



Islamabad POST

Saturday, October 26, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Pakistan, Romania ties poised for a quantum leap

Detailed News On Page-08

Saif: No deal behind Bushra Bibi's release

Detailed News On Page-08



Not quite at Verstappen's level: Norris

Detailed News On Page-06



SC holds full court reference

Justice Shah accuses Justice Isa of creating divisions in judiciary

“Outgoing CJP’s actions displayed blatant disregard for collegiality,” says senior puisne judge as he skips full court reference



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Justice Mansoor Ali Shah has fired broadside against outgoing Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa for remaining “complacent and indifferent to external pressure on the judiciary” during his tenure as the senior puisne judge skipped a full court reference to bid farewell to the latter. CJP Isa took oath as the 29th chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) on Sept 17, 2023 at a ceremony, where his wife Sarina Isa was standing beside him. Justice Yahya Afridi, who was appointed by a Special Parliamentary Committee (SPC), is set to take oath as the next chief justice tomorrow (Saturday). In a letter to Supreme Court Registrar, Justice Shah – who would have become the CJP had the 26th Amendment not been passed – noted that it is universal custom to hold a farewell event to acknowledge the departing chief justice’s contributions. However, he said, traditions, like institutions, “rely on the merits of those who embody them.”

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Outgoing CJP Isa reflects on career’s watershed moments

SC judges, senior lawyers heap praise on outgoing CJP at a full-court farewell reference

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, who is retiring today (Friday), reflected on his 42-year-long judicial career’s life-changing moments while addressing a full-court reference at the Supreme Court, organised to honour him and his services. While quipping that “hours are left to freedom”, CJP Isa, in his emotional farewell speech, described his appointment as chief justice of Balochistan as a watershed moment in his career. “I accepted the position at a time when there was no judge in Balochistan,” the outgoing chief justice said, with his wife Sarina Isa, other family members, and Supreme Court judges present in the audience at the farewell reference. Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan, senior lawyer Farooq H Naek and Justice Yahya Afridi – who is set to replace CJP Isa after he relinquishes the charge –

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police crackdown on participants of Gaza March. The protestors tried to reach the US embassy in the diplomatic enclave to register protest.

Islamabad Police crackdown on Gaza march

Mushtaq Ahmed along with 20 workers arrested from outside the Faisal Mosque

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad police on Friday arrested former senator of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Mushtaq Ahmed during a march organized by the party to express solidarity with the people of Gaza. As per details, Mushtaq Ahmed along with 20 workers of JI was arrested from outside the Faisal Mosque during the Save Gaza March protest. The Islamabad police said the arrests were made

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IMF condition met

Contract termination of 5 IPPs to reduce power burden on consumers

Closure of IPPs will reduce electricity bills and save billions

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Attaullah Tara said on Friday the government had terminated contracts with five independent power producers (IPPs). He said termination of contracts with the five IPPs would help bring down the electricity prices leading to a positive impact on the economy as well. Speaking on the National Assembly floor on calling attention notice, he stated that reduction in electricity prices was PM Shehbaz Sharif’s first and foremost priority. He said contracts with another eight power producers were on the cards. He also mentioned that NEPRA reduced 86 paise per unit on fuel price adjustment. He highlighted the federal government’s people friendly measures including Rs50 billion subsidy for consumers using up to 200 electricity units while government provided Rs276 billion subsidy upto 300 units every year.

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Belgium to invest in IT, agri sectors

Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz meets Belgium ambassador

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz and Belgium’s Ambassador Idesbald van der Gracht de Rommerswael have expressed interest to strengthen bilateral ties and boost cooperation during the meeting. They stressed the need to explore more opportunities to promote cooperation between both states. Ambassador of Belgium hailed the Punjab CM’s people friendly policies and commended the Punjab government’s economic vision. Maryam Nawaz stated that the Punjab government aimed for the cooperation of Belgium in

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

PM condemns terror attacks in DI Khan, Bannu

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday strongly condemned the terrorist attacks in Dera Ismail Khan and Bannu Districts, which claimed lives of security personnel. The prime minister paid tribute to the Frontier Constabulary personnel who embraced martyrdom while bravely fighting terrorists in the Drazanda area of DI Khan. Prime Minister Shehbaz also expressed condolence over the martyrdom of two police officials in another terrorist attack in Bannu District. He prayed to Allah Almighty for elevation of the martyrs’ ranks in paradise and conveyed his condolence to the bereaved families.

No intention of joining govt, says Fazl

Fazl urged return to democratic process through re-elections

DNA

CHINIOT: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman says pitting one province against another reflects a non-political mindset. Talking to media in Chiniot on Friday, he said that 56 clauses in the amendment were reduced to 22, with five added back, highlighting the accomplishments of this change. I have no intention of joining the government. I am unaware of any such proposal.

Holiday Notice

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

Police stage attack: PTI

Police spring into action after three prison vans attacked

Armed assailants open fire at three prison vans transporting PTI lawmakers, govt workers, cops to Attock jail

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Unidentified gunmen ambushed three prison vans carrying detainees on Friday at the Sangjani Toll Plaza, leading to a chaotic scene as several prisoners, including three Members of Provincial Assembly (MPAs) from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), managed to escape, according to police sources. The prisoners, 187 individuals detained during recent protests at D-Chowk, were being transported to Attock Jail following court appearances. Among those in the vans were MPAs Anwar Zeb, Malik Liaquat, and Yasir Qureshi, alongside KP government employees and police officers, police sources confirmed. “Armed assailants, seemingly lying in wait, opened fire as the prison vans reached Sangjani,” stated a police official. The attack targeted the vehicles’ tyres, forcing them to halt, while police officers onboard sustained injuries and were subsequently taken to the hospital. In the aftermath, law enforcement quickly mobilised reinforcements, securing the area and launching an immediate manhunt.

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Imran’s sisters Aleema, Uzma Khan get bail

PTI lawyers have left judicial complex Islamabad to go to jail with mandamus

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad has granted bail to Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan, the sisters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, in the D-Chowk protest case. Judge Abul Hasanat Zulqarnain issued the order on Friday with regard to the case registered at the Kohsar police station in the federal capital. The two sisters were arrested on October 4, 2024. The former ruling party’s lawyers have left the Judicial

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10 FC personnel martyred in DI Khan attack

Heavily armed terrorists storm Zam FC check post in Darazinda area late Thursday night, says interior ministry

STAFF REPORT

DI Khan: Ten Frontier Constabulary (FC) soldiers were martyred in a fierce attack carried out by terrorists on a check post in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s Dera Ismail Khan district, an interior ministry’s spokesperson said on Friday. The spokesperson detailed that the terrorists equipped with heavy weaponry targeted Zam FC check post in DI Khan’s Darazinda area under cover of darkness late Thursday night. In response to the assault, the FC personnel courageously fought back

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China to offer Afghan govt tariff-free trade

Afghanistan exported \$64 million worth of goods to China last year, according to Chinese customs data, close to 90pc of which was shelled pine nuts

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: China will offer the Afghan Taliban tariff-free access to its vast construction, energy and consumer sectors, Beijing’s envoy to Kabul said, as the ailing resource-rich but diplomatically isolated regime looks to build up its markets. Beijing has sought to develop its ties with the Taliban since they took control of Afghanistan in 2021, but like all governments has refrained from formally recognising the group’s government amid international concern over its human rights record and those of women and girls. But the impoverished country could offer a wealth of coveted mineral resources to boost Beijing’s supply chain security. And selling Afghanistan’s lithium, copper and iron deposits to the world’s biggest commodities buyer would help the Taliban prop up their ailing economy, which the United Nations says has “basically collapsed”, and provide a much-needed revenue stream as the country’s overseas central bank reserves remain frozen. “China will offer Afghanistan

Continued on Page 06

Indian soldiers among four shot dead in IIOJK ambush

Two civilian porters engaged by the army were also killed

FOREIGN DESK

SRINAGAR: Gunmen in Indian-occupied Kashmir ambushed an army vehicle and killed four people including two soldiers, officials said Friday, days after gunmen killed seven construction workers in the disputed territory. India’s army confirmed a brief exchange of fire with gunmen late Thursday in the vicinity of Gulmarg.

Continued on Page 06

Asian WOK

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Seminar on national security through prism of democratic transition

The seminar concluded with closing remarks by Air Marshal Asim Suleiman (Retd), President CASS, Lahore who said that Pakistan's path to democracy has been anything but easy

DNA

LAHORE: The Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS), Lahore, hosted a seminar titled "Democratic Transition and Political Security: Challenges and Opportunities for Pakistan" on 17 October 2024. Ameer Abdullah Khan, a Senior Researcher at CASS Lahore, opened the seminar by highlighting the nexus between political and national security. Mr Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT, delivered the keynote address, outlining Pakistan's political landscape from the perspectives of Islamic identity, political autonomy, institutional balance, and parliamentary democracy. He praised the drafting of a robust constitution and the institutionalisation of a vigorous election commission as important

milestones in Pakistan's democratic consolidation. He also analysed the parliament, political parties, and institutional balance as determinants of Pakistan's political security. Mr Fahad Hussain, President Aik News, provided a compelling analysis of the factors shaping Pakistan's political security. He discussed the role of provincial, demographic, and political fault lines, misinformation and fake news being spread through social media, and the influence of bloodlines visible in the form of dynastic politics and elite privileges in determining Pakistan's political stability. Professor Dr Moonis Ahmer mentioned authoritarian mindset, corruption, nepotism, non-professional nature of political parties, and marginal role of education and youth as major factors of democratic fragility. He accentuated the importance of political pluralism, institutional dedication to the political process, and

press freedom as avenues to political security. The seminar concluded with closing remarks by Air Marshal Asim Suleiman (Retd), President CASS, Lahore who said that Pakistan's path to democracy has been anything but easy. He highlighted that Pakistan's democratic future relies on a stable political process, robust institutions, and active participation from civil society. President CASS emphasised that adherence to the Constitution, serves as the nation's guiding light and Pakistan must learn from its past and use these lessons to build a better future. The seminar provided an important platform for dialogue on Pakistan's democratic journey and the relationship between political transition and security. It laid the groundwork for future discussions on democratic consolidation, political security, and the role of emerging generations in shaping Pakistan's political future.



Gilgit Police chief vows to make district crime-free

He assured that every possible step will be taken to eliminate crime from Gilgit

GILGIT: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Gilgit Zahoor Ahmed has announced a crackdown on criminal activities in the region. During a media talk at the Gilgit Union Office on Friday Zahoor Ahmed stated that a special team has been formed to eradicate drug trafficking in the district. He also mentioned that security measures have been tightened for the full security of Chinese working in district Gilgit. Zahoor Ahmed warned that strict legal action will be taken against individuals spreading religious hatred on social media. He emphasized that maintaining peace in Gilgit is a top priority and that merit-based actions will be taken to achieve this goal without exceptions. The SSP also mentioned that efforts are being made to reduce motorbike theft in the region and that several motorcycles have been recovered so far. He assured that every possible step will be taken to eliminate crime from Gilgit. —APP

Progress on Hyderabad motorway, Ghotki-Kandhkot bridge projects reviewed

SUKKUR: Divisional Commissioner Sukkur, Fayyaz Hussain Abbasi on Friday presided over a high level meeting to review the progress of the M-6 Motorway (Sukkur-Hyderabad) and Ghotki-Kandhkot Bridge projects. The meeting aimed to expedite the completion of these vital projects, crucial for Sindh's development. Abbasi emphasized that the M-6 Motorway and Ghotki-Kandhkot Bridge are essential for Sindh's progress, stated that we are committed to completing these projects efficiently, ensuring timely completion and maximizing economic

benefits to the people adding that the 306-kilometer M-6 Motorway will connect Sukkur to Hyderabad, significantly enhancing Sindh's transportation infrastructure. The Commissioner directed officials to resolve land acquisition issues in certain talukas of Khairpur in collaboration with the Survey Department. He also instructed survey department officials to present records regarding land acquisition in the next meeting. Abbasi warned that no compromises would be made on the quality of work for the Ghotki-Kandhkot Bridge, promising strict

action against those responsible for delays. The bridge will resolve long-standing connectivity issues between the two districts, facilitating travel. Among others Additional Commissioner-I, Muhammad Aamir Ansari, Additional Commissioner-II Muhammad Hajan Ujjan, Project Director Sukkur Motorway Ikhlaj Nabi Dayo, Deputy Commissioner Sukkur Dr. M.B. Raja Dharejo, Deputy Commissioner Khairpur Syed Ahmed Fawad, and Deputy Commissioner Ghotki Syed Muhammad Ali, attended the meeting. —APP

Bicycle tracks proposed design discussed

The CDA remains committed to introducing affordable and easy transportation solutions while maintaining Islamabad's natural beauty and promoting sustainability

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, chaired a meeting on Friday to discuss the proposed design for bicycle tracks in Islamabad. The meeting was attended by the relevant CDA Members, the officers from CDA and the NESPAK consultants for the project. During the meeting, the consultants from NESPAK gave a briefing on the proposed design for the bicycle tracks. They apprised the meeting that a topographic survey of the proposed tracks has been completed while the several design options are under consideration. Further consultation is going on to finalize the most suitable design for Islamabad. Chairman CDA, Muhammad Ali Randhawa emphasized that the bicycle tracks should enhance the beauty of Islamabad and should also serve as an alternative mode of transportation for its residents. He highlighted the need to explore sustainable, affordable, and eco-friendly transportation options. The Chairman CDA also directed that the project should be developed in different phases, ensuring it meets international standards while remaining economical. He mentioned that international support and funding for the project should be explored for its implementation. In addition, Chairman Randhawa instructed the inclusion of digital boards for the advertisements along the cycling tracks to make it sustainable by generating revenue. He urged for incorporating the provision of the electric bikes as well as charging stations into the design to further promote green and easy means of transportation. The meeting also discussed the need to preserve Islamabad's green belts and natural environment during the construction of the cycling tracks. —DNA

Nasir urges CDA for wholesale fruit market problems solutions

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Wholesale Fruit Market Association I-11 Islamabad visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and held a meeting with its President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi to apprise him the problems being faced by the community. In his address Nasir Mansoor Qureshi said that the business community is playing a vital role in the enhancement of economic activities and resolution of its problems will remain his utmost priority. He said that the Wholesale Fruit Market is not only catering the local needs but also exporting its commodities to other countries. He



stressed that the Capital Development Authority and other concerned departments should focus on the better development of the Wholesale Fruit Market and address its key issues so that it could play more effective role in promoting business activities and exports. On their part Wholesale Fruit Market Association President

Babu Aleem and General Secretary Tahir Ayub apprised the ICCI President about the challenges being faced by the community including shortage of Auction Platforms, encroachments, dysfunctional sewerage system, shortage of drinking water, security lapses etc. They also presented bouquets to President, Senior Vice President

and Vice President on assuming the respective offices. Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, SVP and Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry Vice President said that business community is united under the leadership of ICCI President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi and will continue to raise its voice at all the relevant platforms for the resolution of its problems. Those present on the occasion included former President Tariq Sadiq, President TWA-G-11 Markaz Naem Akhtar Awan, Executive Members Zulqurnain Abbasi, Ishaq Sial, Malik Mohsin Khalid, Aftab Gujjar, Waseem Chaudhry former SVP Khalid Chaudhry. — APP



PESHAWAR: An old man crossing a railway track while a train approaching that may cause any mishap, needs the attention of authorities concerned.

