



# Islamabad POST

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**British HC foresees bright future for Pakistan's cricket**

Detailed News On Page-06

**Naqvi's Turkiye visit strengthens bilateral ties**

Detailed News On Page-08



**Warner makes himself available for Test cricket**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Reaffirms support to Palestine, Lebanon PM blasts world's silence on Israel's war crimes in Gaza

He said the hope of the Palestinian people gave inspiration to the entire world who were facing challenges and where every family was suffering

MAHNOOR ANSAR / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday while lamenting the silence of the international community to halt genocide of Palestinians, assured the Palestinian students of every possible facility and quality education in their 'second home' Pakistan. Addressing a batch of Palestinian students from the war-torn Gaza, the prime minister said that a batch of 'shining and outstanding students', have now arrived in their second home. He said the ongoing massacre of Palestinians was known to the entire world. "It is heart-wrenching to watch brutalities and atrocities committed by the Israeli occupation forces on daily basis. They have killed more than 43,000 Palestinians while thousands had been maimed and injured," he added. The prime minister said that cities after cities had been demolished, buildings razed to the ground and the international community had yet to act, and regretted

PICTURE ON BACK PAGE

"Speeches, resolutions and commitments are still to see the light of the day. Whether these were UNSC resolutions or ICJA verdict at the Hague, nothing has helped in bringing ceasefire in Gaza where the world had not seen this kind of carnage in the contemporary history." The prime minister recollected that during his participation in the United Nations General Assembly session, they heard speeches after speeches of the world leaders about the plight of the Palestinians and as to how Israeli forces had been committing genocide in this part of the world, but the blood continued to spill on the streets of Gaza, hospitals were smashed, schools bombard and the world was mere a spectator.

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## Pakistan gets 'promising response' from China over debt refiling: Fin Min

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb meets Saudi, Turkish counterparts on sidelines of World Bank-IMF summit

FOREIGN DESK

NEW YORK: Pakistan is advancing economic ties with China, Saudi Arabia, and Turkiye, as Federal Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb held high-level discussions on the sidelines of the World Bank-IMF Annual Meetings in Washington DC. The meetings focused on debt reprofiling, trade cooperation, and joint ventures to strengthen Pakistan's economic prospects. Aurangzeb revealed a "promising response" from China over Pakistan's request to reprofile its power sector debt, a move aimed at providing the country with breathing room to lower electricity prices. "We have just started that discussion, and the response is encouraging," the minister told media,

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Housing Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Ambassador of Hungary Bela Fazekas and others cutting cake to celebrate the National Day of Hungary. - DNA

## 4 killed in 'terrorist attack' in Turkiye

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Ankara

AGENCIES

ANKARA: Four people were killed and 14 others wounded in an attack at the Turkish Aerospace Industries' headquarters on Wednesday, the government said, and witnesses said they heard gunfire and a loud explosion at the site near Ankara. Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said two attackers were killed in what he called a terrorist attack, adding three of the injured are in critical condition. TV broadcasters earlier showed footage of armed assailants entering the TUSAS building. "Two terrorists were neutralised in the terror attack on the TUSAS Ankara Kahramankazan site. Sadly, we have 3 martyrs and 14 wounded in the attack," Yerlikaya said, referring to the Aerospace Industries.

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Ankara, which resulted in tragic loss of lives. The president extended his deepest condolences and expressed solidarity with the government and people of Turkiye during this hour of grief, President Secretariat Press Wing said in press release.

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## Hasty decision UN Human Rights watchdog concerned over 26th Amendment

Volker Turk says constitutional amendment to "seriously" undermine judicial independence

AGENCIES

NEW YORK: United Nations Human Rights chief Volker Turk has voiced concern over the newly enacted 26th Constitutional Amendment, saying it was "adopted hastily and without broad consultation and debate". The ruling coalition, after weeks of political manoeuvrings and deliberations, finally managed to pass the contentious 26th Constitutional Amendment bill, empowering the country's parliament to pick the next Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) from among the three most senior Supreme Court judges. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Turk said that "hastily adopted" amendments will "seriously undermine the independence of the judiciary". "Constitutional reforms must be in line with

Continued on Page 06

## President Zardari approves Justice Afridi as new CJP

The appointment was made in accordance with Articles 175A(3), 177, and 179 of the Constitution

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has approved the appointment of Justice Yahya Afridi as the next chief justice of Pakistan. The appointment was made in accordance with Articles 175A(3), 177, and 179 of the Constitution. Justice Yahya Afridi will take over the role from October 26 for a three-year term.

Continued on Page 06

## Briefs

### CM Maryam meets Belarusian envoy Matilissa

Punjab govt to set up assembling plant for manufacturing of tractors at local level

### BUREAU REPORT

LAJORE: Punjab government has decided to set up assembling plant for manufacturing of tractors at local level in Punjab with the cooperation of Belarus. Belarus Ambassador Andrey Matilissa called on Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif to discuss further promotion of bilateral relations, especially cooperation in the development of agriculture, trade and tourism sectors. Belarus Trade Consul Ilya Qanapalu was also present on the occasion. Belarus also offered Punjab government support for electric bus project in the province. ON the occasion, CM Punjab said the government was providing incentives and facilities to foreign investors in Punjab.

### Constitutional amendment challenged

Plea requests court to declare sections 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18, and 22 of amendment void

LAHORE: The 26th constitutional amendment has been challenged in the Supreme Court's Lahore Registry. The federal government and the Ministry of Law have been made parties in the petition. The petitioner has argued that preventing a specific bench from hearing certain cases obstructs the judiciary's independence. The petitioner further states that setting a principle for the appointment of judges from the three most senior judges and requiring retirement before the age of 65 undermines the judiciary's autonomy. - DNA

## Special court hearing adjourned IHC grants bail to Bushra in new Toshakhana case

Sources say former first lady is likely to be released today as she's neither wanted nor is under arrest in any other case

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday accepted the post-arrest bail plea of Bushra Bibi, former first lady and wife of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, in the new Toshakhana case involving alleged illegal sale of state gifts. The former first lady's bail plea was accepted against Rs1 million surety bonds during the hearing conducted by Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb. The PTI founder's wife had moved the IHC on October 3 seeking bail in the jewellery set case. The petition, filed via Advocate Yousaf Chaudhry, contended that the petitioner was a housewife and the allegations against her were baseless. It added that the investigation was not transparent and the case was aimed at keeping the petitioner in jail. It said that the same case was being run with different angles. Previously, a trial court had terminated the post-arrest bail of the former first lady on September 30. The case pertains to a reference filed by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) against the couple in August. It involves a jewellery

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## SC sends first case to constitutional benches

Constitutional benches would hear the constitutional cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan (SC) has sent the application pertaining to restoration of terminated employees case to the constitutional benches after the recently passed 26th constitutional amendment. A three-member bench of the apex court, headed by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, heard the case on Wednesday. Applicants' lawyer Waseem Sajjad stated that every citizen had a constitutional right to live a peaceful life. Justice Mansoor remarked that a constitutional question was raised in this case therefore, constitutional

Continued on Page 06

## Who may be the head of the Constitutional bench?

It is important to note that if Chief Justice Afridi is not selected for this role, it could leave him with limited authority, as the real power would rest with the supervising judge of the Constitutional bench




ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: With the recent appointment of Justice Yahya Afridi as the new Chief Justice of Pakistan, the race to head the Constitutional bench has begun. One possibility is that Chief Justice Afridi could be tasked with leading this key bench. However, certain voices within the government

argue that concentrating too much power in one individual might prove counterproductive. These factions advocate for the appointment of someone other than the Chief Justice to supervise the Constitutional bench. It is important to note that if Chief Justice Afridi is not selected for this role, it could leave him with limited authority, as the real power would rest with the supervising judge of the Constitutional bench.

stitutional bench. This scenario could potentially intensify internal conflicts among the judiciary, which would undermine the independence and credibility of the higher courts. There is a strong belief within government circles that the supervisory role should be assigned to a judge other than the Chief Justice. This arrangement, they argue, would allow for more precise control over the judiciary. If Justice Afridi is passed over, the government is likely to favor either Justice Aminuddin Khan or Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel. Both judges are believed to be more sympathetic to the government and less aligned with the opposition PTI, which poses a significant political threat to the current administration.






Continued on Page 06



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ICCI-PCCK for industrial, commercial cooperation

In his address Nasir Mansoor Qureshi underlined the need for enhancement of two countries business and trade relations in diversified fields by showcasing the investment friendly atmosphere prevailing in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and Pakistan Chamber of Commerce in Korea (PCCK) have agreed to jointly encourage and support the development of commercial and industrial cooperation between the two countries with special focus on trade, investment and economic collaboration.

Qureshi underlined the need for enhancement of two countries business and trade relations in diversified fields by showcasing the investment friendly atmosphere prevailing in Pakistan. He emphasized that Korean investors should come forward and invest in Special Economic Zones, carrying multiple attractions for the financiers.

cooperation for the benefit of the people of both the countries. Former Presidents Zahid Maqbool, Tariq Sadiq and Mohammad Ejaz Abbasi while highlighting the significance of two countries close ties said that commencement of direct flights will be vital for the purpose.



KARACHI: Acting Governor Sindh Syed Awais Qadir Shah meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi.

Ayaz takes notice of delay in cancer treatment project

ISLAMABAD: Speaker, National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Wednesday took serious notice of delay in the free cancer treatment project to be developed with the assistance of an international company extending Rs 2 billion funding.

