



Islamabad POST

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Mohammad Rizwan named Pakistan's white-ball captain

Detailed News On Page-06

Kashmir will not free by slogans: JJ

Detailed News On Page-08



Georgia's pro-EU opp says vote stolen

Detailed News On Page-08



Amendment fulfills vision of COD

PM, Bilawal discuss 27th Amendment

Both leaders discussed national political climate after 26th amendment; allies also mulled 27th amendment seeking more powers for the military courts; anomalies in the 26th amendment to be removed thru 27th amendment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LAHORE: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has described the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment as historic during a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was accompanied by former Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider while Prime Minister's advisor Rana Sanaullah and National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq were also reported to have attended the meeting. During the meeting, Bilawal emphasised the need to work together for the strengthening of democracy and parliament, stating that the 26th Constitutional Amendment will be effective in curbing undemocratic forces. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif credited the approval of the 26th Amendment to all coalition parties, reaffirming their commitment to public service. He noted that positive economic indicators are leading to a noticeable decrease in inflation. It is important to note that just a few days ago, the government secured the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment in both the National Assembly and Senate, although opposition parties, including Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JUI), expressed reservations regarding the amendment. Earlier this week, President Asif Ali Zardari, has officially approved the 26th constitutional amendment, with the gazette notification issued shortly after. The notification, released by the National Assembly, confirms that the

Continued on Page 06

Backdoor to power shut after constitutional tweaks: Sanaullah

"After the constitutional amendment, Pakistan will not be harmed by these sneaky ways," says PM adviser

DNA

LAHORE: Rana Sanaullah, the prime minister's adviser on political affairs, has said that the recently passed constitutional amendment has shut the backdoor to power. "After the [26th] constitutional amendment, Pakistan will not be harmed by these sneaky ways," he said, while addressing a presser in Lahore after a meeting of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). Praising the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the politician said that the country had dodged an economic crisis due to the premier's tireless efforts. The Shehbaz Sharif-led government, with the assistance of allies including the PPP, passed the contentious legislation in both the lower and upper houses of parliament.

Continued on Page 06



LAHORE: A delegation of Pakistan People's Party led by Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. Both sides discussed 26th and 27th amendment. - DNA

Fin Min hails US meetings

US investors show interest as Pakistan's economy progresses

Fin Min says US business communities willing to invest in Pakistan, with stakeholders appreciating drop in inflation

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Sunday said that his meetings with stakeholders in the United States remained positive, adding that the stakeholders appreciated the scaling down of inflation in Pakistan. He made these remarks after concluding his visit to Washington to participate in the World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Annual Meetings from October 21 to 26. The finmin held a series of meetings with the leaders from several international finance institutions and authorities including rating agencies, multinational banks, WB, IMF and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Aurangzeb said that the US business communities were willing to invest in Pakistan as all rating agencies stated the economy was moving in the right direction. He also apprised media that the WB would give Pakistan a grant instead of loan. Whereas, he said, the government would try not to take a loan from the IMF anymore. "We have had constructive discussions with the IMF.

Continued on Page 06

No deal in release of Bushra, sisters of Imran: Omar Ayub

Emphasizes Imran has been serving jail with steadfastness

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Opposition Leader in National Assembly Omar Ayub Khan, speaking at a media event at Haripur Press Club Sunday, firmly dismissed any notion that the recent release of Bushra Bibi or the sisters of Imran Khan was part of a political deal. He said Bushra Bibi had endured nine months in prison with resilience, despite facing severe challenges, including being denied basic necessities like electricity, water, and adequate food. Ayub emphasized that PTI founder Imran Khan has been serving over one and a half years in jail with

Continued on Page 06

4 terrorists killed in KP operations

President pays tribute to security forces for successful operations against terrorists

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Security forces killed four terrorists in two separate operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sunday, the military's media wing said. According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), an intelligence-based operation was conducted in North Waziristan District where, "after an intense exchange of fire, two khawarij including Kharij Insaf Ullah, were sent to hell." The ISPR added that in another operation in Khyber District, "own troops effectively engaged the khawarij location and resultant-ly two khawarij were killed, while three got injured".

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PTI falls prey to internal splits

Lust for positions in party has brought party leaders in front of one another

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) falls prey to the internal splits. According to sources, the recent tussle between Fawad Chaudhry and Rauf Hassan has made it clear that the party is divided internally itself. The lust for positions in the party has brought party leaders in front of one another. In one of his statement PTI spokesperson Rauf Hassan said that the cases of PTI founder, Imran Khan would only be handled by the appointed lawyers.

Continued on Page 06

Officials will decide how to respond Israel: Khamenei

"The world must stand against them (the Zionists), governments must stand up, especially the Islamic governments."

AGENCIES

TEHRAN: Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says Iranian authorities are in charge of deciding the quality of Iran's show of power to the Israeli regime. He made the remarks during a meeting with the families of "Martyrs of Security" in Imam Khomeini Hussainiyah, Tehran, on Sunday. Ayatollah Khamenei said that the Zionist regime's miscalculation should be

thwarted. "They (the Israelis) need to understand the power, determination, and innovation of the Iranian nation and its youth," he added. "How to convey this power and resolve of the Iranian nation to the Zionist regime is for our officials to determine, and what is in the best interest of the nation and the country should be done." The Leader further emphasized that Israel's evil act should "neither be exaggerated nor downplayed." Ayatollah Khamenei also said that regarding the issue of confronting the Zionist regime, a major shortcoming is on the part of governments, nations, and international organizations such as the United Nations.

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Briefs

SJC on 08 Oct, full court today

CJP decided that SC proceedings will be available for the public through live streaming

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Yahya Afridi has summoned a full court meeting today-October 28 (Monday). The CJP will also preside over a session of the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) on November 08. The chief justice of Pakistan has summoned a meeting of the administrative judges of the anti-terrorism courts on November 07. Moreover, the Supreme Court's Practice and Procedure Committee was reconstituted earlier on Saturday. The committee headed by CJP Yahya Afridi, was confirmed in a notification released by the Registrar Supreme Court.

Ch Shujaat directs to revive PML-Q

Asserts political stability is essential for economic development

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League Quaid (PM-Q) President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain has decided to revive the party again across the country. Hussain has appointed Dr Muhammad Amjad as party chief organiser and notification has also been issued for this regard. PML-Q president directed Amjad to reconstitute the party by persuading disgruntled allies, activating the wings and restructuring the party abroad. Chaudhry Shujaat instructed that communication would be made with political parties for political stability, stressing the need for strong connection among political parties.

At Middle Temple in London

Ex-CJP Isa likely to face PTI protest

Ex-chief justice becomes first Pakistani judge to get elected as bencher at prestigious legal institution

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Former chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, the first Pakistani judge to be invited to a dinner by The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple on Tuesday, is likely to face protest by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) UK chapter. Jahanzeb Khan, former senior vice president of PTI UK, and Sahibzada Jahangir, party founder Imran Khan's friend and former adviser confirmed that a demonstration has been called at the Middle Temple in Central London to protest ex-CJP Isa's participation and condemn the society for inviting him and elevating him in the Temple. Jahanzeb said that former minister ministers and advisers Zulfi Bukhari, Maleeka Bokhari and Shehryar Afridi will also attend the demonstration. Meanwhile, the Middle Temple confirmed that it has invited former CJP Isa for the bench call where the ceremony is being held for the benchers and members of the Inn to call elected

Continued on Page 06

PTI set to launch another anti-govt movement

The party would hold power show in Peshawar on Nov 1

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has decided to launch another anti-government movement with several public rallies and power shows on the cards. According to party sources, the political committee gave approval to hold public rallies across the country. The political committee would make all the decisions while the list of party leaders to hold meetings with Imran Khan would also be finalised by the said committee. The sources said that

Continued on Page 06

President, PM reaffirm Pak support for Kashmiris

Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and all over the world are observing Black Day to send a message of rejecting India's illegal occupation of their homeland

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: Kashmiris on both sides of LoC observe Black Day to condemn Indian invasion of region on Oct 27, 1947. As Kashmir marks the 'Black Day' in condemnation of India's illegal occupation of the region, President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in separate messages, expressed solidarity with the Kashmiris, pledging unwavering support until the achievement of their inalienable right to self-determination. President Zardari said that Pakistan would stand shoulder-to-shoulder with its Kashmiri brothers and sisters until the final resolution of the Kashmir dispute and freedom of Kashmir. The president urged the international community to pressurise India to halt its human rights abuses in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), alleviate the suffering of Kashmiris and implement UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions.

Continued on Page 06

Palestinian foreign ministry urges action amid Gaza genocide

The international failure to stop the genocide and merely describing its manifestations amounts to complicity

FOREIGN DESK

RAMALLAH: Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates is intensifying its efforts and communications with the components of the international community and all countries in light of the escalation in the occupation's mass massacres against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip in general, and in the north in particular, including crimes of ethnic cleansing and brutal bombing of homes and schools that shelter the displaced, hospitals and

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OCTOBER 2024

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APNS expresses concern over stoppage of classified ads in newspapers

The APNS committee noted that the amendment would not only badly impact on the economies of newspapers but would also negate the transparency in the procurement process. The members were briefed that despite assurances by the Information Minister Ms Azma Bukhari the amendment has not yet been withdrawn hence the newspapers are facing acute financial crisis

DNA

LAHORE: APNS expresses grave concern over the stoppage of tender advertisements in newspapers by Punjab Government

urged upon Ms Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Chief Minister Punjab to immediately intervene in the matter and withdraw the amendment to save newspaper industry from closure and unemployment of thousands of journalists and newspaper workers.

The members were briefed that despite assurances by the Information Minister Ms Azma Bukhari the amendment has not yet been withdrawn hence the newspapers are

facing acute financial crisis. The members decided to form a joint action committee of media organizations including CPNE and PFUJ. The committee also decided to take legal recourse and actions and protests on all available forums if the amendment not withdrawn by the Punjab Govt.

The meeting was attended by Chairman Mr Jamil Athar, Irfan Ashraf (Jang), Imran Raza (Dawn), Mohammad Farooq (Pakistan), Sheikh Furqan (Khabrain), SafdarAli Khan (Sarzameen), Awais Razi (Taqat), Mohsin Mumtaz (Aftab), Imran Athar Kazi (Tijarat) and Irfan Athar Kazi (Jurrat).

Smart Traffic Response Unit established

ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the Islamabad Traffic Police has established a special Smart Traffic Response Unit (STRU) to improve traffic flow in the federal capital and provide citizens with all possible travel facilities.

Balochistan Cycling Association organizes Kashmir Black Day cycle rally

QUETTA: Balochistan Cycling Association has organized "Kashmir Black Day Cycle Rally" on Sunday to show solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Smog alert issued as Lahore air quality drops to dangerously low levels

Lahore leads as world's most polluted city with air quality index of 700 as smog spirals ahead of winter

LAHORE: The Punjab Environment Protection Department on Sunday issued a smog alert for the province following an abnormal drop in Lahore's 24-hour average air quality index (AQI), which also affected the visibility in the provincial capital.

ing to IQAir, a Swiss air quality technology company. According to the air quality classification by IQAir, the atmosphere becomes "hazardous" to health after the AQI crosses the 300 mark. An AQI of 0-5 is considered "good", 51-100 is considered "moderate", 101-150 is "unhealthy for sensitive groups", 151-200 is simply "unhealthy", 201 - 300 is "very unhealthy", while more than 301 degrees indicates "hazardous".

increased with winds moving towards Lahore at a speed of 7 kilometres per hour. It also reminded the people of Lahore to take precautionary measures like checking AQI before exercising or walking outdoors, using mask before going to open place, keeping children from playing outdoors, and avoiding traveling to heavily smoggy areas.