"SAY NO TO CORRUPTION"

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY
(MAINTENANCE REGION M-1)

INVITATION TO BIDS

10x ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORKS ON MOTORWAY (M-1)
04x ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORKS ON HAZARA MOTORWAY (E-35)
01x ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK ON NEW ISLAMABAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (NIIA)
10x ROUTINE MAINTENANCE (SERVICE ROAD) WORKS ON MOTORWAY M-1

1. National Highway Authority (NHA) Invites Bids from the Constructors, registered with Income Tax department and who are on Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue having valid PEC registration in below mentioned Categories with required specialization for the following works:

S#.	CONTRACT NO.	DESCRIPTION	ENGINEER ESTIMATED COST (RS.)	BID SECURITY 2% OF ENGINEER ESTIMATED COST (RS.)	PEC REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT
1	RM-M1-24-1001	Km 350-365 (NORTH & SOUTH BOUND) ON MOTORWAY (M-1)	5,159,917/-	103,198/-	C-5 or Above
2	RM-M1-24-1002	Km 365-380 (NORTH & SOUTH BOUND) ON MOTORWAY (M-1)	5,159,917/-	103,198/-	C-5 or Above
3	RM-M1-24-1003	Km 380-395 (NORTH & SOUTH BOUND) ON MOTORWAY (M-1)	5,159,917/-	103,198/-	C-5 or Above
4	RM-M1-24-1004	Km 395-410 (NORTH & SOUTH BOUND) ON MOTORWAY (M-1)	5,159,917/-	103,198/-	C-5 or Above
5	RM-M1-24-1005	Km 410-425 (NORTH & SOUTH BOUND) ON MOTORWAY (M-1)	5,159,917/-	103,198/-	C-5 or Above
6	RM-M1-24-1006	Km 425-440 (NORTH & SOUTH BOUND) ON MOTORWAY (M-1)	5,159,917/-	103,198/-	C-5 or Above
7	RM-M1-24-1007	Km 440-455 (NORTH & SOUTH BOUND) ON MOTORWAY (M-1)	5,159,917/-	103,198/-	C-5 or Above
8	RM-M1-24-1008	Km 455-470 (NORTH & SOUTH BOUND) ON MOTORWAY (M-1)	5,159,917/-	103,198/-	C-5 or Above
9	RM-M1-24-1009	Km 470-485 (NORTH & SOUTH BOUND) ON MOTORWAY (M-1)	5,159,917/-	103,198/-	C-5 or Above
10	RM-M1-24-1010	Km 485-505 (NORTH & SOUTH BOUND) ON MOTORWAY (M-1)	7,213,223/-	144,264/-	C-5 or Above
11	RM-E35-24-1011	Km 0-15 (NORTH & SOUTH BOUND) ON HAZARA MOTORWAY (E-35)	11,146,655/-	222,933/-	C-5 or Above
12	RM-E35-24-1012	Km 15-30 (NORTH & SOUTH BOUND) ON HAZARA MOTORWAY (E-35)	11,146,655/-	222,933/-	C-5 or Above
13	RM-E35-24-1013	Km 30-45 (NORTH & SOUTH BOUND) ON HAZARA MOTORWAY (E-35)	11,146,655/-	222,933/-	C-5 or Above
14	RM-E35-24-1014	Km 45-57 (NORTH & SOUTH BOUND) ON HAZARA MOTORWAY (E-35)	8,917,324/-	178,346/-	C-5 or Above
15	RM-NIIA-24-1015	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK ON M-1/M-2 INTERCHANGE TO NIIA (5.5 KM) & THALLIAN INTERCHANGE TO NIIA ROAD (8.6 KM) INCLUDING LOOPS OF I/CS & PERIPHERY ROAD	2,415,654/-	48,313/-	C-5 or Above
16	RM-(SR)-M1-24-1016	Km 350-365 (NORTH & SOUTH BOUND) ON MOTORWAY (M-1)	3,665,980/-	73,319/-	C-5 or Above
17	RM-(SR)-M1-24-1017	Km 365-380 (NORTH & SOUTH BOUND) ON MOTORWAY (M-1)	3,665,980/-	73,319/-	C-5 or Above
18	RM-(SR)-M1-24-1018	Km 380-395 (NORTH & SOUTH BOUND) ON MOTORWAY (M-1)	3,665,980/-	73,319/-	C-5 or Above
19	RM-(SR)-M1-24-1019	Km 395-410 (NORTH & SOUTH BOUND) ON MOTORWAY (M-1)	3,665,980/-	73,319/-	C-5 or Above
20	RM-(SR)-M1-24-1020	Km 410-425 (NORTH & SOUTH BOUND) ON MOTORWAY (M-1)	3,665,980/-	73,319/-	C-5 or Above
21	RM-(SR)-M1-24-1021	Km 425-440 (NORTH & SOUTH BOUND) ON MOTORWAY (M-1)	3,665,980/-	73,319/-	C-5 or Above
22	RM-(SR)-M1-24-1022	Km 440-455 (NORTH & SOUTH BOUND) ON MOTORWAY (M-1)	3,665,980/-	73,319/-	C-5 or Above
23	RM-(SR)-M1-24-1023	Km 455-470 (NORTH & SOUTH BOUND) ON MOTORWAY (M-1)	3,665,980/-	73,319/-	C-5 or Above
24	RM-(SR)-M1-24-1024	Km 470-485 (NORTH & SOUTH BOUND) ON MOTORWAY (M-1)	3,665,980/-	73,319/-	C-5 or Above
25	RM-(SR)-M1-24-1025	Km 485-505 (NORTH & SOUTH BOUND) ON MOTORWAY (M-1)	4,307,973/-	86,159/-	C-5 or Above

2. Bidding documents, containing method of procurement (Single Stage - Two Envelopes) detailed terms & conditions etc. will be available on the website mentioned below from **October 31, 2024** for downloading free of cost. Prospective Bidders are also advised to follow the said website for updates of schedule and addendum(s), if any.

3. The Bids, prepared in accordance with the instructions provided in the bidding documents, must reach at the address mentioned below, on or before **November 13, 2024 till 1100 Hours**. Technical Bids will be opened on the **same day at 1130 Hours**.

4. All Firms are advised to get EPADS (PPRA) Registration at www.eprocure.gov.pk immediately, as Manual Bid/Proposal/Application (hard copy) will be eliminated in upcoming Procurements.

5. This Advertisement is also available on PPRA website at www.ppra.org.pk.

GENERAL MANAGER (MAINTENANCE) MOTORWAY M-1
National Highway Authority
PO Munnoo Nagar, Near Jallo Stop Burhan, Tehsil Hassanabdal, District Attock
Phone No. 0572-232085 & Email: gm.nha.m1@gmail.com
Website: www.ebidding.nha.gov.pk

PID(I)2853/24

National Days and Armed Forces Days

OCTOBER

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

Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



Enquiry

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



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111
MH.....5611116
Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11
DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666



Departments

CDA.....9221334-43
CDA.....9208301-04
Met Office.....9250360-6
RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Speakers call for adequate awareness about breast cancer

Serena hotels hosts breast cancer Session

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: In observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Serena Hotels organized a dedicated awareness session for its employees, aimed at empowering them with knowledge about early detection, diagnosis, and treatment options for breast cancer. The session featured esteemed medical professionals, Dr. Ayesha Isani Majeed and Dr. Saeeda Yasmin, both are renowned and leading practitioners for breast cancer treatment and diagnosis. Both the doctors highlighted the importance of early detection and shared details about the state-of-the-art facilities available for mammography, ultrasound, and biopsies. They have also shared important



insights into breast cancer detection and treatment, emphasizing the life-saving importance of regular screening and self-examinations. The session also included a practical demonstration on how

to perform self-examinations, a key method in early detection. Employees had the opportunity to engage in testing and consultations with the doctors, further enhancing the session's impact.



Serena Hotels emphasized the organization's commitment to promoting the well-being of its employees and supporting initiatives that empower them through health awareness. Breast cancer

awareness is a vital part of not only women's but men's health, and Serena Hotels is proud to provide this platform where our employees can learn from leading medical professionals.

German market possessed potential for Pak entrepreneurs

ISLAMABAD: The German Emirati Joint Council for Industry & Commerce (AHK) representative, Florian Walther on Friday said Pakistani entrepreneurs had the potential to grow in German market. Talking to private news channel, he said that the trade relationship between Pakistan and Germany is important for development of both the countries. He further said that all the stakeholders should play their positive role to boost the trade relationship between the two countries. He said that the role of media, political leadership and Civil society at all cultural level was important in this regard. "I believe this is an important part of my role, that I am not only presenting German business here, but also representing Pakistan when I go to Germany," he added. The German government also keen to facilitate to the business entered in the German market, he added. Pakistan has the potential to boost their exports to all over the world, he further added.—APP

50th death anniversary of writer Agha Shorish Kashmiri

ISLAMABAD: The 50th death anniversary of famous journalist, scholar, and writer Agha Shorish Kashmiri was observed on Friday. He was born in Lahore in 1917, British India. Agha Shorish Kashmiri initially gained recognition as a journalist and orator. He started his political career in 1935 when he delivered a historic speech at the Shaheed Ganj Mosque conference. He was deeply involved in the Pakistan Movement, advocating for Muslim political rights in British India. He was chief editor of the weekly Chatan magazine in Lahore in 1949. Qaid-i Farang, Iqbal Payambari Inqilab, Pase Diwar e Zindan, and Shab Jai Kay Man Bodam are his famous books. The event concluded with the distribution of certificates and awards among the participating athletes, celebrating their remarkable achievements and contributions to sports for individuals with disabilities.—APP

Iran-Pak Gas Pipeline important for S Asian energy security

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: "Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline project is crucial for South Asian energy security and the regional attempts of diversification", said Muhammad Soroush, a prominent Tehran-based analyst at a seminar organized by the Institute of Regional Studies on the Iran Pakistan gas pipeline. Earlier, Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President IRS, noted in his opening remarks that both Pakistan and Iran had much potential for furthering economic cooperation given their economic size and shared borders. While energy pipelines were much cheaper than shipping, and utilizing

gas as a source of energy was significantly less polluting than oil, the US sanctions on Iran posed a serious challenge. Muhammad Soroush, who also heads "Saramad" think tank based in Tehran, hailed IP gas pipeline as a game changer for the region. Noting that Iran had completed the construction of pipeline on its side but due to financial constraints, Pakistan was unable to start working on its part, Soroush felt that this energy project could make Iran a crucial player in South Asian energy landscape. Naade Ali, a Washington-based researcher at Middle East Institute, opined that the US viewed energy cooperation between Pakistan and Iran

as a prelude to a strategic partnership. To address this perception Pakistan needed to separate geoeconomics from geopolitics. Explaining US sanctions relief to India, Naade pointed out India's assurances to the US that its presence in the Chahbahar port would keep Iranian activities in check. Dr Khalid Waleed, an prominent energy expert at SDPI, addressed the issue of a non-productive energy sector. He felt that the energy policy of Pakistan must prioritize the industrial growth while noting that energy shipping lanes were prone to shocks arising from the geopolitical conflicts and therefore, pipelines were a viable alternative. He also suggested that

China's coal-fired power plant projects under CPEC could be transformed into Iran-Pakistan-China gas energy project. Dr Somay Morovati, Director South Asian Studies at Center for Middle East Strategic Studies in Tehran, stressed upon the need for cooperation between the think tanks of both the countries. She argued that the researchers of both Pakistan and Iran had a very basic knowledge of each other's governance system. She also emphasized cooperation between Pakistan and Iran in energy and economic corridors as a counterweight to US Indo Pacific Strategy which while aimed at containing China also impacted Pakistan and Iran.

