Hussain Bukhari on Monday commended party chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for his relentless efforts and pivotal role in the approval of the 26th Constitutional Amendment by the parliament. Bukhari, in a news statement, lauded Bilawal's hard work, describing him as a "strong and effective voice for upholding the Constitution both inside and outside the Parliament." Bukhari ex-

pressed pride in Bilawal's leadership, stating that his commitment to constitutional supremacy reflects the core values of the PPP. He further acknowledged the contributions of other key leaders, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Mian Nawaz Sharif, Maulana Fazlur Rahman, and others, for achieving another milestone in Pakistan's democratic journey. The 26th Amendment, approved by both the Senate and National Assembly, he said was presented by a

special parliamentary committee, a mandatory part of the parliamentary process. Bukhari congratulated the government's coalition partners and other political parties for their collective success in passing the amendment. "This amendment marks a significant step toward improving the judicial system, ensuring faster justice delivery, and promoting equal representation," Bukhari noted. He emphasized that the judicial reforms, a promise made in Benazir Bhutto's

FBR's I&I notices to industries condemnable

Inquiries of fake invoices are harassment, industries should be protected for economic flow

ISLAMABAD: President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Atif Ikram Shaikh has said that the notices of I&I by FBR to industrialists are condemnable. The notices stated that fake sales tax invoices were taken as inputs. Scrutiny of the importers to some extent can be done by the buyer before buying the goods but a thorough investigation procedure should be adopted because what can the purchaser do if the importer refuses to accept his own sales tax invoices. We can check NTN and the genuineness of the company but FBR says that the buyer should investigate completely, it is not possible for us. Federation President Atif Ikram said that Purchaser conducts banking transactions, maintains all records, yet issuing notices is tantamount to harassment. FBR should oblige the importers to update their complete record and put it on their website. Our demand is that the government and FBR should adopt the rules of doing business so that industries can run and exports can increase. If the industries are freed from day to day inquiries then the economy can move towards improvement.—APP

Ahsan Bakhtawari visits chamber, congratulates new leadership, assures cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and Member of the Central Core Committee of the United Business Group Ahsan Bakhtawari, visited the Chamber House Islamabad to congratulate its newly elected office bearers. During the meeting, he felicitated President Nasser Mansoor Qureshi, Senior Vice President Abdul Rahman Siddiqui, and Vice President Nasser Chudhry, wishing them success in their tenure. A large number of business community members attended the gathering. He assured the new leadership of his full cooperation and support, emphasizing his commitment to the Chamber's growth. The meeting discussed various key issues, including Ongoing ICCI projects, Business community concerns, Construction work on markets and all Other vital matters. Addressing the gathering, Ahsan Bakhtawari said, "Islamabad Chamber is the hub of the city's business community. My visit aimed to assure the new leadership of my continued support for improving this platform. He highlighted the Chamber's effectiveness in resolving issues and its influential voice in government and institutional forums. He appreciated the progress made during his two-year tenure, citing initiatives like the Industrial State project and Expo Center construction. He offered his services to the new administration, ensuring continuity and cooperation. President ICCI Nasser Mansoor Qureshi thanked Ahsan Bakhtawari for his commendable services, praising his leadership during the past two years. Qureshi assured that the new team would follow in Bakhtawari's footsteps, working collectively to address business community concerns.—APP

Dengue claims one more life

RAWALPINDI: Despite reducing the trend in dengue cases in Rawalpindi district, fatalities have reached 8 after one more dengue patient has died. The deceased Wajid Zareen 38, died in a private hospital on 13th October. According to the details shared by the District Health Authority Rawalpindi here Monday, the patient belonging to District Murree was hospitalized in Islamabad. The data shows seven dengue fatalities in Rawalpindi district as the latest death was from outside it. During the last 24 hours, 61 new patients have been reported with dengue fever. So far 3522 patients have been diagnosed with dengue fever in the current year. The report issued by the health authority on Monday shows that 262 patients are under treatment in different allied hospitals. As many as 4650 FIRs have been registered against the dengue SOPs violations along with other penalties.—APP

IIOJK transformed into militarized zone by RSS's hindutva agenda: APHC

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has said that Kashmir has been enduring the consequences of India's illegal occupation for the past 77 years. According to Kashmir Media Service, APHC spokesman Abdul Rashid Minhas stated that occupied Jammu and Kashmir has been turned into a militarized zone, with the RSS/BJP pushing their Hindutva agenda to promote Akhand Bharat in the disputed territory. He emphasized that a common thread unites Hindutva India and Zionist Israel, with their growing relationship being fueled by a shared animosity towards Muslims. "The alliance between India and Israel poses a dangerous threat, expanding racism and Islamophobia globally, as both occupation regimes blatantly violate international treaties and covenants," he said. The APHC spokesman pointed out that the ideological bond between Hindutva and Zionism serves as the foundation of the India-Israel relationship. He also mentioned that both India and Israel share a common geo-strategic interest in destabilizing Pakistan. He asserted that their cooperation is driven by expansionist ambitions, furthering settler-colonial projects in Kashmir and Palestine to legitimize the eviction of indigenous communities. "India is adopting Israel's oppressive techniques, including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions, and surveillance, to reinforce its illegal control over Kashmir," he added. Minhas lamented the United Nations' failure to implement resolutions aimed at resolving the disputes in Kashmir and Palestine, emphasizing that the international community must take concrete actions to address these long-standing issues to ensure lasting peace.—APP

Naqvi greets nation on constitutional amendment

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi has congratulated the entire nation on the approval of the 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill, terming it a victory for the people of Pakistan. The Interior Minister said, "This is success of the people of Pakistan and we bow down to Allah in gratitude." He specifically thanked JUI (F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and leaders of allied parties for their support, saying, "Maulana Fazlur Rehman's positive and historic role will always be remembered." Mohsin Naqvi praised the efforts of President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, stating, "their tireless efforts have borne fruit." He emphasized that all leaders worked jointly and relentlessly for the 26th Constitutional Amendment. The Interior Minister emphasized that this constitutional amendment is a victory for democracy, laying a strong foundation for a bright democratic future. "The victory belongs to Pakistan and its people," he said. Mohsin Naqvi paid tribute to leaders of all democratic parties, acknowledging their collective efforts. He reiterated that the approval of the constitutional amendment bill is Parliament's right. Interior Minister stated that the collective efforts and consensus-building have yielded positive results, adding that this amendment holds key importance for balancing powers among institutions.—APP

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Briefs

Three apprehended for violating tenancy law

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Police on Monday carried out a door to door search operation in the limits of Bani Police Station and arrested three persons for violating the tenancy law. According to a police spokesman, the personnel of the Elite Force and Special Branch along with the lady police took part in the operation, who collected the data of tenants. Accused Hammad, Asad and Naveed were apprehended and booked under the Punjab Information of Temporary Residence Ordinance 2015.—APP

PTA intensifies crackdown on illegal issuance of SIMs

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Zonal Office in Lahore, in close collaboration with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cyber Crime Circle, Lahore conducted a successful raid against a telecom franchisee located at Kot Addu. This franchisee was found to be involved in the illegal issuance of SIMs said a news release. During the raid, 166 fingerprints, one mobile phone and one Laptop were recovered from the franchisee. The FIA team confiscated these devices as evidence. One person was arrested on the spot and an FIR has been registered by the agency. FIA is further investigating the case. This action was taken as a result of a complaint filed by PTA Zonal Office Lahore with the FIA, concerning the illegal activation of SIMs through the sales channel. The crackdown is part of PTA's ongoing efforts to curtail the illegal issuance of SIMs and underscore Authority's dedication to eradicating the menace.—APP

ANF recovers over 86 kg drugs in 13 operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 13 operations across the country managed to recover over 86 kg drugs worth over Rs 15 million and arrested seven accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that 2.4 kg hashish was recovered from an accused netted in Baldia Town, Karachi. 1.2 kg hashish was recovered from two suspects arrested near a university in Islamabad. The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to the students of educational institutions. In an operation, 60 kg hashish was recovered from Kuchlak area in Quetta. 14 kg ice was recovered from RCD Road, Hub and 662 grams weed was recovered from three parcels sent from foreign countries at a courier office in Rawalpindi. 44 hero-infilled capsules were recovered from a passenger going to Sharjah from Islamabad Airport. 940 grams ice was recovered from a parcel sent to Bahrain at a courier office in Sialkot. In GPO office Multan, 720 grams weed was recovered from a parcel sent from Bangkok. 3 kg ice was recovered from a parcel at a courier office in Quetta.—APP

NUML hosts seminar on disaster management together with PRC

The seminar provided students with insights into various types of disasters and educated them on effective response techniques. By raising awareness of first aid and disaster management, the session encouraged community engagement and social responsibility, ensuring that students are better prepared to assist others during crises

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Department of Translation and Interpretation at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) organized a seminar on "Disaster Management" in collaboration with the Pakistan Red Crescent. The seminar aimed to equip students with essential knowledge and practical skills for responding to emergencies and disasters, fostering a culture of preparedness and resilience. Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim, Assistant Director, Disaster Preparedness at Pakistan Red Crescent, an esteemed NUML alumnus, along with his team, conducted a hands-on training session. The session focused on first aid techniques and disaster response strategies, demonstrating lifesaving procedures that are crucial in emergencies. Mr. Ibrahim emphasized the importance of disaster preparedness, highlighting how timely actions can save lives.

The seminar provided students with insights into various types of disasters and educated them on effective response techniques. By raising awareness of first aid and disaster management, the session encouraged community engagement and social respon-



sibility, ensuring that students are better prepared to assist others during crises. The Head of the Department for Translation and Interpretation, Ms. Hina Shahab, spoke on the importance of first aid services.

She underscored the need for individuals to play a humanitarian role in society, noting that community service adds significant value to personal growth and societal welfare. Students showed great interest in the

seminar, actively participating in the orientation session and engaging with experts by asking questions related to first aid and disaster preparedness.

Looking ahead, the Pakistan Red Crescent will offer pro-

fessional first-aid training to NUML students, culminating in certification. This certification will enable students to effectively respond to emergencies by providing essential first aid services.

