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Friday, October 25, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Hungary, Pakistan ties poised to grow rapidly

**Detailed News On Page-02** 

Bosnian envoy for enhancing ties with Pak

**Detailed News On Page-03** 

DNA



**Justice Mansor** refuses to become part of bench

**Detailed News On Page-08** 



### Bilawal Bhutto says

# Amend wasn't possible under any other CJP

The PPP top leader, who also served as the foreign minister during the previous government under PM Shehbaz, said that the allies had a window while CJP Isa was in power and they availed it

#### STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has said that enacting the 26th Constitutional Amendment was not possible under any other chief justice, as he praised outgoing CJP Qazi Faez Isa. The Shehbaz Sharif-led government, with the assistance of allies including the PPP, passed the contentious legislation in both lower and upper houses of parliament, which changed the procedure for the Chief Justice of Pakistan's (CJP) appointment, fixed the post's tenure, and formed constitutional benches. In his interview Bilawal defended the timing of the legislation, which the opposition says did not only come at a "questionable time" but was also "person-specific"

When asked about the timing, he said: "In the judicial history of Pakistan, there's one man [...] that has shown us that he's willing to obey parliament even at the cost of his personal power." The PPP top leader, who also served as the foreign minister during the previous government under PM Shehbaz, said that the allies had a window while CJP Isa was in power and they availed it. "We did have a window because we have seen how other judges have moulded the Constitution whether it's [Article] 63-A or the reserved seats case, to serve their personal interests. "On the other hand, we had a chief justice who could withstand pressure from other judges also that may have tried to instigate him that 'this is not

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Briefs

**Dar visits** 

**Fagali in** 

Samao

**DNA** 

SAMOA: Deputy Prime

Minister and Foreign Min-

ister Mohammad Ishaq

Dar received a warm and

gracious welcome from the

people of Fagali'i village in

Samoa, which is hosting

the Commonwealth Heads

of Government Meeting.

Samoa Minister for Wom-

en, Communities & Social

Development, Mulipola An-

arosa Ale Molioo & elders

and youth of Figaali Village

warmly recieved the Dep-

uty Prime Minister in the

Fagali'i village. The village

streets are decorated in

Pakistan's national colors:

green and white, as the lo-

cal community showcased

traditional Samoan culture

## Vawda alleges Bushra's release result of a 'deal'

MONITORING DESK

ISLAMABAD: Senator Faisal Vawda alleged that Bushra Bibi, wife of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, is being released from jail as part of a pre-planned deal. "Bushra Bibi is being freed 100 per cent as part of a deal, and this is all part of the plan," he said in an interview with a private TV channel on Thursday. Vawda also accused senior PTI leaders of conspiring against Imran Khan, stating, "The party leaders pushed Imran Khan into the fire." He added that key figures like Ali Amin Gandapur had disappeared during critical moments. The senator claimed that a majority of PTI members are siding with the government and deceiving the party's foundknows they have sold out," he said, adding that Im-

# Amendment 'attack on Constitution': Imran

PTI founder's remarks come during his meeting with lawyers in Adiala Jail after IHC order

KHAYYAM ABBASI ISLAMABAD: In a meeting with Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTT) lawyers held on the Islamabad High Court (IHC) orders, party founder Imran Khan termed the newly enacted 26th Constitutional Amendment, which empowers parliamentarians to pick chief justice, an "attack on Constitution of Pakistan." Speaking to journalists after the meeting, ISLAMABAD: DBushra Bibi, the wife of PTI lawyer Faisal Chaudhry said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) foundincarcerated former prime minister has ex- er Imran Khan, is finally out of prison pressed displeasure over the 26th Constitu- on bail after remaining behind bars tional Amendment. "The PTI founder said for around nine months. The release the nation has been tyrannised by this act," from Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail comes the lawyer said, adding that Khan refused to a day after the Islamabad High Court comment on appointment of Justice Yahya (IHC) granted her bail against surety Afridi as next Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP). bonds worth Rs1 million in the new Faisal further said that the deposed premier Toshakhana case. The former first lady has lauded the PTI workers and supporters was arrested after a court on January for their sacrifices. "PTI founder is not afraid 31 convicted and sentenced the couple of any adversity," he added. He noted that to 14 years in prison after finding them they were making efforts to reduce hardships guilty of retaining and selling state being faced by the PTI founder. Chaudhry gifts in violation of government rules claimed that the PTI founder is kept in a (Toshakhana case) while Khan was six by eight cell, adding that he has been in power. Her release was expedited

### Bushra Bibi out on bail; reaches CM House KP

**DNA** 

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Continued on Page 06

### **Bombers** among nine terrorists gunned down

Security forces recover large quantities of weapons, ammunition and explosives

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: The security forces on the night between October 23 and 24 eliminated nine terrorists - or "khawarij" - including two suicide bombers and a ring leader in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bajaur district. During the operation, high-value target (HVT) and terrorist ring leader Said Muhammad alias "Qureshi Ustad" was also killed following an intense

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### Pakistan condemns Israeli attack on UN staff

Humanitarian situation caused by Israel's Gaza siegeblot on human conscience: FO spox

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD:Pakistan on Thursday strongly condemning the Israeli forces' attack on UN peacekeepers in Lebanon, said that the humanitarian situation caused by Israel's siege of Gaza was a blot on human conscience. Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, at her weekly press briefing, unequivocally condemned the brutal and indiscriminate

**Continued on Page 06** 



ARMED FORCES DAY OF ROMANIA

ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest Major General Kashif Zafar of Pakistan Army, Charge D Affaires Eduard Preda, Defence Attache Colonel Cristian Raducu and others cutting cake to mark the Armed Forces Day of Romania. - DNA

# Finance Minister says Pakistan formally

# requests IMF RST fund, targeting \$1bn

IMF had agreed \$7bn bailout for Pakistan but has further funding available via Resilience and Sustainability Trust

**News Desk** 

WASHINGTON: Pakistan is targeting around \$1bn in a formal request for funding from the IMF facility that helps lows and middle-income countries manage external shocks, its finance minister told. We have formally requested to be considered for this facility," Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said in an interview on the sidelines of the IMF/World Bank autumn meetings in Washington. The International Monetary Fund had already agreed a \$7bn bailout for Pakistan, but has further funding available via its Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST). The RST, created in

Continued on Page 06

### FRK amenas income tax rules to enhance ATL system efficiency

**AGENCIES** 

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has amended the income tax rules 2002 to improve the efficiency and responsiveness of the Active Taxpayer's List (ATL) system, streamlining tax operations for enhanced compliance. The board announced this under the Income Tax Rules, 2002, as notified via S.R.O. 1638(I)/2024,

Continued on Page 06

#### and dances, embodying the strong bond between Pakistan and Commonwealth nations, including Samoa. India approves

**DNA** 

\$ 119 mn for

space sector

NEW DELHI: The Indian government on Thursday approved a 10 billion Indian rupee (\$119 million) fund for its burgeoning space sector, with 40 startups expected to benefit as the country strives to win a significant share of the commercial space market by 2033. With funding ranging from 100-600m Indian rupees depending on how mature each startup is, the fund will help generate employment, boost space technology development, fortify supply chains and support research and development, the Indian government said in a statement. "Capital infusion [will] create a multiplier effect by attracting additional funding for later-stage developments," it added.

# Will not sit idle until Pakistan purged of poliovirus,' says PM

He reaffirmed that the government would face the challenge with an unwavering commitment to purge the country of this crippling disease

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday paying tribute to the efforts and sacrifices of the polio workers, and support by the international partners, reiterated his government's resolve to make Pakistan a polio-free country to save the future of millions of children. The prime minister, addressing an event held on World Polio Day dedicated to recognise the sacrifices of the polio workers, said that the resurfacing of the polio cases in the country required reuniting the efforts to fight the menace.

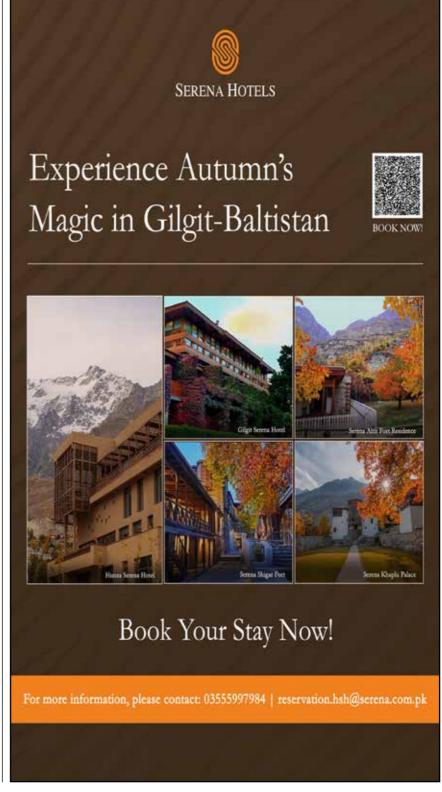
He reaffirmed that the government would face the challenge with an unwavering commitment to purge the country of this crippling disease. The prime minister, who earlier launched a nationwide polio vaccination drive by administering polio drops to the children, appreciated the support from



international partners including the World Health Organisation, UNICEF, and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, who had contributed to Pakistan's efforts to fight out the polio. "With this commitment, we will meet success and polio will be pushed out of the country and will never be allowed to resurface," he resolved, and also appreciated the Saudi government's support.

Calling them the "real heroes" the prime minister paid tribute to the sacrifices of the polio workers in the the polio eradication efforts and also distributed shields among the family members of the martyred polio workers and also to those who sustained injuries during the polio vaccination drives. "Around 40 cases have been reported across four provinces. Today, we make a pledge to handle these cases effectively. We will not sit idle until the virus is eliminated from

Continued on Page 06



### US **Consulate** inaugurates **English** access scholarship programme

PESHAWAR:US Consulate General Peshawar held an official opening ceremony for the Nowshera English Access Scholarship Programme here in local hotel on Thursday. Consul General staff joined around 200 students, teachers, staff of the implementing NGO the State Development Organization (SDO), and school administrators at the event to formally launch the new English program. The US Embassy-funded initiative pro-English-language, vides civics, and leadership skills training to 14- to 18-year-old students from socio-economically underprivileged communities to help them succeed in their studies and later careers. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where Access began in 2008, there are over 2,000 graduates. "This new program is yet another sign of our enduring commitment to offering young people in Pakistan the educational opportunities they need to succeed, no matter where they come from or what their economic or social backgrounds might be," said Consul General Moore in a video mes-

### S Punjab secretariat in pursuit of region's uplift:Fawad

sage.-APP

MULTAN: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) of South Punjab, Fawad Hashim Rabbani said South Punjab Secretariat was actively in pursuit of sustainable development across the region under a comprehensive strategy. In a statement issued here, he said the government's primary agenda was to eradicate poverty from the region with ensuring provision of basic necessities to the commoners. The Additional Chief Secretary highlighted development of agriculture with livestock sectors and said that it could play vital role in bringing prosperity to the region. He emphasized that healthcare facilities and hospitals were being expanded in proportion to the population and adding that the rapid completion of major hospitals brought positive changes in the healthcare sector. He said innovations were being introduced in farming and corporate dairy farming while model projects for shrimp and fish farming were launched on barren lands. He further mentioned that artificial intelligence and digital technology were being utilized for the development of all sectors in the region. He said South Punjab Secretariat was proud to be the first in the country to launch an e-filing system, a credit that went to the current Punjab Chief Secretary what he said. He added that a recent project titled "Zero Out of School Children " was launched in district Layyah where data compiled to enroll 10,492 children and so far, 3,600 boys and girls were enrolled in the schools. He further noted that the Chief Minister's School Nutrition Programme was successfully running in three districts of

17th Annual Rural Women Conference concluded

# Voices of resilience: Women leaders unite to tackle gender inequality

PODA-ED, Sameena Nazir presented shields of honor to the dignitaries and women leaders whose support in field was noteworthy

ISLAMABAD: The European Union Ambassador to Pakistan Dr. Riina Kionka, , announced a new 4m project aimed at enhancing gender equality and supporting women's political leadership in Pakistan. The initiative will focus on developing various aspects of leadership skills. In response to a question, she remarked, "After spending three years in Pakistan, I can now represent Pakistan on different EU platforms." She said this during the concluding ceremony of the 17th Annual Rural Women Leadership Training Conference organized by PODA. The EU Ambassador re-affirmed the representative women leaders that all EU projects are developed and designed to ensure 100 per cent gender equality. The EU Ambassador, Dr. Riina Kionka, commended the women who are true 'troublemakers' in a positive tone, emphasizing the importance of questioning the status quo and pushing boundaries. She highlighted their resilience in challenging outdated norms, which drives meaningful change in the world. By pursuing their own aspirations, these women leaders empower others to do the same, fostering a more inclusive and cohesive society, she added. Sharing insights from their youth, both Dr. Kionka and Marilina Armellin, the Italian Ambassador to Pakistan. addressed the women leaders representing approximately 130 districts across four provinces, as well as AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan. They discussed their experiences with stereotypical mindsets in their respective countries, highlighting how they overcame these challenges through determination and resilience. Emphasizing the



urgent need to tackle gender-based inequalities worldwide, the Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan, assured the women leaders that half of the beneficiaries of their projects would be women. She noted that Italy is making significant strides in championing human rights. Reflecting on her childhood, she shared that even as a second-grade student, she was an effective negotiator, advocating for her classmates with the school administration. "I have two sons, and they have been taught to respect and empower women, as there is a pressing need to address the inequalities

Naz, Ombudsman for workplace Harassment Prevention, KP said amid rising religious extremism the space for women is shrinking. She expressed concern that cases of sexual harassment mostly go unreported due to social and family pressures. She asked the rural women leaders to draft a strongly worded the conference resolution and give it to her which she will be sending with her covering letter to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister and other concerned officials. The women leaders present at the concluding ceremony gave standing ovation to ED-PODA Sameena Nazir for her

untiring efforts to make the conference as successful event which allows women to interact with those who represent almost all districts of Pakistan. ED-PODA congratulated the women, saying, "We must continue to support and uplift these trailblazers as they lead the way toward a brighter future for all." Other speakers included: Dilshad Bano, Minister of Social Welfare and Women Development; Rukhsana Parveen, from Legal Aid Society, Sindh: Asia Arif. Executive Director, SPARC; Christina, Director, UNESCO, Pakistan; Lehar Mirza, (from transgender community)

