



Islamabad POST

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Hungary, Pakistan ties poised to grow rapidly

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Justice Mansor refuses to become part of bench

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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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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 founder. "They conspired against him, and Imran Khan knows they have sold out," he said, adding that Imran Khan's jail meetings will begin from October 27.

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

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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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 low 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

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FBR amends 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,

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Briefs

Dar visits Fagali in Samoa

DNA

SAMOA: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar received a warm and gracious welcome from the people of Fagali village in Samoa, which is hosting the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. Samoa Minister for Women, Communities & Social Development, Mulipola Anarosa Ale Molioo & elders and youth of Fagali Village warmly received the Deputy Prime Minister in the Fagali village. The village streets are decorated in Pakistan's national colors; green and white, as the local community showcased traditional Samoan culture and dances, embodying the strong bond between Pakistan and Commonwealth nations, including Samoa.

India approves \$ 119 mn for space sector

DNA

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.

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 (PTI) 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, PTI lawyer Faisal Chaudhry said that the incarcerated former prime minister has expressed displeasure over the 26th Constitutional Amendment. "The PTI founder said the nation has been tyrannised by this act," the lawyer said, adding that Khan refused to comment on appointment of Justice Yahya Afridi as next Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP). Faisal further said that the deposed premier has lauded the PTI workers and supporters for their sacrifices. "PTI founder is not afraid of any adversity," he added. He noted that they were making efforts to reduce hardships being faced by the PTI founder. Chaudhry claimed that the PTI founder is kept in a six by eight cell, adding that he has been

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Bushra Bibi out on bail; reaches CM House KP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: DBushra Bibi, the wife of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, is finally out of prison on bail after remaining behind bars for around nine months. The release from Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail comes a day after the Islamabad High Court (IHC) granted her bail against surety bonds worth Rs1 million in the new Toshakhana case. The former first lady was arrested after a court on January 31 convicted and sentenced the couple to 14 years in prison after finding them guilty of retaining and selling state gifts in violation of government rules (Toshakhana case) while Khan was in power. Her release was expedited

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Pakistan condemns Israeli attack on UN staff

Humanitarian situation caused by Israel's Gaza siege blot 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

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'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 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

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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 provides English-language, 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 message.—APP

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

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 South Punjab.—APP

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

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The European Union Ambassador to Pakistan Dr. Rima 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. Rima 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 around us," she added. Rakhshanda

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 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 asserting 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 Punjab 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 Iqbal, 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 Awaize 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 addressed during the financial year. The ministries demanded PKR 2,900 billion whereas approved development budget was PKR 1,100 billion. The PSPD 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 minimum essential requirements of 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 PSPD 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 Iqbal 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 projects.—DNA

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, Sardogha, 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 Punjab 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 Shamsad 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 triservices 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

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), Capital 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 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,

Head of Environment at the 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 Anna 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 grassroots level, especially to promote climate-resilient agriculture, water conservation efforts, and transitioning to clean energy sources.

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

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- 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
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- Oct 27/Turkmenistan Independence Day
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Motorway Police.9270601-20
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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 occasion 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 MOL 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 expats, he added. "Let me tell to my Urdu speaking



friends that I deliberately used the word Magyaristan instead of "Hungary" 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 became an armed uprising due to hostile reaction

of the communist regime which led to the death of dozens of demonstrators. 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, 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. 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 Hungarian people would never bow to totalitarian



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 long forgotten intellectual footprints what Hungarians- artists, professors, doctors, orientalisks 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 sport. "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 Naqem 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 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, 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 consumer 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 forward joint research pro-

grams on the chemistry, pharmacology, pre-clinical and clinical studies of medicinal plants used in Uygur 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 drugs

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 Punjab. 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 Police Station.—APP

China, Pakistan sign MoU to leverage space technology

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between International 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-

kistan joint research initiatives 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.

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Briefs

15th death anniversary of legendary Sufi singer

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

Suhrah Faqir was renowned globally for his unique style of singing, which earned him admiration far beyond Pakistan'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, Suhrah 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 (FPCCI) 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 PMWEP 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."—APP

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 Pirwahai police arrested Khuram 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 Wah police conducted 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

towards a future of shared 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 shared benefits.



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

people. Ambassador Masood Khan, former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, was Chief Guest on the occasion. Other speakers included: Ms Farzana Yaqoob, former Minister for Social Welfare and Women Development, AJK; Dr. Mariam 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 is confronted with myriad of urgent challenges, including: 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-

ing to international peace and security on the basis of 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,

discussing measures for regulating 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

of November. Sindh's representative 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 residen-

tial use, with input from the provinces. 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 Authority.—APP

Family-oriented event to be held at PNCA to mark UN Day

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

Massive Jump in Pakistan's Trade with Russia: ECI

DNA

ISLAMABAD: One of the most notable features of Pakistan's external trade profile in the last fiscal year is a massive increase in trade with the Russian Federation, 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 super-continent. 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 think-tank 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," notes 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 officers and personnel have been deployed to ensure security." "The security team includes superintendents of police (SPs), assistant/deputy superintendents, inspectors, SHO 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

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 Consul Bakhrom Yusupov, Deputy Chairman of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Uzbekistan Safarov Khalimjon, Deputy Chairman Chemical Industry Association Tukhtaev Akorbiyor 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, President 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 Consul Bakhrom Yusupov highlighted simplified visa procedures for business delegations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Deputy Chairman Chemical Industry Association of Uzbekistan Tukhtaev Akorbiyor highlighted the attractive facilities in Uzbekistan's chemical industry.

