



Islamabad POST

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Pak, Russia maintain coop despite global challenges: Matvienko

Detailed News On Page-08

IRGC warns Israel of 'bitter' consequences

Detailed News On Page-08



Gillespie to coach Pak in Australia

Detailed News On Page-06



Approves Justice Mansoor's plan

CJP-led full court discusses steps to reduce case backlog

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah attends meeting virtually, offers additional suggestions to reduce pendency of cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Newly-appointed Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi on Monday chaired the first full court meeting to discuss matters related to pendency of cases and enhance judicial efficiency. According to a statement issued by the Supreme Court — a copy of which is available with Geo News, the full court meeting was attended by all Supreme Court judges, including senior puisne judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah — who joined through video link as he is currently in Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah. The meeting was convened to assess the performance of the Supreme Court in the institution and disposal of cases, focusing on measures to reduce case backlog and enhance judicial efficiency. During the meeting, the SC registrar provided an overview of the current caseload and outlined the steps toward timely decision of cases. She presented updated statistics, indicating that 59,191 cases were currently pending and introduced a newly devised one-month plan based on Case Management Plan 2023 prepared by Justice Shah. "The plan includes setting clear standards, employing information technology to effectively manage all categories of cases," said the statement. Reviewing the Case Management Plan, the judges discussed a range of strategies to achieve the targets. "Criminal and civil cases, as detailed in the monthly plan, were allocated to specialized two- and three- member benches to ensure swift and speedy case resolution," it added. The statement further said that the judges contributed valuable insights and recommendations for further system improvement, underscoring their commitment to addressing case backlog. Meanwhile, Justice Shah also offered additional suggestions aimed at reducing the case backlog and improving procedural efficiency initially for one month and followed by three-month and six-month plans. At the conclusion of the meeting, the chief justice thanked all the judges for their resolve to implement

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PTI to reject proposed 27th amendment

PTI has no reservation on CJP but appointment mechanism

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar has asserted that his party would resist and oppose proposed 27th amendment in the constitution like the newly passed 26th amendment. Talking to media in Islamabad, Barrister Gohar asserted that baseless cases were being made against party leadership and workers on the pretext of violation of Section 144. He emphasised that they would soon be acquitted in fake and bogus cases. They protested outside the Supreme Court for such an amendment that undermined the independent judiciary and requested the judiciary to take action against interference in judicial matters, Gohar reiterated. He warned the government for horse trading and breaking parties for completing a number game for the vote on amendment. The PTI chairman stressed that they would form a government by joining minority numbers. He also clarified that "PTI respects all judges and has no reservation on the newly appointed chief justice, but has concerns on the mechanism of appointment of judges, stressing that chief justice must be appointed on the seniority principle." The government on Monday decided to retain the special parliamentary committee, which mulled before the passage of the 26th Amendment ahead of next task of bringing another amendment.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on Polio Eradication. — DNA

PM Shehbaz to visit Saudi Arabia today

Prime minister will be accompanied by key cabinet ministers, says Foreign Office

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will undertake an official visit to Saudi Arabia today (Tuesday) to attend the 8th Edition of the Future Investment Initiative (FII) being held in Riyadh from October 29 to 30. The premier will be accompanied by key cabinet ministers, according to a curtain raiser issued by the Foreign Office. The Future Investment Initiative (FII) serves as an important platform for countries to showcase their economic strength, draw foreign investments, and engage in dialogue to shape a sustainable future. This year's FII is themed "Infinite Horizons:

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Govt dismisses speculation over 27th amendment

Law Minister Tarar says there are no new constitutional amendments in pipeline

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazir Tarar on Monday firmly dismissed any speculation regarding the introduction of the 27th constitutional amendment. In a conversation with a private TV channel, he stated, "The 27th constitutional amendment is merely speculation at this time. There are no new constitutional

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NA speaker confirms

No action on reserved seats until ECP acts

National Assembly Speaker questions how members joining the SIC could retroactively change party affiliation

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq has stated that no action regarding reserved seats can be taken until the Election Commission issues a formal notification. Ayaz Sadiq stated that he will not comply with the Supreme Court's order regarding the reserved seats case Speaking to a private TV channel, Sadiq expressed concerns about members who have recently joined the Sunni Ittehad Council, questioning how they can retroactively affiliate with another party. He further highlighted that changes have been made to election laws, prompting him to ask whether the Parliament does not possess the same authority as the Supreme Court to amend the constitution. The issue arises amid ongoing discussions about party loyalty and the implications of recent shifts

Continued on Page 06

PTI files contempt plea against ECP

ECP should be ordered to implement Supreme Court verdict immediately, states plea filed by Salman Akram Raja

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Monday filed a contempt of court petition against the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for non-implementation of the Supreme Court's orders in the reserved seats case. Members of the country's top electoral body including chairman Sikandar Sultan Raja have been

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Fuel prices expected to drop next month

Citizens may get some relief with expected price drops of Rs2-3 for petrol and Rs2.30 for diesel

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Petrol and diesel prices in Pakistan may see a decrease in November, as global market rates for crude oil have shown a decline, according to officials. The potential price drop could offer some relief to the inflation-hit public. A reduction of Rs2 to 3 per litre for petroleum products is anticipated for the upcoming 15-day period beginning November 1, driven by recent global price changes, officials said. The average per-barrel cost of petrol fell from \$77.5 to \$76, while high-speed diesel saw a drop from \$86.5 to \$84.

Nawaz Sharif heads to US

Nawaz Sharif's trip to America is private, and he is expected to stay there for four days

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Former prime minister and PML-N President Nawaz Sharif has departed from London to the United States with his physician. Nawaz arrived in London on Saturday and, after a two-day stay, left for the US for medical treatment. His personal physician Dr Adnan and his son Hassan Nawaz are accompanying him. PML-N leaders Ahsan Dar, Zubair Gul, and other political figures gathered at Avenfield Apartments to see him off. Nawaz Sharif is expected to stay in the US for four days on a private visit. Before leaving, Nawaz briefly addressed questions from journalists. When asked why he did not become the prime minister, he replied, "Is it necessary to ask this before my trip to the US?"

Decides to revisit legal strategy

PTI will become part of Judicial Commission

Committee also endorses protest movement, action against MNAs who played dubious role during 26th Constitutional Amendments

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PTI Parliamentary Committee meeting was held in National Assembly on Monday evening under the chair of Opposition Leader in National Assembly Omar Ayub which was attended by senior party leaders including Asad Qaiser, Salman Akram Raja, Zartaj Gull and Amir Dogar. MNAs Sanaullah Mastikhel, Muhammad Khan, Shandana Gulzar, Khawaja Sheraz, Atif Khan and Shahid Khattak also attended the meeting. During PTI Parliamentary Committee meeting, detailed discussion was held on the names which will be nominated by PTI in the Judicial Commission. Moreover, PTI MNAs who were issued show-cause notices for their dubious role during the passage of 26th constitutional amendments was also discussed. According to the declaration, PTI parliamentary committee has approved the proposal that PTI will become the part of

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PTI MNA expelled from party meeting

Aslam Ghuman wasn't in contact with the party during the constitutional amendment

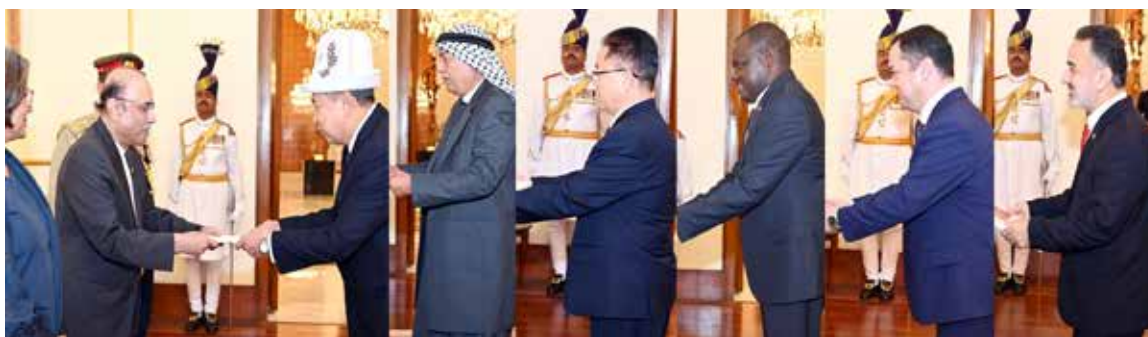
FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MNA Aslam Ghuman was shown the door during the parliamentary party meeting held in National Assembly on Monday. The parliamentary party meeting was chaired by the opposition leader Omar Ayub. According to sources, Ghuman wasn't in contact with the party during the 26th constitutional amendment process. He was allegedly in contact with other political parties,

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New envoys present credentials to President

President felicitated them on their appointment and expressed the hope that they would play their role in further improving mutually beneficial bilateral relations with Pakistan



ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The envoys of the Kyrgyz Republic, the State of Palestine, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Uzbekistan, Kenya and the Republic of Turkey presented their diplomatic credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari, during a credential ceremony, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. The President received credentials from the Ambassa-

dor-designate of Kyrgyz Republic, Mr Avazbek Atakhanov, the Ambassador-designate of State of Palestine, Dr Zuhair Mohammad Hamdallah Zaid, Ambassador-designate of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mr Choe Chang Man, the Ambassador-designate of Uzbekistan, Mr Alisher Tukhtaev, the High Commissioner-designate of Kenya, Lt Gen (Retd) Peter Mbogo Njiru and

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AJK President urges UK Kashmiris to intensify efforts for Kashmir cause

MIRPUR-AJK : Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry emphasized the need for the international community especially the United Nations to take decisive action to resolve the long-standing Kashmir dispute. During a meeting with former House of Lords member Lord Nazir Ahmed, President AJK called on the Kashmiri community in the UK to enhance their efforts in promoting the Kashmir cause globally. He expressed concerns over the deteriorating political and human rights situation in Indian-administered Kashmir since the revocation of Articles 370 and 35A which previously granted special status to the region. President accused the Indian government of attempting to alter the demographic make-up of Kashmir by issuing fake domicile certificates to non-Kashmiris. He described this as a conspiracy to reduce the Muslim majority to a minority in the area. He highlighted the ongoing violence, stating that Kashmiris are continuously being martyred by the Indian army. The AJK President urged Kashmiris worldwide to advocate for a just and peaceful resolution to the conflict, linking improvements in the region's situation to the fulfillment of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions.—APP

Balochistan uplift govt's top priority: Ministers

QUETTA: Balochistan Minister for Communication and Work (C&W) Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa and Minister for Planning and Development (P&D) Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi on Monday said that the development and prosperity of the province was the top priority of the government for providing facilities to masses. They expressed these views while during meeting here. Provincial Minister of P&D Mir In the meeting, the two ministers had a detailed discussion on the progress of the ongoing development projects in the province and expressed that no laxity or negligence would be tolerated in the development and prosperity of the province. They said that our first priority was to complete all the ongoing development projects in the province on time so that the people of the province get the fruits of these development projects. Both ministers said that if the province develops, peace and prosperity would come and it was the first priority of their government to make the province developed and prosperous. God willing, the day is not far when our province will be developed and prosperous, they said adding that their focus was on important issues of roads, building sector, health and education development projects and most important unemployment. They said that if these issues were resolved, it would be a great achievement for them. The ministers said Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti also has the same vision to put the province on track of development because durable development is essential for maintaining peace.—APP

ICCI-SBP close collaboration vital for businesses' growth : Nasir

SBP delegation pays visit to ICCI to explore areas of collaborations

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry is one of the premier Chambers of the country, promoting economic activities in the region through close liaison between the Government Departments and private sector and SMEs growth through startups, incubators, entrepreneurs and industry-academia linkages are some of its traits. This has been stated by President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Nasir Mansoor Qureshi while talking to the State Bank of Pakistan's visiting delegation headed by the Chief Manager Adnan Imran, comprising Deputy Chief Manager, Imtiaz Ali and Deputy Director, Saeeda Bano. The ICCI President highlighted that provision of level playing field by ensuring ease of doing business atmosphere to the community is the prime responsibility of the Chamber and that he is taking drastic measures to successfully achieve the objectives, adding that constitution of a Think Tank, R & D section, digitalization of the ICCI etc. are on the cards for the purpose. Talking about the potential areas of collaboration between ICCI-SBP he said that both the in-



stitutions can work together on trade finance initiatives to facilitate imports and exports, jointly promote microfinance schemes for entrepreneurs, conduct joint research on economic trends, challenges and opportunities, establish business support centers for entrepreneur, organize training sessions for entrepreneurs and establish mentorship programs for startups by exercising collective wisdom to explore and grasp the opportunities. On the occasion a consensus was evolved that State Bank of Pakistan will establish a Fac-

ilitation Desk at its premises for the awareness and education of the entrepreneurs and on its part ICCI will appoint a Focal Person for the better coordination and connectivity to achieve the cherished goals of enhancing economic activities in the region. On his part Chief Manager SBP Adnan Imran apprised the ICCI President that the Bank is going to organize a session on Islamic Banking in collaboration with the Chamber on November 26 in a befitting manner for the benefit of the business community as well as a session on Women Entrepre-

neurship on 19th of November 2024 to support women entrepreneurs in the region and to encourage them to significantly contribute in country's development. Deputy Chief Manager SBP, Imtiaz Ali stated that the Bank is steadfast in holding awareness events on startups, capacity building, research etc. in collaboration with the ICCI to fill the existing gap by identifying the challenges and therein promoting mentorship through comprehensive training sessions. Both the sides agreed that this vital collaboration can raise eco-

nomic growth, support businesses, Job creation and diversified entrepreneurship ecosystem in the region. ICCI Senior Vice President Abdur Rehman Siddiqui underlined the need for provision of maximum possible facilities to the business community especially women entrepreneurs for the economic wellbeing of the country. Saeeda Bano, Deputy Director SBP and Nasir Mahmood Chaudhry also shared their visions on the subject by emphasizing the continuity of initiatives between the two prestigious institutions.