Tahafuz Markaz, Rawalpindi; and Mehak Butt, Home based workers, Multan. During a special session on the women's rights to inheritance, Rukhsana Parveen Khokhar from The Legal Aid Society emphasized the importance of women assert ing their rights to inheritance and claiming their rightful place in society. She also shared that the Sindh Legal Advisory Call Center offers legal aid in family, criminal, and economic issues, facilitated by retired Supreme Court judges and experienced lawyers. Women leaders who spoke on the occasion were: Marvi Jamali, Khairpur, Sindh

### **PTI's** hypocrisy criticized

HAVELIAN: Former Federal Minister Murtaza Javed Abbasi on Thursday condemned the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), claiming that the party is synonymous with hypocrisy. He expressed these views while talking to media here. Murtaza Javed Abbasi stated that after Punjab, the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have also rejected the PTI, as evidenced by the recent local body by-elections in the region, which he described as a wake-up call for the party. He remarked that any protest called by the PTI is likely to end in embarrassment for the party. Abbasi highlighted that food prices in Punjab are currently the lowest among all provinces, attributing this to a significant decrease in both inflation and crime rates. He accused the PTI of surpassing all limits of hypocrisy during the 18th Amendment discussions and questioned their motives for withdrawing names under alleged pressure from the party. He praised Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz for allocating 54 billion rupees to provide relief on electricity bills for the people of Punjab, and noted that the Chief Minister has instructed relevant departments to reduce the prices of ghee and palm oil, with results expected soon. Furthermore, Abbasi said that the establishment of a dedicated department in Punjab to continuously monitor the prices of essential food items which shows the commitment of CM Punmab to benefit masses to reducing bread prices compared to other provinces. The Chief Minister is said to personally oversee market bids, which has resulted in competitive pricing for staples such as potatoes, tomatoes, onions, milk, and lentils in Punjab.—APP

# Ahsan reviews 'Foreign-**Funded Development Projects'**

ISLAMABAD :Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Igbal, chaired a meeting of the Prime Minister's Committee for planning and execution of foreign-funded development projects here on Thursday. Attendees included Secretary Planning Manzur Sumra, Secretary Economic Affairs Division (EAD), Member Infrastructure, Waqas Anwar and senior officials from the Ministry of Planning. Federal Minister for EAD Ahad Cheema participated via video link, said a press release. The committee discussed in detail the planning and execution of foreign-funded projects and the need to refine

policy guidelines in line with the Economic Coordination Committee's (ECC) decisions. During the briefing, it was highlighted that the challenges posed by scarce resources and huge demand for development projects needs to be address during the financial year. The minbillion whereas approved development budget was PKR 1,100 billion. The PSDP currently stands at PKR 1.100 billion, with an allocation of PKR 220 billion in foreign funding as rupee cover. The financial constraints have led to a 10 times increase in the throw-forward, alongside administrative and implementation challenges. He highlighted that over the

past years the development portfolio is squeezing contrary to increasing demand for development infrastructure. Moreover, adjustment of fiscal targets the development budget is shrinking. Minister Ahsan Iqbal stressed the importance of preparing plans that address the miniof ministries to ensure timely disbursement of funds. He emphasized that all projects should demonstrate robust economic and financial rationale, given the current balance of payments challenges. He also called for the establishment of a mechanism to reduce financial burdens and ensure practical implementation. Minister Iqbal further added that all PSDP projects,

including foreign-funded initiatives, need execution within the specified timelines and clear ownership to avoid cost and time overruns. He stressed the importance of carefully managing economic and financial risks associated with foreign-funded projects. as exchange rate fluctuations can significantly impact loan repayments, increasing the burden on government finances. In his concluding remarks, Minister Ahsan Inbal directed the EAD to come up with a realistic demand of budget in consultation with respective Ministries/Divisions which will be deliberated with ministry of Finance to arrange required funds for development pro-

### **129 new** dengue cases reported

LAHORE: The Punjab Health Department confirmed 129 new cases of dengue across the province in the past 24 hours, as reported on Thursday. The latest data revealed that Rawalpindi accounted for the highest number with 107 cases, followed by 10 in Lahore. Other districts, including Faisalabad, Chakwal, Sialkot, and Rahimyar Khan, each reported two cases, while Attock, Sargodha, Khushab, and Gujrat had one case each. The department further disclosed that 779 new cases have been identified in the last week, bringing the total number of Dengue cases in Puniab to 4.657 for the year 2024. Authorities assured the public that necessary precautions are in place, with a sufficient supply of medicine in all public hospitals.-APP

## Polio to be exterminated from province: Gandapur

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur on Thursday while paying tributes to the anti-polio workers pledged that polio virus will be exterminated from the province at all cost. Addressing a function here in connection with World Anti-Polio Day, the Chief Minister said he saluted those who participated in anti-polio efforts of the government amid unfavorable circumstances. He said running anti-polio campaigns in such a difficult situation was not less than a Jihad adding that our polio teams workers and law enforcers rendered unmatched sacrifices in anti-polio endeavors of the government. "We are committed to eliminate

this curse from society at all cost". The Chief Minister appealed to the general public to never boycott the anti-polio drive under any circumstances as such practice will put the future of our children in jeopardy. Provision of basis facilities to the people was the responsibility of the government and we were doing this duty with honesty adding that work was underway to provide these facilities to the neglected areas In next campaigns, he said areas where the anti-polio drives were not carried out for some reasons, will be targeted. He also urged the parents to vaccinate their children against polio to keep them safe from future disabilities.-DNA

# **CJCSC** reaffirms strong defense ties with Sri Lanka

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Commander Sri Lanka Air Force, Air Marshal RAUP Rajapaksa, Commander Sri Lanka Air Force, who is on an official visit to Pakistan called on General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, NI (M), Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee at Joint Staff Headquarters Rawalpindi. During the meeting, both sides reiterated their commitment to enhancing bilateral security and defense collaboration. CJCSC said that Pakistan values its enduring relationship with Sri Lanka, highlighting a shared commitment to fortifying bilateral ties, particularly in defense and security. Air Marshal RAUP



Rajapaksa, appreciated the high professional standards of Pakistan Armed Forces, their achievements in fight

against terrorism and continued efforts for regional peace and stability. Earlier, upon arrival at Joint Staff Headquarters, a

smartly turned out tri-services contingent presented 'Guard of Honour' to Commander of the Sri Lankan Air Force.

## Pak sustainability summit urges stakeholders to play role in conservation, resource cycling

DNA

South Punjab.-APP

ISLAMABAD : Speakers at the first ever Pakistan Sustainability Summit urged the stakeholders to ensure the conservation of Pakistan's ecosystems by strengthening environmental laws and enforcement. They urge the government to update and enforce environmental regulations, strengthen laws related to deforestation, pollution, wildlife protection, and natural resource extraction. They said we need to enhance and strengthen regulatory bodies, and equip the institutions like the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB), Capi-

tal Development Authority

(CDA), EPAs, and provincial wildlife and environment authorities with greater enforcement powers and resources. They urge sustainable land-use practices, community-based forest management, involving local communities in protecting and managing forested areas to reduce deforestation and habitat destruction besides controlling the urban expansion. Pakistan Sustainability Summit was organized by the Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) with the technical support of Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) here Thursday. Senator Sherry Rehman, Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental

Coordination was the chief Head of Environment at the guest of the closing session. Mushahid Hussain Sayed chaired the opening session. Among others who spoke on the occasion included Director General Pak-EPA Farzana Altaf Shah, Executive Director Devcom-Pakistan Munir Ahmed, Country Director ILO Pakistan Geir Thomas Tonstol, Officer-in-Charge of UNESCO Office in Pakistan Antony Kar Hung Tam, Scientific Advisor Italian INGO EvK2CNR Ashiq Ahmed Khan, World Bank Consultant Water and Climate Change Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, CEO WTTC Sadaf Khalid Khan, Director (Lab & NEQs) Pak-EPA Dr. M Zaigham Abbas, Managing Director PTDC Aftab ur Rehman Rana.

Bestway Cement Farrukh Ahmed, General Manager Sustainability at the Capital Smart City Muhammad Ali Naseer, President National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) Vice Admiral (retired) Ahmed Saeed, CEO Centre for Climate Diplomacy Amna Munawar Malik, Deputy director Environment KP government, and Deputy Head of the Malaysian High Commission Mr. Mohammad Sayafik Firdaus. Senator Sherry Rehman Said: Pakistan Sustainability highlighted Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change, especially given its disproportionate impact on developing countries. Pakistan needs to equip its communities and institutions to face

the challenges of the day such as floods, droughts, and glacial melt. She has called for climate justice and demanded fair climate financing for countries like Pakistan, urging developed nations to fulfill their commitments under the Paris Agreement. She emphasizes the need for global financial support to help developing countries adapt to climate impacts and transition to greener economies. Senator Sherry Rehman said that Pakistan has spearheaded several policy initiatives in Pakistan to mitigate the effects of climate change, but implementation remains very low at the grassroot level, especially to promote climate-resilient agriculture, water conservation efforts, and transitioning to clean energy sources.



### For Appointments & Information

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### National Days and Armed **Forces Days**

### **OCTOBER**

Oct 01/China National Day Oct 01/Cyprus **National Day** 

Oct 01/Republic of Korea **Armed Forces Day** 

Oct 01/Nigeria Armed Forces Day Oct 02/Guinea National Day

Oct 03/Germany **Unification Day** Oct 03/Republic of

Korea National Foundation Day Oct 05/Indonesia **Armed Forces Day** 

Oct 06/Egypt **Armed Forces Day** Oct 09/Uganda

**Independence Day** Oct 12/Spain **National Day** Oct 23/Hungary

**National Day** October 24/United **Nations United Nations Day** 

Oct/25/Romania **Armed Forces Day** Oct 26/Austria

**National Day** Oct 27/Turkmenistan

**Independence Day** Oct 28/Czech Republic **National Day** Oct 29/Turkey Republic Day

### **Hotels &** Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



### **Emergency** Rescue (Police).....15

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



#### Edhi Ambulance.....115 PIA Flight Info.....114 PIA Cargo......9280979 Railway Inquiry.....117 Railway Exchange9270831-5 WASA Rawalpindi..5555489

..9281092



### Hospitals

-	
CMH	5611111
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital.	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666	



### Donartmonto

Departificits	
CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment E	Soard 9270151-3

### **Water Tank**

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# Hungary, Pakistan cooperation in various fields strengthened: Envoy

Says, in early November 1956, two news items dominated the front pages of every leading newspaper around the world: the Soviet aggression against a small freedom loving neighbor, and the Middle-east crisis. Well, sometimes it seems as if time has stopped

#### MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Hungary to Pakistan Bela Fazekas has said the frequent political contacts, regular visits and meetings between our two countries provide a solid political basis for the enhancement of our multilevel cooperation. This year we have continued our bilateral political consultation and we are looking forward to other ministerial level visits in the coming months. The ambassador made

these remarks on the oc-

casion of the National Day of Hungary. Riaz Hussein Pirzada, Minister for Housing and Works, Senators, Members of Parliament attended the reception. The Hungarian performers stole the show by their mesmerizing cultural performances. The ambassador further said, trade has doubled in the last four years. There are more and more Pakistani-Hungarian joint ventures in the field of agriculture and water management. 'The flagship of the Hungarian companies active in Pakistan is the MOL, which has 25 years of presence in this country. MOL is one of the largest foreign investors in the oil and gas industry and the second largest producer of oil in Pakistan'. But there is something else which makes Pakistan unique among foreign investors. The activity of the company is not only complying with environmental regulations but going much beyond to protect local biodiversity through its nature loving





friends that I deliberately used the word Magyaristan instead of "Hungry" which sounds a bit unfortunate. If your national poet Muhammad Iqbal could use the Persian form when he wrote about Hungary, I cannot see any problem to use this version'. He said, on 23 October 1956 University students took to the streets in Hungary to say no to the oppression and dictatorship. The demonstrations expats, he added. 'Let me became an armed upris- two news items dominated Hungarian people would

of the communist regime which led to the death of dozens of demostrators. Within a week the new Hungarian government denounced the Warsaw Pact soviet military alliance and called the United Nations General Assembly to recognize the country's neutrality. Two weeks later the Soviet military aggression crushed the heroic struggle of the freedom fighters. In early November 1956, tell to my Urdu speaking ing due to hostile reaction the front pages of every

leading newspaper around the world: the Soviet aggression against a small freedom loving neighbor, and the Middle-east crisis. Well, sometimes it seems as if time has stopped. 33 years later, in 1989 Hungary regained its independence and peacefully transitioned into a democratic parliamentary republic. The main message of the 1956 revolution and freedom fight was that the

rule nor accept permanent isolation from their fellow Europeans with whom they share the same values. 'The ambassador further said, next year we will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between our two countries. A few weeks ago one of my fellow Ambassadors asked me what was my greatest achievement during my two terms as Ambassador in this country. There might be a few, but one is certainly among them. This is the

discovery that our relations with this part of the world are much older than our diplomatic relations. My research in different archives led to the discovery of those longtime forgotten intellectual footprints what Hungarians- artists, professors, doctors, orientalists among them- left behind in the 19th and early 20th century while living and working in this part of the subcontinent'. The ambassador said, a few years back we had proposed to

our Pakistani friends to share our rich experiences by signing a cooperation agreement in the field of 'Without hinting on any direct link, let me tell you that there were times when Hungary won gold medal in javelin throw in the Olympics. This year in Paris it was Pakistan. I congratulate to Arshad Nadeem from all my heart'. Another area is education where Hungary and Pakistan share a strong bond of cooperation.