Enactment of 26th constitutional amendment victory of democracy

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaullah Tarar, on Monday hailed the passage of the 26th constitutional amendment as a victory for democracy, one that will be etched in history. "The approval of the 26th constitutional amendment marks a significant milestone in Pakistan's history; a new dawn has begun," the information minister stated. Tarar extended congratulations to Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Ameer Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the members of the federal cabinet, all coalition parties, and the entire nation on the successful passage of the amendment. He emphasized that the amendment would bring greater stability to Pakistan's constitutional and legal framework. "Extensive consultations were held to ensure as much consensus as possible on the amendment," Tarar added. The minister noted that the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah laid the foundation for constitutional thought in Pakistan. "History will confirm that this constitutional amendment is in the best interest of the people," he asserted.—APP

22 Sindhi students sent to China for free one year study

ISLAMABAD: Chinese education technology company Tang Int'l sent 22 students from three different technical institutes in Sindh to China for a year of free study in various fields. According to Mansoor Siddiqui, Regional Head of Tang Int'l, nine students from the Government Monotechnic Institute in Mehrabpur, who are specializing in Electrical Automation Technology, will complete their final year of a three-year diploma at Yantai Vocational College in China. Additionally, 12 students from the Government Polytechnic Institute in Sukkur, enrolled in Water Conservancy and Hydropower Construction Engineering, will spend a year at Guizhou Vocational and Technical College of Water Resources and Hydropower, Gwadar. Pro reported on Monday. One student from the Government Polytechnic Institute in Dadu, specializing in Computer Information Technology, will attend Hebei Vocational College of Politics and Law.—APP

Chinese solar technology powers lead towards green revolution

Investors from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province have long been purchasing low-cost uncultivated land in the unpopulated areas of Attock district, with the aim of transforming these barren fields into agricultural and livestock farms

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chinese solar technology powers are leading towards green revolution, in unpopulated areas of Attock district, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. Investors from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province have long been purchasing low-cost uncultivated land in the unpopulated areas of Attock district, with the aim of transforming these barren fields into agricultural and livestock farms. However, this trend has gained momentum in recent years following the introduction of affordable yet efficient Chinese solar technology in the country. Freed from the limitations of grid electricity, which has a sparse network in these areas, and lacking an irrigation

system, farm investors are now opting for even cheaper land off roads to develop larger farms with the help of this solar technology. Faheem, from Mardan district in KP, has purchased 2,500 kanals of inexpensive land for as little as Rs20,000 per kanal in an uninhabited hilly area along the bank of the River Indus, several kilometers away from the Injra-Kalabagh road in Jund tehsil. He has installed several solar plants to irrigate his olive saplings using a drip irrigation system. "The land is difficult to access, but look at the size of the farm and the expected yield once these trees mature and start producing olives," Faheem told Gwadar Pro during a recent visit to his farm.

Many others have also developed various farms in the surrounding areas, powered by Chinese solar technology, while corporate agricultural investors are beginning to take notice. A few years ago, Arshad Hussain from Swat purchased over 300 kanals of neglected land a few kilometers off the Jund-Attock road and cultivated citrus plants, irrigated by a tube well powered by Chinese solar technology. "I intend to purchase more land here to establish an apricot orchard," he said. He also owns a buffalo farm spanning over 100 kanals in the area. This trend has intensified further since the completion of the Hakla-D.I. Khan Motorway, part of the Chi-

na-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative, which has provided convenient access for investors from KP. Several families from different districts in KP have relocated to Attock to manage their farmlands. There are numerous stories illustrating this vigorous trend of bringing uncultivated land under cultivation with the aid of Chinese solar technology. "The trend is so powerful that it could mitigate the negative impacts of rapid urbanization on agricultural land in Punjab," one observer noted. The scale of cultivation of these deserted lands, made possible by Chinese solar technology, is so significant that it arguably surpasses the rate of urbanization, he added.

Pakistan Tax Research Center setup in southwest China

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Taxation Research and Consulting Center was launched in Chongqing Municipal Tax Service. It will study Pakistan's taxation system, track policy trends, analyze the impact of Pakistan's taxation policies, legal framework, tax collection and management model on China-Pakistan economic cooperation (CPEC), and provide tax-related consultation and advice for Chinese companies investing in Pakistan. China has been Pakistan's largest trading partner, the largest source of imports and the second largest export destination for many years. In 2023, China-Pakistan bilateral trade volume exceeded USD 20 billion, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. Since 2015, the Chongqing Municipal Tax Service has set up a team to continuously study Pakistan's tax policies to help Chinese companies that have invested or intend to invest in Pakistan to accurately and timely grasp the implementation of relevant policies and reduce tax risks. Hamid Atiq Sarwar, deputy director at the Internal Revenue Bureau, Federal Board of Revenue of Pakistan, attended the launch ceremony via video link. Relevant officials of the FBR introduced Pakistan's tax system, tax preferential policies and other contents. "Pakistan is a market full of potential. The local government has continuously introduced a number of preferential policies, such as tax exemptions and investment subsidies. The Chinese tax authorities have also provided important tax policy support and services such as tax agreements to companies investing in Pakistan." —DNA

Crackdown in Islamabad 74 beggars, 18 shopkeepers arrested

ISLAMABAD: The district administration of Islamabad has ramped up its efforts to address growing concerns over illegal activities in the Federal Capital, leading to the arrest of 74 beggars and 18 shopkeepers in separate operations. The spokesman of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration said that this action was part of a larger initiative to maintain public order and enforce price regulations. Islamabad's district administration continues its aggressive campaign against the alms-seekers in

the city and arrested 74 professional beggars over the past 48 hours. All the Assistant Commissioners (ACs) were actively involved in the crackdown. The AC Saddar, Maheen Hassan accompanied by the district administration teams have arrested 38 beggars from sectors G-10 and G-11, and F-11 area while the AC Rural, Kamran detained 21 beggars in the Sihala police station area. Additionally, the AC Industrial Area, Farwa Batool apprehended 15 beggars and

transferred them to Margalla police station. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon emphasized the need for increased surveillance and quick responses to any information regarding professional beggars. He instructed the administration to take immediate action when reports are received. Meanwhile, in a parallel operation, the district administration also took action against shopkeepers who were not adhering to the official price list. Eighteen shopkeepers were arrested for overcharging customers during market inspections. Assistant Commissioner City Farhan Ahmad has arrested eight shopkeepers, while Assistant Commissioner Saddar detained another eight in separate operations. The AC Industrial Area arrested two shopkeepers and imposed a fine on one for violating the price regulations.—APP

AIOU publishes first Algerian novel in Urdu by Dr. Fadila Melhag

A desire to enhance cultural cooperation between Pakistan and Algeria, which had enjoyed good historical relations since the fifties, when Pakistan was one of the countries that supported the glorious revolution of November 1, 1954, and supported the Algerian interim government in 1958"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: For the first time in the history of cultural relations between Algeria and Pakistan, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has published the first Algerian novel in Urdu by the writer Dr Fadila Melhag, in a second edition titled (When Life Desires You), with an introduction by the university Vice Chancellor, Professor Nasir Mahmood. The novel (When Life Desires You), a joint translation by Dr Abdul Majeed Baghdadi, Head of the Department of Language and Literature at AIOU and Dr Lubna Farah, Director of the Translation Department at the National University of Modern Languages

(NUML). It is pertinent to mention here, this novel was published in 2023 in a first edition by the "Pen League of Karachi," along with two short story collections, "Outside the Field of Discovery" and "For Display Unpaintable," translated by Dr. Lubna Farah. Commenting on the initiative to publish this pioneering literary work, VC AIOU Prof. Nasir Mahmood said in the introduction of the novel, "A desire to enhance cultural cooperation between Pakistan and Algeria, which had enjoyed good historical relations since the fifties, when Pakistan was one of the countries that supported the glorious revolution of November 1, 1954, and supported the Algerian interim government in 1958".

In this context, Professor Nasir Mahmood said, "The translation and publication of Dr. Fadila Melhag's literary works in Pakistan represents a historical precedent and a pioneering step in introducing Algerian literature in Pakistan and all of South Asia. It is considered a valuable achievement that encourages the translation and publication of Arabic literary works in Urdu and the translation and publication of Pakistani literary works in Arabic". Prof Nasir said, the novel (When Life Desires You) is worthy of reading and study by a brilliant writer who deserves admiration and appreciation. It is a distinguished creative experience in presenting the issue of illegal "secret" immigration to the north in its current

manifestations, with its complex ideological, economic, historical and cultural dimensions. Dr. Fadila Melhag is distinguished by her high and diverse education, abundant intellectual production, and creativity in multiple literary genres (poetry, novels, and stories). She holds a PhD in law and national and foreign certificates in the judiciary, law, diplomacy, information technology, and foreign languages. Dr. Fadila Melhag has published several books in legal studies, political science, and literature (novel, poetry, story). Her books have been published in Algeria, Egypt, France, and Pakistan and have been translated into French, English, Spanish, and Urdu. She received the Genius Award from the Ministry of Culture and Arts in Algeria this year.