FG Home economics college F-11 shines

ISLAMABAD: On the bright morning of October 25th, FG College of Home Economics & Management Sciences, F-11/1, witnessed a momentous occasion as it held its much-awaited Investiture Ceremony in the grand College Hall Under the dynamic leadership of Principal, Prof. Rozina Faheem. The prestigious ceremony was graced by two luminaries which were Mrs Reema Ayyaz Sadiq, wife of Speaker of National Assembly of Pakistan, a celebrated social and political activist, as the Chief Guest, and Ms. Talat Azim, President of the Home Economics Association, Islamabad Chapter, as the Guest of Honor. Both of these extraordinary women are distinguished alumni of the Home Economics College. The event commenced with the recitation of the Qirat and Naat, creating an ambience of reverence and serenity, followed by a captivating introduction of the esteemed guests. Their presence not only added prestige to the occasion but also served as an inspiration to all present, showcasing the heights that can be achieved through dedication and determination. The comperes, Ms. Muniba and Ms. Hajra effortlessly guided the proceedings, setting the stage for the eagerly awaited Oath Taking Ceremony. The air was electric as the newly elected council members were adorned with their sashes by the Chief Guest, a proud moment filled with symbolism and promise. The newly appointed students council, led by Maheen Maryam President, Wajeha Khan Vice President, Sana Mustafa General Secretary, Anna Bibi Treasurer along with Secretaries of different societies Shiza Ali Malaika Fajar Jaweria Gull Zainab Raza Aleezay sarfraz Rameen Salim from Performing arts Art and design, Food and nutrition, Interior and environmental design, Human development and family studies, Fashion and textile respectively took a solemn oath to uphold their duties with utmost dedication, integrity, and passion. Merit scholarships and sports winning prizes were also presented to the students of different departments of college. The ceremony reached its zenith with the Token of Gratitude presented by the Principal, Prof. Rozina Faheem, to the honorable Chief Guests. In her powerful address, Mrs. Reema Ayyaz lauded the principal and the council for the seamless organization of the event and congratulated the newly elected members on their success, encouraging them to lead with vision and commitment. The program gracefully concluded with a heartfelt Vote of Thanks delivered by the President of Council, followed by the stirring notes of the National Anthem. The vibrant day ended on a sweet note with a Cake Cutting Ceremony sealing the occasion with joy and a group photograph of the council body with the esteemed guests—a moment to be cherished for years to come.—DNA

Naqvi praises Police for eliminating terrorists

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has praised the brave efforts of Mianwali Police for their successful operation that resulted in the elimination of 10 extremist terrorists in the Mianwali district on Friday. The police action was described as a major blow to terrorist activities in the region and a testament to the courage and efficiency of Punjab's law enforcement agencies. In an official statement, Minister Naqvi commended the District Police Officer (DPO) of Mianwali, Akhtar Farooq, along with his entire police team, for their exceptional performance in thwarting what could have been a devastating attack by the terrorists. The operation, which was carried out in a strategic and daring manner, successfully neutralized the terrorists and prevented any harm to civilians in the area. "The brave personnel of Punjab Police have brought 10 extremist terrorists to a humiliating end," Naqvi said, emphasizing the significance of the operation. He added that the terrorists were part of a dangerous extremist network seeking to spread fear and chaos in the region, but their evil plans were crushed by the prompt action of the police. Naqvi also highlighted the broader impact of this successful mission on the ongoing fight against terrorism in the country. "The Mianwali police team courageously thwarted the nefarious designs of extremist terrorists," he remarked, pointing out how their decisive actions served as a crucial contribution to national security. The minister took the opportunity to extend his congratulations to the Inspector General of Punjab Police (IG) Usman Anwar and his entire force, recognizing their leadership and operational excellence. "I congratulate Punjab Police Commander IG Usman Anwar and his team," he stated, underscoring the collaborative efforts that led to the operation's success. In a message directed to the public, Naqvi expressed that the nation should be proud of its law enforcement officers who risk their lives every day to ensure the safety of the people. "The nation is proud of the achievements of Mianwali Police," he said, while praising the exceptional bravery of the officers involved in this particular operation. "The brave sons of Punjab Police have achieved significant successes in the fight against terrorism," the Interior Minister declared, reflecting on the sacrifices and efforts made by the force to uphold peace and stability across the province. In closing, Naqvi hailed the officers who carried out the mission as national heroes. "The police officers who killed 10 extremist terrorists are the nation's heroes," he concluded, expressing his gratitude for their dedication and service. This operation comes as a strong message to terrorist organizations attempting to disrupt peace in the country. With the continuous efforts of law enforcement agencies, Pakistan remains committed to defeating terrorism in all its forms.

ITP issues alternative routes

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) on Friday implemented a route plan in light of the current law and order situation, restricting access to Jinnah Avenue via Express Chowk from China Chowk. A public relations officer told APP that, Embassy Road from the intersection with Nazimud-Din Road towards Suharwardy Road. Citizens are advised to use alternative routes, including Shaheed-e-Millat Road, Luqman Hakeem Road, and the Polyclinic Underpass to avoid any travel inconvenience. Islamabad Traffic Police stated that officers are present on the roads to assist citizens and ensure a smooth traffic flow. He said citizens should stay updated on the latest traffic situation by tuning in to Islamabad Police's Radio FM 92.4 or contacting the helpline at Pukar 15.

NA passes unanimous resolution expressing solidarity with Kashmiris on Black Day

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly of Pakistan on Friday unanimously passed a resolution expressing solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) on "Black Day." Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Engineer Amir Muqam, presented the resolution on the 77th anniversary of the Indian invasion of Kashmir on 27th October 1947. The resolution reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to supporting the Kashmiris in their struggle for the inalienable right to self-determination. It said that lasting peace and stability in South Asia are contingent upon the final resolution of the Kashmir dispute, in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. The House reiterated its rejection of India's continued efforts to change the internationally recognized disputed status of India's illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, its demographic structure, and its political landscape. The resolution also condemned the prolonged detention of thousands of political activists and the banning of several Kashmiri political parties. It said farcical elections in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir cannot be a substitute for the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people.—APP

Weekly inflation eases by 0.22%

ISLAMABAD: The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed a decrease of 0.22 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on October 24, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 319.09 points as compared to 319.79 points during the past week. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 15.15 per cent. The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. Likewise, SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732 witnessed decrease of 0.18

per cent and went up to 313.16 points from last week's 313.74 points. The SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,732 to 22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175, decreased by 0.23 percent, 0.23 percent, 0.24 percent and 0.21 percent respectively. During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 13 (25.49%) items increased, 10 (19.61%) items decreased and 28 (54.90%) items remained stable. The items, which recorded major decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week basis included chicken (7.12%), onions (5.07%), gur (2.07%), wheat flour (1.16%), pulse mash (1.14%), sugar (0.77%), pulse gram (0.64%), rice basmati broken (0.58%) and LPG (0.01%). The commodities which recorded major increase in their average prices on week-on-week basis included potatoes (3.33%), garlic (2.97%),

pulse moong (2.84%), eggs (2.02%), bananas (0.75%), cooked daal (0.64%), tomatoes (0.48%), vegetable ghee 1kg (0.36%), firewood (0.29%) and cigarettes (0.08%). On-year basis, the commodities that witnessed decrease included wheat flour (31.88%), electricity charges for Q1 (20.32%), chillies powder (20.00%), diesel (17.05%), petrol (12.77%), cooking oil 5 litre (8.95%), rice basmati broken (7.64%), sugar (5.94%), eggs (5.88%), bread (5.55%), vegetable ghee 2.5 kg (4.76%) and washing soap (0.73%). The commodities which recorded an increase in their average prices on year-on-year basis included gas charges for q1 (570.00%), pulse gram (82.50%), onions (50.25%), chicken (39.12%), pulse moong (36.94%), powdered milk (25.37%), beef (23.46%), bread (17.02%), cooked daal (15.14%), garlic (14.76%).—APP

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Briefs

DGRE registers
17,738 Madaris
till Sep

ISLAMABAD :Directorate General Religious Education (DGRE) under the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training is the only department at Federal Level to register Deeni Madaris in the country and has already registered 17,738 Madaris till 11th of September, 2024. In a written reply, the Senate was told that any Madrasa which wants to get registered with DGRE submits its application on standard form. After scrutiny of registration form certificate is then issued. DGRE has provided financial assistance to 598 registered Deeni Madaris by providing 1196 teachers. It was also informed the Upper House that DGRE appoints teachers on the recommendations of concerned Madrasa and Wafaq who fulfil the laid down criteria which includes minimum Bachelors Degree with English, Mathematics and General Science subjects. However, Religious Education if required in addition to above qualifications is given preference—APP

Dengue cases
spike Over
6500 cases
report in twin
cities

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad and Rawalpindi administrations are working together to tackle the spread of dengue as cases surge across the twin cities. The spokesman of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration said that the officials have ramped up control measures to curb the mosquito-borne disease. In a recent meeting led by Islamabad Chief Commissioner, senior officials including Islamabad's Deputy Commissioner (DC) and Rawalpindi's DC reviewed the current dengue situation in the twin cities. While, health department officials also joined to discuss coordinated efforts to manage the increasing cases. According to the briefing, Rawalpindi reported 3,912 dengue cases this season, while Islamabad recorded 2,714. In the past 24 hours alone, 64 new cases emerged in Islamabad, underscoring the urgent need for stronger control measures. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon highlighted that daily fumigation efforts are ongoing throughout the capital. The administration is also cracking down on potential mosquito breeding sites, the DC said and confirming that strict measures are in place. Over the last week, the district administration made 56 arrests and registered 19 cases against individuals violating dengue prevention guidelines, he added. Awareness campaigns are active in both cities to inform the public about dengue prevention methods. The campaign includes collaborations with local educational institutions to reach broader audiences and encourage preventive practices. During the meeting, officials decided to intensify the anti-dengue campaign and increase inspections in areas along the city borders through joint teams.—APP

COMSATS, ISSI to collaborate for
Science advocacy, regional uplift

The MoU will pave the way for collaboration for activities such as scientific research, studies and publications, professional exchange and capacity building, sharing of knowledge and experiences, science diplomacy, and regional & international cooperation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) and the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) signed a MoU for complementing each other for Science Advocacy and Regional Development. It was signed by Executive Director COMSATS, Ambassador Dr. M. Nafees Zakaria, and Director General ISSI, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, today at

COMSATS Secretariat. COMSATS is an intergovernmental organization of 27 member developing countries, committed to advancing scientific research, innovations and technologies for sustainable development. ISSI is an autonomous premier think tank of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs dedicated to providing in-depth understanding and objective analyses of regional and global strategic issues impacting international peace and security. The MoU will pave the way for collaboration for activities such as scientific research, studies

and publications, professional exchange and capacity building, sharing of knowledge and experiences, science diplomacy, and regional & international cooperation. The signing ceremony was witnessed by Ambassadors and diplomats, Heads/representatives of COMSATS' partner organizations, as well as senior officers of COMSATS and ISSI. Amb. Sohail Mahmood deliberated on ISSI's commitment to expanding partnerships and outreach to niche specialised institutions. He considered COMSATS as one such organization

focused at S&T for development. Amb. Mahmood highlighted ISSI's vision of next generation programs that concentrate on youth-inclusive dialogue and research. He noted that we need to pay critical attention to topics such as "Global South" and Middle Powers — the key players in both geopolitical and geo-economic landscapes. In his remarks, Amb. Zakaria expressed unflinching commitment of COMSATS to pass on the benefits of contemporary technologies to its Member States, and noted

that COMSATS aspires to benefit from the strengths of ISSI with an aim to promoting intra-South reliance and cooperation. He highlighted some of the recent initiatives of COMSATS in the emerging fields of science and technology. He considered the MoU signing as beginning of mutually beneficial collaboration between COMSATS and ISSI. The collaboration reflects the shared commitment of COMSATS and ISSI to harness latest technologies and innovation for sustainable development on a global scale.



Islamabad: Ambassador of Pakistan designated to Germany H.E Ms Saqlain Syedah called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters.—DNA

Early breast cancer diagnosis
key to 98% recovery rate

ISLAMABAD: Ayesha Isani Majeed of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Department of Radiology on Friday stressed women over 40 to have their yearly mammogram procedure and the regular breast self-examinations to be conscious of their good health. She said early detection and early diagnosis was the key with 98% recovery rates at the early detection stage, and 27% in advanced stage of the disease. Yearly mammograms for women over 40 and breast self-examinations, as well as healthy lifestyle, nutritious food and exercise can help bring down the incidence of the disease. In observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Serena Hotels organized a dedicated awareness session for its employees, aimed at empowering them with knowledge about early detection, diagnosis, and treatment options for breast cancer. The session featured esteemed medical professionals, Dr. Ayesha Isani Majeed and Dr. Saeda Yasmin, both are

renowned and leading practitioners for breast cancer treatment and diagnosis. Both the doctors highlighted the importance of early detection and shared details about the state-of-the-art facilities available for mammography, ultrasound, and biopsies. They have also shared important insights into breast cancer detection and treatment, emphasizing the life-saving importance of regular screening and self-examinations. The session also included a practical demonstration on how to perform self-examinations, a key method in early detection. Employees had the opportunity to engage in testing and consultations with the doctors, further enhancing the session's impact. Speakers at the session emphasized the organization's commitment to promoting the well-being of its employees and supporting initiatives that empower them through health awareness. Breast cancer awareness is a vital part of not only women's but men's health.—APP

Pak to continue
supporting
depressed
Kashmiris until
final resolution:
Anwar

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Kashmir Affairs, and Gilgit-Balistan Ch Anwar Ul Haq on Friday said that Pakistan will continue its support to the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) until the final resolution of the dispute in line with the UNSC resolutions and as per aspirations of the Kashmiri people. Talking to APP, he said that the criminal silence of world over the human rights violation, unilateral decision of August 05, 2019, and non-implementation of UN resolutions has been encouraging Indian to continue with its brutal policies. Kashmir people are enduring multi-faceted curbs, with their leadership incarcerated and their voice muzzled. However, the ongoing human rights violations cannot dampen the Kashmiris' just struggle, he added. He said it was very unfortunate that Kashmir dispute was still unresolved despite agreed resolutions of UNSC. He was of the view that India has let loose reign of terror in occupied Kashmir to suppress the Kashmiris' voice and punish them for demanding right to self-determination, while on August 05, 2019, it also revoked special status of Kashmir to pave for settler colonization. The nightmare that started on October 27, 1947, has not ended yet for people of Kashmir who are suffering every single day under the occupational forces, he said.—APP

OGRA approves HSD imports

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority rebuts the news, that the country is carrying healthy stocks of HSD, suggesting no more need to import HSD in view of the ample supplies available with the refineries. It is clarified that HSD sales in the current month of October 2024 are up by 21% against the projected sales due to anti smuggling drive initiated by the Federal Government and the start of the agri season. The high sales have depleted the stocks that were reported as high earlier by refineries and are now enough only to cater for 19 more days of national consumption/sales, as per the latest sales and stocks report. Since September, OGRA-the sector regulator has proactively built-up stockpiles in anticipation of the agricultural season, scheduled maintenance shutdown at PARCO, and the anticipated increase in demand due to the government's robust actions against illegal fuel smuggling. This positively led to higher stocks, which temporarily faced media criticism from certain industry players. The strategic buffer created by OGRA has thus been proved instrumental in maintaining supply continuity and avoiding potential shortages, stamping OGRA's commitment to ensuring national energy security. In the monthly Product Review Meeting for November, 2024 held on 22nd October that was attended by the CEO/MD's of the oil industry and representatives from the Ministry of Petroleum, it was decided to allow import of around 266,000 M tons to fulfill the deficit during November, catering for the sales and replenishment of the depleted stocks. The month of November is critical due to the agri season and the country's major supply source PARCO (contributing nearly 50% of the country's refinery production) is offline for 40 days. OGRA's mandate requires it to strive to maintain steady fuel supplies and prevent any potential shortages. It is pertinent to point out that the planning process for the imports of HSD is the same as other petroleum products and volumes are assigned to the oil marketing companies as per their sales projections/local availability and inventory levels. This planning is an ongoing process where corrective actions are taken when the divergence from the plan is significant and warrants correction.—DNA

SIFC
preemptive
guards to
combat
Thalassemia
prevalence

ISLAMABAD: The Thalassemia Awareness Organization (TAO) in an important meeting convened by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) focused on thalassemia prevention, recommended the Council to ensure preemptive measures to combat Thalassemia prevalence in the population. The meeting was attended by government and non-government officials from across Pakistan, including representatives from the Ministry of Health, a TAO news release said. During the SIFC meeting, the Thalassemia Awareness Organization presented key points aimed at the future prevention of thalassemia, which was well received by the participants.

