



Islamabad POST

Wednesday, October 30, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Rodri wins Ballon d'Or 2024 as Real Madrid boycott

Detailed News On Page-06

Naim Qassem elected as new Hezbollah chief

Detailed News On Page-08



Faisal Kundi slams KP government

Detailed News On Page-02



PM Shehbaz meets MBS

Pakistan, KSA vow to solidify economic ties

Addressing Future Investment Initiative in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, he said Pakistan is ready to join countries, which are heralding a future of innovation

NEWS DESK

RIYADH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met with the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al-Saud in Riyadh. The Prime Minister conveyed best wishes for the health and wellbeing of His Majesty the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud. He highlighted the im-

portance of the deep-rooted brotherly relations between the two countries and appreciated Kingdom's support for Pakistan's economic revival and stability. The two leaders took stock of the ongoing bilateral engagements, especially in follow up to the decisions taken in previous high-level meetings held in Makkah and Riyadh in April 2024. Apprising the Crown Prince on the government of Pakistan's economic, institutional and policy reforms agenda, the Prime Minister said that the Kingdom has a central role in Pakistan's future economic plans. The Prime Minister appreciated Kingdom's efforts to promote regional peace and stability in the Middle East and reiterated Pakistan's unwavering commitment to stand by the Kingdom in these efforts. The two leaders exchanged views on regional developments and agreed to closely coordinate positions on regional issues. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has invited global investors for making investment in different sectors of Pakistan's economy. Addressing Future Investment

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Continued on Page 06

NATIONAL DAY OF TURKIYE



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Amir Jamaat e Islami Hafiz Naeem, Ambassador of Turkiye Dr Irfan Naziroglu and others cutting cake to celebrate National Day of Turkiye. – DNA

President greets Turkish govt, people on Republic Day

Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister attends Turkish Republic Day reception in Islamabad as chief guest

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari extended his greetings to the government and people of Turkiye as they celebrated the 101st Republic Day on Tuesday. The president said that over the past century, Turkiye had achieved immense development in various fields and expressed the hope that the country would reach

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Calls for Palestinian Peace Dar reaffirms Pak support for one China policy

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar has announced that there has been no success yet regarding the release of Dr. Aafia Siddiqui

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar has announced that there has been no success yet regarding the release of Dr. Aafia Siddiqui. He explained that the government has attempted to persuade American leadership for her pardon but has yet to achieve success. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has written to the US President requesting humanitarian relief for Dr Aafia. A three-member committee has been formed to engage with American parliamentarians to lobby for her pardon, release, and return to Pakistan. Dar made these remarks while speaking at the international conference

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan condemns Israeli actions to undermine UNRWA

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan unequivocally condemns the latest Israeli attempt to dismantle the operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). This latest step is yet another Israeli violation of international law and the UN Charter.

Continued on Page 06

Russian embassy verifying reports of citizen's abduction

TTP said it captured a Russian national in DI Khan

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Russia's embassy in Pakistan said Tuesday it is attempting to verify reports that one of its citizens was abducted in the Pakistan's troubled northwest. The embassy provided no further details in a post on the social media platform X. The announcement by the embassy came days after a small militant group headed

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

US wants to see flourishing democracy

Congressmen letter seeking PTI founder's release received by Biden admin, confirms Miller

FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said that the United States wants to see democracy upheld and flourish in Pakistan, Dunya News reported. Briefing the media in Washington on Monday, Matthew Miller said that we support everyone's fundamental right to participate in democracy and exercise their fundamental human freedoms. Replying to a question regarding the letter of 60 members of Congress sent to President Biden urging him to secure some guarantees from Pakistani Government for the safety of Imran Khan in prison, Matthew Miller said that we've received it and will respond in due course to the members.

Government losing grip, claims Fazl

JUI-F chief expresses concern over declining public trust in state and institutions

DNA

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the president of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), said on Monday that the government had lost the writ in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan because of the widespread lawlessness, which made people's lives and properties unsafe there. Addressing scholars, students and other dignitaries at the Jamia Arabia Naumania Sahiyya in Dera Ismail Khan, the JUI-F chief expressed concern over the declining public trust in the state.

President, PM condemn attack

5 killed in firing incident in Balochistan's Panjgur

Earlier this month, 20 colliers were killed in a rocket attack on coalmines in Balochistan's Duki district prompting more than 40,000 labourers to return to their native areas

DNA

PANJGUR: At least five people were killed and two were injured after unknown gunmen opened fire on locals at the site of a dam in Balochistan's Panjgur district, said provincial government Shahid Rind on Tuesday. The locals were responsible for the maintenance of the dam, said the official. The attack, as per the district administration, was carried out in Paroom area with Levies officials attributing the shooting incident to armed men on motorcycles. The attack comes almost a month after unknown assailants shot and killed seven labourers – hailing from different areas in Punjab – in the district. The southwestern province, the country's largest by area, has faced the brunt of terrorist attacks along with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the wake of the rise in terror incidents in recent months with the two provinces accounting for 97% of

Continued on Page 06

Terrorists martyr two cops in KP

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Heavily armed terrorists on Tuesday martyred two policemen escorting a polio vaccination team in Upper Orakzai, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, while three militants were also killed in an intense exchange of fire with the security forces. Upper Orakzai Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Muhammad Rahim said the incident took place in the DaboriBadan area, where armed men opened fire at police personnel escorting the vaccinators. One of the policemen, Sayyed Hameed, lost his life on the spot, while the other was shifted to District Headquarters Hospital Orakzai.

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Pakistan, Russia resolve to strengthen military coop

Colonel General Fomin commended the Pakistan Army's achievements in combating terrorism and highlighted the importance of a unified, cooperative approach



STAFF REPORT

Rawalpindi: His Excellency Colonel General Alexander V. Fomin, Deputy Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation, met General Syed Asim-Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff

(COAS) at the General Headquarters (GHQ). The meeting addressed the regional security environment and matters of mutual interest, including the enhancement of bilateral defense and security cooperation. COAS reiterated Pakistan's commitment to strengthening traditional defense ties

with Russia, while both sides affirmed their dedication to bolstering collaboration in various security and defense domains. Colonel General Fomin commended the Pakistan Army's achievements in combating terrorism and highlighted the importance of a unified, cooperative approach among the global community to counter extremism. Meanwhile, A high level delegation led by Colonel General Aleksandr V. Fomin, Deputy Defence Minister of the Russian Federation, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force at Air Headquarters, Islamabad. The meeting remained focused on bolstering military cooperation and industrial collaboration between the two sides while exploring

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PTI govt fails to address problems despite 3rd term

Engr Amir Muqam further claimed that the country was put on the verge of bankruptcy during the rule of PTI founder after started confrontation with national institutions, resulting in the people of Pakistan suffering

DNA

SWAT: Federal Minister for Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs and States and Frontier Regions, Engr Amir Muqam here Tuesday that Pakistan Tahrir e Insaaf has completely failed to address the masses' problems despite its third consecutive government term in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Addressing a big public gathering after the formal inauguration of two electricity feeders at Khwazakhela here, Engr Amir Muqam said the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have been deceived by the name of so-called "Change" since 2013 and the province were deprived of economic growth and development. As a result of poor governance, rampant corruption, maladministration, and agitation politics in KP, he claimed that unemployment, poverty, and illiteracy have significantly increased in the province where provincial ministers and advisers started leveling corruption allegations against each other. Engr Amir Muqam further claimed that the country was put on the verge of bankruptcy during the rule of PTI founder after started

confrontation with national institutions, resulting in the people of Pakistan suffering. He said the poor governance of the PTI founder has plunged the country into unprecedented price hikes, inflation and devaluation of rupee, marring the country's overall economic growth. Instead of focusing on the problems of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said that CM KP has led protest demonstrations in Lahore and Islamabad by using Govt. machinery and taxpayer money for personal politicking. He said PTI would not be allowed to deceive the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through hollow sloganeering on social media anymore. He said that the faces of the commission and corrupt mafia in KP were fully exposed before the masses. The Federal Minister said that on the other side, "we have dynamic and committed leadership in the form of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, who were working tirelessly for the progress and prosperity of Pakistan." He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has saved the country from an imminent economic default, reduced price hikes from 40 per-

cent to nine percent and his Govt economic and financial policies were highly appreciated by the top international monetary institutions. "Our politics is linked with progress and prosperity of people of Pakistan," he said, adding provision of gas facility, construction of Nawaz Sharif Kidney Hospital, road network and electricity system in Swat was the hallmark of PMLN Govt. He said the youth of Pakistan would prosper only when the country made progress in all sectors, advising them to keep a distance from politics of negative and hooliganism. He said the successful holding of the SCO meeting in Islamabad has sent a positive image of Pakistan abroad, adding the 26th constitutional amendment would help provide speedy justice to all litigants and address cases backlog in the Supreme Court. Engr Amir Muqam said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has left from Saudi Arabia and expressed the hope that his historic visit would bring great laurels to the country. On this occasion, the Federal Minister announced several projects for the development of Khawazakhela and adjoining areas after people's request.



ISLAMABAD: Japanese Ambassador Wada called on the Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain.

Ombudsman ensures timely pension payments to widow

ABBOTTABAD: In a significant move to address citizen grievances, the Federal Ombudsman, Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi, has ensured the timely payment of a monthly pension to the widow of Ghulam Nasir, a deceased army personnel. This decision follows a complaint lodged at the Federal Ombudsman's regional office in Abbottabad, which highlighted undue delays by Askari Bank in processing the pension. The widow reported that, despite the pension being transferred to her name after her husband's death in December 2023, she continued to face delays from the bank. In response to the complaint, the Federal Ombudsman's office swiftly issued notices to bank officials and requested a comprehensive report on the issue. After conducting a thorough investigation and hearings, Ombudsman Qureshi ruled in favor of the complainant, directing Askari Bank to immediately initiate pension payments. Consequently, the bank has begun disbursing a monthly pension of PKR 28,823.—APP

WaterAid Pakistan marks Global Handwashing Day

Call for collective action to ensure sustainable access to essential hygiene facilities

ISLAMABAD : WaterAid Pakistan held a significant event today in Lahore to commemorate Global Handwashing Day, underscoring the vital importance of hand hygiene in preventing diseases and safeguarding public health. This year's theme, "Why Are Clean Hands Still Important?", emphasizes the ongoing necessity for handwashing practices in homes, schools, communities, and workplaces. The event drew key stakeholders, government representatives, community leaders, and policymakers to deliberate on sustainable hygiene solutions and address existing challenges in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) infrastructure. The proceedings included a presenta-

tion of WaterAid's Health Budget & Expenditure Analysis Study, which highlighted the need for strategic investments in WASH services to ensure sustainable access to essential hygiene facilities. The event was attended by distinguished guests including Amir Hayat Hira, Member Provincial Assembly; Zeeshan Anwar Awan, Chief (UD/Development Authorities) Planning & Development Board, Government of Punjab; Zohaib Butt, DG Punjab Aab-e-Pak Authority and Ifitikhar Thakur, Renowned Actor, MD, WASA Rawalpindi, Saleem Ashraf. The session concluded with an address by MPA Kanwal Liaquat, Chief Guest and Parliamentary Secretary for Environment Protection

and Climate Change, Punjab, who emphasised "On behalf of the Government of Punjab, I reaffirm our commitment to advancing the WASH mandate and ensuring that all stakeholders work together." In his closing remarks, Mian Muhammad Junaid, Country Director at WaterAid Pakistan, emphasized, "Clean hands are not just a practice, but a powerful tool in safeguarding public health. Our commitment remains to collaborate with partners and communities to ensure sustainable hygiene solutions that protect the most vulnerable among us." He also extended his gratitude to all stakeholders for their ongoing support in advancing hygiene and public health.