Court Notice

کورٹ نوٹس
بدرت جناب عمران امیر صاحب سول جج
راولپنڈی ہائی کورٹ اسلام آباد کی عدالت میں
سہ ماہیہ کی تہی بنی بنام موصوفہ اناس سہ ماہیہ کی تہی
دستور محمد امیر پھولہ، تحصیل و ضلع
راولپنڈی ایشیاء نام موصوفہ اناس برکات مقدمہ
معاون بالا شہزاد اناس کی تہی ماضیہ وقت سے
ممکن ہے کہ بعد ازاں اناس کو زیر اختیار ایشیاء
بنا لیا جائے کہ اگر کوئی ماضیہ وقت سے
نسبت دہی ہوا ہو تو وہ ماضیہ
28.10.2024 کو 8 بجے اساتہ، کال یا
پڈریعہ عاشر عدالت آدے بصورت دیگر
کھڑکڑا دہی میں آئی جائے کہ اور کوئی ماضیہ
تہی تہی نہ ہو کہ ہم عدالت ہر عدالت

Photo exhibition on 'Kashmir Black Day' organized

RAWALPINDI: In connection with Kashmir Black Day, the Punjab Arts Council hosted a photo exhibition depicting Indian atrocities in occupied Jammu & Kashmir. Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Culture, Shazia Rizwan, inaugurated the exhibition.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Engineer Amir Maqam leading a rally to express solidarity with the people of IIOJK.

Country far behind in ease of doing business ranking: FRIA

LAHORE: The Ferozpur Road Industrial Association (FRIA) has called for a significant cut in the monetary policy rate to attain the high position in Ease of Doing Business ranking, amidst high markup rate and rising energy prices.

In a statement issued Sunday, FRIA senior vice chairman Shabbaz Aslam said that the already high cost of production has drastically reduced private sector borrowings during the outgoing fiscal year, besides the country has been far behind in the ease of doing business ranking. So, a major cut in markup rate was due, as constant high discount rate has been deteriorating the economic conditions, he added.

Maqam leads rally on Kashmir Black Day, urges UN to fulfill promise

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Engineer Amir Maqam, on Sunday led a rally in the federal capital on the occasion of Kashmir Black Day to express solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

with over 97,000 martyrs, countless widows, and orphaned children. The minister expressed disappointment with international human rights organizations, calling on the United Nations to address what he termed as genocide in Kashmir. Engineer Amir Maqam urged the UN to fulfill its commitment to resolve the Kashmir issue per its own resolutions, allowing Kashmiris their right to self-determination.

Romina for regional climate action

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to boost regional collaboration among the Vulnerable Twenty (V20) Group, representing 70 countries from the most climate-vulnerable regions and pledged her all-out support to set up V20 Climate Action Data Bank she proposed during a recent high-level meeting with representatives of the V20 member countries.

Prime Minister's Relief Fund for Gaza and Lebanon

Government & People of Pakistan Determined to Support Gaza & Lebanon in this Turmoil. YOUR DONATIONS, CASH, CHEQUE OR ONLINE TRANSFER CAN BE GIVEN AT ANY NEAREST BANK. DEPOSIT YOUR FINANCIAL DONATIONS IN: Title of Account: PM Relief Fund for Ghaza and Lebanon, IBAN: PK11SBPD0000001111114292, RAAST ID: 01111114292. For further details please visit: www.pmo.gov.pk/pmrfgl

PID(1)2889-D/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
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Motorway Police.9270601-20
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RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
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Shifa International 4603666



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RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Environmental challenges

Malaysian envoy underscores importance of cross-border coop

Devcom hosts “Leaders in Sustainability Awards” for development champions

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD : Devcom-Pakistan (Development Communications Network) organized the prestigious “Leaders in Sustainability Awards” ceremony to honor individuals, organizations, and institutions demonstrating exceptional commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship. The ceremony celebrated the achievements of those who have made significant contributions to advancing sustainable practices in Pakistan, addressing climate change, and fostering resilience across sectors, and appreciating the corporates for putting up efforts for the community’s well-being. Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) was the technical partner and cohost of the event.

The Pakistan-Arab Refinery Company Limited and National Bank of Pakistan won community well-being awards. The Capital Smart City won an award for promoting sustainable housing in the climate action category while Best Western Premier won conservation achievements awards in the climate action category. The Centre for Climate Diplomacy was awarded for promoting Pakistan’s stance over the climate crisis. Rifaf Ara Baig was conferred upon the award for engaging youth in creative arts to raise awareness about climate change and mountain resource conservation over the years. The Comprehensive Health and Education Forum (CHEF) International won an award in the category of sustainable community health initiatives



after the donor-support concluded. The event was graced by Deputy Head of Mission of the Malaysian High Commission in Islamabad, Mohammad Sayafik Firdaus as the Chief Guest. He commended the award recipients for their dedication to sustainable development, acknowledging that their work aligns with both local and global goals for climate action and environmental sustainability. In his address, Mr. Sayafik underscored the importance of cross-border collaborations to tackle environmental challenges,

emphasizing that sustainability is a shared responsibility and requires concerted global efforts. Pakistan has achieved many milestones in combating climate change and promoting sustainable practices, including the milestones of nongovernmental organisations and the corporate sector that have many environmental sustainability and community wellbeing initiatives. Mr. Sayafik said that Malaysia has made significant strides toward sustainability, driven by government initiatives, private sector efforts,

and international collaborations. While the country has faced environmental challenges, such as deforestation and urban pollution, its focus on sustainability is advancing through policies and programs aimed at balancing economic growth with environmental conservation. Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 is the national plan of Malaysia that emphasizes inclusive, sustainable growth, aiming to reduce inequalities and promote equitable wealth distribution while prioritizing green technology and innovation. Malaysia has

set ambitious goals to increase renewable energy usage to 31 per cent by 2025 and 40 per cent by 2035. Solar energy is particularly promising, with investments and policies to support large-scale solar installations. Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director and founder of the Leaders in Sustainability Awards, Munir Ahmed highlighted the significance of celebrating sustainability champions whose work inspires a shift towards environmentally responsible practices in Pakistan.

New Gwadar Int'l Airport to attract investment

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China-aided New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) is set to serve as a strong transportation link to attract local and international investment, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Sunday. Equipped with the spirit of inclusive connectivity with state-of-art airway features, NGIA is going to serve as a dynamic precursor for spin-off effects on development horizons of Gwadar as well as Balochistan. One of impactful roles of NGIA in the development lies in attracting local and international investment. Since inception of Pakistan, Balochistan and Gwadar areas have direly needed modern air connectivity. Scattered businesses’ locations afflicted by lack of air transportation system have also marred the development pace in Gwadar and Balochistan. Indeed, good air transport links play a role to influence where companies choose to invest. Since many projects have been completed to revamp airways, roadways and railways under CPEC framework, Balochistan has seen improvement in investments, signaling the region’s potential for growth. Infrastructure projects, including NGIA, have chartered new course of connectivity to help link Balochistan more effectively with the rest of Pakistan and neighbouring countries. Owing to its geostrategic and geoeconomic position, NGIA is also set to furnish a positive role in boosting international trade.—APP

APBF wants high growth in exports

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has urged the government to raise exports volume further up with a keen focus on value addition for a sustainable economic trajectory as the exports from Pakistan during Sept 2024 amounted to Rs790.12 billion against Rs769.4 billion in Aug 2024, showing a nominal increase of 2.69 percent. APBF president Syed Maaz Mahmood observed that the foreign direct investment should only be encouraged that ensures net surplus in foreign exchange by curtailing imports and increasing exports. He said that IMF should be a stop-gap arrangement to reduce the magnitude of this bailout, which may have forced excessive devaluation—APP

“Iran-Pak Gas Pipeline important for South Asian Energy Security”

MAHNOOR ANSAR

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 Chabahar 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 sug-

gested that China’s coal-fired power plant projects under CPEC could be transformed into Iran-Pakistan-China gas energy project. Dr Somayeh 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 emphasised 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.

Pak honored as guest country at 31st Yangling Agri Expo

BEIJING: Pakistan was honored as Guest Country at this year’s 31st Yangling Agricultural High-Tech Expo, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Saturday. The Expo, themed “New Quality Productive Forces: A New Future for Agriculture” commenced on October 25 in Yangling, Shaanxi, and will span five days. Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Khalil Hashmi, and Shaanxi Vice Governor Dou Jingli jointly presided over the ribbon-cutting of its pavilion’s inauguration ceremony. Other distinguished on the occasion included Yao Hongjuan, Director-General of the Shaanxi Foreign Affairs Office; He Ling, Deputy Party Secretary and Executive Deputy Director of the Yangling Demonstration Zone; Gulam Ali, Chairman of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council; and Wu Congcong, Secretary-General of the provincial government, who officiated as the event host. During his address, Ambassador Hashmi remarked, “In June, during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s delegation visit to Yangling, we engaged in substantial discussions on collaborative opportunities between Pakistan’s relevant agencies and the sectors in Yangling and Shaanxi Province. Since then, all parties have worked diligently towards realizing these objectives. Our return to Yangling for the 31st Agricultural High-Tech Expo further underscores the strengthening of our bilateral cooperation.”—DNA

Industry-academia liaison boost exports, productivity

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The close academia-industry linkages can help produce demand-driven students, improve the efficiency, productivity and competitiveness of the industry and manufacture value-added products to boost exports.

This was observed by the Chainstores Association of Pakistan Chairman Asfandyar Farrukh while addressing the MoU signing ceremony held here today.

The chairman called for strong academia-industry linkages to revive the country’s economy. He said that the developed countries had achieved phenomenal economic growth by promoting strong academia-industry linkages and urged to adopt the same approach to promote industrialization and revive the economy.

The National Defence University (NDU) and the Chainstore Association of Pakistan (CAP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance collaboration in academic and research initiatives.

The MoU was signed by Rear Admiral Javid Iqbal, Deputy President of NDU, and Asfandyar Farrukh, Chairman of CAP, in a ceremony attended by key CAP leaders, including Patron-in-Chief Rana Tariq Mehboob, Senior Vice Chairman Anshen Mehmood, and Secretary General Asim Dogar.—APP

ظلم کی سیاہ رات میں روشنی کی نوید
تحریک آزادی کشمیر

27 یوم سیاہ
اکتوبر



جموں و کشمیر پر بھارت کا غیر قانونی قبضہ (IOJK)

کشمیر پر بھارت کے غیر قانونی قبضے کے 77 سال
مقبوضہ کشمیر کے 77 ویں یوم سیاہ کے موقع پر حکومت پاکستان اور عوام اپنے عزم کا اعادہ کرتے ہیں کہ کشمیری عوام پر ظلم و جبر کے خاتمے اور ان کے حق خود ارادیت کو تسلیم کرنے تک دینا کے ہر فورم پر آواز اٹھائیں گے۔



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Briefs

Transforming Education - A Roadmap to Progress

ISLAMABAD: With the revolutionary changes in global education system, Pakistan is also focusing to modernize its educational landscape by improving infrastructure, access to education and fostering a culture of innovation and inclusivity. This transformation in education sector is hoped to improve quality of education through a series of strategic initiatives and programs under implementation for reshaping education in the country to make our students compatible to international standards. Under its National Education Emergency Program, the government is equipping institutions in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) jurisdiction with state-of-the-art computer labs, fully furnished libraries, smart classrooms, tech fellow programs, foreign language courses and mind games. Besides, extensive renovation would be carried out at public sector schools with new gyms, dispensaries, updated washroom facilities, refreshed exterior of main buildings, school meal programs, e-Rozgar schemes, football courts, clean drinking water, boundary walls and playgrounds. "Education Ministry is initiating a range of actions like education technology, teacher education and assessment reforms and tackling foundational learning issues to transform educational sector," remarked Federal Secretary Education and Professional Training Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani. "One of the most notable additions is providing students the latest technology and software. This facility would ensure to enhance their technical proficiency and digital literacy making our students compatible to international workforce demands," he informed. Mentioning to establishment of IT labs in rural schools to promote digital literacy and bridge technology gap between rural and urban areas, he said, the government was upgrading curriculum to align student with modern era demands. —APP