The Thalassemia Awareness Organization emphasized that public awareness campaigns must be expanded to effectively combat thalassemia. They proposed making pre-marriage thalassemia testing mandatory and urged that comprehensive records of thalassemia minor and major cases be maintained within NADRA's data system. Additionally, they recommended launching awareness campaigns in educational institutions and cinemas.—APP

US, UAE and
UK top 3
destinations
of Pakistani
exports during
Jul-Sep 2024

ISLAMABAD: The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the first three months of the current financial year 2024-25, followed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the United Kingdom (UK). Total exports to the US during July-September 2024-25 were recorded at US \$1461.380 million against the exports of US \$1376.300 million during July-September 2023-24, showing an increase of 6.18 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by the UAE, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US \$564.404 million against the exports of US \$472.021 million last year, showing an increase of 19.57 percent. UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth US \$562.749 million during the month under review against the exports of US \$519.142 million, SBP data revealed.—APP

Uganda
delegation
concludes BISP
study visit

ISLAMABAD: A 21-member Ugandan delegation, led by Ms Lucy Nakyobe Mbonye, Secretary of Public Service, concluded their four-day study visit to the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) today. The visit focused on gaining insights into BISP's experiences in social protection. During the visit, the delegation received comprehensive briefings on Pakistan's socio-economic context and BISP's operations, including the evolution of BISP since 2008, Unconditional and Conditional Cash Transfer (UCT and CCT) programs, and the BISP National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER). They also observed BISP's use of the NSER for adaptive social protection, notably in response to COVID-19 and the 2022 floods. The delegation also visited the BISP Dynamic Registration Center and Nashonuma Health Facilitation Center in targeted outreach, and efficient digital payment system. She praised BISP's use of technology and data collection and described BISP as a role model for women's empowerment. She highlighted the importance of coordination among stakeholders, adding, "Through BISP, we can enhance our social protection system to be more inclusive, transparent, and effective in reducing poverty in Uganda." Secretary BISP, Amer Ali Ahmad congratulated the Ugandan delegation on their successful study tour, expressing hope that Uganda's government will implement or replicate these learning's to strengthen their own social protection programs. He noted, Social protection is our common goal; through mutual collaboration and knowledge exchange, our relationship will strengthen, leading to better outcomes.—DNA

ITP issues alternative
routes amid Security
measures in ICT

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) on Friday implemented a route plan in light of the current law and order situation, restricting access to Jinnah Avenue via Express Chowk from China Chowk. A public relations officer told APP that, Embassy Road from the intersection with Fazl-e-Haq Road towards Ayub Chowk is also closed, as well as Embassy Road from the intersection with Nazim-ud-Din Road towards Suharwardy Road. Citizens are advised to use alternative routes, including Shaheed-e-Millat Road, Luqman Hakeem Road, and the Polyclinic Underpass to avoid any travel inconvenience. Islamabad Traffic Police stated that officers are present on the roads to assist citizens and ensure a smooth traffic flow. He said citizens should stay updated on the latest traffic situation by tuning in to Islamabad Police's Radio FM 92.4 or contacting the helpline at Pukar 15.—APP

Third National level wildlife art
exhibition opens at PNCA

Ms. Romina emphasized the ministry's commitment to nurturing and celebrating this emerging art genre, as well as its vital role in raising environmental awareness on a larger scale

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) is thrilled to welcome visitors to the highly anticipated 3rd National Level Wildlife Art Exhibition, which opened today at 10 a.m. This significant event brings the awe-inspiring works of acclaimed wildlife artists Ahsan Qureshi and Kamran Qureshi to the forefront, capturing the majestic beauty and diversity of Pakistan's wildlife while shedding light on critical conservation efforts. The exhibition was inaugurated by Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change. In her opening remarks, Ms. Romina expressed gratitude to the artists for their dedication to conservation and to PNCA for organizing the exhibition. She praised Ahsan and Kamran Qureshi's work for its power to educate and inspire a shared responsibility toward nature.



She further announced, "The Ministry of Climate Change is committed to promoting awareness and support for wildlife conservation across Pakistan. We are planning a series

of International Wildlife Exhibitions across the country to showcase the works and talent of Pakistani artists, promoting their impactful efforts both nationally and internationally."

Ms. Romina emphasized the ministry's commitment to nurturing and celebrating this emerging art genre, as well as its vital role in raising environmental awareness on a larger scale. By shining a spotlight on conservation-focused artists, these exhibitions will foster a stronger connection between the public and Pakistan's precious natural habitats. During the exhibition, Mr. Kamran Qureshi shared, "Having spent our lives together in the wilderness, we've learned to appreciate the harmony of all creation. We hope our canvases inspire others, urging them to preserve and protect this precious beauty." Mr. Ahsan Qureshi reflected on the urgency of conservation efforts, stating, "It is distressing to see pristine environments deteriorate. Our works aim to capture nature at its best, to spark a sense of responsibility in preserving what remains for future generations."—DNA

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

The responsibility of intellectuals

ISRAELI atrocities in Gaza over 2023-2024 have galvanized world public opinion against the Zionist regime. Sufficient room was available even in the heavily censored US social media to show the repeated massacres and Zionist reprisals against the civilian population, including children. The reputation of the Israeli colony is stained forever, it can never recover from this disgrace. Nevertheless, the Anglo-American propaganda machine remains powerful and some important elements of the Palestinian struggle require clarification, at least to honest and curious people. This is a cause which calls on the moral responsibility of intellectuals, to explain more fully the character of Western censorship and, in particular, the importance of resistance and its key role in the path to liberation and self-determination. The colonial powers almost all abstained on the 1960 Declaration on Decolonisation, the lead principle of which (the right of a people to self-determination) entered the twin covenants of the International Bill of Rights. After that the hegemonic powers tried to deny (but could not block) UN declarations and conventions on the right to resist colonialism, occupation, and apartheid. The result is that today most anti-colonial resistance groups are banned as "terrorist", but only in the hegemonic regimes. International law clearly supports the right to resist (further, Palestine and Lebanon as recognised nations enjoy the UN chartered right to national self-defence) while the Anglo-Americans and their collaborators live in denial. This hegemonic denial of the right to resist (including the legitimacy of Palestinian insurrection) creates a culture which confuses and must itself be resisted. Proponents of resistance education should inform, encourage and build confidence in support of legitimate popular resistance. In this paper I will outline the need to (1) support and promote the free flow of honest information over the Palestinian struggle, (2) explain the principles and forces of resistance and (3) support the main counter hegemonic forces which back the Palestinian liberation struggle. Support and promote the free flow of honest information: First, we must recognise the key elements of this struggle, based on the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, opposed by the Zionists and their sponsors, above all Anglo-American imperialism with its exceptionalist, arrogant and hegemonic pretensions. Contrary to Zionist mythology, there is no Jewish right to self-determination in the lands of other peoples, as self-determination cannot be colonial and chauvinistic. Back in the 1960s, all nations were forced to either support or at least accept the right of a people to self-determination, first put up in the Declaration on Decolonization, and the way it relates to the people of Palestine, and their consequent right to resist denial of that right. Many different cultures came together to recognise this great consensus, which was itself an initiative of the Global South and went on to form the basis of the UN's twin covenants on human rights. Of course, the collective right to self-determination necessarily implies a right to resist denial of that right. Western perspectives on human rights typically focus only on individual rights.



ON Thursday morning, local time, Chinese President Xi Jinping attended the "BRICS Plus" leaders' dialogue at the Kazan Expo International Exhibition Center, and delivered an important speech titled "Combining the Great Strength of the Global South To Build Together a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind." In his speech, President Xi stated that we should uphold peace and strive for common security, reinvigorate development and strive for common prosperity, and promote together development of all civilizations and strive for harmony among them. These points are concrete embodiments of China's three global initiatives within the BRICS cooperation mechanism. The enthusiastic response they have generated clearly shows that the "Global South" countries are seeing momentum and hope for building a better tomorrow through BRICS. As President Xi stated, "Global South" countries marching together toward modernization is monumental in world history and unprecedented in human civilization. The BRICS cooperation mechanism was born from the wave of the collective rise of "Global South" countries, making BRICS the most dynamic part of today's global economic development. Naturally, BRICS carries the imprint of the "Global South," resonating with and consolidating the common vision and core demands of "Global South" countries for the future. That is, we must uphold peace and oppose war and turbulence, pursue development and eliminate poverty, remain open and oppose exclusion, stay engaged in cooperation and oppose confrontation, strengthen solidarity and oppose division, as well as uphold equity and oppose bullying. In the Kazan Declaration issued at the 16th BRICS Summit, the BRICS countries reiterate the commitment to the peaceful resolution of disputes through diplomacy, mediation and inclusive dialogue, as well as support for multilateral trading system. They are deeply concerned about the disruptive effect of unlawful unilateral coercive measures, and call for the reform of the Bretton Woods institutions, which includes increased representation of Emerging Market and Developing Countries (EMDCs) in leadership positions, among other points. These series of consensus reached by BRICS leaders are practical and targeted, and the BRICS cooperation mechanism has become a key force in promoting positive transformation in the global governance system, effectively addressing the world's deficits in peace, development, security, and governance. On October 23, when President Xi spoke about how to promote high-quality development of the "Greater BRICS Cooperation," he proposed building "a BRICS committed to peace," "a BRICS committed to innovation," "a BRICS committed to green development," "a BRICS committed to justice" and "a BRICS committed to closer people-to-people exchanges," which represent the shared direction of the BRICS countries' efforts. In fact, the development of the BRICS mechanism to date is a result of practical and steady work in the right direction, building a new world brick by brick. These "five commitments" are the guiding direction for promoting the stable and sustainable development of "Greater BRICS Cooperation," and serve as the five pillars of BRICS, supporting the community with a shared future for mankind and representing a better future in which the common values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy, and freedom for all humanity are realized.

Is World War III inevitable?

Xin Ping

The US acts against globalization. It undermines global cooperation mechanisms, and abuses its financial hegemony to export inflation, forcing other countries especially the emerging economies to foot the bill. It restricts trade and economic cooperation, citing fake politics and security claims, and pushes for decoupling of economies and the building of a small yard with high fences to reshape the international economic and trade landscape for its own benefit. The US keeps fueling the flames in regional conflicts, while its military-industrial complex enjoys a windfall of earning from wars. The best proof is the current Ukraine crisis. While people in the conflict areas have had their lives destroyed, Washington sees arming Ukraine as good for growth in the US economy...