Kundi slams KP govt over ineligibility to deal with emergencies

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday criticized the provincial government over its failure to extinguish huge fire in a factory here in Hayatabad Industrial Area causing loss of billions of rupees. During his visit to the affected Deans factory, he deplored that Rescue 1122 could not control the fire for 20 hours as the force was lacking resources, manpower and vehicles, adding that the fire was extinguished by the Air Force. He appreciated the chief of Pakistan Air Force over his prompt action and said that if all the services have to be done by the armed forces then what would the provincial government do. Kundi demanded constitution of a joint investigation team to probe the incident and fix the responsibility of the incident. If all the services have to be done by the army, then what will the provincial government do, Faisal Karim Kundi. The Governor said that these factories represent KP province and it the government would not provide them protection and support then nobody would invest in the province. On this occasion, Ghazanfar Bilour, Zamang Textile (Deans) Factory owner Shirazuddin, Jameel Nawaz and other business community were present. They informed the Governor that Rescue and PDA departments failed to control the fire in time thus causing huge loss to the factory, adding that the rescue vehicles were not having diesel which we provided, industry officials.—APP

PPRA, NUST join hands to boost procurement training

ISLAMABAD: In a step to strengthen procurement standards across public sectors, the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) and the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) on Tuesday signed a partnership agreement. This agreement aims to improve training for procurement professionals in line with the Prime Minister's call for dedicated procurement cells in government institutions. The Document of Understanding (DoU) between PPRA and NUST was signed today, at a ceremony held at NUST Headquarters in Islamabad. The partnership focuses on enhancing the skills and knowledge of procurement specialists through targeted certification and diploma programmes. Mr. Hasnat Ahmed Qureshi, Managing Director of PPRA, shared details about the new programs during the signing event. He highlighted that the "Certificate in Procurement & Contract Management" and the "Diploma in Procurement & Contract Management" are designed to equip public sector professionals and suppliers with the skills necessary for effective procurement practices. These courses aim to streamline procurement processes and tackle the complexities professionals often encounter.—APP

Naval Chief, Russian Deputy Minister for Defence discuss bilateral collaboration

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Russian Federation's Deputy Minister for Defence, Colonel General Alexander V. Fomin called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters here on Tuesday.

During the meeting, professional matters of mutual interest including bilateral collaboration and regional maritime security were discussed, a Pakistan Navy news release said. The Naval Chief expressed that Pakistan greatly values its relations with the Russian

Federation and desires to forge a long-term, multi-dimensional partnership with Russia. Various avenues including bilateral training, exchange of visits and conduct of bilateral naval exercises between the two Navies were also focused. The visiting dignitary appreciated and ac-

knowledged the Pakistan Navy's efforts and commitments in support of collaborative maritime security. Both the leaders agreed to further strengthen and diversify the scope of existing bilateral defence relationship particularly in maritime domain and naval technologies.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Minister for Defence Russian Federation Colonel General Alexander V. Fomin called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters.

Ahsan reaffirms govt's commitment to inclusive uplift for all Pakistani

Minister for Planning and Development emphasized the critical role of human-centric policies in Pakistan's long-term growth plans

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Prof. Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday reiterated the government's commitment to an inclusive development framework that integrates and empowers every citizen, regardless of physical or mental limitations. Addressing the National Consultation on the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, the minister highlighted Pakistan's ongoing initiatives for disability inclusion, asserting that equitable progress must be at the core of the country's development strategy, said a news release. The event was attended by a diverse audience of government officials, UN representatives and

social sector stakeholders. Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the critical role of human-centric policies in Pakistan's long-term growth plans. He said, "True development is centered on the empowerment of people, not merely the construction of infrastructure." Drawing attention to the government's Vision 2025 strategy, Prof. Iqbal stressed that Pakistan's development journey prioritizes advancing its people, including those with disabilities, as a central objective. "The foundation of Vision 2025 was laid to ensure that human development drives our progress," he remarked, underscoring the importance of equal opportunities for all. The minister outlined four essential pillars necessary for sustainable growth—peace, political stability, policy contin-

ty, and progressive reforms. For any development plan to be effective, these pillars must be in place," Prof. Iqbal said adding that Pakistan's Vision 2025, originally launched in 2013, aimed to integrate these principles. However, he acknowledged that political instability has at times hindered Pakistan's progress, forcing the nation to restart its journey multiple times. The Minister also highlighted several key government initiatives focused on improving accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities across Pakistan. He referenced an impactful government project to distribute electric wheelchairs to students with disabilities in higher education institutions, initiated during his previous term as Planning Minister.

"This program ensured that students with disabilities could independently access libraries, classrooms, and laboratories," he said. Under the project, universities were mandated to install ramps and other accessibility features, enhancing campus environments to support all students' learning needs. He said the resumption of the electric wheelchair distribution program during the recent term, which was previously interrupted, underscoring the government's dedication to providing a supportive infrastructure for students with disabilities. "Witnessing the joy and confidence among students who could finally navigate their campuses independently was deeply rewarding," he said. The minister also emphasized the government's recognition

of exceptional disabled achievers through national honors, spotlighting Khansa Maria, a visually impaired Pakistani student who earned the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford University and was also awarded a Civil Award for her academic and personal accomplishments. "Honoring individuals like Khansa Maria exemplifies the resilience of Pakistan's disabled youth and underscores our commitment to fostering an inclusive society where talent is recognized and celebrated," he noted. Expressing gratitude to the United Nations for its support in advancing disability inclusion, Prof. Iqbal said that the government's commitment aligns closely with the UN's Disability Inclusion Strategy.

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

OCTOBER

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

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

Enquiry

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



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Russian delegation visits PNCA, admires art works

Pakistan, Russia agree to strengthen cultural ties

During this visit, both sides engaged in meaningful discussions on shared interests and potential collaborations in arts and culture, further strengthening the cultural ties between Pakistan and Russia

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: A distinguished Russian delegation, led by H.E. Ms. Valentina Matvienko, Speaker of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation, visited the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on Tuesday. The delegation was warmly welcomed by Dr. Bilal Karim, Director PRR, along with PNCA officers, including Ms. Saba Zia, Designer VAD, who guided the delegation on a tour of the Council's galleries. The delegation had the opportunity to experience a diverse array of Pakistani art, particularly showcasing impressive artwork of Masters and modern masters. The Russian representatives expressed their admiration for the cre-



ativity and cultural depth embodied in these works. During this visit, both sides engaged in meaningful discussions on shared interests and potential collaborations in arts and culture, further strengthening the cultural ties between Pakistan and Russia. Dr. Bilal Karim, Director PRR and Ms. Saba Zia Designer VAD, expressed their gratitude for the visit and presented an overview of PNCA's key initiatives and achievements. To commemorate the occasion, PNCA presented the delegation with cultural books as a token of friendship and mutual respect. This visit marks an encouraging step toward cultural exchange and cooperation, and PNCA remains committed to fostering strong artistic connections on an international scale.

ICCI President for launching diplomatic offensive to boost exports

Nasir Qureshi emphasized the need to prioritize key sectors to boost Pakistan's economy, including, IT, IT Services, value added agricultural produce, mineral, chemicals as well as the export of skilled labour to put the economic wheel in motion and thereby strengthen country's economy

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Nasir Mansoor Qureshi has impressed upon country's diplomatic corps and trade officials to embark on an aggressive trade diplomacy, highlighting the nation's exports in an engaging and impressive manner to capture the attention of foreign investors and propel economic recovery.

In a statement issued here on Tuesday he said that Pakistan has set an ambitious

target of boosting exports to \$100 billion by 2030 under its Vision 2030 and to achieve this goal relies heavily on the active role of Pakistani Embassies and Consulates worldwide to act as spirited Sales Promoters. Nasir Qureshi emphasized the need to prioritize key sectors to boost Pakistan's economy, including, IT, IT Services, value added agricultural produce, mineral, chemicals as well as the export of skilled labour to put the economic wheel in motion and thereby strengthen country's economy, adding that these sectors have

immense potential to drive economic growth, increase exports and strengthen Pakistan's economy. He further said that by focusing on these areas, Pakistan can, diversify its export base, increase foreign exchange reserves, create employment opportunities and stimulate economic recovery with effective support from government and stakeholders. ICC President further said that market research is vital to identify demand and trends, quality control measures must be implemented to ensure consistency and reliability as well as trade agreements like

BHC launches Chevening Mentorship Scheme to support young climate leaders in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The British High Commission in Pakistan has announced the launch of a new Chevening Mentorship Scheme to connect alumni who are actively working in the climate sector, with young climate leaders across Pakistan. 23 early and mid-career climate professionals were selected out of 400 applicants in a competitive process. Over three months, 11 dedicated Chevening alumni who are experts in climate will mentor them through a structured plan of meetings, workshops, and one-on-one sessions. Participants will gain skills in leadership, climate advocacy, and professional development. Development Director at the British High Commission, Jo Moir, said, "Chevening is all about making a difference and giving back. Climate change is one of the most acute challenges that Pakistan faces. Young people, understand this and are finding the path towards a more climate resilient Pakistan. Our fantastic alumni will give these climate leaders of the future the ideas, knowledge and skills they need to do this." Senior Joint Secretary Ministry of Water Resources and climate mentor, Syed Mujtaba Hussain, said, "I am proud to be part of this incredible programme, and I look forward to sharing my experiences with emerging climate leaders. Mentorship is a powerful tool, and I am keen to help guide the next generation as they develop their own paths and solutions to combat climate change. This is an opportunity for me to give back what I learned as part of the Chevening cohort in 2002-2003 and to help shape a more sustainable future for Pakistan. Chevening Pakistan are also conducting climate debates with Chevening alumni, focusing on pressing issues that Pakistan is facing and offering practical solutions. They have ran a debate in Karachi focussed on green growth, and one in Lahore focussed on urbanisation. —DNA

Rubina condemns attack on anti-polio team in Upper Orakzai

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid Tuesday strongly condemned the attack on the anti-polio team in Upper Orakzai. In a statement, Rubina Khalid acknowledged that great effort and sacrifices had been made to eradicate polio in Pakistan. "Those who attack the anti-polio team are national criminals," she added. Rubina Khalid extended her heartfelt condolences to the family of the police officer martyred in the shooting and stressed that there should be no negligence in the immediate treatment of the injured officer. "Those involved in this unfortunate incident should be arrested and punished as soon as possible", she said. Rubina Khalid emphasized that the anti-polio team should be provided with complete government support and security arrangements to continue their work without any hindrance. "The entire nation values the services and sacrifices of the anti-polio team in making Pakistan free of this disease," she said—APP

Pak, Czech republic enjoy robust diplomatic ties

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said Pakistan has been enjoying long-standing diplomatic ties with the Czech Republic. Addressing the Czech Republic's National Day ceremony as a special guest, the federal minister extended heartfelt congratulations on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan to the Czech government and its citizens. In his address, Dr. Siddiqui conveyed a message of friendship and goodwill from the Prime Minister of Pakistan, emphasizing Pakistan's long-standing diplomatic ties with the Czech Republic, established in 1950. "Pakistan values its relationship with the Czech Republic both bilaterally and within the European Union framework and looks forward to strengthening ties in all sectors," he stated. Dr. Siddiqui highlighted key collaborations, mentioning Czech contributions to Pakistan's power infrastructure, including turbines at the Mangla Dam and the establishment of Independent Power Plants (IPPs) in Balloki (Orient Power) and Muridke (Sapphire Electric) by Czech companies. He also noted that both countries share common stances on various international and regional issues, and cooperate closely within the United Nations. He said Pakistan and the Czech Republic enjoy robust parliamentary cooperation, with Friendship Groups established in their respective parliaments. Mentioning the growing trade relations between both the countries, Dr. Siddiqui said that bilateral trade has been increasing steadily in recent years. "We are working towards enhancing bilateral trade and are delighted to have signed an economic cooperation agreement in 2023," he said. Dr. Siddiqui emphasized the Czech Republic's expertise in coal and mining, heavy machinery, and precision engineering, which offers significant opportunities for expanding trade and investment ties. He also acknowledged the Pakistani community residing in the Czech Republic and expressed gratitude for the Czech government's role in supporting Pakistani nationals and fostering people-to-people connections. Moreover, he mentioned the increasing number of Pakistani students choosing Czech universities for higher education which is a welcoming gesture.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Famous TV artist Leyla Zuberi telling story in a ceremony held at Model college for girls F11/3 organized by National book foundation. —APP