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China's next big tech leap

CHINA'S "little giants" are at the vanguard of its next technological leap. The number of these small and medium-sized enterprises, nurtured under the 14th five-year plan to lead in advanced tech sectors, has exceeded the government's target. The government aims to accelerate their growth further with expanded capital access. But their leap from innovation to sustainable market success remains precarious. China tops global research rankings and leads the world in patent filings. Despite these achievements, the challenge lies in converting innovation into commercial success on the global stage. This push aligns with China's broader effort to reduce its dependence on foreign technology and bolster domestic manufacturing – cornerstones of its "Made in China 2025" strategy. But innovation alone rarely guarantees market success. Frontier tech industries are notoriously capital-intensive, with long and uncertain payback periods. Research and development are only the beginning. Without a clear path to commercialisation, even the most groundbreaking advances risk being trapped in a loop of innovation without real-world impact. Many SMEs often become dependent on state subsidies, rather than evolve into market-driven enterprises. China's unicorns – start-ups valued at over US\$1 billion – are an enticing but incomplete measure of success. In emerging tech sectors, valuations can often be more speculative, especially in sectors without established frameworks for revenue. Unicorn status may signal prestige, but without consistent market traction, these companies risk becoming high-profile mirages – valued more for potential than substance. China's rigid focus on specialisation within industrial clusters complicates matters further. While specialisation fosters deep expertise, it risks stifling cross-sector collaboration – particularly in an interconnected world in which breakthroughs often occur where fields intersect. Robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) converge in manufacturing, while materials science fuels innovation in aerospace and automotive industries. China is boldly going where no one has gone before. China's narrow focus could undermine the very progress it seeks to promote. Chinese SMEs advance through a pyramid-like framework, progressing from provincial recognition to national "little giant" status. Top performers receive subsidies, policy support and integration into key supply chains – reflecting the state's strategy of fast-tracking leadership by grooming SMEs for industrial dominance. China's focus on fostering specialisation mirrors strategies employed by other industrial powerhouses. Germany's "hidden champions" – mid-sized, often family-owned, companies – emerged after the second world war and helped to rebuild the economy by mastering niche markets. These companies rose to global leadership in specialised fields like mechanical engineering and chemicals, becoming pillars of Germany's export strength by balancing deep expertise with a global outlook and blending family ownership with professional management. For China, the challenge lies in ensuring its SMEs can extend their reach beyond domestic markets. Germany's hidden champions emerged organically through market forces, guided by strong family ownership and vocational training networks. In contrast, China's little giants are the result of state planning, raising the question of whether a top-down approach can deliver the same global competitiveness and sustainability.

Zionist cutouts & intermediaries

FACTS for Peace is yet another covert operation launched by elements of the Zionist movement, in this case fronted by motivated fanatical Zionist billionaires. The US news site Semafor first revealed the advent of this effort on November 9th last year under the headline "Billionaires discuss \$50 million anti-Hamas media blitz". Real-estate billionaire Barry Sternlicht originated the campaign in the days after the Oct. 7 attacks in "Israel". In an email, he sought \$1 million donations each from dozens of the business world's wealthiest people. He wrote that he'd had "a great conversation" about the effort with CNN owner David Zaslav and that Endeavor CEO and talent agent Ari Emanuel had agreed to coordinate the campaign, though spokespeople for both men said they aren't involved now. The email was sent to more than 50 household names, including media mogul David Geffen (322 on the 2024 Forbes list of billionaires), investors Michael Milken (424) and Nelson Peltz (1851), and tech luminaries Eric Schmidt (94) and Michael Dell (16). All told, the recipients have a net worth of nearly \$500 billion, according to Bloomberg and Forbes data. Of course, all of these are the names of Jewish billionaires, and such a venture is obviously facilitated by the fact that Jews are disproportionately billionaires. Seven of the top eleven billionaires in 2024 are Jewish: Larry Ellison (3), Larry Page (5), Sergey Brin (7), Mark Zuckerberg (8), Steve Ballmer (9), Michael Bloomberg (10), Michael Dell (11). Everyone would appear to be Zionist. Overall, according to Forbes, in 2022, there were 2,668 billionaires in the world, of whom 267 were Jewish, a total of 10%. Jews make up 0.2% of the population of the world, meaning they are over-represented per head of population by a factor of 50. By contrast, the only other group that is over-represented is white people (those of "European descent"). They make up some 16% of the global population, but 65% of billionaires, an over-representation of just over four times. In his email, Sternlicht wrote that he was trying to raise \$50 million from the group and seek a matching donation from a large Jewish charity for a media blitz to "define Hamas" as "not just the enemy of Israel but of the United States." By early November, it had raised several million dollars, hired Josh Vlasto, a former aide to Sen. Chuck Schumer and Gov. Andrew Cuomo, to advise it, and quietly launched a website (factsforpeace.org). The Bureau of Investigative Journalism reported later in November that "a multimillion-dollar campaign attacking the pro-Palestine movement has spent more than \$370,000 in the past month on viral adverts for Facebook and Instagram without disclosing where its money comes from. Vlasto's name is absent from the Facts for Peace listing for the Facebook and Instagram ads and the Facts for Peace website, but reverse searches for the number registered on Meta's Ad Library point to Vlasto, and the number is also listed as the number for his PR company, Bamberger & Vlasto." Fulfill the Promise LLC, was founded on 15 September 2022. It was renamed Change the Narrative Coalition LLC on 16 October 2023 and then became Facts for Peace on 16 October.

26th constitutional amendment: A step toward or away from democracy?

Qamar Bashir



The proposed amendments to Article 177, which bars foreign nationality holders from becoming judges, and Article 179, which changes the Chief Justice's term to three years while keeping the retirement age at 65, have significant implications for Pakistan's judiciary. The bar on foreign nationality holders aims to enhance public confidence by ensuring judges have a strong connection to Pakistan. Changing the Chief Justice's term introduces accountability, yet the shorter duration could undermine stability...

TODAY marks a significant moment in Pakistan's legislative history with the passing of the 26th Constitutional Amendment by the Senate, with a narrow margin of just one vote. The PTI, labeling the process illegal and unconstitutional, abstained from voting and predicted the bill's eventual reversal. While the Senate's approval is an important step, the amendment now faces a rigorous test in the National Assembly, where the government has gained strategic leverage by bringing Maulana Fazlur Rehman on board, effectively distancing him from PTI's opposition. In a calculated move, the government presented the bill first in the Senate, deviating from the usual practice of introducing it in the National Assembly. This strategy allowed the government to control the legislative agenda and limit the scope of debate in the Assembly, where opposition forces might have been more effective. By securing Senate approval, the government created momentum and exerted pressure on Assembly members, making it more challenging for opposition parties to mount resistance. The passage of the bill in the Senate also provides an opportunity to amend and address concerns before it reaches the National Assembly, thus improving its chances of success.

A key development was the significant amendments made to the draft after resistance from JUI Chairman Maulana Fazlur Rehman, bringing the proposal more in line with democratic principles and provision of charter of democracy signed in 2006 by all main political parties. The true impact of this legislation will only become evident upon its implementation. Comparing these amendments to similar provisions in established democracies can offer insight, but the broader implications will unfold in practice. The amendments to Articles 28 and 175 of Constitution aim to establish a committee with equal representation from Treasury and Opposition members. The Chief Justice leading the commission responsible for appointing judges introduces accountability but raises concerns about potential biases. Additionally, a Special Parliamentary Committee will select the Chief Justice from the three senior-most judges, fostering scrutiny and democratic oversight. This approach mirrors practices in established democracies, such as the U.S., where Supreme Court justices are nominated by the President and confirmed by the

Senate; Germany, where judges are appointed by a committee from both legislative bodies; and Canada, which involves a selection committee of legal experts. The new Article 191 provides the creation of a Constitutional Bench in Pakistan aims to enhance regional representation by appointing judges from all provinces. This could increase public trust in the judiciary by ensuring that various communities feel represented. Comparatively, established democracies like Canada and Australia emphasize diversity in judicial appointments, while India incorporates regional representation through judges from various High Courts, though its opaque appointment process faces criticism. In Bangladesh, while there is no formal requirement for regional representation, political influence in appointments raises concerns about judicial independence. The proposed amendments to Article 177, which bars foreign nationality holders from becoming judges, and Article 179, which changes the Chief Justice's term to three years while keeping the retirement age at 65, have significant implications for Pakistan's judiciary. The bar on foreign nationality holders aims to enhance public confidence by ensuring judges have a strong connection to Pakistan. Changing the Chief Justice's term introduces accountability, yet the shorter duration could undermine stability and continuity in leadership. In comparison, established democracies like the U.S. and Canada have no term limits for Supreme Court justices, promoting judicial independence, while India and Bangladesh maintain a retirement age of 65 and 67, respectively, without term limits.

The proposed constitutional amendments in Pakistan, particularly regarding Article 200, the establishment of a Federal Constitutional Court, and changes to Articles 17, 48, 81, and 184, introduce significant changes to the judicial structure. These amendments aim to strengthen judicial independence by requiring judges' consent for transfers between High Courts and creating a specialized Federal Constitutional Court to handle political party disputes and inter-governmental issues, similar to Germany's Federal Constitutional Court. Compared to India and Bangladesh, where such matters are dealt with by the Supreme Court, Pakistan's model offers specialization but also raises concerns about judicial accountability and potential political interference. The proposed constitutional amendments to Articles 48, 63-A, and 177 in Paki-

stan bring important changes that reflect practices in other democracies. The amendment to Article 48, granting the Prime Minister immunity from judicial scrutiny over advice sent to the President, mirrors systems in countries like India, where executive advice is protected, though global trends emphasize judicial oversight to balance power.

The change to Article 63-A, allowing votes cast against party lines to be counted, shifts away from strict anti-defection rules seen in India and moves toward models like the U.K. and U.S., promoting independent decision-making in Parliament but potentially weakening party unity. The amendment to Article 177, barring foreign nationality holders from becoming judges, aligns with common practices in democracies such as the U.S., India, and the U.K., where judicial positions are reserved for citizens to safeguard national interests and judicial integrity.

In conclusion, the 26th Constitutional Amendment in Pakistan, while controversial, has the potential to bring about several positive impacts if implemented with careful attention to transparency, accountability, and judicial independence. The introduction of a Federal Constitutional Court could ensure specialized handling of political and inter-governmental disputes, thereby depoliticizing the judiciary and improving the efficiency of the legal process. The changes to judicial appointments, with greater representation and scrutiny, may foster a more balanced and transparent system, ensuring that appointments reflect democratic values. Additionally, amendments like barring foreign nationality holders from judicial positions and redefining terms for the Chief Justice aim to strengthen national integrity and accountability within the judiciary. While concerns about the potential for political interference remain, the amendments offer a framework for enhancing the independence of the judiciary, promoting democratic oversight, and ensuring more inclusive representation in key institutions. The true measure of success, however, will depend on the commitment to upholding these reforms in practice, ensuring they contribute to a more balanced and transparent democratic system in Pakistan.