RECENTLY, some Western politicians have been talking about the possibility of a third world war, claiming that they see the shadow of conflicts looming over the Taiwan Straits, the Korean Peninsula, the South China Sea, and even the entire Asia. Some have even gone so far as to label Russia, China, and Iran as the "new axis powers." Past experience, if not forgotten, is a guide for the future. The world has entered a new period of change and turbulence. There are some similarities between the current situation and the eve of the two previous world wars. Worsening domestic problems in developed countries such as the economic slowdown are spilling over into other countries. The hegemonic power obsessed with preserving its supremacy is stoking great power competition. Regional conflicts are more likely to spiral out of control, increasing the risk of bloc confrontation. Populism, protectionism, and extreme right-wing ideologies in the West are on the rise. Major countries lack mutual trust and coordination. All these have added to the uncertainty and instability of the world and undermined the effectiveness of the international system. To put it in a more straightforward manner, it is the US, the world's sole superpower, that has become the source of the risk of another world war in many ways. The US attempts to mold other countries' systems and shape the world order based on its own values and in its own image and divides the world into "democratic" and "non-democratic" camps by promoting a "democracy vs. authoritarianism" narrative. The US acts against globalization. It undermines global cooperation mechanisms, and abuses its financial hegemony to export inflation, forcing other countries especially the emerging economies to foot

the bill. It restricts trade and economic cooperation, citing fake politics and security claims, and pushes for decoupling of economies and the building of a small yard with high fences to reshape the international economic and trade landscape for its own benefit. The US keeps fueling the flames in regional conflicts, while its military-industrial complex enjoys a windfall of earning from wars. The best proof is the current Ukraine crisis. While people in the conflict areas have had their lives destroyed, Washington sees arming Ukraine as good for growth in the US economy and a win-win that needs to be continued. In order to contain China, the US attempts to woo its allies and partners with the "integrated deterrence" concept, promotes an "Asia-Pacific version of NATO," chants the false narrative of "Ukraine today, Taiwan tomorrow," and even signals willingness to use its military assets to prop up some in Taiwan island. Lasting peace is just an illusion under hegemonism. Throughout its more than 240-year history, the world's hegemon was not at war for only 16 years. Anxious to protect its global dominance, the moves it may take, with its unrivaled military expenditure, should be watched with great vigilance. Considering these negative factors, is World War III really inevitable? Well, just as every cloud has a silver lining, there are still many important positive factors that can help prevent a war from breaking out. The force for peace and development continues to grow. Trends toward a multi-polar world and economic globalization are creating closer links among nations and enhancing people's sense of living in a community with a shared future. This will help keep a global war at bay. An anti-war sentiment remains strong. Albert

Einstein once said, "I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones." The two previous world wars tell us that war is not the best way to resolve disputes, and the world cannot endure any more scourge from another full-scale war. The more chaotic the world is, the more people desire stability. The international peace mechanism has been strengthened. The UN has been the mainstay of the global governance system over the past decades. Despite voices of doubt from time to time in recent years, it is undeniable that the UN has been playing an active role in maintaining international security, advancing arms reduction, and tackling global challenges. The US fears the cost of a nuclear war. Nuclear weapons have profoundly changed the nature of war. Under nuclear deterrence, the US is more inclined to launch "proxy wars" or stoke regional conflicts, allowing it to continue keep selling arms to and seizing wealth from relevant parties. China's development is a boost to the global force for peace. Committed to peaceful development, China is blazing a path of peaceful rise distinct from the trajectory of traditional powers. It has codified the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence into the country's Constitution as a cornerstone of its independent foreign policy of peace, and has been actively promoting talks for peace as the way to solve conflicts and disputes. Human beings are once again standing at a historical crossroads. The choices we make today will shape the world tomorrow. As we navigate the current turbulent times, it is imperative that we bear in mind the lessons of the past and make sure history will not repeat itself.

Sinwar's killing could signal deeper strategic problems for Israel ahead

James M. Dorsey

Nusseibeh's warning should ring alarm bells in Jerusalem, but is unlikely to do so. Instead, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policy will bolster Sinwar's post-mortem popularity, which is fuelled by a generation of Palestinians' loss of hope because of Israel's ultra-nationalism, devastating war on Gaza and stepped-up repression in the occupied West Bank. "What's the need of rebuilding Gaza if the problem still exists, if I'm still under occupation?... Whenever I'm under occupation, and everything is restricted...

FOR the past year, Israel has depicted Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar as a coward hiding in Gaza's fortified underground tunnels, shielded by 22 handcuffed Israeli hostages. But drone footage of the Hamas leader's last minutes released by the Israeli military showed a different Sinwar. Dressed in military fatigues, badly wounded, and covered in dust in a ruined above-ground apartment after an exchange of fire with Israeli troops, Sinwar, seemingly alone, made one last gesture of defiance before he was killed by a barrage of tank shells and missiles. More important than shining a light on apparent Israeli dis- and misinformation, the impact of the contrast in images suggests that Israel's management of its information war is backfiring. This is much like its targeted assassinations, which have failed to spark the collapse of groups like Hamas or Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed Lebanese Shia group. For his supporters, Yahya Sinwar's final images portray him as the archetype of Palestinian resistance – wounded, ashen and yet defiant, staring down an Israeli drone with contempt from behind a keffiyeh before trying to down it with asymmetric force. In death, Sinwar's defiance and the debunking of Israeli assertions have garnered him respect among Palestinians and Arabs, including critics who held him co-responsible for Gaza's suffering in the past year and/or were long opposed to Hamas. "Even people who were angry about Hamas, when they saw... he had been killed during clashes and not hiding in a tunnel, as Israel was always claiming, they felt sorry and sad for him. Sinwar's death will raise his popularity," said Mohammed Sobeh, speaking to the Financial Times from Khan Younis in Gaza. Long on Israel's most wanted list, officials accused Sinwar of masterminding last year's October 7 attack on Israel that sparked the Gaza war. Many Palestinians, including supporters of the attack, hold Sinwar for prolonging Gaza's agony by allegedly having complicated ceasefire negotiations. On X, Ghanem Nuseibeh, the founder of a London-based strategy and management consultancy with close ties to the United Arab Emirates and a rare Arab campaigner against anti-Semitism, warned that Israel's killing of Sinwar and the release

of the footage was counterproductive. "His name will outlive the very settler colony that he was fighting against" Ashish Prashar, ex-advisor to UK's Middle East peace envoy, tells TRT World that "Yahya Sinwar's life might have ended but his legacy has only just begun" "A very worrying trend is emerging in the Arabic cyberspace. Unlike, for example, when (Osama) Bin Laden was killed, Sinwar is getting a lot of positive publicity, almost a hero figure in Arabic circles... It doesn't matter what I or the West or moderate Muslims say about Sinwar. What matters is the Arab street, and he has turned into a hero. Very worrying indeed," Nuseibeh said. Nusseibeh's warning should ring alarm bells in Jerusalem, but is unlikely to do so. Instead, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policy will bolster Sinwar's post-mortem popularity, which is fuelled by a generation of Palestinians' loss of hope because of Israel's ultra-nationalism, devastating war on Gaza and stepped-up repression in the occupied West Bank. "What's the need of rebuilding Gaza if the problem still exists, if I'm still under occupation?... Whenever I'm under occupation, and everything is restricted, this will never end, and no one will have safety, and no one will have peace whenever I don't have peace as a Palestinian," photographer Motaz Azaiza recently told BBC. Sinwar's killing "only strengthens Hamas' determination, tenacity, and resolve," Walid al-Hubali, a resident of Ramallah on the West Bank, told me. Beyond Palestinians' despair and lack of prospects, Sinwar's enhanced status in death spotlights the gap between some Arab rulers' attitudes towards Hamas, Palestinian aspirations, and Israel's war conduct and public opinion in the Middle East. The war on Gaza—one of several fronts Israel has been fighting over the past year—is far from over. Israel's incoherent strategy there reflects divisions within its government. "Seventy percent of my population is younger than me. For most of them, they never really knew much about the Palestinian issue. And so they're being introduced to it for the first time through this conflict. It's a huge problem. Do I care personally about the Palestinian issue? I don't, but my people do," Saudi Arabia's crown prince Mohammed Bin Salman report-

edly told US Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken, according to The Atlantic. Saudi officials said The Atlantic had quoted the crown prince inaccurately. But the bottom line is that Bin Salman, Nuseibeh and Azaiza are telling Israel that efforts to bomb Palestinians into submission are failing, producing a generation that has nowhere to go and nothing to lose, and dashing Israeli hopes of regional acceptance, even if Palestinians' most immediate aspiration is to see an end to the war. "Sinwar's death is par for the course. Palestinians expected it, he expected it. Sinwar and others will inspire the next generation of resistance. It will come, but that is for later. Right now, all we want is an end to this war," a Gaza resident, who asked not to be identified, told me. Rather than sparking doom and gloom in Hamas's ranks, Sinwar's killing is likely to reinforce the group's sense of success. "Hamas has the upper hand. It has remained steadfast" and brought the Israeli military into "a state of attrition," the group's former leader, Khaled Meshal, told The New York Times in September. Basem Naim, a senior member of Hamas' political wing, told MEE that while it was "distressing to lose beloved people", the killing of Yahya Sinwar did not mark the end of the Palestinian movement. In that vein, Hamas senior official Khalil al-Hayya, confirming Sinwar's killing, suggested that the leader's death would not weaken the group's resolve to release Israeli hostages taken a year ago only if Israel ends the war. Meshal and Al-Hayya are both touted as potential successors to Sinwar. Senior Israeli military officials, including military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, have conceded that Netanyahu's goal of destroying Hamas is unrealistic. In August, Defence Minister Yoav Gallant went as far as to tell a parliamentary committee that this aim of "total victory" over Hamas was "nonsense." And retired Major General Gadi Shamni, a former commander of the Israeli military's Gaza division and military secretary to former prime ministers Ehud Olmert and Ariel Sharon, asserted that "Hamas is winning this war. Our soldiers are winning every tactical encounter with Hamas, but we're losing the war and in a big way."

Briefs

Justice Shah
accuses
Justice Isa...

FROM PAGE 01

He explained that he decided against attending former CJP Saqib Nisar's reference because "he had exceeded the limits of his constitutional role". He reiterated that he would also not be attending CJP Isa's reference "though for different but more worrying reasons". Justice Shah pointed out that the chief justice's role is to protect the rights of the people, uphold judicial independence, and ensure justice for all. "CJP Isa, like an ostrich, with his head in the sand, remained complacent and indifferent to external influences and pressures on the judiciary," he wrote, adding: "Instead of standing as a bulwark against interference, he opened the gates wide, betraying the judiciary's sacred role as a check and balance on power." The senior judge further said that the outgoing CJP showed "neither the courage nor the moral fortitude to defend the judiciary rather ceded ground to those who sought to weaken the courts for their own gain thereby compromising the very foundation of the rule of law."

Outgoing
CJP Isa
reflects...

FROM PAGE 01

attended the session and praised the outgoing justice in their opening remarks before his address. CJP Isa began by thanking everyone who attended the event, including CJP-designate Justice Afridi, and those who didn't. Accepting all the praise and appreciation from the participants of the session, the top judge said that it was fortunate that his wife was present during the reference as she would have never believed that people lauded him. Shedding light on his life and career, CJP Isa said his mother advised him to complete his degree first before doing anything else. "I was married right after I completed my studies. My married life and career are both 42 years long," he said.

Police
spring into
action...

FROM PAGE 01

Police report that some escapees have already been recaptured, including the son of an MPA. However, several prisoners remain unaccounted for, believed to have been aided by the attackers in their escape. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police spokesperson confirmed the incident, stating that the assailants numbered between 25 to 30, armed and firing to break the prisoners free. "This was a planned assault, intended to free individuals implicated in terrorism cases related to the recent PTI protests," said the spokesperson.

Imran's
sisters...

FROM PAGE 01

Complex to go to jail with the mandamus i.e. the court's order directing the release of the Khan's sisters. The court issued the orders following the approval of the former prime minister's two sisters' bail, granted against surety bonds worth Rs20,000 each. Several PTI leaders as well as Imran's sisters were detained during the protest demonstration in Islamabad. The case against Imran's sisters was registered at the Kohsar Police Station on serious charges, including 16 provisions related to terrorism.

10 FC
personnel...

FROM PAGE 01

India's Chinar Corps army unit paid tribute to the two slain riflemen, expressing "deepest condolences" and "solidarity with the bereaved families" in a post Friday on social media platform X. A local government official told media two civilian porters engaged by the army were also killed, declining to be named because he was not authorised to speak to media. The official said the porters were traveling with soldiers when their vehicle was "ambushed".

England lose quick wickets
as bad light ends day 2

England scored 24/3 in nine overs in second innings on Day two

SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

RAWALPINDI: England had a shaky start in the second innings as they lost three wickets before bad light ended day 2 of the third Test on Friday here at the Pindi Cricket Stadium. The day ended with Joe Root (5*) and Harry Brook (3*) on strike. Opening the innings, Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett were sent back to the pavilion shortly. Crawley scored two runs off 20 balls while Duckett was dismissed first via lbw when Sajid Khan delivered the second ball of the fourth over. Ollie Pope was dismissed after Agha Salman took a brilliant catch in first slip off Noman Ali's bowling. So far, Noman Ali has bagged two wickets while Sajid Khan took one in the second innings. Earlier today, Pakistan made 344 runs with a 77-run lead



after a spectacular performance by Saud Shakeel and Sajid. They were able to take lead within 96.4 overs. Saud made 134 runs off 223 balls

including five boundaries. On the bowling front for England, Jack Leach bagged one wicket, Gus Atkinson took two wickets, Shoaib Bashir dismissed three,

while Rehan Ahmed taking the most, four. Ben Stokes and Co. made 267 runs in 68.2 overs in their first innings on the first day (Thursday) of the third Test.

This is a developing story and will be updated with more details.

TOSS: Previously on Thursday, England's skipper Ben Stokes won the toss and decided to bat first against Pakistan in the series-decided Test. England made two changes to their side. Gus Atkinson and Rehan Ahmed came in for Brandon Carse and Mathew Potts. Whereas, Pakistan went with the same playing XI with an aim to seal the three-match series 2-1.

Playing XI: PAKISTAN: Saim Ayub, Abdullah Shafique, Shan Masood (captain), Kamran Ghulam, Saud Shakeel (vice-captain), Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Salman Ali Agha, Aamir Jamal, Noman Ali, Sajid Khan and Zahid Mehmood ENGLAND: Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (captain), Jamie Smith (wk), Gus Atkinson, Rehan Ahmed, Jack Leach and Shoaib Bashir.