Dengue, chikungunya spread warned

ISLAMABAD: Infectious Diseases Specialist Dr. Saeed Khan on Tuesday raised concerns over the increasing spread of dengue and chikungunya viruses in different parts of the country. Talking to a private news channel, he emphasized that recently, a surge in cases has been seen, particularly in urban areas, where stagnant water and inadequate sanitation create ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes. He said that dengue and chikungunya are both transmitted by the Aedes mosquito, which thrives in warm and humid environments. Talking about the symptoms, he said that high fever, joint pain, and severe headaches make it important for affected individuals to seek timely medical attention. He urged the public to take preventive measures, such as using mosquito repellents, ensuring proper drainage systems, and eliminating standing water around homes. Dr. Saeed Khan emphasized that prevention is key, urging individuals to wear long sleeves and use repellents. Dr. Mushtaq Shah, Deputy Director of Health, Sindh, said that in response to the increasing spread of dengue and chikungunya in Sindh, the provincial government has initiated several measures to control the outbreaks.—APP

Ombudsman calls for adherence to fair practices of best standards

ISLAMABAD: Wafaqi Mohtasib Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi said that Pakistan was among the few countries in the world which had a unique distinction of establishing a dedicated insurance ombudsman institution which offered a sound oversight mechanism for judicious protection of the interests of various stakeholders. He was addressing an international webinar organized by the Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA) in cooperation with the Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat at Islamabad today. Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi is the current President of the Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA), which is a 47-member strong non-political, professional body of ombudsman institutions in the Asian region. Addressing the participants Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi said, "The commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights is a corner stone of the country's Constitution. Pakistan has ratified several human rights instruments on the subject and is committed to achieving the collective aspirations of the internationally recognized human rights regime." He referred to the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights as endorsed by the UN Human Rights Council and underlined the need to address the adverse human rights impact resulting from the business activities. "The institution of the Federal Insurance Ombudsman (FIO), therefore, has a significant role in promoting and protecting the best standards of business practices in the insurance industry," he added. Later, Mumtaz Ali Shah, Federal Insurance Ombudsman (FIO) made a presentation.—APP

IHC orders university to re-conduct MDCAT

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday instructed the Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University (SZABMU) to re-conduct the medical and dental colleges admission test (MDCAT) within one month. The court noted that the 30 questions of the test were out of syllabus as per the report of Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PM&DC). Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir announced the verdict on the petition filed by medical students. The petitioner students have adopted the stance that the university had added out of syllabus questions in the test. They also stated that the results were not updated on website of the university immediately.—APP

OCTOBER 2024

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Briefs

MoHR launches campaign to promote tolerance, respect for HR

ISLAMABAD: To promote tolerance and respect for human rights and inter-faith harmony to combat religious intolerance for a peaceful society, the Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) has launched an awareness campaign through different mediums, said DG Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) while talking to APP here Tuesday. The campaign aimed to disseminate information on human rights in educational institutions including schools, colleges, universities and public & private sector organizations. The DG said the purpose of the campaign is to create human rights awareness in targeted districts for improving democracy and leadership, facilitate access to justice and enable people to know their rights as humans. He further added that it would increase the people's understanding and knowledge about respect of human rights in Islam and fundamental human rights enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan and domestic national laws for human rights. It would sensitize the rural and urban communities for behavioral change towards certain human rights issues particularly gender based violence, he added.—APP

ANF seizes over 21 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting four operations managed to recover over 21 kg drugs worth Rs 2.5 million and arrested four accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that in an operation, 100 grams hashish and 5 grams weed were recovered from an accused arrested near a university in Rawalpindi. The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to students of educational institutions. In other operations, 1210 grams ice was recovered from a passenger going to Jeddah at Peshawar Airport. 1160 grams ice was recovered from a Do-ha-bound passenger netted at Islamabad Airport. 19.2 kg hashish was recovered from an accused arrested near National Highway in Hyderabad.—APP

Death anniversary of actor Ismail Shah

ISLAMABAD: The 32nd death anniversary of versatile actor Ismail Shah is being observed on Tuesday. Ismail Shah started his acting career in Balochi dramas from PTV Quetta Center in 1975. His first Urdu TV play was 'Regbaan'. In 1980, he performed a historical character in the PTV drama serial 'Shaheen' and became famous. He debuted in cinema with the film 'Baghi Qaidi' in 1989. During his acting career, he worked in a total 75 Urdu and Punjabi movies. He died on October 29, 1992, due to a sudden heart attack.—APP

Ahsan stresses social participation in dengue prevention

The goal of this awareness campaign is to educate citizens about health and encourage them to adopt effective measures to prevent dengue

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Member Central Core Committee UBG and former President ICCI, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, emphasized that tackling dengue requires efforts at the societal level and that public awareness is essential. He said that the government and the public must work together to combat this issue, and every citizen should contribute to the anti-dengue campaign by following cleanliness principles to help curb dengue spread. He expressed these views yesterday while speaking with representative delegations of traders and citi-

CPEC offers great opportunities for Afghanistan: Afghan envoy

Mawlawi Shakeeb also stated that Afghanistan's involvement in the Belt and Road Initiative would not only enhance investments in its infrastructure, but also bring the regional countries closer. "We believe that trilateral cooperation among Afghanistan, Pakistan, and China can usher in a new era of regional

DNA

ISLAMABAD: While emphasizing that Afghanistan will not allow its soil to be used by terrorist groups against Pakistan, Mawlawi Sardar Ahmad Shakeeb, the Chargé d'Affaires of Afghanistan said that CPEC created many opportunities for the region which could benefit Afghanistan as well. He was speaking at a seminar titled "Strengthening Economic Ties between Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Central Asia" organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). Mawlawi Shakeeb also stated that Afghanistan's involvement in the Belt and Road Initiative would not only enhance investments in its infrastructure, but also bring the regional countries closer. "We believe that trilateral cooperation among Afghanistan, Pakistan, and China can usher in a new era of regional collaboration." Terming Pakistan as one of the leading trade partners of Afghanistan, he expressed Afghan interim administration's commitment to enhancement of trade and investment between



the two countries. He acknowledged the recent challenges in trade and economic relations between the two countries but felt that Afghanistan was striving to revitalize the economic relations. Besides the security-related issues, Mawlawi Shakeeb highlighted the Western sanctions, frequent closures of crossing points, limited customs facilitation, sudden and unilateral increases in tariffs, and frequent checking of loaded vehicles as major obstacles to trade flows. He underlined the need for the two countries

to invest in trade infrastructure, streamline customs processes, strengthen trade facilities, develop transportation links, build mutual trust, and enhance diplomatic dialogues for achieving long-term trade benefits. While calling for greater collaboration on economic policies and expansion of transportation and transit projects between Pakistan and Afghanistan, Mawlawi Sahkeeb emphasized the desirability of sustained diplomatic engagement among the regional countries and joint efforts for peace and security to provide a sustainable

foundation for regional economic cooperation. He also underpinned the need to refrain from imposing economic restrictions and other policies that hinder regional economic cooperation. The Afghan Chargé d'Affaires highlighted the importance of Afghanistan as a bridge between South and Central Asia. He shared that the Afghan interim administration had already started work on the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline and added that Kazakhstan had expressed interest in joining the project. He also shared that Afghanistan was

working towards implementing projects such as the Trans-Afghan Railway, CASA-1000, and other regional initiatives. Speaking on the occasion, President IRS Ambassador Jauhar Saleem underscored the importance of peace and stability in Afghanistan for intra-regional trade and economic prosperity. He felt that any insecurity in Afghanistan and inability to prevent outflow of terrorism would not allow building of regional economic cooperation that could help bring prosperity to the peoples of the entire neighbourhood.

ADB issues first biodiversity, nature bond

"Investing in nature is emerging as one of the most impactful ways to combat climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has issued its first biodiversity and nature theme bond to finance a pool of eligible projects across Asia and the Pacific. The \$150 million (equivalent to US\$100 million), 10-year issue was purchased by the Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company, Limited of Japan and arranged by Credit Agricole CIB, according to ADB press release received here. The bond was issued under ADB's Theme Bonds for Sustainable Development program, in coordination with its Environment group, it added. "Investing in nature is emerging as one of the most impactful ways to combat climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Through ADB's first biodiversity and nature bond, we are pleased to mobilize addition-

al private sector capital to protect, restore and enhance sustainable management of biodiversity and nature mainstreaming," said ADB Treasurer Tobias Hoschka. ADB's theme bonds for sustainable development act as a key vehicle to mobilize private capital in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework while offering investors with a safe and attractive investment opportunity through ADB's AAA credit rating. "Dai-ichi Life is pleased to have invested in the first Biodiversity and Nature Bond issued by ADB. We are committed to creating a positive impact on society by investing in assets that contribute to solving social issues," said Dai-ichi Life Managing Executive Officer and Chief General Manager, Investment Kazuyuki Shigemoto. "We strongly

support ADB's Biodiversity and Nature Bond that will finance projects aimed at nature-based solutions, including biodiversity protection, nature mainstreaming, as well as supporting the livelihoods of the communities," Dai-ichi added. ADB has long been committed to protecting biodiversity and nature. It is a founding partner of the Coral Triangle Initiative established in 2009, safeguarding one of the world's most critical marine ecosystems. At the Glasgow Climate Community of Practice in 2021, ADB along with nine other multilateral development banks, issued the Joint Statement on Nature, People, and Planet. In 2023, ADB launched the Nature Solutions Finance Hub along with partners, as well as the Natural Capital Fund, in partnership with the Global Environment Facility. The new ADB's Biodiversity and

Nature Bond was announced at the 16th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Cali, Colombia. ADB will soon launch its Environment Action Plan 2024-2030: Towards a Nature Positive Asia and the Pacific that will create a road map for its activities to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. "Credit Agricole CIB is very pleased to assist ADB in its sustainable finance journey since its inception. We assisted ADB through Green Finance and other theme bonds over the last years, said Credit Agricole CIB Global Head of Sustainability Tanguy Clauquin. Clauquin said, launching the Biodiversity and Nature Bond is a great achievement to promote nature solution finance encompassing goals related to fighting against nature and biodiversity loss, promoting local economy growth.

New Service Center launched

ISLAMABAD: The Overseas Luban Workshop Agricultural Machinery Service Center, Pakistan was inaugurated at the International Conference Center in Changsha, Hunan. It aims at enhancing agricultural capabilities in Pakistan and fostering greater cooperation between China and Pakistan in agricultural mechanization, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday. The unveiling ceremony marked a collaboration between the China Agricultural Machinery Distribution Association (CAMDA), Tianjin Modern Vocational Technology College, Tianjin Tailai Import and Export Co., Ltd., Tianjin Agricultural Mechanization Technology Testing Service Center, and Wugu Media. On the occasion, according to CEN Asif Shah, Honorary Consultant of the Pakistan Luban Workshop and Executive Board Member of the Punjab Agricultural Research Board, hailed Luban Workshop's success in training over a thousand skilled agricultural machinery operators and maintenance technicians in Punjab, Pakistan. The project facilitated the sharing of Chinese technologies and equipment that accelerate agricultural mechanization, earning high accolades from education experts, students, engineers, and users in the agricultural machinery sector," he highlighted. As per CAMDA, the Luban Workshop is a project that aligns with the vision of Belt and Road Initiative, focusing on international integration of production and education. Hu Wei, President of the Media Branch of CAMDA, expressed hope that the Overseas Service Center would continue to advance the establishment of a social service system for Chinese agricultural machinery in overseas markets. The Luban Workshop Agricultural Machinery Training Program at Tianjin Modern Vocational Technology College has closely integrated with China's agricultural machinery industry, training numerous skilled overseas technicians familiar with agricultural machinery application technologies.—DNA

Pak, China writes new chapter in agricultural industry development

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, China are writing a new chapter in agricultural industry development," said Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan's Ambassador to China. "We hope both parties seize the opportunity to further expand cooperation in agriculture, food, and related fields, and work together to write a new chapter in agricultural industry development," said Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan's Ambassador to China. According to Gwadar Pro, he stated this on the oc-

casation of a promotional and matchmaking conference for Pakistan's agricultural enterprises took place in the Yangling Demonstration Zone. The event served as a pilot for the 31st Yangling Agricultural High-Tech Fair, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. Key officials from both Pakistan and the Yangling Agriculture Demonstration Zone, along with representatives from various enterprises, gathered to discuss development and explore collaborative opportunities. "China and Pakistan have a long-standing partnership in the agricultural sector.