World Day for Audiovisual Heritage marked

ISLAMABAD: World Day for Audiovisual Heritage was marked on October 27 (Sunday) across the globe including Pakistan to highlight the importance of preserving the moving images and sounds recordings that have captured humanity's most significant moments. Different cultural and archives departments arranged programmes and events to highlight this year's theme, "Your Window to the World" which emphasizes how audiovisual materials like films, radio broadcasts and television have shaped cultural understanding and recorded history in ways no other medium can. Since much of the history is documented in the world through digital means, the event serves as a reminder of the fragile nature of audiovisual materials, which are prone to deterioration if not properly preserved. From rare footage of global events to the voices of leaders, activists, and ordinary people, these archives form a bridge to the past, offering invaluable insights into the social, political, and cultural transformations of our time. This year, cultural institutions, filmmakers, historians, and archivists from around the globe organized special screenings, panel discussions, and workshops aimed at raising awareness about the importance of safeguarding these records. The main events took place at major heritage institutions, including the British Film Institute, UNESCO, and national archives, where experts will showcase newly restored works and discuss innovative techniques for audiovisual preservation. The day also witnessed numerous public campaigns encouraging support for preservation efforts, reminding us that what we save today will continue to be a vital resource for generations to come. The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (WDAH) is a commemoration of the adoption, in 1980 by the 21st General Conference, of the Recommendation for the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images. The day provides an occasion to raise general awareness of the need to take urgent measures and to acknowledge the importance of audiovisual documents. —APP

Poetry comes alive at Serena Hotels' Mehfil-e-Sukhan

Serena Hotels not only promote events like "Mehfil-e-Sukhan" but also actively supports renowned literary gatherings such as the Lahore and Quetta Literary Festivals, strengthening its mission to promote the Urdu language and cultural heritage across Pakistan

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ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels, hosted a Mushaira "Mehfil-e-Sukhan" event, bringing together some of Pakistan's most esteemed poets. The gathering celebrated under Serena Hotels' Cultural Diplomacy Initiative was a tribute to the richness of Urdu poetry and to the power of words. The gathering featured wonderful well-known poets, including Anwar Masood, Kishwar Naheed, Iftikhar Arif, Anwar Shaoor, Yasmin Hameed, Javed Saba, Akhtar Usman, Ahmad Ataullah, Zahoor Ahmed, Hamida Shaheen, Umair Najmi, and Farjad Mahdi. Each poet shared captivating verses that captivated the audience. The poetry shared highlighted how poetry continues to bring people together across different cultures. This Mushaira was more than a recital; it was a celebration of language, tradition, and the timeless art of verse. Serena Hotels not only promote events like "Mehfil-e-Sukhan"



ISLAMABAD: CEO Serena Hotels Global, Aziz Boolani and his spouse posing for a group picture with renowned poets Anwar Masood, Anwar Shaoor and others on the occasion of Mehfil-e-Sukhan hosted by Serena Hotels.—DNA

but also actively supports renowned literary gatherings such as the Lahore and Quetta Literary Festivals, strengthening its mission to promote the Urdu language and cultural heritage across Pakistan. Through these initiatives, Serena continues to bring poetic voices together, appreciating the beauty and depth of Urdu poetry.

Redressal of public grievances top priority: IG

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police's Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi held a Khuli Katchery (open court) at the Central Police Office, emphasizing that addressing public grievances was a top priority. A public relation told APP that, during the Khuli Katchery, IG Rizvi listened to the concerns of citizens and police officers, issuing on-the-spot directives to senior police officials for timely resolution of issues. "Resolving citizens' issues on merit is our foremost priority, negligence and carelessness in duties will not be tolerated," IG stated. "Citizens facing any issue related to the police can come to the Khuli Katchery, my office is always open for my citizens," the IG Rizvi said. IG ICT further directed the relevant officers to resolve the citizen grievances on merit within the stipulated time frame and report back to the Central Police Office.—APP

Mushaal urges youth to amplify Kashmir cause

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Hussein Mullick, wife of Kashmir leader Yasin Malik, on Sunday, called upon the youth to play a vital role in keeping the Kashmir cause alive. Addressing to a Kashmir solidarity rally, she emphasized the importance of remembering this day annually, saying, "Every Pakistani stands in solidarity on this day." Mushaal encouraged young Pakistanis to launch campaigns through social media, highlighting that Pakistan's founding leader, Quaid-e-Azam, also placed trust in the power of youth. "You can become our powerful voice today," she stated, urging them to remain steadfast for Kashmir. Reflecting on the resilience of Kashmiris, who have resisted Indian control for 77 years, Mushaal expressed hope for a future celebration of Kashmir's freedom. "May the day come when we can celebrate our victory," she said. She criticized India's Foreign Minister, S. Jaishankar, questioning his "bold claims" and stressing that, despite all attempts, Kashmiris remain defiant. Highlighting the struggles of prominent Kashmiri leaders, she said that even leaders like Maqbool Bhat were denied proper funerals as part of efforts to suppress the Kashmiri spirit.—APP

Kashmir resolution key to peace in South Asia: Dar

Today, Dar said the region was witnessing an intensification of repression. Thousands of political leaders and activists remained behind bars, with 14 political parties effectively banned

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday said that Pakistan remained committed to promoting peace in South Asia and sought constructive relations with all neighbors, however, lasting peace in the region could not be realized without a just and peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in line with the UNSC resolutions and the aspirations of Kashmiri people. "Pakistan stands in unwavering solidarity with the Kashmiri people in their struggle and will continue to provide its full political, moral and diplomatic support to the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination," the deputy prime minister/foreign minister said on the observance of Kashmir Black Day. He said October 27 marked a somber turning point in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. On this day, seventy-seven years ago, the Indian forces landed in Srinagar, marking the beginning of a prolonged and painful chapter for the region. Over the past seven decades, India has employed various strategies to strengthen its control over Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), he added. However, since August 5, 2019, they had witnessed an accelerated effort to undermine the internationally recognized disputed status of IIOJK and to marginalize the rights and voices of the Kashmiri people. "The actions taken by Indian authorities, including attempts to alter the demographic and political landscape of the territory, stand in direct violation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the Fourth Geneva Convention. Despite these measures, the resolve of the Kashmiri people remains undeterred," a press release quoted the deputy prime minister as saying. Today, Dar said the region was witnessing an intensification of repression. Thousands of political leaders and activists remained behind bars, with 14 political parties effectively banned. Draconian emergency and counter terrorism laws granted Indian forces sweeping powers, enabling them to arrest or eliminate any individual and destroy property at will, he added. The deputy prime minister/foreign minister further said that nonetheless, the spirit and determination of the Kashmiri people endured, as they continued their peaceful struggle for justice and self-determination. "While elections for the Legislative Assembly of IIOJK have recently been conducted, any such exercise, carried out under the framework of the Indian Constitution and amidst an overwhelming military presence, cannot be considered a substitute for the legitimate right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people," he stressed.

Kashmiris dream of freedom will become a reality soon: Tarar

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaullah Tarar, on Sunday said that October 27, 1947, was the darkest day in the history of the subcontinent, as on that day India illegally occupied the state of Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). In his message on October 27, Black Day of Kashmiris, he said on that day, India illegally annexed Jammu and Kashmir by landing its troops against the wishes of Kashmiris, the federal minister for information said. "Despite the atrocities and brutal policies of the Indian fascist government, the valiant Kashmiri people are fighting bravely for their freedom," said the minister. Attaullah Tarar expressed his belief that Kashmiris would soon reach their destination and their dream of freedom would become a reality. He said, "Kashmiri people will never accept India's usurpation of occupied Jammu and Kashmir." He maintained that Pakistan was a strong supporter of Kashmiris' right to self-determination. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's bold stand on the Kashmir issue was a strong expression of Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the Kashmir cause and its desire for a just and peaceful solution to the long-standing conflict, he remarked. Tarar said Pakistan had never backed down from advocating the legitimate cause of Kashmiris at international forums. "Pakistan always stands with the Kashmiri people and will continue to support their right to self-determination," he added. "The only acceptable solution to the Kashmir dispute issue is a plebiscite under the supervision of the United Nations," he said. The minister urged the international community to play its role to find a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue and pressurize India to stop gross human rights violations in Kashmir.—DNA

Rising prices, other violations in ICT stir public outcry

ISLAMABAD: The islootes are suffering arbitrary rates and also compromised on quality of daily use adibles by the hoarders mafia in the Federal Capital. A citizen namely Sail Husain resident of the Bari Imam area, while talking to mediamaan complained that in our area every shop keeper have their own rates of daily use edibles like vegetables, fruits, milk and meat. "In our area, every shop has its own rates," he said. "A shopkeeper selling milk at Rs 250 per liter claims it's pure, while others sell at Rs 200, which they say includes water or other substances." This confusion around "pure" and "impure" goods leaves consumers at the mercy of vendors.

In Aabpara Market, one meat seller defending higher prices by explaining that rents in Aabpara are higher. "We sell fresh meat," he said, "while others sell older meat or add water to stretch the weight." Such statements add to public concerns that some sellers exploit customers by marking up prices with claims of superior quality. To address these issues, the ICT administration has been active in enforcing price control. In a recent operation, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Pothohar Aneeq Anwar conducted raids in a local vegetable market, leading to the arrest of 20 shopkeepers for charging prices above the official rate list. The district administration, led by Deputy Commissioner

(DC) Irfan Memon, has emphasized the importance of following these rates. "Pay the set prices for urban food items," he stated, adding that an official rate list is released daily. Some citizens, caught in the crossfire of these operations, have faced unintended consequences. A family of a laborer, Muhammad Sharafat, reported that he was detained while sitting near a shop during one of these raids. Talking to APP, his family said he has been in custody for two days, causing them both financial and emotional distress. As the family's sole breadwinner, his absence has left them struggling. This ongoing situation highlights both the public's demand for fair pricing and the challenges in enforcing it.—APP

ICT police homicide unit arrests brother for sister's murder

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police's Golra police team and Golra Circle Homicide Unit have swiftly apprehended Muhammad Zain, the prime suspect in the brutal murder of his sister, N, at their residence on Sunday. A police spokesperson told APP that Zain allegedly committed the crime on October 21, 2024, attacking his sister with a sharp weapon in a violent manner within the jurisdiction of Golra Police Station, resulting in her death. He said acting on the severity of the crime, the Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Islamabad took immediate notice and directed the police to expedite the arrest. Following the DIG's instructions, the Golra Homicide Unit utilized all available resources, including technical and scientific methods, to successfully trace and capture the accused, he added.—APP

MoIB releases special song on Kashmir Black Day

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Sunday released a special song on the occasion of October 27, Kashmir Black Day against Indian illegal occupation of the state in 1947. The song "Hum Pakistani Hain, Pakistan Hamara Hai" expresses solidarity with the people of Indian Occupied Kashmir on the occasion of Kashmir Black Day. The videos and photos of the song highlight India's atrocities on the people of Occupied Kashmir.—APP

AIOU releases final exam schedule for Spring 2024

It is worth noting that re-enrollment for continuing students in these programs is available until November 20.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has released the date sheet for the final examinations of Spring Semester 2024 Master's programs, which include MA, MSc, M.Com, M.Ed, and MBA programs. According to the issued date sheet by AIOU, these exams will commence on November 15 and will continue until December 16.