Sindh CM concerned over high rate of polio vaccination refusals in Karachi, Hyderabad

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that polio vaccine hesitancy and refusals remain major challenges for polio eradication efforts in the country, particularly in Sindh including Karachi and Hyderabad many parents refuse to allow their children to receive the oral polio vaccine (OPV). He said this while launching the polio eradication campaign along with his cabinet members at SMB Fatima Jinnah School Garden, West. The provincial minister - Syed Sardar Shah, Jam Khan Shoro, Zulfiqar Shah, and Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, were accompanied by the CM and administered OPV to children under the age of five during the event. Secretary School Education Zahid Abbasi, Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi, Adl IG Karachi Javed Odho, Secretary Health Rehan Baloch, Coordinator EOC Irshad Ali Sodhar, WHO Director Po-

lio EMRO Region Dr Hamid Jafery, WHO Polio Country Head Dr Zainul Abideen and others were present. Mr Shah said that in the week-long campaign, from October 28 to November 3rd, 2024, 10.6 million children under the age of five across 30 districts of Sindh would be provided with oral polio vaccine (OPV) to protect against the debilitating disease. Additionally, 9.5 million children aged 6 months to 5 years will receive Vitamin A supplements to boost their immunity. Murad Shah said that Vaccine hesitancy and refusals present significant obstacles to polio eradication initiatives in Pakistan. In Sindh, particularly in the cities of Karachi and Hyderabad, a considerable number of parents are reluctant to permit their children to receive the oral polio vaccine (OPV). He added that the challenge is particularly severe in Kar-

rachi, where refusals account for 85 per cent of all refusals documented in Sindh. Replying to a question, the chief minister said that his government has begun the deployment of government support teams, and engagement of parliamentarians, local council committees, and UC-level local bodies to support efforts. He added that the communications network of social mobilisers on ground is deputed to improve vaccine uptake and reduce refusals in the polio vaccination campaign in October NIDs. The CM said that with 41 polio cases reported in Pakistan this year, 12 of which have been in Sindh, the urgency of this campaign cannot be overstated. He added that the presence of positive environmental samples in Karachi and other areas continues to indicate active virus circulation, making this vaccination drive essential to halting the spread of po-

lio. To meet this challenge, 81,000 frontline workers will be mobilised to go door-to-door, ensuring that every eligible child receives the life-saving vaccine. Murad Shah said and added that approximately 19,000 security personnel will also be deployed to safeguard the polio workers and ensure a smooth campaign. Murad Shah stressed the importance of repeated vaccination, saying, "Each vaccination round is a crucial step toward building immunity and protecting our children from polio. Parents and caregivers must cooperate with vaccination teams to safeguard their children's futures." The CM urged the parents to welcome the vaccination teams and ensure their children receive the vaccine during every round of the campaign. "Repeated doses are key to strengthening immunity and preventing children from becoming victims of this preventable disease.

National Outreach Programme launched for varsities employees

ISLAMABAD: The National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE), HEC on Monday organised the launching ceremony of National Outreach Programme for the faculty and management of universities. The initiative, being executed in 64 public sector universities in Phase-I, aims to elevate the capabilities of faculty and administrative management through dedicated training funds and structured outreach to enhance their quality for optimum performance and contribution to their institution. The programme is structured to equip the young faculty of public sector universities established during the last 20 years at their doorsteps and focus enhancing their teaching, learning and research capabilities. It is a four-week training programme for faculty members - lecturers and Assistant Professors. An amount of Rs. 3.5 million will be provided to the host university for the training. The capacity building programme for university management is aimed at

equipping the administrative staff of public sector universities established during the last 10 years at their doorsteps. The programme will empower management of the higher education institutions (HEIs) with multiple managerial and leadership skills to handle complex problems and challenges relevant to their job assignments effectively through rigorous training. Focusing to develop a significant change in their interpersonal, communication, decision-making and team building skills, enabling to lead and manage their institutional responsibilities in a more effective manner. An amount of Rs 1.5 million will be provided to the host university for this one-week training. Addressing the Vice Chancellors of the selected universities on the National Outreach Programme, Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed underscored the significance of this initiative in strengthening Pakistan's higher education system by emphasising the transformative role of well-prepared faculty.—DNA

WAPDA to build 5 small dams in GB to generate 13940MW electricity

GIGIT : Project Director Damer Bhasha Dam Nizakat Hussain said that WAPDA has a plan to build five small dams in Gilgit-Baltistan with a total capacity of 13940 MW. While talking to media person at the site of Dame he said that the dams which include Shevik, Skardu Sho, Thargos, Elbo, and Bunji will be constructed by WAPDA and will provide much-needed electricity to the country. Additionally these dams will accelerate industrial development and bring significant changes to food security. According to Hussain, work on the five dams will commence in Gilgit-Baltistan as soon as possible with Bunji Dam generating the most electricity at 7100 MW. He informed that the smallest power project will be Shevik which will produce 4600 MW.—APP

Mushroom cultivation enhances agricultural economy: Kundi

LAHORE: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Monday emphasized that leveraging mushroom cultivation can enhance the agricultural economy and contribute to a healthier society through increased consumption of organic products. The Governor expressed these views while attending a one-day Mushroom Festival, organized by Discover Pakistan in collaboration with the Lahore Organic Village and the Agri-Tourism Development Corporation in Lahore. The Governor received a warm welcome upon his arrival, with Discover Pakistan CEO Dr. Qaiser Rafiq presenting him with a bouquet, accompanied by traditional horse dancing and drum beats. During his visit, Governor Kundi toured the stalls featuring mushroom products and value-added items, expressing great enjoyment for the flavors of various mushroom-based foods. With over a hundred stalls showcasing different types of mushrooms, he praised the hard work of mushroom farmers. The festival organizers and farmers were pleasantly surprised to learn that Governor Kundi has a deep understanding of mushroom production and nutrition. He also revealed that a portion of land at the Governor House has been allocated for regular mushroom cultivation. Encouraging farmers to cultivate mushrooms in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Governor Kundi assured them of land allocation and all possible support. He commended the establishment of the Lahore Organic Village, praising Dr. Rafiq's initiative and recognizing the monthly agricultural product festivals as commendable. The Governor extended a formal invitation to Dr. Rafiq to visit Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, expressing a desire for similar organic villages to be established in major cities, including Peshawar. He assured full cooperation for these projects. Dr. Rafiq thanked the Governor and presented him with a commemorative shield in appreciation of his support. Meanwhile, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi paid his visit at the shrine of Hazrat Ali Hajveri, also known as Data Ganj Bakhsh (RA). The Governor offered a chadar (a ceremonial cloth) and scattered flowers at the shrine. He prayed for the peace and stability of the country during his visit. Similarly, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi was honored with a distinguished dinner hosted by former Speaker of the Punjab Assembly, Sardar Muhammad Sabtain Khan.—DNA

There is no shortcut to success



TANVEER HUSSAIN

CONSTANT effort is required to complete any task. In short, continuous tireless hard work is the ladder of success. But unfortunately, a large number of people prefer haste rather than patience. Most people believe in shortcuts instead of hard work. This approach demoralizes the hard working people. Although the trend of shortcutting is found all over the world, this trend is alarmingly high in our country. Instead of studying for a whole year, students resort to guess papers near the exam. It is common to

have papers leak out and approach the examiners for changing of results. Getting a degree without education means lack of skill, ability and talent. On the employment level, jobs are distributed through bribery and nepotism rather than merit. When such people reach important positions, they not only cause trouble for themselves but also cause damage to the society. Unfortunately, instead of building their niche through hard work, people resort to shortcuts to earn more money in less time. Some go on the path of dishonesty themselves and some people become tools of criminal people to earn money. In our daily life we can see hundreds of examples of how people abuse their profession to get rich quick. Be it street crime, encroachment of plots, adulterated food in the market or fake medicines, all these are the result of the race to make more money in less time which results in destruction of the society. Some young people get lured and fall victim to various schemes and reward schemes and lose their savings. Some people, attracted by the

bright lights of Europe and America, lose their lives trying to cross illegally into Europe with the help of human smugglers. Short cuts do not work only in worldly affairs, people look for shortcuts in religious matters too. There are millions of religious Peers, Amils, Astanas and taweez ganda dealers in the country who not only give good news to the people to get rid of life troubles but also give them the promise of success in the life after death. Millions of innocent citizens lose their wealth and honor at the hands of these evil people. Social media also plays an important role in the promotion of shortcuts. If a person eats in a nice hotel, wears nice clothes or he gets a chance to sit in an expensive car, he shares his photos as a duty. These nouveau riches and fraudsters should remember that Islam forbids even throwing fruit peels at the door, lest the neighbor's children develop a sense of inferiority. This creates a sense of inferiority among low-income youth. Then they also take every legal and illegal method to get rich quickly. The negative ef-

fects of shortcuts are seen in every sphere of life. From sports to music and from diplomacy to economy, unpredictable performance is seen everywhere. Mill owners, businessmen, business people, journalists, media persons, professionals, political and religious figures, everyone wants to reach the top as soon as possible in the cycle of shortcuts. This procedure is incorrect. If a honest and hardworking person appointed as head of any department, department develops fastly but as soon as he leaves his job, the downfall of the department starts again. We need to strengthen institutions rather than individuals. So that an institution, business, party, newspaper, channel, or company does not sink completely due to the departure of an employee, but there should be competent successors to take over. The same principle applies to all walks of life. Shortcuts can provide temporary success but are difficult to sustain. People need to be taught about constant struggle and hard work, to get them out of this shortcut cycle.

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 - Oct 01/Cyprus National Day
 - Oct 01/Republic of Korea Armed Forces Day
 - Oct 01/Nigeria Armed Forces Day
 - Oct 02/Guinea National Day
 - Oct 03/Germany Unification Day
 - Oct 03/Republic of Korea National Foundation Day
 - Oct 05/Indonesia Armed Forces Day
 - Oct 06/Egypt Armed Forces Day
 - Oct 09/Uganda Independence Day
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 - October 24/United Nations United Nations Day
 - Oct 25/Romania Armed Forces Day
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CDA's beautification drive transforms Islamabad new look

With vibrant flowers, lush greenery, and artistic steel installations adorning the city, residents are taking notice of the refreshed look, praising the CDA's efforts to make Islamabad more inviting

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad is abuzz with fresh colors and greener views as the Capital Development Authority (CDA) rolls out an ambitious beautification drive across the capital. With vibrant flowers, lush greenery, and artistic steel installations adorning the city, residents are taking notice of the refreshed look, praising the CDA's efforts to make Islamabad more inviting. Under this initiative, CDA has added colorful floral arrangements, green plants, and carefully chosen steel sculptures in key areas. These new additions not only brighten the cityscape but also enhance Islamabad's

eco-friendly reputation by expanding green spaces. Local residents have shared enthusiastic feedback about the transformation. "Islamabad feels more alive than ever," commented Rimsha Khan, a resident of Sector F-7. "The flowers and greenery are so refreshing, especially as we move into the fall season. It's wonderful to see the city taking such care in its appearance." Farhan Bhatti, a long-time resident of the Blue Area, praised the steel installations that reflect the city's heritage and values. "These art pieces give Islamabad a modern touch while honoring our cultural roots. It makes me proud to call this city home," he said. Many have also appreciated

the drive's eco-friendly impact. "It's inspiring to see so many green initiatives here," noted Farwa Hassan, a university student. "As someone concerned about the environment, I think these steps make a difference for both the community and nature," he added. The CDA's beautification drive is part of its ongoing mission to enhance Islamabad's visual and environmental appeal. With more initiatives on the horizon, CDA remains dedicated to nurturing the capital's green landscape and aesthetic values, aiming to provide a welcoming and refreshing atmosphere for all. Moreover, in a significant step towards ensuring clean water for Islamabad residents, the Capital Development Authority

(CDA) has initiated the installation of a new tube well in Margalla Town. Under the guidance of CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa, the Water Management Wing, led by Director General Sardar Khan Zamri, is working diligently to address the community's water needs. The new tube well project, already reaching a depth of over 550 feet, is expected to yield a substantial water supply for the area. CDA officials are optimistic that the installation will not only meet current demand but also contribute to a more reliable water supply for Margalla Town residents. Meanwhile, local residents have expressed gratitude for the project, hopeful that it will resolve longstanding water issues.

"For years, we've faced water shortages, especially during the summer. Knowing that a new tube well is being installed gives us hope," shared Fazl e Rabbi, a resident of Margalla Town. Another resident, Kashif Malik, appreciated the CDA's efforts. "Access to clean water is a basic right, and it's reassuring to see the CDA addressing this issue with such a proactive approach. We're looking forward to more projects like this." With the ongoing work nearing completion, the CDA aims to finish the installation promptly to provide a stable and clean water supply to Margalla Town. This initiative aligns with the authority's continued commitment to improving the quality of life for Islamabad's citizens.



RAWALPINDI: Deputy Defence Minister, Russian Federation, Col General Aleksandr V. Fomin called on Minister for Defence & Defence Production, Khawaja Muhammad Asif at Ministry of Defence.