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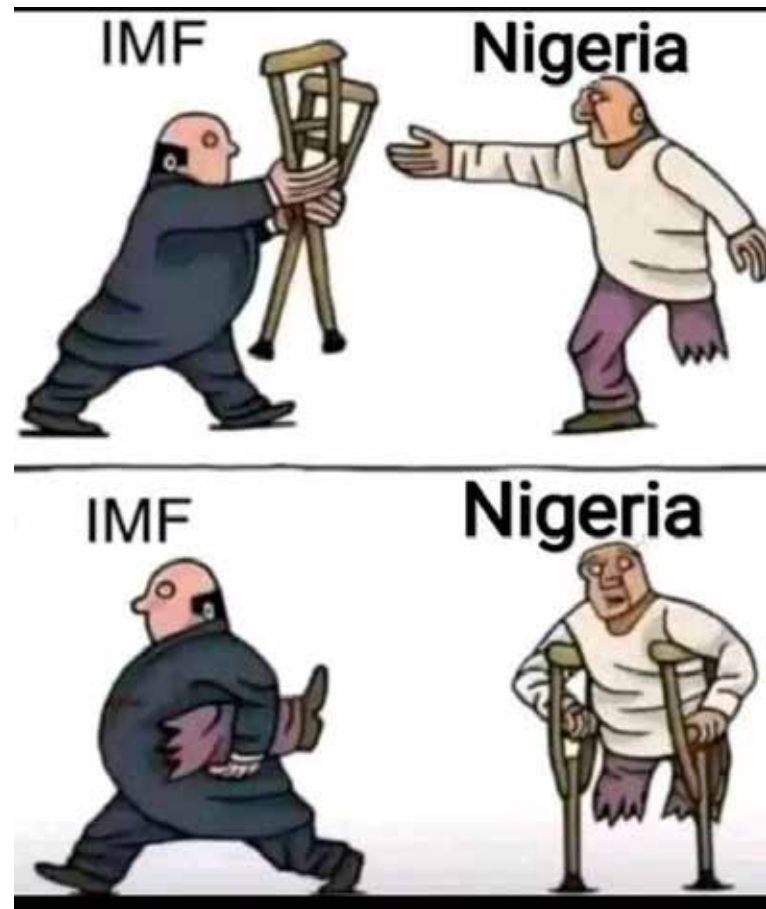
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Prabowo and China ties

INDONESIA 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.

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Defense bundle-up'

AS 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 long-range 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

THROUGHOUT 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 Chief Justice. 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 Torah 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 Chief 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

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has become 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 shameful. 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.

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 landmark 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 FPCCI 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. Karim Aziz Malik, Chairman Capital Office, FPCCI.

Awais discusses energy coop with Iranian counterpart

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 Muneer 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 state-of-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 frontiers 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-



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 contemporary warfare challenges.

'BRICS to invite more countries to join as partners'

DNA
BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping has said that the ongoing BRICS summit has decided to invite a number of nations to become partner countries. In a speech addressing the summit in Kazan, Russia, Xi hailed the decision as another important development in the course of BRICS development. During a small-group meeting, Xi welcomed new members to the BRICS family and invited many countries to become partner countries, China Daily reported. Xi pointed out that the enlargement of BRICS is a major milestone in its development 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 countries should seize the historical opportunity, take proactive steps, remain committed to the original aspiration and mission of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation, 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 win-win cooperation, refining the essence of BRICS and demonstrating its strength.

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

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. Raising 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 Supreme 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 promulgation of the ordinance, the judges committee was reconstituted and Justice Munib was removed from the composition of the committee. This, he had said few days after CJP Isa had appointed Justice Amin-Ud-Din Khan to the three-member judges' committee, excluding Justice Munib hours after

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 picking 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 accountability and transparency". In his October 23 letter, Justice Mansoor made his participation in the special bench conditional, saying that "until the full court bench determined the constitutional validity of the promulgation of the ordinance as well as of the amendments made thereby or the judges of the SC resolve to act upon these amendments in a full court meeting pending adjudication upon constitutionality." - DNA

PSX roars to new record highs

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 as the passage of the 26th Amendment, had given it an additional boost. "Currently, the expectations of a 200bps (basis points) rate cut are further fuelling the rally," Ali added.

OIC Secy General speaks for rights of Lebanese people

JEDDAH: The Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) H.E. Mr. Hissein Ibrahim 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. He condemned the brutal Israeli aggression against Lebanon and reiterated OIC's commitment to Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The OIC Secretary-General called 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 Ibrahim 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

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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.

"There is vast potential for Pakistan and Bosnia & Herzegovina 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.

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 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 experience 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 Hilali-Imtiaz (Military).

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