Professor Dr Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor AIOU has directed that essential facilities for students at examination centers be ensured. Additionally, admissions for the second phase of the Fall Semester 2024 are ongoing. Programs offered in this phase include Associate Degree in Arts (BA General), Associate Degree in Commerce (BCom), BBA, Associate Degree in Education, BS (ODL) programs, 1.5-

year, 2.5-year, and 4-year BEd programs, Postgraduate Diploma programs, and Certificate courses. The Vice Chancellor, responding to student requests, extended the admission deadline to November 5, allowing prospective applicants to take advantage of this opportunity and apply by November 5. It is worth noting that re-enrollment for continuing students in these programs is available until November 20.

WHERE EACH STITCH IS WATCHED

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Accountability for cultural genocide

In a scathing new report, the Palestinian Ministry of Endowments detailed a staggering rise in Israeli attacks on religious sites in Gaza. This includes the destruction of over 600 mosques and damage to 214 more since the post-October 7 genocide began. "Israel's" bombardment should be called for what it is: a deliberate attempt to tear away at Gaza's religious and cultural identity. The campaign is born out of religious hatred, making it imperative to focus accountability on "Israel's" far-right government. Consider the Rome Statute. It declares deliberate attacks against religious and historic sites as major crimes and carries the consent of dozens of nations. And yet, the international community has failed to call out "Israel" for waging a cultural genocide for over a year. The Israeli regime has spared no effort in destroying a majority of mosques in the Gaza Strip and extended its brutality campaign to 79% of core administrative and educational headquarters. These glaring statistics shatter "Israel's" deniability and further reinforce South Africa's stance that "Israel" is pushing to exterminate the cultural make-up of Palestinians. Deep down, the Zionist regime fears that these historical landmarks will reinforce Palestinians' right to their land and sees their annihilation as a major occupation imperative. Therefore, it is critical to end impunity for the genocidal regime. "Israel's" underlying goals are to empower illegal Zionist settler violence in the occupied West Bank and wants the world to overlook its identity theft and demolition in Gaza. Not anymore: it is completely guilty of stealing thousands of Palestinian artifacts and using targeted demolition to deflect criminal actions. This puts the onus on the international community to end its double standards on cultural property protection. For instance, brazen attacks on Palestinian museums, mosques, libraries, and centuries-old churches are in clear violation of the 1954 Hague Convention and would never be tolerated on Western soil. Thus, there is a need to move beyond cosmetic condemnations to ensure accountability with the full force of the law. Palestinian cultural and religious sites are powerful symbols of resistance to the genocidal regime, making it critical for international organizations, justice advocates, and Islamic institutes to press for accountability at all costs. The report's findings also carry a powerful message on illegal settler violence. The al-Aqsa Mosque was raided over 260 times during the course of the genocide, and illegal Zionist settlers have openly pursued desecration. Given that extremist Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir has helped expand the scale of atrocities beyond Gaza, this is occupation terrorism in full flow. It reveals a criminal disregard for the holy site and growing confidence to push the region toward a religious war. Unless Israeli provocations cease, it is preparing the ground for significant resistance that would pin all future costs on the occupation itself. "The war has left more than 50,000 martyrs and missing persons, more than 96,000 wounded and injured, and destroyed mosques, cemeteries, administrative headquarters, and endowment assets," stated the report.

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Harris, Trump and Asia ties

As the world anticipates the US presidential election, Asian countries have mixed feelings. Vice-President Kamala Harris and former president Donald Trump have very different priorities and styles, meaning Asian capitals have to prepare for a multitude of scenarios. Still, a larger question remains: can America continue to play a leadership role in Asia when US policy is dominated by strategic competition with China, the region's largest economy and military power? This lens, which has bipartisan support in Washington, must be shaped to better match Asia's strategic value to the US as the engine of 21st century economic and social dynamism. Having served as South Korea's foreign minister during the 2020 US election, I am keenly aware that wide US policy swings create uncertainty about the reliability of US leadership. But these moments also present an opportunity to recalibrate how the US can work with Asian governments. The Asia Society Policy Institute has started this conversation by exploring what's at stake for Asia in the coming election. For example, US concerns about the deployment of new and emerging technologies could provide an excellent entry point to the region's development needs. As businesses "de-risk", the emerging markets of Southeast and South Asia are looking to bolster their positions in the supply chain and ensure their economic resiliency while contributing to global resiliency. Trade agreements are a critical piece of this strategy but the next US administration will face barriers to providing greater market access, which has been associated in US politics with the hollowing out of middle-class manufacturing jobs. Middle class in China and US fear losing status in a Harris administration, the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) and other multilateral arrangements could be further strengthened to provide mutual economic benefit and value in digital trade, while US leadership on the G7 agenda for economic security can mitigate the impulse to use trade and investment as a tool of coercion. In a Trump scenario, bilateral trade discussions would dominate, but could still be negotiated towards diversification away from China and creating value for US industry abroad. The way forward will be contingent on how the next US administration positions trade as a strategic - not an economic - priority. Providing clarity on how Southeast Asia can create options and resiliency in the US and global supply chain may be the best opportunity to move this issue forward and make IPEF and bilateral agreements work. Other issues present more of a contrast between the two candidates, perhaps none more so than the value of US alliances and US attention to climate change and sustainability. US alliances are indispensable for regional peace and security. These partnerships create a network of like-minded countries interested in defending and upholding the rule of law, and prevent the region from spiraling into nuclear escalation in the face of North Korea's proliferation and China's nuclear modernisation. NEW PODCAST SERIES: About Asia - Is North Korea preparing for war? But while US allies and partners in the region welcome a US security presence to balance China's rise, they do not want to be pulled into a great power conflict.

'Government' has conquered all pillars of the state

Qamar Bashir



ICJ observed that after re-composition of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) which now consists of two members of the National Assembly, two members of the Senate and one woman or non-Muslim member, to be nominated by the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Law Minister, the Attorney General of Pakistan, and a representative of the Bar has allowed for direct political influence over it, and reduce the JCP's judicial members to a minority. Now for the appointment of Supreme Court judges, only five out of 13 JCP's members are required to be judges (namely, the Chief Justice of Pakistan...

THE way the 'government' has brought every pillar of the state under its absolute control is staggering, showcasing its resourcefulness, power, and ability to manipulate all branches of the state at will. Credit must be given to those who strategized, executed, and accomplished feats that once seemed impossible but were not only realized but achieved with flying colors. The power wielded by the 'government' has finally brought all three pillars of the state under their sway, seemingly following the principle that the end justifies the means. First, the government used the Election Commission and expelled PTI from the election process, and imprisoned its leadership thereby crippling the party from within. Later sensing that PTI is still winning elections, a mechanism was put in place to alter the election results. The strategy was simple: stuff ballot boxes with bogus votes, manipulate Form 47 and fill the parliament with those who won the election thanks to the 'government'. This gave the government total control of the parliament. Later the formation of election tribunals were made controversial and to date, they have not been formed to address allegations of rigging and settle election disputes. Later the 'government' ensured that only its cultivated persons from the President down to even the Ministers of State form the government. After vanquishing the parliament and the government, the 'government' turned its focus to controlling the fourth pillar—the media—before targeting the judiciary. The traditional media was brought under control through a carrot-and-stick approach. Major media houses were pacified with advertising revenue, while journalists and anchorpersons who refused to comply were forced to flee the country. Those who remained were subdued through a mix of incentives, intimidation, and threats, with the fear of losing their jobs looming over those who still resisted. Once traditional media was subdued, the government decided it was time to bring social media under control. A nationwide firewall was implemented at a cost of millions, controlling social media traffic and gaining the capability to filter any intervention that countered the government's interests. Now was the time to bring the most formidable pillar under its sway that too before Justice Mansoor Ali

Shah could take over as Chief Justice. The 'government' arrayed its vanquished pillars—the Parliament, the government, the Election Commission, the Office of the President, and the media to bring down the judiciary starting with weakening the judiciary from within. First, two judges in their minority judgment, and later the Chief Justice himself, advised the Election Commission not to implement the majority ruling and used all tactics to delay the implementation which could have restructured the entire National Assembly. Meanwhile, the 'government' meticulously planned the 26th constitutional amendment to strip the judiciary of its independence, strength, and capacity to make decisions free from government influence. The 'government's' grip was so powerful that the Senate passed the far-reaching constitutional amendment within hours of its introduction on the evening of Sunday, October 20. It was endorsed by the National Assembly the very next morning, Monday, October 21, President signed the amendment without blinking his eye and its was published in the official Gazette with electric speed. The entire process was shrouded in secrecy. The draft of the amendments was kept hidden from the public, and there were no consultations or debates before the proposals were introduced and rapidly passed by Parliament. The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) sharply criticized this process, stating that it flagrantly violated core principles of the rule of law and the separation of powers. According to the ICJ, the amendment undermined the fundamental right of citizens and their freely elected representatives to participate in the legislative process, which is essential in the enactment of laws. This rushed and secretive handling of such a critical constitutional change raised serious concerns about the integrity of the democratic process and the erosion of accountability. ICJ observed that after re-composition of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) which now consists of two members of the National Assembly, two members of the Senate and one woman or non-Muslim member, to be nominated by the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Law Minister, the Attorney General of Pakistan, and a representative of the Bar has allowed for direct political influence over it, and reduce the JCP's judicial

members to a minority. Now for the appointment of Supreme Court judges, only five out of 13 JCP's members are required to be judges (namely, the Chief Justice of Pakistan, the most senior judge of the constitutional benches, and the three most senior Supreme Court judges). Now it would only be the non-judicial members of JCP which will nominate "constitutional benches" in the Supreme Court and High Courts to handle matters of constitutional interpretation and fundamental rights. It also empowers a Special Parliamentary Committee (SPC) to nominate the Chief Justice of Pakistan from among the three most senior judges, a process previously based solely on seniority. Furthermore, the amendment allows the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) to recommend the removal of judges on the vague ground of "inefficiency," without clear criteria, potentially compromising judicial independence. According to JCP these changes are seen as a violation of both Pakistan's Constitution (Article 10A) and international law (Article 14 of the ICCPR), undermining the separation of powers and the judiciary's impartiality. Notwithstanding, the observation of the ICJ, the fact is that now all pillars of the state are under the iron grip of the 'government' and these were the politicians who made it possible. The government appears unconcerned with the perspectives of jurists, lawyers, intellectuals, international thinkers, or even the International Court of Justice regarding these amendments. It shows little regard for the value of an independent judiciary, not only as a safeguard for the public but also, at times, as a benefit to the government itself. Currently, the people have lost faith in all pillars of the state: the office of the President, the government, the parliament, and, finally, the judiciary. Through the use of manipulative powers, the government has effectively placed the entire state under its control, prioritizing its objective without regard for the methods employed. The only institution left that retains the people's respect is the Pakistan Army, which remains robust and perhaps stronger than ever. As a result, the people of Pakistan may now look to the army to guide the country out of its political, economic, and financial challenges, hoping that, as in the past, the country will regain stability and prosper once again.

Kashmir cries out to all humanists

Sayyidah Kausar Fatima

The echoes of Kashmir's tumultuous history continue to resonate through the valley. Despite promises of autonomy and self-determination, the rights of Kashmiris have been consistently eroded and their voices have gone unheard. Beside scrapping the special status of Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir; forced disappearances of thousands of young men; use of rape as an instrument of war; and arbitrary detentions, India has embarked upon a cynical campaign to re-engineer the demography of Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir by making it possible...