Injuries holding
Man Utd back,
says Ten Hag

MANCHESTER: Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag says his club's ongoing injury issues are holding them back. Last season United suffered 45 injuries - more than any Premier League rival - while they were without 10 first-team players for Thursday's Europa League draw with Fenerbahce - nine because of injury. And while veteran central defender Jonny Evans could return for Sunday's trip to West Ham, there are huge doubts over Brazilian winger Antony, who went down with no-one near him after coming on as a second-half substitute in Turkey and had to be carried off on a stretcher. Defensive trio Luke Shaw, Leny Yoro and Tyrell Malacia are all yet to make an appearance this season, while Mason Mount has made five, including the Community Shield, and is currently in his second spell out of action in this campaign alone. "Yes, it holds us back in our levels and also in our position in the league," said Ten Hag. "When you don't have the players available, you can't line up the best team." United hoped they would solve their problems through the hiring of Gary O'Driscoll from Arsenal as their new head of medical 12 months ago. But it hasn't happened and Ten Hag knows his side will struggle to fulfil their potential until an answer can be found. "We need more players available often," he said. "We all have to work together on this point - the players, the coaching staff and all the other staff. "We have to do better at that because we know when we have them we are a really tough team to play and we can be really successful." United go to London Stadium 12th in the Premier League, and now 21st in the expanded Europa League, after a run of three away draws and a home win over Brentford in the four games since the shambolic home defeat by Tottenham on 29 September that led to intense speculation over Ten Hag's future. Because they lost that game, United's draw with Fenerbahce means they have won once in seven games in all competitions. Had they been victorious, it would have been an unbeaten run of nine, their longest since the early months of 2023. - Agencies

SL-A make it to final with
a win over Pak Shaheens

Dushan Hemantha took the most four wickets for Sri Lanka-A

WEB DESK

AL-AMERAT: Pakistan Shaheens fell short of defending 136 against Sri Lanka A in the semi-final as the islanders reached the final of the Emerging Teams T20 Asia Cup with a seven-wicket win here on Friday. Lahiru Udara and Ahan Wickramasinghe stitched 64 runs together to set the tone for Sri Lanka while chasing. Udara made 43 off 20 balls to leave a strong statement out there. However, Ahan, who was promoted in the batting today, remained not out for his exceptional 52 laced with four boundaries and a six.

The fourth wicket partnership between Ahan and Sahan Arachchige made the chase look so comfortable. The two batters scored 32 runs together. Sahan managed to score 17. For Shaheens, Sufiyan Muqem and Abbas Afridi bagged a wicket each. Earlier, Shaheens set a target of 136 for Sri Lanka A to chase in 20 overs. Apart from Omair bin Yousuf, no other Sha-



heens' batter was able to contribute worthily to the team. Mohammad Harris' side kept on losing wickets after regular intervals. Omair's 68 off 46 helped Shaheens post 135-9. The batting collapse put Shaheens in real trouble. Other players, including the skipper Mohammad Harris (6), Qasim Akram (0), Haider Ali (14), Arafat Minhas (10), Abdul Samad (0), Abbas Afri-

di (9), and Mohammad Imran (13) were not able to score much for the team. Dushan Hemantha took the most four wickets for Sri Lanka A. Nipun Ransika and Eshan Malinga bagged a wicket each. TOSS: Earlier, Pakistan Shaheens opted to bat first against Sri Lanka A on Friday at the Al Amerat. Playing XI: Pakistan Shaheens: Omair Yousuf, Yasir Khan, Mohammad Harris (c),

Qasim Akram, Haider Ali, Abdul Samad, Arafat Minhas, Sufiyan Muqem, Abbas Afridi, Shah Nawaz Dahani, and Mohammad Imran. Sri Lanka A: Yashodha Lanka, Lahiru Udara, Nuwanidu Fernando (c), Sahan Arachchige, Pavan Rathnayake, Ramesh Mendis, Ahan Wickramasinghe, Dushan Hemantha, Nimesha Vimukthi, Nipun Ransika, and Eshan Malinga.

Cricket Australia unveils 'good news' for David Warner

David Warner expressed willingness to play against India in the five-match Test series

WEB DESK

SYDNEY: The lifetime ban from holding leadership positions in Australian cricket imposed on David Warner for his part in the 2018 ball-tampering scandal has been lifted, Cricket Australia (CA) said on Friday. The prolific opening batter, who retired from international cricket earlier this year, was branded the ringleader of the plot to tamper with the ball in the third test against South Africa in Cape Town six years ago. The incident, dubbed "sandpapergate", traumatized the nation and team vice-captain Warner and captain Steve Smith were also banned by CA from elite cricket for a year, while Cameron Bancroft was suspended for nine months. Although Warner has never publicly explained his role in what happened at Newlands, he has since rebuilt his relationship with CA and applied to have his leadership ban rescinded. CA said an independent three-member re-

view panel had unanimously decided that Warner met the criteria for the ban to be lifted. Warner, 37, has said he wants to play on in Twenty20 leagues for another couple of years and the lifting of the ban will allow him to captain his Big Bash League team, Sydney Thunder, as well as take up future coaching roles in the Australian game. Sydney Thunder general manager Trent Copeland said the former was a possibility for the new BBL season but the latter was probably more important to Warner. "This is far bigger than a cricket captaincy role," Copeland told reporters in Sydney. "This is leadership in a lifelong context, so any administrative role, any captaincy or coaching role in cricket. "This is about him, his daughters in particular, and the legacy he wants to leave for his family." In the hearing, Warner accepted that he had instructed Bancroft to use a strip of sandpaper to alter the condition of the ball in the 2018 match, and showed his young opening partner how to do it. "The respectful and contrite tone of his responses ... led (us) to the unanimous view that he was sincere and genuine in acknowledging responsibility for the conduct and ... that he had extreme remorse," the panel said in its decision. Outgoing CA chief executive Nick Hockley welcomed the decision to lift the ban.

SA captain to miss
2nd Bangladesh Test
Bavuma sustained a soft
tissue injury in his arm

DHAKA: South Africa are delaying the return of captain Temba Bavuma from injury and he will sit out the second test against Bangladesh next week, coach Shukri Conrad said on Friday. Bavuma missed this week's seven wicket win over Bangladesh in the first test in Dhaka but had travelled with the team looking to continue his rehabilitation and take his place in the side for the second match. "Yesterday was always going to be the day when we were going to make the decision based on his medical condition," Conrad said during a virtual press conference. "There was a program that he was following, but we didn't wait for the results. We just feel medically, he is not going to be ready for the second test, and we will tone down the program so that he can be ready for the Sri Lankan series." Bavuma sustained a soft tissue injury in his arm while batting in South Africa's 174-run victory in the second One Day International against Ireland in Abu Dhabi earlier this month. The same injury sidelined him for a lengthy period two years ago. South Africa host Sri Lanka in a two-test series in late November and early December. "His absence is a setback," added Conrad. "He is our best test player but we know that we are able to deal with setbacks." - Agencies

Norris: 'Not quite at Verstappen's level'

Norris was among a number of drivers who questioned Verstappen's approach to the corner, essentially saying it complied with the rules, but was not fair racing

SPORTS DESK

LONDON: Lando Norris says he is "not quite at the level" of title rival Max Verstappen when it comes to race-craft. The Briton was controversially penalised at Sunday's United States Grand Prix, demoting him from third to fourth behind Verstappen, for overtaking off track. Norris said: "Max is the best in the world in this style of defence and attacking. So I have to be at his level and at the moment I am not quite at the level I need to be at. "It's a shame to say, but it's probably the truth. At the same time, it's a chance for me to learn and progress." However, Norris said he did not believe he deserved the penalty and Verstappen's driving in the incident was "not how racing should be". McLaren have submitted a request for a right of review into Norris' penalty, with a hearing to take place in Mexico on Friday. They will need to demonstrate there is a "significant and relevant new element"

for it to progress. Norris was among a number of drivers who questioned Verstappen's approach to the corner, essentially saying it complied with the rules, but was not fair racing. But in response, Verstappen said: "It's how the rules are written. I don't make the rules. I just follow the rules as much as I can. I just implement the rules and play with them." Seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton added: "You shouldn't be able to come off the brakes and run more speed in and go off the track and still hold your place." The Mercedes driver felt a change had been needed for some time, and pointed out Verstappen had used the same tactic in their 2021 title fight. Hamilton's teammate George Russell said he would ask the FIA whether, following a review, they believed Verstappen should have been penalised for his manoeuvre. "In my view, he should have been penalised, therefore there isn't really a loophole," added the Briton. "If I say he shouldn't have been, then he is exploiting a loop-

hole. "But he is in a title battle with Lando the same way as he was with Lewis and I don't think he would have done the same manoeuvre if it was any other driver, same as in Brazil 2021. It was a bit do or die, and he is happy to drive



in that manner against his title rival, which I totally understand." Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc, who won the race in Austin, said Verstappen's defence of his position from Norris was "a bit too extreme". Leclerc added the Dutchman "has always been on the limit

of the regulations and sometimes it goes over a little, but that's what makes those fights exciting". Many drivers want to talk to governing body, the FIA, at this weekend's Mexico City Grand Prix about F1's rules on racing. Verstappen used these to his advantage in Austin in a move at Turn 12 in which Norris was trying to overtake him around the outside. The rules say if the driver on the inside has his front axle ahead of the car outside him at the apex of the corner, he does not need to give his rival any room on the exit. But a number of drivers feel Verstappen is exploiting that rule by braking so late that he complies with the regulation, but then goes off the track himself. Another rule says drivers are not allowed to force a rival off the track, but this was not applied in this case. Several drivers feel defending in that way makes it almost impossible to overtake Verstappen. Norris, who is 57 points behind the three-time world champion with five races to go and 146 available, said: "The fact of getting off the brakes

just to be ahead at apex, no matter how wide you run on the exit, is incorrect and I don't believe that's how racing should be. "So I think there are some tweaks [that need making]. But Max races hard, I expect that. I just don't think I was in the wrong last weekend. I don't believe either of us were necessarily in the wrong. "It's not that I believe he should have got a penalty and I shouldn't. I don't believe either of us should have got a penalty. "The stewards have a tough job because every race is different. You have to understand the driver's mindset. He has nothing to lose, I have a lot to lose. So he can afford to take bigger risks than I can and that's just the unfortunate position I'm in at the moment." Asked whether the rules give too much incentive to brake late and have the front axle ahead of a rival's when defending a corner on the inside in the way Verstappen did, Leclerc added: "It's a very complex subject. I don't have the right answer here. Common sense has to be applied in certain situations.

Contract
termination
of 5 IPPs
to reduce...

FROM PAGE 01

Tarar mentioned that K-Electric was being provided a subsidy of 174 billion while lifeline and non-life line consumers were already being provided subsidy annually. However, users were given additional subsidies this year. The government was more focused on the issues of power, he asserted. Attaullah Tarar stated that fuel cost adjustment and closure of IPPs would reduce the electricity bills.

China to
offer Afghan
govt tariff...

FROM PAGE 01

zero-tariff treatment for 100 per cent tariff lines," Zhao Xing, Chinese ambassador to Afghanistan, wrote on his official X account late on Thursday, above a photo of him meeting acting deputy prime minister Abdul Kabir. Afghanistan exported \$64 million worth of goods to China last year, according to Chinese customs data, close to 90pc of which was shelled pine nuts, but the Taliban government has said it is determined to find foreign investors willing to help it diversify its economy and profit from its minerals wealth.

Belgium to
invest in IT,
agri sectors

FROM PAGE 01

the education, IT and agriculture sectors. Punjab CM informed him about the Punjab government's initiatives including provision of IT training to youth as per international standard and mechanisation of agriculture sector. The Belgian ambassador commended the Punjab government's initiatives and concrete measures to mitigate climate change induced challenges and environmental protection. Innovative environment friendly measures in Punjab would create impactful results, Rommerswael added. Idesbald informed that Belgium was interested to invest in Pakistan and collaborate in the education, agriculture and other sectors.

Islamabad
Police
crackdown..

FROM PAGE 01

after the protestors tried to march to the US Embassy in the federal capital. Mushtaq Ahmed and other arrested JJ workers have been shifted to Aabpara police station. This is not the first time that Mushtaq Ahmed has been arrested during Gaza protest. Earlier in August, the former senator was arrested during Gaza protest in Islamabad. The authorities imposed section 144 in Islamabad according to which gatherings without prior permission from the district administration were prohibited.

Indian
soldiers
among...

FROM PAGE 01

and repulsed the terrorist attack. However, ten soldiers sacrificed their lives to protect the check post. The martyred soldiers include six from South Waziristan and four from Karak district. The martyrs have been identified as Naib Subedar Muhammad Jan, Naik Arif, Lance Naik Saeed-ur-Rehman, Sepoy Akhunnada, and Sepoy Hazratullah. Sepoys Mushtaq, Abdul Samad, Imran, Basir, and Mehtab. Three FC personnel were also wounded during the exchange of fire with the attackers. The injured soldiers, identified as Naik Hamza, Sepoy Hasan, and Sepoy Sabir Ayub, were swiftly transferred to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dera Ismail Khan. Their condition is currently stable, and they are receiving the necessary care, state-run APP reported. Paying tribute to the martyred soldiers, the spokesperson emphasised that the FC remained unwavering in its resolve to combat terrorism and secure peace for Pakistan.