Romina for respecting regional norms in climate diplomacy

Dr. Bilal Anwar, CEO of NDRMF, pointed to the increasing complexity of climate finance definitions and the pressing need for effective implementation of the loss and damage fund to address the substantial impacts of climate change on communities

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change, stressed the need for Pakistan to prioritize climate adaptation strategies that respect regional contexts and vulnerabilities. She affirmed Pakistan's role as a vocal advocate for climate-vulnerable nations. In his keynote address, Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director of SDPI, emphasized the urgency of climate action, noting that the withdrawal of the U.S. from the Paris Agreement commitments had weakened global climate agendas. He acknowledged the concerted efforts of the EU and China to maintain focus on climate issues despite setbacks. He said that controversy surrounding the Loss and Damage Fund prevails. Still, despite this, there is an opportunity to co-opt oil-producing states as part of the solution to address cli-

mate change and to mobilize finance for climate action. "Baku as COP29 host can contribute to carbon markets and carbon credits trading amid many daunting challenges like green washing. However, the COP29 presidency had streamlined many of those issues," he said. Pakistan, he said is an active member of the international community that played lead role in operationalization of Loss and Damage Fund. "Pakistan has to remain an active representative of the 220 million resilient people who stood firm against adverse impacts of climate change," he added. Welcoming the summit participants, Mr. Wolfgang Hesse, Cluster Coordinator Energy & Climate Change, GIZ Pakistan highlighted Germany's robust commitment to addressing climate and energy initiatives in Pakistan. The Pakistan-German Climate &

Energy Partnership represents technical and financial cooperation over €500 million is meticulously designed to bolster Pakistan's climate ambition. Our financial cooperation is pivotal in facilitating a just energy transition, aligning with the goals of the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030. Dr. Shafiq Munir, Deputy Executive Director, SDPI voiced strong concerns over the limited support from developed countries towards a comprehensive Loss and Damage Fund, citing an alarming financial gap. Dr. Munir emphasized the urgent need to operationalize and adequately fund this initiative, advocating for fair contributions from wealthier nations to aid communities facing severe climate-induced hardships. Head of Development Cooperation, Experts at the pre-COP29 summit highlighted the significant financial gaps in climate funding.

Moscow desires to enhance Pak-Russia bilateral ties

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Monday said that parliamentary diplomacy had historically played a key role in reinforcing bilateral relations between Pakistan and Russia. During a meeting with the Speaker of the Federation Council of the Federal Assem-

bley of the Russian Federation, Valentina Matvienko Ayaz Sadiq advocated for continuous engagement between the two parliaments, facilitated through parliamentary friendship groups and high-level exchanges, as a means of promoting mutual learning and shared experiences. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq warmly welcomed Matvienko and her high-level parliamenta-

ry delegation. The meeting centred on strengthening bilateral relations, with a particular focus on advancing parliamentary cooperation for mutual benefit. Ayaz Sadiq reaffirmed Pakistan's longstanding, broad-based relationship with Russia, highlighting its foundation on principles of mutual respect and trust. "Pakistan's ties with Russia are a vital component of its foreign policy," he emphasized. Madam Valentina Matvienko expressed gratitude for the warm welcome extended to her and congratulated Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on his re-election. She said, "Russia values Pakistan as a significant player on the international stage and commended the country's efforts toward global peace."



C-Level maintenance for Unit 1 of Sahiwal coal power plant completed

ISLAMABAD: The Sahiwal Coal-Fired Power Plant achieved a significant milestone with the successful completion of C-Level maintenance for its 660 MW Unit 1. This achievement not only underscored the plant's commitment to operational excellence but also highlighted the effective collaboration among various departments, including operations, maintenance, and health, safety, and environment (HSE), said a press release issued here Monday. The maintenance was conducted in a systematic manner that ensured all tasks were completed ahead of the timeline set by the National Power Construction Corporation (NPCC), demonstrating the effectiveness of proactive planning and teamwork. The operations department played a pivotal role in supporting the maintenance department throughout this process. Their proactive approach was characterized by meticulous planning and real-time monitoring of equipment performance leading up to the maintenance period. By analyzing operational data and identifying potential issues, the operations team was able to provide valuable insights to the maintenance department. This early identification of issues allowed for a smoother maintenance process, minimizing downtime and ensuring that maintenance teams could focus on their designated tasks without being burdened by unexpected operational challenges. Furthermore, the operations department conducted a series of pre-maintenance checks to ensure that all the systems were functioning optimally before the maintenance began. Their readiness and strategic planning ensured that the maintenance department had all the necessary resources and information at their disposal, significantly contributing to the overall efficiency of the maintenance operations. The Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) Department also played an integral role in ensuring the safety and compliance of maintenance activities. Throughout the month of October, the HSE team was vigilant in enforcing safety rules and principles, conducting thorough inspections, and providing continuous monitoring of the work environment. They established clear safety protocols and conducted daily safety briefings to educate staff on potential hazards associated with maintenance tasks.—APP

ANF recovers over 94 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 15 operations across the country managed to recover over 94 kg drugs worth Rs 20 million and arrested 17 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that in an operation conducted in Johar Town, Lahore, 6 kg hashish was seized near a university and three accused were arrested. 300 grams ice and 25 intoxicating tablets were recovered from the possession of an accused rounded up near a university on Japan Road in Islamabad. 200 grams hashish was recovered from two suspects arrested near a university on Lalazar Road in Rawalpindi. In an operation, 14.5 kg ice, absorbed in 20 books, were recovered from a parcel booked for Australia at a courier office in Karachi. 900 grams ice was recovered from a Jeddah-bound passenger at Lahore Airport. In another operation at Lahore Airport, 2 kg heroin was recovered from a passenger going to the Malaysia. 706 grams heroin was recovered from a passenger going to Dammam at Islamabad Airport. 48 kg hashish and 14.4 kg opium were recovered from a vehicle intercepted near Motorway Toll Plaza Peshawar. In another operation near Motorway Toll Plaza Peshawar, 2 kg heroin was recovered from a vehicle and an accused was arrested.—APP

IRSA releases 107,900 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 107,900 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 61,700 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1531.59 feet and was 133.59 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 32,500 cusecs and 50,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1191.10 feet, which was 141.10 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 6,300 cusecs.—APP

Tarar for global cooperation to uphold rule of law

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, on Monday emphasized the need for collective efforts to ensure the rule of law, protect human rights, and prevent crimes against humanity. Speaking at the 47th Annual Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), hosted by Pakistan, the minister reiterated the country's commitment to working with the international community to achieve global peace and justice. During the session titled "The Regional Perspective on the Enforcement of Rome Law and Reforms in Local Legislation," the Senator highlighted Pakistan's dedication to promoting peace, stability, and respect for human rights. He said that parliamentarians played a key role in safeguarding human rights and advancing democracy. He also reaffirmed Pakistan's active participation in global efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. He stressed that challenges like climate change and environmental sustainability required a unified global approach. The minister called for aligning local laws with international legal standards and values, urging cooperation in reshaping political practices, economic priorities, and legal traditions. Azam Nazeer Tarar acknowledged that while some countries had made significant reforms related to the Rome Statute, others were still lagging. He reaffirmed Pakistan's role in peacekeeping missions and its efforts to promote human rights and freedoms globally. The minister highlighted Pakistan's proactive measures in addressing human rights issues and enhancing climate resilience, particularly through laws designed to protect vulnerable segments of society. Azam Nazeer Tarar, also highlighted the ongoing crimes in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and Palestine. He condemned the grave human rights violations occurring in both regions and called for international action to address these injustices. The minister emphasized Pakistan's commitment to protecting human rights and noted that the Pakistani Parliament had passed significant laws to safeguard the rights of minorities. These legislative measures reflect the country's dedication to ensuring justice and equality for all citizens, particularly vulnerable communities. "Pakistan stands firm in its support for the oppressed people of IIOJK and Palestine, reaffirming the nation's resolve to continue advocating for their rights on global platforms, Senator Tarar reiterated.—DNA

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Briefs

Joint action
needed
to tackle
climate
change

ISLAMABAD: Member of the National Assembly and President of the Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), Syed Naveed Qamar Monday called for joint action and collective efforts to address global challenges like climate change. Speaking at the opening session of the 45th PGA Forum, hosted by Pakistan Naveed Qamar welcomed international delegates and stressed the importance of parliamentarians sharing their experiences to promote justice and the rule of law globally. He said that coordinated action is essential for the welfare of humanity, stressing that progress on a global scale requires unity. "This forum is for activists and parliamentarians who are committed to human rights and democracy," he said. "The leaders gathered here aim to make this world a better, more livable place, which is the ultimate goal of the PGA." He advocated for the uniqueness of the PGA as an organization that stands out globally and urged delegates to learn from each other's successes and failures. While addressing the Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians on the International Criminal Court (CAP-ICC), he encouraged candid discussions about the forum's achievements and challenges. "We need to achieve a minimum agenda that can contribute to the greater good of humanity," Naveed Qamar said, citing his success in passing the bill for transgender rights in Pakistan as an example of translating global initiatives into local action.—APP

Parliamentarians
call for
strengthening
PGA's role

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani members of the Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) on Monday underlined the need to enhance the organization's role in addressing global challenges. Talking to reporter Barrister Aqeel Malik, Barrister Danial Chaudhry, and Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig underscored the importance of parliamentary representatives in promoting global peace and justice, noting that these efforts are now more crucial than ever. At the PGA conference, hosted by Pakistan, participants discussed key global issues, including international law, climate change, and human rights. Both Pakistani and international delegates reaffirmed their commitment to leading efforts to address these pressing challenges. Barrister Aqeel Malik, PGA member and Advisor on Law and Justice highlighted Pakistan's dedication to upholding the principles of global justice and human rights. He called on the international community to eliminate double standards in dealing with conflicts like Palestine and Kashmir, stressing that Pakistan's struggle reflects its firm stance on promoting global justice while maintaining sovereignty and integrity. Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Barrister Danial Chaudhry, emphasized the significant role of Pakistani politicians in establishing global peace.—APP

In four years, a \$100 billion
debt must be paid

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President of Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, President of All Karachi Industrial Alliance, Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and President and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain, on Monday said there had been few examples in the economic history of the country that the exchange rate is stable, inflation and interest rates are decreasing and the current account is in surplus. He said the government deserves praise for improving the economy, but much more needs to be done to ensure sustainable economic growth. Mian Zahid Hussain said that efforts are

CAP-ICC convened to mull over
pressing global challenges

NA Speaker, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said the responsibility of Parliamentarians was not restricted to mere legislation but rather to ensure rights and betterment of their constituents facing myriads of challenges

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Monday said the 13th Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians on International Criminal Court and Rule of Law (CAP-ICC) had been convened under the patronage of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) to mull over pressing global challenges amid piling up humanitarian and climate crisis jeopardizing human security on the planet. He was addressing the 45th Annual Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action 13th Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians on International Criminal Court and Rule of Law hosted by the National Assembly of Pakistan. NA Speaker, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said the responsibility of Parliamentarians was not restricted to mere legislation but rather to ensure rights and betterment of their constituents facing myriads of challenges. He informed that every parliamentarian in Pakistan had around one million constituents in their constituencies that were facing huge and tremendous issues of access to clean drinking water, sanitation, stunting and many more. The main goal of the forum was to work out mechanisms to follow up the PGA members commitments at their native parliaments to ensure concerted efforts to bring relief for humanity in distress, he added. Humanitarian issues were piling up amid no



declining trend, whereas wars and violence were exacerbating human miseries, however all wars were only resolved on table, he added. "It's our collective responsibility and all members delegates to fully utilize this forum as opportunity to devise effective strategies," he added. It's our job to improve the lives of our constituents. It's our responsibility to raise our voices against violence and bloodshed like one taking place in Gaza to stop it. Moreover, the unresolved issue of Kashmir where forced disappear-

ances and mass graves are a serious issues amid blatant violations of UN resolutions," the NA Speaker said. Ayaz Sadiq also highlighted the country and region's increasing vulnerability to climate change that resulted into unprecedented devastation post 2022 floods despite being one of the least contributors to global warming and climate change. Secretary-General, Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), Mónica Adame in her welcome remarks gave a warm welcome to all delegates and congratulated the National

Assembly for their impressive arrangements and warm hospitality. She acknowledged the support of the NA Speaker, President PGA, Syed Naveed Qamar, Chairperson PGA National Chapter Sherry Rehman, parliamentarians and the delegates participating in the forum. Mónica Adame informed that the PGA was founded 45 years ago and was the largest non-governmental network of crossborder parliamentarians across the world. The PGA mobilized legislators as champions of human rights, rule

of law, democracy, human security, climate justice and gender equality, she added. We seek to reveal trust between Parliamentarians and relevant stakeholder. The role of parliamentarians in ensuring rights of their constituents is paramount and it is also important for them to ensuring bilateral dialogue at all levels and stop impunity to the violence and mass human rights violations world over," she added. "The CAP-ICC forum serves as a forum to exchange best practices, challenges, experiences.

PM Shehbaz
extends
birthday
greetings to
Maryam Nawaz

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday extended greetings to Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif as she celebrates her birthday today. "Happy Birthday, Maryam Beti! May you be blessed with joy, health, and prosperity in all your endeavours," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline. Prime Minister Shehbaz, also the paternal uncle of Maryam Nawaz, said that her dedication and commitment to their shared vision was bearing fruit. "May this year bring you more strength, success, and countless blessings," he wished.—APP

Shaza says
technology
important for
addressing
challenges

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja Monday said that the technology had important role in addressing urgent challenges like climate change. "Innovative digital solutions are essential not only for environmental sustainability but also for improving overall economic resilience and driving growth across various sectors," she said while addressing the "First National Youth Climate Summit". Shaza Fatima said, "Climate change is a big challenge and every one will have to play role for environmental protection." "Climate action is most powerful when it includes everyone. We can't tackle climate change effectively without the unique prospective and energies of young people", she said. The minister emphasized the need of launching proper campaign on social media regarding climate change. She said there was dire need of eliminating elements causing pollution. "A prime example of Pakistan commitment to supporting innovation is the recent call for startups from Ignite, an attached department under the Ministry of IT and Telecom, to present their innovative solutions in climate tech, green tech, and agri-tech at COP29," she said. Shaza Fatima said, "This initiative is a valuable opportunity for our startups to engage with world leaders, policymakers, and investors, and position Pakistan in global discussions on climate.—APP

"CPEC will bring socio-economic
development across the region"

Maj. Gen. Dr. Salik, a renowned defence expert, offered a detailed overview of the strategic regional and global environment. He highlighted the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as a source of hope for developing nations, emphasising how China's rise is poised to bring about a new wave of prosperity and development

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) hosted a talk on "Security Challenges to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)" by Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Dr. Samrez Salik. The event brought together policymakers, academicians, and security experts to discuss the evolving strategic environment surrounding CPEC and its critical importance to regional and global economic and security dynamics. Maj. Gen. Dr. Salik, a renowned defence expert, offered a detailed overview

of the strategic regional and global environment. He highlighted the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as a source of hope for developing nations, emphasising how China's rise is poised to bring about a new wave of prosperity and development. He also elaborated on the significance of the CPEC within this broader framework of BRI, noting its potential to serve as a cornerstone for enhancing connectivity between China and the rest of the world. Dr. Salik provided an insightful analysis of the evolving regional security dynamics, linking it with the concept of "Thucydides Trap." He explained how the rise of new powers often leads to friction with established powers, and how the development of CPEC may have broader implications for global power shifts. He felt that Gwadar Port was the linchpin of CPEC, and its full operationalisation could be a game-changer for China's global connectivity. Addressing the security challenges, Dr. Salik pointed to both internal and external threats to CPEC's smooth progression. He outlined potential risks, including regional instability, terrorism, and external geopolitical manoeu-

vrings that could hinder the project's success. In his remarks on the occasion, Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President of the Institute of Regional Studies, underscored the significance of CPEC's next phase and highlighted how the project could serve as a path to socio-economic development and offer a geopolitical opportunity to help build peace in South Asia. Ambassador Saleem also underpinned the role of the media in shaping narratives around CPEC, stressing the importance of countering misperception created by the Indian media.