*Former Press Secretary to the President
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Former MD, SRBC, CEO, ATV*

The rise and fall of Yahya Sinwar in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The death of Yahya Sinwar, a Hamas leader, marks an important moment in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

It revealed significant misunderstandings on both sides. Hamas had misjudged Israel's resilience and military strategies, which contributed to strategic errors over the years. Sinwar's rise to power was partly due to Israel's decision to release him...

THE killing of Yahya Sinwar, a key figure responsible for some of Hamas' most violent actions, is a clear example that those who engage in terrorism often do not end peacefully. Although his death marks a tactical success, it does little to change the situation in a region where the fall of one leader often leads to the rise of another. The struggle against the beliefs that support such individuals continues. In today's MEF Dispatch, the focus is on the impact of Sinwar's death, highlighting strategic mistakes and changing power dynamics in Gaza. It also examines Turkey's diplomatic efforts, including its engagement with Kurdish groups and possible attempts to bypass sanctions and how these moves affect regional alliances. The report further explores the leadership crisis in Iran, providing insights into the internal workings of the regime and its future direction. A speculative discussion about Sinwar's possible role in American academia serves as a way to address the broader issue of controversial figures being appointed to positions in higher education. These interconnected developments are influencing military strategies, peace talks and international relations across the Middle East. Yahya Sinwar could have potentially taken on high academic positions in American universities. This idea is significant because it reflects the complexities involved when higher education institutions consider engaging with contro-

versial figures. When such individuals are considered for faculty roles, it raises issues about academic freedom, political influence and the ethical aspects of these appointments. American universities have previously had controversial faculty appointments, which highlights broader debates around free speech and inclusivity. Institutions like Columbia and Yale have engaged with people who have had contentious political backgrounds, sparking discussions on whether such appointments align with the values of the universities or contradict them. As universities make decisions about these appointments, they face the challenge of balancing their reputations with their commitment to diverse perspectives. This could lead to a shift in how universities manage such appointments, potentially redefining the academic landscape. The death of Yahya Sinwar, a Hamas leader, marks an important moment in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It revealed significant misunderstandings on both sides. Hamas had misjudged Israel's resilience and military strategies, which contributed to strategic errors over the years. Sinwar's rise to power was partly due to Israel's decision to release him in 2011, which underestimated his ongoing commitment to armed resistance. This miscalculation eventually allowed him to gain a prominent position within Hamas. Both Hamas and Israel have historically misunderstood each other's motives and strengths.

For Israel, it's essential to improve its analysis of its adversaries' intentions to avoid repeating past mistakes. Sinwar's death also brings to light the challenges of ceasefire agreements. His elimination suggests that temporary ceasefires may allow militant groups to regroup, which can prolong conflicts. For ceasefire agreements to be effective, they must be carefully managed and not just serve as pauses that let militant groups strengthen their forces.

Historical examples show that fighting extremist ideologies requires consistent and sustained efforts rather than temporary halts. Effective campaigns against groups like the Islamic State emphasize the importance of long-term strategies. For the U.S. and other nations, advocating for ceasefires in conflicts like the Israeli-Palestinian situation should come with clear, strategic goals. These pauses should lead to the dismantling of terror groups rather than giving them a chance to recover. Sinwar's death underlines the need for a reassessment of current ceasefire strategies. Temporary pauses without clear objectives may enable militant groups to reorganize, thereby prolonging conflict. Moving forward, successful solutions will require a blend of security measures and diplomatic efforts that address the underlying issues driving militancy. International cooperation, robust monitoring and comprehensive strategies are crucial to ensure that ceasefires do not become mere tactical delays but contribute to lasting peace.

Briefs

Countdown on for naming new chief justice of Pak

FROM PAGE 01
the appointment of the new Chief Justice. Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) nominated Azam Nazir Tarar from Senate and Khawaja Asif, Ahsan Iqbal and Shaista Pervaiz from the National Assembly as a member of the parliamentary committee. Whereas MQM-P nominated Khawaja Izzatullah as member of the committee. The 26th Constitutional Amendment sets the CJP's term at three years or until they reach the retirement age of 65. President Asif Ali Zardari has signed the bill into law upon the advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in the wee hours of Monday. After the 26th amendment, the selection of the chief justice will no longer be based solely on seniority, and instead, the choice will be made among the three most senior judges of the Supreme Court. A 12-member parliamentary committee will decide on the chief justice's nomination with a two-thirds majority. The committee will then forward the selected name to the prime minister, who will send the nomination to the president for final approval.

Constitutional tweaks come into force

FROM PAGE 01
voting process – the chief justice of Pakistan will now be selected by a parliamentary committee and have a fixed term of three years. Also, a new constitutional bench will also be formed under the constitutional package. Following the late-night marathon session in the Parliament, PM Shehbaz sent an advice to President Zardari in the wee hours of Monday to give his assent and sign the legislation into law. Earlier in the day, the Aiwane-Sadr Secretariat had said that the ceremony, originally slated to take place at 6am, was postponed. The treasury benches, comprising 211 seats, required 224 votes in the NA. However, their numbers rose to 219 following the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl's (JUI-F) support. The amendments were passed after the PTI-backed independent lawmakers including Zahoor Qureshi, Aurangzeb Khichi, Usman Ali, and Mubarak Zeb voted in favour of the motion along with the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid's (PML-Q) Chaudhry Ilyas.

Justice Mansoor concerned about...

FROM PAGE 01
both the SC and high courts, with the commission determining the number of judges required for these benches. Detailing the bill on Sunday, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said that a constitutional bench would be established within the SC. He added that the judges would be appointed by the judicial commission, and the commission should have the authority to assess the judges' performance. To enhance the legislature's role in appointing judges, Tarar mentioned that the 12-member parliamentary committee, with a two-thirds majority, would appoint the CJP. In the updated draft, it was also noted that constitutional benches could be established in the provinces as well.

Hafiz Naeem...

FROM PAGE 01
Rehman claimed that efforts to influence the judiciary had been ongoing for a long time. He said, "Yesterday, PDM 3 was active. We are reviewing the legal process to challenge the 26th amendment." Rehman expressed disappointment with members of the opposition who voted in favour of the amendment, urging them not to participate in the process. "Some people are bought, while others succumb to pressure. Half of those in the assembly didn't even win," he added.

Lewandowski scores brace to power Barcelona to victory

Veteran striker Lewandowski reached 12 goals in 10 La Liga matches, his strikes sandwiching Pedri Gonzalez's effort from the edge of the box before substitute Torre added the fourth

SPORTS DESK

BARCELONA: Robert Lewandowski and Pablo Torre struck twice each as Barcelona hammered Sevilla 5-1 on Sunday to stay three points clear of Real Madrid at the top of La Liga ahead of next weekend's Clasico. Los Blancos beat Celta Vigo on Saturday to pull level with Hansi Flick's side but Barca swiftly restored their advantage with a dominant display of attacking football. Veteran striker Lewandowski reached 12 goals in 10 La Liga matches, his strikes sandwiching Pedri Gonzalez's effort from the edge of the box before substitute Torre added the fourth. Stanislawski grabbed a consolation for Sevilla in the final stages but Francisco Garcia Pimienta's side were roundly beaten on his return to the club he spent nearly three decades in various roles. Torre finished the rout with a crossed free-kick which flew beyond Nyland and in at the far post. "(It was) very important, given the games ahead, but this was an important game (too) and we got the three points," Pedri told Movistar. "Just before the game, the coach said the space was just outside the area and I had the luck (to score)." Despite upcoming clashes against Bayern Munich in the Champions League and Saturday's visit to the Santiago Bernabeu,



Flick started arguably his strongest fit and available side. The coach was able to name Dani Olmo, Fermin Lopez and Gavi on the bench after injury, the latter sidelined since November 2023 following a knee operation. AnsuFati started for the first time this season after Eric Garcia felt discomfort in the warm-up, with Raphinha shifting into a central attacking midfield position. Lamine Yamal, starting after recovering from a minor hamstring strain which saw Spain release him from international duty early,

as many as any other player. Pedri soon doubled Barcelona's lead from the edge of the box after the active Yamal set him up. The teenage Spain star then threaded through Lewandowski but Nyland made a fine save to deny him. Polish veteran Lewandowski netted his second before the break by guiding home Raphinha's drive from distance with a flick of his boot. Suffering Sevilla were dealt more bad news before the break when explosive winger ChideraEjike limped off injured. Raphinha fired home early in the second half but was offside, as Barcelona strolled, carving open the Andalucians at their leisure. Yamal produced an outrageous shot from a distance with the outside of his boot which Nyland clawed to safety. Dodi Lukebakio struck at the other end on a rare Sevilla foray forward but had strayed offside. Barcelona midfielder Pablo Torre rattled home the fourth with the aid of a deflection before Gavi made his first appearance in 11 months as a substitute with a few minutes remaining to a rapturous reception. "He's a great guy, a hard worker, and he deserves this moment, you can see the fans love him and we all do," added Pedri. Idumbo pulled one back for Sevilla, 13th, but Torre wrapped up Barcelona's night with a stroke of fortune when his free-kick crept in at the far post.

Naqvi to brief ICC team on Champions Trophy preparations

Today is the last day of the ICC meeting

SPORTS REPORTER

LAHORE: Mohsin Naqvi, the chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), reached Dubai to attend a significant meeting of the International Cricket Council (ICC) board members. Naqvi reached Gaddafi Stadium early today to see the ongoing renovation work ahead of the Champions Trophy. Later, he left for Dubai to attend an ICC meeting, where he will be briefed on the country's Champions Trophy preparations. According to the details, today is the last day of the ICC meeting, during which board members will discuss important matters. Meanwhile, Naqvi will take board members under consideration regarding the mega event in Pakistan next year. Apart from India, all six teams have confirmed their participation in the multi-nation tournament, scheduled from February 19 to March 9 in three cities - Lahore, Karachi, and Rawalpindi. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), due to their government's influence, hasn't yet confirmed their travel to Pakistan. If India opts out of playing Champions Trophy matches in Pakistan, there are chances of a hybrid model. In development of Indian team's travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy, a renowned Indian sports website, earlier this week, claimed that PCB proposed a travel plan to BCCI in order to get a positive response from them in regards to team India's participation in Champions Trophy. The proposal, as reported, suggests that Indian team fly back to either Delhi or Chandigarh after every game during Champions Trophy. This will address their concerns related to security in Pakistan.