# China, Pak, Portugal for joint research on traditional medicine

"The integration of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) into modern medical practices is a key focus of Pakistan, and the embassy has recently recommended to the government of Pakistan to consider necessary amendments in the laws and regulations for introducing TCM into Pakistan," said Dr. Noor Muhammad

### **DNA**

ISLAMABAD: On the heels of the 31st World Traditional Medicine Day, a workshop on international cooperation of medicinal plants between China, Pakistan and Portugal was held at the Ningbo Academician Center. Organized by Ningbo University, China-Pakistan Center on TCM, Chinese Nutrition Society and China's National Administration of TCM, the event emphasized the crucial role that TCM research, discovery, and cross-border collaboration play in enhancing healthcare delivery in Pakistan and Portugal, according to a report carried by China Economic Net (CEN) on Thursday. "The

Chinese Medicine (TCM) into modern medical practices is a key focus of Pakistan, and the embassy has recently recommended to the government of Pakistan to consider necessary amendments in the laws and regulations for introducing TCM into Pakistan," said Dr. Noor Muhammad, Counsellor of the Pakistani Embassy in China while emphasizing the myriad benefits that TCM has brought to Pakistan and the global community. In their speeches, Academician Zhao Yufen, Chinese Academy of Sciences and Wang Xiangdong, Deputy Director of the Yinzhou District Government, Ningbo noted that Pakistan stands as a pharmaceutical er market with immense potential, offering vast opportunities for growth. Meanwhile, Portugal, being one of the first European countries to complete legislation on traditional Chinese medicine, holds bright prospects for collaboration. M.Iqbal Choudhary, Vice President of the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) and Coordinator General of OIC-COMS-TECH, revealed ambitious plans for the future, including the establishment of the first TCM hospitals at the medical center of the University of Lahore, the training of 10 Pakistani doctors in TCM over the next two years, and the creation of a BRI Joint Laboratory for Traditional Food and Medicine for Human Health. "We are also pushing for-

ward joint research pro-

pharmacology, pre-clinical and clinical studies of medicinal plants used in Uvghur TCM, as well as joint manufacturing of TCM products, complementary food, and pharmaceuticals in Pakistan for both the national market and for export to the Middle East, Gulf, and Africa,' Choudhary said. Alberto Dias, Professor at the University of Minho in Portugal and Director of the Portugal-China Research Center on Medicinal and Edible Plants, discussed the joint PhD program on "Medicinal and Food Plant Resources" at the University of Minho. "This partnership is crucial for advancing our understanding and use of medicinal plants," he added.

### Constitutional amendment to improve justice system

ISLAMABAD: Business leader and former President

of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Thursday that the twenty-sixth constitutional amendment would make the judicial system more active, its global ranking will improve, the common man would get relief, and the speed of economic development will increase. He said that rapid economic development will benefit the masses and the government and the rate of unemployment will fall. He added that the public and private sectors worldwide always try to improve their systems, and if this has happened in Pakistan, it is not something to be concerned about, Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that the development of the judicial system is a good move. Still, some elements are busy making it controversial, which is regrettable. The business leader that the common man does not get justice in Pakistan, and even if someone does, there is a lot of delay, which damages the reputation of the judicial system. He added that, apart from this, domestic and foreign investors were also apprehensive about the state of the judicial system, which caused investment in Pakistan to remain negligible while investors preferred other countries. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that Pakistanis are investing heavily in Dubai, Malaysia and Africa instead of their own country because there is no hope if their capital is lost. Under these circumstances, not changing the justice system was tantamount to economic suicide. He said the need to improve matters was felt due to the unnecessary use of suo moto notices, politics, and boundary transgressions. He said that all the pillars of the state must have balanced powers because if an institution's powers are overstretched, things tend to deteriorate rather than improve. He observed that all parties except one political party worked tirelessly in this regard because the state's interest was considered paramount.-DNA

### **ANF** recovers 232 kg

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting an operation managed to recover over 232 kg drugs, said an ANF headquarters spokesman here on Thursday.

He informed that acting on a tip-off, ANF team conducted a raid near the Motorway Interchange, Balkasar and foiled a drug smuggling attempt from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa to Punjab. 232.8 kg drugs including 174 kg hashish and 58.8 kg opium, worth more than Rs 30 million were recovered from secret cavities made in a Suzuki pick-up. An accused was arrested during the operation who is the main operative of the drug trafficking group, which smuggles drugs from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa to different districts of Puniab. The spokesman said that ANF teams would make efforts to arrest other members of the group. A case has been registered against the accused under the Anti Narcotics Act at the ANF

# China, Pakistan sign MoU to leverage space technology

kistan joint research ini-

### DNA

integration of Traditional

ISLAMABAD: A Memoof Understandrandum ing (MOU) was signed International between Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS), China and Space & Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) to collaborate on utilizing space and big data technologies. It aims at promoting natural resource management and the assessment of regional sustainable development goals (SDGs), China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday. It is learned that the collaboration is

set to advance China-Pa-

tiatives and leverage data from the Sustainable Development Science Satellite 1 (SDGSAT-1), which supports the attainment of the SDGs and fosters a data-driven approach to sustainable development. According to sources, this partnership aims to enhance data sharing, technological exchange, and joint research efforts. Professor Guo Huadong, Director-General of CBAS, highlighted the essential role of big data and technological innovation in tackling the challenges identified in the UN 2030 Agenda. "By enhancing data collection, analysis, and sharing, and by utilizing advanced technologies such as big data

and artificial intelligence, we can conduct comprehensive analyses of data related to the Sustainable Development Goals," he stated. On the occasion, Professor Guo and Tang Shihao, Deputy Director of the National Satellite Meteorological Centre (NSMC), China, gifted the "Collection of SDGSAT-1 Satellite Nighttime Light" and the "Atlas of SDGSAT-1 Satellite Nighttime Light Image" to six scholars from Pakistan, Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Thailand, and Seychelles respectively, calling for more scholars from developing countries and small island nations to engage in SDG research, collectively advancing global sustainable development.

# **OCTOBER 2024**

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### **Briefs**

### 15th death anniversary of legendary **Sufi singer**

ISLAMABAD: The 15th death anniversary of iconic Sufi singer Suhrab Faqir was observed on Wednesday, with tributes pouring in from across the country.

Suhrab Faqir was renowned globally for his unique style of singing, which earned him admiration far beyond Paki stan's borders.

He was known as the "King of Sindhi Sufi Music," and his soulful performances of Sufi poetry touched the hearts of many. During his life, Suhrab Faqir received many prestigious awards, including the Pride of Performance, Sachal Sarmast Award, Shah Abdul Latif Award, and Qalandar Lal Shahbaz Award.—APP

### SECP, FPCCI ,MOHR hold advocacy session on gender reforms

ISLAMABAD: Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), in collaboration with Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPC-CI) and Ministry of Human Rights (MOHR), conducted an advocacy session on gender-inclusive initiatives under the Prime Minister's Women Empowerment Package 2024 (PMWEP 24) to enhance awareness of gender-related issues. Akif Saeed, Chairman of SECP, discussed the SECP's initiatives aimed at supporting women entrepreneurs.

He stressed the importance of collaboration among all relevant stakeholders for PM WEP 2024, said the press release issued here. He stated, "By uniting to advocate for gender-inclusive reforms, we not only empower women but also enhance Pakistan's economic prosperity." He stressed, "Enacting supportive laws must go hand in hand with their effective implementation to achieve meaningful progress, and urged all companies to complete the PMWEP 24 survey

### **Police** arrest 12 lawbreakers

RAWALPINDI:Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers, bootleggers, illegal weapon holders and other lawbreakers on Thursday arrested 12 accused, besides recovering over 1721 grams charras, 10 liters liquor, weapons, ammunition and other items from their possession. A police spokesperson said that Pirwadhai police arrested Khurram alias Kala and recovered 1721 grams charras while Bani police rounded up Usman for having 10 liters liquor. The spokesman further informed that Bani, Saddar Baroni, Mandra, Waris Khan and Saddar police conducted Wah raids in their respective jurisdiction and arrested nine accused namely Danish, Mubashir, Raja Umar, Shahzaib, Atta ur Rehman, Faisal, Niaz, Jabir, and Babar and recovered eight 30 bore pistols, ammunition and a dagger from their possession.-APP

# Pak, Korea take step towards cultural connection

The ambassador believes that this event provides a rare opportunity for both nations to come together, enjoy, and appreciate the diverse cultures that define their societies. The program offers audiences in Pakistan and Korea the chance to engage with the rich cultural heritage of both countries, paving the way for stronger connections

#### **DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Korean Ambassador to Pakistan, Park Kijun, celebrating 'Korea Week' - a move to bring Korea and Pakistan closer - is spearheading a cultural initiative aimed at building mutual understanding and opening doors for deeper cooperation between the two nations. In an exclusive talk with sate run news agency, the envoy said that this year marks a significant moment for foster-

ing closer ties between Korea and Pakistan. Since arriving in Islamabad, the Korean ambassador has emphasized the need for enhanced cultural understanding and respect between the two countries. In an effort to achieve this, Park Kijun said the embassy has organized a unique cultural exchange program, the first of its kind, celebrating both Korean and Pakistani traditions. The ambassador believes that this event provides a rare opportunity for both nations to come together, enjoy, and appreciate

the diverse cultures that define their societies. The program offers audiences in Pakistan and Korea the chance to engage with the rich cultural heritage of both countries, paving the way for stronger connections. Pakistan is well-known for its abundant natural resources and a large, skilled population. On the other hand, Korea faces challenges such as a shortage of natural resources and workforce limitations. He said these contrasting strengths provide a solid foundation for mutual cooperation,

offering both nations the chance to complement each other's needs and interests. The envoy highlighted that by encouraging cultural exchange, both Korea and Pakistan can explore new avenues for partnership. This collaboration could result in significant benefits for both countries, not only in terms of cultural appreciation but also in economic and social sectors. By creating more opportunities to come together, both nations stand to gain, enhancing their relationship and working

growth, he said. Park Kijun said as the cultural event unfolds, it is expected to build a platform where Koreans and Pakistanis can deepen their understanding of each other. This could lead to more opportunities for cooperation, from business ventures to people-to-people exchanges, he said adding that ultimately, the goal is to strengthen the ties that bind the two nations and create a lasting partnership based on mutual respect and

# Familyoriented event to be held at

# PNCA to mark ISLAMABAD: The United Nations in Pakistan will

hold a family-oriented event featuring various activities at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on October 26 (Saturday) to celebrate UN Day. The event will mark 79th anniversary of the United Nations as it officially came into being with the ratification of the UN Charter by Member States on October 24, 1945. Pakistan joined the UN two years later, inaugurating a nearly eight-decade-long strong relationship. UN Day in Islamabad will feature free live performances by Pakistani artists, including Shae Gill and the Leif Larson Music Center in Hunza. A Career Booth will help people learn how they can apply for a career at the UN, with UN Human Resources teams sharing tips and advice. At a 'UN Market Place', the public will meet the teams of 23 UN agencies operating in Pakistan, and learn about their activities. An exhibition will feature the common history between the UN and Pakistan. Fun activities for children, selfie corners, food stalls and giveaways will also be featured, said a news release. The doors of this family-oriented event will open at 3:00 pm for the general public entry is free. UN Day, celebrated every year, offers the opportunity to reaffirm the purposes and principles of the UN Charter that have guided the world for nearly eight decades. The UN and Pakistan share a decades-long history. Several Pakistanis were instrumental to the development of the UN and its values - from Begum Shaista Ikramullah and Ahmad Shah Bokhari, UN delegates who supported the drafting of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the creation of the UN agency for children, to Pakistani economist Mahbub ul Haq who created the Human Development Index, and Dr. Nafis Sadik, the first woman to lead one of the UN's major voluntarily funded programme. There are currently 24 UN institutions based in Pakistan, with 266 offices across the country. The UN supports the Government and People to bring about progress for all - better access to quality basic services, gender equality and women's empowerment, climate action, economic growth and decent employment, and a more efficient governance which includes digital transformation. In September this year, world leaders adopted the United Nations' 'Pact for the Future' in New York. From sustainable development and climate action to digital governance and youth empowerment, it provides a comprehensive roadmap of global cooperation for addressing the most pressing issues of our time. Despite ongoing challenges, no other global organization with the legitimacy, convening power and normative impact of the UN.-DNA

**UN Day** 

### **Massive Jump in** Pakistan's **Trade with Russia: ECI**

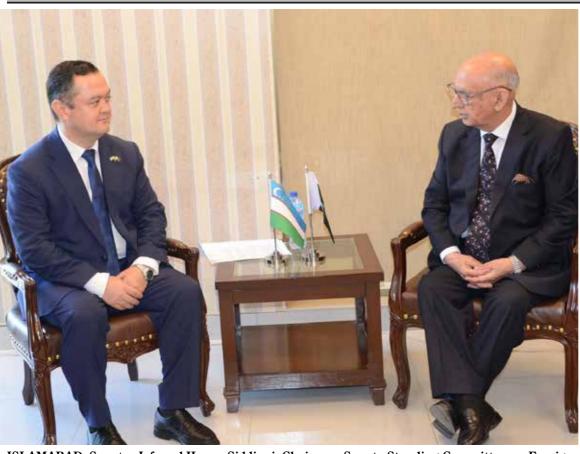
**DNA** 

ISLAMABAD: One of the most notable features of Pakistan's external trade prolife in the last fiscal year is a massive increase in trade with the Russian Foundation, finds new research. Total volume of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Russia reached \$1.09bn in 2023-24, found the Eurasian Century Institute (ECI), an Islamabad-based think-tank dedicated to studying emerging dynamics of the Eurasian supercontinent. This is a 31% increase over the total volume \$829mn recorded during 2022-23. Irfan Shahzad Takalvi, founding president of ECI, terms the trend as "promising, yet only starting to move towards the potential." He however cautions that "trade balance is heavily tilted in favor of Russia." Pakistan's imports from Russia increase from \$740mn in 2022-23 to \$1011mn in 2023-24 - a 37% increase. Pakistan's exports to Russia in the same period actually declined from \$89mn to \$79mn, in the same period - a decline of around 11%. The thinktank however notes that increase in overall trade volume with the Russian Federation is positive for relationship between Islamabad and Moscow. "It certainly is a sign of increasing inter-dependence," Takalvi. –APP

### Foolproof security plan finalized for Pak-Eng test match

RAWALPINDI :Rawalpindi district police have finalized the foolproof security arrangements for Pakistan-England test match being played in Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. According to a police spokesman, "The stadium, its surroundings, and the route have been divided into four security zones and over 4,000 police been deployed to ensure security." "The security team includes superintendents of police (SPs), assistant/deputy superintendents, inspectors, SHOs and constables,' he informed. "Elite force, female police personnel and special teams from the Dolphin Force have also been deployed," he told.