Shah resumes as Acting Governor, summons Assembly session

KP governor, Sindh Governor discuss issues of mutual interest

KARACHI: Acting Governor Sindh, Syed Awais Qadir Shah, met with Acting Governor Syed Awais Qadir Shah at the Governor House on Tuesday. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest were discussed.

Meanwhile, Sindh's Minister for Home, Law, and Parliamentary Affairs, Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar, met with Acting Governor Syed Awais Qadir Shah at the Governor House on Tuesday. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest were discussed.

Speaker SA Syed Awais Qadir Shah on assuming the office of acting Governor Sindh first time. Acting Governor Sindh held meeting with KP Governor on the occasion and discussed various matters of mutual interest between the two provinces.



Dialogue on art held at Alhamra

LAHORE: The Lahore Arts Council Alhamra hosted an engaging artist talk featuring renowned artist Farida Batool at Alhamra Adbi Bethak, The Mall, here on Wednesday. During the session, Batool discussed her work, experiences, and artistic vision, shedding light on her fascinating and labour-intensive journey as an artist.

Govt to publish ad for recruitment of 17000 teachers soon

PESHAWAR: Minister for Elementary and Secondary Education, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Khan Tarakai has said that the provincial government would soon publish an advertisement for recruitment of 17000 teachers.

for 17000 teachers would begin to fill those posts on emergency basis. He said, the provision of teachers to schools is top priority and it would be provided to both boys and girls' schools. He said that keeping in view the shortage of teachers, the authorities of the department have been directed to furnish the details of all those teachers who either on long leave or had taken extra-ordinary leave for going abroad or on deputation in other departments and cancel their leaves and deputation with immediate effect.

do any other work. Faisal Khan Tarakai further directed the authorities to take steps for all those teachers which are posted on the management cadre posts at secretariat, directorate levels or in any district offices to bring them back on their actual posts and furnishing of a report in this regard within a period of one week.

KP CM reviews police strengthening initiatives

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur chaired a meeting to review progress on initiatives aimed at strengthening the police force. Officials briefed the Chief Minister on the creation of new police positions, ongoing recruitment, vehicle purchases, and related matters.

sitions for sub-inspectors, assistant sub-inspectors, and head constables are being filled following standard procedures. The Chief Minister increased the quota for recruiting children of police martyrs as assistant sub-inspectors from 5% to 12.5%.

recruited soon in Peshawar, Malakand, and Dera Ismail Khan. A case to fill 1,153 positions under the in-service quota has been submitted to the Public Service Commission, along with a case for 631 sub-inspector positions under the 25% quota for current assistant sub-inspectors.

Chairman CDA for capital's long term beautification plan

ISLAMABAD: A meeting was held at the headquarters of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) under the chairmanship of CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa. The meeting was attended by the Member Environment and the senior officers from the Environment Wing, Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI), and the Director Municipal Administration (DMA). During the meeting, Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa highlighted the Prime Minister's appreciation for beautification efforts during the recent Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit.

Court Notice

کورت نوٹس
اعدالت جناب ڈاکٹر حفیظ الرحمن صاحب جج ججلی کورٹ راولپنڈی پیشکش زیر مقدمہ 25 کارڈزین اینڈ وارڈ ایکٹ تھانہ طارق بنام سہاسہ آفیس مقصود انور سمان مکان نمبر 31-C-1، بلاک C، سلاٹ 6، ٹاؤن 6، راولپنڈی برکھ مقدر عثمان بالا میں عدالتیہ کی عمل عامر بقیت سے منکر ہے لہذا آپ کو بذریعہ اجابہ ایشیاء پرا مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ مورخہ 24.10.2024 کو اصالتاً وکالات یا بذریعہ حاضر عدالت آویں بصورت دیگر نیکرے کاروائی عمل میں لائی جائے گی اور کوئی طرے قائل قبول نہ ہوگا۔ حکم عدالت بہر عدالت

Rural women demand education, equality at PODA moot

Women political workers from various parties called for immediate local government elections and for these local bodies to become fully functional and operational

ISLAMABAD: While addressing a vibrant audience of women from 130 districts representing four provinces and regions of Gilgit-Baltistan and AJK at the 17th Annual Rural Women Leadership Training Conference organized by PODA, Dr. Shahida Rehmani, Chairperson of the Women Parliamentary Caucus, said, "No one except women understands their own issues and the solutions to those issues."



together to amplify a collective voice addressing core issues, including the alarming rates of gender-based violence and online and workplace sexual harassment. The speakers and rural women leaders unanimously advocated for the right to education, specifically

Article 25-A of the Constitution, which guarantees education for children aged 5 to 16 years, viewing it as a vital safeguard against gender-based violence. The women leaders also called for declaring "agriculture fields as workplaces," a step that would reduce dis-

crimination against women farmers and enable them to receive their fair share of government policies and services, such as loan During the session, the Deputy Speaker of the Balochistan Assembly, Ghazala Gola, shared her experience from Sohbatpur district, where

women often lack individual status or identity. She informed the rural women leaders that her party is drafting a bill in the provincial assembly to raise the minimum marriage age for girls from 16 to 18. The first main strategy session focused on "Women's Rights Commitments in Political Parties' Manifestos 2024: Joint Review for Future Actions by Rural Women and Parliamentarians." Women politicians and members of parliament from PPP, ANP, PML-N, JWP, and JI spoke on the subject, supporting the idea of women's empowerment. Senior parliamentarian and PPP Senator Farhatullah Babar referred to the rural women leadership conference as a significant intellectual forum.—DNA

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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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Shifa International 4603666



### Departments

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

### Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Begum Fehmeen Ali, Wife of Chairman PAEC, take part in a Breast Cancer Awareness Program held at Department of Oncology, Atomic Energy Cancer Hospital NORI in the Federal Capital.

## Ahsan opens first Int'l conference on 3D Printing

By enabling precise manufacturing in controlled environments, these technologies offer solutions across healthcare, aerospace, construction, and energy sectors, he said adding, "We are standing at the intersection of two remarkable innovations—3D printing and vacuum technology—that have transformed production, manufacturing, and research worldwide

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday inaugurated the First International Conference on 3D Printing and Vacuum Technology. The National Center for Physics (NCP) at Quaid-i-Azam University hosted the inaugural session of the First International Conference on 3D Printing and Vacuum Technology, said a press release. The three-day conference, running from October 23 to 25, 2024, will bring together more than 50 eminent researchers and scientists from around the globe to discuss the latest advancements in these transformative technologies. In his keynote address, Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, emphasized the pivotal role of science and technology in driving national development and progress. He called on scientists, researchers, and

innovators to work tirelessly to position Pakistan at the forefront of technological advancements. Addressing the audience, which included esteemed figures like Dr. Ansar Pervaiz, Dr. Qaisar Ahsan, and Dr. Muhammad Maqsood, the Minister highlighted the profound potential of 3D printing and vacuum technology. These innovations, he noted, are not just technological milestones but are catalysts for reshaping industries, redefining economies, and revolutionizing everyday life. By enabling precise manufacturing in controlled environments, these technologies offer solutions across healthcare, aerospace, construction, and energy sectors, he said adding, "We are standing at the intersection of two remarkable innovations—3D printing and vacuum technology—that have transformed production, manufacturing, and research worldwide. This conference marks the beginning of Pakistan's formal journey into the Fourth Industrial Revolution". Highlighting global examples of 3D printing and vacuum technology, the minister drew attention to

remarkable achievements in healthcare, aerospace, and infrastructure. He explained that 3D printing has made groundbreaking progress in healthcare, especially in bioprinting, where countries like the USA and Germany have pioneered the creation of living tissues, custom-designed implants, and prosthetics. He said that the aerospace and defense sectors have also benefited from these innovations, with NASA using 3D printing to manufacture rocket parts, reducing costs and enabling new possibilities for space exploration. Minister Iqbal underscored Pakistan's aspiration to enhance its space capabilities, in collaboration with agencies like SUPARCO, using similar technologies. In the construction sector, Dubai's initiative to use 3D printing for 25% of its new buildings by 2030 was highlighted, with implications for affordable housing, while China's rapid construction of entire neighborhoods using this technology was presented as another notable example. He outlined the government's vision for utilizing these technologies as part of the Five Es

Development Framework, aiming to transform Pakistan into a trillion-dollar economy by 2035. The minister detailed how 3D printing can play a crucial role in boosting exports, improving digital transformation through E-Pakistan initiatives, promoting environmentally sustainable manufacturing, enhancing energy efficiency, and empowering marginalized communities through accessible technological solutions. Reiterating the government's dedication to fostering a supportive ecosystem, the minister highlighted initiatives such as the Pakistan Innovation Fund and Centers of Excellence to drive innovation. He stressed that progress would require collaboration among the government, private sector, academia and research institutions. The aim is to equip the youth with the necessary skills to lead in these emerging fields through universities, vocational institutes, and training centers, he added. The minister stressed the importance of a stable political environment and policy continuity for Pakistan to fully capitalize on emerging technologies like

3D printing and vacuum technology. He pointed out that countries like Singapore, India, and Malaysia have successfully integrated these technologies by maintaining consistent governance and policies. The minister also referenced the progress made under Vision 2025 from 2013 to 2018, which was hindered by policy reversals in subsequent years. "The success stories of other nations demonstrate that long-term stability is crucial for sustained economic growth. Pakistan must maintain policy consistency to prevent setbacks and ensure a steady path toward development," he asserted. He urged participants to embrace the tools and opportunities presented by 3D printing and vacuum technology, asserting that the nation's progress is in the hands of its innovators. He emphasized the importance of well-equipped libraries and laboratories that operate 24/7, inspiring the metaphor of illuminated library windows symbolizing the rise of brilliant minds dedicated to national advancement.