Livingstone to captain with Jos Buttler ruled out

WEB DESK

LONDON: All-rounder Liam Livingstone will captain England during their white-ball tour of West Indies after Jos Buttler suffered a setback in his recovery from a calf injury. Buttler, 34, has not played since the T20 World Cup in June and will miss the three one-day internationals in the Caribbean, although he remains in the squad for the five-match T20 series that follow. Livingstone, 31, will lead England for the first time in the ODI series in Buttler's absence. It caps a remarkable turnaround for Livingstone who was initially left out of the ODI squad to play Australia last month before being called up to replace the injured Buttler. The all-rounder, part of England's T20 World Cup-winning squad in 2022, has captained Lancashire in the T20 Blast and Birmingham Phoenix in The Hundred. England describe Buttler's setback as "slight" but his injury is becoming increasingly worrying. Despite not playing since England's exit at the T20 World Cup, Buttler suffered his third calf injury since 2021 during the summer. He was initially ruled out of The Hundred but, having been retained as captain, was picked in England's squads to play Australia last month. Buttler then pulled out of the T20 series because of the issue and targeted a return



for the five ODIs, only to also withdraw. Harry Brook captained England in the ODI series against Australia when Buttler was ruled out, but is not part of the squad for this tour due to his involvement in the Test tour of Pakistan. England squad to play West Indies Jos Buttler (Lancashire - captain) T20 series only, Jofra Archer (Sussex), Jacob Bethell (Warwickshire), JaferChohan (Yorkshire), Sam Curran (Surrey), Will Jacks (Surrey), Liam Livingstone (Lancashire), Saqib Mahmood (Lancashire), Dan Mousley (Warwickshire), Jamie Overton (Surrey), Adil Rashid (Yorkshire), Phil Salt (Lancashire), Reece Topley (Surrey), John Turner (Hampshire) *Two further players to be added

from Test squad currently in Pakistan. One-day international series First ODI: Thursday, 31 October, 18:00 GMT (Antigua) Second ODI: Saturday, 2 November, 13:30 GMT (Antigua) Third ODI: Wednesday, 6 November, 18:00 GMT (Barbados) T20 series (all 20:00 GMT) First T20: Saturday, 9 November (Barbados) Second T20: Sunday, 10 November (Barbados) Third T20: Thursday, 14 November (St. Lucia) Fourth T20: Saturday, 16 November (St. Lucia) Fifth T20: Sunday, 17 November (St. Lucia)

PCB announces free entry on first day of 3rd Test

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Monday announced free entry for spectators on the first day of the upcoming third Test match between Pakistan and England. The series is currently levelled 1-1 and the deciding third match will be played from 24 October to 28 October at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. The cricket board announced the decision through its social media accounts with a post stating "FREE entry for fans to Premium Enclosures on the first day of the third #PAKvENG Test in Rawalpindi." For the unversed, Pakistan suffered a humiliating defeat by an innings and 47 runs in the series opener, consequently, the home side made an array of changes including dropping their star batter Babar Azam and ace pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi. Experienced wicketkeeper batter Sarfaraz Ahmed and Naseem Shah were the other two key players dropped from the national team's squad for the remainder of the series. Domestic performer Kamran Ghulam made his long-awaited debut, while spin bowlers Sajid Khan, Noman Ali and Zahid Mahmood made their return to the Test side. The changes proved fruitful as Kamran scored a century on his debut, while Sajid and Noman shared 20 wickets to steer Pakistan to their first Test victory at home since February 2021. SQUADS: Pakistan: Shan Masood (c), Saud Shakeel (vc), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Haseebullah (wk), Kamran Ghulam, Mehran Mumtaz, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Hurraira, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Noman Ali, Saim Ayub, Sajid Khan, Salman Ali Agha and ZahidMehmood. England: Ben Stokes (c), Rehan Ahmed, Gus Atkinson, Shoaib Bashir, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Jordan Cox, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Jack Leach, Ollie Pope, Matthew Potts, Joe Root, Jamie Smith, Olly Stone, Chris Woakes. - DNA

Younis Khan appointed as head coach of Bangla Tigers

DHAKA: The Abu Dhabi T10 League franchise Bangla Tigers appointed former Pakistan captain Younis Khan as their head coach ahead of the upcoming eighth edition of the tournament. Bangla Tigers announced the high-profile appointment through posts on their official social media accounts. "New Head Coach Alert! Bangla Tigers is honored to introduce Legend Younis Khan as the Head Coach for Abu Dhabi T10 Season 8," the franchise posted. "Amidst the desert storm, The Bench Boss is ready to bring a sense of calm to the dressing room. - Agencies

Aryna Sabalenka determined to stay world number one

LONDON: Aryna Sabalenka's return to top spot in the WTA rankings after leapfrogging IgaSwiatek has set up a thrilling end to the season, with next month's WTA Finals in Saudi Arabia likely to prove decisive in the race to end the year as world number one. Sabalenka has enjoyed a spectacular season, defending her Australian Open title in January and adding the U.S. Open trophy to her cabinet last month, as well as enjoying victories in Cincinnati and Wuhan. Players are mandated to compete in six WTA 500 events but Swiatek's decision to skip the tour's Asian swing due to fatigue meant the French Open champion will only manage to play in two this season. The penalties saw her drop below Poland's Sabalenka in the rankings. Sabalenka spent eight weeks at the summit last year before Swiatek overtook her with a victory at the season-ending WTA Finals and the Belarusian hopes for a longer stay as 'N1'. "N1... Let's see for how long this time," she posted on X on Monday after the latest rankings were released. Sabalenka is also not in action this week after her Wuhan success and will lose points for only playing in four WTA 500 events. She currently has 9,706 points while Swiatek has 9,665 ahead of the Finals, which will offer 1,500. - Agencies

Van Dijk in talks with Liverpool about new deal

"What the future will bring I have no idea at the moment. I can only tell you that discussions have started and we will see

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk has said he has opened talks with the club about signing a new deal. The 33-year-old has been with the club since January 2018 and his current contract runs out at the end of the season. "Discussions are ongoing, we will see what happens in the future," said Netherlands centre-back Van Dijk. "My full focus is on Liverpool, wanting to win games that are ahead of me and nothing else. "What the future will bring I have no idea at the moment. I can only tell you that discussions have started and we will see." England international Trent Alex-

ander-Arnold and Egypt forward Mohamed Salah are also out of contract next summer but there has been no update on their situations. The Reds signed Van Dijk for £75m from Southampton and he has helped the Anfield club win the Premier League, Champions League, FA Cup, League Cup and Fifa Club World Cup. Under new manager and fellow Dutchman Arne Slot, he has helped Liverpool to the top of the Premier League this season with seven wins from their opening eight games. "I feel good, physically, mentally and I am having fun," added Van Dijk, who was speaking after Sunday's 2-1 win over Chelsea. "When it's time to make a decision, you guys [the media] will know it as well." Van Dijk has been instrumental in Liverpool conceding just three goals this season, giving them the best defensive record in the Premier League. "At the start of the season, we saw numbers about what happens if your opponent is in the final third, how many bodies do we have behind the ball and that has definitely changed," said Van Dijk. "I wouldn't say it's [just] the last line and the goalkeepers making a difference, it's the guys in front of us, it's a team effort. "Me and Ibou [Konate] as the centre-backs, or the goalkeepers, will get the credit for the clean sheets but it's about everyone

in the team and credit to everyone who is doing that." The contract situations of Van Dijk, Alexander-Arnold and Salah have been a growing source of concern for Liverpool fans this season. Van Dijk saying he is in talks about staying will be a welcome update and relief for the club's supporters that at least one of them could be on the road to staying, although the Dutch defender - maybe as a negotiating tactic - still left an air of uncertainty over his future as talks take place. One thing that is for certain is the importance of Van Dijk to Liverpool. He has been a major presence for the Reds this season, having been involved in six clean sheets from the 10 games in which he has played. Liverpool boss Arne Slot spoke before the win against Chelsea about the impact his captain has at the club both on and off the pitch. "What you guys don't see and what I do see is how important he also is on the training ground," said Slot. "He's always the one that's most loud during the sessions, he always brings a lot of energy into our sessions and quality as well. He's definitely our leader." - Agencies

'Parliament reigns supreme,' says PM after amendment

FROM PAGE 01
reforms passed during a late-night session of parliament, the chief justice of Pakistan will now be selected by a parliamentary committee and have a fixed term of three years. A new constitutional bench will also be formed. The government clinched 225 votes of the required 224 with the crucial support of a handful of independent candidates. PTI had refused to back the package and did not participate in the voting. Speaking on the floor of the House, the prime minister emphasised that the amendment represents not just a legal change, but a symbol of unity and consensus. "This is more than an amendment; it is a reaffirmation of solidarity and agreement across political lines," he noted. Reflecting on the past, PM Shehbaz criticised what he termed "palace conspiracies" that led to the dismissal of governments and prime ministers.

ICJ derides 'blow to judicial...'

FROM PAGE 01
Amendment into law following the approval of both houses of parliament as a "blow to judicial independence". Reacting to the development, the ICJ said the amendment was "a blow to judicial independence, the rule of law, and human rights protection". In a statement, ICJ Secretary General Santiago Canton said the changes brought an "extraordinary level of political influence over the process of judicial appointments and the judiciary's own administration. "They erode the judiciary's capacity to independently and effectively function as a check against excesses by other branches of the State and protect human rights." The ICJ criticised the swiftness with which the bill became an act, saying that draft amendments were kept secret, and there were no public consultations on the proposals before they were introduced in and passed by parliament.