"Reserves from the district police and Punjab constabulary have also been called in," the spokesman informed. Three separate routes were assigned for the team movement, each with its security setup. –**APP** 



ISLAMABAD: Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs In A meeting with Ambassador of Uzbekistan, Mr. Alisher Tukhtaev.

## ISSI hosts seminar on 'United Nations and the Jammu and Kashmir dispute'

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: In the wake of forthcoming 'Kashmir Black Day', the India Study Centre (ISC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a seminar on "United Nations and the Jammu and Kashmir Dispute" - coinciding with UN Day (24 October). The event highlighted the complexity of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and the challenges that the United Nations faces in advancing its purposes and principles as well as implementing its resolutions and ensuring justice for the oppressed

casion. Other speakers included: Ms Farzana Yaqoob, former Minister for Social Welfare and Women Development, AJK; Dr. Marium Fatima Assistant Professor NDU; and Mr. Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman, Kashmir Institute of International Relations. In his welcoming remarks, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood emphasized the importance of UN Day as a time for the international community to reaffirm commitment to the UN Charter and support for multilateralism. He stated that as we commemorate

this Day in 2024, the world Khan, former President of is confronted with myriad of was Chief Guest on the oc- ongoing wars and nearly 56 active military conflicts; proliferation of non-traditional security threats including climate change; global economic slowdown and reversals in realization of SDGs; democratic backsliding in various parts of the world; increasing use of force to settle disputes; and rampant misinformation and disinformation. While he praised the UN's humanitarian efforts, he noted that both multilateralism and the UN as an institution remain under assault due to certain member states' actions. He called for the states and the UN to address issues relat-

and security on the basis of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, urgent challenges, including: principles, rather than power. Highlighting the UN's pivotal role in the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood commended its steadfast support of the solution prescribed in relevant Security Council resolutions: a free and impartial plebiscite under the UN auspices to enable the Kashmiris to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination. This solution had garnered support from the international community as well as Pakistan and India, but India later reneged on its solemn commitments.

## Review meeting held to convert agricultural land into housing societies

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, chaired a progress review meeting on Wednesday with the Prime Minister's committee focused on regulating the conversion of agricultural land to housing societies. The meeting aimed to build consensus and outline strategies for efficient land use while promoting vertical development. Officials from the provincial departments of all provinces participated,

ulating land use and the ongoing digitization of land records to ensure sustainable use of agricultural land for residential purposes, said a press release issued here on Thursday. Representatives from Punjab shared that the digitization of land records is underway, with master plans of 11 cities already approved by the District Planning and Design Committee and the remaining plans expected to be completed by the end

sentative mentioned that the Karachi master plan is in the final stages of preparation. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's representatives reported that master plans for six cities have been completed and are awaiting further directives for implementation. The meeting concluded with a directive for the federal government to draft a comprehensive framework for the regulated conversion of agricultural land to residenprovinces. The committee comprises Provincial Ministers for Agriculture, Revenue, and Cooperatives; Chief Secretaries; Secretary Ministry of National Food Security and Research; Secretary Ministry of Climate Change; Secretary Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination; Chairman Naya Pakistan Housing and Development Authority; Chairman CDA; and DG Federal Government Employees Housing

## Ambassador of Uzbekistan visits ICCI **Tashkent-Lahore direct flights to resume soon:Alisher**

President ICCI said that Islamabad boasts a vibrant industrial cluster, featuring pharmaceutical industries, steel re-rolling plants, and marble industries, making it an attractive destination for investors

### **DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is an important trading partner of Uzbekistan and that manifold relations between the two countries are strengthening by the passage of time. This has been stated by Ambassador of Uzbekistan H.E. Alisher Tukhtaev in his address at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry while heading a delegation comprising Commercial Consular Bakhrom Yusupov, Deputy Chairman of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Uzbekistan Safarov Khalimjon, Deputy Chairman Chemical Industry Association Tukhtaev Akorbirjon and Director Chemical Industry Association Department Davronov Sardor. Highlighting that the bilateral trade has grown up significantly by 50 to 55 percent annually over the past years from \$ 50 million to \$ 240 million, he hap-



pily revealed the resumption of direct flights between Tashkent and Lahore in the coming November or December which will surely give boost to ties in all the sectors. He said that different trade mechanisms including the Transit Trade Agreement are playing vital role in the development of cooperation between the two countries Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, Pres-

ident Islamabad Chamber of Com-

merce and Industry while welcoming the delegation showcased the trade potential of Pakistan by saying that business community of the two countries must come forward and grasp these opportunities for the greater benefit of both the sides. He said that Islamabad boasts a vibrant industrial cluster, featuring pharmaceutical industries, steel re-rolling plants, and marble industries, making it an attractive destination for investors. However, the current trade volume between Pakistan and Uzbekistan falls short of its potential and needs much attention. He added that Islamabad Chamber of Commerce (ICC) aims to strengthen its ties with the Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, paving the way for enhanced business collaborations and mutual benefits. This partnership will boost a conducive environment for businessmen from both nations to explore new opportunities, facilitate trade, and promote economic growth. Commercial Consular Bakhrom Yusupov highlighted simplified visa procedures for business delegations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Deputy Chairman Chemical Industry Association of Uzbekistan Tukhtaev Akorbirjon highlighted the attractive facilities in Uzbekistan's chemical industry.



### Prabowo and China ties

NDONESIA could hardly be more strategically placed, as a vast archipelago that sits astride regional sea lanes and important links between the Pacific and Indian oceans. A reminder of that was the high-level international and regional representation at the inauguration of President Prabowo Subianto, including Southeast Asian leaders and Vice-President Han Zheng, personally representing President Xi Jinping. It is seven months since Indonesians elected Prabowo as his country's eighth president ahead of the constitutionally mandated retirement this month of Joko Widodo. That did not detract from the spectacle of the historic and peaceful transfer of power. A congratulatory message from Xi said he would maintain "close strategic communication" with Prabowo. Beijing and the incoming leadership in Jakarta lost no time in flagging the importance of their relations, with Prabowo having accepted an invitation to China as president-elect in April. China is Indonesia's biggest trade partner. At about the same time, Prabowo visited Japan, a reminder of Indonesia's non-aligned foreign policy and how he has said Jakarta will not be drawn into taking sides between China and the United States. Indonesia, which declared independence from the Netherlands in 1945, has largely healed the wounds of anti-communist, anti-Chinese violence in the 1960s, and anti-China riots over food shortages and unemployment in 1998. A stable Indonesia with an open foreign policy is important to global stability, and not just because it is the fourth most populous nation and third biggest democracy. It is the biggest economy in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), which has a total population of 650 million and is the focus of Chinese efforts to build an economic partnership to balance fraught relations with the US and Europe. After Prabowo's poll win, Xi said he attached great importance to the development of bilateral relations with Indonesia - also a partner of the Belt and Road Initiative, China's plan to grow global trade - and looked forward to working with him. Indonesia's new leader was twice defeated by Widodo in presidential elections before joining his administration as defence minister. Earlier, alleged human rights abuses as an army commander during the 1998 riots led to his being sanctioned by Washington and refused US entry for a time. It appears Prabowo will take the lead on foreign policy. This is to be welcomed in uncertain times when diplomacy is often best exercised at the highest level. Domestically, he has set ambitious economic development goals including a growth target of 8 per cent – up from 5 per cent – and fairer distribution of wealth. But analysts expect he will favour pro-market policies over socialist reform.

# Islamabad POST

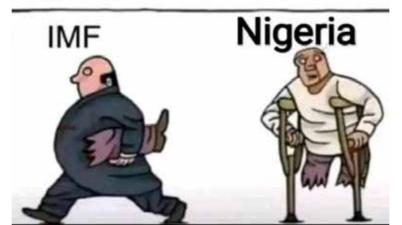
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Member APNS / ABC Certified Vol: 05 Issue: 275

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960





## Defense bundle-up'

S the Philippines escalates its actions that disturb the tranquility of the South China Sea, it seems the country is being pushed down a path that takes it further away from security. Ironically, the main "pusher" behind it is the very so-called security commitments that the US claims to make. During an interview in Manila on Monday, US Major General Marcus Evans described the US deployment of the Typhon missile system to the northern Philippines earlier this year as "incredibly important." This midrange missile launcher, which arrived in Luzon Island as part of the US-Philippines joint drills in April, was supposed to return to the US in September, but now it's been reported that it will remain in the Southeast nation indefinitely. From utilizing military exercise to introducing Typhon to maintain a presence in the Philippines, the development appears to be "smooth" and "natural." However, behind this "smoothness" and "naturalness' lies the US' step-by-step calculation of strategic deterrence against China that General Evans either intentionally or unintentionally overlooked when he described Typhon as "incredibly important." The so-called "boosting of deterrence" is still aimed at containing China. Some analysts have pointed out that with its capability to carry cruise missiles capable of striking Chinese targets, the Typhon missile system deployed in Luzon has become a crucial component of the medium-range missile encirclement that the US is attempting to establish in the Western Pacific to target China. A Chinese military expert who requested anonymity told the Global Times that the deployment of Typhon is actually aimed at luring the Philippines with the so-called security benefits. In recent years, Washington has gradually trapped Manila into a tighter alliance, from restoring the Visiting Forces Agreement between the two countries in 2021 to expanding the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement in 2023, and enhancing the frequency and scale of joint military exercises. In particular, the US has been deploying weapons and equipment to the Philippines. Before Typhon, the US had already deployed longrange fires capabilities with the HIMARS rocket launcher in the Philippines in 2023. Based on its "Indo-Pacific Strategy," the US continues to arm the Philippines and strengthen its defense ties solely out of its selfish desire to create a China containment network in the region. This could disturb the region, and drag the Asia-Pacific into the quagmire of an arms race. For the Philippines, this is not a favorable deal. By deepening its military cooperation with Washington and aligning itself with the US, Manila is finding it increasingly difficult to maintain a balance between China and the US. In other words, it has lost the flexibility and capability to maneuver between great powers as it once could. Through military cooperation and security commitments, the US has tightened the "mutual defense" rope tied to the Philippines, making it increasingly difficult for Manila to return to a neutral position. This not only risks a sharp deterioration in China-Philippines relations, but also greatly limits the Philippines' diplomatic autonomy. Currently, Manila is highly dependent on the US for military resources and capabilities, which has led it to accept US priorities and strategic considerations on security issues. This has put the Philippines in a fragile position. After all, to safeguard and advance its own benefits, Washington is always ready to sacrifice the interests of its allies, which, in US' eyes, are merely disposable pawns. And the Philippines is no exception.

# The Role of Law and Politics in Appointing Chief Justices

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



Islam introduced a unique judicial system where the Chief Justice, or Qazi-ul-Qazat, was to be selected based on their knowledge of the Quran, Hadith, and Sharia. Caliphs, the political and religious leaders of Islamic empires, appointed judges who were seen as custodians of Islamic law. They were expected to demonstrate not only legal expertise but also high moral character and impartiality. The emphasis was on deep spiritual and legal insight, with scholars such as Imam Abu Hanifa setting the standard for what qualifications a chief judge should hold

HROUGHOUT history, the role of the Chief Justice or head of a judiciary has been central to ensuring justice in societies. Various civilizations, religious traditions, and governments have established distinct criteria for appointing the chief legal authority, reflecting their socio-political values and principles. The journey of selecting Chief Justice spans from ancient times to the modern world, with each system offering unique insights. Before the advent of Islam, many ancient civilizations, such as the Greeks and Romans, valued intellectual acumen and political allegiance in choosing judicial figures. In ancient Greece, judicial positions were often filled by 500 experienced citizens selected by lottery. The focus was on community participation rather than formal legal qualifications. Similarly, in ancient Rome, consuls or praetors often assumed judicial duties, and their selection relied heavily on political influence and social status rather than legal expertise. Religious traditions also played a key role in shaping the selection of Chiefliustice. In Judaism, the Sanhedrin, the highest court, was composed of respected rabbis well-versed in religious law. Leadership in this court was based on a deep knowledge of the Iorah and Talmud, prioritizing legal scholarship and moral integrity. Hinduism and Buddhism, both deeply intertwined with governance in ancient India, also had systems where religious texts and the moral standing of individuals were key factors in judicial appointments. In early Christian states, ecclesiastical leaders often doubled as judicial figures, with the criterion being piety and adherence to church doctrine. Islam introduced a unique judicial system where the Chief Justice, or Qazi-ul-Qazat, was to be selected based on their knowledge of the Quran, Hadith, and Sharia. Caliphs, the political and religious leaders of Islamic empires, appointed judges who were seen as custodians of Islamic law. They were expected to demonstrate not only legal expertise but also high moral character and impartiality. The emphasis was on deep spiritual and legal insight, with scholars such as Imam Abu Hanifa setting the standard for what qualifications a chief judge should hold. In the Islamic caliphates, this principle evolved, but knowledge of Sharia remained central to the selection process. The evolution of judicial appointments continued during various dynasties and civilizations. In the Ottoman Empire, the Mufti of Istanbul or the Sheikh-ul-Islam served as the highest legal authority, chosen based on their expertise in Islamic jurisprudence. In the Mughal Empire, emperors often appointed their Chief Qazis from among the most learned Islamic scholars in the region, though political loyalty also influenced selections. Moving to modern times, different countries have adopted unique methods for appointing their Chief Justices. In the United States, the President nominates the Chief Justice, and the Senate confirms the appointment. While legal qualifications are

important, the selection process is often influenced by political leanings and the judicial philosophy of the nominee. The United Kingdom, with its long-standing legal tradition, appoints its Chief Justice through an independent commission, which evaluates legal experience, expertise, and the candidate's ability to lead the judiciary. After the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendments in Pakistan, the criteria for appointing the Chief Justice of Pakistan has shifted from the traditional seniority-based system to a more merit-oriented framework. Under the new provisions, the appointment of the CJP is no longer automatically determined by seniority within the Supreme Court. Instead, the Special Parliamentary Committee now evaluates candidates based on their judicial competence, legal expertise, leadership abilities, and overall contributions to the judiciary. The aim of the new criteria is to ensure that the selected Chief Justice possesses the necessary vision, administrative skills, and experience to lead the judiciary in addressing modern legal challenges

and upholding the principles of justice. Tourist attractions In Germany, the Federal Constitutional Court selects its Uniei Justice from among its members, with political parties playing a significant role in the appointment process. The French judiciary, while similar in its legal focus, has more government involvement, with the President having significant influence in appointing the Chief Justice. China's Chief Justice is appointed by the National People's Congress, reflecting the country's centralized governance and Communist Party's control over judicial matters. In India, the Chief Justice is selected based on seniority, following the "collegium system," where the current chief and senior justices recommend their successor. Japan, with a mixed judicial system, involves the Emperor in appointing the Chief Justice, although it is largely a ceremonial role, with the real decision made by the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Russia's Chief Justice is nominated by the President and confirmed by the Federation Council, showing a strong executive influence in judicial appointments. In Islamic countries like Saudi Arabia, criteria for selecting the Chief Justice are grounded in Islamic law. The King appoints the Chief Justice based on recommendations from the council of scholars, with a heavy emphasis on their understanding of Islamic jurisprudence. Qatar follows a similar model, with a combination of Islamic law and state interests guiding judicial appointments. Iran, being a theocratic state, has its chief justice appointed by the Supreme Leader, ensuring alignment with the country's religious and political ideals.