## Ayaz orders to ensure strict follow-up of K-IV project for timely completion

ISLAMABAD: Speaker, National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Wednesday directed the Parliamentary Secretary for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives to ensure strict follow-up of the Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme (K-IV) with the relevant authorities for its timely completion. He made these remarks while commenting on the response to Member National Assembly, Syed Amin ul Haque during the question hour session of the seventh meeting of the 10th National Assembly session

held here, responded by Parliamentary Secretary for Planning, Speaker, Sardar Ayaz requested Parliamentary Secretary, Wajih Qamar to organise the meeting of the mover and MNAs from Karachi after calling the minister at the end of the session. He added that monthly follow up should be made to ensure speedy progress on the issue. Parliamentary Secretary, Wajih Qamar in her response requested for a separate briefing to be held for the MNAs of Karachi at the Planning Ministry along with all the stakeholders as the

secretary and the minister for planning have given their approval for the meeting. The implementing agency for the project was WAPDA and the Sindh Government was also among the partners, whereas the project progress could not go further unless the linked tasks have not been completed, she added. "There is no allocation issue as Rs30 billion available have been allocated to the Ministry of Water Resources and the completion date for the K-IV project is 2025. The remaining details would be shared with the MNAs

and others at the Ministry meeting," she said. Qamar informed that so far 51% project was completed. MNA, Syed Mustafa Kamal urged the Speaker that it should be considered as a national interest project instead of labelling it as a city's project. "Speaker Office should give this project as a national interest project as water tanker mafia has made water supply lucrative business exploiting the people of Karachi," he said.—APP

## IG orders crackdown on crime

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, presided over multiple important meetings at the Central Police Office, Islamabad, on Wednesday. A police spokesperson told media, the meetings were attended by SSP Operations Arslan Shahzaib, Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad Muhammad Sarfraz Virk, Director legal, Zonal SPs, and other senior police officials. During the meetings, IG Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi reviewed the overall law and order situation in the federal capital, crime rates, and the measures taken to combat them, he said. IG Rizvi issued instructions to improve law and order, ensure public safety, and reduce crime rates, including theft, robbery, drug trafficking, and other serious crimes. The IG directed all zonal officers, circle officers, and SHOs to carry out organized operations at crime hotspots within a given timeframe and implement anti-crime measures.—DNA

## Kiyani criticizes PTI's response

ISLAMABAD: The Convener of the National Parliamentary Task force (NPT) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Bilal Azhar Kiyani, on Wednesday criticized Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) apolitical and incomprehensible response to the 26th constitutional amendment. Talking to a private news channel, he said that the amendment was the result of extensive consultation and dialogue, leading to a consensus draft that was passed without controversy. "The final draft was uncontroversial and even accepted by the PTI," he added. He said that PTI proved that its conduct was non-political and non-parliamentary, throughout the course of time. They were absent from the All Parties Conference (APC) on the Palestine issue, because that was not an important issue for them. He emphasized, "When the nation requires solidarity to overcome its challenges, PTI remains focused on advancing its political interests rather than prioritizing the welfare of the public."—APP

## World Day for Audiovisual Heritage on Oct 27

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

### OCTOBER 2024

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## Briefs

## President calls for pursuing Nusrat Bhutto's mission

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday urged the countrymen to pursue the late Nusrat Bhutto's mission of public welfare and strengthening of democracy in the country. The president, in his message on the 13th death anniversary of the Madare-Jamhuriat (Mother of Democracy) Nusrat Bhutto, called for following her ideology as a role model to strengthen democracy. Paying tribute to the late Nusrat Bhutto's great political services and struggle against the dictator for the restoration of democracy and people's rights, the president said that she played a leadership role for the Pakistan Peoples Party in difficult times. He lauded the late Nusrat Bhutto's sacrifices for democracy and said that she bravely faced the tyranny of the dictatorial regime. "Begum Nusrat Bhutto is the Mother of Democracy and a symbol of determination and courage. She was an intellectual and visionary politician," President Zardari said and also recalled her remarkable role in the empowerment of women and their involvement in politics.—APP

## Aurangzeb hails China's positive response on debt re-profile

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb hailed China's positive response on Pakistan's request to extend debt repayment periods for projects under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). In an interview with Bloomberg, on the sidelines of the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, Aurangzeb said that the South Asian nation was looking to increase the maturities for debt taken for power plants to "create enough space" to lower electricity prices. "We have just started that discussion and the response is encouraging," Aurangzeb said. "These are early days in terms of those negotiations." The former JP Morgan Chase & Co. banker discussed debt with Chinese officials during a July visit to China. Aurangzeb emphasized the need for Pakistan to maintain fiscal discipline and increase the tax-to-GDP ratio from below 10% to 13.5%. Pakistan has been a regular borrower, having engaged in 25 programs with the IMF. Ideally, the government plans to initiate discussions on obtaining additional financing from the IMF through its climate resiliency fund during the Pakistani delegation's time at the meetings in Washington, he said. To reach its goal, Pakistan will target sectors such as retail and agriculture, which have previously opposed taxation. The provinces will move forward with legislation related to agriculture by January, aiming to start tax collection by July, he added. Pakistan has been a flagship destination for China's Belt and Road Initiative, which has provided lending to developing countries and helped the nation overcome.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Korean players performing their skills during National Foundation Day and The 76th Armed Forces Day of the Republic of Korea held in Federal Capital.

## Hurriyat leaders hold meeting post-Article 370 abrogation

ISLAMABAD: Top leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference held a meeting in Srinagar yesterday, marking their first gathering since the abrogation of Article 370 by India's Modi regime in occupied Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019. According to Kashmir Media Service, the event included prominent figures such as Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Abdul Ghani Butt and Bilal Ghani Lone. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq shared his sentiments on social media, expressing gratitude for reuniting with colleagues after over five years. He noted the emotional experience, deploring the absence of members still in detention, but was pleased to see Abdul Ghani Butt in good spirits. A video of the meeting, held at the Mirwaiz's residence, was also shared, underscoring the significance of this reunion amidst the ongoing political landscape marred by killings, daily raids and arrests.—APP

## Amendment approved with broad consensus

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Petroleum, Musadik Malik, said on Wednesday that the 26th constitutional amendment was approved after a broad consensus of all the major stakeholders. Talking to a private news channel, he stated that all stakeholders provided their recommendations, and the amendment was unanimously passed by a two-thirds majority in both houses. He criticized the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for politicizing the amendment without any valid reason. "A full democratic process was followed to introduce this amendment. Initially, there were objections from various parties, including Maulana, but these concerns were addressed through dialogue," he added. He further added that PTI has once again prioritized personal politics over national interest by opposing the public welfare amendment.—APP

## China launches cataract training for Pak to enhance eye care

This training will empower us to tackle this challenge and reignite hope for countless patients. I look forward to applying the knowledge and skills I've gained when I return to Morocco, significantly improving the quality of life for our patients

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 10th International Training Course on Cataract Prevention and Treatment officially commenced in Changsha, Hunan, China. Organized by the Department of International Cooperation, the Ministry of Science and Technology of China and hosted by AIER Eye Hospital Group, the 15-day training welcomes 15 ophthalmologists from six countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, including Pakistan, Algeria, Indonesia, Morocco, Mongolia, and Mexico. During the training,

participants will receive professional training in cataract phacoemulsification techniques, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday. Sara Ben Adou Idrissi, an ophthalmologist from Morocco, emphasized the urgency of addressing cataracts, a leading cause of reversible blindness globally, particularly in resource-limited areas where many patients struggle to access timely treatment. "This training will empower us to tackle this challenge and reignite hope for countless patients. I look forward to applying the knowledge and skills I've gained when I return to Morocco, significantly improving the quality of life for

our patients," Idrissi noted. The course will leverage the "AIER International Clinical Training Center," featuring a comprehensive curriculum that includes theoretical lectures, hands-on surgical training, simulator practice, video critiques, operating room observations, and thematic workshops. Renowned experts in ophthalmology will guide participants in cataract prevention and phacoemulsification techniques, aiming to cultivate professionals in developing countries, share China's surgical expertise, and enhance cooperation in blindness prevention and eye care technology. This training program is the only

ophthalmology aid initiative supported by the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology for developing countries, aimed at improving cataract diagnosis and treatment capabilities. It also seeks to foster academic and clinical exchanges between China and countries along the Belt and Road Initiative. Since 2012, the group has hosted nine such international training courses, providing hundreds of ophthalmologists from various developing nations with specialized training in cataract phacoemulsification, benefiting tens of thousands of cataract patients and contributing to the global fight against blindness.

## Rector NUML leads successful delegation to Turkish universities

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Rector National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Maj Gen (R) Shahid Mahmood Kayani HI(M) briefed Heads of Departments and Directors of NUML about the university's recent delegation visit to Turkey, underscoring the significant strides made in international collaboration with Turkish universities. The delegation, led by Rector NUML, visited Düzce University, Sakarya University, and Istanbul University, culminating in the signing of multiple Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) aimed at fostering academic and

research cooperation.