IMAGINE being an inmate in the largest concentration camp in the world you are being held incommunicado and under a constant fear of death. Imagine where having no means of communication, no access to the internet and not have been able to get emergency medical assistance. For anyone living and thriving in Canada this would be the stuff of a horror film but for millions of Kashmiris in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir this is an everyday reality. India which is a self-proclaimed defender and champion of Human Rights, is demonstrating to the world that multilateralism and pacific settlement of disputes are for the faint of heart. The occupying state should be like a juggernaut free to prey upon its captives if it feels that it is too populous or too important commercially to be taken to task. But history tells us that braggadocio and delusions of grandeur have played havoc with world peace. If India's repression of Kashmiri and aggression against Pakistan and its nonchalance towards Pakistan's constant call for negotiation leads to a conflagration between two nuclear armed countries, one does not need to be an Einstein to understand the ramifications. The echoes of Kashmir's tumultuous

history continue to resonate through the valley. Despite promises of autonomy and self-determination, the rights of Kashmiris have been consistently eroded and their voices have gone unheard. Beside scrapping the special status of Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir; forced disappearances of thousands of young men; use of rape as an instrument of war; and arbitrary detentions, India has embarked upon a cynical campaign to re-engineer the demography of Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir by making it possible for any non-Kashmiri to take up residence and buy property in the Occupied Territory. The revocation of article 35 (A) of the Indian Constitution is a clear violation of Article 49 of the 4th Geneva Convention. India's tall claims of being a secular country and world's largest democracy have been blown to shreds by these actions. Since 1989, over 96 thousand Kashmiris have been killed and more than 7,000 custodial killings are reported. Thousands of Kashmiris have disappeared. Tens of thousands have passed through torture chambers. Kashmiri teenagers have been blinded with pellet guns. Thousands of young boys have been arbitrarily detained. Protests

have been violently suppressed. Women have been subjected to sexual harassment, humiliation and intimidation. The Kashmir dispute has become the focus of attention at the global level after the illegal actions taken by the Modi regime on and post August 05, 2019 in IIOJK. Pakistan's arduous efforts and the grave human rights situation caused by the continued military siege in the illegally occupied territory convinced the UNSC to hold its session on Kashmir thrice first time after the period of over 50 years. Following India's action to change the disputed status and demographic composition of IIOJK, the solution of the Kashmir dispute has become more imperative for ensuring permanent peace in the region and the world at large. The slow moving yet relentless tsunami of cruelty should not be ignored by champions of human rights. Hapless Kashmiris hearken for the world to put an end to this orgy of bloodshed and intolerance. Pakistan hopes and strives for an amicable resolution. Let us empower rationality and humanity and not strengthen the narration of those who espouse and advocate violence as a means of settling disputes.

Briefs

PM, Bilawal discuss 27th Amendment

FROM PAGE 01
26th Amendment is now an Act of Parliament and has officially become law. The amendment, passed by both the Senate and the National Assembly with a two-thirds majority, is now in effect nationwide. The 26th constitutional amendment has been enacted following the publication of the official gazette, cementing its place within Pakistan's legal and constitutional framework. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had earlier sent advice on Monday to President Asif Ali Zardari about ratifying the 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill into law.

Backdoor to power shut after...

FROM PAGE 01
which changed the procedure for the appointment of the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP), fixed the post's tenure, and formed constitutional benches. Following the legal reforms, the seniority rule for the CJP appointment was also removed from the Constitution. After the 26th Amendment, the selection of the next chief justice will no longer be based solely on seniority, and instead, the choice will be made among the three most senior judges of the Supreme Court. A 12-member special parliamentary committee will decide on the chief justice's nomination with a two-thirds majority. The committee will then forward the selected name to the prime minister, who will send the nomination to the president for final approval.

President, PM reaffirm Pak....

FROM PAGE 01
He also condemned India's ongoing atrocities in the illegally occupied territory and reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering moral, diplomatic and political support for the Kashmiri people's just cause. In his message on the occasion, PM Shehbaz Sharif, said that the people of IIOJK have suffered countless hardships during the last 77 years of occupation. He said India had been taking successive steps to tighten its grip over IIOJK since August 5, 2019, when New Delhi abolished the special status of the disputed region. "India's nefarious designs are aimed at undermining the disputed status of IIOJK and denying the Kashmiri people their democratic right to decide their own future," he said.

Palestinian foreign ministry...

FROM PAGE 01
aid distribution centers despite their scarcity, in an unprecedented deepening of the crimes of genocide and imposing the specter of death on all Gazan citizens. The Ministry submits periodic documented reports on the occupation's massacres and the crimes of its settlers in the occupied West Bank, especially their encroachment on olive pickers. The Ministry believes that international silence or coexistence with the manifestations of genocide against our people or being content with describing the massacres and the state of genocide that dominates the life scene of the Gazans.

Ex-CJP Isa likely to face PTI protest

FROM PAGE 01
members to the Bench. The Calleees include Isa, Professor Adrian Briggs, Isabel Hitching KC and Nikki Singla KC. They will be called to the bench before dinner and asked to take their place at the high table. Isa will give a short speech to the benchers and members, the Middle Temple confirmed. The former chief justice became the first Pakistani judge to get elected as a benchers at the Middle Temple, a prestigious legal institution in the United Kingdom (UK).

Malaysian envoy highlight's role of sports diplomacy in fostering ties

The main feature of this year's event was a 3.0 km brisk walk around the Diplomatic Enclave. Cricket games were also introduced this year, adding to the lineup of sports activities that included aerobics, badminton, and table tennis

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The High Commission of Malaysia in Islamabad organised a Sports Day on the High Commission's premises. The event was held in conjunction with Malaysia's National Sports Day, or Hari Sukan Negara (HSN). Ambassador Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan, officiated the event at 7:15 a.m. In his remarks, the High Commissioner underscored the importance of a balanced and healthy lifestyle. He also highlighted the role of sports diplomacy in fostering closer relations between Malaysia and Pakistan. The event was attended by the High Commission's Home-Based Staff and their families, as well as local Pakistani staff members. The main feature of this year's event was a 3.0 km brisk walk around the Diplomatic Enclave. Cricket games were also introduced this year, adding to the lineup of sports activities that included aerobics, badminton, and table tennis. Malaysian delicacies, such as Mee Goreng, and local Pakistani breakfast items, like Nihari, were also served during the programme. National Sports Day is celebrated annually not only throughout Malaysia but also at its missions abroad every October. The main objective is to promote and instill the spirit of a healthy lifestyle among Malaysians, young and old, by emphasizing the importance of regular exercise and uniting Malaysians from all walks of life through sports.



Babar Azam, Shaheen, Naseem return as PCB announce squads

Australia tour will run from 4-18 November, while matches in Zimbabwe, will be played from 24 November to 5 December

WEB DESK

LAHORE: Pakistan cricket selectors officially announced the squad on Sunday for the forthcoming tours of Australia and Zimbabwe, where the national side will play three ODIs and three T20Is each. The Australia tour will run from 4-18 November, while the matches in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, will be played from 24 November to 5 December. Meanwhile, Babar Azam, Naseem Shah and Shaheen Shah Afridi, who were given a break from the last two Tests against England, return for the Australia matches but will be rested for the Zimbabwe tour. Similarly, Mohammad Rizwan will be available for the Australia matches and Zimbabwe ODIs, but will be

rested from the Zimbabwe T20Is. This approach follows the selectors' rotation policy and provides opportunities to domestic performers, aligning with the team's strategy for the ICC Champions Trophy and beyond. Apart from Babar, Naseem, Rizwan, Salman, and Shaheen, four other players have been selected in both the ODI and T20I squads. They are: Arafat Minhas, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah and Muhammad Irfan Khan. Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Faisal Akram, Kamran Ghulam, Mohammad Hasnain, and Saim Ayub are selected solely for the ODIs and will be replaced by Jahandad Khan, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Omair Bin Yousuf, Sahibzada Farhan, Sufyan Moqim, and Usman Khan for the T20Is. Seven ODI squad members - Babar

Azam, Faisal Akram, Haris Rauf, Mohammad Hasnain, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Naseem Shah, and Shaheen Shah Afridi - will depart for Melbourne on Monday, 28 October, with the remaining ODI players leaving on Tuesday, 29 October. Pakistan's white-ball coach, Gary Kirsten, will join the squad in Melbourne on 28 October. ODI SQUAD: Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Arafat Minhas, Babar Azam, Faisal Akram, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah (WK), Kamran Ghulam, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Rizwan (WK), Muhammad Irfan Khan, Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Shaheen Shah Afridi T20I SQUAD: Arafat Minhas, Babar Azam, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah, Jahandad Khan, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Muhammad Rizwan (WK), Mu-

hammad Irfan Khan, Naseem Shah, Omair Bin Yousuf, Sahibzada Farhan, Salman Ali Agha, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Sufyan Moqim, Usman Khan Domestic performers dominate Pakistan squads for Ahmed Daniyal, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah, Mohammad Hasnain, Muhammad Irfan Khan and Tayyab Tahir are the other players apart from Salman Ali Agha who have been selected for both the formats. Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Faisal Akram, Kamran Ghulam, Mohammad Rizwan, Saim Ayub and Shah Nawaz Dahani have been picked in the ODI side and will be replaced by Arafat Minhas, Jahandad Khan, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Omair Bin Yousuf, Qasim Akram, Sahibzada Farhan, Mohammad Abbas Afridi and Usman Khan for the shortest format of the game.

Five new players inducted into PCB men's central contracts

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Sunday announced to award 12-month duration central contracts to 25 men's cricketers for the 2024-25 international season, effective from July 1, 2024. The contracts have been offered under the structure that was agreed last year between the players and the PCB for a three-year period. As part of the PCB's strategy to incentivise, encourage and reward talented and emerging cricketers, five players, Khurram Shahzad, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Ali, Muhammad Irfan Khan and Usman Khan, have been offered central contracts for the first time. These five cricketers have been placed in category D. Compared with the PCB men's three-year central contracts of September 27, 2023, Shaheen Shah Afridi (A to B), Haris Rauf, Shadab Khan (B to C) have been demoted while Shan Masood has been promoted from Category D to category B but his retention will be subject to as red ball captain. Saud Shakeel, Salman Ali Agha, and Saim Ayub have been promoted to category C from category D while Abdullah Shafique retained his previous category C. Thirteen cricketers including Fakhar Zaman, Sarfraz Ahmed, Imama ul Haq, Muhammad Nawaz, Imad Wasim, Shah Nawaz Dahani, Ifthikhar Ahmed, Insanullah, Faheem Ashraf, Usama Mir, Zaman Khan, Muhammad Haris and Hasan Ali have been struck down from the PCB's previous central contract list. Out of the 25 cricketers, only two have been awarded category A, three category B, nine category C while 11 have been placed in category D. Category A: Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan. Category B: Naseem Shah, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Shan Masood. Category C: Saud Shakeel, Salman Ali Agha, Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Haris Rauf, Noman Ali, Saim Ayub, Sajid Khan and Shadab Khan. - APP

PTI set to launch another...

FROM PAGE 01
the party would hold power show in Peshawar on November 1. Moreover, a public rally would also be held in Quetta on Nov 8. Meanwhile, it has also been decided to follow the reference against the chief election commissioner on regular basis. Earlier, PTI leader Sheikh Waqas Akram has disclosed that decision to challenge the 26th constitutional amendment would be made on Monday.

US investors show interest...

FROM PAGE 01
We will try to make this IMF programme our last programme," he said, adding due to the government's initiatives, the country was advancing towards macro-economic stability. The finance czar also warned that the government might have to make arduous decisions for enhancing the economy. "We are abolishing the term of non-filer. The non-filers will not be able to buy cars and properties and we will need a legal cover for that purpose," he said.

No deal in release...

FROM PAGE 01
steadfastness in support of the nation and constitution. "Imran's detention is based on false charges," Ayub asserted, contrasting his situation with that of Nawaz Sharif, claiming Imran's sacrifices are for the supremacy of law. Ayub criticized the judiciary, condemning the tenure of the former chief justice as the "darkest period in judicial history," and expressed hope that the current Chief Justice would render decisions upholding the constitution.