Gwadar North
Free Zone set to
construct-donkey
slaughterhouse

ISLAMABAD: A top-notch modern slaughterhouse for donkey meat and hide was inaugurated in Gwadar North Free Zone by Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh during unveiling of the Agriculture Industrial Park in Gwadar Free Zone. The construction of the slaughterhouse, with a cost of \$50 million, followed an agreement signed between Pakistan and China on quarantine conditions for the export of donkey meat to China. As per the agreement, Pakistan will export to China 216,000 donkeys' hides and meat annually. Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. In July, during a briefing to the Senate Standing Committee on Commerce, the Secretary of Commerce noted that there is no ban on exporting donkeys, and Pakistan has already initiated donkey farming. The Ministry for Maritime Affairs official told Gwadar Pro that donkeys being reared at many farm houses in various part of Punjab will be slaughtered at the Gwadar North Free Zone slaughterhouse. "Their meat and skin will be further processed keeping in view international standards and later be exported to China," he added. As per the fresh data, the population of donkeys in Pakistan has jumped to 5.9 million during the fiscal year 2023-24. The latest figures showed that the donkey population has been increasing steadily during the past few years as there were 5.5 million of them in 2019-2020, 5.6 million in 2020-21, 5.7 million in 2021-22, and 5.8 million in 2022-23.—DNA

Sino-Pak agricultural
cooperation attracts visitors

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Visitors at Pakistani Pavilion at Yangling Agricultural High-Tech were highly impressed by the achievements of Sino-Pakistani agricultural cooperation. On the occasion, this agricultural high-tech fair also hosted proactive B2B seminars and matchmaking sessions for scholars and businessmen, providing an excellent opportunity for our company to network and gather information," China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Monday. Nuran Niyazaliyev, Deputy Secretary General of the Shanghai

Cooperation Organization, in an interview noted, "The agricultural demonstration base established in Yangling is a Chinese initiative aimed at hosting annual international exchange activities that significantly strengthen friendships and cooperation among member states. This year's fair provides a platform for promoting multilateral cooperation, training, and exchanges, enabling participants to learn from China's successful experiences." As this year's guest country, Pakistan's pavilion has captivated countless consumers and visitors at the 31st China Yangling Agricultural Hi-tech Fair. n the

sales area, Aqi Muhammad enthusiastically markets his products in fluent Chinese. "Red bracelets look especially good on Chinese people; they really enhance your skin tone. Let me help you try one on. No pressure to buy, just ask your husband how it looks," he offers to a customer. "After just four hours since opening, I've already made many sales. Customers are currently in a waiting phase, but I expect a surge in orders over the final two days. Last year, I also participated in the Agri-Fair, and Yangling was the best for selling bracelets," Aqi Muhammad, a businessman from Lahore, shared.

Hussain further said that for absolute economic stability, we must increase our income instead of borrowing; otherwise, things will start worsening soon. To increase revenue, it is also essential to focus on sectors that pay little or no taxes, as existing taxpayers cannot be burdened more. He informed that in 2023, imports were 53.2 billion dollars, and exports were 30.1 billion dollars, which means there was a deficit of 22.1 billion dollars. This is a big problem that can be resolved by focusing on sectors other than textiles. He said an increase in the skilled workforce is necessary to increase remittances as the export of unskilled labour is not expected to benefit the country significantly.

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The 'Monroe doctrine'

RECENTLY, US Trade Representative Katherine Tai's remarks faced a rebuttal from the Chinese Embassy in Brazil. During her participation in the B20 business summit in Sao Paulo, she suggested that Brazil should "look at the risks" before joining the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation. Clearly, Tai's trip to Brazil is another instance of "an educator on a business trip," as the narrative of portraying China as a "risk" is steeped in the specter of "Monroe Doctrine." How could China, as Brazil's largest trading partner, largest export market and main source of surplus, represent a risk and not an opportunity? Additionally, Brazil does not need others to dictate who to cooperate with or what kind of partnerships to conduct, and the normal economic and trade cooperation between China and Latin American countries should not be subject to scrutiny from third countries. Tai's warning to Brazil reveals a power ideology that regards Brazil as a "geopolitical backyard" of the US, demonstrating a fundamental lack of respect for both the Brazilian government and its people. This is not the first time US officials have meddled in this issue. In May of this year, US Southern Command Commander General Laura Richardson also asserted that participating in the BRI could undermine Brazil's sovereignty during her visit to Brazil. Since 2013, China has signed cooperation agreements for the BRI with over 150 countries and more than 30 international organizations, and no country has lost sovereignty as a result of joining the initiative. In contrast, these US officials pressure Brazil to choose between Beijing and Washington, which constitutes a blatant interference in another nation's sovereignty. US officials frequently speak of "de-risking" in relation to Latin America, but what Washington truly needs to shed is its persistent "Monroe Doctrine" mind-set. In an attempt to persuade Brazil to abandon the BRI, Richardson made an absurd comparison, claiming that Brazil's diplomatic relationship with the US has lasted 200 years and that "we respect each other's sovereignty," while its ties with China have only been established for 50 years. What she really meant to convey is that China's growing influence in Brazil and Latin America is unsettling Washington's desire to control the region. Viewing China's growing influence in Latin America through a Cold War lens and calculating the "impact" of China-Latin cooperation with a zero-sum mind-set reflects the deep-seated anxieties that plague Washington. Currently, Brazil is one of the few countries in Latin America that has not yet participated in the BRI. Since Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva took office again last year, there have been continuous reports about Brazil actively advancing related efforts, and this is not coincidental. The initiative is highly aligned with the re-industrialization plan of the Lula government and development strategies such as South American integration routes. It seeks to find partners for Brazil's planned infrastructure projects, particularly those related to various transportation routes in South America, which are fundamental to Brazil's economic interests. In July of this year, Lula publicly stated "I want to know... where we come in and what position we are going to play... we want to be a starter" regarding the BRI. In response, the Chinese side expressed that China welcomes Brazil to join the Belt and Road family as soon as possible and looks forward to Brazil's worldies in Belt and Road cooperation.



EU states facing confusion

TRIED into a war in Ukraine, confused about its identity and autonomy, the European political establishment has consigned EU member states to a period of considerable perturbation. The eurozone economies are being buffeted by major headwinds. Hampered by high energy costs, eurozone economies are witnessing industrial hollowing out as energy-intensive industries shutter. How EU member states, individually and collectively, deal with the present impasse will determine the medium-term prosperity and security of the zone's citizens. In the face of its myriad challenges, the EU is showing signs of fragmentation. There are doubts about the European Commission's capacity to build a genuine and robust sense of common purpose. This is apparent across all key policy vectors: the Ukraine war, migration and industrial development. The unquestioned commitment to the war in Ukraine is now being questioned. The loss of low-cost Russian gas and oil is like VolDEMORT, the villain in Harry Potter. Mario Draghi's recent report to the European Commission on European competitiveness acknowledges the centrality of energy costs, but did not dare name the role played by EU and American sanctions against Russian energy. Voters are angry at the costs of the war, in terms of local industries, jobs and the adverse impact on the cost of living. Many increasingly want peace through negotiations. Hungarian and Slovakian leaders have spoken out against the continuation of the war, despite coming under intense pressure from the political mainstream. The dominant establishment view, from Brussels, is to continue arming the Ukrainians. A schism is apparent. Not just among political leaders. Since the Russian special military operation of February 2022, an estimated 6 million or more Ukrainians have fled into Europe. While welcome at first, there are increasingly more signs that the refugees are beginning to overstay their welcome. The Ukraine conflict and Europe's economic problems are interrelated, resulting in increasingly high energy costs. The German economy has been in protracted stagnation. As the beating heart of European industry, the rest of the eurozone isn't doing much better. The eurozone as a whole is expected to achieve GDP growth of around one percent this year. With economic woes and concerns about migration, voters turn toward anti-immigration and anti-war candidates. European nations' responses to proposed tariffs on Chinese-made electric vehicles (EVs) is further evidence of growing schisms across the region. The European Commission initiated a closed-door inquiry into alleged subsidies for Chinese manufacturers, resulting in proposals to impose a range of tariffs. At a vote of the 27 member states, the proposal for tariffs was supported by 10 nations; five opposed the tariffs and 12 abstained. The Commission proceeded to impose the tariffs anyway, despite the overwhelming majority of member states not supporting them. The UK, while no longer a member of the EU, is also on the cusp of economic challenges. The new Labour Government's austerity measures are more likely to exacerbate the economic woes than to alleviate them, while already leading to a collapse in the administration's public standing.

Rules not rivalries: adjusting to our multipolar reality

Baria Alamuddin

A community of equals with a universally respected system of rules is a peaceful, equitable and sustainable model, facilitating cooperation to confront global challenges such as climate change.

But our embryonic multilateral world was born in fire: tensions around the Ukraine conflict, the escalating Middle East crisis, the US-China standoff over Taiwan. North Korea, Iran and China are all materially contributing to Russia's war effort, and there is little the West can do to stop them. The escalatory cycle of violence between Israel and Iran and its proxies illustrates the weakness of conflict resolution mechanisms in a divided, multipolar world

AS Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine initially floundered in 2022, Western decision makers predicted that they could break Russia economically and that a flood of funds and weapons would decisively turn the tide of the war, teaching a definitive lesson that hostile invasions always ended in disaster. At the BRICS summit last week, the Russian president was anxious to send a riposte to the West: not only was he still in power, but he had also gathered a dozen world leaders around him, demonstrating that efforts at isolation had failed. For Western policymakers, it was a lesson that should long ago have been obvious: when rogue actors are allowed to violate international law with impunity, states such as North Korea, Iran and Russia gradually begin acting as a bloc to subvert and undermine the global system. Throughout the 1990s and 2000s, the US and its European allies enjoyed uncontested supremacy, enabling them to impose their rules and values. But the American superpower refused to live by its own rules: engaging in illegal overseas wars, refusing to be accountable before international courts, and abusing its veto to protect its closest allies as they violated human rights with impunity. The result was that as other states such as China, India and Russia sought to consolidate their superpower status, they felt no compulsion to even pretend to abide by international norms that had long-since ceased to function. The latest BRICS summit was a manifestation of a truly multipolar world. In itself that is no bad thing: it is intuitively preferable to live among a community of nations, rather than have a single superpower capable of arbitrarily imposing its writ. The problem is, what kind of community? A community of equals with a universally respected system of rules is a peaceful, equitable and sustainable model, facilitating cooperation to confront global challenges such as climate change. But our embryonic multilateral world was born in fire: tensions around the Ukraine conflict, the escalating Middle East crisis, the

US-China standoff over Taiwan. North Korea, Iran and China are all materially contributing to Russia's war effort, and there is little the West can do to stop them. The escalatory cycle of violence between Israel and Iran and its proxies illustrates the weakness of conflict resolution mechanisms in a divided, multipolar world. The biggest achievement of the post-Second World War global system was a comprehensive rules-based order in which all nations had a stake in playing by those rules. For 70 years it was relatively rare for powerful states to invade and occupy weaker neighbors. However, with wars in Syria, Libya, Sudan, Ukraine, Palestine and Yemen, it has become common to see regional powers engaging in proxy conflicts. Who remembers the last time the UN Security Council agreed on a resolution that materially contributed to resolving a conflict? BRICS was originally welcomed as a sign that a broader swath of emerging powers were taking their places at the top table, expanding this year to include Egypt, the UAE, Ethiopia and Iran. At this BRICS summit there was a rare meeting between China's Xi Jinping and India's Narendra Modi after several years of escalating tensions between these two nuclear powers. But beyond Putin's propaganda coup, BRICS continues to be a diverse and dysfunctional bloc. While some of these countries are drawn together by mutual hostility toward the US, many of them enjoy far greater trading ties with the West than with each other. While BRICS countries account for 35 percent of the world's GDP, more than the G7, the organization lacks any sort of institutional apparatus or strategic agenda for consolidating economic and political alignment, let alone promoting alternative currencies to rival the dollar. The final "Kazan Declaration" was a grab-bag of platitudes that served only to emphasize the diverse worldviews of participants — creating the question of whether BRICS serves any greater purpose than as a photo opportunity. For the first time since the 1980s we hear threats to deploy nuclear weapons and expand nuclear

arsenals. If any party acted on these threats, such a conflict could escalate so rapidly that none of us would be alive to comprehend what had occurred. The current conflict in the Middle East is highly likely to prompt Iran to accelerate its efforts to reach military nuclear threshold, making the region infinitely more precarious. Artificial intelligence, cyberwarfare, intelligent drones and other technologies will meanwhile revolutionize the face of conflict — multiplying the destructive effects, while offering a variety of cheap, deadly options for terrorists and non-state actors, who themselves can thrive amid ever-increasing numbers of disintegrating states. NATO has responded to assertive behaviour by China and Russia through closer alliances with Asian and Pacific states, staging ostentatious military exercises while expanding munitions industries. The US presidential election, meanwhile, is a stark choice between multilateralism or unilateralism, with immense implications for American relations with other world powers. We all prosper when we trade together, peacefully coexist, and are not spending high proportions of GDP on armaments. America and Europe must adjust to the reality that China and Russia are today global powers: but China and Russia must relearn the lesson that exploiting their growing might to oppress weaker neighbors, or their own citizens, will end in tears. The planet is crying out for leaders whose foremost priority is the wellbeing of their citizens, who comprehend that the only route to peace and prosperity is through a multilateral rules-based world. Enough of the hypocrisy, double standards and empty rhetoric — in our new multilateral global reality, if old powers such as America and Europe want emerging rivals to play by the rules, they themselves must first set the example in consistently acting according to their own principles. Justice for all — or justice for nobody.