In his briefing, Rector NUML highlighted the strategic importance of these partnerships, stating, "These MoUs open new avenues for both our students and faculty, providing them with global opportunities. At Düzce University, the MoUs include student and faculty exchange programs, summer camp teacher training, joint conferences, and research collaborations. The most significant highlight is the opportunity for faculty members from NUML's Urdu and English departments to teach at Düzce University, fully funded by the host country, Sakarya University welcomed collaboration in

academic and faculty exchange programs, and joint research with detailed discussions on cybersecurity. During the visit to Istanbul University, MoUs signed on joint conferences, research partnerships, and faculty exchanges, with NUML planning to send Urdu professors to Istanbul University. Rector NUML emphasized the need for swift implementation of these MoUs, ensuring that the benefits reach students and faculty alike. He remarked, "These partnerships not only strengthen our academic ties but also provide students with study abroad opportunities through Erasmus and other programs.

## IBCC organizes conference

ISLAMABAD: The 2nd IBCC Annual Conference, under the theme "Building a Brighter Future: The Role of Technology in Assessment," successfully wrapped up its first day at Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad. The conference, which brought together national and international educational boards, industry leaders, and policymakers, is an important step towards advancing technology-driven assessment solutions in Pakistan. The event began with a welcome address by Dr. Ghulam Ali Mallah, Executive Director of the Inter Boards Coordination Commission (IBCC). He warmly welcomed participants, highlighting the importance of collaboration between national and international bodies to promote innovative and standardized assessment systems.—APP

## Govt providing all possible facilities to expatriates

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD) was taking various measures to provide all possible facilities to Overseas Pakistan across the globe to invest for the prosperity and development of the country. According to an official source, the government was committed to facilitate all business community of Pakistanis those are living abroad to invest in the homeland to boost the national economy. The Government of Pakistan attaches high priority to the overseas Pakistanis and is keen to promote, nurture and sustain a mutually beneficial and symbiotic relationship between Pakistan and Overseas Pakistanis. Overseas Pakistanis can contribute much more than making foreign exchange remittances. Their role in image building, transfer of technology, and investment growth is important and with sustained efforts Overseas Pakistanis can produce tangible results. Today, in Pakistan, there are substantial investment opportunities with an active privatization initiative, large infrastructure-related investment projects (especially under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor), growth in local consumption and a largely untapped export potential.

## Collective efforts needed to prevent dengue

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that under the "Clean and Green Islamabad" mission, we are striving to safeguard the citizens from dengue by conducting dengue sprays

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Member of the Central Core Committee UBG and former President of ICCI, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, has emphasized that every citizen must take responsibility for the eradication of dengue in Islamabad. He stated that public cooperation is essential for the success of government efforts to control dengue. By understanding the causes of dengue and adopting preventive measures, we can protect ourselves from this deadly disease. Under the "Clean and Green Islamabad" mission, we are striving to safeguard the citizens from dengue by conducting dengue sprays and providing awareness in the business centers of every sector in Islamabad. He urged the residents of Islamabad to step forward, take responsibility, and play an active role in this campaign to eliminate dengue. He expressed these views during a conversation with the President of Jinnah Super Market, Asad Aziz; General Secretary of Jinnah Super Market and Senior Vice



President ICCI, Abdul Rehman Siddiqui; Vice President of Jinnah Super Market, Chaudhry Muhammad Arshad; Coordination Secretary of Jinnah Super Market, Usman, and other representatives of traders' delegations while carrying out den-

gue spray and distributing awareness pamphlets during a dengue awareness campaign at Jinnah Super Market. President of Jinnah Super Market, Asad Aziz, expressed his gratitude to Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari for taking the initiative to

combat dengue in Islamabad. He praised Bakhtawari for launching the spray and awareness campaign across the city and assured him that the business community stands by his side and will provide full cooperation in this mission.

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## China, Britain ties

LAST week, Rishi Sunak, leader of Britain's Conservative opposition, grilled Keir Starmer during a Prime Minister's Questions session, starting with Taiwan, sweeping through the Jimmy Lai Chee-ying case in Hong Kong and ending his interrogation on issues of Russia-China relations and intelligence. Starmer responded by setting out his government's China policy framework: "cooperate, challenge, compete". But a fourth C is needed to predict what a Labour-led Britain may seek out: consistency. The previous Sunak government I served in had a very similar-sounding framework of "protect, align, engage" – so similar that I struggle with the semantical acrobatics. But the United Kingdom hit the reset button so many times that the other partner in this bilateral relationship could be forgiven for thinking we were having a political breakdown. There was no consistency whatsoever. I agreed with former foreign secretary James Cleverly's reluctance to define China using one word (at the time, hawkish lobbied him to label it a threat). And whether it is "protect, engage, align" or "cooperate, challenge, compete", the policies allow for nuance, breadth and depth in what British sinologist Kerry Brown determined was a bilateral relationship that showed the tectonic shifts in power more than any other diplomatic dance. However, I do believe that one element will win out over the others, and therefore the adage that politics is all about choices comes to the fore. Which will it be for Labour, my new political party? Last week, Britain's Foreign Secretary David Lammy visited Beijing and Shanghai, aiming to establish a higher frequency of dialogue with his counterpart. Interestingly, China was cited by Sunak as an "enabler" of Russia in Prime Minister's Questions, yet as we approach three years since Russia's invasion of Ukraine I'm having a told-you-so moment. At the time, I said the single biggest mistake the West could make was pushing China into the arms of Russia. When in Beijing, Lammy raised the issue of China's support for Russia. Savvy diplomacy from 2022 could have made efforts to avoid this trend. I feel strongly that there is an opportunity for this new government to insert itself, in a positive way, into some of the most pressing international issues of the day. As a major global force, China must be included in the conversation. But we in the West must accept that if both our tone and actions attempt to make China a pariah, it will be left with no option but to lean towards Russia, economically and politically. Let's be smart, not emotional. The domestic challenges we face in the UK, from economic woes to cohesion, need to be addressed and so maybe China will become an overt issue in UK electoral politics, in addition to already being an elite interest. Due to the sheer number of Chinese students and China's importance as a key engine of growth in the global economy, the world's second biggest economy will shine light or cast shadows on the UK. Britain's finance minister Rachel Reeves is reported to be fronting a large business delegation to China next year. Will there be inducements for Chinese investment in the UK's coming budget? Will the mega company Shein find a welcoming home? And with the potential of Trump 2.0 and higher US tariffs on China, perhaps the UK and China would need each other more than ever. But can Britain truly have an autonomous foreign policy when it comes to the biggest competitive battle of the day: the United States vs China?

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## BRICS and the world

ON Tuesday local time, Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in Kazan, Russia, by special plane to attend the 16th BRICS Summit at the invitation of President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin. On the afternoon of the same day, President Xi held talks with President Putin in Kazan. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Russia, coinciding with the inaugural year of "Greater BRICS Cooperation." The third meeting between the two heads of state within this year has garnered global attention. Kazan, a city rich in history and culture, will not only witness the first leaders' meeting following the historic expansion of the "BRICS family," but will also add a new chapter to China-Russia friendship. During the meeting with President Putin, President Xi stated that the world is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century, and the international situation is chaotic and intertwined; however, the profound friendship between China and Russia, built on generations of mutual support, will remain unchanged, as will our great power responsibilities to benefit our peoples. There are high expectations that, under the strategic guidance of head-of-state diplomacy, the comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era between China and Russia will continue to progress steadily, and that our cooperation will enhance the practical cooperation of BRICS, injecting more stability and certainty into the turbulent global situation. This is President Xi's tenth visit to Russia in his capacity as President. Since 2013, President Xi and President Putin have met over 40 times in various settings, establishing a strong working relationship and a deep personal friendship. The two leaders have maintained close communication on strategic issues such as bilateral relations, international situations and global governance, providing relentless momentum for the high-level development of China-Russia relations and setting a global example for major power interactions. The summit in Kazan is the first meeting of BRICS leaders following the expansion of the group and is also the largest and highest-level diplomatic event hosted by Russia this year. The Chinese side actively supports the Russian side in fulfilling its duties as the rotating chair. This aligns with the expectations of "Global South" countries. With the cooperation of China and other BRICS partners, Russia has held over 200 events to help new members integrate more quickly into the BRICS family. This is a natural reflection of the strategic trust and traditional friendship between China and Russia, sending a positive signal of the independence of their relationship, free from external interference. It also demonstrates China's responsible role as a major power. We have noticed that some Western media outlets have extended their hostility toward Russia to this Kazan Summit, repeating their old tactics of smearing China-Russia cooperation and creating external noise by hyping bloc confrontations. The new paradigm of major-country relations established by China and Russia plays a positive role in various multilateral platforms, including BRICS, and this is an undeniable fact. For instance, China and Russia promoted the historic expansion of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and BRICS mechanisms, strengthening the unity of developing and "Global South" countries and contributing to improving the global governance system.

## America's freedom of opinion: Equality or exclusivity?

Qamar Bashir



Much like the Arab communities we previously surveyed, these South Asian groups, despite many being American citizens, exhibited a similar reluctance to express their political views. Perhaps out of fear of victimization—whether through the withdrawal of state assistance, harassment by the White majority, or denial of job opportunities—they often hesitated to discuss political matters. Some even feared being falsely implicated in minor legal issues, which could severely damage their careers. When asked whom they would vote for in the upcoming elections, the common response was to avoid the topic, with many...