4 terrorists killed...

FROM PAGE 01
Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed khawarij, who "remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the law enforcement agencies as well as the innocent civilians", according to the ISPR.

PTI falls prey to...

FROM PAGE 01
On the other hand Fawad Chaudhry, while defending his brother Faisal Chaudhry, wrote on X (formerly twitter), "My brother has been defending PTI in five cases free of cost while Rauf Hassan, the brother of Fawad Hassan is charging 7.5 lac rupees from party." Fawad used stringent language against Hassan and accused him for providing agencies with the information of PTI workers and declared him disloyal to the party.

Officials will decide how to respond...

FROM PAGE 01

"What the regime did and is doing in Gaza and ... Lebanon is one of the most brutal war crimes," he pointed out. "The world must stand against them (the Zionists), governments must stand up, especially the Islamic governments." Helping Israel is among "the worst and biggest sins," the Leader stressed, calling for the formation of a global political and economic coalition against the evil regime, and if deemed necessary a military one. Meanwhile, Ayatollah Khamenei warned that a weak nation that cannot defend itself will naturally lose its security. "The thing that maintains the security for a country is its national power; it is the strength of that country ... in all fields," including science, economy, the possibility of defense, and weapons, he noted. In the early hours of Saturday, the Israeli regime launched an act of aggression against several Iranian military and radar sites in three provinces, including the capital, Tehran. The Iranian air defenses intercepted most of the projectiles; however, minor damage was inflicted on some installations. The act of aggression came more than three weeks after the Iranian Armed Forces launched a barrage of approximately 180 ballistic missiles at Israeli military and intelligence bases deep within the occupied territories. Operation True Promise II was conducted in retaliation for the Israeli assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in a targeted strike in Tehran, and Hezbollah chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in a massive airstrike in Beirut.

Zheng Qinwen beats Sofia Kenin to claim Tokyo title

TOKYO: China's Zheng Qinwen produced near-flawless serves to defeat American Sofia Kenin 7-6(5) 6-3 and capture the Pan Pacific Open title on Sunday for her third trophy this season. Zheng hit 33 winners and fired off 16 aces as she took the victory in an hour and 52 minutes under a closed roof after heavy rain interrupted the first set. The 22-year-old adds the Tokyo title to her wins in Palermo and the Paris Olympics this year. The first set was a tightly fought encounter without a single break of serve, with Zheng failing to convert five break-points, but she was much more clinical in the tiebreak and clinched it with a vicious forehand winner. The second set played out much differently as Zheng held to start and broke for 2-0 when Kenin netted a backhand, before consolidating that break to go 3-0 up. Kenin, playing with her right thigh strapped, refused to go quietly and forced Zheng to defend her first breakpoint of the match, but the power and precision of the Chinese world number seven's serve proved too much for the American. Zheng's win improved her record at the Pan Pacific Open to 8-1, with the 22-year-old having lost in the 2022 final to Liudmila Samsonova in her only previous appearance in the tournament. It also ensured her a first hard-court title since her Zhengzhou Open win last year and will give her a boost in confidence ahead of next month's season-ending WTA Finals in Saudi Arabia. "I want to say congratulations to you. You did a great job, I saw you were taped up and played though you were hurt, I know this feeling. You fought so hard on the court," Zheng said of Kenin. Despite the loss, 2020 Australian Open champion Kenin can take plenty of positives from her performance in Tokyo, where she dropped just one set en route to the final and beat world number nine Daria Kasatkina. Kenin, 25, also finished runner-up at the French Open in 2020 and reached a career-high number four that season, before injuries, illness and off-court issues saw her drop down the rankings. "I would like to thank the tournament director for giving me the wild card. I really appreciate it," Kenin said. "Unfortunately, I couldn't get the title today, but I'm very happy with the week I had." - Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Defence Attaches of South Korea Col Jinney Heo winner, runner up DA Malaysia and 2nd Runner up DA Phillipines DA of Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Phillipines, Japan, Thailand, Tajikistan Malaysia, South Korea, Sudan, Iraq, Army Attache of UK, US Air Attache of US, Ladies Col from China, Deputy DA Kazakhstan, Czech Republic, Official from MOD Pakistan posing for a group photo on the occasion of the COASA Golf Tournament 2024. - DNA

Briefs

Syria Kurd force denies links to Ankara attack as Turkiye strikes

HASAKEH: The commander of a Kurdish-led force in Syria denied links to a deadly attack near Ankara claimed by Kurdish PKK militants, after Turkish strikes on Kurd-held Syria killed more than a dozen people in retaliation. Turkiye carried out air strikes against targets linked to Kurdish militants in Iraq and Syria after Wednesday's shooting and suicide attack that killed five people at a defense firm near the Turkish capital. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the attackers infiltrated from neighboring Syria, vowing there would be no let-up in the fight against Kurdish militants. "We opened an internal investigation and I can confirm that none of the attackers entered Turkiye from Syrian territory," Mazloum Abdi, the head of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) told AFP.

The SDF is a US-backed force that spearheaded fighting against the Daesh group in its last Syria strongholds before its territorial defeat in 2019. It is dominated by the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), viewed by Ankara as an offshoot of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) which claimed the attack on Ankara. "We have no connection to this attack that took place in Ankara," Abdi said late Saturday from Hasakah, a major city run by the semi-autonomous Kurdish administration in north-east Syria. "Our battlefields are inside Syrian territory," he added. Turkish strikes on Kurd-held Syria since Wednesday have killed 15 civilians and two fighters, according to Abdi. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor, said Turkiye has launched more than 100 strikes, most of them using drones, since Wednesday. It said civilian infrastructure including bakeries, grain silos and power stations were hit alongside military facilities and checkpoints used by Kurdish forces. "It seems that (Turkiye's) goal is not just to respond to the events that took place in Ankara, but also to target institutions and sources of livelihood for the population," said Abdi.

"The main goal is to weaken and eliminate the (semi) autonomous administration, forcing the population to migrate," he said.—APP

Tehran residents fear escalation after Israeli attacks

TEHRAN: Residents of Tehran awoke and went about their business as planned on Saturday after their sleep was troubled by Israeli strikes that triggered blasts that echoed across the city.

The night skies had been criss-crossed by light trails from air defense weapons, but by mid-morning the capital had resumed its usual rhythm and buses went through the streets, taking troubled Iranians to work.

Iranian officials and media have played down the attack, but on the streets of Tehran many were concerned that it had marked a new escalation and a step toward all-out war.

Hooman, a 42-year-old factory employee, was on a factory night shift when he heard the blasts.

"It was an echoing sound ... terrible and horrifying," he told AFP. "Now that there is war in the Middle East, we are afraid that we will be dragged into it."

Saturday's Israeli attack came in response to Iran's missile strike on October 1, itself a retaliation for the killing of Iran-backed militant leaders and a Revolutionary Guards commander. The latest tit-for-tat moves take place against a backdrop of the ongoing war between Israel and the Palestinian group Hamas, and which has expanded to include Lebanon's Hezbollah in recent weeks.

On Saturday, the Israeli military said it had conducted "precise strikes on military targets in Iran," in response to what it said were "months of continuous attacks from the regime in Iran."

Diplomatic business club rolls out red carpet for Int'l Day of diplomats

A delightful dinner featuring Pakistani and continental dishes offered a perfect setting for cultural exchange and camaraderie

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Diplomatic Business Club, led by Chairman Muhammad Umar Shah, hosted the 8th Annual International Day of Diplomats in Islamabad. This distinguished event celebrated and honored diplomats worldwide, reinforcing unity and cooperation among nations. The theme, 'Diplomats - Defuse Crises and Shape Peace', highlighted the crucial role of diplomacy in promoting global stability.

Chairman Muhammad Umar Shah and Secretary General Ali Vazir warmly received guests comprising a diverse array of foreign dignitaries, including His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Thoha, High Commissioner Maldives; Dr. István GRAFJÓDI, Dy Head of Mission Hungary; Mr. Nasser Al Sulaimani, Dy Ambassador Oman; Mr. Abdullaheem Hasan, Dy Head of Mission Jordan; Mr. Soita Khwatenge, Minister Counselor,



High Commission Kenya; Mr Ali Bhatti, Director French Cultural Center, Mr Sanzarbek Amanbai, Consul of Kyrgyz Republic Embassy; Mr Mohsen Shahbazi, First Secretary of Iran Embassy, Ms Happy Guptan, Consul, High Commission India; Mr Ishtiaq Baig, Honorary Consul Morocco,

as well as Ms Rie Ishii, Head of Supply Chain, UN World Food Program. Chief Guest was Mr. Fahd Haroon, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan and Minister of State. The Guests of Honor were Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed; Mr Tariq Khan Jadoon, Vice Pres-



ident of FPCCI, and Mr Nasir M. Qureshi, President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce. Representatives from Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Khyber Chamber of Commerce were also present, alongside more than 50 members of the business community from the whole of Punjab region. After

short speeches, the evening concluded with the presentation of mementos to all foreign diplomats serving in Islamabad, symbolizing appreciation for their dedicated service. A delightful dinner featuring Pakistani and continental dishes offered a perfect setting for cultural exchange and camaraderie.

Ruling party set to win Georgia election amid opposition protests

TBILISI: Georgia's ruling party claimed victory in a legislative election Saturday that the pro-western opposition denounced as a "constitutional coup" and could deal a new blow to the Caucasus country's hopes of joining the European Union. If the partial results confirm the victory of the Georgian Dream party, the country could be heading for closer ties with neighbouring Russia. Brussels has harshly criticised the Georgian Dream's policies and said the election would play a decisive role in Georgia's chances of joining the EU. With votes from more than 70 percent of precincts counted, the central election commission said Georgian Dream was leading with 53 percent, while the main opposition union was on 38 percent. That would give Georgian Dream 89 seats in the 150-member parliament — enough to govern but short of the absolute majority it wants to make sweeping constitutional changes. Final results were expected on Sunday. "Georgian Dream has secured a solid majority", the party's executive secretary, Mamuka Mdinaradze, told reporters. Tina Bokuchava, leader of the opposition United National Movement (UNM), which campaigned on a pro-European platform, said however the results were "falsified" and the election "stolen". "This is an attempt to steal Georgia's future," she said, insisting that the UNM did not accept the results. "We hope that the opposition will be united in all calls for action that will be announced in the hours to come." Nika Gvaramia, leader of the Akhali party, called it "a constitutional coup" by the government. "Georgian Dream will not stay in power," he said. The opposition has staged mass demonstrations in recent months against what it says are government attempts to curtail democratic freedoms and steer the country of four million off its pro-Western course. Rival exit polls published after voting ended had shown the ruling party and the opposition ahead. Pro-opposition Georgian President Salome Zurbishvili hailed a victory for "European Georgia" despite "attempts to rig" the vote after one exit poll said the opposition won. After another showed a win for the government, Georgian Dream's billionaire founder Bidzina Ivanishvili hailed the party's "success" at a post-election rally where he pumped his fist in celebration. "I assure you, our country will achieve great success in the next four years. We will do a lot," he said. Hungary's nationalist Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who is also friendly with Moscow, was quick to hail Georgian Dream's "overwhelming victory" on social media.—APP

Kashmir Black Day observed at the Embassy of Pakistan in Moscow

Ambassador Jamali paid tribute to Kashmiri leaders, specifically mentioning Syed Ali Shah Geelani, a prominent Kashmiri politician, who devoted his life to fighting for the right of Kashmiris to decide their own future