— Baria Alamuddin is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster in the Middle East and the UK.

How American media incited genocide

Gregory Shupak

A Washington Post op-ed published a few days later claimed Israel is part of a "battle against barbarism". In another piece, a columnist wondered whether "it might be pointless to apply political logic to the horrors..."

DESPITE the US government's incessant claims that it is working to secure a ceasefire, the genocide that has unfolded in Gaza over the past year has been a joint US-Israeli endeavour. Israel would not be able to inflict anything approaching the degree of violence it has on the Palestinian people without American weapons, intelligence, and political cover. To pursue these policies, the US government needed a critical mass of the American population to support or go along with its policy of working with Israel to exterminate the Palestinians. To sustain it, President Joe Biden's administration has adopted a staunchly pro-Israeli narrative and sought to justify Israeli actions and its own by citing Israel's "right to self-defence". Influential voices in American media have also contributed to creating the necessary ideological conditions for public acceptance of US-enabled Israeli atrocities. They, along with the Biden administration, are partially responsible for the genocide in Gaza. In 2003, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) issued the first-ever convictions for incitement to genocide, concluding that "the genocidal harm that was caused by [Radio Télévision Libre des Milles Collines] programming" during the Rwandan genocide of 1994. Incitement to genocide is "inchoate", that is, a crime that promotes the commission of one crime while also being an offence itself. For the ICTR, demonstrating that someone has committed incitement to genocide does not necessarily require show-

ing that their speech directly led a person to carry out genocidal acts. In one scholar's view, for a genocide to occur, a climate must be created to enable such crimes to be committed. Commentary that has appeared in The New York Times, The Washington Post, and The Wall Street Journal can be thought of in these terms. Pundits in these papers have engaged in a form of incitement to genocide, albeit a distinct one because Americans do not need to go to Palestine and kill people to contribute to the genocide; they just have to acquiesce to their government's participation. Gregory S Gordon's Atrocity Speech Law: Foundation, Fragmentation, Fruition offers thought-provoking approaches to incitement to genocide and other forms of hate speech. Applying his arguments to US media coverage of Palestine-Israel after October 7, 2023 suggests that much of it amounts to genocide incitement. Gordon, an international legal scholar and former prosecutor at the ICTR, contends that demoralisation is a form of incitement. This practice, he writes, centres on "devils, malefactors, and other nefarious personages". A piece published in The New York Times last October engaged in precisely that. "If Gaza is the open-air prison that so many of Israel's critics allege, it's not because Israelis are capriciously cruel but because too many of its residents pose a mortal risk," the article contended. Here broad numbers of Palestinians in Gaza are cast as deadly criminals deserving collective punishment. In the same vein, an October 7 Wall Street Journal editorial told us that Israel is in a "rough neighbourhood". A Washington Post op-ed published a few days later claimed Israel is part of a "battle against barbarism". In another piece, a columnist wondered whether "it might be pointless to apply political logic to the horrors perpetrated by the millenarian religious fanatics of ISIL or Hamas. They are driven by a religious imperative to slaughter 'infidels' and 'apostates', regardless of the consequences." A piece published in The New York Times in November offered a similar formulation, describing Hamas as a "terrorist death cult". Characterising Hamas in this misleading, overly simplistic manner — never mind vilifying Palestinians tout court — as atavistic savages conveys the message that they are irrational barbarians and must be crushed, no matter the cost. According to Gordon, attempting to persuade an audience that ongoing atrocities are morally justified is another form of incitement, one that has been widespread in the Gaza coverage. The direction Israeli policy was heading was easy to identify as early as October 13 of last year when

Raz Segal, a professor of Holocaust and genocide studies, wrote that Israel had undertaken a "genocidal assault on Gaza [that] is quite explicit, open, and unashamed". Nevertheless, three weeks into the Israeli offensive, a piece published in The Washington Post rejected ceasefire calls and even the idea that Israel should "limit its response to precision air strikes and commando raids to take out high-level Hamas operatives and to free hostages". It argued that if Israel agreed to a ceasefire at that point, it would "be tantamount to rewarding aggression and inviting more of it in the future". The subtext is that Israel's actions are ethically defensible, no matter that the US and Israel had killed nearly 3,800 Palestinians in the first 13 days of the assault on Gaza, wiping out entire families. At that time, Amnesty International Secretary General Agnès Callamard described Israel's actions as "pulveriz[ing] street after street of residential buildings[,] killing civilians on a mass scale and destroying essential infrastructure" while further limiting what could enter Gaza so that the Strip was "fast running out of water, medicine, fuel and electricity". The November New York Times op-ed mentioned above put forth the rather novel view that Palestinians would ultimately benefit from being slaughtered. It magnanimously conceded that "in the short term, of course: Palestinian lives would be saved if Israel held its fire." But the article asserted that, if the US-Israeli assault ended with Hamas still governing Gaza, this outcome would mean "a virtual guarantee for future mass-casualty attacks against Israel, for ever-larger Israeli retaliation, and for deeper misery for the people of Gaza." According to this logic, it is virtuous for the US and Israel to help Palestinians by going on with policies that had turned Gaza into "a graveyard for thousands of children" and "a living hell for everyone else". Attempts to legitimise the mass deaths inflicted by the US and Israel did not disappear after the initial weeks of the slaughter in Gaza. In January, an op-ed in The Washington Post argued that the death and destruction in Gaza are a tragedy for its people but "primary blame must lie with Hamas, because it launched an unprovoked attack on Israel". Suggesting that the US-Israeli campaign is responding to an "unprovoked" Palestinian attack implies that the campaign is justifiable. This position does not withstand minimal scrutiny: in the days, weeks, and months leading up to October 7, Israel repeatedly bombed Gaza and shot Palestinians at the fence surrounding the territory while subjecting them to a brutal, illegal siege, to say nothing of the

more than 75 years of dispossession leading up to that day. Because Israel was carrying out acts of war against Palestinians in Gaza prior to October 7, Israel's actions since then cannot be understood as a form of self-defence. Yet US-Israeli apologists in the American media have said "Israel has the right and duty to defend itself", presenting the US-Israeli crusade as righteous and thus worthy of support. No matter that Israel "defending itself" has entailed an "unrelenting war" on Gaza's health system and featured air strikes on hospitals and health workers as well as killing Palestinians at the deadliest rate of any conflict this century. At the end of February, a Wall Street Journal editorial criticised Palestinian American Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib and others on the grounds that "the ceasefire they want would have the effect of leaving [Hamas] fighters alive and free to rebuild their terror state. The suffering in Gaza is terrible, but the main cause is Hamas's use of civilians as human shields." At that point, Israel had killed at least 7,729 children. For the Journal, it appeared this horror was justified if Hamas was defeated; the tens of thousands of dead Palestinian civilians could be explained away by dubiously and selectively employing the concept of human shields. In March, another column in The New York Times reshaped the same well-worn canards to try and persuade readers that US-Israeli conduct in Gaza was just, contending that "Hamas started the war" and that "Israel is fighting a tough war against an evil enemy that puts its own civilians in harm's way." The Biden administration, the piece advised, should "help Israel win the war decisively so that Israelis and Palestinians can someday win the peace". Two weeks earlier, UN special rapporteur on the right to food Michael Fakhri had denounced Israel's forced starvation of Palestinians in Gaza and said "this is now a situation of genocide." For some American opinion-makers, it is morally right for the US to continue being party to that. The media outlets that published these articles could have given more space to sober reflections on how to generate peace, justice, and liberation across historical Palestine. Instead, they have given platforms to those who have helped incite the carnage America and Israel have wrought. When the history of this grisly period is written, there needs to be a chapter on the media outlets that helped ignite a genocide and helped keep it going.

— Gregory Shupak is an academic who writes fiction and political analysis. He is the author of *The Wrong Story: Palestine, Israel, and the Media*

Briefs

Envoys
present
credentials...

FROM PAGE 01
The Ambassador-designate of Türkiye, Mr Irfan Neziroglu who also held separate meetings with the President. Welcoming the envoys, the President felicitated them on their appointment and expressed the hope that they would play their role in further improving mutually beneficial bilateral relations with Pakistan, in the areas of trade, economy and culture. Earlier, the envoys were presented with a guard of honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Armed Forces upon their arrival at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

CJP led
full court
discusses...

FROM PAGE 01
The Case Management Plan in full, with a commitment to achieve the outlined targets. The progress will be reviewed in the next session of the Full Court meeting scheduled for December 2, 2024, it concluded. CJP Afridi was sworn in as Pakistan's 30th chief justice on Oct 26, succeeding Justice QaziFaez Isa. The top judge is the first to be appointed by a parliamentary committee comprising both government and opposition members constituted under the new 26th Constitutional Amendment passed last week. On the first day of his appointment, the chief justice reconstituted the SC Practice and Procedure Committee, bringing back Justice Munib Akhtar to the three-member key panel established to fix cases and form benches.

PTI will
become...

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judicial commission. Parliamentary commentary endorsed the decision of political committee. PTI parliamentary committee also gave nod for the starting to protest movements in the country for the release of PTI founder Imran Khan. All members pledge that they will become part of the protests. PTI parliamentary committee also reviewed the current session of the National Assembly, 26th Amendment and the political situation of the country. During the meeting, PTI decided to revisit legal strategy to follow the political cases against Imran Khan. PTI said effective protest against unjust imprisonment of PTI founder will continue as Imran Khan has been kept in solitary confinement in fake cases. The parliamentary party paid tribute to the members of the assembly, especially the members of Punjab, who stood with PTI like a rock.

PTI MNA
expelled...

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said the sources. The party asked him to respond the show-cause notice already sent to him before attending any meeting. Ghuman, an MNA from Sialkot, left the meeting to avoid any further embarrassment. Earlier, PTI leader Zain Qureshi had resigned as deputy parliamentary leader of the party in National Assembly. Zain Qureshi said that he resigned to ensure independent and transparent inquiry against him. He said that he also responded to the show-cause notice issued to him by the party. He said that he would remain loyal to his father Shah Mehmood Qureshi and PTI founder Imran Khan. Qureshi was accused of alleged floor-crossing during the 26th constitutional amendment.

PTI to reject
proposed...

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According to parliamentary officials, the final decision about the proposed amendment would be taken by the special parliamentary committee. The committee being headed by Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah has the representation of all political parties.

Rizwan aims to rewrite
history in Australia series

“Leading the Pakistan team is such an honour that words cannot describe it. But on the other hand, this is also a major responsibility because the hopes of our entire nation are attached to it,” he added

SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

LAHORE: Mohammad Rizwan, the newly appointed white-ball captain of Pakistan, has expressed his desire to make history by defeating Australia during the upcoming white-ball series, starting on 4 November. Pakistan are set to embark on a white-ball tour to Australia, where they will play three ODIs and as many T20Is from November 4 until November 18. The tour is a tough challenge for the Green Shirts, considering their previous record in Australia. Rizwan, who was appointed as the white-ball captain yesterday, will kick off his tenure with the series against Australia. He acknowledged the team's previous struggles in Australia, however, she shared that the team possesses the talent and determination to rewrite the history.

“Australia has always been a tough place, but in the last Test series, we lost only after coming very close. So, we learned from

that experience that we can go to Australia and beat them,” said Rizwan. “It's not necessary that because we didn't win in the past, we won't win in the future. History will be made, Inshallah. Things will change, and we are going with the aim to compete and fight.”

The 32-year-old also expressed his pride in getting the opportunity to lead Pakistan, sharing that he is ready to take the challenge.

“Leading the Pakistan team is such an honour that words cannot describe it. But on the other hand, this is also a major responsibility because the hopes of our entire nation are attached to it,” he added. “So, it's both an honour and a challenge at the same time. I will try to fulfil this responsibility in a way that the people expect from me.” Rizwan mentioned that he never desired to be a captain, but he has captained in domestic cricket and will aim to achieve the same success in international cricket. “I never desired this [captaincy], but now that I've been given this responsibility, I'll do my best to fulfil it. I've captained

before [in domestic cricket], but captaining Pakistan at the international level is different,” he stated. “A captain's quality is about uniting the entire team, keeping them together, and knowing which player to call upon at critical moments. The captain's unique quality is to keep the team together. We have young talent on our team, and this team will look different in this series,” said Rizwan.

Mohammad Rizwan went on to assert that every single player in the national team would be a captain and he would only be the one doing the toss. The wicketkeeper batter also claimed that as a leader, he is willing to make sacrifices for the team, in any aspect of the game. “For me, every player on the team is a captain; it's just that I'm the one doing the toss. On the field, the whole team will look like a single unit,” stated Rizwan. “Wicket-keeping, batting, and captaincy together are definitely a challenge, but I've done this before. PSL was a big event where I captained, and I've also been

vice-captain before, so I'll try to apply whatever I've learned from those experiences. “A leader isn't a leader if he doesn't lead from the front. If I want something from my players but don't set the example myself, then my players won't receive the message, and they won't be able to do it either. “As a leader, I am willing to make sacrifices and stay flexible for the team's needs, whether that's fielding, wicketkeeping, or the batting order. Whatever is required for Pakistan, I will do it,” he concluded. “My vision is that there should always be a backup captain prepared for Pakistan. Every position for Pakistan should have a backup, whether it's the captain or the wicketkeeper,” he stated.