The recent promotional event provided a robust platform for enterprises from both sides to engage, fostering deeper understanding and collaboration. Pakistan sent a high-profile government delegation to the Yangling Agricultural High-Tech Fair, which included the establishment of a national pavilion showcasing the country's agricultural achievements. This pavilion featured 11 participating companies, highlighting Pakistan's agricultural advancements, the outcomes of Sino-Pakistani agricultural cooperation.

Call for sexual violence to be recognized as war crimes

ISLAMABAD: Member of the National Assembly (MNA) Mahtab Akbar Rashidi, on Tuesday, urged the global community to recognize sexual and gender-based violence as war crimes and crimes against humanity. Speaking on the second day of the 45th Annual Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action at the 13th Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians on the International Criminal Court and the Rule of Law, titled "Pursuing Justice for International Sexual and Gender-Based Crimes," Rashidi expressed concern over the insufficient attention given to these issues, which she deemed critical violations of international norms. She emphasized the need for global multilateral forums such as the UN, UNSC, and PGA to foster consensus among nations on this urgent matter.—APP

Baig to participate in PGA Board Election

ISLAMABAD: Member of the National Assembly and former senior vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, will participate in the board election of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), scheduled here on Wednesday. Dr. Baig, renowned for his extensive contributions to business and legislative affairs, has also served on the finance, revenue, and commerce committees. Talking to APP, Mirza Ikhtiar Baig said that his election to the Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) board would help highlight Pakistan's perspective at this important international forum. "This platform represents a unique opportunity for Pakistani lawmakers to engage with global challenges, and I look forward to working with colleagues from across the aisle to promote meaningful action," he added. His involvement in the PGA election adds significant weight to the proceedings, given his experience and influence in policy-making. Ms. Mónica Adame, Secretary-General of PGA, will preside over the board meeting, which will focus on key agendas and the election process. Her leadership is anticipated to guide discussions covering PGA's global initiatives and efforts to mobilize parliamentarians worldwide for peace, democracy, and sustainable development.—APP

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Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 05 Issue: 278

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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China-India relations

FOLLOWING the recent resolutions reached between China and India on issues concerning the border area, Indian media outlets reported that both sides will complete disengagement at two points in so-called Eastern Ladakh from Monday to Tuesday. This has drawn significant attention from the international community, highlighting its important practical implications for bringing bilateral relations back to the track of stable development at an early date, and undoubtedly injecting new positive factors into maintaining regional and world stability. In June 2020, clashes broke out in the Galwan Valley, which was a culmination of long-standing issues and new conflicts between China and India, and closely linked to profound changes in the international and regional landscape, which complicated the border situation and severely damaged political trust, public opinion, and the popular support for both nations. Over the past four years, the two countries and their militaries have engaged in dozens of rounds of consultations to stabilize the border situation, continuously narrowing differences, expanding consensus, and consolidating the results of negotiations. They have gradually reached the current stage, which is both hard-earned and a natural progression. This reflects a shared understanding between China and India regarding the need for stability and development in bilateral relationship, showcasing both countries' commitment to resolving differences through peaceful consultation. It has set up a positive image of rationality, restraint and patience between the two neighboring major countries in resolving border issues through pragmatic negotiations and consultations in this turbulent world. This progress not only helps to break the long-standing stalemate in China-India bilateral relations, laying a foundation for the normalization of cooperation across various fields, but also effectively responds to the earnest hopes of the international community for stable development in China-India relations. There is reason to believe that both China and India will cherish the valuable solutions, which have gone through four years of twists and turns. The previously well-functioning Special Representatives mechanism on the China-India boundary question will continue to play its role and serve as an important channel for communication on strategic matters between the two nations. Several Indian media outlets have expressed positive expectations, hoping for cooperation between China and India in areas such as direct passenger flights, electronics manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, electric vehicles, investment, high-level diplomatic interactions, and on the international stage. They also noted that "India's national interest demands better China ties." Certainly, there are cautious voices in public opinion suggesting that the developments are just "a first step." This reminds us that while the deadlock has been broken and a return to normalcy is anticipated, bridging gaps and rebuilding trust will take time and patience. The turbulent and interwoven world not only exerts an important impact on China-India relations that goes beyond the bilateral scope, but also adds more external uncertainties to the stable development of China-India relations. It calls for greater wisdom for both sides in solving problems.



North Korean troops in Russia

THE United States says an estimated 10,000 North Korean soldiers have been deployed in Russia as the NATO chief calls the move "a significant escalation" in Russia's war against Ukraine. The Pentagon said on Monday that it is "increasingly concerned that Russia intends to use these soldiers in combat" in Kursk, a Russian region on the border with Ukraine that was invaded by Kyiv's forces in August. NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte said: "The deepening military cooperation between Russia and North Korea is a threat to both Indo-Pacific and Euro-Atlantic security." Ukraine, supported by Western arms shipments, has been battling Russian forces since Moscow launched a full-scale invasion of the Eastern European nation in February 2022. Russia has since captured parts of eastern and southern Ukraine and has made military gains in recent months. So what impact could the possible presence of North Korean troops in Russia have on the Ukraine war? The Pentagon and NATO are not the first to confirm the North Korean military presence in Russia. Days before, Ukrainian intelligence said it had recorded the presence of Pyongyang's soldiers in the Kursk region. Three weeks ago, South Korean Defence Minister Kim Yong-hyun said it was "highly likely" that six North Korean officers were killed in a Ukrainian strike on October 3 near Donetsk in eastern Ukraine. On October 18, South Korea's National Intelligence Service said Russian ships had transferred 1,500 North Korean soldiers to Russia during the second week of October. In a video address on October 13, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy also alleged North Korea had transferred troops to Russia. In the same video, he urged his allies in the West to lift restrictions that keep Ukraine from using their long-range missiles to strike deep inside Russian territory. Ukraine, South Korea and the US have not yet offered any evidence to back their statements about the North Korean deployments. However, experts earlier told Al Jazeera that the possibility cannot be ruled out because Russia and North Korea have cooperated militarily over the course of the nearly three years of the war. The allegations of North Korea deploying its soldiers, which the Kremlin has called fake news, have made it into the news headlines after Moscow and Pyongyang signed a mutual defence pact in June during Putin's first state visit to the isolated nation in 24 years. The text of this agreement was not released, but it includes a mutual assistance clause calling on the two countries to provide military assistance should one of them be attacked. This pact prompted concern from Washington's allies in East Asia – South Korea and Japan. Pyongyang and Seoul are still technically at war because the 1950-1953 Korean War ended with an armistice and not a peace treaty. More than 50,000 US soldiers are stationed in Japan, and nearly 25,000 are deployed in South Korea. It is believed Russia could use Ukraine's Kursk incursion to invoke the mutual assistance clause of the pact. Russia had earlier denied the presence of North Korean troops in its territory. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that "this seems like yet another fake news story."

Can the 26th Constitutional Amendment be Challenged?

Qamar Bashir



Constitutionally, these amendments contradict the very essence of the constitution. The spirit—or "DNA"—of the constitution is rooted in the trichotomy of power, which requires a clear separation between the branches of government, ensuring that no branch interferes in the internal matters of another and that no branch is subordinate to another. However, the 26th Amendment disrupts this balance by placing the judiciary under the administrative authority of the parliament and government, creating a dynamic akin to that of master and servant

THERE are numerous grounds for challenging the 26th Amendment, including constitutional, political, logical, and juristic objections. Politically, the issue is clear: the assemblies were formed based on Form 47 rather than Form 45. The Election Tribunals have not been constituted nor are they functioning; additionally, the Senate is incomplete, as the senators from the KP Assembly have yet to be elected. Furthermore, the Supreme Court's majority judgment restoring the PTI as a parliamentary party and allocating reserved seats has not been implemented. These and other unresolved issues have rendered this parliament highly controversial. Therefore, from a political and logical perspective, until these concerns regarding the parliament's authenticity and legitimacy are resolved, it does not – and should not – have the legal, moral, or ethical standing to introduce far-reaching constitutional amendments that fundamentally alter the structure, nature, and spirit of the constitution. There are several examples worldwide where amendments were prevented or delayed due to political controversies, legal challenges, or issues of parliamentary legitimacy. For example in Spain (1978–1980) after the transition from dictatorship to democracy, constitutional amendments faced resistance until electoral legitimacy and full parliamentary representation were achieved. Several amendments proposed to decentralize powers were delayed until regional representation in the Spanish parliament was settled and legitimacy established through fair elections. Spain required regional representation in decision-making to ensure inclusivity. In Italy (2016) proposed constitutional reform to reduce the powers of the Senate faced a referendum and was blocked due to political controversies and the high level of polarization surrounding the reform. The opposition argued that the parliament, due to a political crisis and divided government, lacked moral authority to make such changes without broad consensus. Ultimately, Italians voted against the reform, stalling the amendments. During Nepal's transition to a federal republic (2015), the constitutional amendment process was delayed due to unresolved political representation and territorial disputes among provinces. The government was pushed to halt amendments, as opposition parties questioned the legitimacy of the Constituent Assembly formed without full representation from all regional and ethnic groups. In Thailand in 2006 & 2014) the parliament was restrained from pushing through constitutional changes

due to controversies surrounding the electoral process and legitimacy of the parliament itself. After military takeovers, temporary constitutions were issued to suspend amendments until free elections and legitimate parliamentary functioning were restored, signaling that amendments by controversial or incomplete assemblies could not proceed. Constitutionally, these amendments contradict the very essence of the constitution. The spirit—or "DNA"—of the constitution is rooted in the trichotomy of power, which requires a clear separation between the branches of government, ensuring that no branch interferes in the internal matters of another and that no branch is subordinate to another. However, the 26th Amendment disrupts this balance by placing the judiciary under the administrative authority of the parliament and government, creating a dynamic akin to that of master and servant. Under this arrangement, judicial appointments, promotions, and transfers would be determined by the government or parliament, undermining judicial independence. Additionally, by reconstituting the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP), the amendment grants the parliament and government a controlling veto power over judicial members. This structure ensures that decisions made by the JCP require the consent of non-judicial members, meaning that even if all five judicial members agree on a decision, it will only hold weight if endorsed by non-judicial members. This scenario can be illustrated by imagining a government cabinet of 25 members, with 15 of those members coming from the judiciary. In such a situation, it would be the judiciary—rather than the government—controlling the executive. Similarly, the amendment enables the parliament and government to exert control over the judiciary, encroaching on its autonomy. There has been many examples where amendment made to give power to one pillar over the other were challenged and were annulled. In the United States (Marbury v. Madison, 1803) landmark case established the principle of judicial review, empowering the judiciary to challenge and nullify laws or amendments that infringe upon its independence. Although not a direct amendment case, it set a precedent by declaring that laws infringing on judicial authority are unconstitutional. In Turkey (2008), the Turkish government attempted to amend the constitution to limit judicial independence, granting parliament increased authority over judicial appointments. Turkey's Consti-

tutional Court ultimately annulled the amendment, ruling that it violated the principle of separation of powers. In India (NJAC Case, 2015) the Indian government attempted to pass the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act, which sought to restructure the judicial appointment process by granting the executive a say in judicial appointments. The Supreme Court of India struck down the NJAC, ruling that it infringed upon judicial independence and violated the basic structure of the constitution. In Poland (2019) the Polish government passed amendments giving parliament control over judicial appointments and disciplinary actions. The European Court of Justice (ECJ) found these amendments unconstitutional, asserting that they compromised judicial independence, a principle essential for EU member states. In Hungary (2013), Hungary's government sought to curtail judicial independence by amending the constitution to centralize power over the judiciary within the executive branch. The European Commission and Hungarian Constitutional Court intervened, reversing parts of the amendments due to their impact on judicial autonomy. However there were many other instances where constitutional amendments expanding one branch's authority over another were upheld. In South Africa and Germany, amendments granting limited executive oversight of the judiciary were maintained by the courts, justified by pressing national security or social needs. But these amendments were generally made by parliaments recognized as legitimate, functioning within established democratic and constitutional frameworks. Unlike Pakistan's situation, where unresolved issues around election tribunals, incomplete parliamentary representation, and the unadvised Supreme Court rulings have raised concerns about legitimacy, these other examples involved decisions from parliaments whose authenticity was not in question. The context and procedural integrity of a parliament play a crucial role in determining the acceptability of constitutional amendments, especially when they impact the balance of powers. The 26th Constitutional Amendment, passed by a parliament facing serious legitimacy issues, stands a reasonable chance of being challenged and potentially invalidated by the courts in Pakistan.