MOSCOW: A special event was held on Sunday at the Embassy of Pakistan in Russia to commemorate Kashmir Black Day, marking the 27th October as a day to remember the Indian occupation of the Kashmir Valley. Pakistan's Ambassador to the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Muhammad Khalid Jamali, along with members of the Pakistani community in Russia and Embassy officials, participated in the event. Messages from the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out by H.E. Ambassador and Second Secretary Mr. Muhammad Tayyab respectively. In his remarks, Ambassador Jamali paid tribute to Kashmiri leaders, specifically mentioning Syed Ali Shah Geelani, a prominent Kashmiri

politician, who devoted his life to fighting for the right of Kashmiris to decide their own future. The Ambassador further noted that it is a diplomatic success for Pakistan that the issue of Kashmir remains on the agenda at various international platforms. He reiterated Pakistan's firm determination to continue providing diplomatic, political, and moral support

for the people of Kashmir. A documentary highlighting the Kashmiri people's resistance to Indian occupation in Jammu and Kashmir was screened. Additionally, a photographic exhibition showcasing the atrocities committed by Indian occupation forces and the ongoing freedom struggle in the Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir was organized.—APP



RCCI holds think tank session on economic challenges, future directions

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) hosted a high-level think tank session focused on assessing Pakistan's current economic situation and identifying solutions for sustainable growth. The session was chaired by RCCI President Usman Shaukat, alongside Think Tank Chairman and Group Leader Sohail Altaf, and featured renowned economist and economic analyst Dr. Farrukh Saleem as the chief guest. Dr. Farrukh Saleem highlighted several positive economic indicators, noting that inflation rates have fallen, while exports and remittances have shown encouraging growth. However, he emphasized the need for reform in key areas, including fiscal deficit management, government spending, and foreign debt reduction, while pointing out growth potential in energy, agriculture, and industrial sectors. Dr. Saleem also advocated for the privatization of loss-making state-owned enterprises, such as Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), suggesting that the government should focus on regulation, leaving business activities to the private sector. President RCCI Usman Shaukat underscored the purpose of the think tank, which is to not only evaluate economic challenges but also to propose actionable solutions. "Continuity of policies is essential to address our economic challenges and guide Pakistan toward stability," he added. Chairman Think Tank and Group Leader Sohail Altaf called on all political parties to unite on an economic stability agenda, much like the 26th constitutional amendment, to help Pakistan emerge from the economic quagmire. He highlighted the excessive tax burden on current taxpayers, citing the high tax rates of up to 50% in the region, and recommended an expansion of the tax net alongside incentives for businesses to stimulate economic growth. Vice Chairman and former RCCI President Raja Aamir Iqbal emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach to address the growing trade deficit, which has risen by 29% in the first quarter of the year. He noted worrying trends in cement and tractor production, which have dropped by 20% and 50%, respectively, and called for collaboration with stakeholders to create sustainable economic policies that will reduce national debt and foster business-friendly reforms. The session included a Q&A segment, where participants engaged with experts on pressing economic topics such as inflation, interest rates, production costs, stock market trends, IMF loans, and national debt. Distinguished attendees included RCCI Vice Chairman Think Tank Raja Amir Iqbal, Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, former RCCI Presidents, and Executive Committee members, along with other prominent figures from the business community.—DNA

Civil society firmly supports FBR in battle with tax evasion

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Action to Counter Illicit Trade (ACT) Alliance on Saturday appreciated the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for highlighting Pakistan's ongoing battle with tax evasion, particularly in the tobacco sector. In a discussion with civil society and media representatives here, the ACT Alliance lauded Chairman FBR dedication to addressing this pervasive issue, recognizing that his leadership is critical to securing Pakistan's economic future, said a news release. During a recent Senate Standing Committee on Finance meeting, FBR reported

that an alarming 70 percent of cigarettes sold in the country evade taxation, amounting to a massive revenue shortfall for the national exchequer. With only 30 percent of cigarettes on the market being tax-paid, Chairman FBR Rashid Mahmood Langrial, announced a significant crackdown on smuggling and illegal cigarette sales to begin in January, with the recruitment of additional enforcement personnel. According to FBR's projection, tackling these illicit sales could generate Rs. 200-250 billion in additional revenue annually, from Rs. 300 billion to over Rs. 500 billion, or nearly \$2 billion. This projected increase in revenue is crucial

for funding essential public services and driving economic growth. The FBR's ambitious transformation plan includes implementing a 100 percent Track and Trace System (TTS) in the sugar industry by the start of the upcoming crushing season. Additionally, FBR has made significant strides in the cement sector, meeting with industry leaders to ensure that TTS is operational across all production lines in the coming weeks. Expanding TTS in these industries will enable precise tracking of production and sales, helping prevent further tax evasion and securing essential revenue for Pakistan. To support this initiative, the government plans to grant provincial authorities,

including local police, the power to enforce measures against illegal cigarette sales. The Alliance called for substantial regulatory amendments to formalize the expanded enforcement network and create a collaborative framework to uphold tax laws across Pakistan. The ACT Alliance urged the government to accelerate this process and broaden enforcement to other sectors plagued by tax evasion, such as petroleum, real estate, and retail. ACT Alliance said collaboration across government agencies, provincial authorities, and law enforcement is essential to achieving Pakistan's economic goals. The annual loss of revenue from the illegal cigarette trade alone is a burden Pakistan

can no longer afford. ACT Alliance National Convenor Mubahsir Akram said "We call on all stakeholders to support FBR's efforts, reinforcing measures that strengthen tax compliance and encourage economic integrity." He added these critical steps will position Pakistan for a more prosperous future, ensuring fair contributions to the national economy from all sectors. ACT Alliance reiterated its support for FBR's efforts. It encouraged all relevant authorities to take a unified approach against illicit trade, contributing to Pakistan's healthier and more resilient economic landscape.

PSX boom indicative of economic stability: FCCI

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) Senior Vice President (SVP) Qaisar Shams Gucha has said the boom in PSX is indicative of the much-needed economic stability and it would convince foreign investors to invest in Pakistan. Commenting on the historic increase in PSX, he said it had set new records within this month and the process was continuously going on. He appreciated the economic strategy of the present government and paid tribute to the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb. He said that increase in exports had also provided a solid ground to further trim the policy rate which would help industrialists to get cheap capital for the latest machinery and technology particularly for the import substitution industry. He said that this situation would also play a key role in improving the quality of their exportable surplus in addition to bringing down import bill. He said that economists were expecting that PSX would cross the limit of one lac points by June 2025 but the recent improvements are indicating that probably this target could be achieved during this year. He said that economic indicators would further gain strength and GDP growth would also be more than the projected targets.—APP

Digital divide could hinder economic growth, youth empowerment

ISLAMABAD: Experts have warned that the digital divide is endangering economic growth and youth empowerment. With millions lacking access to technology, they stress the need for urgent action to bridge this gap; otherwise, we risk leaving an entire generation behind. In Pakistan, where digital technology plays a crucial role in driving economic growth and providing access to essential services, the digital divide presents a significant challenge that limits the nation's potential. Coined by Larry Irving in the 1990s, the term "digital divide" refers to the gap between those who have access to the internet and digital technologies—and the skills to leverage them—and those who do not (Hadi, S. A., 2021). Muhammad Saad, an IT expert based in Islamabad, in response to few queries by APP emphasizes that bridging this widening digital divide is the country's most pressing challenge. He further states, "The rapid advancement of technology is leaving many behind, particularly in rural areas and lower-income communities. It's essential that we invest in infrastructure and education to ensure equal access to digital tools for everyone."—APP

19 dead as bus plunge into ravine in Mexico

MEXICO: Nineteen people died and six others were injured when a bus crashed on a highway in Mexico's central state of Zacatecas on Saturday, local authorities said. The accident occurred in the early morning hours when the bus carrying the victims collided with the back of a tractor-trailer carrying corn, which had come loose. Highway from Nayarit to Chihuahua, Piedra Gorda, Mexico, October 26, 2024. REUTERS/Edgar Chavez Zacatecas Governor David Monreal earlier on Saturday had initially reported a preliminary death toll of 24 people, but the state attorney general's office later revised the tally in a statement. A view shows a crashed passenger bus where several people died and others were injured while travelling on a highway from Nayarit to Chihuahua, in Piedra Gorda, Mexico, October 26, 2024. REUTERS/Edgar Chavez The attorney general's office said it was "carrying out investigations to arrest the driver" of the tractor-trailer. Efforts were ongoing on Saturday morning to recover some of the bodies that had fallen into a ravine, a local government official who asked not to be named told Reuters.—APP

Briefs

Imran will be out of jail soon: Alvi

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Former President and PTI leader Arif Alvi has claimed that PTI founder Imran Khan is set to be released from jail soon, however, he made it clear that former PM's acquittal is results of peaceful struggle and will not be result of any deal. He was addressing PTI rally outside Karachi press club on Sunday for the release of Imran Khan. PTI workers also staged protests against 26th constitutional amendments. Arif Alvi told the protesters that 26th Constitutional Amendment was passed with rigging and PTI MNAs were picked up. He said PTI mandate was stolen. He said PTI leaders and workers were arrested from their homes and police violated sanctity of chador and the four walls of the houses. He also highlighted the problem of missing persons in Balochistan. Alvi said that PTI struggle will continue. Meanwhile, Karachi police have arrested PTI leader Alamgir Khan and three others and shifted them to artillery police station. PTI leader Alamgir Khan was arrested in an old case.

2 passengers arrested for smuggling drugs

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Airport Security Force (ASF) conducted operations at Islamabad and Peshawar airports and recovered a total of 2.376 kg of ICE [Crystal methamphetamine] from the possession of the passengers traveling abroad. As per the details, the ASF officials suspect the presence of drugs in the luggage of a passenger, named Sher Khan, traveling to Doha from a flight at Islamabad International Airport, upon further inspection a total of 1.166 kg of ICE [Crystal methamphetamine] has been recovered. In the second operation at Peshawar Airport, a passenger named Iqbal Hussain bound to board a flight to Jeddah was arrested for possessing 1.210 kg of ICE drugs in his luggage. Officials revealed that the drug was skillfully concealed by the passenger in the inner layers of the bags, and sweets, respectively. However, the ASF personnel, after searching the luggage of both passengers, foiled the smuggling attempt by recovering a total of 2.376 kg of ICE [Crystal methamphetamine].

Tel Aviv op "natural response to massacres"

WEB DESK

GAZA: The Movements of Hamas and Islamic Jihad blessed on Sunday the Tel Aviv operation that targeted Israeli soldiers working for a military intelligence unit, describing it as a natural response to the Israeli occupation's massacres and crimes of genocide in the Gaza Strip. At least six Israeli soldiers were killed and 50 others were injured, including 10 in serious condition, in a truck-rammage operation that took place in the morning at a bus station near the Gilot military base in northern Tel Aviv, which is home to the Mossad headquarters along with several military intelligence units, including the high-profile signals intelligence unit 8200. The driver who carried out the operation was identified as Rami Natour from Qalansuwa City in the central district of Israel (1948 occupied Palestine). He was martyred after soldiers opened fire at him at the scene. In a statement, Hamas said the operation was a "natural response to the Israeli occupation's crimes against the Palestinian people and its ongoing brutal massacres, especially in northern Gaza, where the most heinous ethnic cleansing and displacement crimes are taking place."