In Australia, the Chief Justice of the High Court is appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister. Legal experience and judicial competence are the primary factors considered. Malaysia and Indonesia, two

Muslim-majority nations, incorporate both Islamic principles and modern legal frameworks in appointing their Chief Justices. In both countries, the chief justices are appointed by the head of state based on recommendations from judicial commissions, which consider seniority, legal expertise, and leadership qualities. In Denmark, Norway, Finland, and Sweden, appointments to the Chief Justice position follow a highly merit-based process, with an emphasis on legal competence, independence, and seniority. Judicial councils or commissions often handle nominations, ensuring transparency and avoiding political interference. These countries value an impartial judiciary and the selection process ensures that the highest legal positions are filled by judges with exemplary legal careers.

In Singapore, the President appoints the Chief Justice on the advice of the Prime Minister, emphasizing a balance of legal experience and political alignment. Singapore's legal system is known for its efficiency and high regard for the rule of law. The Netherlands and Switzerland both have robust independent judicial appointment processes, focusing on legal qualifications and judicial experience. Both countries emphasize the separation of powers, with minimal executive interference in the judiciary. In Spain and Italy, the process of appointing the Chief Justice is influenced by political factors. The governments in these countries have a significant role in nominations, often balancing between legal competence and political interests.

South Korea's Chief Justice is appointed by the President, subject to confirmation by the National Assembly. This process highlights both the judicial experience and political considerations involved in the selection. In Canada, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister, with judicial experience and seniority playing key roles in the decision. Brazil has a process in which the President of the Supreme Federal Court is elected by its members, generally following seniority. The criteria for selecting a Chief Justice vary globally but generally emphasize legal expertise, leadership, and sometimes political alignment. In countries with deep religious roots, such as Saudi Arabia and Iran, religious qualifications and adherence to the state's religious interpretation of law are paramount. In secular democracies like the United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom, legal experience and philosophical alignment with prevailing legal norms are key factors. In communist states such as China and Russia, political loyalty to the ruling party plays a significant role.

The best criterion for appointing a Chief Justice or Qazi remains a balance of legal acumen, moral integrity, and the ability to interpret and apply the law impartially, regardless of political, religious, or personal biases. While each system has its merits, the ultimate goal should always be to uphold justice and the rule of law, ensuring fairness for all.

# Jabalia carnage continues amid Blinken's defective diplomacy

Osama Al-Sharif

The Biden administration has failed the Palestinian people despite acknowledging that the US president is frustrated with Netanyahu. Still, America continues to supply Israel with the weapons that are being deployed against unarmed and hapless civilians. The 42,000-plus fatalities in Gaza so far will almost certainly be seen as a conservative figure if and when the war ends. There are thousands of Palestinians unaccounted for and who remain buried under the rubble

come a symbol of America's defective diplomacy where Israel's horrific year-long war on Gaza is concerned. This week, he was in the region on his 11th mission since the October 2023 Hamas attacks on Israel, ostensibly in a bid to stop the ongoing carnage in Gaza. However, as on his previous missions, Blinken left Israel empty-handed after meeting top officials. This time, his failure is resonating around the world: Not only did he fail to convince Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to agree to a ceasefire in Gaza following last week's killing of Hamas military leader Yahya Sinwar in Rafah, but he also failed to force Israel to halt its siege and random bombardment of Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza, where tens of thousands of Palestinians are stranded with nowhere to go, and to allow humanitarian aid to enter the devastated region. Jabalia has become the epicenter of Israel's genocidal war on the Palestinians. Following what has been dubbed the "Generals' Plan," the Israeli military has unleashed an unprecedented, even by the beleaguered Gaza's standards, barrage of indiscriminate bombing from land and air. The plan aims at ethnically cleansing northern Gaza by any means possible: bombardment, terror, starvation and the deliberate targeting of "safe" areas such as hospitals and schools. Next to no food, water or fuel has been allowed to pass for more than two weeks, despite desperate appeals from the UN and other humanitarian agencies working there. Tents, where civilians had sought temporary refuge, were struck last week, creating an inferno that produced harrowing images of people being burned alive. Hospitals have been forcibly evacuated and later demolished or set ablaze. The apocalyptic scenes from Jabalia have surpassed anything that

was inflicted on Gaza in the past year — and that says a lot. Israel has ignored all humanitarian appeals from world leaders, UN agencies and other organizations. Netanyahu has shown no interest in a let-off. Instead, he is doubling down on displacing anybody who somehow survives the ongoing pogrom. Blinken is good at paying lip service to the suffering of the Palestinians. The State Department's spokespersons continue to dodge questions about Israeli war crimes by repeating the same stale statement that Israel has the right to defend itself. When pressed for answers on a specific massacre, the diplomatic response is that the US will engage the Israelis for details.

The Biden administration has failed the Palestinian people despite acknowledging that the US president is frustrated with Netanyahu. Still, America continues to supply Israel with the weapons that are being deployed against unarmed and hapless civilians. The 42,000-plus fatalities in Gaza so far will almost certainly be seen as a conservative figure if and when the war ends. There are thousands of Palestinians unaccounted for and who remain buried under the rubble. In Jabalia, the streets are littered with bodies that the medics are not even allowed to recover. The only working hospital has run out of medicines and even shrouds to cover the dead. Dogs have been reported to be eating the corpses. It is mystifying that the US is unable to convince Netanyahu to deliver urgent supplies to Jabalia and the rest of northern Gaza. In a feeble attempt to show resolve, the State Department and the Pentagon sent a letter to Israel giving it 30 days to ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid in northern Gaza. So far, Netanyahu has met that letter with disdain. The fact that Israel is committing war crimes in Jabalia is indisputable. Yet Blinken, who warned Israel about breaking US laws, appears hesitant to turn such warnings into actual deeds. The fact is that the US

and other Western countries continue to supply Israel with arms despite accumulating evidence that war crimes are being committed in Gaza, which has rendered international law, the Geneva Conventions and international humanitarian law obsolete. The double standards being applied are shameless. But while the debate ensues on the complicity of these countries in Israel's genocidal war, the world is now realizing that the war in Gaza has little to do with destroying Hamas. Netanyahu has repeatedly rejected ceasefire deals that were approved by his negotiating team. He is now pushing on with a plan to partition Gaza and occupy the north permanently after chasing the survivors to the south, thus creating a new reality on the ground. According to reports, those who will be pushed to the south will be herded into detention centers that Israel will administer. Blinken has repeated that the US opposes Israel's occupation of Gaza, yet he is allowing Netanyahu to execute his plan, which can only lead to a permanent occupation of the Strip. Far-right ministers in his government are openly talking about building Jewish settlements there. Jabalia today is a classic example of Israel's use of mass killing, starvation and terror to force Palestinians to flee their homes for good. The US knows this is Israel's intent and is doing nothing to stop it. So, what message does Blinken have for the region's leaders and why should they believe him? On his watch, Israel is carrying out back-to-back massacres with impunity, using US weaponry and enjoying full American diplomatic and political cover. The reality for the people of the region is that the US is no less guilty of genocide than Israel. The Jabalia bloodbath will go down in history as one of the most horrific and bold crimes against humanity in living memory. For Palestinians, it will be added to the hundreds of massacres committed by Israel since 1948. But this will be seen as one incredible atrocity where the US stood by and did absolutely nothing to stop it.

**Pakistan** 

formally

requests IMF RST..

From Page 01

2022, provides long-term concessional cash for cli-

mate-related spending, such

as adaptation and transi-

tioning to cleaner energy.

The South Asian nation is

one of the most vulnerable

countries to climate change

according to the Global Cli-

mate Risk Index. Floods in

2022, which scientists said

was aggravated by global

warming, affected at least

33mn people and killed

more than 1,700. The coun-

try's economic struggles

and high debt burden im-

pinged its ability to respond

to the disaster. Pakistan is

also in talks with the Asian

Infrastructure Investment

Bank for a credit enhance-

ment for a planned Panda

bond, with an initial issue

of \$200-250mn, Aurangzeb

said. A Panda bond issuance

would be Pakistan's first

foray into China's capital

markets. Aurangzeb said

they were talking to "a few

other institutions" in addi-

tion to the AIIB for a credit

enhancement. Issuing in the

world's "second largest and

the second deepest" capital

market. Aurangzeb said, was

the key aim, rather than a

particular issuance size.

## **Briefs**

### **Amend wasn't** possible under any other CJP

From Page 01 a question about you, but about the power [of the judiciary]." Bilawal said that the allies had a window "of a man who would not undermine what we were doing". The interviewer also asked the ex-FM whether he believes the government would not have been able to pass the amendments had Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, who is the senior-most judge, become the CIP. In response, he said that the judgment of the reserved seats was "orchestrated" to undermine the strength of parliament and that the Article 63-A decision was not based on the Constitution. "It is realistic for us to believe that if those decisions were to come into force, the difficulties for us passing any judicial reforms, no matter, who became the chief justice, would only be amplified."

### 'Will not sit idle until Pakistan purged of...

From Page 01 the country. This is a challenge which we have accepted," he remarked. Prime Minister Shehbaz said the existence of polio only in Pakistan and Afghanistan was a matter of concern and a challenge that needed to be handled through concerted efforts. In his address, Coordinator to PM on National Health Services Dr Mukhtar Bharath said the constant oversight of the polio eradication efforts at the prime ministerial level was unprecedented which also gave hope for Pakistan to get rid of the virus. He assured the government's all-out support to the polio workers and said the event was also held to acknowledge their dedicated efforts and sacrifices. He said the surge in polio cases, caused by an immunity gap, was a matter of concern and resolved that the polio vaccination teams would reach every household to vaccinate every child to ensure no one was left behind. Prime Minister's Focal Person on Polio Eradication Senator Ayesha Raza said considering the surge in polio cases, the government had launched a strategy to cope with the challenge with renewed vigour.

### Amendment 'attack on Constitution': Imran

From Page 01 subjected to psychological torture. "An application will be filed in IHC against the circumstances the former premier is being kept." Furthermore, he said Imran has instructed the leaders to lead from the front. For his part, PTI leader Shoaib Shaheen said that such "state terrorism" is unprecedented, adding that the jailed party founder was unaware of the passage of 26th Amendment and Justice Yahya's appointment. "We informed him about the developments, including the bail of his wife Bushra Bibi," he said, adding that Imran expressed satisfaction over his spouse's release.

### Bushra Bibi out on bail; reaches...

From Page 01 compared to the usual legal process, as typically, when a robkar (release order) is issued, the imprisoned person is released within two hours. However, Bushra Bibi was released in just 20 minutes. While media personnel and PTI workers waited outside the prison to engage with Khan's wife, the former first lady quickly departed without speaking to anyone. However, the workers showered her car with flowers as it sped away. The IHC granted her bail on Wednesday, but due to the absence of a judge to sign the release order, she remained behind bars. Today, Judge Shahrukh Ariumand signed her robkar.

# Pak lose early wickets as England take edge

Pakistan are now trail by 194 runs

#### SPORTS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan lost three wickets as England took an edge on day 1 of the third Test here at Pindi Stadium. Came to bat at a trail of 267 runs, Pakistan lost Abdullah Shafiq (14), Saim Ayub (19) and Kamran Ghulam (3) early. Shan Masood, the skipper, saw the dismissals at the other end which will help him come out tomorrow with better planning.

Shan and Saud Shakeel, both on 16, remained not out at stumps on the opening day. Jack Leach, Gus Atkinson, and Shoaib Bashir took a wicket each for England. Earlier, Jamie Smith played a solid

knock under pressure to take out England from immense pressure before tea. England, who were reduced 118-6 right after lunch, saw Smith and Atkinson partnering strongly to score 107 runs together at the seventh wicket partnership. The two batters took charge of Pakistani spinners who were roaring at one stage, taking all six wickets initially.

Just before the tea, Pakistan managed to break the partnership with Noman and Zahid taking two back-to-back wickets. Atkinson, who played a patient knock of 39 runs off 71 balls, gave a straight



catch to Noman who took his third of this innings. Zahid, who went for plenty of runs, managed to trap Smith on a flighted delivery. Smith fell in nervous nineties, contributing 91 crucial runs to the visitors' total.

Noman and Sajid shared seven wickets whereas Zahid bagged one wicket as Pakistan walked off for tea with some ease. Previously, Sajid took no time after lunch to take the wicket of England's skipper Ben Stokes as the hosts were forced to struggle at 120-6 on day 1 of the third Test here at Pindi Cricket Stadium. Sajid alongside left-arm spin part-

ner Noman Ali didn't give any space to England batters after getting their first wicket on 56. England, who decided to bat first on an 'expected' spin wicket, suffered a major collapse despite having a decent opening start between Ben Duckett and Zak

Crawley. The two batters initially enjoyed batting perks at the wicket, but Noman and Sajid had other plans. The spin duo took charge from the point where they Duckett completed his half-cen-

left in Multan last week. Noman removed Zak Crawley after he scored 29 runs. Duckett, in his unique 'bazball' style, kept ticking the scoreboard but didn't get any support at the other end.

tury meanwhile England kept on

losing wickets. Ollie Pope (3), Joe Root (5) and Harry Brook (5) fell prey to Noman and Sajid before lunch on day 1. England walked out for lunch at 110-5 in 30 overs. All these overs were bowled by Sajid and Noman who were getting all the assistance from the pitch as expected. After lunch, Stokes tried to settle down a bit but Sajid got him caught in the first slip

TOSS: England's skipper Ben Stokes won the toss and decided to bat first against Pakistan in the series-decided Test.

well-judged catch.

where Salman Ali Agha took a

England made two changes to their side. Gus Atkinson and Rehan Ahmed came in for Brandon Carse and Mathew Potts.