TO truly understand a society, community, county, or country, the best approach is to engage directly with the people on the ground. Sitting comfortably in rooms or making high-level analyses from afar may be intellectually easy, but such approaches often lack genuine insight and fail to capture the true spirit, aspirations, fears, and realities of the community members. I had the unique opportunity to be part of Working America, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), hired by the Democrats to conduct a house-to-house survey across Michigan. This grassroots initiative aimed to explore the preferences of local communities regarding Michigan's future, identify the biggest issues they face, and gauge their thoughts on the presidential candidates best equipped to address those challenges. This experience provided invaluable insight into the real concerns of everyday people, bridging the gap between policy discussions and the lived experiences of the population. Being part of the team conducting surveys across various localities in Michigan provided me with a profound understanding of the communities and the extent of freedom of expression and speech they experienced. A stark and startling realization emerged from these surveys: while the White population generally enjoyed full freedom of speech, many other communities, particularly immigrant groups, lived without such rights. For example, when we surveyed the Detroit and Dearborn areas, home to predominantly Arab communities, including Lebanese, Yemeni, and Iraqi families. When asked about the most pressing issues affecting them—whether related to the economy, jobs, education, safety, or health—almost all respondents appeared skeptical, visibly fearful, and evasive. Instead of answering, many were more concerned about how we knew their names and became highly protective. Some families even grew hysterical, losing their composure out of fear. Despite the evident poverty, broken roads, litter, and lack of civic amenities in their neighborhoods, few were willing to identify specific concerns, fearing potential repercussions such as immigration-related consequences of being placed on some form of government watchlist. The sense of intimidation and absence of freedom of expression was palpable in these communities, highlighting the deep divide in how different populations experience their rights. When we canvassed neighborhoods pre-

dominantly inhabited by Indian, Pakistani, and Bangladeshi communities, who are mainly concentrated in the Metro Detroit suburbs like Troy, Farmington Hills, Novi, Canton, and Rochester Hills. These areas are home to many professionals in IT, healthcare, and engineering. Pakistanis are well-represented in Troy, Canton, and Sterling Heights, with growing numbers in Warren and Dearborn. The Bangladeshi community is largely concentrated in Hamtramck and Detroit's east side. Much like the Arab communities we previously surveyed, these South Asian groups, despite many being American citizens, exhibited a similar reluctance to express their political views. Perhaps out of fear of victimization—whether through the withdrawal of state assistance, harassment by the White majority, or denial of job opportunities—they often hesitated to discuss political matters. Some even feared being falsely implicated in minor legal issues, which could severely damage their careers. When asked whom they would vote for in the upcoming elections, the common response was to avoid the topic, with many stating they do not engage in politics. Their fear of repercussions appeared to suppress their willingness to express opinions, even on broader issues that weren't specific to their communities. We also surveyed areas predominantly inhabited by Black communities, we could also sense the fear factor in black but to a much lesser degree compared to the immigrants but much less freedom of expression and opinion compared to the white. This survey prompted me to dive deep into the reasons and factors which prevent the blacks from expressing their opinion and exercising their right of expression. The disparity in freedom of expression between Black and White populations in the U.S. stems from historical, systemic, and institutional factors. The legacy of slavery, segregation, and systemic racism continues to marginalize Black voices, while institutional biases in law enforcement, media, and the criminal justice system often lead to harsher scrutiny and suppression of Black dissent. Economic and social inequities limit access to platforms for free expression, while media misrepresentation and surveillance of Black activism create further barriers. These factors, combined with cultural pressures to self-censor, result in Black Americans often facing more limitations on their freedom of speech compared to their White counterparts. The black though were

less fearful compared to immigrants but as the same time they have their fears.

We also get the opportunity to survey the white dominant areas which mainly consist of western Michigan cities like Grand Rapids, Holland, and Muskegon. Northern Michigan, including Traverse City, Petoskey, and the Upper Peninsula cities like Marquette, is overwhelmingly White. Central Michigan cities such as Midland and Mount Pleasant, as well as Detroit's western suburbs like Livonia and Novi, are also predominantly White. The first thing which could not escape our notice was the White-dominated areas typically benefit from better landscapes, beautification efforts, and civic amenities. When we asked the same questions to White populations, instead of reacting with fear or hesitation, they readily stepped out of their doors, listened attentively, and answered each question with ease. They expressed their opinions with a broad smile, freely criticizing either Trump or Harris, Democrats or Republicans, without reservation. They discussed any issue under the sun without any fear of intimidation or reprisal. This stark contrast prompted me to seek a historical context for why White Americans enjoy greater freedom of expression in the U.S. The reason, as I discerned, lies in their historical dominance, institutional power, cultural acceptance, and less scrutiny. Since the country's founding, White populations have held social, economic, and political power, which allowed them to shape laws and institutions that protect their voices. Their perspectives have often been regarded as the societal norm, granting them broader acceptance and significantly less pushback compared to minority groups. Additionally, White Americans face less scrutiny and fewer legal consequences when expressing controversial views, and their economic advantages provide them greater access to platforms for free speech, reinforcing their privileged position in public discourse. Although the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution prohibits laws that curb freedom of speech, expression, or opinion, this protection seems to disproportionately favor White Americans, as other communities often do not experience the same freedoms in practice.

Former Press Secretary to the President  
 Former Press Minister to the  
 Embassy of Pakistan to France  
 Former MD, SRBC, CEO, ATV

## The multifaceted advocacy of Shevolution

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



A crucial element of the "Shevolution" theory is its intersectional approach to feminism. Intersectionality, a term coined by scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw, refers to the understanding that women's experiences are shaped not just by their gender, but also by other intersecting social identities, including race, class, sexuality and nationality

THE "Shevolution" advocacy for women's empowerment and the promotion of gender equality. Over the decades, gender equality has been a cornerstone of feminist movements, which have tirelessly fought against the patriarchal norms that limit women's access to rights, education and employment. The "Shevolution" emphasizes the necessity of addressing systemic inequalities that manifest through unequal pay, lack of representation in leadership, gender-based violence and restricted reproductive rights. For instance, the persistent gender pay gap continues to be a critical issue. Studies highlight that women, on average, earn less than their male counterparts for the same roles, an issue exacerbated by factors such as occupational segregation and discriminatory hiring practices. "Shevolution" calls for legislative reforms that enforce equal pay and create a more equitable workplace environment. Similarly, the movement advocates for greater representation of women in leadership positions across various sectors, challenging the traditional belief that leadership is a male prerogative. In this context, "Shevolution" can be seen as a movement aiming to empower women by breaking the 'glass ceiling' that has hindered their professional growth and autonomy. Furthermore, the theory emphasizes reproductive rights as an essential aspect of women's autonomy. Women's ability to make informed decisions about their bodies and reproductive health is crucial for their empowerment. Consequently, "Shevolution" aligns itself with the broader feminist agenda of advocating for reproductive justice, which includes access to safe and affordable healthcare, contraception and the right to choose. "Shevolution" also signifies a cultural evolution that seeks to transform how women are viewed and represented in society. Historically, traditional gender roles have dictated specific behavioral norms for women, often relegating them to secondary or supportive positions. The "Shevolution" movement challenges these outdated stereotypes, encouraging women to pursue opportunities in fields that were once considered predominantly male domains, such as politics, business, media and technology. A critical aspect of this cultural shift is the rise of female role models who have managed to break through societal barriers. From political leaders like Angela Merkel, Jacinda Ardern and Kamala Harris to business magnates like Mary Barra,

Indra Nooyi and Sara Blakely, the world has witnessed the emergence of women who defy traditional expectations and lead by example. Their achievements are a testament to the possibilities that emerge when societies commit to fostering an environment where women can thrive. The media has played a pivotal role in promoting this cultural shift. In recent years, there has been an increase in the portrayal of strong, independent women in films, literature and popular culture. These representations have contributed to redefining the social narrative around femininity and power, demonstrating that women can be as capable, assertive and successful as their male counterparts. As "Shevolution" continues to gain momentum, the visibility of women in diverse roles becomes a powerful tool for societal change, inspiring future generations to envision a world where gender does not determine one's potential or opportunities. A crucial element of the "Shevolution" theory is its intersectional approach to feminism. Intersectionality, a term coined by scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw, refers to the understanding that women's experiences are shaped not just by their gender, but also by other intersecting social identities, including race, class, sexuality and nationality. Acknowledging these intersections is vital because it allows for a more nuanced understanding of the challenges women face globally. For example, the issues faced by a white middle-class woman in a developed country may differ significantly from those experienced by a woman of color from a low-income background in a developing nation. While the former may struggle with wage disparities and workplace discrimination, the latter might confront systemic issues like access to basic education, healthcare and safety. The "Shevolution" theory thus advocates for an inclusive approach that addresses diverse forms of oppression, recognizing that achieving gender equality necessitates tackling multiple layers of discrimination simultaneously. Intersectional feminism within the "Shevolution" framework also calls for solidarity among different groups of women. It encourages the feminist movement to broaden its scope, considering the experiences of marginalized women and ensuring that their voices are heard. This inclusive stance is essential for building a more equitable society where all women, regardless of their background, can