Pakistan, Indonesia ink \$10.7 mln trade...

FROM PAGE 01
bodies from both nations. Both Pakistan and Indonesia are key members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and have reaffirmed their desire to enhance cooperation in trade, economics, and mutual interests through SIFC's support. Indonesia's acting Consul General, Teguh Wiyoko, praised the participation of the Pakistani trade delegation, highlighting it as a key step towards strengthening economic and trade ties, especially with Sindh's business community. "This is a positive step towards fostering deeper economic cooperation," he stated. Abid Nisar, Chairman of the Pakistan-Indonesia Business Council, expressed optimism about the growing economic ties between the two countries, emphasising that their historical and cultural connections lay the foundation for mutual prosperity.

PM felicitates Indonesian..

FROM PAGE 01
In his inaugural speech, the 73-year-old vowed to fight corruption, tackle poverty, and make Indonesia more self-sufficient. Wearing a traditional black hat and navy suit with a maroon and golden sarong, Prabowo took the oath in Indonesia's parliament, pledging to be a "president for all Indonesians." In his speech, Prabowo promised to "eradicate corruption" and lift Indonesians out of "poverty, hunger, and oppression." He outlined his vision for food self-sufficiency within five years and pledged to achieve energy independence. Prabowo, who had previously run for the presidency twice unsuccessfully, called on Indonesians to unite in facing the country's challenges. He also stressed the importance of maintaining a "polite" democracy in his hour-long speech.

Briefs

PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 807 points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 807.42 points, a positive change of 0.95 percent, closing at 86,057.52 points against 85,250.09 points on the last trading day. A total of 474,949,535 shares were traded during the day as compared to 323,919,892 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 19.659 billion against Rs. 15.679 billion on the last trading day. As many as 445 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 269 of them recorded gains and 124 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 52 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Kohinoor Spinning with 59,101,441 shares at Rs 8.81 per share, Pak International Bulk with 27,872,708 shares at Rs 7.05 per share and Flying Cement with 18,493,294 shares at Rs 19.80 per share. Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 212.49 per share price, closing at Rs 17,740.64, whereas the runner-up was Hoechst Pakistan Limited with Rs 127.77 rise in its per share price to Rs 2,346.90. —APP

Rupee sheds 07 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Monday depreciated by 07 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.68 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.61. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs277.85 and Rs279.35 respectively. The price of Euro increased by 25 paise to close at Rs301.27 against the last day's closing of Rs301.02, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen went up by 01 paise and closed at Rs1.85, whereas a decrease of 46 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs361.56 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs362.02. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal increased by 02 paise and 03 paise to close at Rs75.60 and Rs73.94 respectively. —APP

Gold prices up by Rs.500 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs.500 and was sold at Rs.282,300 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs. 281,800 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.429 to Rs.242,027 from Rs. 241,598 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs. 221,858 from Rs. 221,465, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.3,150 and Rs.2,700.62 respectively. —APP

WHO certifies Egypt as malaria-free

GENEVA: Egypt was certified as malaria-free on Sunday, with the World Health Organization calling the achievement "truly historic" and the culmination of nearly a century of work to stamp out the disease. "Malaria is as old as Egyptian civilisation itself, but the disease that plagued pharaohs now belongs to its history and not its future," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement. "This certification of Egypt as malaria-free is truly historic, and a testament to the commitment of the people and government of Egypt to rid themselves of this ancient scourge." Globally, 44 countries and one territory have now been certified as malaria-free. —APP

Ahsan hopes Pakistan economy volume to reach \$3t

He said that now modern data science drives the economic revolution in the world, and data analytic and advanced technology have fueled the modern economic development and digital revolution

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal on Monday hoped that the annual volume of Pakistan's economy will be \$ 3 trillion and the country will be counted among the top 10 economies of the world in 100 years of independence in 1947. In the current era, data-driven, knowledge economies are ruling the world, and data sets, data integration and Artificial Intelligence are significant for the sustainable economic development of any country, the Minister said. Ahsan hopes Pakistan economy volume to reach \$3 trillion in 23 years. Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal said this while addressing the 'Data Fest 2024, organized by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) here. Chairman NADRA Lieutenant, General, Muhammad Munir Afsar, Federal Secretary for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Owais Manzoor Samra, Chief Statistician, PBS, Naem ul Zafar and representatives of federal and provincial ministries and other stakeholders participated in the ceremony. The main strategic partners for DataFest-2024 are UNICEF, UNFPA, the World Bank, ILO, UNHCR, FAO, ADB and these organizations bring extensive expertise in global development, public health, and education. Federal



Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives said that today "we have entered a world that is undergoing the most rapid changes in human history and people who have seen the huge innovations and development in modern time." He said that now modern data science drives the economic revolution in the world, and data analytic and advanced technology have fueled the modern economic development and digital revolution. He said that data science is the core of artificial intelligence, and its quality is the foundation of any economic theory and development in the modern world and for that, our economy needs very reliable

data. The Minister said that behind the economic development of any nation are 10 years of continuous policies, which pave the way for their development. He said that now the government is working on the next five-year plan and today when I read the Vision 2025 made in 2014, it seemed that we had written the same problems we are facing today in the country. In 2017-18, Pakistan had overcome the issue of energy and terrorism, the country was moving fast with the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), but today we are back to where we were in 2013. He said that for sustainable economic development in the coun-

try, we need continuity of policies to achieve our economic goals. "Our economy needs reliable data, with which we can measure the direction of progress." Similarly, data sets are also required for business development and only the nations, businesses or individuals can use data in a better way can achieve their economic goals, he said. "I am happy that there are a large number of young people here today, who will determine their future through data science and youth should have the ability to use data properly. Our young generation is going to participate in an economic marathon race based on modern technology and data-driven economies" he said. On the occasion,

the minister underscored the importance of data-driven decision-making in addressing key issues such as poverty alleviation, education, and healthcare while encouraging collaboration between public and private sectors. He highlighted the importance of utilizing big data and data analytics for the prosperity and well-being of Pakistan's future. He said that today, "We have presented the positive side of Pakistan to the world through the three days head of the government meeting of 'Shanghai Cooperation Organization' in Islamabad." He said that all economic indicators of the country are showing positive. The inflation rate is down at single digits and our youth have the potential to take Pakistan to a high position in the world. He appreciated PBS's efforts in organizing the successful Data Fest-2024 and thanked all international delegations of Nepal, Oman, Thailand, Australia, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Iran for their participation and all university students for joining this event. While addressing the ceremony, Federal Secretary for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Owais Manzoor Samra said that data integration, visualization and cutting-edge technology are ways forward for the country's sustainable economic development. Chief Statistician, PBS, Naem ul Zafar said that today data science is leading every sector of the economy and in Pakistan data-driven economy must be for sustainable economic development.

UAE president tells Putin: we are ready to help resolve Ukraine crisis

MOSCOW: United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan told Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday that he was ready to support efforts to find peace in Ukraine. Putin met with Sheikh Mohammed for informal talks on Sunday that went on until midnight at his residence outside Moscow. "We continue to make efforts to mediate the exchange of prisoners," Sheikh Mohammed told Putin in the Kremlin, through a translator. "And I assure you that we will continue to work in this direction. We are ready to make any efforts to resolve crises and in the interests of peace, in the interests of both sides." Putin has previously praised both Sheikh Mohammed and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for their mediation efforts over Ukraine. —APP

North Korea sending troops to Ukraine would escalate conflict: NATO's Rutte

BRUSSELS: If North Korea were to send troops to Ukraine to fight on Russia's behalf it would significantly escalate the conflict, NATO Chief Mark Rutte said on social media platform X on Monday. Rutte, who took office at NATO at the start of the month, said he had a discussion with South Korean President Yoon Sukyeol about the alliance's close partnership with Seoul, focusing on defense industrial cooperation and the interconnected security of the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said last week that North Korea was preparing to send 10,000 soldiers to help Moscow's war effort, and that some North Korean officers were already deployed on Russian-occupied Ukrainian territory. The West has long accused North Korea of supplying weapons to Russia. Rutte and the Pentagon both said last week that they have found no evidence yet of a North Korean military presence on the ground in Ukraine. —APP

Iran's regional states organizing 'public mobilization' against Israeli killing machine

TEHRAN: Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei made the remarks at his weekly press conference in Tehran on Monday, as Israel's brutal two-front aggression has killed at least 42,603 people in the Gaza Strip and 2,464 others in Lebanon since early October 2023. "We know that the countries of the region, in interaction with their partners, are trying to organize public mobilization against the killing" of innocent people by the occupying regime, he said. Baghaei also noted that the Islamic Republic welcomes any country that helps stop Israel's warmongering and crimes in Gaza, reminding all signatories to the UN's 1948 Genocide Convention of their duties under the human rights treaty. While bogged down in the quagmire of Gaza and Lebanon, Israel has recently stepped up its threats against Iran. Recently, purported top secret US intelligence outlining Israel's plans for an attack on Iran were leaked online. The spokesman said that he has no opinion about the validity of the leaks, expressing, however, Iran's "full readiness" to respond to any act of aggression. "Iran has used all available information and news to repel the evil Zionist regime and is pursuing this path by relying on the capabilities of its military forces," he emphasized. Also in his remarks, Baghaei noted that Iran has written to the UN nuclear agency to complain about Israeli threats to strike its atomic energy sites. "Threats to attack nuclear sites are against UN resolutions... and are condemned and rejected. Our interpretation is that these cases pose a threat to international peace and [thus] the Security Council should intervene," he added. —APP