Whereas, Pakistan went with the same playing XI with an aim to seal the three-match series 2-1. Playing XI: PAKISTAN: Saim Ayub, Abdullah Shafique, Shan Masood (captain), Kamran Ghulam, Saud Shakeel (vice-captain), Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Salman Ali Agha, Aamir Jamal, Noman Ali, Sajid Khan and Zahid Mehmood. ENGLAND: Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (captain), Jamie Smith (wk), Gus Atkinson, Rehan Ahmad, Jack Leach and Shoaib Bashir.

### **FBR** amends income tax rules to...

From Page 01 dated October 18, 2024, said a news release here on Thursday. These amendments, issued under section 237 of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, are aimed at improving the efficiency and responsiveness of the Active Taxpayer's List (ATL) system. Under the new amendments, the ATL will now be updated on daily basis, replacing the previous practice of weekly updates. This adjustment ensures that taxpayers who meet their filing obligations are reflected as active taxpayers promptly, enhancing real-time accuracy and facilitating compliance. Taxpayers who submit their Income Tax Returns (ITR) for the latest tax year (2024) by the due date, or within any extension granted, will be included in the

### Bombers among nine terrorists gunned...

ATL immediately.

From Page 01 exchange of fire with the troops, said the Inter-Ser-Public Relations (ISPR) on Thursday. With the sanitisation operation underway to eliminate any further militants in the area, the security forces also recovered large quantities of weapons, ammunition, and explosives from the terrorists. The militants, the military's media wing added, remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces as well as innocent civilians. The ISPR further reaffirmed the security forces' resolve to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country. Last week, at least five militants were arrested in an IBO in Balochsitan's Pishin district. Whereas two terrorists were killed in a separate IBO in the province's Zhob district.

# Katie Boulter and Jack raper reach quarter-finals

WEB DESK

LONDON: British number ones Katie Boulter and Jack Draper each reached another quarter-final as they look to finish their respective career-best seasons strongly. Boulter reached her fourth WTA Tour quarter-final of the year by sweeping aside Japan's Kvoka Okamura in the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo. The 28-year-old won 6-1 6-2 against 271st-ranked Okamura, who lost in qualifying but was placed in the main draw as a lucky loser. Draper, 22, moved into the last eight of the Erste Bank Open in Vienna with a 7-5 6-1 victory over Italy's Luciano Darderi. US Öpen semi-finalist Draper will contest his ninth ATP quarter-final of 2024 after a strong serving performance which allowed Darderi little opportunity to break. Boulter is ranked 33rd in

the world after a year which has yielded two WTA titles and a breakthrough into the top 30. While she has been unable to go past the third round of a major, Boulter has regularly asserted her authority with her powerful baseline game. That is what happened in Tokyo as the gulf between Boulter and Okamura showed. Providing greater consist-

ency from the baseline, and showing glimpses of craft, Boulter's level was too much for Okamura to handle. "I'm playing some good tennis," said Boulter, who reached her first quarter-final since Eastbourne in June. The clinical victory sets up an intriguing clash with Canadian wildcard Bianca Andreescu. Andree-

Open as a teenager but has been plagued by injury problems since.

'It's a free swing for me at the end of the year and I have nothing to lose," said Boulter, who has no ranking points to defend and could move back into the top 30 this week. Like Boulter, Draper is aiming to finish the finest year of his career with a flourish. The left-hander has climbed

into the world's top 20, aided by greater physical robustness and playing his most matches in a single season as a result. Making sensible decisions based on listening to his body has also been beneficial. Draper had not played

for a month before this week, having pulled out of Shanghai as a precaution with an abdominal injury suffered the week before in Tokyo. That came after he raised concerns about the scheduling demands put on players. "I feel really good. I didn't know what to expect coming out after being injured and I was ill for a week," said Draper, who plays Bulgarian third seed Grigor Dimitrov or Czech Tomas Machac next.

"Potentially I was going to be rusty and not feeling good but I've been really strong." Looking refreshed and sharp, Draper had to be patient before wearing down Darderi. Draper broke serve for a 6-5 lead and fired down four aces in the next game to seal the opening set, having won all 21 points on first serve. In the second set Draper continued to play aggressively and confidently as a frustrated Darderi unravelled.

### Pakistan to urge Commonwealth to reconsider exclusion of hockey, wrestling

"We are planning to write a letter in this week to express our concerns over the decision," says source

### NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) has decided to formally write to the Commonwealth Games Federation over its decision to exclude hockey and wrestling from the 2026 Commonwealth Games, according to sources familiar with the matter. Reliable sources said the POA will send an official letter to the CGF, urging it to reconsider the exclusion of these sports, which are seen as Pakistan's medal prospects in the game. The decision to drop several sports, including hockey and wrestling, from the Games in Glasgow has already caught criticism from various quarters. The source added that Indian Olympic body is also unhappy with the decision and they're likely to join POA in writing the commonwealth sports body to press for inclusion of hockey and wrestling. "We are planning to write a letter in this week to express our concerns over the decision to remove these sports and to request them to reconsider their decision," the source said. It added that in a recent regional meeting held in Male, Maldives, on September 24-25, 2024.

### Raducanu withdraws from Hong Kong Open due to foot injury

'I'm sorry to say that I will not be able to play in Hong Kong next week," says Emma

### WEB DESK

LONDON: Former U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu has pulled out of the Hong Kong Open after the Briton said on Wednesday that she has still not recovered from a foot injury that had forced her to skip four other tournaments in recent weeks. Raducanu, who is now ranked 55 in the world after reaching a career-high 10th in 2022, has not played since she retired midway through her quarter-final match at the Korea Open last month. "I'm sorry to say that I will not be able to play in Hong Kong next week. Whilst my foot is making good progress, I need a little more time before I am match fit. I hope to be able to come back and play this tournament in the future," she wrote on X. Raducanu has struggled with injuries since winning her only Grand Slam title in 2021 and the 21-year-old spent most of last season recovering from ankle and wrist surgeries. She revealed last month that she had sprained ligaments in her foot which forced her to skip WTA 1000 events in Beijing and Wuhan as well as events in Ningbo and Guangzhou.

# Zimbabwe crush Gambia with record-breaking victory

Zimbabwe posted an astonishing total of 344/3, the highest-ever score in T20 international

### SPORTS DESK

NAIROBI: Zimbabwe's cricket team smashed a series of T20 international records in a commanding 290-run victory over Gambia during the Africa Sub-Regional World Cup Qualifiers on Tuesday in Nairobi. Zimbabwe posted an astonishing total of 344/4, the highest-ever score in a T20 international, surpassing the previous record of 314/3 set by Nepal against Mongolia in 2023. The remarkable innings featured a record-breaking 27 sixes, eclipsing Nepal's previous record of 26 sixes, achieved against Mongolia. In addition to their dominance with sixes, Zimbabwe equaled the record for the most fours in a T20I innings, hitting 30 boundaries, a record previously set by Sri Lanka in a match against Kenya in 2007. The team amassed 282 runs from boundaries, surpassing the previous highest of 216 set by Punjab against Andhra in India's domestic Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. In T20Is, the previous record for amassing most runs from boundaries was 212, created by Nepal, against Mongo-



was 17.20, which is highest ever in a completed T20 innings, surpassing the previous record of 15.7 runs per over - also by Nepal against Mongolia. Zimbabwe's all-rounder Sikandar Raza played a pivotal role in the record-breaking performance, smashing an unbeaten 133 off 43 balls. Raza's innings included 33-ball century.

# Promise unfulfilled - inside Mourinho's Utd reign

Mourinho left United almost six years ago. But while he is gone, he is certainly not forgotten MANCHESTE: Twenty min-Mourinho was in the dress-

utes with Jose Mourinho in a packed room at Fenerbahce's training ground in Istanbul on Wednesday reminded everyone present of his magnetism. From two spells at Chelsea to one at Tottenham, for good and bad, he was impossible to ignore. His ability to attract attention remains almost unmatched. A Europa League meeting with Manchester United on Thursday at the cauldron that is the Sukru Saracoglu stadium pits him against his second Premier League club, where the desperation for success was at its greatest. Mourinho left United almost six years ago. But while he is gone, he is certainly not forgotten.

If there is a story that encapsulates Mourinho's time at United, it comes from the club's 2018 pre-season tour of the United States. Among the commercial opportunities on the trip was "training session" at the impressive UCLA campus in Los Angeles with then Late, Late Show host James Corden. The event involved scores of local children, coached by Corden, playing against United trio Juan Mata, Chris Smalling and Ander Herrera, led by Mourinho. Filming was set for early morning, before the scheduled team training session. Despite an early start fol-

lowing a day off after Mourinho inserted the event into the tour schedule at short notice, the players expressed their willingness to fulfil the commitment. But at the time of depar-

ture, Mourinho was nowhere to be seen. He had gone ahead, the travelling party were told. Upon arrival, security advised that ing room and not in a good mood. Despite some of those involved being at the venue since the early hours, Mourinho's involvement, it was being stressed, was very much in the balance. Watching footage of the event now, none of this is evident. Mourinho did get involved, enjoyed himself and, more to the point, made sure the youngsters had a memory to treasure. external for the rest of their lives. Speaking to numerous sources about Mourinho's time at Old Trafford, the contradiction between dark moods and charm. sometimes swapping within seconds, is repeated by them all. With the benefit of hindsight, and seeing what United have become, it is acknowledged by many at the club that Mourinho was the right man at the wrong time and would have been a far better appointment in the immediate aftermath of Sir Alex Ferguson's departure in 2013. But Mourinho was commit-

ted to a return to Chelsea, and United were setting out on a path that seemed to make sense, but ultimately didn't work out. The club had opted for

David Moyes as the "Chosen One" to replace Ferguson. Moves is not solely to blame, of course, but he was too cautious in reconstructing a squad his fellow Scot would have made significant changes to had he remained at the helm. Without Ferguson's unquestioned authority, mistakes piled on to mistakes and Moyes paid the price for missing out on Champions League qualification that previously had been

automatic. Louis van Gaal

followed Moyes because, it was felt, the Dutchman had experience of handling a big club and could guide United back to the top. That didn't work either. By the middle of Van Gaal's

second season, attention was starting to turn to Mourinho and not even an FA Cup victory over Crystal Palace stopped a prior agreement to appoint him becoming reality.

United rolled out the red carpet to welcome Mourinho, booking space in the exclusive Claridge's hotel in London to conduct his welcome MUTV news "Manchester conference. United is a giant club," he said. "And giant clubs must be for the best managers. I think I am ready for it." Mourinho, the feeling was,

might be chaotic and trou-

would be a three-year mancame more frequent, there ager. It was accepted it was not enough balance to

blesome at times, but the difficulties of dealing with the Portuguese would be balanced by success. To an extent, the plan

came true. Mourinho delivered two trophies in his first season - the only time United have achieved that since 2009. In the second, United were runners-up to Manchester City - albeit at a distance.

It was their first top-two finish of the post-Ferguson era. Mourinho subsequently called it one of the best managerial achievements of his career "because people didn't know what was going on behind the scenes". But Mourinho's side never gave the impression of being able to compete for the biggest prizes. So, as the arguments and criticisms be-

keep Mourinho in a job.

### Pakistan condemns Israeli...

From Page 01 Israeli airstrikes on Beit Lahia, which resulted in the tragic loss of over 80 Palestinian lives, including women and children. She said that targeting the densely populated residential areas without warning and collective punishment of civilians by depriving them of food, water and essential medicines constitute war crimes. The spokesperson told the media that the UN peacekeepers had become the latest victim of Israeli aggression in Lebanon "Pakistan strongly condemns the deliberate and unlawful attacks by Israeli forces on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) peacekeepers. The Peacekeepers must be able to fulfill their mission without fear of attack or obstruction.

# Business / World



### Briefs

### PSX crosses another milestone, reaches 88,945.99 points

ISLAMABAD: Continuing with positive sentiments, the 100-Index of the Paki stan Stock Exchange (PSX) remained on bullish trend on fourth consecutive day and crossed another milestone by reaching a historic level of 88,945.99 points on Thursday. Overall the gained 1,751.45 points, showing a positive change of 2.01 percent when compared to last day's trading of compared to 87,194.54 points. A total of 757,648,007 shares were traded during the day as compared to 699,294,030 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 36.047 billion against Rs. 26.824 billion on the last trading day. As many as 454 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 238 of them recorded gains and 167 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 49 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were K-Electric Limited with 113,202,208 shares at Rs 4.82 per share, PTCL with 41,105,281 shares at Rs 16.76 per share and Fauji Cement XD with 23,272,920 shares at Rs 31.46 per share.-APP

### Rupee sheds 12 paisa against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Thursday depreciated by 12 paisa against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.84 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.72. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs277.30 and Rs278.80 respectively. - Advertisement - The price of Euro increased by 62 paisa to close at Rs300.08 against day's closing Rs299.46, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs1.82, whereas an increase of 33 paisa was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs360.40 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs360.07. The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 03 paisa and 02 paisa to close at Rs 75.64 and Rs73.98 respectively. -APP

### Gold prices dip by Rs.2,300 to Rs.283,100 p43

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased by Rs.2,300 and was sold at Rs.283,100 on Thursday compared to its sale at Rs. 285,400 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.1,971 to Rs.242,713 from Rs. 244,684 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs. 222,487 from Rs. 224,294, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.3,350 and Rs.2,872.08 respectively. The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$23 to \$2,734 from \$2,757, the As-

### UK to ban disposable Vapes from next year

sociation reported. -APP

LONDON: Britain will ban single-use vapes from next year, a government minister said on Thursday, seeking to crack down on the environmental harm and rising usage levels among children. Health authorities have raised concerns about the use of vapes among young adults, with their colourful designs and fruity flavours making them stand out on grocery store shelves. According to a 2024 survey by health charity ASH, about one in five children aged 11-17 said they had tried vaping. It is illegal to sell nicotine-containing e-cigarettes to anyone under the age of 18 or for adults to buy them on behalf of under-18s.-APP

# Tanveer gives Industrial Policy to boost foreign investment

To mitigate this situation, de-carbonization in the transport sector and adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) such as electric two and three-wheelers, decentralized power storage, batteries, solar cells, charging stations, etc. are being adopted in Pakistan

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Thursday presented the National Industrial Policy at UNIDO forum with an objective to create an enabling environment for local industry growth and attract foreign investment.