NDMA, Al-Khidmat dispatch relief aid for Gaza, Lebanon

The send off ceremony held at Jinnah International Airport was attended by Federal Minister for Maritimes Affairs Qaisar Shah and the representatives from NDMA, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Al-Khidmat Foundation

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on the directives of the Prime Minister, continued to provide humanitarian aid to the war-affected people of Gaza and Lebanon. On Sunday, the 14th consignment of aid was dispatched from Karachi to Lebanon. This aid shipment, sent by NDMA in collaboration with Al-Khidmat Foundation, comprised approximately 17 tons of supplies, including tents, food tins, dry milk, clothes and hygiene kits, a news release said. The aid was dispatched via flight from Jinnah International Airport, Karachi, to Beirut, Lebanon. The send off ceremony held at Jinnah International Airport was attended by Federal Minister for Maritimes Affairs Qaisar Shah and the representatives from NDMA, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Al-Khidmat Foundation. The Minister emphasized the urgent need to provide relief to the war-affected populations of Palestine and Lebanon, considering the ongoing conflict and the needs of the affected communities. He reaffirmed the Government of Pakistan's commitment to supporting the brothers and sisters in distress and stressed the importance of collaboration with welfare organizations and the Pakistani public in strengthening these efforts. Prior to this, Government of Pakistan has



sent 11 aid consignments to Gaza, Palestine, and this marked the third shipment to Lebanon, with a total volume of 1,398 tons. The Government of Pakistan continues to send relief supplies based on the needs of the war-affected populations of Lebanon and Palestine. On instructions of Prime Minister, a special account named the "Prime Minister's Relief Fund for Gaza and Lebanon," for collection of donations from the public to aid their brothers and sisters in Gaza and Lebanon who are facing war emergencies.

Punjab intensifies polio drive using geotagging

This programme is part of a larger national campaign to vaccinate over 23.3 million children under five in Pak

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: In a determined push to eradicate polio, the Punjab government has introduced a geo-tagging initiative to track migrant population during its upcoming anti-polio vaccination drive, starting Monday. This programme is part of a larger national campaign to vaccinate over 23.3 million children under five in Pakistan. In preparation for the drive, Punjab's provincial task force on polio eradication met on Saturday to finalise strategies. A key focus of the initiative involves vaccinating children from migrant families at entry and transit points across the province. Special teams will ensure vaccination coverage, especially for children travelling through high-risk areas. Punjab's Health Department has mobilised 4,888 permanent teams and an additional 2,654 transit teams to administer polio vaccines across urban and rural zones. Officials emphasise the importance of these vaccination points as part of a comprehensive effort to close gaps in immunity among vulnerable children. Pakistan's Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at NIH confirmed the country's 41st polio case for 2024 on Friday.

Kashmir will not free by just advertisements and slogans

JI Ameer criticises advocacy for India ties, urging focus on Kashmir's freedom and regional relations

BUREAU REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan, Ameer of Kashmir will not be freed through slogans and advertisements but through jihad. Addressing a gathering at Mansoorah, Lahore, Hafiz Naeem urged the audience to dedicate their wealth and lives in the path of Allah, aiming to bring about revolution through every possible effort. He highlighted that many have sacrificed their lives for the Palestinian and Kashmiri causes. Referring to Syed Ali Gilani, he noted that half of Gilani's life was spent in prison, and his sacrifices were aimed at fulfilling Pakistan's independence. He also mentioned the assassination of Yahya Sinwar, stating that Israel and America fear such sacrifices.

Despite turning Gaza into rubble, Israel could not break the spirit and strength of Gaza and Hamas, with Palestinians standing firm. While Palestine has yet to gain freedom, Hafiz Naeem expressed hope for a new dawn with the bloodshed endured by Ismail Haniyeh's family. Hafiz Naeem, asserted that a mere advertisement on October 27 cannot absolve the government of its responsibility towards Kashmir. "Rights cannot be granted to Kashmiris through phone messages; Kashmir will only be freed through jihad. If dialogue were the solution, the issue would have been resolved long ago," he stated. He called on both the government and military to clarify their stance on Kashmir, urging for action rather than slogans. He further criticised powerful nations, noting that they support occupying forces, and accused American and Indian authorities of deceiving the global community. "Those who fight for freedom are labelled as terrorists," he said, highlighting the double standards of international powers. Hafiz Naeem, voiced strong opposition to those advocating friendship with Indian Prime Minister Modi, calling on the nation to hold such figures accountable. Referring to Nawaz Sharif, he questioned, "Why speak of strengthening ties with India without Kashmiri freedom? Why not focus on fostering relations with Afghanistan instead?" The Jamaat-e-Islami leader further alleged that during former PTI chief's tenure, General Bajwa compromised on Kashmir's status. He urged the Pakistan Army to reveal the facts behind the removal of Kashmir's special status, asserting it is their responsibility to inform the public.

Georgia's pro-EU oppsays vote stolen as ruling claims victory

Both Georgian Dream and the four pro-EU opposition groups trying to end its 12 years in power had earlier claimed victory based on competing exit polls

FOREIGN DESK

TBILISI: Pro-Western opposition groups in Georgia have refused to accept results that hand victory to the increasingly authoritarian ruling party, after a pivotal election focused on the country's future path in Europe. The Georgian Dream party of billionaire businessman Bidzina Ivanishvili claimed outright victory and the central election commission said it had won 54% of the vote based on more than 99% districts counted. The initial results were dramatically different from exit polls conducted by Western pollsters. Tina Bokuchava of the opposition United National Movement said the elections had been falsified and the vote

"stolen from the Georgian people". Another opposition leader, Nika Gvaramia, said Georgian Dream had mounted a "constitutional coup", while analysts said its increased vote share from four years ago was scarcely credible. Both Georgian Dream and the four pro-EU opposition groups trying to end its 12 years in power had earlier claimed victory based on competing exit polls. Voters turned out in big numbers on Saturday in this South Caucasus state bordering Russia, and there were numerous reports of vote violations and violence outside polling stations. One opposition official in a town south of the capital Tbilisi told the BBC that he was beaten up first by a local Georgian Dream councillor, and then "another 10 men came and I didn't know what was happening to me".

Pakistan, SA conclude joint counter-terrorism exercise

Commandant Special Operation School, attended the closing ceremony as Chief Guest. Colonel SS Lechoenyo, Chief of Staff Republic of South Africa Special Forces also witnessed the Closing Ceremony

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Closing ceremony of Pakistan - South Africa Joint Exercise Iqbal-I in Counter Terrorism domain was conducted between the Armies of Pakistan and Republic of South Africa at Cherat, Pakistan. Two weeks long exercise commenced on 15 October 2024. 2 x Combat Teams from Special Services Group, Pakistan Army and Republic of South Africa Special Forces participated in the Exercise. Commandant Special Operation School, attended the closing ceremony as Chief Guest. Colonel SS Lechoenyo, Chief of Staff Republic of South Africa Special Forces also witnessed the Closing Ceremony. The troop displayed highest standards of professional excellence during the conduct. The Exercise was aimed at refining the drills, procedures and techniques involved in CT operations through joint training, besides harnessing the historic military to military relations among the friendly countries.



Muhammad Rizwan named white-ball captain

Agha Salman will be acting as the interim captain during the T20I series against Zimbabwe

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: In a surprising turn of events, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Moshin Naqvi appointed wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan as the white-ball format skipper for the forthcoming series against Australia. Naqvi announced the captain in the press conference which was being held in Lahore. Speaking at the press conference congratulated the new skipper: "I want to extend my congratulations to Mohammad Rizwan on his appointment as Pakistan's white-ball captain. I am confident that Rizwan's leadership qualities, underpinned by his deep commitment and passion for the game, will help shape this talented team into a consistently successful unit. "Rizwan has earned the respect of his peers and colleagues through his dedication and positive attitude, and I have no doubt that these qualities, combined with his game knowledge and performance, will inspire the next generation of Pakistan cricketers."

"The PCB has always been fully committed to supporting our players and staff, and we will continue to stand by Rizwan as he takes on this important role. We are optimistic that under his leadership, Pakistan's white-ball cricket team will once again become a force to be reckoned with on the international stage."

Adding on, the 45-year-old announced Salman Ali Agha as vice-captain of the national team in white-ball formats. The decision had to be taken, as the former white-ball skipper Babar Azam stepped down earlier this month as he aimed to focus on his performance. "By stepping down, I

will gain clarity moving forward and focus more energy on my game and personal growth, the 29-year-old batter announced on X. It is worth noting here that, Agha Salman will be acting as the interim captain during the T20I series against Zimbabwe as Rizwan has been rested from the series. Meanwhile,

Rizwan expressed delight over the decision made by the officials. In regard to this, the wicketkeeper-batter stated: "I am deeply honoured to be appointed as Pakistan's white-ball captain. Representing Pakistan on the global stage is the greatest privilege and to now be entrusted with leading such a talented and exciting group of players is a tremendous honour. Joining the ranks of some of Pakistan's legendary limited-overs captains truly is the icing on the cake. "I am committed to giving my absolute best in this role and look forward to working closely with the selectors, coaches and my immensely talented teammates. Together, we aim to meet and exceed the expectations of our fans and supporters. "Pakistan cricket holds immense potential across all formats and I am confident that, with the support of God Almighty, we will build on our recent success against England to achieve even greater heights in what promises to be a challenging and busy season of white-ball cricket." The 32-year-old has caught 9 crucial catches and missed chances ratio is almost zero.



Security forces arrest terrorist in Mastung

DNA

QUETTA: The Security Forces on Sunday conducted a successful operation and arrested an alleged terrorist from Mastung, a town in the Balochistan province. Sources close to the development disclosed that the security forces arrested a terrorist while conducting an operation in the Spalanji Bazaar area of Mustang district. During the operation, the security officials recovered weapons, ammunition, and binoculars from the possession of the arrested terrorist. Security sources further revealed that the arrested individual had been involved in the murder of two individuals in the Spalanji Bazaar area between the 25th and 26th of October, after the incident, security forces started a search operation in the area. Earlier this week, Punjab Police conducted a major operation in the hilly area of Makadwala and reportedly killed 10 terrorists during an intense exchange of fire. The operation was launched following intelligence reports of the presence of 10 to 15 terrorists in the region. A Punjab Police spokesperson confirmed the success of the operation, emphasizing the determination to crush the terrorists' nefarious intentions and eradicate the scourge of terrorism.

One man dies in Channel crossing attempt

LONDON: A man has died after a migrant boat sank while attempting to cross the English Channel on Sunday morning. French officials say the man - an Indian national around 40 years old - suffered a cardiac arrest and could not be revived by emergency services. The boat deflated shortly after it left the coast at Tardinghen, near Calais, at 05:30 local time (04:30 GMT), and those aboard swam back to shore, French authorities said. This was the third lethal sinking in the past 10 days, in what is already the deadliest year on record for Channel crossings. On Wednesday, three people died after a small boat bound for the UK carrying dozens of migrants sank in the Channel. A rescue operation recovered 45 people off the French coast. Prior to that, a four-month-old baby died when an overloaded migrant boat sank on the evening of 18 October. Rescuers saved 65 others. More than 100 people have been rescued from migrant boats in distress since Thursday, according to the French coastguard. Several attempts to cross the Channel were stopped by police and gendarmes on Sunday morning - including in Equihen-Plage, Calais and Sangatte - according to French authorities. - Agencies

Terror attack in southeast Iran kills 10 border guards

TEHRAN: At least 10 police officers and soldiers were killed in an armed clash with terrorists in Goharkuh, located in the Taftan County of the Sistan-Balochistan province on Saturday. According to Iranian media, the clash began when unidentified gunmen ambushed a police patrol vehicle, leading to intense fighting which resulted in significant casualties among the patrol personnel. Initial reports indicated that both the soldiers and law enforcement team members were targeted in the attack. Furthermore, the attack was confirmed by the Sistan-Balochistan Police in a statement. Later, the terrorist group Jaish al-Adl, referred to as Jaish al-Zulm within Iran, claimed responsibility for the assault, which took place around 1,200 kilometres southeast of Tehran. Following the attack, the Iranian Minister of Interior Eskandar Mo'meni called for an immediate and thorough investigation into incident. - Agencies