Briefs

PSX continues with bullish trend, gains 1,047 additional points

ISLAMABAD: Continuing with positive sentiments, the 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) remained on bullish trend on fifth consecutive day and crossed another milestone by reaching a historic level of 89,993.97 points on Friday. Overall the index gained 1,047.98 points, showing a positive change of 1.18 percent when compared to last day's trading of compared to 88,945.99 points. A total of 695,544,676 shares were traded during the day as compared to 757,648,007 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 37.873 billion against Rs. 36.047 billion on the last trading day. As many as 457 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 181 of them recorded gains and 222 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 54 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Fauji Foods Limited with 57,561,820 shares at Rs 10.01 per share, K-Electric Limited with 41,399,129 shares at Rs 4.58 per share and Sui South Gas with 38,036,205 shares at Rs 11.98 per share.—APP

Rupee gains 20 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Friday appreciated by 20 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.64 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.84. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs277.20 and Rs278.70 respectively. The price of Euro increased by 50 paise to close at Rs300.58 against the last day's closing of Rs300.08, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs1.82, whereas a decrease of 21 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs360.19 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs360.40. The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal decreased by 05 paise and 07 paise to close at Rs 75.59 and Rs73.91 respectively.—APP

Gold price dips by Rs.800 to Rs.282,300 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased by Rs.800 and was sold at Rs.282,300 on Friday compared to its sale at Rs. 283,100 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.686 to Rs.242,027 from Rs. 242,713 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs. 221,858 from Rs. 222,487, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewelers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.3,350 and Rs.2,872.08 respectively. The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$8 to \$2,726 from \$2,734, the Association reported.—APP

Blinken sees 'real urgency' for 'diplomatic resolution' in Lebanon

LONDON: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken pledged Friday to work with "real urgency" for a diplomatic resolution in Lebanon and urged Israel to spare civilians, but stopped short of calling for an immediate ceasefire. "We have a sense of real urgency in getting to a diplomatic resolution and the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701, such that there can be real security along the border between Israel and Lebanon," Blinken said after meeting Lebanon's prime minister in London, referring to calls for the disarmament of Hezbollah.—APP

Putin hails Trump desire to end Ukraine conflict

Russian President Vladimir Putin said his Turkish counterpart, Tayyip Erdogan, had proposed reviving contacts on Black Sea shipping but that he had not yet had time to study the documents. Putin told Russian state television that Erdogan had "once again renewed these proposals to continue contacts related to shipping in the Black Sea, (and) on some other issues"

KAZAN, RUSSIA: Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday his relationship with the United States after the presidential elections would depend on what attitude Washington adopts, as he welcomed comments by Donald Trump on his desire to end the Ukraine conflict as "sincere". But the Kremlin leader struck a hardline tone, warning the West it was an "illusion" to think Russia could be defeated on the battlefield and that any peace deal would have to recognise Russia's control of swathes of Ukrainian territory. Putin was speaking at the end of the BRICS summit in the city of Kazan, where he had faced calls from some of Russia's most important allies for the

fighting in Ukraine to end. "How Russian-American relations will develop after the election will depend on the United States. If they are open, then we will also be open. And if they don't want it, then fine," Putin told reporters in Kazan. Relations between the two superpowers have sunk to their lowest since the Cold War amid Moscow's military offensive on Ukraine. Next month's US election is set to be critical in the course of future ties and the conflict in Ukraine. Trump has repeatedly expressed scepticism over Washington's multi-billion dollar aid to Ukraine and claimed that if elected he could end the fighting in a matter of hours. Putin said Trump "spoke about his

desire to do everything to end the conflict in Ukraine. I think he is being sincere. Of course we welcome statements like this, whoever they come from." Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi were among around 20 leaders that gathered for the BRICS summit, the largest diplomatic event in Russia since Putin ordered troops into Ukraine in February 2022. Moreover, Russian President Vladimir Putin said his Turkish counterpart, Tayyip Erdogan, had proposed reviving contacts on Black Sea shipping but that he had not yet had time to study the documents. Putin told Russian state television that Erdogan had "once again renewed these proposals to continue contacts related

to shipping in the Black Sea, (and) on some other issues." Putin met Erdogan at the BRICS summit in the Russian city of Kazan as well as UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. "To be honest, I haven't even had time to read the materials that our Turkish partners and friends have given us," Putin said. "Well, let's see. We have never refused this." Turkey and the United Nations helped mediate the Black Sea Grain Initiative, a deal struck in July 2022 that had allowed the safe Black Sea export of nearly 33 million metric tonnes of Ukraine grain. Russia withdrew from the agreement in July 2023, complaining that its own food and fertilizer exports faced serious obstacles. Turkey and Guterres

have repeatedly tried to get merchant shipping sailing more freely through the Black Sea, which in some areas has been turned into a naval war zone since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022. The advance of Moscow's forces, which control just under a fifth of Ukraine, has underlined Russia's vast superiority in men and materiel as Ukraine pleads for more weapons from the Western allies that have been supporting it. When asked if he felt that the war might become some sort of frozen conflict along the lines of Korea or Cyprus, Putin said: "Any outcome should be in favor of Russia, I speak bluntly, without any hesitation, and should proceed from the realities that are taking

shape on the battlefield," Putin said. Russia controls about one fifth of Ukraine, including Crimea which it annexed in 2014, about 80 percent of the Donbas — a coal-and-steel zone comprising the Donetsk and Luhansk regions — and over 70 percent of the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions. "We are not going to make any concessions here, there will be no trades," Putin said. "We are ready to make these compromises, we are reasonable. But I don't want to go into details right now, because there are no substantive negotiations." He said that Ukraine had already twice rejected Russian ceasefire initiatives but that Russian forces were advancing along the front.—DNA

EU says 'race against time' to avoid Lebanon conflagration

BRUSSELS: EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell on Friday said the international community must speed up efforts for a political solution to end the fighting in Lebanon and prevent a "conflagration." In a statement released Thursday after a conference on aid for Lebanon in France, Borrell said the first step needed was a "ceasefire" between Israel and Hezbollah. "We are currently engaged in a race against time between the possible start of a political process in Lebanon and a generalized conflagration with incalculable consequences," Borrell said. "Without a suspension of hostilities, nothing will be possible," he said. Borrell said once fighting was halted, Lebanon needed to organize long-postponed presidential elections "as soon as possible." He said the Lebanese Armed Forces must become the "only military force present" in the south of the country, where Israel is engaged in ground battles with Hezbollah. A UN peacekeeping mission in the area must also be strengthened, he said. International calls for an end to fighting have so far failed to end the fighting in the region. The Paris conference on aid for conflict-stricken Lebanon raised around \$800 million for humanitarian aid but saw little diplomatic progress.

Israel has been at war with Hezbollah in Lebanon since late last month, in a bid to secure its northern border after nearly a year of cross-border fire from the Iran-backed armed group. Hezbollah began low-intensity strikes on Israel in support of its Palestinian ally Hamas following the October 7, 2023 attack on Israel, the deadliest in its history. After nearly a year of war in Gaza sparked by the attack, Israel expanded its focus to Lebanon and last month launched a massive bombing campaign targeting mainly Hezbollah strongholds across the country, sending in ground troops on September 30. The war in Lebanon has killed at least 1,580 people, according to an AFP tally of Lebanese health ministry figures.—APP

PPL's 73rd annual general meeting approves 25% cash dividend

KARACHI: The 73rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) was held here at a local hotel on Friday, where shareholders approved the financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, along with the auditor's report. A final cash dividend of 25% on ordinary shares was also ratified, bringing the total dividend for the year to 60%. The meeting was chaired by Shahab Rizvi, Chairman of the PPL Board of Directors, who expressed his gratitude to the shareholders for their continued trust and support. He acknowledged the challenges posed by the current business environment but emphasized PPL's resilience and agility. "Despite external headwinds, PPL has demonstrated remarkable strength, thanks to the dedication and hard work of our employees," Rizvi stated. Managing Director and CEO Imran Abbasi, highlighted the company's significant accomplishments during the fiscal year 2023-24. PPL recorded its highest-ever profit-after-tax of Rs. 114 billion and achieved unprecedented collections from customers. He further noted the successful discovery of gas and condensate at Jhim East X-1 in the Shah Bandar Block, alongside four other partner-operated discoveries, underscoring PPL's robust exploration capabilities. PPL's exploration portfolio continues to thrive with 48 assets, including offshore blocks in Pakistan and Abu Dhabi, and an onshore lease in Yemen. Abbasi reported substantial progress in Abu Dhabi's Offshore Block-5, where two successful appraisal wells have been completed, and drilling of the first exploration well is underway. On the production side, PPL sustained production at 713 MMscfd, despite natural declines in mature fields, excess LNG line pressure.—DNA



KARACHI: Visitors explore stalls at TEXPO 2024, showcasing the best in textiles and leather at Expo Centre.—APP

Xi pledges to boost Iran ties in talks with Pezeshkian

KAZAN, Russia: Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged to increase ties with Iran during talks with his counterpart Masoud Pezeshkian in Russia, Chinese state news agency Xinhua reported Wednesday. The meeting between the two on the sidelines of a BRICS summit was their first since Pezeshkian was elected president following the death of his predecessor, Ebrahim Raisi, in a helicopter crash. Xi pledged that "no matter how the international and regional situation changes, China will unwaveringly develop friendly cooperation with Iran," Xinhua said. The promise of continued support comes as Middle East tensions soar over Israel's ongoing war with Iran-backed militants in Gaza and Lebanon, and as the world awaits an Israeli response to Tehran's latest missile attack. At a BRICS plenary session on Wednesday, Pezeshkian urged members of the grouping to "use all their collective and individual capacities to end the war in Gaza and Lebanon." Xi meanwhile repeated his call for a ceasefire, saying: "We need to... stop the killing and work tirelessly for a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Palestinian issue." He told Pezeshkian in their meeting that an "early ceasefire and end of war in Gaza are the key to easing regional tensions," Xinhua said.—DNA

CCP approves acquisition of Claforan trademarks

This ensures the transaction upholds competitive stability within Pakistan's systemic antibiotics market

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) on Friday approved the acquisition of trademarks for the pharmaceutical product Claforan by M/s Hoechst Pakistan Limited from M/s Sanofi Aventis Deutschland GmbH through a trademark assignment agreement. Hoechst Pakistan Limited, a public listed company in Pakistan, specializes in the manufacture, sale, and trading of pharmaceutical products, said a news release. Sanofi Aventis Deutschland GmbH, a German-based limited liability company, is a prominent pharmaceutical manufacturer and distributor across Europe. With this transaction, Sanofi is transferring Claforan's trademarks to Hoechst, positioning Hoechst as a key player in Pakistan's pharmaceutical industry. CCP's assessment identified the relevant market as "Systemic Antibiotics" and classified the transaction as a horizontal merger. Hoechst Pakistan's market share will remain stable, as it has already been producing Claforan under license from Sanofi Aventis. This acquisition, therefore, will not alter the market balance but will strategically enhance Hoechst's position. The CCP concluded that the acquisition would not lead to market dominance and authorized the transaction under Section 31(1)(d)(i) of the Competition Act. This ensures the transaction upholds competitive stability within Pakistan's systemic antibiotics market.—

Iran slams UN ineffectiveness to 'extinguish' regional crisis

KAZAN: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Thursday condemned the 15-nation UN Security Council for failing to tackle the Middle East conflict. "The fire of war is still raging in the Palestinian Gaza Strip and Lebanese cities," Pezeshkian told leaders from emerging economies at the BRICS summit in Russia. "And international institutions ... topped by the UN Security Council — who are drivers of international peace and security — lack the necessary efficiency to extinguish the fire of this crisis." Pezeshkian condemned Israel for violating "the red lines" of different states and "producing a new wave of violence and terror." Since the start of the war in Gaza, Iran has criticized the UN body for being inactive and ineffective in ending conflict in the Middle East. Iran is engaged in an intense diplomatic campaign to establish ceasefires in both Gaza and Lebanon. The efforts are also aimed at preventing the conflict from expanding across the region after Israel's threat to retaliate to an attack by Iran on Oct. 1. Tehran said the attack was in response to Israeli strikes in Lebanon, which killed an Iranian general and the head of the Lebanese Hezbollah movement, Hassan Nasrallah, late September. For his part, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Esmaeil Baghaei turned to social media to criticize the UN for turning "into a frustratingly dysfunctional platform." He said the UN was "sadly defeating its purpose" because the US "unconditional support for (the) occupying regime" — Israel — "has so emboldened the regime as to expand its aggressions and atrocities across the region," he posted on X. The US is one of the five permanent Security Council members with powers to block its decisions. Earlier, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi accused the US of obstructing the UN Security Council over the wars in Gaza and Lebanon. "The inaction of the UN Security Council due to the obstruction of the US is a disaster," he said. Meanwhile, a Syria war monitor said Israeli strikes in the capital and in central Homs province killed two people, including a soldier. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the strikes in Damascus's Kafr Sousa district targeted "the courtyard of a government building near a military fuel station." The Britain-based war monitor said: "One person whose identity is unknown" was killed and three others wounded. In Homs province, which borders Lebanon where Israeli troops are fighting Hezbollah, the Israeli strikes "targeted a truck near a regime forces checkpoint on the road on the outskirts of Qusayr." That attack killed a soldier and wounded four others, the observatory said. Syrian state news agency SANA said the Israeli army "launched an air attack ... targeting two sites" in the Kafr Sousa district of Damascus and a military site near Homs. It reported one soldier killed and seven others wounded. Since the civil war erupted in 2011, Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes in Syria, mainly targeting the army and Iran-backed armed groups, including Hezbollah.—Agencies

Tropical storm leaves towns submerged, 40 dead in Philippines

Accessibility remained a major issue for rescuers Friday, particularly in Bicol, President Ferdinand Marcos said at a press briefing

MANILA: Philippine rescue workers battled floodwaters Friday to reach residents still trapped on the roofs of their homes as Tropical Storm Trami moved out to sea after killing at least 40 people. Tens of thousands remained displaced after fleeing floods driven by a torrential downpour that dumped two months' worth of rainfall in just two days in some areas. "Many are still trapped on the roofs of their homes and asking for help," Andre Dizon, police director for the hard-hit Bicol region, said. "We are hoping that the floods will subside today, since the rain has stopped." Accessibility remained a major issue for rescuers Friday, particularly in Bicol, President Ferdinand

Marcos said at a press briefing. "There were landslides in areas that didn't have landslides before ... so I guess the soil is completely saturated, the water has nowhere to go," he said. The cities of Naga and Legazpi were reporting "many casualties but we haven't been able to get in yet," Marcos added. As Trami departed the Philippines in the early hours, traveling west over the South China Sea, the storm's death toll swelled as fresh reports of victims emerged. In Batangas province south of the capital Manila, police staff sergeant Nelson Cabuso said six unidentified bodies had been found in Sampaloc village. "The area was hit by a flash flood yesterday. Our people are still in

the area to check if there are other casualties," he said. Another five people were killed in a flash flood in the coastal village of Subic Ilaya, police corporal Alvin de Leon said, pushing the toll to at least 40, according to an AFP tally from police and disaster officials. While Manila was seemingly spared the kind of heavy flooding that accompanied Typhoon Gaemi in July, AFP reporters on Friday saw a subdivision south of the capital that was largely submerged. Government offices and schools across the main island of Luzon remained shuttered Friday, and storm surge warnings were still in place along the west coast, with potential waves as high as two meters. State weather agency

specialist Jofren Habaluyas said that Batangas province had seen "two months' worth of rain," or 391.3 millimeters, fall over October 24 and 25. An official tally late Thursday reported 193,000 people evacuated in the face of flooding that turned streets into rivers and half-buried some towns in sludge-like volcanic sediment set loose by the storm. Many of those were in the Bicol region, where more than 30,000 fled Wednesday alone in the face of "unexpectedly high" flooding. Rescuers in the region's Naga city and Nabua municipality used boats to reach residents stranded on rooftops, many of whom sought assistance via Facebook posts. In the Batangas town of Lemery, about 97

kilometers (60 miles) south of Manila, a hospital was forced to turn away patients as its wards and emergency rooms were flooded. And the search for a missing fisherman whose boat sunk in the waters off Bulacan province west of Manila remained suspended on Friday due to strong currents, the local disaster office said. About 20 big storms and typhoons hit the Philippines or its surrounding waters each year, damaging homes and infrastructure and killing dozens of people. But a recent study showed that storms in the Asia-Pacific region are increasingly forming closer to coastlines, intensifying more rapidly and lasting longer over land due to climate change.—Agencies