Addressing the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Multilateral Industrial Policy Forum in Riyadh the minister said the policy would be finalized by October 2024, according to press release issued by the Ministry of Industries. The policy focuses on green energy initiatives,

tional Industrial Policies with national and regional Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for maximum impact. The strategies used include prioritizing high-impact sectors, regional collaboration, inclusive stakeholder engagement, incentivizing sustainable practices, and, strengthening governance and policy coherence. The policy will

women empowerment, and

regional cooperation, align-

ing with Pakistan's Vision

2025 and Sustainable De-

velopment Goals. - Adver-

tisement - He said, a com-

prehensive and integrated

approach is being adopted

to effectively align the Na-

focus on various sectors

such as steel, cement,

mining, petrochemicals &

chemicals, fertilizer, heavy non-ferrous mechanical, metals, plastics and composites, fisheries, transport and logistics. It also cover value-added/GVG sectors such as auto parts, tractors, parts & accessories of office machines, travel accessories furniture, footwear, synthetic & non-traditional textiles and garments, food processing, surgical and medical devices, electronics, and pharmaceuticals. Rana Tanveer said that the formulation of the green energy initiative also a prominent aspect of the policy. The minister highlighted that currently, the transport sector accounts for over 75 percent of total commercial oil consumption. Pakistan is currently using over 65 percent of its foreign exchange reserves on fuel imports. To mitigate this situation, de-carbonization in the transport sector and adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) such as electric two and three-wheelers, decentralized power storage, batteries, solar cells, charging stations, etc. are being adopted in Pakistan. Currently, forty-eight companies have been issued manufacturing licenses by the Ministry of Industries and Production enabling them to produce two/three-wheeler EVs in Pakistan. The solar energy sector is growing fast due to market demand and there are about 9 solar panel assemblers operating in the country. Pakistan is com-

mitted to renewable energy; with solar PV projected to reach 30% of its energy mix by 2030. This transition to clean energy would also help reduce GHG and air pollutant emissions, dependency on imported fossil fuels, and could also create jobs in the automotive industry in the medium term. The Policy would also encompass developing financial incentives, such as tax breaks, subsidies, or grants, to encourage industries to adopt sustainable practices, contributing to goals like reducing carbon emissions or improving resource efficiency. This policy is being designed to uplift key industrial sectors in a focused and sustainable manner, ensuring that industries

are better equipped to meet both current and future challenges. The industrial policy also envisages measures for women's empowerment which include ensuring implementation of the "Banking on Equality" Policy of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), simplification of taxation procedures & reduced tax rates for women-owned SMEs and develop a one-window virtual facility for women entrepreneurs for enhanced access to information. The measures also include providing women-friendly work environment through establishing women business centers, display facilities emporiums, developing specialized women business facilitation programs in areas such as starting and managing a business.

At Turkiye

quake trial,

families to

seek justice

ANTALYA: More than 18 months after a massive earth-

quake flattened the southern Turkish city of Antakva.

the victims' families have little faith justice will be

served but say they will fight "until their last breath."

With a huge area hit by the February 2023 quake that

killed 55,000 people, the luxury Ronesans Residence

apartment bloc quickly became a high-profile symbol of

the construction malpractice at the heart of the trage-

dy. Sold as "a corner of paradise," the complex's abrupt

collapse like a house of cards prompted a criminal case

against eight defendants which had its third hearing on

Thursday. Its list of celebrity residents included former

Ghana international footballer Christian Atsu who was

one of hundreds who died under the rubble of the struc-

ture built in 2013. Days after the quake, police arrested

the building's contractor at Istanbul airport as he ap-

peared to be fleeing to Montenegro. Hafize Acikgoz, 43,

who lost her husband and three children at the Rone-

sans complex, said she had "zero hope" that those re-

sponsible would be sufficiently punished. "I don't have

any faith in justice," she told AFP, saying she thought

their apartment block, which towered over those around

it, was the safest in the area. "We were looking down

on the buildings nearby.. They stood tall and ours col-

lapsed. My family is under the ground and I am like

the living dead," she said, her eyes full of tears. Lawyer

Emine Candarli, who lives in the western city of Izmir,

also lost family in Ronesans, finding the bodies of her

sister, her brother-in-law and their two kids embracing

each other under the ruins 11 days after the quake. "It's

not the quake that killed my sister and her family but the

contractors who sold the flats as safe and sound," she

told AFP by phone.-APP

### SECP, FPCCI ,MOHR hold advocacy session on gender reforms

ISLAMABAD: Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), in collaboration with Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPC-CI) and Ministry of Human Rights (MOHR), conducted an advocacy session on gender-inclusive initiatives under the Prime Minister's Women Empowerment Package 2024 (PMWEP 24) to enhance awareness of gender-related issues. Akif Saeed, Chairman of SECP, discussed the SECP's initiatives aimed at supporting women entrepreneurs. He stressed the importance of collaboration among all relevant stakeholders for PM WEP 2024, said the press release issued here. He stated, "By uniting to advocate for gender-inclusive reforms, we not only empower women but also enhance Pakistan's economic prosperity." He stressed. "Enacting supportive laws must go hand in hand with their effective implementation to achieve meaningful progress, and urged all companies to complete the PMWEP 24 survey on the SECP website." Musarat Jabeen, Executive Director SECP, discussed in detail the progress made in women inclusive regulatory reforms and outlined key initiatives under PMWEP 24 by SECP, which include mandating listed companies to disclose their gender pay gaps in annual reports effective from June 30, and recognizing private companies that adopt family-friendly policies.

### Lebanon needs help to rebuild

PARIS: International support will be needed to shore up and expand Lebanon's army and rebuild the country's destroyed infrastructure, caretaker Prime Minister Naiib Mikati told a Paris conference convened amid Israel's assault on Hezbollah. Mikati said the Lebanese government had decided to recruit more troops and could deploy 8,000 soldiers as part of a plan to implement a ceasefire and UN Security Council resolution, which calls for the army to be deployed in southern Lebanon.-APP

# Turkish intelligence strikes PKK,YPG targets in Syria, Iraq

ANKARA: In response to a terrorist attack in the Turkish capital, Türkiye's National Intelligence Organization (MIT) launched operations targeting the PKK/YPG in northern Syria and Iraq, according to security sources. The coordinated strikes followed an attack on Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) facilities in Ankara that left five people dead and 22 others injured. The assault on TAI's headquarters in Ankara's Kahramankazan district on Wednesday was carried out by two terrorists, who were neutralized by Turkish security forces. The victims included TAI employees, a taxi driver, and a security guard. According to Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya, the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) was behind the attack, with Defence Minister Yasar Guler reiterating Türkiye's commitment to pursue the group "until the last terrorist is eliminated." The operation by Turkish intelligence targeted key infrastructure used by the PKK/YPG, including energy facilities, logistics hubs, and ammunition depots in both northern Syria and Iraq.

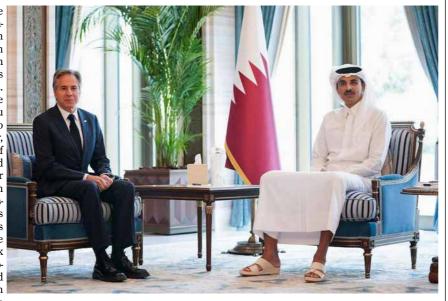
MIT vowed to continue its efforts until all strategic objectives are met, emphasizing the importance of dismantling the terrorist group's operational capacity. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdo an condemned the attack on TAI, stating, "I condemn this heinous attack on the Turkish Aerospace Industries," and reiterated the nation's resolve in its counterterrorism efforts.

after Devlet Bahçeli, leader of the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), hinted at a potential conditional parole for PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan, a controversial figure who has led the group's decades-long insurgency against Türkiye.—APP

The attack occurred a day

# Blinken in Qatar for Gaza mediation push

DOHA: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in Qatar for talks on Thursday with the key mediator on the war in Gaza, as he seeks momentum for a ceasefire after Israel's killing the leader of Hamas. After meeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem, Blinken flew to Saudi Arabia and then Qatar, where he will meet the Gulf state's Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani for assessments on where Hamas stands on a truce. Blinken is paying his 11th trip to the region since the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack on Israel, after repeated disappointment as he seeks to end the Israeli retaliatory campaign in the Gaza Strip. But days



ahead of US elections, President Joe Biden has found new hope after Israel killed Hamas's leader, Yahya Sinwar, in Gaza. US officials had described Sinwar as intransigent in negotiations brokered by the United States, Qatar and Egypt on a ceasefire that would also see the release of hostages from Gaza. Blinken said he spoke to Israel's leaders "about the importance of determining whether Hamas is prepared to engage in moving forward, and the Egyptians, the Qataris are doing just that." "But I believe that with Sinwar gone, because he was the primary obstacle for realizing the hostage agreement, there is a real opportunity to bring them home and to accomplish the objective," Blinken told reporters Wednesday as he left Israel. Critics say the issue was not just Hamas but the Biden administration failing to press Israel, which has received a near continuous flow of billions of dollars in US weapons. Hamas has yet to choose a successor to Sinwar. Two Hamas sources said this week that the group was moving toward appointing a Doha-based ruling committee rather than a single heir. Blinken said a ceasefire plan laid out by Biden on May 31 remained on the table but also hinted at a willingness to explore "new frameworks" to seek freedom for 97 hostages, including 34 confirmed dead, still held by militants in Gaza since on October 7, 2023. —DNA

### Middle East on brink of fullscale war: Putin

KAZAN: Russian President Vladimir Putin told a BRICS summit on Thursday that the Middle East was on the verge of full-scale war. "The military action that started a year ago in Gaza has now spread to Lebanon. Other countries in the region are also affected," Putin told a meeting in Kazan attended by several world leaders. "The level of confrontation between Israel and Iran has sharply risen. This is all reminiscent of a chain reaction and puts the whole Middle East on the verge of fullscale war," Putin said. Violence in the Middle East will not end until the creation of an independent Palestinian state, Putin said at the summit, attended by Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas. "The key demand for restoring peace and stability on Palestinian territories is carrying out the two-state formula approved by the UN Security Council and General Assembly," the Russian president said. He added that this would be "correcting the historical injustice toward the Palestinian people." "Until this question is resolved, it will not be possible to break the vicious circle of violence."-APP

# France, other nations pledge massive aid package to support Lebanon

The Paris conference also aims at coordinating international support to strengthen Lebanon's armed forces so they can deploy in the country's south as part of a potential deal to end the war

PARIS: France pledged to provide a \$108-million (100 million) package to support Lebanon at an international conference Thursday, as President Emmanuel Macron said "massive aid" is needed to support the country where war between Hezbollah militants and Israel has displaced a million people, killed over 2,500, and deepened an economic crisis. French organizers hope the Paris conference, which gathered over 70 nations and international organizations, will raise enough money to provide the \$426 million in humanitarian aid the United Nations says is urgently needed. "In the immediate term, massive aid is needed for the Lebanese population, both for the hundreds of thousands of people displaced by the war and for the communities hosting them," Macron said in his opening speech at the conference. Germany pledged a total of 96 million in humanitarian aid to both Lebanon and neighboring Syria, also deeply affected by escalating violence in the Middle East. Italy this week announced an additional 10 million in aid for Lebanon. But experts warn that delivering aid could be challenging as Lebanon's growing dependence on the informal and cash economy increases lack of transparency and corruption risks. The Paris conference also aims at coordinating international support to strengthen Lebanon's armed forces so they can deploy in the country's south as part of a potential deal to end the war. Such a deal could see Hezbollah withdraw its forces from the border. This support to the Lebanese military includes "helping with health care, fuel, small equipment, but also supporting the plan to recruit at least 6,000 additional soldiers and to enable the deployment of at least 8,000 additional soldiers in the south," Macron said. In Lebanon, meanwhile, an Israeli airstrike killed three Lebanese soldiers, including an officer, as they were evacuating wounded people in southern Lebanon. The army said Israeli forces have targeted it on eight occasions since all-out war broke out between Israel and Hezbollah in September. Paris also seeks to help restore Lebanon's sovereignty and strengthen its institutions. -DNA

# Equitable energy access for all consumers urged amid solar surge

In his closing remarks, Mirza Hamid Hasan underscored the importance of striking a balance between net metering consumers and those who remain dependent on the grid