SECP expands engagement with provincial govts

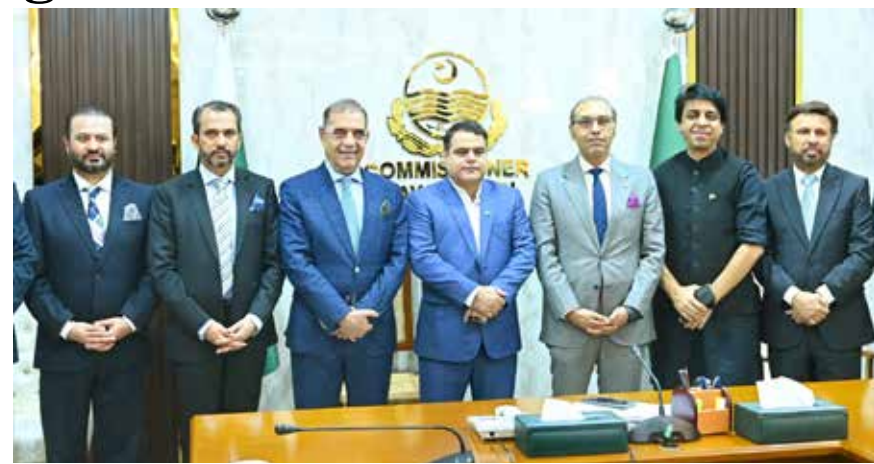
ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) continues taking steps to fulfil the vision of insured Pakistan. In this regard, Commissioner Insurance SECP, Aamir Khan held a series of meetings with provincial authorities to discuss steps aimed towards realization of the vision. In Baluchistan, he met with the Secretary Transport, Mr. Muhammad Hayat Kakar and Director General Excise and Taxation Mr. Zeeshan Raza Gohar, followed by meetings with Advisor Finance to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mr. Muzammil Aslam and Additional Secretary Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control KPK Mr. Wajid Ali Khan, said press release issued here on Monday. The outreach is in line with the objectives of the 5-year strategic plan for the Insurance Sector by SECP. This includes taking stakeholders onboard to help promote insurance sector as well as ensuring protection of the citizens of Pakistan through various initiatives under the Insured Pakistan initiative. Similar engagements are planned with key government officials of other provinces in the coming weeks. During the meeting with Secretary Transport and Director General Excise and Taxation, Baluchistan, the discussion focused on enforcement of mandatory Third-Party Insurance for registered vehicles and facilitating adoption of insurance services by the broader population. In the meeting with Advisor Finance, Commissioner Insurance presented insurance sector snapshot along with protection gap and potential for growth. Furthermore, use of insurance as a financing strategy by the provincial government in the domains of health and agriculture and disaster mitigation was discussed. In the meeting with the Additional Secretary of Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control KPK, the enforcement mechanism for mandatory third-party motor insurance was discussed. Other than that, matters related to ensuring compliance to the insurance requirement and enforcement mechanisms were discussed. These efforts are part of a broader strategy to collaborate with key provincial government stakeholders for the realization of Insured Pakistan agenda, and will cover the provinces of Punjab and Sindh in coming weeks. This outreach will culminate in the holding of SECP Insurance Conference 2024 at the end of the year in Karachi, aimed at fostering collaboration, engagement and innovation. —DNA

TikTok organizes event to empower Pakistani creators, publishers

ISLAMABAD: For the first time, creators and publishers from across Pakistan gathered for the TikTok Experience, a one-day event curated exclusively for the platform's thriving community. According to a news release on Monday, the event featured an engaging lineup of insightful panel discussions, hands-on workshops, and interactive activities designed to inspire and elevate the TikTok community in Pakistan. Renowned industry experts shared valuable insights on content strategy, community building and navigating emerging trends. TikTok Experience was also elevated by an impressive lineup of speakers, including The Coke Studio team, representative of Turkish media giants Turkavaz Media Group and the cr me de me of Pakistan's entertainment industry. The evening climaxed with a surprise musical performance by Young Stunners. The event's sessions included 'TikTok My busters,' which debunked common myths about high-quality content, encouraging creators to produce engaging content that resonates with their audience. This was followed by a session on CapCut which showcased cutting-edge editing technologies, empowering creators to enhance their content's production quality. A standout panel discussion, 'How did Blockbuster become a blockbuster,' shared the success story of Coke Studio's 15th edition on TikTok. —APP

RCCI delegation calls on Commissioner

RAWALPINDI: A delegation from the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), led by President Mr. Usman Shaikat, called on Commissioner Rawalpindi, Engineer Aamir Khattak, to discuss ongoing and development projects in the city. The meeting focused on the progress of the Ring Road project, the establishment of economic and industrial zones, and other critical infrastructure/Civic developments. The delegation included RCCI Group Leader Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, former Presidents Asad Mashadi and Saqib Rafiq, along with executive committee members. Commissioner Aamir Khattak briefed the RCCI delegation on the progress of the Ring Road project, stating that Phase One is on track for completion by March-April 2025.



He also nominated a focal person to coordinate briefings on the Rawalpindi Master Plan including establishment of industrial zones around the Ring. The Commissioner also informed that the Deputy Commissioner's office and the Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) would soon provide detailed briefings at

RCCI. During the meeting, the Commissioner also discussed the expanded role of the waste management company under the "Suthra Punjab" initiative, now covering 22 tehsils across the division. Enhanced sanitation efforts, along with fencing, road construction, and the creation of green belts along Lai Nullah,

are being prioritized. Additionally, the Commissioner committed to visiting the Rawat Industrial Estate to personally review the construction and patchwork on the link road. Matters related to the Kechhari Chowk expansion, the construction of a link road to the Rawat Industrial Estate. —DNA

US sees biggest surge in political violence since 1970s ahead of election

NEW YORK: In York, Pennsylvania, a man accosted a group of people rallying for Vice President Kamala Harris' White House campaign, punching a 74-year-old man in the head and calling another man a "no-supporter" as he fled. In northern Michigan, an assailant enraged by his hatred of Donald Trump used an all-terrain vehicle to run over and injure an 81-year-old man who was putting up a yard sign for the former president's reelection bid. The recent attacks were among at least 300 cases of political violence identified by Reuters since Trump's supporters stormed the US Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, including at least 51 incidents this year. With just two weeks to go before the Nov. 5 presidential election, the cases are part of the biggest and most sustained increase in US political violence since the 1970s.

Some of the violence has been reported widely, most notably two assassination attempts on Trump, a Republican. Other high-profile incidents include three shootings in recent weeks at a Democratic campaign office for Harris in Arizona. But Reuters documented scores of other cases on contentious political issues — from election disputes to LGBTQ+ rights and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Incidents ranged from small fights over political signs to more violent brawls and property destruction at rallies. Most of this year's violence wasn't fatal with the exception of two deaths: a spectator killed during July's attempt on Trump's life and the shooter. The pace of cases has remained remarkably consistent since beginning to rise in 2016, around the time of Trump's first presidential run. In 2021, which

included the tumult that followed Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 election, there were 93 cases of political violence, followed by 79 in 2022, and 76 in 2023. Political extremism experts warn that the charged atmosphere around the 2024 presidential election has created a highly volatile situation. Trump in particular of ten uses incendiary rhetoric, threatening to put his political enemies on trial and to deploy the military against the "radical left," calling them "the enemy within." Americans are starting to see violence as "part of the way politics happens," said Nealin Parker, who heads Common Ground USA, a nonprofit that studies ways to bridge America's political and cultural divides. In the current climate of mistrust, she added, "incidents of violence can metastasize into something bigger." Robert Pape, a University of

Chicago professor who studies political violence, expressed concern over the prospect of post-election violence in battleground states, where the margin of victory could be a few thousand votes. He likened it to "a wildfire season" with lots of "dry combustible material" and the "potential for lightning strikes." Trump himself has declined to rule out the possibility of violence if he loses in November. When asked by Time magazine in April if he expected violence after the election, he said, "If we don't win, you know, it depends." He has told supporters that any loss in this year's race would be due to fraud. The Harris campaign did not respond to a request for comment. The Trump campaign, when asked about the steady rise of political violence and the recent attacks against Harris and Trump supporters, provided a statement attacking Harris on

immigration and criminal justice reform. The highest-profile case of recent political violence was the first assassination attempt on Trump at a July 13 campaign rally in Pennsylvania. The shooter, Thomas Crooks, was killed at the scene. He had no "definitive ideology," federal investigators concluded. Law enforcement agencies were put on alert for potential retaliatory violence by Trump supporters. There were some concerning incidents, including a man in Florida who told his wife he was "preparing for war" after the shooting and left home with multiple guns, according to police reports. He was found burying a full ammunition box in a public park. Police seized seven rifles and handguns, and had the man hospitalized for a mental health evaluation. But the anger wasn't confined to Trump's supporters. —Agencies

Briefs

Pak Navy officer promoted to RADM

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Commodore Shahzad Iqbal of Pakistan Navy has been promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral. Rear Admiral Shahzad Iqbal was commissioned in Operations Branch in 1995. The Flag Officer is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore, and National Defence University, Islamabad. He has also done B.Sc. in Naval Sciences from University of Karachi and Gunnery Officer Command Course from China. The Admiral has an illustrious career covering vast experience of various Command and Staff appointments. His command appointments include Commanding Officer PNS SAIF, Commander Jinnah Naval Base, Ormara, and Commander 25th Destroyer Squadron. He also served as Senior Staff Officer (Operations & Plans) at HQ Commander Pakistan Fleet, Director Foreign Military Collaboration, Director Naval Operational Plans and Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Operations) at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad. In recognition of his meritorious services, the Flag Officer has been awarded Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military).