“I want to develop new leaders for Pakistan and prepare a bunch of players, who are ready to take the team forward after us,” he added. Rizwan also expressed his aim to end Pakistan's ICC Trophy drought, setting his sights on the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy 2025 and the ICC T20 World Cup

2026. “In the past few years, we have played semi-finals and finals in the ICC events. Now, with the Champions Trophy [2025] and T20 World Cup [2026] coming up, our vision is to bring success to Pakistan,” the wicketkeeper said. “We've targeted these two events, and if we participate in the Olympics in 2028, that's also part of my vision,” he concluded.

Pakistan Squad for Australia Tour ODI SQUAD: Mohammad Rizwan (c)(wk), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Arafat Minhas, Babar Azam, Faisal Akram, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah (wk), Kamran Ghulam, Mohammad Hasnain, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha (vc) and Shaheen Shah Afridi. T20I SQUAD: Mohammad Rizwan (c)(wk), Arafat Minhas, Babar Azam, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah (wk), Jahandad Khan, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Naseem Shah, Omair Bin Yousuf, Sahibzada Farhan, Salman Ali Agha (vc), Shaheen Shah Afridi, Sufyan Moqim, Usman Khan.

No action
on reserved
seats until...

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among members within the National Assembly. “It is the Election Commission's job to notify members,” he said. “If we start listening to courts, there are many decisions ... We won't do it on the court's order; we will wait for the ECP to notify it,” he added. Sadiq clarified that he would acknowledge court orders but would not act on them without an ECP notification. In July, the Supreme Court declared the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) eligible to receive reserved seats for women and non-Muslims in national and provincial assemblies, which bolstered the party's position in the legislature. “The court told them (the PTI) that they could affiliate with a party after 15 days, so the PTI members went ahead and joined the Sunni Itehad Council (SIC) ... so floor crossing was allowed,” Sadiq noted. He remarked that had the PTI candidates not joined the SIC, the outcome would have been entirely different. “Instead, the court gave them 15 days, rewriting the Constitution,” he stated.

PTI files
contempt
plea...

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made parties in the petition filed by PTI leader and senior lawyer Salman Akram Raja. According to the plea, the ECP should be ordered to implement the verdict immediately and action should be taken against the commission's members. Citing the verdict, the petition said: “The aforesaid judgment and clarifications/orders leave no doubt whatsoever that the PTI is entitled to reserved seats proportionate to the seats in the National Assembly and the provincial assemblies won by it in accordance with the judgment dated 12 July 2024. “That the ECP has yet to act upon the judgment [...] and complete the process of election women and non-Muslims on reserved seats in the NA as well as provincial assemblies.” On July 12, the Supreme Court ruled that the PTI is eligible for the allocation of reserved seats, paving the way for the party to return to parliament.

PM Shehbaz
to visit ...

FROM PAGE 01
Investing Today, Shaping Tomorrow” and will focus on global investments aimed at addressing major issues such as artificial intelligence, robotics, education, energy, space, finance, healthcare, and sustainability. PM Shehbaz is expected to hold important bilateral talks with the Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman and other senior officials. The two sides will discuss the economic and strategic partnership between Islamabad and Riyadh and explore bilateral cooperation in the economic, energy, and defence domains. The premier is also expected to engage with participating leaders and entrepreneurs at the conference. Earlier this month, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia inked several memorandums of understanding (MoUs), worth over \$2 billion, to boost bilateral trade and investment during the Islamabad visit of a Saudi delegation, headed by Minister for Investment Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih.

Govt
dismisses...

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amendments in the pipeline.” Tarar highlighted the government's commitment to implementing the already approved 26th constitutional amendment, asserting that it will yield positive results for the nation. “The 26th constitutional amendment has been enacted, and its implementation is our focus,” he added. Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led government has decided to maintain a special parliamentary committee to oversee discussions on potential constitutional amendments and to ensure parliamentary stability. Sources within the government indicated that future decisions regarding proposed amendments, including the 27th, will ultimately lie with this parliamentary committee, which is tasked with the authority to finalize these proposals.

Gary resigns, Gillespie to
coach Pakistan in Australia
Pakistan will tour Australia early next month

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Jason Gillespie, the head coach for Pakistan's red-ball team, will take on additional responsibilities as the interim head coach for the white-ball format during the upcoming

tour of Australia. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced the decision through a post on their official X (formerly Twitter) account. “The Pakistan Cricket Board today announced Jason Gillespie will coach the Pakistan men's cricket team on next month's

white-ball tour of Australia after Gary Kirsten submitted his resignation, which was accepted,” the cricket board posted.

Gillespie was appointed by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) as the red-ball head coach, while Gary Kirsten was roped in as the white-

ball head coach in April 2024. However, Kirsten has resigned from the post following his disagreements with the cricket board over central contracts and white-ball squads for the upcoming tour of Australia and Zimbabwe. It's worth noting that previously head coach and captain of the respective formats were part of the selection committee as voting members. However, following Pakistan's heavy defeat in the first Test against England, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) overhauled the selection committee, removing the captain and coach from the selection process, which did not sit well with Gary Kirsten. Moreover, the PCB announced the central contracts for the 2024-25 international season, along with the squads for the tours to Australia and Zimbabwe.

Fakhar reportedly
considering
retirement

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan's opener Fakhar Zaman is reportedly considering retirement after being left out of the recent central contracts and white-ball squads for Australia and Zimbabwe. Sources close to Fakhar reveal that his morale has been affected by the selectors' handling of his case, as well as what he perceives as inconsistent standards in fitness evaluations. Fakhar was recently asked to undergo another fitness test scheduled for January 2025, but questions are arising over perceived double standards in the selection process. While Fakhar was reportedly unable to complete the 2-kilometer run in the required 8 minutes due to a knee issue, another player, Usman Khan, received a contract and a place on the Australia and Zimbabwe tours despite stopping in the third lap of his fitness test. The Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) recent announcement of centrally contracted players notably excluded Fakhar, who had been in the B category last year. Some sources within cricket circles link this to Fakhar's outspoken stance in the connection camp and his support for Babar Azam, which he publicly expressed through a tweet. Fakhar has not made a final decision about retirement, but close friends have advised him to avoid making an emotional decision, reminding him of his ability to continue representing Pakistan for years to come. Insiders also report discrepancies in the treatment of other players. Imam-ul-Haq completed his run in 8 minutes and 11 seconds, narrowly missing the mark, and was excluded from contracts. Meanwhile, Kamran Ghulam, who finished in 8 minutes and 22 seconds, secured a contract.

Arshad awaits
'promised' rewards

The Olympian shares the shocking fact

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan's Olympic gold medallist, Arshad Nadeem, hasn't received many 'promised' rewards as of yet. Arshad, who brought first-ever Olympic gold in individual sport for Pakistan, was promised cash rewards by so many governmental and private organisations and individuals. However, many promises remain unfulfilled. Speaking in a recent interview, Nadeem shared that he has received some 'promised' prizes from the government officials and private individuals but still many commitments are pending. Moreover, he also denied rumours claiming that he is suffering from financial crisis. He emphasised that such rumours overshadow the struggles of athletes who work hard to achieve significant accomplishments for their hometown. It must be noted here that Pakistani gold medallist registered Olympic record-breaking throw to achieve the milestone for his country. His throw was sixth-longest ever. Following his achievement, he was showered with several rewards, prominently from the head of government, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Spanish government steps up
in investigation of racist abuse
Spanish Supreme Sports Council (CSD) released a
statement condemning racist incidents during

WEB DESK

MADRID: The Spanish government, LaLiga and Real Madrid reacted strongly on Sunday after racist insults were allegedly directed at Barcelona players during Saturday's match at the Santiago Bernabeu. Spanish media reported that 17-year-old Barcelona forward Lamine Yamal, who is of Equatorial Guinean and Moroccan heritage, was targeted with xenophobic and racist abuse. Barcelona beat arch-rivals Real 4-0 with Yamal among the scorers. The Spanish Supreme Sports Council (CSD) released

a statement condemning racist incidents during El Clasico and will meet on Monday to discuss the case. The State Commission against Violence, Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance in Sports, which is in charge of studying the case, includes the CSD, the Spanish police, the Civil Guard, the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF), LaLiga and the State Attorney General's Office. “LaLiga will immediately report the racist insults and gestures received by Barcelona players to the Hate Crimes Section of the National Police Information Brigade, as well as informing the Coordinating Prosecutor of the Hate Crimes and Discrimination

Unit of the State Attorney General's Office,” LaLiga added in a statement. “LaLiga vehemently condemns the incidents at the Santiago Bernabeu and remains firm in its commitment to eradicate any kind of racist behaviour and hatred inside and outside stadiums.” Real Madrid said they had opened an investigation to identify the perpetrators so that appropriate action can be taken. “Real Madrid strongly condemns any kind of behaviour involving racism, xenophobia or violence in football and sport, and deeply regrets the insults that a few fans uttered last night in one of the corners of the stadium,” the club said in a statement.

Draper 'so proud' to win his biggest title

Draper watched a 4-0 advantage disappear in the second set as 24th-ranked Khachanov recovered to lead 5-4, but the Briton showed resilience to break again for 6-5 and earn the chance to serve out the victory

VIENNA: Jack Draper won the biggest title of his career at the Erste Bank Open in Vienna as the British number one's break-out season reached even greater heights. Draper produced an outstanding level to beat Russia's Karen Khachanov 6-4 7-5 in the final of the ATP 500 event. The 22-year-old left-hander, who reached his maiden Grand Slam semi-final at the US Open last month, will rise to a career-high ranking of 15th in the world on Monday. “To win this title feels incredible. I'm so proud of myself and my team - the hard work is for moments like this,” said Draper. The victory was not all plain sailing, however. Draper watched a 4-0 advantage disappear in the second set as 24th-ranked Khachanov recovered to lead 5-4, but the Briton showed resilience to break again for 6-5 and earn the chance to serve out the

victory. He had to see off two break points in the 12th game, showing his joy and relief by falling to his back on the court when Khachanov put a lob wide on championship point. It is the second top-level title of Draper's career, having won an ATP 250 in Stuttgart earlier this season. This time last year, Draper sat just inside the top 100 as his comeback from a shoulder injury continued. Staying fit and becoming more robust has been the key to Draper's surge, allowing his talent to flourish. Draper has long been seen as the future of British men's tennis, and now he is very much the player setting the standard. Improvements this year have resulted in him becoming only the fourth player from the nation since 2009 - after Andy Murray, Cameron Norrie and Dan Evans - to win an ATP 500

title. Taking time away from his opponents with a high first-serve percentage has been a feature of Draper's run in the Austrian capital. This weapon continued to be effective in a dominant first set against Khachanov. Seventh seed Draper took the initiative early with a

break of serve in the third game, continually asking questions with his consistent returning and drawing Khachanov into a series of mistakes from the baseline. His confidence was clear as he secured the opening set having won 18 of his 19 first-serve points.

“I felt I was playing against PlayStation at the beginning - I had no chance,” said Khachanov. Draper had lost just five of his 34 matches this year when he had won the first set. He quickly asserted himself in the second set to ensure that formidable record would be bolstered. A rattled-looking Khachanov produced a double fault to hand over another break in the first game of the second set, which Draper took with a brilliant drop shot after patiently picking his moment. Another break to love for Draper was followed by a hold to love for 4-0. Then he started to find fewer first serves and made more unforced errors to give hope to Khachanov. After the former world number eight clawed one break back, the strain on Draper started to show. His first double fault of the match indicated tightness and handed over a sec-

ond break point at 4-3 for Khachanov, who then held to move 5-4 ahead. But an extraordinary finish saw Draper dig deep and recover the advantage that his level over the match deserved. “I didn't feel I was too nervous or too tight, just a couple of wrong decisions and Karen started swinging and upping his level,” said Draper. “I stayed solid and mentally in a good frame and came through. It is a relief.” Shortly before Draper's success, Jamie Murray became Britain's first ATP title winner of the day with victory in the Swiss Indoors doubles final in Basel. Murray, 38, and his Australian partner John Peers won 6-3 7-5 against top seeds Wesley Koolhof and Nikola Pietrangeli. It was Murray's second title of the season and his first with Peers - with whom he has reached Wimbledon and US Open finals - since 2015.