ISLAMABAD: The rapid growth of ing solar costs have led to its mass reassessment of Pakistan's energy energy and decarbonization are caused by fossil fuels and empha-

rooftop solar systems is transforming Pakistan's energy landscape but also creating disparities for lower-income electricity consumers who remain dependent on the traditional grid. To address this, ensuring equitable energy access for all consumers is crucial. This concern was the focal point of a session titled "Navigating the Solar Surge: Ensuring Equitable Energy Access in Pakistan's Power Sector.' hosted by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad. The session featured insights from Khalid Rahman, IPS Chairman, Ameena Sohail, senior IPS associate and energy advocate, Abubakar Ismail, head of energy & sustainability, Amreli Steels, Muhammad Musaddiq, CEO of Siddique Renewable Energy, Asad Mahmood, renewable energy expert, and Mirza Hamid Hassan, former federal secretary for Water & Power. Wali Farooqui, research officer IPS, presented the study and pointed out that while falling solar costs have led to its mass adoption, it is mostly elite consumers benefiting from these savings. He noted that this shift is creating a two-tiered energy system, where those who cannot afford solar are at an increasing disadvantage, burdened with higher bills. "Those with higher-paying capabilities can shield themselves from rising electricity prices, but leaves lower-income consumers worse off as they are left facing a greater share of the grids costs," Farooqui stated. Khalid Rahman emphasized that the lack of timely amendments to net metering policies is exacerbating these inequities. He called for more inclusive policy development that ensures both solar adopters and grid-dependent consumers are treated fairly. He added that without assessing these changes and their broader impacts, we risk harming the majority of consumers. Ameena Sohail warned of the strain that unchecked solar growth could place on grid operations. She called for a

reassessment of Pakistan's energy generation planning to prioritize solar integration without jeopardizing the financial and operational stability of the grid. She said that solar is commercially viable, but we need a regulatory framework that supports system stability while promoting solar adoption equitably. Asad Mahmood highlighted the growing divide between those who can afford solar energy and those who cannot, stressing that while solar adopters benefit from significantly lower bills, many consumers are left facing increased economic pressure. He emphasized the need for clear regulations to determine how much solar the grid can handle, ensuring that its expansion doesn't disadvantage those still reliant on traditional energy sources. Abubakar Ismail emphasized the importance of equitable policymaking in the transition to solar energy, highlighting the challenges posed by solar intermittency. He pointed out that while renewable

energy and decarbonization are universally supported, maintaining a reliable energy supply requires continuous power, even when solar generation is not available. This creates challenges for energy equity, as the maintenance of the utility's wired network still incurs costs, which solar consumers may not be contributing to adequately. Additionally, balancing frequency, voltage, and supply from the grid during nighttime adds further costs that may not be fully accounted for. He warned that without policy and regulatory frameworks, the escalating shift towards solar could lead to imbalances in grid stability, potentially leading to a "duck curve" scenario in the next two years or so. Muhammad Musaddiq expressed his concerns regarding the low penetration of solar energy in Pakistan, highlighting that nower theft remains a significant challenge hindering progress in the sector. He noted the urgent need to address the environmental damage

inevitable and will continue to rise, potentially posing challenges for existing power plants. In his closing remarks, Mirza Hamid Hasan underscored the importance of striking a balance between net metering consumers and those who remain dependent on the grid. He stressed that while solar energy adoption is vital for the country's energy future, it is equally important to ensure that the costs of maintaining the grid are fairly distributed. Hasan advocated for a fair grid cost to be transferred onto net metering consumers, so that those relying on the grid are not unfairly burdened He concluded by urging policymakers to create an equitable energy framework that supports both solar users and traditional grid consumers. The session ended with a call for collaboration between stake-

holders to ensure a sustainable and

fair energy transition for all.—DNA

sized that the adoption of electric

vehicles (EVs) and solar energy is



# Islamahar POST



'BRICS to

invite more countries

to join as

partners'

DNA

BEIJING: Chinese Pres-

ident Xi Jinping has said that the ongoing BRICS

summit has decided to in-

vite a number of nations to

become partner countries.

In a speech addressing the

summit in Kazan, Russia,

Xi hailed the decision as

another important devel-

opment in the course of

BRICS development. Dur-

ing a small-group meeting,

Xi welcomed new members

to the BRICS family and

invited many countries to

become partner countries,

Xi pointed out that the en-

largement of BRICS is a ma-

jor milestone in its develop-

ment history and a landmark

event in the evolution of the

international situation. It is

for their shared pursuit and

for the overarching trend of

peace and development that

BRICS countries have come

together, he said. Stressing

that the world is undergoing

accelerated changes unseen

in a century, marked by

new trends of multipolarity

and the risks of a "new Cold

War," Xi said BRICS coun-

tries should seize the histor-

ical opportunity, take proac-

tive steps, remain committed

to the original aspiration and

China Daily reported.

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## Briefs

### **PM reaffirms Pakistan's** commitment to multilateralism, rights

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As the world observes 79th anniversary of the United Nations today, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to multilateralism and highlighted the world body's inability to enforce its charter in an equitable manner. The prime minister, in a social media post on X, called the UN Day an occasion to recommit to the principles and objectives of the UN Charter, which provided the basis for a peaceful,

and prosperous world. He highlighted that the growing number of international conflicts including unconventional crises such as climate change, heightened geo-political tensions, major power rivalry and deepening economic woes of Global South were a strong evidence of world order being in massive disarray. He said that at the heart of the global crisis was the United Nations' inability to enforce its Charter in an equitable manner, especially "when the matter involves the question of the right to self-determination for peoples under foreign occupation such as in Palestine and Jammu and Kashmir." " As long as the provisions of the UN's founding document are ignored, the crises will continue to deepen," he remarked.

### FPCCI and **CCPIT Form** Alliance

#### BUREAU REPORT KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram

Sheikh, President FPCCI,

has apprised that, in a land-

mark development, FPCCI

and China Council for the

Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), have formed an alliance for land - sea corridor; which comprises of chambers of commerce & industries of 17 regional, sub-regional and economically-significant countries. Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh participated in the session of the aforementioned alliance as the founding member; which was held in Chongqing, China. It is an important achievement for Pakistan on international stage, he added. FPCCI Chief maintained that the apex body will explore investment, joint ventures and trade opportunities in mines mineral; information technology and IT-enabled services (ITeS); agriculture & livestock; food processing & storage; infrastructure development and renewable & alternative energy sources with their Chinese counterparts. The high-profile FPC-CI delegation to the Alliance of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of International Land - Sea Trade Corridor also included Mr. Malik Sohail Hussain, Chairman Coordination, FPCCI and Mr.

### **Awais** discusses energy coop with Iranian counterpart

Karim Aziz Malik, Chairman Capital Office, FPCCI.

**DNA** 

QINGDAO: Federal Minister for Power, Sardar Awais Leghari, met with the Iranian Energy Minister Abbas Ali Abadi on the sidelines of the Third Belt & Road Ministerial Conference held in Qingdao, China. Minister Awais Leghari underscored the importance of cross-border energy projects in boosting connectivity and trade, said a press release issued here Thursday. Both sides discussed future

collaboration, particularly focusing on the development of electricity projects in Gwadar, Balochistan.

Exchanging views on the need for enhanced energy connectivity amongst the regional countries, both sides underlined the importance of strengthening energy cooperation in power plants operations and maintenance. They emphasized the need for regular coordination and communication.

# COAS witnesses ongoing exercise Indus Shield-2024

COAS expressed his satisfaction over the combat readiness of Pakistan Air Force and the progress made through various modernization and up-gradation programs

**DNA** 

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Thursday visited an operational air base of Pakistan Air Force to witness the ongoing multinational exercise Indus Shield-2024. The COAS was received by Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf was also in presence at the occasion, an Inter Services Public Relations news release said. Exercise Indus Shield-2024 is the biggest multinational exercise of the region that is witnessing participation from 24 esteemed Air Forces converging to foster interoperability and training through stateof-the-art facilities embodying the exercise motto; "Stronger When Together."

COAS expressed his satisfaction over the combat readiness of Pakistan Air Force and the progress made through various modernization and up-gradation programs. Later, he witnessed exercise operations. static display of various niche and disruptive technologies where he was briefed on the modernization efforts of Pakistan Air Force to stay abreast with contemporary security challenges which was later followed by an enthralling aerial display by PAF fighter jets. COAS also interacted with the aircrew and appreciated the resolve of PAF personnel to safeguard the aerial fron-



tiers of Pakistan. He emphasized on the critical role of inter-service collaboration, which he believes is essential for achieving operational success. Chief of Air Staff expressed his gratitude for COAS's visit, reinforcing the commitment to enhance co-

**Justice Mansoor refuses to** 

become part of special bench

Senior puisne judge says he can't become part of bench

for same reasons that he mentioned in his letter earlier

operation between the army and air force in both training and operational contexts. Air Chief apprised COAS on modernization and indigenization drive being carried out by PAF through induction of state of the art weapon systems. While speaking at the

occasion, Air Chief highlighted that the ongoing exercise Indus Shield-2024 will go a long way in bolstering interoperability amongst the participating nations and will train their air & ground crews to face con-

### temporary warfare challenges. PSX roars to

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Stocks on Thursday stretched their record-breaking rally, ending just below 89,000 points, as optimism over a potential monetary policy loosening at the central bank's upcoming meeting drove investors into rate-sensitive sectors. The PSX's benchmark KSE-100 Shares Index surged by 1751.45 to close at an all-time high of 88,945.98 points, up from the previous close of 87,194.53 points after touching an intraday high of 89,126 points. With the first-quarter (1QFY25) corporate results rushing in, investors zeroed in on high-performing sectors such as auto-makers, cement, commercial banks, oil and gas exploration, oil marketing, and power generation. Saad Ali, Director of Research at Intermarket Securities, said, "The PSX has been rallying since the approval of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) \$7 billion loan under Extended Fund Facility (EFF) spanning 37 months." He said the recent political developments, such tional boost. "Currently, the expectations of a 200bps (basis points) rate cut are further fuelling the rally," Ali added.

#### mission of openness, inclusiveness and win-win coopernew record highs ation, conform to the general trend of the rise of the Global South, seek common ground while reserving differences, work in concert to further consolidate common values,

safeguard common interests, and strengthen BRICS countries through unity. 'We must work together to build BRICS into a primary channel for strengthening solidarity and cooperation among Global South nations and a vanguard for advancing global governance reform, Xi said. He stressed that the more turbulent the world is, the more BRICS countries should uphold the banner of peace, development and the essence of BRICS and demonstrating its strength.

### Real Admiral Faisal takes over as **Commander Coast**

KARACHI: Rear Admiral Faisal Amin HI(M) took over the duties of Commander Coast during Change of Command ceremony held at Karachi. Vice Admiral Raja Rab Nawaz HI(M) handed over the command to Rear Admiral Faisal Amin HI(M). Rear Admiral ral Faisal Amin HI(M) got commissioned in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in

1992. He is a graduate of Royal College of Defence Studies (UK), Army Command & Staff College (Quetta) and National Defence University (Islamabad). The Admiral has an illustrious naval career comprising vast ex perience of various Command and Staff appointments. His key appointments include Commander 18th Destroyer Squadron, Assistant Chief Of Naval Staff (Operations), Principal Secretary to the Chief of the Naval Staff, Additional Secretary-III at Ministry of Defence, and Naval Secretary. In recognition of his meritorious services, the Admiral was awarded Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military).

### of the committee. This, he had said few days after CJP Isa well as of the amendments made thereby or the judges of had appointed Justice Amin-Ud-Din Khan to the three-memthe SC resolve to act upon these amendments in a full court meeting pending adjudication upon constitutionality. - DNA ber judges' committee, excluding Justice Munib hours after OIC Secy General speaks for rights of Lebanese people

JEDDAH: The Secretary-General of the Organization eignty and territorial integrity. The OIC Secretary-General of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, addressed the International Conference in Support of Lebanon's People and Sovereignty, convened at the invitation of the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, on 24 October 2024 in Paris, France. The Secretary-General thanked the French President for this timely and laudable initiative.

ISLAMABAD: In a letter to Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, Justice

Mansoor Ali Shah said he would not participate in the special

bench constituted by the committee formed under the SC

(Practice and Procedure Act), 2023, for assigning cases. Rais-

ing objection, he said he could not become a part of the bench

for the same reasons that he mentioned in his September 23

letter to the secretary of the committee. In the earlier letter,

the senior puisne judge had expressed concerns over the Su-

preme Court (Practice and Procedure Act), 2023, that deals

with the affairs of the top court including the formation of

benches. The ordinance, promulgated in September this year,

empowers the chief justice to nominate a judge of his choice

in the committee that constitutes the benches. As per the

ordinance, the body will comprise the chief justice, the most

senior judge after the CJP and the judge nominated by Justice

Isa. Justice Mansoor had expressed reservations over the

"cherry-picking" and removal of Justice Munib Akhtar from

the said committee. He had said within hours of the promul-

gation of the ordinance, the judges committee was reconsti-

tuted and Justice Munib was removed from the composition

He condemned the brutal Israeli aggression against Lebanon and reiterated OIC's commitment to Lebanon's sovercalled for an immediate cease-fire and urged the international community to achieve durable peace, including through the full implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1701. H.E. Hissein Brahim Taha also called on States and international organizations to scale up humanitarian assistance to alleviate the suffering of the conflict-affected population, including the forcibly displaced. The International Conference in Support of Lebanon's People and Sovereignty pledged \$ 1 billion. - Agencies

the promulgation of the new practice law. Justice Mansoor, in

his letter, had noted that no reasons were given as to why the

second senior most judge, Justice Akhtar, was removed from

the composition of the committee. "Furthermore, no reasons

were given why the next senior most judge was ignored and

instead, the fourth senior most judge was nominated as a member of the Committee." "Such unfortunate cherry pick-

ing and undemocratic display of one-man show are precisely

what the Act tried to discourage and replace-a stance that was

upheld by the Full Court Bench of this Court in Raja Amer,"

he had written. In response to Justice Mansoor's letter, CJ Isa

on September 26 gave 11 reasons to justify his action. In his

letter, the CJP had said legally he could not be asked about

why he nominated a judge as the committee's third member.

Still, the chief justice had provided the reasons for his action,

saying he did it because he "always advocated accountabili-

ty and transparency". In his October 23 letter, Justice Man-

soor made his participation in the special bench conditional,

saying that "until the full court bench determined the con-

stitutional validity of the promulgation of the ordinance as

# **Bosnian Ambassador for** enhanced trade ties with Pakistan



DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) warmly welcomed H.E. Emin Cohodarevic. the Ambassador of Bosnia & Herzegovina, during his visit to the Chamber. The meeting focused on strengthening bilateral trade and investment ties between Pakistan and Bosnia & Herzegovina, with discussions covering key sectors such as tourism, metals, mining, energy, food processing, textiles, and agricultural machinery.

Ambassador Cohodarevic highlighted the immense cultural and historical heritage of Bosnia & Herzegovina and pointed out the great potential for collaboration in various fields. He underscored that both nations can significantly benefit from each other's strengths, emphasizing the importance of reactivating the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) to enhance trade and investment between the two countries.

zegovina to collaborate in numerous sectors. Reactivating the Joint Economic Commission will be a crucial step in boosting our bilateral trade relations and expanding cooperation," said Ambassador Cohodarevic. In response, RCCI President expressed appreciation for the Ambassador's visit and reaffirmed the Chamber's full commitment to supporting initiatives that promote closer business ties. He assured all-out efforts to facilitate networking, information exchange, and enhanced chamber-to-chamber relations between Pakistan and Bosnia & Herzegovina. "We are dedicated to building stronger ties between our two nations, and the RCCI is ready to assist in expanding business connections, creating networking opportunities, and sharing valuable market information," said the RCCI President. The meeting was also attended by Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, executive committee members, and prominent traders.

"There is vast potential for Pakistan and Bosnia & Her-