participate and succeed on an equal footing. The "Shevolution" theory also emphasizes the significant role women play in driving economic and technological progress. Women have been at the forefront of innovations across various sectors, from technology to entrepreneurship. Despite being historically underrepresented in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields, there has been a steady increase in the number of women pursuing careers in these areas. This shift is essential not only for achieving gender balance but also for fostering innovation, as diverse teams are known to produce more creative and effective solutions. For example, women like Ada Lovelace, who is considered the world's first computer programmer and Hedy Lamarr, who co-invented the technology that led to Wi-Fi, have laid the groundwork for future generations of women in tech. In the contemporary era, female entrepreneurs are disrupting industries with innovative startups, ranging from fintech to health tech, illustrating the transformative potential of women in business and technology. "Shevolution" highlights the contributions of women in these fields, advocating for greater support, mentorship and opportunities for women to excel. Economic empowerment is another critical facet of the "Shevolution" movement. Women-owned businesses have seen significant growth, contributing to job creation, community development and economic resilience. However, challenges remain, such as limited access to funding, mentorship and networks, which hinder the growth of female-led enterprises. Addressing these barriers is essential for ensuring that women can fully participate in the global economy. "Shevolution" represents more than just a movement; it embodies a global transformation aimed at challenging and changing the existing norms that have historically disadvantaged women. By advocating for women's empowerment, promoting gender equality and encouraging a cultural shift towards inclusivity, "Shevolution" is paving the way for a future where women can thrive on equal terms. The theory's emphasis on intersectionality ensures that the movement addresses the diverse experiences and challenges faced by women across the world, promoting solidarity and unity. Furthermore, by acknowledging the significant role of women in economic and technological spheres, "Shevolution" seeks to harness the full potential of women, driving innovation and economic growth.



## Briefs

## PSX reaches historic level of 87,194.54 points

ISLAMABAD: Positive sentiments prevail over the 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) for third consecutive day on Wednesday and continued with bullish trend, gaining 727.96 more points, a positive change of 0.84 percent, reaching all time high level of 87,194.54 points against 86,466.58 points on the last trading day. A total of 699,294,030 shares were traded during the day as compared to 722,209,194 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 26.824 billion against Rs.25.024 billion on the last trading day. As many as 447 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 214 of them recorded gains and 173 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 60 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were K-Electric Limited with 207,635,816 shares at Rs 4.67 per share, WorldCall Telecom with 42,917,587 shares at Rs 1.29 per share and Pak International Bulk with 33,969,303 shares at Rs 5.96 per share. —APP

## Rupee gains 01 paisa against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Wednesday gained 01 paisa against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.72 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.73. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs277.30 and Rs278.80 respectively. The price of Euro decreased by Rs1.44 to close at Rs299.46 against the last day's closing of Rs300.90, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen came down by 02 paisa and closed at Rs1.82, whereas a decrease of Rs 1.07 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs360.07 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs361.14. The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham remained unchanged and closed at Rs 75.61 and the Saudi Riyal increased by 01 paisa to close at Rs73.96. —APP

## Gold price ups by Rs 2,000 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased further by Rs.2,000 and was sold at highest-ever rate at Rs.285,400 on Wednesday 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.1,714 to Rs.244,684 from Rs. 242,970 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs. 224,294 from Rs. 222,722, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola silver increased by Rs.200 to Rs.3,350 whereas that of ten gram silver went up by Rs.171.46 to Rs.2,872.08. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$20 to \$2,757 from \$2,737, the Association reported. —APP

## Turkiye says some dead, injured after attack at state aviation site

ANKARA: Turkiye said on Wednesday that a deadly attack was carried out at the headquarters of Turkish Aerospace Industries (TUSAS) near Ankara, while media reported a loud explosion at the site and showed footage of an exchange of gunfire there. "A terrorist attack was carried out against the TUSAS facilities in Kahramankazan, Ankara. Unfortunately, we have martyrs and injured people," Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said on social media X. The cause of the explosion and the subsequent gunfire remained unclear, with some media reports claiming a suicide attack had occurred. Emergency services were dispatched to the site. —APP

## Pakistan's textile industry to emerge stronger: Jam

Jam Kamal Khan said this exhibition is an excellent opportunity to strengthen the existing relationships and forge new partnerships, ensuring mutual growth and success for all stakeholders.

DNA

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Commerce on Wednesday said that we are confident that Pakistan's textiles and leather industries will emerge stronger, resilient, and more competitive, through coordinated efforts between the public and private sectors. He expressed these views while addressing as chief guest in the inaugural ceremony of the fifth edition of International Textiles and Leather Flagship Exhibition (TEXPO) of Pakistan being held from October 23 to 25 at the Expo Center Karachi. On the occasion, the Federal Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan along with Sindh chief minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Kareem Kundi, and Chairman Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Zubair Motiwala performed the digital inauguration of the Texpo 2024. Jam Kamal Khan said this exhibition is an excellent opportunity to strengthen the existing relationships and forge new partnerships, ensuring mutual growth and success for all stakeholders. He said that we are working closely with the private sector to promote value addition and product diversification, particularly in non-cotton apparel, performance/active wears, technical textiles, sports and high fashion shoes, leather accessories, while



promoting the concepts of circular economy and use of smart and sustainable materials. He said that we are also focusing on enhancing our design capabilities (replacing the physical samples to 3D prototypes) and creating high-end products that command premium quality in international markets. The Federal Commerce Minister said that Ministry of Commerce, through its Export Development Fund (EDF), is also financially supporting businesses in terms of trade promotion, marketing, image building, infrastructure development, skill development and improving ESG compliances. He said that in this transformative journey, the Government of Pakistan stands as a firm partner

to the industry. We are focused on creating a conducive business environment that fosters investments in new technologies and infrastructure, encourage product diversification, support sustainable manufacturing, and ensure that our exporters have support needed to access new markets and enhance economy of scales, he added. He

said that we are also scaling up the efforts in skills development, ensuring that our workforce is equipped with the expertise necessary to handle emerging technologies and future needs. He expressed confidence that the future of Pakistan's textiles and leather sectors is bright. Sustainability, innovation.

## Indian state signs \$35b renewable energy deal with UAE

"To achieve this target, Rajasthan will have to install 250 GW of solar plants. This partnership with the UAE will prove to be an important step in achieving this goal," said Rajasthan's Chief minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, who was present during the signing ceremony

NEW DELHI: Rajasthan, India's largest state by area, has signed a \$35 billion investment agreement with the UAE government to explore the development of a 60 GW solar, wind and hybrid energy project. Rajasthan's Principal Secretary of Industries Ajitabh Sharma and UAE Minister of Investment Mohamed Hassan Al-Suwaidi signed a memorandum of understanding for the investment on Tuesday in the state capital of Jaipur. Under the deal, the UAE will help set up renewable energy projects in the western district of Rajasthan, the state government said in a statement. India's largest desert, Thar, is located in the area. "This venture will be a milestone in fulfilling the energy needs of Rajasthan by installing a long-term power generation project in which modern cutting-edge technology would be used," the government of Rajasthan said. The UAE will also appoint a developer to coordinate with Rajasthan officials to launch the project within the agreed timeline, which was not specified. India, the world's third-largest consumer of electricity, currently has installed about 200 GW of renewable energy. It is aiming to install 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030 to meet its goal of net-zero emissions by 2070. "To achieve this target, Rajasthan will have to install 250 GW of solar plants. This partnership with the UAE will prove to be an important step in achieving this goal," said Rajasthan's Chief minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, who was present during the signing ceremony. He is also expecting the new agreement to help boost the local economy. "I am confident that this MoU will pave the way for employment generation, economic development, industrial progress and overall prosperity in Rajasthan," Sharma said. —DNA

## UK rejects Trump team claims of interference

LONDON: The government in London on Wednesday played down claims of meddling in the US Election, after Donald Trump's team charged that having members of Britain's ruling Labour Party work for his opponent Kamala Harris's campaign was "blatant foreign interference". Trump's legal team filed an official complaint to the US Federal Election Commission, alleging that the "British Labour Party made, and the (Kamala) Harris campaign accepted, illegal foreign national contributions". The submission cited media reports that Labour officials, including the prime minister's new chief of staff Morgan McSwiney, travelled to the United States to advise the Democratic party campaign. They also included a now-deleted LinkedIn post by Labour Director of Operations Sofia Patel calling for volunteers to travel to North Carolina, and offering to "sort out your housing". Foreign nationals are allowed to volunteer in US elections but may not be compensated. The claim from Trump's team claim blew up as Starmer jetted to a Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) on the Pacific island of Samoa, prompting a mid-air rebuttal. Starmer insisted it was normal for volunteers to campaign and that he had established "a good relationship" with Trump, whom he met for dinner over two hours at his Trump Tower residence in New York last month. "The Labour Party has volunteers who have gone over (to the United States) pretty much every election," he told reporters travelling with him. "They're doing it in their spare time, they're doing it as volunteers, they're staying, I think, with other volunteers over there. "That's what they've done in previous elections, that's what they're doing in this election and that's really straightforward." Starmer also denied suggestions that it could damage relations with the UK's most important ally should Republican party candidate Trump beat Harris and secure a return to the White House after next month's vote. —DNA