Briefs

PSX stays bullish, gains 201 points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a bullish trend on Monday, gaining 201.55 points, a positive change of 0.22 percent, closing at 90,195.52 points as compared to 89,993.97 points on last trading day. A total of 567,264,435 shares were traded during the day as compared to 695,544,676 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 29.210 billion against Rs. 37.873 billion on the last trading day. As many as 456 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 179 of them recorded gains and 222 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 55 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Fauji Foods Limited with 53,645,675 shares at Rs 10.44 per share, K-Electric Limited with 29,876,223 shares at Rs 4.36 per share and Sui South Gas with 27,406,470 shares at Rs 12.83 per share. —APP

Rupee sheds 04 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Monday depreciated by 04 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.68 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.64. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.25 and Rs 278.75 respectively. The price of Euro decreased by 62 paise to close at Rs 299.96 against the last day's closing of Rs 300.58, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen came down by 01 paise and closed at Rs 1.81, whereas a decrease of 14 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 360.05 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 360.19. The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 01 paise and 02 paise to close at Rs 75.60 and Rs 73.93 respectively. —APP

Gold prices dip by Rs.900 to Rs.283,400 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased by Rs.900 and was sold at Rs.283,400 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs.284,300 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.771 to Rs.242,970 from Rs. 243,741 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs. 222,722 from Rs. 223,430, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.3,350 and Rs.2,872.08 respectively. The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$9 to \$2,739 from \$2,748, the Association reported. —APP

UK anti-Islam activist 'Tommy' admits breaching injunction

LONDON: British anti-Muslim activist Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, known by the pseudonym Tommy Robinson, on Monday admitted contempt of court by breaching an injunction made after he was successfully sued for libel. Yaxley-Lennon was made subject to an injunction in 2021, preventing him from repeating libellous statements about a Syrian refugee who he wrongly claimed had attacked a girl at his school. Britain's Solicitor General took legal action against Yaxley-Lennon for contempt of court for breaching the injunction. Yaxley-Lennon appeared at London's Woolwich Crown Court and admitted breaching the injunction on Monday. Yaxley-Lennon was accused by some media and politicians of inflaming tensions which led to days —APP

CM orders to improve SITE, SSIC structural, financial strength

The CM was told that SITE LTD cannot disburse salaries and pensions due to excess employment. "There are 1,315 employees and 754 pensioners

STAFF REPORT

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has directed the Industries Department to prepare a comprehensive business plan for the Sindh Industrial Trading Estate Limited (S.I.T.E) and the Sindh Small Industries Corporation (SSIC) to drive industrialization, boost economy and create employment opportunities. The SITE and Small industries should be self-sufficient organizations, but they are stuck up in financial crisis due to over employment, lack of planning and absence of business plan, he directed while presiding over a meeting of the industries department to review its issues and development schemes, at the CM House here Monday. The meeting was attended by Minister for Industries Jam Ikram Dharejo, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Secretary Indus-

tries Yasin Shar, MD SITE Ghaznafar Qadri and others. The CM was told that SITE LTD cannot disburse salaries and pensions due to excess employment. "There are 1,315 employees and 754 pensioners. The annual expenditure on account of salary, pension, service dues, including outstanding liabilities and miscellaneous per year comes to Rs.2.592 billion against a total revenue/recovery of Rs.2 billion per annum, showing a shortfall of Rs.592,957,861". Infrastructure at Nooriabad and Kotri is in deteriorated condition, whereas funds under ADP 2024-25 amounting to Rs.846.892 million are insufficient to address the issues. To a question, Minister Industries Jam Ikram told the CM that the issue of Sui Gas at Industrial Estate Larkana would be resolved shortly. He added that SSGC, during a meeting with him, assured that a feasible plan for the supply of Sui

Gas to Industrial Estate Larkana would be submitted within one week. The Minister Industries requested the CM to approve an Annual grant of Rs.800 million to resolve the salary and pension issues. He also requested for a one-time grant of Rs.500 for O&M expenditure. The CM was also requested approval of Rs.2 billion for the rehabilitation of infrastructure at SITE Nooriabad (Phase-I) and Kotri. The CM was told that SSIC was facing huge financial constraints due to excessive employment from 2008 to 2014 and was unable to disburse monthly salaries, pensions, and service dues. There are 656 employees and 268 pensioners on the payroll, while 33 ex-employees are still waiting for their service dues. It was disclosed that Small Industries has 321 excess employees, and their future may also be decided. The annual expenditures of SSIC are Rs 934.862 million,

Rs.496.231 million for salaries, Rs.207.772 million for pension, and service dues Rs.230.859 million for service dues. To a question, Secretary Industries told the CM that the total recovery for 2023-24 was Rs.229.323 million against an expenditure of Rs 917.851 million, showing a deficit of Rs.534.862 million. The CM was requested that an annual grant of Rs.400 million for salaries and pensions may be approved. The minister said that the condition of the infrastructure at S.I.E Rohri and Northern Bypass Karachi was deteriorating and funds were required for their rehabilitation. It was also pointed out that the training centres at Karachi, Hyderabad, Nasarpur, Kashmir, Moenjodaro, and Islamabad require major rehabilitation for their revival to create substantial revenue for the Corporation. Minister Industries Jam Ikram requested the chief minister to approve a bail-

out package of Rs.600 million as a time grant to resolve the salary and pension dues. He also called for the enhancement of annual grant of Rs.400 million to Rs.600 million. The CM was told that Rs.1.2 billion is required for infrastructure development across various industrial areas, including SITE Korangi (Phase-2), North Karachi Association of Trade & Industry, FB Area Association of Trade & Industry, Landhi Association of Trade & Industry, and Korangi Association of Trade & Industry. The Chief Minister directed the Industries Department to submit a detailed development plan for various SITEs and small industrial estates, including a separate proposal for a bailout package so that necessary decisions could be taken. Meanwhile, the CM directed the chief secretary to initiate the restructuring of the SITE and Small Industries to ensure they operate on sound professional and financial footing.



BEIJING: Ambassador of Pakistan to China Khalil Hashmi speaking at the special event to commemorate 27 October as the Kashmir Black Day organized at the Embassy of Pakistan.

Uzbekistan's ruling party wins parliamentary polls

TASHKENT: The Election Commission of Uzbekistan on Monday announced that the Uzbekistan Liberal Democratic Party is in the leading position in the parliamentary elections 2024 of Uzbekistan. While announcing Political Parties position in parliamentary election 2024 held on October 27, 2024, Chairman of the Commission of Republic of Uzbekistan, Zayniddin Nizamkhodjayev announced that the Uzbekistan's Liberal Democratic Party has won 64 seats out of 150 in Uzbekistan's parliament with 42.7% of the vote in parliamentary elections held in the country. Chairman of the Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Zayniddin Nizamkhodjayev held a press conference along with Deputy Chairman of the Commission, Kuchkarov Bakhtrom Tulkinovich in Tashkent Media Centre. Chairman of the Commission of Uzbekistan informed that National Revival Democratic Party won 29 seats, Adolat (Justice) Social Democratic Party won 21 seats, People's Democratic Party 20 seats, and the Environmental Party 16 seats. The Chief Election Commissioner said that 854 international observers monitored the parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan held on October 27, besides the domestic and foreign media gave full coverage to the election. He said that the local and international observers have declared the parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan as free and fair and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and other international organizations observers will inform the media in this regard. It is pertinent to mention that Citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan including women, youth and people from all walks of life are enthusiastically active during these elections. Uzbekistan election commission holds parliamentary and local elections on October 27, 2024, following significant constitutional and electoral legal framework reform. These are the first elections under a new mixed electoral system and over the past few years, significant changes have taken place in the political system of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which have affected all spheres of socio-political life. One of these changes is the innovation and digitization of the electoral legislation and changing the electoral system of the Republic of Uzbekistan from majority to majority-proportional one (sometimes it is called mixed) in elections to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan. —DNA

Govt fully committed for promoting export

SARGODHA: The federal government led by Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) was fully committed to promoting exports from Sargodha district in order to make traders prosperous. This was stated by Parliamentary Secretary for Commerce and Industry, Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhatti while addressing the Sargodha Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) here on Monday. He said the main objective of government was to bring Sargodha at par with Sialkot and Faisalabad with regard to business activities. He said the clear stance of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was to increase exports and reduce imports. Dr Zulfiqar Ali Bhatti said they were working for the prosperity of future generations and resolving the issues faced by industrialists and traders. He announced that Sargodha would soon be connected to the nearest point on the motorway, with approval granted for Sargodha-Jhang Motorway. He added that passport services would soon be available at the SCCI. Additionally, tenders had been issued for the construction of Sargodha Ring Road. —APP

Modi, Spanish PM launch India's first private military aircraft plant

NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Spanish counterpart Pedro Sanchez inaugurated India's first private military aircraft plant on Monday, boosting the country's ambitions of becoming a global manufacturing hub. In Gujarat state's Vadodara city, the two premiers launched the Tata Aircraft Complex, the manufacturing hub that will produce the Airbus C-295 transport military aircraft in collaboration with Airbus Spain and to be deployed by the Indian Air Force. "In India, the defense manufacturing ecosystem is touching a new height. Had we not taken a firm step 10 years ago we would not have reached this feat today. Back then no one could have imagined that India could be involved in defense manufacturing on such a scale," Modi said at the launching ceremony. The Indian premier vowed to turn India into a global manufacturing hub when he came to power in 2014 with his "Make in India" initiative, including in infrastructure, pharmaceuticals and the defense sector. "That time our priority and identity were of importer. But we decided to tread a new path, we fixed a new target for us and today we are witnessing the result," he said. Under a \$2.5 billion deal signed in 2021, India and Spain agreed to procure 56 C-295 transport aircraft to replace the aging Avro-748 planes of the Indian Air Force. Airbus will deliver the first 16 of the aircraft from its final assembly line in Seville, Spain — six of which have so far been delivered. The remaining 40 will be manufactured and assembled by Tata Advanced Systems in India, as part of an industrial partnership between the two companies. "The factory will not only strengthen India and Spain's relationship but also consolidate Make in India and Make for the World Mission," Modi said. The plant in Vadodara is expected to roll out the first C-295 aircraft made in India in 2026. The plane can transport up to 71 troops or 50 paratroopers, will be able to access remote locations and be used for medical evacuations and aid in disaster response and maritime patrol duties. "This project brings together the best of two worlds," Sanchez said. "This project strengthens our industrial ties while underlying our country's deep commitment as a reliable and strategic partner. This plant will be a symbol of industrial excellence, an engine of growth and a testament to the close and growing friendship." Sanchez was on a three-day visit to India, the first such trip by a Spanish leader to the South Asian nation in 18 years. As part of his visit, Sanchez will also travel to India's financial capital of Mumbai on Tuesday, where he is expected to meet with trade and industry leaders, as well as visit film studios in an effort to boost entertainment industry collaboration between the two countries. As the world's largest arms importer, accounting for almost 10 percent of total global arms import between 2019 and 2023, the plant in Vadodara marks a new chapter in India's defense industry development. "To maintain strategic autonomy, it is imperative to substantially reduce dependence on foreign suppliers. Hence, India is focusing on maximizing its domestic production of advanced defense systems," Delhi-based defense analyst Ranjit Kumar told Arab News. India has been encouraging the private sector to make investment in weapons production to increase its self-dependency in the defense sector. New Delhi is also in talks with German and Spanish submarine makers to produce next-generation diesel submarines in India, he added. —APP

Middle East aid workers say rules of war being flouted

Amid Israel's devastating retaliatory operation in the Gaza Strip, local aid workers are striving to deliver assistance while facing the same risks as the rest of the population, he said

GENEVA: Flagrant violations of the laws of war in the escalating conflict in the Middle East are setting a dangerous precedent, aid workers in the region warn. Since Hamas's deadly October 7 attack on Israel from Gaza last year, humanitarians say the warring parties are flouting international humanitarian law (IHL). "The rules of war are being broken in such a flagrant way... (it) is setting a precedent that we have not seen in any other conflict," Marwan Jilani, the vice president of the Palestine Red Crescent (PCRS), told AFP. Speaking last week during a meeting in Geneva of the 191 national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, he lamented a "total disregard for human life (and) for international humanitarian law." Amid Israel's devastating retaliatory operation in the Gaza Strip, local aid workers are striving to deliver

assistance while facing the same risks as the rest of the population, he said. The PCRS has more than 900 staff and several thousand volunteers inside Gaza, where more than 43,000 Palestinians have been killed, according to the Hamas-ruled territory's health ministry, and where the UN says virtually the entire population has been repeatedly displaced. "They're part of the community," said Jilani. "I think every single member of our staff has lost family members." He decried especially what he said was a "deliberate targeting of the health sector." Israel rejects such accusations and maintains that it is carrying out its military operations in both Gaza and Lebanon in accordance with international law. But Jilani said that "many of our staff, including doctors and nurses... were detained, were taken for

weeks (and) were tortured." Since the war began, 34 PCRS staff and volunteers have been killed in Gaza, and another two in the West Bank, "most of them while serving," he said. Four other staff members are still being held, their whereabouts and condition unknown. Jilani warned that the disregard for basic international law in the expanding conflict was eroding the belief that such laws even exist. A "huge casualty of this war," he said, "is the belief within the Middle East that there is no international law." Uri Shacham, chief of staff at the Israeli's emergency aid organization Magen David Adom (MDA), also decried the total disregard for laws requiring the protection of humanitarians. During Hamas's October 7 attack, which resulted in the deaths of 1,206 people, according to an AFP tally of official Israeli

figures, MDA staff and volunteers rushing to the scene to help were also killed, he said. It lost seven people that day. Shacham said they were killed "while they were treating others, while they were identified as humanitarians." "This was so unbelievable for us," he said, warning of potentially dangerous ripple effects. "Our biggest concern is that once the barrier was broken, then this might be something that others would do," he cautioned. The Red Cross in Lebanon, where for the past month Israel has been launching ground operations and dramatically escalating its air strikes against Hezbollah, also condemned the slide. Thirteen of its volunteers have been recently injured on ambulance missions. One of its top officials, Samar Abou Jaou-

deh, told AFP that they did not appear to have been targeted directly. "But nevertheless, not being able to reach the injured people, and (missiles) hitting right in front of an ambulance is also not respecting IHL," she said, stressing the urgent need to ensure more respect for international law on the ground. Abou Jaoudeh feared Lebanon, where at least 1,620 people have been killed since September 23, according to an AFP tally based on official figures, could suffer the same fate as Gaza. "We hope that no country would face anything that Gaza is facing now, but unfortunately a bit of that scenario is beginning to be similar in Lebanon," she said. The Lebanese Red Cross, she said, was preparing "for all scenarios... but we just hope that it wouldn't reach this point." —Agencies

Iraq lodges UN complaint over Israel using its airspace to attack Iran

BAGHDAD: Iraq has condemned Israel's use of its airspace to attack neighboring Iran in a protest letter sent to United Nations chief Antonio Guterres and the UN Security Council, Baghdad said Monday.

A statement from government spokesman Bassim Alawadi said the letter condemns "the Zionist entity's blatant violation of Iraq's airspace and sovereignty by using Iraqi airspace to carry out an attack on the Islamic Republic of Iran on October 26."

Alawadi said the Iraqi foreign ministry would also bring up "this violation" in talks with the United States, Israel's close ally and top arms provider. Israel on Saturday launched air strikes on military sites in Iran, risking further regional escalation more than a year into the Gaza war and a month into the Israel-Hezbollah war in Lebanon.