– Press Secretary to the President (Rtd)
Former Press Minister at Embassy of
Pakistan to France
Former MD, SRBC

It's raining bombs in a city by the sea

Belén Fernández

I first made the acquaintance of the city of Tyre – and the rest of Lebanon – one month after the carnage in 2006, when my friend Amelia and I undertook a hitchhiking tour of the country, both ruined and unruined parts. Heading south from Beirut, we were given a ride by a jovial middle-aged man named Samir, who put us up for several days in his home in Tyre and escorted us on vehicular excursions to battered villages along the Lebanese-Israeli border. Samir resided with his young son in an apartment building that had barely escaped battering

ON Monday, the Israeli military set about maniacally bombarding the southern Lebanese coastal city of Tyre, striking residential buildings left and right and converting the scene into a typical Israeli-induced horrorscape. Since the beginning of the genocide in neighbouring Palestine in October last year, Israel has killed more than 2,700 people in Lebanon, the majority of them over the past month and a half. An ancient Phoenician port sacked by Alexander the Great in 332 BC, Tyre is of course no stranger to destruction. The city bears three sets of Roman and Byzantine ruins – one of which incidentally played host to a more unique form of destruction in 2013 when the convoy belonging to then-United States ambassador to Lebanon Maura Connelly managed to damage the historical site while inexplicably driving over it. This particular episode prompted the Jadalyya headline: "Tires over Tyre: US Ambassador Ruins Ruins." Given its fierce partnership with the state of Israel, the US has certainly had an outsized hand in ruining Lebanon over the course of contemporary history. In 1982, for example, the US greenlit the Israeli invasion that killed tens of thousands of people in the country. And during Israel's 34-day war on Lebanon in 2006, which killed approximately 1,200 people, the US expedited bomb deliveries to the Israeli military while agitating to delay a ceasefire – an approach the Joe Biden administration has now basically supercharged to accommodate the genocide in Gaza. I first made the acquaintance of the city of Tyre – and the rest of Lebanon – one month after the carnage in 2006, when my friend Amelia and I undertook a hitchhiking tour of the country, both ruined and unruined parts. Heading south from Beirut, we were given a ride by a jovial middle-aged man named Samir, who put us up for several days in his home in Tyre and escorted us on vehicular excursions to battered villages along the Lebanese-Israeli border. Samir resided with his young son in an apartment building that had barely escaped battering. Just opposite the

complex was another residential building that Israeli handiwork had sliced in two, leaving a vertical stack of kitchens on display. In keeping with Lebanese traditions of excessive hospitality, Samir ensured that Amelia and I remained severely overfed for the duration of our stay, plying us with manousheh and other treats at a humble establishment along Tyre's seaside corniche. The palm tree-lined corniche is currently ravaged by Israeli air strikes, but in non-apocalyptic times it provides a picturesque backdrop for summer evening strolls, family picnics, argileh consumption, and other standard human behaviour in a city Israel would now like the world to believe is a den of terrorists. In World Cup times, it also provides a venue for local motorists to cruise endlessly back and forth with flags and horns, celebrating whichever team has triumphed. I next returned to Tyre in 2008 in the company of Hassan, a friend Amelia and I had made hitchhiking in 2006, whose father had come to Lebanon on foot from Palestine in 1948, when Israel violently set up shop on Palestinian land. A passportless refugee, Hassan had taken to compensating for the claustrophobic boundaries of his imposed land of refuge by driving up and down the country, sometimes several times in a day. I got to ride shotgun for the few months of my visit, and in the evenings we often found ourselves by the sea in Tyre, drinking Lebanese wine out of the bottle and gazing across the water at the sparkling lights of the UNIFIL base at Naqoura on the Israeli border – the only ultra-electrified spot in an otherwise spectacularly electricity-deficient country. On many nights, we would also speed through the villages south of Tyre, and Hassan would recount to me his days as a fighter with Amal, the predominantly Shia Lebanese political party and former militia that participated in the Hezbollah-led resistance to the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon. When I spoke recently to Hassan, he informed me that he was also "fighting" Israel in this latest war – but this time by delivering food and other necessities to dis-

placed civilians from south Lebanon. Amal has largely been excised from international view by a reductionist political and corporate media narrative that prefers to simply cast Hezbollah in the role of reigning Lebanese "terrorists". But in Tyre, martyr posters of militants from both parties line thoroughfares and are plastered to storefronts, a reminder that – as long as Israel keeps slaughtering, displacing and occupying – people are going to keep fighting back. During one of my numerous returns to Tyre over the years, in 2016, I rented a room in the labyrinthine Christian quarter of the city abutting the port, which I used as a base to conduct my own solo hitchhiking expedition through south Lebanon – a journey that brought me into contact with ever more martyr posters and ever more living stories of resistance, as I recorded in my travelogue *Martyrs Never Die*. I hitchhiked to Qana, the site of the legendary Lebanese wine conversion by Jesus Christ and of the 1996 Israeli massacre of 106 refugees sheltering at a United Nations compound. And I hitchhiked to Aita al-Shaab, the border village that served as the starting point for the 2006 war and that has now once again been pulverised. Back in the Christian quarter of Tyre, I frequented a diminutive portside restaurant belonging to the iconic Abu Robert, an octogenarian fisherman and survivor of all manner of Lebanese cataclysms. Abu Robert recommended daily dips in the Mediterranean for longevity and told me about the time in 1948 when he sailed to Palestine with his father for watermelons and returned with a cargo of fleeing Palestinians. My last visit to Tyre took place in June 2022, when I learned that Abu Robert had passed away earlier in the year and spent the day in his honour on the city's white sand beach. The temperament and colour of the sea in Tyre is in constant flux, but on that day it was placid, crystalline, aquamarine. As Israel now does its best to bomb the life out of Tyre, it is important to remember that it takes a lot more than bombs to kill a place.

– Belén Fernández is the author of several books

Briefs

Pakistan
condemns
Israeli...

FROM PAGE 01
Preventing UNRWA from carrying out its vital tasks is a manifestation of Israel's systematic campaign to deny the much needed humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people. The international community, in particular the United Nations Security Council, should hold Israel accountable for its actions and ensure the unimpeded operations of UNRWA, in accordance with the UN General Assembly Resolution 302 (IV) of 1949. The international community also needs to step in to end Israel's genocidal campaign against the Palestinians in Gaza. Pakistan reiterates its call for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza, and for the provision of unhindered humanitarian assistance to alleviate the suffering of the people of Gaza. Sustainable peace in the region cannot be possible without the Palestinian people exercising their inalienable right to self-determination; and the creation of a viable, secure, contiguous and sovereign State of Palestine on the basis of the pre-1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

Pakistan,
KSA vow...

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Initiative in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (Tuesday), he said Pakistan is ready to join countries, which are heralding a future of innovation. The Prime Minister said Pakistan's healthcare and education sectors offers immense potential for international collaborations. He said future of human advancement lies in collaboration and working together and no single country can harness the potential of tomorrow without support of others. Shehbaz Sharif urged the global investors to bring their expertise and experience to Pakistan as it builds a future rooted in resilience and shared prosperity. The Prime Minister said Pakistan is on a transformative journey of resilience and relentless pursuit of stability and growth. He urged Pakistan's friends and partners across the world to share a future defined by innovation and progress by working together. He said Pakistan looks forward to forging useful partnerships as it lays the foundation for a knowledge-based economy driven by innovation in three areas: Artificial Intelligence, education, and health.

Pakistan,
Russia
resolve...

FROM PAGE 01
new avenues to fortify existing ties through joint military exercises and technical support for PAF equipment. Air Chief emphasised on strengthening military ties with Russia, focusing on collaborative training programs, joint military drills and industrial collaboration. Colonel General Aleksandr V. Fomin commended the recent impressive advancements in Pakistan Air Force under the current leadership. The Russian Deputy Defence Minister reiterated his resolve to play his role in further consolidating the existing collaborative defence partnership with Pakistan through military to military cooperation and technical support for PAF equipment.

Russian
embassy...

FROM PAGE 01
by commander Gul Bahadur said it captured a Russian national in Dera Ismail Khan, a district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The group released a photo showing a man sitting with two bearded men. Local police said they have not been approached by the Russian Embassy about the reported abduction. Insurgents often attack Pakistani security forces and foreigners, especially Chinese working on Chinese-funded projects across the country, but Russians have not previously been targeted. Most Russians who travel to Pakistan are climbers who scale mountains in scenic north.

Ballon d'Or: Spain's
Rodri wins first award

Despite the French organisers insisting that the identity of the winner was a closely guarded secret this year, the news appeared to have leaked ahead of the festivities

SPORTS DESK

PARIS: Manchester City and Spain midfielder Rodri was awarded the men's Ballon d'Or on Monday after winning a fourth consecutive Premier League title and Euro 2024, but Real Madrid boycotted the ceremony. The decision to award the prize for the world's best player to the midfielder came as a surprise, with Real Madrid's Liga and Champions League double winner Vinicius Junior widely seen as the favourite. Hours before the ceremony in Paris, the Spanish club announced its delegation would not attend the ceremony at Chatelet Theatre because of what it perceived as a snub of Vinicius. Rodri, 28, played a key role as City held off Arsenal to win the Premier League title last season and was named player of the tournament at Euro 2024 as unfancied Spain emerged triumphant in Germany. Rodri was diplomatic when addressing the question of Real's no-show in his post-award press conference. "They have their decision, they didn't want to be here for their reasons," he said. "I just focus on my club and my teammates." Despite the French organisers insisting that the identity of the winner was a closely guarded secret this year, the news appeared to have leaked ahead of the festivities. Barcelona and Spain star Aitana Bonmati earlier won her second successive women's Ballon d'Or, after leading her club to a historic continental quadruple of titles and claiming the Nations League with her country. The drama started hours before the ceremony as Spanish and European champions



Real said if Vinicius was not the winner, then the award should go to his teammate Dani Carvajal. Like the Brazilian, Carvajal scored in the 2-0 victory against Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League final at Wembley. Vinicius scored 24 goals and made 11 assists in 39 matches across all competitions for Madrid as he led the club to three titles last season. "If the award criteria doesn't give it to Vinicius as the winner, then those same criteria should

point to Carvajal as the winner," Real Madrid told AFP. "As this was not the case, it is clear that Ballon d'Or-UEFA does not respect Real Madrid. And Real Madrid does not go where it is not respected." The Madrid contingent of nominees also included Kylian Mbappe, Antonio Rudiger, Fede Valverde and Jude Bellingham. The winner of the Ballon d'Or is chosen from the shortlist by an international jury of 100 specialist journalists. The organisers, the Amaury

group which owns the L'Equipe sports daily and France Football magazine, denied to AFP that the name of the successor to last year's men's winner Lionel Messi had leaked and insisted that "no player or club" knew in advance who had won. When Real were named as the men's team of the year, a video played on the stage in the absence of any club representatives. City manager Pep Guardiola has described Rodri as "in his position, the best". "He can do everything. The quality, he reads the game, his mentality, he is always ready," Guardiola has said. In addition to his metronomic passing and ball-winning capabilities, the former Atletico Madrid player has a knack for popping up with crucial goals for club and country. His goal won City their first Champions League in 2023 but he also scored vital goals for Spain, such as the equaliser in their last-16 Euro 2024 tie against Georgia. So central is Rodri to Manchester City that their past four Premier League defeats have all come when he was absent. City are top of the Premier League but their chances of winning a fifth straight domestic title were dented in September when Rodri suffered an anterior cruciate ligament injury, ruling him out for the season. Bonmati, 26, joins her Barcelona team-mate Alexia Puteillas as the only woman to win the Ballon d'Or twice since the award's inauguration in 2018. "This cannot be achieved alone, I am very lucky to be surrounded by players who make me better every day," Bonmati said. The Catalans won every trophy available to them last season - the Spanish league, Cup, Super Cup and a second-successive Women's Champions League.

Dar reaffirms Pak...