## Uzbek trade delegation visits RCCI

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A high-level Uzbekistan trade delegation, led by Ambassador Mr. Alisher Tukhtaev, visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) to discuss opportunities for enhancing bilateral trade and cooperation. The delegation included key representatives from various sectors: Tukhtaev Akorbiyjon, Deputy Chairman of the Chemical Industry Association (Uzkimyosanoat), Mr. Halimjon Safarov, Deputy Chairman of the Uzbek Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bakhtom Yusupov, Commercial Consular and Hamid Mahmood, Representative of the Ministry of Tourism, Uzbekistan. Ambassador Mr. Alisher Tukhtaev, in his address, thanked RCCI for the warm reception and provided an overview of the growing trade relations between the two countries. He noted that bilateral trade has grown significantly by 50 to 55 percent annually over the past three years,



increasing from USD 50 million to USD 240 million last year. He also shared positive news regarding the resumption of direct flights between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, expected in November or December of this year, and stated that visa issues for tourists had been resolved. Mr. Tukhtaev Akorbiyjon, Deputy Chairman of Uzkimyosanoat, delivered a detailed presentation on Uzbekistan's chemical industry, sharing key figures on the production of over 150

products, including urea, fertilizers, polyethylene, and medical disinfectants, with 78 products being exported. He also provided insights into the sector's performance as rated by agencies such as Fitch, Moody's, and KPMG. RCCI President Usman Shaukat warmly welcomed the delegation and highlighted the strong potential for expanding trade relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan in sectors such as energy, pharmaceuticals,

textiles, agriculture, chemical industry, and tourism. He emphasized the importance of exploring investment and joint venture opportunities and discussed practical matters such as sector-specific information, direct flights, and streamlined visa processing. The meeting concluded with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen joint cooperation and enhance trade ties between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

## Persistent 8% growth, strategic reforms essential for effective poverty alleviation, job creation: Experts

The session critically examined the current state of poverty alleviation efforts in Pakistan, with a focus on the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), its effectiveness, and the broader structural challenges facing the country's social protection programs

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan must adopt a strategic shift in social protection policies to tackle poverty and unemployment, with a sustained and responsive 8% economic growth rate over 8-10 years identified as essential to generating sufficient job opportunities. Achieving this requires a growth-oriented, inclusive, and data-driven approach, alongside comprehensive structural reforms. Key measures include decentralizing program management and prioritizing human capital development to transform social safety efforts into sustainable economic progress. This was discussed during an interactive session on "Poverty Alleviation in Pakistan: Examining the Concept and Performance of BISP"

held at the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad. The event, chaired by Dr Ghulam Muhammad Arif, former dean, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), featured insights from Dr Shujaat Farooq, chief of research, PIDE, Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, and other experts. The session critically examined the current state of poverty alleviation efforts in Pakistan, with a focus on the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), its effectiveness, and the broader structural challenges facing the country's social protection programs. Dr Shujaat Farooq explained that BISP, despite being a significant social safety net, has become heavily donor-driven, with

conditions from international organizations like the IMF. This has made it challenging for the government to modify or discontinue the program, despite its limitations, as it has not had a positive impact on poverty alleviation even after 16 years. He noted that BISP's current budget, Rs 600 billion, is substantial, but without creating long-term economic opportunities, it remains a temporary relief measure rather than a solution for poverty alleviation. He pointed out significant data management issues within BISP, where billions in funds are being spent without effective tracking or unexplained data usage. Moreover, there is a considerable disparity between national-level data and ground real-

ities, which leads to inaccuracies in identifying and targeting the most vulnerable populations. The discussion also underscored the manipulation of data by third-party evaluators and NGOs, reducing the reliability of program assessments. Furthermore, over time, embezzlement at the disbursement level and rising operational costs have made the program even less effective. The panel agreed that the country lacks a consistent social protection strategy. While programs like BISP play a critical role, they are not sufficient by themselves to lift people out of poverty. The lack of improvement in primary education and high fertility rates, along with low access to medical facilities, continue to

exacerbate poverty challenges. As such, addressing education and health service gaps is necessary. The discussion also touched upon the inefficiencies in past initiatives and recent microfinance programs that have fallen short in reducing poverty sustainably. Moreover, the role of international donor agencies was deemed to be suspicious in poverty alleviation. The experts called for a shift in focus, prioritizing actual outcomes over obtaining easy grants or soft loans. They highlighted the importance of integrating government programs to create a cohesive framework that enables a clear path out of poverty, with a better-defined and communicated concept of "graduation" from poverty. —APP

## Iraqi-led attacks kill seven Daesh operatives

WASHINGTON: Iraqi-led strikes and raids killed at least seven Daesh operatives in Iraq, US Central Command said on Wednesday, a day after Baghdad reported the militant group's commander for Iraq had been killed in a military operation. A Centcom statement did not identify the operatives but said the attacks were launched against multiple Daesh targets including senior leaders.

Two US military personnel were wounded in the operations and were in stable condition, Centcom said. The Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) provided technical support and intelligence that enabled the raids, it said. Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani said on Tuesday that the Daesh commander for Iraq had been killed in an operation in Iraq's Hamrin Mountains. A US-led coalition's military mission in Iraq will end by next September and there will be a transition to bilateral security partnerships, the US and Iraq said last month. —APP

## Turkish Airlines, Pegasus halt flights to Iran until Nov 1

ANKARA: Turkish-owned carriers Turkish Airlines and Pegasus have suspended flights to Iran until November 1, local media said on Wednesday, as Iran braces for a promised retaliatory attack by Israel. Both airlines have canceled flights to multiple Iranian cities including the capital Tehran, Shiraz and Isfahan for "security reasons," Turkish broadcaster NTV reported. The firms have yet to confirm the decision on their websites and social media. But Turkish Airlines travel to Iran was showing as "canceled" on the website of Istanbul's airport, while Pegasus closed online bookings to Iran. Iran has been bracing for retaliatory attack waded by Israel after Tehran launched a barrage of around 200 ballistic missiles at Israel on October 1. Turkish Airlines in August canceled night flights to Tehran, as fears mounted of an escalation in the Middle East, without officially announcing the decision. Several carriers including German group Lufthansa have stopped flying to Tehran and the Lebanese capital Beirut. —APP

## North Gaza polio campaign postponed due to violence, says WHO

BERLIN: A polio vaccination campaign in north Gaza has been postponed due to Israeli bombardments, mass displacement and lack of access, the World Health Organization said on Wednesday. This final phase, due to begin on Wednesday, aimed to vaccinate more than 119,000 children in the Palestinian enclave under siege for over a year in response to militant group Hamas' attacks on Israel. "The current conditions, including ongoing attacks on civilian infrastructure, continue to jeopardize people's safety and movement in northern Gaza, making it impossible for families to safely bring their children for vaccination, and health workers to operate," the UN agency said in a statement, reiterating its call for a ceasefire. The polio campaign began on Sept. 1 after the WHO confirmed in August that a baby was partially paralyzed by the type 2 polio virus, the first such case in the territory in 25 years. Delays in a second dose for children could jeopardize efforts to halt transmission. "This could also lead to further spread of poliovirus in the Gaza Strip and neighboring countries, with the risk of more children being paralyzed," the agency said. On Tuesday, the UN Palestinian refugee agency called for a temporary truce to allow departures from areas of north Gaza, where it said "people are just waiting to die" after three weeks of Israeli attacks. —APP

Briefs

Monica, Allah Dino discuss HRs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The United States Deputy Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Monica Jacobsen, held a meeting with Federal Secretary for the Ministry of Human Rights, Allah Dino Khawaja, to discuss matters related to human rights and bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and the United States. During the meeting, Monica underscored the significance of human rights, support for a vibrant civil society, and the role of strong democratic institutions in fostering a robust and comprehensive US-Pakistan relationship, said a press release on Wednesday. Both officials explored avenues to further strengthen cooperation on these shared values, particularly in areas promoting human rights and reinforcing democratic practices.

Abrogated more time to submit reply

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Wednesday granted PTI Senator Saifullah Abro additional time to submit his response in the disqualification reference, and adjourned the hearing until Nov 11. A three-member bench headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja heard the disqualification reference against Senator Saifullah Abro. During the hearing, both Abro's lawyer and People's Party Senator Shahadat Awan appeared before the election commission.

Abro's lawyer informed the commission that they had not received a copy of the application and requested additional time to respond. Approving the request, the ECP directed Saifullah Abro to submit his response and postponed the hearing until November 11. Notably, Majid Mahmud and Senator Shahadat Awan filed a reference against PTI Senator Saifullah Abro, alleging that he submitted false experience documents for a technocrat seat and did not declare all his assets in the nomination papers.