The Israeli raid was in retaliation for an Iranian missile attack on October 1, itself retaliation for the killing of Iran-backed militant leaders and a Revolutionary Guards commander.

The Iranian military said that some Israeli aircraft had fired a "small number of long-range missiles... from a distance," inside the US-patrolled airspace of Iraq.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said on Monday that Tehran was "sure that no neighboring country has given this permission to the Zionist regime" to use its airspace. —APP

Seven killed in strike on Tyre

BEIRUT: Lebanon said an Israeli strike on Tyre on Monday killed seven people, with the Israeli army later issuing an evacuation call for swathes of the southern coastal city. An "Israeli enemy strike this morning on a building" in the center of Tyre killed "seven people and wounded 17 others," a health ministry statement said, updating an earlier toll of five dead and 10 wounded. An AFP video journalist saw emergency personnel rush a survivor to an ambulance on a stretcher, while other rescuers worked to put out a heavily smoldering fire at the site, where a residential apartment block had collapsed. Later Monday, the Israeli army told residents in parts of central Tyre to leave immediately, warning it would attack Hezbollah targets there. "Hezbollah's activities force the (Israeli army) to act against it forcefully," military spokesman Avichay Adraee said in a post on X, urging residents to "head north." An accompanying map showed large swathes of the city marked in red, including an area abutting a UNESCO World Heritage site. —APP

Current climate pledges still fall way short on Paris goals: UN

SINGAPORE: National pledges to cut greenhouse gas emissions still fall far short of what is needed to limit catastrophic global warming, the United Nations said on Monday as countries prepare for the next round of climate change negotiations in November. The "nationally determined contributions" (NDCs) already submitted by countries to the UN are enough to cut global emissions by 2.6 percent from 2019 to 2030, up from 2 percent last year, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) said in its annual assessment. But they are far from sufficient to achieve the 43 percent cut that scientists say is required to stay within reach of a Paris Agreement target to limit global temperature rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit), it warned. As part of their Paris obligations, nations must deliver new and stronger NDCs before a deadline in February next year, and the report's findings should mark a "turning point," said Simon Stiell, UNFCCC secretary general. —APP

Briefs

PA resolution pays tribute to forces

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The Punjab Assembly on Monday passed a resolution to pay tribute to the sacrifices of the armed forces in defending the nation. The resolution, presented by Provincial Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Mujtaba Shujaur Rehman, recognised the contributions of military personnel in safeguarding both the territorial and ideological borders of Pakistan.

In the text, the assembly lauded the valour of Pakistan's soldiers, who raised the nation's morale.

The resolution cited the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, highlighting that it is the resilience and determination of the forces that underpin Pakistan's defence, not merely their arms. The resolution praised the army's unwavering support during crisis, noting that the armed forces have consistently met the nation's expectations, standing alongside civilians in challenging times. It further honoured the martyrs and veterans, describing the armed forces as the "crown jewel" of the nation, committed to sacrificing their lives for the country. The resolution underscored the role of the forces in defending Pakistan's land, sea, and air, as well as its ideological boundaries. It acknowledged the army's critical role in maintaining law and order, combating terrorism, and curbing smuggling in the country.

N. Korean troops deployed in Kursk: Nato

BRUSSELS: North Korean troops have been deployed to Russia and are operating in the Kursk border region where Ukrainian troops have a foothold, Nato said for the first time. The alliance's Secretary General Mark Rutte said he could confirm the deployment after weeks of intelligence reports, following a meeting with South Korean security and defence officials on Monday.

The newly installed Nato chief said the deployment represented a "significant escalation" and a "dangerous expansion" of Russia's war in Ukraine. Last week, President Vladimir Putin refused to deny that North Korean troops had arrived in Russia, following reports that Pyongyang was preparing to send thousands of troops to aid its ally.

"This is our sovereign decision," Putin said, sidestepping the question during a news conference. "Whether we use it or not, where, how, or whether we engage in exercises, training, or transfer some experience. It's our business." It is unclear exactly how many North Korean soldiers have been sent. South Korea's spy agency said earlier this month that at least 1,500 North Korean troops had already arrived in Russia, prompting Seoul to issue Moscow with a stern diplomatic rebuke. - Agencies

President calls for expanding Pakistan-Russian cooperation

Addressing the special sitting of the Senate (Monday), she emphasized that this relationship is based on mutually beneficial and respectful grounds, asserting that there are no minor or major partners in it



DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has said Pakistan-Russia relations are based on mutual respect and mutual commitment to expanding bilateral cooperation in various fields. Talking to a Russian parliamentary delegation led by Speaker Ms Valentina Matvienko in Islamabad today, he underscored the need to strengthen cultural linkages through people-to-people contacts and scholarship programs. He also pointed out that both countries have enormous potential for increasing economic cooperation and called for Russian investment in Pakistan. Both the sides underscored the importance of diversifying trade and economic cooperation, besides enhancing regional connectivity and com-

mercial relations through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the North-South Transport Corridor. The Russian Speaker emphasized that her country accords priority to its relationship with Pakistan. She hoped that the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Parliaments of the two countries would further deepen bilateral relations. She expressed satisfaction over the growth in bilateral trade. She also conveyed the special greetings from President Putin. Additionally, she congratulated Pakistan on the successful hosting of the SCO Heads of Government as well as Pakistan's candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. Meanwhile, Speaker of the Federation Council of Russian Federal Assembly Ms Valentina Matvienko has said Russia respects Pakistan's sovereignty, culture and history.

Addressing the special sitting of the Senate (Monday), she emphasized that this relationship is based on mutually beneficial and respectful grounds, asserting that there are no minor or major partners in it. The Russian Speaker expressed a firm desire to enhance cooperation with Pakistan in diverse fields including economy, trade and energy. She said the recent visit of the Russian Prime Minister and that of the current delegation will greatly contribute to further promotion of cooperation between the two countries. She said Russia is ready to scale-up supplies of mineral fertilizers, modern agriculture machines and share modern technology with Pakistan to increase its agricultural productivity. Ms Valentina Matvienko said both Pakistan and Russia can learn a lot from each other and open new horizons for this friendship.

Japan PM vows to continue ruling

Tokyo: Japan's prime minister Shigeru Ishiba has vowed to continue ruling the country despite a bruising loss suffered by his party at the general election.

The country now faces an uncertain political future as the coalition led by the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has lost its majority in parliament, its worst result in over a decade. Ishiba was sworn in as prime minister just this month after winning the leadership of his party. He had called a snap election to seal his mandate.

But in a speech on Monday, he admitted the LDP received "severe judgement" from voters, and added his party would "humbly accept" this. "The Japanese people expressed their strong desire for the LDP to do some reflection and become a party that acts in line with the people's will," Ishiba told national broadcaster NHK.

The LDP and its much smaller coalition partner Komeito, have altogether taken 215 seats, falling short of the 233-seat majority needed to govern. It is the first time the LDP has lost its parliamentary majority since 2009. The party has ruled Japan almost continuously since 1955. The result comes after a tumultuous few years for the LDP which saw a cascade of scandals, widespread voter apathy and record-low approval ratings. The party had seen approval ratings of below 20% earlier in the year, in the wake of a political fundraising corruption scandal.

Miftah cites history as evidence for current govt not finishing term

Former finance minister predicts current govt would similarly falter due to its lack of delivery on key issues

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Former finance minister and Secretary-General of the Awami Pakistan Party (APP), Miftah Ismail, has expressed doubts about the current government's ability to complete its constitutional term, citing a troubling historical pattern of prime ministers in Pakistan. Speaking at a press conference in Hyderabad on Sunday, Ismail remarked, "No prime minister had ever completed their term in Pakistan," predicting that the federal government would similarly falter due to its lack of delivery on key issues. Ismail stated, "Shahid Khaqan Abbasi told Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) what was being done 'is not our politics,' signalling a clear break from the ruling party's practices. He further questioned the commitment of the PML-N to its manifesto, stating, 'Is this the politics of honouring the vote? The PML-N left its manifesto.' He pointed out that the political crisis could have been

avoided had Nawaz Sharif accepted defeat in the February 8 general elections. Ismail noted that many former members of the PML-N are now joining the APP, highlighting a potential shift in the political landscape. He also directed his criticism towards the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), which has governed Sindh since 2008, stating, "They take votes but do nothing in the province." Discussing local issues in Hyderabad, Ismail pointed to significant deficiencies in electricity, gas, drainage, and infrastructure, asserting that apart from Karachi, "there is no maintained family park in the entire of Sindh." He declared the APP's commitment to addressing rights abuses in the region, lamenting the country's economic decline over the past 30 years. "If you look at the past, Pakistan was at the forefront in terms of economy in Asia but became the poorest in 30 years," he remarked. On the controversial passage of the 26th amendment, Ismail emphasised the importance of an "independent and fair judiciary" as essential for protecting rights.

Imaan, husband 'arrested' in Islamabad

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Lawyer Imaan Mazari and her husband, Abdul Hadi, have been arrested in the federal capital, her mother confirmed, moments after police sources told Geo News on Monday. The sources added that the couple has been arrested in a case registered at Aabpara Police Station concerning interference in government operations. In a post on X, Shireen Mazari, Imaan's mother and a former federal minister, claimed that "state

fascism" was in full swing. "On Friday at the road barrier @ICT_Police swung the steel barrier delib into her assaulting her as videos show & injured her. Who will hold police accountable 4 terrorism?" Later, the Islamabad Police also confirmed arrest of Imaan and her spouse Hadi Ali, saying they were arrested for creating security risk by interfering in the state affairs during visit of an international cricket team. The Human Right Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) also condemned the arrest of the rights lawyers "on vague charges of creating a security risk". "Both are committed, well-respected human rights defenders, whose arbitrary arrest is symptomatic of the rapidly shrinking space for activists in Pakistan," the HRCP said in a statement on X.

Fawad, Marwat call for leadership shuffle in PTI

Fawad Chaudhry highlights PTI leaders' inaction while Sher Afzal calls for new leadership during protests

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Senior politician Fawad Chaudhry has voiced concerns over the struggles faced by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activists, claiming that party leaders are not stepping out of their rooms. Speaking outside an anti-terrorism court in Lahore, where the hearings for Azam Swati and Fawad Chaudhry's five cases from May 9 were underway, he expressed frustration with the current situation of the party. The court extended their interim bail in these cases. "We have appeared before the anti-terrorism court for the 517th time; does that mean we are all terrorists? If we are, why do the people of Pakistan vote for us?" he questioned. Chaudhry said out that no PTI leader is willing to face the public while their activists endure hardships. "All activists are facing difficulties, while leaders remain hidden," he remarked. He added that Salman Akram Raja acts like a don from the 1970s, suggesting



that leadership is insulated from the arrests facing their supporters. He lamented the plight of the party's supporters, stating, "They are languishing in jails while leaders enjoy their comforts. My entire family's name is on the exit control list, yet these leaders are carefree and lack a strategy to free the founding member of PTI from jail." In a plea to fellow senior politicians, Chaudhry urged Bushra Bibi and Aleema Khan to enter politics and help formulate strategies for the party's future and the release of the party's founder. In another interview, Sher Afzal Marwat has recommended that someone other than Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur lead the party's upcoming protests.


IRGC warns Tel Aviv of 'unimaginable' consequences

"The illegitimate and illegal action of the child-killing Zionist regime, which failed to achieve its ominous goals because of the readiness of the country's air defense, Salami said

FOREIGN DESK


TEHRAN: The chief commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says Israel's recent act of aggression against the Islamic Republic, which was thwarted by the country's air defenses, indicates the occupying regime's miscalculation and frustration in the face of the resistance front. Major General Hossein Salami made the remarks on Sunday, a day after Iran's air defenses intercepted and successfully confronted Israel's recent act of aggression. The Israeli regime attacked several Iranian military facilities early Saturday, killing four servicemen of the Armed Forces and one civilian. Iran's Air Defense Base said some limited damage was caused in some areas, the dimensions of which are being investigated. "The illegitimate and illegal action of the child-killing Zionist regime, which failed to achieve its ominous goals because of the readiness of the country's air defense, shows miscalculation and frustration of this regime on the battlefield" against resistance fighters in Gaza and Lebanon, Salami said. He further warned that the attack will have "bitter, unimaginable consequences" for the Israeli regime. Salami also mourned the four army servicemen who were "courageously" martyred in the Israeli act of aggression on

Iran. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Sunday that Iran is not looking for war but will give an "appropriate response" to Israel's latest act of aggression. Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf has also stated that the Islamic Republic's response to the act of aggression will be "definite and calculated." Meanwhile, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Akbar Ahmadian says Israel's recent aggression against the country has had no impact on the Islamic Republic's military power. "This operation did not even have a minimum impact on Iran's military power," Ahmadian told reporters on Monday as he visited the office of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas in Tehran. The Israeli regime attacked several Iranian military facilities early Saturday, killing four servicemen of the Armed Forces and one civilian. Iran's Air Defense Base said some limited damage was caused in some areas, the dimensions of which are being investigated. Iran has emphasized that it is not looking for war but will not abandon its right to give an appropriate and firm response to Israel's latest act of aggression. In a letter to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and UN Security Council President Pascale Christine Baeriswyl on Sunday, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi called for an urgent United Nations Security Council meeting to condemn the Israeli attack on the Islamic Republic.



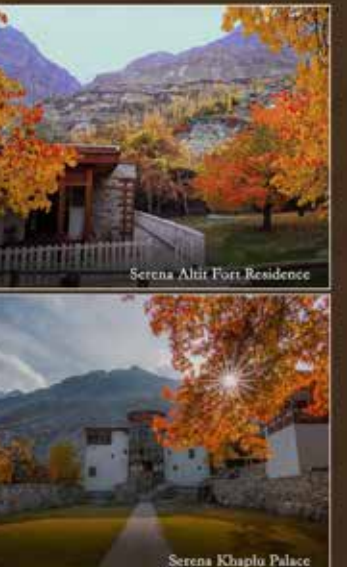




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