Charles heckled by Indigenous lawmaker

CANBERRA: Britain's King Charles III has been heckled by an Aboriginal lawmaker after he arrived in Australia for the first visit to the country by a reigning monarch in more than a decade. Charles, who is on his first royal tour since announcing his cancer diagnosis in February, was confronted on Monday after completing an address to Australia's Parliament in which he urged stronger action against climate change. "You committed genocide against our people. Give us our land back! Give us what you stole from us!" Senator Lidia Thorpe yelled. "Our bones, our skulls, our babies, our people. You destroyed our land!" "This is not your land!" Thorpe continued as she was led away by security. Thorpe, who is the first Indigenous person to represent the state of Victoria in the Senate, was earlier pictured turning her back when God Save the King was played in anticipation of Charles's arrival. - Agencies

CM KP announces movement for freedom of judiciary

If senior-most judge is not appointed CJP, we will once again take to streets in protest, warns K-P CM

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has issued a stern warning to those who, whether they voted for the 26th constitutional amendment or simply stood by the government, will face consequences. "We won't spare anyone aligned with the government, regardless of whether they cast a vote," he stated during his address to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Monday. Gandapur strongly criticised the amendment, describing it as an unconstitutional move benefiting only the elite. He added that the judiciary has been placed under control of this elite class. "This government, which lacks a legitimate mandate, has attacked the judiciary," he said. "First, we will reclaim our mandate through the public, and then we will reject such amendments." Highlighting the ongoing political struggle, he stated, "This is a battle of ideologies. Some may try to force us to retreat, but through this difficult time, we've come to know who the traitors, cowards, and corrupt are, and who stands firm for our cause. We will continue to stand firm, God willing." Gandapur also pledged to expose those who betrayed former prime minister Imran Khan, noting that names of those who voted or stood by the government would be revealed by the end of the night. "Traitors are traitors, whether motivated by necessity or money. If someone was under pressure, they should have resigned. Why didn't they?" he questioned. He vowed to hold those accountable who changed their loyalties for personal gain. "The nation will take them to task,

PTI will undo 'unconstitutional' amendments: Saif

President Asif Ali Zardari has officially ratified the 26th Constitutional Amendment

Peshawar: Barrister Muhammad Ali Khan Saif, the Information Advisor of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister, has stated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) will abolish 'controversial unconstitutional' amendments once it comes to power. Barrister Saif stated that the constitutional amendments were passed through 'serious crimes such as abductions, violations of the sanctity of homes, and the dishonoring of mothers and sisters.' Barrister Saif said, "The fake government carried out abductions and attacked the Supreme Court under the cover of darkness. The process of amendments itself is screaming that the constitution has been stabbed in the back. These hurried amendments were aimed at avoiding the implementation of the Supreme Court's decisions." He added, "Once the PTI comes to power, we will abolish the controversial unconstitutional amendments. - DNA

and so will we. If anyone thinks they can easily get away with this, they are mistaken." Gandapur further warned that if the senior-most judge is not appointed chief justice, they will once again take to the streets in protest. In a pointed message to state institutions, he remarked, "I am openly telling all decision-making bodies that you are accountable. You cannot act in this country without being questioned, nor can you silence everyone." On the subject of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), he said the institution had achieved nothing other than political revenge. "Hundreds of billions of the public's money have been wasted, and the result has been nothing but political victimisation." He lamented that Pakistan's economic woes, including its mounting debts, stem from poor policies and unconstitutional amendments. "When you appoint people of your choice and have them make decisions, those institutions can never progress," he remarked, pointing to the country's financial struggles as evidence. Earlier, President Asif Ali Zardari officially approved the 26th constitutional amendment, which has now become law following its publication in the official gazette. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif lauded the unanimous passage of the amendment, calling it a "shining example of national consensus" and a fulfilment of the unfinished vision of the Charter of Democracy, initiated by Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif. He declared that the era of dismissing elected prime ministers is over and expressed gratitude to Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and Maulana FazlurRehman for their efforts in advancing the country's best interests.

United Nations disarmament fellows visit Pakistan

Ambassador Andrabi highlights Pakistan's arms control policies to UN policies

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Participants of the United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament, who are on a visit to Pakistan from 20-23 October 2024, visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this morning. They were briefed by Director General (Arms Control and Disarmament) Ambassador Tahir Andrabi, on Pakistan's stance on arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation. He also emphasized the importance of unrestricted access to dual-use technologies for peaceful socio-economic applications. The United Nations Disarmament Fellows, belonging to 25 countries, are visiting Pakistan as part of their international study tour. The visit, which has been organized by the Government of Pakistan in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), aims to familiarize international diplomats with Pakistan's policies and institutional frameworks in arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah meets with the Ambassador of Argentina Sebastian Sayus at CM house. - APP

CJP, Hamid Khan clash in heated courtroom exchange

PTI's internal polls plea in SC dismissed after party refuses to proceed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court dismissed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) plea on the matter of its internal polls after the party refused to proceed with the case in the light of the 26th Constitutional Amendment on Monday. The coalition government passed the contentious constitutional package in the National Assembly during the pre-dawn hours on Monday, after successfully steering the 26th Amendment Bill, 2024, through the Senate. The judicial reforms came into force later today after President Asif Ali Zardari signed the bill into law upon the advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. A three-member bench, headed by CJP QaziFaez Isa, and comprising Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice MusarratHilali, was hearing the PTI's plea to review its judgement on its intra-party election. On January 13, the bench unanimously nullified the judgement of the Peshawar High Court (PHC), while upholding the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) decision declaring PTI's intra-party polls "unconstitutional". During today's hearing, PTI's lawyer Hamid Khan filed a petition for the formation of a larger bench to hear the review petition. Upon being asked about the reason for this request, the lawyer suggested the court see a past verdict by a 13-member bench in a Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) vs Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) case. At this, CJP Isa objected that it was a different case. He asked why didn't PTI want to give the arguments. "Say what you want to say in my face instead of saying it on the television behind my back," the top judge remarked. Responding to the remark, the PTI lawyer said that he cannot present the arguments against "an extremely biased person". CJP Isa remarked that the petition being heard did not mention this aspect. Meanwhile, Justice Hilali asked Hamid to tell why he was calling the existing bench biased. After the exchange of remarks between the lawyer and CJP, PTI leader Barrister Ali Zafar maintained that the party will not present the arguments before this bench. "This bench can no longer hear this case," he said while referring to the judicial amendments. At this, CJP Isa remarked that he doesn't know about "any such amendment" as the matter has not been brought to his notice.

Ishaq Dar to represent Pak at Commonwealth moot

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar will lead the Pakistan delegation to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) being held from October 21 to 26, 2024 in Samoa. At the CHOGM, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister will present Pakistan's perspectives on key global issues and challenges with a focus on climate change, economic development, and strengthening international cooperation within the Commonwealth community, according to a Foreign Office press release. In his keynote address at the Commonwealth Business Forum on "Transforming our Workforce", he will highlight Pakistan's emphasis on youth empowerment, skill development, and digital transformation.

India and China agree to de-escalate border tensions

WEB DESK

NEW DELHI: India and China have agreed on patrolling arrangements to de-escalate tensions along their disputed Himalayan border, India's top diplomat has said. VikramMisri said on Monday that the two sides have agreed on "disengagement and resolution of issues in these [border] areas that had arisen in 2020". He was referring to the Galwan Valley clashes in which both sides suffered casualties - the first fatal confrontation between the two sides since 1975. Relations between the neighbours have been strained since then. "An agreement has been arrived at on patrolling arrangements along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the India-China border areas, leading to disengagement and a resolution of

the issues that had arisen in these areas in 2020," MrMisri said. MrMisri, however, did not give any details about the disengagement process and whether it would cover all points of conflict along the disputed border. The Indian foreign secretary's statement comes just a day before Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi travels to Russia for a meeting of Brics nations which includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. MrMisri didn't confirm if a bilateral meeting between Mr Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping was on the agenda. His remarks on Monday mark a major development between the two nuclear-armed nations since the Galwan clashes Troops in the Galwan Valley fought with clubs and sticks because of 1996 agreement between the two countries that prohibited the use of guns and explosives near the border.

Hezbollah rockets streak across occupied Palestine

Mishaal: Hamas will continue to uphold its resistance strategy

FOREIGN DESK

BEIRUT: The Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah has launched fresh reprisal attacks on Israeli military positions and illegal settlements in the northern part of the occupied Palestinian territories in support of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and in response to the Tel Aviv regime's unrelenting strikes across Lebanon. The group said in a brief statement on Monday morning that its members targeted a group of Israeli troops in the area of KhalletWarda, opposite the Lebanese village of Aita al-Shab, with a barrage of rockets. Hezbollah fighters also fired salvos of rockets at Israeli troops stationed at JabalKahil area near the southern Lebanese village of Maroun al-Ras, and the eastern side of Markaba village. Moreover, the resistance movement launched a rocket barrage at the Israeli military artillery position in Beit Hillel moshav in the northern side of the occupied lands. A gathering of Israeli forces at the al-Malikiyah outpost came under a rocket attack as well, and Hezbollah fighters shelled the illegal KiryatShmona settlement with dozens of rockets. Hezbollah fighters also launched rockets at an Israeli artillery position in the illegal Odem settlement of the occupied Golan Heights. Earlier, the Lebanese resistance movement had struck the Israeli military's Filon base, the headquarters of the 210th Division, and the Tirat Carmel base in southern Haifa with separate rocket barrages. Hezbollah also targeted the city of Haifa and the Israeli army's Samson unit's base, near Lake Tiberias, with barrages of advanced rockets. Israel has been targeting Lebanon since October 2023, when it launched a genocidal war on the Gaza Strip. Hezbollah has been responding to the aggression with numerous retaliatory operations, targeting the occupied Palestinian territories. Since late September, Israel has escalated its strikes against Hezbollah, assassinating its leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and a number of its senior figures.



ISTANBUL: Head of Hamas's foreign political bureau Khaled Mishaal has reiterated that his Movement will remain adherent to its resistance strategy despite the martyrdom of its leaders, stressing that his Movement is full of leaders. Addressing a memorial service held for martyr Yehya as-Sinwar on Sunday in Istanbul, Mishaal affirmed that Hamas "will remain loyal to the path of the martyrs, to its principals and its strategic leadership and resistance values." Mishaal reassured the Palestinian people, Hamas's friends and the Ummah that his "Movement can never give up its legacy." "Hamas will continue, after the martyrdom of its political bureau chief and its leader in Gaza, to monitor what is happening on the ground. Its heart and mind will remain occupied with its popular incubator in Gaza. This great incubator has undertaken the resistance journey for decades," Mishaal Mishaal highlighted that the leadership of Hamas would continue its efforts to bring the Israeli aggression against Gaza to a halt and protect its people, whose blood has been shed for years, especially during the current war on Gaza. - DNA

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