FROM PAGE 01

"China 75: A Journey of Development, Transformation, and Global Leadership" on Tuesday. He referred to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a "magnificent gift" from China to Pakistan. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further develop the initiative to enhance cooperation in agriculture, industrial growth, renewable energy, and other sectors. Dar noted that CPEC has bolstered Pakistan's energy infrastructure, aiding the country in addressing load-shedding issues. He revealed that the government is taking steps to implement China's offer to send 1,000 Pakistani students to China for agricultural technology training. Emphasising Pakistan's stance on international issues, Dar stated that the country values China's cooperation in resolving the Kashmir and Palestine issues and reiterated unwavering support for the One China policy. He expressed hope that, through the hard work of Chinese leadership and its people, China would soon become the world's largest economy. On the ongoing violence in Gaza, Dar highlighted that Pakistan is among the few countries openly supporting the Palestinian people, calling for an end to the massacre and adherence to United Nations resolutions and International Court of Justice rulings. He stated that so far, 48,000 innocent Palestinians, predominantly women and children, have lost their lives, with an additional 80,000 injured. Expressing concern over attacks on Lebanon and Iran, Dar noted that Pakistan has sent ten major aid shipments to Gaza and initiated steps to facilitate the education of Palestinian students in Pakistani public and private medical colleges. In a letter written by the PM to the US president, Shehbaz Sharif stated that DrAafia Siddiqui had been sentenced to 86 years in prison by a US District Court. He urged Biden to use his constitutional authority to grant a pardon and order her release on humanitarian grounds. PM Shehbaz highlighted that DrAafia Siddiqui's family, along with millions of Pakistanis, were awaiting the act of kindness. DrAafia has been incarcerated in FMC Carswell since September 2010, serving 16 years in a US jail. The PM noted that over the years, Pakistani officials had held consular meetings with DrAafia Siddiqui, during which serious concerns about her medical treatment were raised. There are significant worries regarding her deteriorating mental and physical health, and concerns have been expressed that she may take her own life. Her case should be viewed with compassion, the letter mentioned. The prime minister wrote that it was his "solemn duty" to ensure the wellbeing of his citizens, appealing to Biden to fulfil the same role as a head of state. "I am well aware of how passionately you have fought for the rights of your citizens, particularly those stranded or held captive abroad," the PM wrote.

Wade retires from
international cricket

SYDNEY: Australia's wicketkeeper batter Matthew Wade on Tuesday, retired from international cricket, bringing the curtains down on an illustrious career, that spanned around 13 years. Wade, who made his T20I debut in October 2021 against South Africa, went on to represent Australia in 36 Tests, 97 ODIs, and 92 T20Is. He was also a part of the Australia squad that won the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 and played a pivotal role in leading his side to their maiden T20 World Cup title, with his match-winning 41-run knock against Pakistan in the semi-final. "I'm officially retiring," Cricket Australia (CA) quoted Matthew Wade saying. "It's been an ongoing discussion for pretty much every tour or every World Cup that I've been on in the last three or four years." Matthew Wade went on to reveal had he scored some runs in this year's T20 World Cup and helped Australia advance further, things would be different and he would have kept on with his professional career. - Agencies



MELBOURNE: Members of the Pakistan ODI squad for the Australia series arrive in Melbourne. - DNA

PCB appoints
Asad Shafiq
for team
selection in
Australia

Shafiq will work closely with the captain, head coach, and other selectors

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to send national team selector Asad Shafiq to Australia for selection purposes. According to sources, PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has approved the proposal to have a selector present with the team during overseas tours. Asad Shafiq will initially be sent to Australia to assess the pitches and conditions and assist in the selection of the playing XI. Shafiq will also brief his fellow selectors on the Australian conditions and will consult with the captain and head coach before sharing his recommendations with the selection committee. The final 11-member squad will then be selected by the selection committee. - DNA

Real Madrid rallies
behind Vinicius Jr.

Kroos referred the former teammate as 'the best'

WEB DESK

PARIS: The Spanish club Real Madrid players expressed support with their fellow player Vinicius Jr. for not winning the 2024 Ballon d'Or award that was won by Manchester city's Rodrigo Hernandez Cascante on Monday. In regard to this, the Brazilian star reacted on his X handle, posting: "I will do it 10 times again if I have to. They are not ready." Expressing support with their fellow player, former German player Toni Kroos, and French striker Karim Benzema posted pictures with Vinicius on their Instagram handle. Kroos referred the former teammate as "the best." Another player, Eduardo Camavinga, voiced his frustration against the "football politics." However, the Argentine superstar Lionel Messi congratulated the Ballon d'Or winner Rodri and all the nominees of Ballon d'Or. Despite not winning the award, extended greetings on his Instagram and nominees of the winners a great, another world) Lautaro, Leo, and Ale. It's noted here that Messi and Real Argentina's forward broke down while accepting the award. "Incredible Rodri. I just you again to recognise my value," he added. "When I was a kid of winning the Ballon d'Or, but in been playing the highest level." the UEFA Champions League the youngest player to score in nals, La Liga and Spanish Cup.

Terrorists
martyr two
cops in KP

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However, the injured cop Muzammil also succumbed to his wounds during treatment. In a swift response to the attack, the Frontier Corps cordoned off the area and launched a search operation. Deputy Superintendent of Police Muhammad Raheem later confirmed that three terrorists were killed in retaliatory firing by the FC personnel, while one of the militants was caught injured. President Asif Ali Zardari in a statement condemned the armed assault on the polio vaccination team, expressing sorrow over the martyrdom of police officials. "The cops bravely fought the attackers and killed three terrorists, for which they deserve salutes," he said in the statement. Praying for the early recovery of the wounded cops, the president vowed to continue all-out efforts to eliminate poliovirus across the country. Reacting to the incident, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi condemned the attack on police and paid tribute to the martyred personnel. "Attack on the anti-polio team is an attack on the safe future of Pakistan," he said. It may be noted that the government has launched separate polio vaccination drives across the country following the recent spike in cases of paralyzing disease. Pakistan reported the 41st case of the year when a 42-month-old girl was crippled by the wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) in Balochistan, the epicentre of the outbreak. The southwestern province is emerging as an area of intense polio transmission this year as 21 of the 41 cases in the country. The breakdown of the remaining cases is Sindh (12), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (six), and one each in Punjab and Islamabad.

President
greet
Turkish...

FROM PAGE 01

more milestones under the leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Meanwhile, Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister attended Türkiye's Republic Day reception in Islamabad as the Chief Guest, celebrating the 101st anniversary of the Turkish Republic. Extending heartfelt congratulations to Türkiye's leadership and people, he expressed solidarity following the recent terrorist attack in Ankara, reaffirming Pakistan's support for Türkiye against terrorism. Highlighting the deep-rooted friendship between Pakistan and Türkiye, he reflected on Türkiye's progress since 1923 under Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, and noted Türkiye's unwavering support for Pakistan in times of crisis. Addressing global challenges, he condemned Israel's actions in Palestinian territories and emphasized Pakistan and Türkiye's shared commitment to supporting Palestinian self-determination. Quoting Atatürk's words, "Peace at home, peace in the world," the Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister underscored the importance of unity, wishing prosperity for Türkiye and affirming the enduring Pak-Turk friendship: "Pak-Turk Dosti Zindabad! Pakistan Paindabad!"

5 killed
in firing
incident...

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the total 722 fatalities in the first three quarters of the ongoing year, as per a report issued by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS). Earlier this month, 20 colliers were killed in a rocket attack on coalmines in Balochistan's Duki district prompting more than 40,000 labourers to return to their native areas. Providing details on the latest incident, the district administration said that the bodies of the victims have been shifted to the Panjgur Teaching Hospital, while further investigation was underway. Condemning the incident, President Asif Ali Zardari expressed regret over the loss of precious lives in the terrorist attack. The president said terrorists were enemies of the country's development and prosperity of the province.

Naqvi urges white-ball leaders to embrace 'teamwork'

'The nation expects a remarkable performance from the team,' says Naqvi

SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi held a meeting with the newly appointed leadership duo of the white-ball format, Mohammad Rizwan and Salman Ali Agha on Tuesday. Naqvi initiated the meeting, conveying his best wishes to the captain and vice captain as they are gearing up for the forthcoming series against Australia and Zimbabwe. "Leading the white-ball team is an honour," said Naqvi. "The nation expects a remarkable performance from the team during the Australia and Zimbabwe series. Our players are talented and professional, and I am confident they will showcase their best talent," he added. It is worth noting here that following Pakistan's series win against England at home in the Test series, people and the board have high expectations from the team. Emphasising on teamwork, the 45-year-old stated: "Playing as a united team and

fighting till the last ball are keys to success. If the team performs as one unit, no one can defeat you." In regards to this, the newly appointed captain Rizwan and vice-cap



tain Agha expressed gratitude to the chairman for trusting them. "We are determined to perform well during the tours of Australia and Zimbabwe," said Rizwan. "We will make every effort to meet the nation's expectations," he added. PCB's Chief Operating Officer, Salman Naseer, was also in attendance at the meeting. It is worth noting here that seven players from Pakistan squad have reached Australia on Tuesday to face the Baggies for the white-ball series. From the Pakistan team, Shaheen Afridi, Naseem Shah, Babar Azam, Harris Rauf, and three other squad members arrived in Melbourne. However, other members of the Pakistan squad, including captain Mohammad Rizwan, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Amir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Arafat Minhas, Haseebullah, and Kamran Ghulam, will depart from Karachi for Australia tonight, along with the team management. The men in green are set to play three ODIs and three T20Is against Australia, with the first ODI to kick off on November 4.

Briefs

Gold price ups by Rs.1,600 to Rs.285,000 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs.1,600 and was sold at Rs.285,000 on Tuesday compared to its sale at Rs. 283,400 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.1,372 to Rs.244,342 from Rs. 242,970 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs. 223,980 from Rs. 222,722, 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 increased by \$16 to \$2,755 from \$2,739, the Association reported.—APP

Rupee sheds 06 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Tuesday depreciated by 06 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.74 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.68. 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 increased by 27 paise to close at Rs 300.23 against the last day's closing of Rs 299.96, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs1.81, whereas an increase of 34 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs360.39 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 360.05. The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 01 paise and 02 paise to close at Rs 75.61 and Rs 73.95 respectively.—APP

PSX stays bullish, gains 668 more points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 668.57 points, a positive change of 0.74 percent, closing at 90,864.09 points as compared to 90,195.52 points on last trading day. A total of 602,810,650 shares were traded during the day as compared to 567,264,435 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 28,203 billion against Rs.29,210 billion on the last trading day. As many as 440 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 171 of them recorded gains and 219 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 50 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 41,401,611 shares at Rs 1.27 per share, Silk Bank Limited with 31,281,039 shares at Rs 1.08 per share and Pace (Pak) Limited with 30,208,661 shares at Rs5.73 per share. Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.162.00 per share price, closing at Rs 19,180.00, whereas the runner-up was Siemens (Pakistan) Engineering with Rs 122.62 rise in its per share price to Rs 1,348.81. Hallmark Company Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 27.38 per share closing at Rs 816.66 followed by Sazgar Engineering Works Limited with Rs 22.00 decline to close at Rs 992.56.—APP

State visit of the French President to Morocco France, Morocco forge deeper ties on renewable investments

The President of the French Republic also commended the constructive role of the King Mohammed VI, Chairman of the Al-Quds Committee, for peace in the Middle East