Briefs

Nine Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon

BEIRUT: The Israeli military has confirmed the deaths of nine soldiers in southern Lebanon as the death toll rises amid Hezbollah's retaliatory operations against the invading forces. On Friday, the occupation's army announced that five reserve soldiers were killed and 19 others were wounded, four of them seriously, during fighting in Lebanon the previous day. All of the troops killed served with the 8th Armored Brigade's 89th Battalion, it added, noting that they were hit by a Hezbollah rocket while they were accepting a logistics supply in a southern Lebanese village. On Thursday, the regime announced that four soldiers were killed in southern Lebanon in an ambush by Hezbollah forces. Israeli media said the soldiers were from the Carmeli Brigade, which has been fighting as part of the military's 146th Division. Israel's far-right minister Itmar Ben-Gvir said that the death of one of the soldiers named Shlomo Aviad Nayan was "hard news" and a "great loss" for the extremist Otzma Yehudit party, which he hails from. A total of 762 Israeli soldiers have been killed since the beginning of the Gaza onslaught, according to the latest figures released by the regime's military. - Agencies

Pre-arrest bail of Zartaj extended

ISLAMABAD: The pre-arrest bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MNA Zartaj Gul was extended till Nov 19. Abul Hasanat Zulqarnain, an ATC judge, conducted the hearing on Friday. The PTI leader appeared before the court with her lawyer Sardar Masroof, Ansar Kayani and Anna Ali. Advocate Sardar Masroof pleaded that the bails of all the co-accused have been approved in the case registered with Sangjani Police Station. The public prosecutor briefed the court regarding the bails of all other co-accused. Later, the court extended the pre-arrest bail of Zartaj Gul till Nov 19.

No deal behind Bushra Bibi's release: Saif
Says political opponents are making baseless allegations

SHAMIM SHAHID
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Advisor Barrister Saif has asserted that Bushra Bibi's release from jail wasn't the result of any deal. He stressed that political opponents could wish for deals making baseless claims of deals but it's against the reality. In his statement, he berated the Sharif family saying "deal makers go to London and Saudi Arabia." He clarified that Bushra Bibi had not left the country, in fact stayed in the country and moved to Peshawar. Bushra Bibi faced the fake and bogus cases with bravery, Barrister Saif insisted. KP's advisor asserted that Bushra Bibi was detained in jail to influence the PTI founder but Bushra Bibi remained firm and supported Imran Khan in challenging times. It is pertinent to note that Bushra Bibi was released from Adiala Jail after Islamabad High Court (IHC) granted her bail in Toshakhana-II case. Immediately after her release from Adiala Jail, Bushra Bibi went to Bani Gala, where she stayed for a while before heading to Peshawar, where arrangements had already been made for her arrival at the Chief Minister's House in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja announced on the social media platform X that Bushra Bibi will stay in Peshawar instead of Zaman Park in Lahore.

Romania, Pakistan enjoy excellent defence cooperation, says Envoy

Eduard Preda says Romania will participate in IDEAS 2024, the most important defence exhibition and conference held in Karachi, and in the multinational naval exercise AMAN 2025. These activities will help participants to exchange their knowledge and experience in both the defence industry and maritime domains



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Charge d Affaires of the Romanian Embassy Eduard Preda has said there existed excellent cooperation between Romanian and Pakistan Armed Forces which has developed over the years into a true and mutual partnership. Since there is not enough time to elaborate on the multifaceted and complex character of the cooperation, I will only mention that the Pakistan Navy will soon receive their fourth patrol vessel built at Damen Shipyard Galati, Romania'. Eduard Preda made these remarks while speaking on the occasion of the Romanian Armed Forces Day. Maj. General Kashif Zafar of the Pakistan Army was the chief guest. A large number of guests hailing from various walks of life attended the reception. Mr. Preda further said, these vessels will provide the Pakistan Navy with highly effective search and rescue capabilities that will allow it to play an important role in safeguarding international trade routes from piracy and other threats like drugs and human trafficking or

terrorism. He said, Romania will participate in IDEAS 2024, the most important defence exhibition and conference held in Karachi, and in the multinational naval exercise AMAN 2025. These activities will help participants to exchange their knowledge and experience in both the defence industry and maritime domains. He also acknowledged exceptional professionalism of the Pakistan Armed Forces, the deep patriotism of its men and women in uniform, the sacrifices they made in fighting terrorism, and their extended presence in multiple international coalitions involved in peace keeping operations and humanitarian assistance, meant to ease the sufferings of the people in different regions of the world. While talking about the significance of the day he said, historically, the 25th of October symbolized the day in which the entire Romanian territory was liberated by the Romanian Army during the Second World War. 'Today, the Romanian Armed Forces, completely reformed and modernized up to the NATO standards, are assigned to foreign missions, contributing alongside with the allied and partner armies to the common effort of keeping peace and



stability worldwide'. As a reliable NATO member state, Romania's main objective has always been related to building trust and good relationships with other states. He said, Romania stands ready to continue to be a responsible partner and ally to strengthen security in the Black Sea area and fulfill all its responsibilities as a reliable member of the international community. We now stand ready to commit once more to the process of creating a safe, stable, and prosperous world for all of us. 'As you all know, the security situation in Romania's region is complex and continuously changing, marked by geopolitical and military challenges. Russia's aggression against Ukraine has fundamentally and long-term altered the security paradigm in Europe'. The challenges we have to deal with every day, along with the war going on at NATO, EU and Romanian borders, prove that we need, more than ever, to be ready to defend our common values and freedoms and grant security and stability in the region. Ukraine's security means European and Euro-Atlantic security and Romania stands in full solidarity with the people and government of Ukraine

in their heroic defence of their country, helping Ukraine to uphold its fundamental right to self-defence as a response to the Russian Federation's full-scale, unprovoked and unlawful invasion of Ukraine. Mr Preda further said, the establishment of the F-16 Training Center in Romania in record time required a lot of effort, dedication, and energy. Also, we are very satisfied to see so many Allies and partners interested in taking part in this project. It is a standing proof of what the NATO allies can accomplish together in supporting Ukraine. The F-16 Training Center is now fully operational and Ukrainian pilots are currently participate in training programs. 'Unfortunately, we are witnessing the multiple security challenges that another neighbour of Romania, the Republic of Moldova, is facing, including destabilization attempts, as part of Russia's hybrid actions against their European neighbours. Moldova is a part of the European family, and we firmly support its European path. It is crucial for the EU to continue comprehensive support for the security, stability and resilience of the Republic of Moldova', he concluded.

Fin Min reaffirms commitment to first Panda Bond with IFIs

Discussions held on the sidelines of the World Bank-IMF Annual Meetings

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday engaged with leaders from many international finance institutions (IFIs) in Washington, doubling down on Pakistan's commitment to entering global capital markets by issuing its first Panda Bond. The discussions were held on the sidelines of the World Bank-IMF Annual Meetings. Aurangzeb is leading a Pakistan delegation to the event underway in the US capital from October 21 to 26. Other delegates accompanying him include Finance Secretary Imdad Ullah Bosal, Secretary of Economic Affairs Dr Kazim Niaz, and State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Governor Jameel Ahmad. In his meeting with Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) President Dr Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser, the finance minister acknowledged the bank's role as a reliable partner in Pakistan's progress and appreciated its financing in diverse sectors such as energy, transportation, education, and health. He especially talked about the visit of Saudi Minister for Investment Khalid Al-Falih to Pakistan for business-to-business engagements with the private sector. The minister lauded the IsDB's investment in Mohmand dam along with other members of the Arab Coordination Group which, he said, "could serve as the template for co-financing of similar and even bigger projects in the future". Separately, the finance czar met with the representatives of JP Morgan Bank and provided an overview of the improvement in Pakistan's economic outlook on the back of the recently concluded SBA. Aurangzeb underlined the criticality of the Extended

Fund Facility (EFF) to lending permanence to macroeconomic stability and executing the structural reforms. He also highlighted important reforms in the areas of taxation, privatisation, and overhauling of state-owned enterprises (SOEs). He expressed the resolve to tap into International Capital Markets (ICM) through the issuance of the inaugural Panda Bond. In the meeting with World Bank Managing Director of Operations Ms Anna Björde, the finance minister discussed Pakistan's development priorities supported by the Country Partnership Framework (CPF). He also briefed the MD about the Joint Domestic Resource Mobilisation Initiative (JDRMI) being launched with the support of the World Bank and IMF. "We welcome the decision of the Board not to levy any commitment fee for four years for Program-for-Results Financing (PforR) and Investment Project Financing (IPF) instruments," he said. Aurangzeb appreciated that the bank was considering a grant facility for project preparation and noted with satisfaction that IDA replenishment was proceeding satisfactorily. While appreciating the recent improvements in the disbursements, the forum agreed that efforts would continue to sustain the continued improvements. Moreover, the Pakistani dignitary requested to organise capacity-building workshops for implementing agencies as well, in the quest to ensure better project preparation that will lead to improved implementation. In a meeting with the leadership of Mashreq Bank, the minister expressed satisfaction that the bank was expanding its operations in Pakistan and would launch a new office soon. He hoped that approval of its digital banking license would be processed soon. Meanwhile, the finance minister held a meeting with Ms. Annelese Dodds, Minister of State for Development, Women and Equalities of the United Kingdom. He appreciated the long-lasting partnership between the two countries in the development sector and welcomed the contribution of \$120 million to IFC's Climate Investment Funds for Pakistan.



Pakistan-Russia joint exercise concludes

Special Forces of Pakistan Army and 54 all ranks from Russian Army participated in the drill

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The two-week long Pakistan-Russia joint counter terrorism exercise Druzhba-VII conducted between the Armies

of Pakistan and Russia at NCTC, Pabbi, concluded on Friday. Two weeks long exercise commenced on October 13th in which Special Forces of Pakistan Army and 54 all ranks from Russian Army participated in the drill, an ISPR news release said. Inspector General Training & Evaluation (IGT&E), Lieutenant General Fayyaz Hussain Shah was chief guest on the closing ceremony. Russian Ambassador, Albert P. Khorev also witnessed the ceremony. The troops displayed highest standards of professionalism during the conduct of exercise. The Exercise was aimed at refining drills, procedures and techniques, besides harnessing the historic military-to-military relations among the friendly countries.

Israeli forces storm Gaza hospital as strikes kill

The escalation came as the US renewed its push for a ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas

NEWS DESK

CAIRO/GAZA: Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip have killed at least 72 people since Thursday night and Israeli forces launched a night-time raid on a hospital in the north of the enclave, Palestinian officials said. The Gaza health ministry said a strike on houses in the southern city of Khan Younis killed at least 38, many of them women and children. The Israeli military said its forces had killed a number of Palestinian gunmen in air and ground strikes in the southern Gaza Strip and dismantled military infrastructure. Some residents of Khan Younis sifted through rubble on Friday in an attempt to retrieve clothes and documents, while children looked for their toys. Ahmed Sobh recounted how his cousin had screamed "Help me, help me." "We ran and found her children, a boy and a girl, martyred. Her son was lying under the concrete column, it took us 1.5 hours to get him out," he told Reuters. Ahmed Al-Farra described digging relatives including his mother from the rubble, adding he had lost 15 members of his extended family during the airstrikes. "As I was trying to dig (my mother) out I looked at this wall and saw a tank aiming at me. I was thinking 'shall I dig or shall I watch the tank,' what shall I do? I dug her out full of fear. Everyone was doing the same, digging in fear," he said. At the nearby Nasser Hospital, medics prepared the dead, among them three children wrapped in the same white shroud. In northern Gaza, where an area around the town of Jabalia has been the target of a weeks-long offensive, health officials said Israeli forces stormed Kamal Adwan Hospital.

UK willing to hand over Gaza intelligence to war crimes court

LONDON: The UK has said it is willing to provide intelligence gathered from surveillance flights over Gaza to the International Criminal Court (ICC) if requested. The ICC is already carrying out an investigation into alleged war crimes committed by both Hamas and Israel. The Royal Air Force (RAF) has flown hundreds of surveillance flights over Gaza since last December, reportedly using Shadow R1 spy planes based in nearby Cyprus. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) said these flights were to gather intelligence related to the hostages seized by Hamas on 7 October last year. But it has also stated it is willing to share intelligence relating to war crimes with the ICC. The MoD has denied reports it is providing wider targeting information to Israel or that RAF aircraft have been used to fly weapons into Israel during its war in Gaza. The MoD said in a statement: "In line with our international obligations, we would consider any formal request from the International Criminal Court to provide information relating to investigations into war crimes. The UK is not a participant in the conflict between Israel and Hamas. "Our mandate is narrowly defined to focus on securing the release of the hostages only, including British nationals, with the RAF routinely conducting unarmed flights since December 2023 for this sole purpose." - Agencies

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House # 6-A, Ismail Zabeeh Road, (Service Road Parallel to Faisal Avenue) F-8/3, Islamabad.
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Ph: +92 51 228 7691 / +92 51 228 7692 | Fax: +92 51 228 7693