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with students of Palestine who recently arrived in Pakistan to complete their medical education. - DNA

Putin faces calls for peace at flagship BRICS summit

On the Middle East, Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian urged BRICS members to "use all their collective and individual capacities to end the war in Gaza and Lebanon"

NEWS DESK

KAZAN: World leaders called for peace in the Middle East and Ukraine at the BRICS summit in Russia on Wednesday, as President Vladimir Putin told them he welcomed offers to mediate in the Ukraine conflict. The Russian leader is casting the gathering as a sign that Western attempts to isolate Moscow have failed, but faced direct calls to end the Ukraine conflict from some of his closest and most important partners. The meeting of around 20 world leaders in the central city of Kazan is the largest diplomatic forum in Russia since Putin ordered troops into Ukraine in 2022. Starting in 2009 with four members - Brazil, Russia, India and China - BRICS has since expanded to include other emerging nations such as South Africa, Egypt and Iran. Chinese President Xi Jinping told the summit there must be "no escalation of fighting" in Ukraine. "We must adhere to the three principles of 'no spillover from the battlefield, no

escalation of fighting and no adding oil to the fire by relevant parties", so as to ease the situation as soon as possible," Xi said. Russia and China signed a "no limits" strategic partnership days before Moscow ordered troops into Ukraine and Putin and Xi both hailed close ties in a bilateral meeting on Tuesday. Without referring to any specific conflict, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi also issued a call for peace. "We support dialogue and diplomacy, not war," he said. On the Middle East, Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian urged BRICS members to "use all their collective and individual capacities to end the war in Gaza and Lebanon." Xi repeated his call for a ceasefire, saying: "We need to... stop the killing and work tirelessly for a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Palestinian issue." Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva also called for escalation in both the Middle East and Ukraine to be avoided. "As we face two wars that have the potential to become global, it is essential to restore our ability to work together toward

common goals," he said in an address to the summit via video conference. In private talks, Putin welcomed offers by several of the BRICS leaders to mediate in Ukraine, even as he told them his forces were advancing, his spokesman said Wednesday. Many countries "expressed a desire to contribute more actively" to resolving the conflict, state media cited Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov as telling reporters. Putin had also used the meetings to tout "the very positive dynamics on the front for the Russian armed forces," Peskov said. Russia's troops have been slowly advancing in eastern Ukraine for much of 2024, though neither side has been able to make a decisive breakthrough and the conflict appears locked in an attritional phase. "Avoiding escalation and initiating peace negotiations is also crucial in the conflict between Ukraine and Russia," Brazil's Lula said. Xi and Modi have previously touted their own peace initiatives for Ukraine, though there has appeared to be little progress. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, also at the

summit, is another casting himself as a possible peacemaker. He will hold direct talks with Putin later on Wednesday. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres was also at the summit, his first visit to Russia for more than two years. He will on Thursday hold talks with Putin over Ukraine. Moscow promotes the BRICS platform as an alternative to Western-led international organizations like the G7. "The process of forming a multipolar world order is underway, a dynamic and irreversible process," Putin said at the official opening of the summit. He also blasted the West for hitting BRICS members, including Russia, with sanctions, saying they could trigger a global crisis. "Significant crisis potential also remains. And it is not only about the ever-increasing geopolitical tensions, but also ... the practice of unilateral sanctions, protectionism and unfair competition is expanding," Putin said. Putin also called on the leaders of emerging economies to explore alternative payments and trading platforms to reduce their reliance on Western infrastructure.

Final auction of loss-making PIA to be held on Oct 30

Govt had delayed bidding process due to low bidder interest and unresolved issues, say sources

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The incumbent government has decided to hold the final auction of the loss-making Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) Corporation on October 30. This was revealed by Parliamentary Secretary for Communication Gul Asghar Khan on Wednesday during the seventh session of the National Assembly in response to Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) MNA Sharmila Faruqi. The government had delayed the bidding process due to low bidder interest and unresolved issues, well-placed sources privy to the development said. The process was earlier scheduled for October 1. The sources added that the delay may have resulted from issues including unresolved court cases, fleet ageing and civil aviation issues. During the assembly session today, Khan said the privatisation of the state-owned entity was a detailed process conducted under the elaborate structure of privatisation. The process was initiated in February 2024 and would be finalised on October 30, he apprised the lawmakers. The parliamentary secretary said the process involved different institutions including the Privatisation Commission Board chaired by the minister and the secretary Privatisation Commission Usman Bajwa. The PIA's privatisation decision, he said, was approved by the Cabinet Committee on privatisation. "PIA assets have been parked separately as its operational assets have been separated whereas final auction will be held under PIA Corporation on October 30." Last month, Bajwa informed the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Privatisation that the final bid documents were shared with six pre-qualified bidders.

Naqvi's visit to Turkiye strengthens bilateral ties

A key topic of discussion was the potential for increasing meat exports from Pakistan to Turkiye. The Turkish side assured Minister Naqvi of their full support for facilitating these exports, reflecting Turkiye's interest in bolstering its trade relations with Pakistan

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met with Turkiye's Minister of Defense, Yasar Guler, during his visit to Istanbul on Wednesday. The meeting, which took place amid the backdrop of the International Expo, underscored the commitment of both nations to strengthen their cooperative relationship across various sectors. During the meeting, Minister Guler expressed gratitude to Minister Naqvi for participating in the International Expo, highlighting the importance of such events in fostering international partnerships. In turn, Minister Naqvi extended a formal invitation to Minister Guler to attend the Ideas Expo in Pakistan, which aims to showcase innovation and development in the region. The discussions focused on a range of topics of mutual interest, with both ministers emphasizing the critical need to enhance trade and cooperation between Pakistan and Turkiye. They acknowledged the positive momentum of bilateral relations and expressed a shared commitment to explore further avenues for collaboration, particularly in sectors that benefit both countries. A key topic of discussion was the potential for increasing meat exports from Pakistan to Turkiye. The Turkish side assured Minister Naqvi of their full support for facilitating these exports, reflecting Turkiye's interest in bolstering its trade relations with Pakistan.

India using enforced disappearances as 'tool of oppression'

Over 8,000 individuals have disappeared without a trace in Indian Occupied Kashmir

FOREIGN DESK

New York: Pakistan has told a UN panel that authorities in Indian Occupied Kashmir were systematically using enforced disappearances as "a tool of oppression" to stifle the voice of Kashmiri people, reaffirming its commitment to safeguarding citizens' rights, "While Pakistan remains

vigilant in addressing cases of enforced disappearances domestically, we cannot overlook the alarming situation in conflict zones, especially in areas under foreign occupation," Pakistani delegate Sarfraz Gohar said during an interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances held in the UN General Assembly's Third committee, which deals with social, humanitarian and cultural issues. "For decades," he said, "the Kashmiri people have endured an environment of fear and violence, where enforced disappearances have become a hallmark of the occupying forces' repression." Gohar, a first secretary in the Pakistan Mission to the UN, said enforced disappearances were not isolated incidents, but often led to further abuses, including torture, extrajudicial killings, and mass graves.

470,000 Gazans 'perishing en masse' in north amid siege

NEWS DESK

GAZA CITY: The Palestinian ambassador to the United Nations has warned that thousands of people in northern Gaza are facing an imminent massacre as the Israeli military continues its weeks-long siege and heavy bombardment of the region, blocking humanitarian aid to civilians and targeting shelters and hospitals. Riyad Mansour, in identical letters addressed to UN Secretary General António Guterres, President of the UN General Assembly Philomena Yang and rotating President of the Security Council Pascale Baeriswyl, said that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza before the eyes of the international community, and warned that more than 470,000 individuals in the northern flank of the Gaza Strip are going to perish en masse. "Israel has been depriving the Palestinian people in the north of food, water, medicine and everything necessary for human life for weeks. Israel bombs hospitals and is preventing civilians from receiving medical care. Israel forcibly deports Palestinian families to the south, even though there is nowhere safe to go," he pointed out. Mansour emphasized that the Security Council must protect civilians, demand an immediate ceasefire, ensure that all parties comply with it, and stop Israel from violating the international law. "Forced expulsion and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people should be stopped, and humanitarian aid should be supplied to the people of Gaza through UNRWA (the UN agency for Palestinian refugees) and other UN agencies," the senior Palestinian diplomat noted.

MBS meets with Blinken in Riyadh

RIYADH: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman received US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Riyadh on Wednesday, Saudi Press Agency reported. Blinken arrived in Saudi Arabia after wrapping up a visit to Israel where he urged leaders to use the opportunity to end the war in Gaza created by the death of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar and the destruction of much of the group's capacity during more than a year of conflict. During the reception, the two officials reviewed Saudi-American relations and areas of joint cooperation. They also discussed the latest regional and international developments including developments in Gaza and Lebanon, and efforts made to stop military operations and deal with their security and humanitarian repercussions. Blinken will also travel to London later this week after visiting the Middle East, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Wednesday. The top US diplomat will hold meetings with Arab leaders in the British capital after talks Thursday in Qatar, Miller said. Blinken said Israel had succeeded in ensuring there could be no repeat of Oct. 7, 2023 and it should be looking to bring home the remaining 101 Israeli and foreign hostages and end the fighting. - Agencies

Hezbollah confirms martyrdom of Hashem Safieddine

WEB DESK

BEIRUT: The Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah has confirmed the martyrdom of the head of its Executive Council, Sayyed Hashem Safieddine. In a statement issued on Wednesday, Hezbollah said Safieddine was martyred in "a brutal and aggressive Zionist airstrike." Safieddine was widely expected to be formally elected as Hezbollah's next secretary general after Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was assassinated in an Israeli airstrike in southern Beirut on September 27. "Sayyed Hashem has now joined his brother, our most revered and beloved martyr, Hezbollah's Secretary-General His Eminence Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah," the statement read. "He was his brother, his right hand, his banner bearer, his trusted confidant in times of hardship, and his dependable companion during difficulties," it added. The emotional statement on Wednesday said Safieddine "ascended to his Lord, pleased and content, patient and steadfast." Hezbollah said Safieddine had dedicated his life to serving Hezbollah and the Islamic Resistance and its society. For many years, Safieddine responsibly and skillfully managed the Executive Council and its various institutions and units across different fields of Resistance. "He remained close to the fighters, connected to the public, and loving to the families of the martyrs, until Allah honored him with martyrdom, joining the luminous convoy of the martyrs of Karbala," the statement said. The movement pledged "to our great martyr and his fellow martyrs to continue the path of Resistance and jihad until the goals of freedom and victory are achieved."

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