The King of Morocco Mohammed VI, held on Tuesday, at the Royal Palace in Rabat, talks with the President of the French Republic, H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Macron, who is paying a State Visit to Morocco, from October 28 to 30, at the invitation of the Sovereign. Talks between the two Heads of State focused on the transition to a new era of strong relations between Morocco and France, within the framework of a renewed exceptional Partnership and a strategic roadmap for the years to come. In this regard, the two Heads of State intend, through this renewed partnership, to give a decisive boost to the excellent multidimensional relations between Morocco and France, to take into account the ambitions of the two countries and to jointly face the international developments and challenges. Discussions also focused on regional and international issues. Thus, the two Heads of State agreed to

work together to strengthen the Euro-Mediterranean, African and Atlantic projection, in a process of joint action to promote prosperity and human and sustainable development. They stressed the importance of renewing, in depth, the partnership between the two shores of the Mediterranean, in order to build a more stable, sustainable and prosperous future for the whole region, while meeting today's socio-economic and environmental challenges. The President of the French Republic also commended the constructive role of the King Mohammed VI, Chairman of the Al-Quds Committee, for peace in the Middle East. The two Heads of State called for an immediate halt to the attacks in Gaza and Lebanon, while stressing the priority of protecting civilians, and the importance of guaranteeing and facilitating the delivery of sufficient humanitarian aid, all while ending the



regional conflagration. The Sovereign and the French President recalled the urgent need to reactivate the peace process, within the framework of a two-State solution, with an independent Palestinian State on the June 4, 1967 border, with East Jerusalem as its Cap-

ital. The President of the French Republic extended an official invitation to King Mohammed VI, to pay a State visit to France, which the Sovereign accepted. The date of this visit shall be agreed through diplomatic channels". Also, during this State visit, the

King Mohammed VI and the President Macron, presided over, on the evening of Monday, October 28, 2024, the signing ceremony of several agreements between two countries. Regarding the issue of the Sahara, the Declaration on the "Enhanced Exception-

al Partnership" between the Kingdom of Morocco and the French Republic, underlines that "The two Heads of State stressed that the "Enhanced Exceptional Partnership" between Morocco and France was intended to be implemented in the broadest possible territorial scope, in light of the French position expressed on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of King of Morocco accession to the Throne, in which the President of the Republic stressed: "I consider that the present and future of Western Sahara are part of Moroccan sovereignty. For France, autonomy under Moroccan sovereignty is the framework within which this issue must be resolved. Our support for the autonomy plan proposed by Morocco in 2007 is clear and constant. For France, this now constitutes the only basis for achieving a just, lasting and negotiated political solution in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.—Agencies

Iran moves to triple military budget amid Israel tensions

TEHRAN: Iran's government has proposed to triple its military budget, its spokeswoman said Tuesday, as tensions with arch-rival Israel rise following recent tit-for-tat missile strikes. Government spokeswoman Fatemeh MoHajjjerani outlined the move that would see "a significant increase of more than 200 percent in the country's military budget" at a news conference in Tehran. She did not elaborate and Tehran has not disclosed any figures, but according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute think tank, Iran's military spending in 2023 was about \$10.3 billion. The proposed budget will be debated, with lawmakers expected to finalize it in March. Iran and Israel on Monday accused each other of endangering Middle East peace in a heated exchange at a UN meeting. It came days after Israel carried out strikes on Iran in response to an October 1 missile barrage that the Islamic republic launched against Israel. The Iranian army reported four soldiers killed and damage to "radar systems." Iran's October 1 strike, involving 200 missiles, was in retaliation for attacks that killed the leaders of the Iran-backed groups Hamas and Hezbollah, as well as one of its own commanders. "All efforts have been made to meet the country's defense needs and special attention has been paid to this issue," the government spokeswoman MoHajjjerani said. The regional tensions flared after Israel launched a military offensive in the Gaza Strip to eliminate the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas in response to the unprecedented October 7, 2023 attacks on Israel.—APP

UN expert says Israel seeks eradication of Palestinians

GENEVA: UN rights expert Francesca Albanese reiterated Tuesday that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza, charging that the country is seeking the "eradication of Palestinians" from their land. "Today, the genocide of the Palestinians appears to be the means to an end: the complete removal or eradication of Palestinians from the land so integral to their identity, and which is illegally and openly coveted by Israel," the independent expert concluded in a fresh report. Albanese, the UN's special rapporteur on the rights situation in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, has long faced harsh criticism, allegations of anti-Semitism and demands for her removal, from Israel and some of its allies, over her relentless criticism and longstanding stance. She was appointed by the UN Human Rights Council but does not speak on behalf of the United Nations. She charged that the offensive Israel unleashed after the Hamas attacks of October 7, 2023 was "part of a long-term international, systematic state-organised forced displacement and replacement of the Palestinians". After October 7 attack last year Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed at least 43,020 Palestinians in Gaza, a majority of them civilians, according to figures provided by Gaza's health ministry which the United Nations considers reliable. "The Gaza genocide is a tragedy foretold, and one that risks expanding to other Palestinians under Israeli rule," Albanese wrote in the report, which was dated October 1 but only made public Tuesday. "Since its establishment, Israel has treated the occupied people as a hated encumbrance and threat to be eradicated, subjecting millions of Palestinians, for generations, to everyday indignities, mass killing, mass incarceration, forced displacement, racial segregation and apartheid," the report conclusion read. It said the war was a "furtherance of the political ambitions of Israel for sovereignty over the whole of former Mandatory Palestine".—APP

BD requests Saudi support in skills uplift

"For our development, Saudi Arabia is a very important country

DHAKA: The chief adviser of Bangladesh's caretaker government, Dr. Muhammad Yunus, has requested Saudi support in training Bangladeshi talent and helping develop their skills. Yunus, economics professor and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, took charge of Bangladesh in August, when ex-Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina quit and fled the country amid violent protests. His interim administration has since been implementing a series of reforms, after which it is expected to announce new general elections. Yunus held a meeting with Saudi Ambassador Essa Al-Duhailan at his office in Dhaka on Monday to discuss policy and facilitating investment opportunities from the Kingdom. "For our development, Saudi Arabia is a very important country. We share many things common in various international forums, including OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation)," Mohammed Abul Kalam Azad Majumder, the chief adviser's deputy press secretary, told Arab News. "The discussion with the Saudi Ambassador Essa Yousef Al-Duhailan focused mainly on trade and investment. Prof. Yunus requested more investment from Saudi Arabia and also increased support in the energy sector." There are some 3 million Bangladeshis in Saudi Arabia, accounting for over half of Bangladeshi migrant workers. They constitute the largest expat group in the Kingdom and the biggest Bangladeshi community outside Bangladesh. "Prof. Yunus requested the ambassador to cooperate for building trained human resources in Bangladesh, which will eventually be beneficial for both brotherly countries. In this way, our migrants will receive a better salary in the Kingdom and will be able to send more remittance to the country," Majumder said. Helping advance the professional competence of Bangladeshi workers would allow more of them to enter the Saudi labor market, where opportunities are vast with many megaprojects under the Kingdom's Vision 2030 transformation strategy. "It will also foster entrepreneurship among Bangladeshi youths. The ambassador said his country is ready to provide necessary support in this regard," Majumder said. More than a fourth of Bangladesh's 170 million population are between the ages of 15 and 29. The unemployment rate is the highest in this group, contributing 83 percent of the total unemployed people in the country.—DNA

Firework explosion at temple left over 150 injured

KERALA: Indian police detained two people on Tuesday after a temple fireworks show erupted into a ferocious explosion, leaving almost a hundred people in hospital, eight in a critical condition. Hundreds were crowded around a Hindu temple at Nilesheeram in the southern state of Kerala on Monday evening to watch the fireworks, videos posted by Indian newspapers showed. Then, from inside a building, a surge of crackles can be heard, before a powerful ball of flame surges high into the sky. "Around eight people are critical, and around 154 have been reported injured, out of which 97 people are admitted in hospital," local police chief Shilpa Dyavaiah told AFP. "They burst firecrackers very close to the place where they have stored the firecrackers," Dyavaiah said, adding that sparks from the burst crackers reached the cache. Indian media reports, citing officials, said the blaze caused burns to the faces and hands of those in the tightly packed crowd. Local government official K. Inbasekhar said no permission had been given for the fireworks show. The temple president and secretary had been taken into custody. The Hindu newspaper reported. Religious gatherings in India have a grim track record of deadly incidents caused by safety lapses and poor crowd management. In 2016, at least 112 people were killed after a huge explosion caused by a banned fireworks display at a temple marking the Hindu new year. India is readying for its major fireworks season, a traditional celebration for the Hindu festival of lights, Diwali, later this week. The spectacular and colourful festival celebrates the Hindu goddess Lakshmi and symbolises the victory of light over darkness.—APP

France hold int'l moot in support of Lebanon's people and sovereignty

Finally, the conference provided the opportunity to call on Lebanon's authorities and political groups to elect a president as soon as possible, an essential stage in getting the Lebanese institutions up and running again

PARIS: The International Conference in Support of Lebanon's People and Sovereignty was held in Paris, on President Macron's initiative, in conjunction with the United Nations. Seventy States and international organizations committed to Lebanon took part in it, alongside representatives of NGOs, local government and the private sector. The conference signalled the strong mobilization by the international community, united around President Emmanuel Macron and Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Noël Barrot, in support of a massive emergency humanitarian response to the crisis Lebanon is currently going through. Faced with the consequences of the war, the participants responded to the United Nations' appeal and announced \$1 billion in aid, including \$800 million in humanitarian aid and \$200 million to support Lebanon's security forces. France has pledged to raise 100 million and deploy 100 tonnes of humanitarian freight. This aid will help address the urgent needs of the Lebanese people, especially displaced people, in the health, food, water, hygiene and sanitation, and education sectors. The conference enabled the Lebanese security forces, guarantors of the country's unity, stability and sovereignty, to be lent additional support. This support, financial and in kind, should allow them to preserve civil peace and prepare a massive deployment of the Lebanese army in southern Lebanon, as part of a diplomatic settlement. The conference underlined the urgent need for a ceasefire between Hezbollah and Israel and for a diplomatic settlement based on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701 making it possible to ensure the safety of the populations and the safe return of displaced people to their homes, in both Lebanon and Israel. Finally, the conference provided the opportunity to call on Lebanon's authorities and political groups to elect a president as soon as possible, an essential stage in getting the Lebanese institutions up and running again.—DNA

Iraqis returning from Syria face torture: Amnesty

The torture and other ill-treatment suffered by those arrested... is horrifying. It must be stopped and investigated immediately," said Amnesty secretary general Agnes Callamard

BAGHDAD: Amnesty International on Tuesday alleged cases of "torture and ill-treatment" among Iraqis who returned home from Syria to a rehabilitation center for people suspected of Daesh group ties. The London-based human rights group said it documented cases involving seven men and one woman, detained over the past two years at the Al-Jadaa camp in northern Iraq. "Seven of them faced torture and ill-treatment," Amnesty said, describing beatings, electric shocks and suffocation by plastic bags. Family members observed signs of torture, including broken fingers and dislocated shoulders, the group said in a statement. "The torture and other ill-treatment suffered by those arrested... is horrifying. It must be stopped and investigated immediately," said Amnesty secretary general Agnes Callamard. Iraq and the United Nations had

agreed to repatriate tens of thousands of Iraqis from Syria's Al-Hol

camp, but Callamard called it "unconscionable" that those returning

from war and detention face further horrors." Amnesty said it spoke



with detainees, their families and 16 UN staff members during interviews conducted between July and September. Of the eight cases, seven detainees described torture by Iraqi security forces. Six are now serving lengthy sentences based on forced confessions, it said. One detainee, identified by the pseudonym Saleem, described his experience. "They beat me, and... handcuffed my hands behind my back. They hit the soles of my feet with a green water pipe... I was just saying 'no', again and again," he was quoted as saying by Amnesty. "During the torture, they said they wanted me to confess to things I didn't do. I didn't confess, and so I didn't walk for four days." Amnesty urged Iraqi authorities to "immediately end the use of torture and other ill-treatment and the enforced disappearance of those arrested" at Al-Jadaa.—Agencies

Briefs

Naim Qassem elected as new Hezbollah chief

BEIRUT: Hezbollah's Deputy Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem has been elected as the new chief of the Lebanese resistance movement after his predecessor Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was martyred in an Israeli strike on southern Beirut last month. On Tuesday, Hezbollah's Shura Council, the group's central decision-making body, appointed the 60-year-old cleric to the post. "Based on faith in Allah Almighty..., adherence to Hezbollah's principles and goals, and following the established procedure for the election of the Secretary-General, Hezbollah's Shura Council has elected His Eminence Sheikh Naim Qassem as Secretary-General of Hezbollah, entrusting him with the blessed banner on this journey. We pray to the Almighty to grant him success in this honorable mission of leading Hezbollah and its Islamic resistance," the council said in a statement. The statement also pledged to the fallen victims, fighters of the Islamic resistance as well as the steadfast and loyal Lebanese nation that Hezbollah will stand by its principles, goals and path in order to keep the flame of resistance alive and its banner held high until final victory. Sheikh Qassem is a veteran figure in Hezbollah, having served as deputy secretary general of the Lebanese resistance group since 1991. - Agencies

Wearing masks mandatory in Lahore

DNA

LAHORE: On the directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, authorities have made wearing masks mandatory due to increase in air pollution in Lahore. The CM called for immediate action to combat the smog crisis, with instructions for strict enforcement of environmental regulations across all departments. Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb will monitor the emergency efforts to combat smog. In recent actions to curb pollution, authorities contained over 2,500 vehicles emitting excessive smoke, sealed 469 polluting factories, and filed 318 FIRs related to crop remains burning. Minister Aurangzeb urged public cooperation in this fight against pollution, stressing that every citizen's role is vital to counter the smog especially given cross-border winds from India. She announced clear targets for each department and zero tolerance for non-compliance. Smoke-emitting vehicles and factories will be challaned, and an emergency traffic plan will be implemented in Lahore to reduce smog's impact.

Court summons Elahi in money laundering case

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: A special court has summoned former Punjab chief minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi in a money laundering case on next date of hearing. The money laundering case involves former Punjab chief minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi. Judge Tanveer Ahmad Sheikh ordered Elahi to appear on the next hearing on Nov 5. The case also implicates his son, former federal minister Moonis Elahi, and other associates. The court already issued a red notice to Interpol for the arrest of Moonis Elahi, currently abroad, with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) confirming the notice is under Interpol's review. Additionally, a non-bailable arrest warrant has been issued for Zaigham Abbas, a co-accused. The FIA requested an extension on the asset seizure period for nine defendants, including Moonis Elahi.

ADB approves \$500m loan to support climate resilience

"This programme builds on ADB's longstanding work in Pakistan to understand and reduce climate and disaster risks and support effective disaster response," said ADB Director General for Central and West Asia Yevgeniy Zhukov

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$500 million policy-based loan to support climate change and disaster risk reduction and resilience in Pakistan, a statement from the bank said on Tuesday. In 2022, massive floods triggered by climate change devastated several parts of Pakistan, killing 1,700 people, washing away swathes of agricultural land, affecting 33 million people, and incurring losses worth \$30 billion, according to government estimates. The Climate and Disaster Resilience Enhancement Programme (CDREP) will strengthen Pakistan's institutional capacity for planning, preparedness, and response; increase inclusive investment in disaster risk reduction and climate resilience; and support the scale-up of disaster risk financing using a risk-layered approach, the statement said. "Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change and disasters triggered by natural hazards in Asia and

the Pacific. Average losses from disaster events exceed \$2 billion per year. "Women and other vulnerable groups are disproportionately affected by climate change and disaster events," the statement said. "This programme builds on ADB's longstanding work in Pakistan to understand and reduce climate and disaster risks and support effective disaster response," said ADB Director General for Central and West Asia Yevgeniy Zhukov. "We are proud to support an integrated and comprehensive approach to climate and disaster risk management, including a portfolio of disaster risk financing instruments for timely and adequate funding for disaster response," Zhukov was quoted as saying in the statement. It added that the programme supports the enhanced capacity for disaster risk mapping and modelling for investment and development decisions, as well as enhances coordination for disaster monitoring and response. It also supports enhanced planning and prioritisation of gender-sensitive and resilient public investments, including integrated flood risk man-

agement and nature-based solutions. The programme supports the mobilisation of climate finance from public and private sources. This includes the issuance of a domestic green sukuk (Islamic bond). A key innovation of the program is the use of ADB's Contingent Disaster Financing option for the first time in the Central and West Asia region. This will provide quick disbursing budget support in the event of a disaster. The programme will also support the establishment of a solidarity fund to facilitate the uptake of risk transfer solutions such as agriculture insurance, while also backing shock-responsive social protection to deliver cash assistance in the event of a disaster, the statement added. ADB has also approved a technical assistance grant of \$1 million to support the implementation of the programme. Tuesday's announcement comes after the ADB announced in September that it will provide \$2 billion in annual assistance to Pakistan over the next three years to support infrastructure development and climate-resilient initiatives. A report by

the Policy and Strategy Committee (PSC) and the Oversight Board on Post-Flood Reconstruction Activities showed last month that the country had only received \$10.9bn from international development partners out of the total estimated loss for post-flood reconstruction work, leaving a \$19.1bn shortfall that has halted the rehabilitation of flood-affected communities in three provinces. ADB's country partnership strategy, 2021-2025, for Pakistan, focuses on three priorities: improving economic management, building resilience, and boosting competitiveness and private sector development. As of December 31, 2023, the bank has committed 755 public sector loans, grants, and technical assistance totalling \$41.4bn to Pakistan. ADB's current sovereign portfolio in Pakistan includes 55 loans and four grants worth \$10.11bn. Cumulative sovereign and nonsovereign loan and grant disbursements to Pakistan amount to \$31.76bn. These loans were financed by regular and concessional ordinary capital resources, the Asian Development Fund, and other special funds.

NDMA dispatches relief aid for Palestine, Lebanon

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on the directives of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, dispatched the 18th consignment of aid from Islamabad International Airport to Beirut, Lebanon. The NDMA continued to provide humanitarian aid to the war-affected people of Gaza and Lebanon whereas this aid shipment, sent by NDMA comprised of 95 tons of supplies, including winterized tents and blankets, said a news release on Tuesday. The aid was dispatched via chartered flight from Jinnah International Airport, Karachi, to Beirut, Lebanon. The send off ceremony held at Islamabad International Airport was attended by MNA Anjum Aqeel Khan, Lebanese Ambassador Ghassan Al Khatib and representatives from NDMA and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Anjum Aqeel Khan emphasized the urgent need to provide relief to the war-affected populations of Palestine and Lebanon, considering the ongoing conflict and the needs of the affected communities. He reaffirmed the Government of Pakistan's commitment to supporting the brothers and sisters in distress and stressed the importance of collaboration by welfare organizations and the Pakistani public in strengthening these efforts.

PTI founder to decide Fawad's return to party

Claims PTI receptive to concerns of everyone from leadership to a party worker

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar on Tuesday dismissed any divisions within the party by saying "there is no forward bloc in the party." He said there were no differences among the ranks of the PTI rather it was "difference of opinion". Speaking to media outside the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad, the PTI chief said the PTI was a democratic party, claiming that leadership and workers of the party were treated equally. "We are receptive to concerns of everyone from leadership to a worker of the party."



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar received Italian Ambassador Marilina Armellini at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. - DNA

EU visits Sindh Assembly for Strategic plans 2024-2029

The European Union delegation thanked Speaker Syed Awais Qadir Shah for his time and valuable input during the meeting

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Jeroen Willems, Head of Cooperation at the European Union Mission to Pakistan, called upon Speaker of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh, Syed Awais Qadir Shah, here on Tuesday. CEU Mission to Pakistan leader Jeroen was accompanied by Ms. Huma Ikramullah, Provincial Coordinator for MustehkamParliamaan, and Ms. Barbara. Speaker SA Awais Qadir Shah welcomed the European Union delegation to the Sindh Assembly. On the occasion, key matters, including capacity building of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh, parliamentarians, caucuses, committees, and the training of officers was discussed during the meeting. Strategic plans for 2024-2029 were also deliberated, focusing on how the European Union and the Provincial Assembly of Sindh can collaborate to ensure effective implementation. Important issues such as the Internship Program, E-Parliament Program, and Inter-Parliamentary Exchange Programs were also part of the discussions. The European Union delegation thanked Speaker Syed Awais Qadir Shah for his time and valuable input during the meeting. Speaker Syed Awais Qadir Shah expressed his gratitude to the European Union for its efforts toward the welfare of the people of Pakistan and for being a steadfast partner to the country. As a gesture of honor, Speaker Awais Qadir Shah presented the delegation with a legacy shield of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh, along with a traditional Sindhi Ajrak and historical Sindhi Cap.

Imaan Mazari, husband sent on three-day physical remand

ATC Judge Abual Hasnat Zulqarnain hears case pertaining to alleged interference in govt operations by couple

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday approved a three-day physical remand of prominent lawyer and human rights activist Imaan Mazari and her husband, handing over the couple to the police in a case pertaining to alleged interference in government operations. The couple was presented before ATC Judge AbualHasnatZulqarnain today following their arrest by Islamabad police a day earlier in a case registered at Aabpara Police Station. The case pertains to an incident involving the duo's scuffle with traffic police in the federal capital after they attempted to remove the road blockades placed for the visiting England team's traffic protocol last week. The FIR includes Sections 186 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions), 148 (rioting, armed with a deadly weapon), 149 (every member of unlawful assembly guilty of the offence committed in prosecution of common object) and 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) along with Section 7 (punishment for acts of terrorism) of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA).

Furthermore, the FIR filed on the complaint of Sub-Inspector Tanveer Athar, also includes PPC's Sections 506(ii) (punishment for criminal intimidation) and 120B (punishment for criminal conspiracy). It states that a route was fixed for international teams' - which enjoy the status of a state guest so as to protect them against any terror attacks - commute at Faisal Avenue when Imaan removed the barriers and provoked the people there. The suspect, it adds, called for the barrier to be removed and started shouting when another lawyer - her husband Abdul Hadi, - also arrived at the scene and started hurling threats towards the police. Imaan's husband abused and slapped a policeman, reads the FIR. During the hearing today prosecutor Raja Naveed requested the court to grant 30-day remand of the suspects. Underscoring the significance of international teams' visits, the official said that the police tried to stop the suspects who repeated their illegal actions and breached the security. Imaan and Hadi threatened the security of international teams, remarked the prosecutor while noting that two individuals accompanying the couple were also to be arrested. He also pointed out that it was necessary to have the video be forensically analysed.

Israeli strikes kill over 169 in northern Gaza and Lebanon

The attacks are carried out as the humanitarian situation in both places worsens and ceasefire talks resume with no expected breakthrough

NEWS DESK

GAZA CITY: More than 169 people are reported to have been killed in Israel's latest attacks in northern Gaza and Lebanon. At least 109 Palestinians were killed when an Israeli attack flattened a five-storey residential building housing displaced people in northern Gaza's Beit Lahiya on Tuesday, the head of Gaza's Government Media Office said. Overnight, at least 60 people were killed in eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. Israel carried out the attacks as the humanitarian situation in both Gaza and Lebanon deteriorates. Conditions in northern Gaza, which has been under an Israeli siege since early October, are particularly harsh. Despite the high death toll and worsening plight of those still living in northern Gaza, ceasefire talks that have resumed in Qatar are not expected to achieve a breakthrough while Israel has moved to halt the operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), which is the main lifeline for most of Gaza's 2.3 million people. Al Jazeera's Hani Mahmoud, reporting from Deir el-Balah in Gaza, described harrowing scenes from the strike in Beit Lahiya. "The images we are seeing show that more bodies are being pulled from under the rubble, including women and children," he said. Those being pulled from the rubble were reported to be bleeding "severely" with many "crushed by the heavy weight of the large pieces of concrete that collapsed on their heads while they were sleeping."

World condemns Israel's UNRWA ban

NEW YORK: Global condemnations have poured in following Israel's legislation prohibiting the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) from operating in Palestine, a decision that threatens to inflict severe repercussions on millions of Palestinians enduring Israeli occupation and genocide. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in a statement warned that enforcing a law prohibiting UNRWA from operating in the Israeli occupied Palestinian territories could lead to catastrophic outcomes for Palestinian refugees in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, deeming such a scenario unacceptable. "There is no alternative to UNRWA," Guterres said, adding, "The implementation of these laws would be detrimental for the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and for peace and security in the region as a whole. As I said before, UNRWA is indispensable." He noted that Israel is urged to adhere to its commitments under the United Nations Charter and other international legal frameworks, arguing domestic laws cannot override these responsibilities. If implemented, the laws adopted today by the Knesset of Israel would likely prevent UNRWA from continuing its essential work in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, with devastating consequences for Palestine refugees. I call on Israel to act consistently with its obligations. Philippe Lazzarini, the Commissioner General of UNRWA, in a post on X said that the new Israeli law to ban his organization only deepens the suffering of Palestinians. - Agencies

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