



Islamabad POST

Monday, November 04, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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Tory's new leader offers glimpse of policy, priorities

Detailed News On Page-08

Resistance will give crushing response to Israel

Detailed News On Page-08



Rizwan vows support for team players

Detailed News On Page-06



Shehbaz meets British businessmen

Govt to make all efforts to fetch FDI: PM

He was talking to a delegation of influential and renowned British business personalities

BUREAU REPORT /DNA

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that promoting foreign investment in the country is the top priority of the government. He was talking to a delegation of influential and renowned British business personalities led by Zuber Issa in Lahore on Sunday. The delegation included influential figures from the United Kingdom's business sector. The prime minister said the business community is being provided with the best facilities through the one-window operation of the Special Investment Facilitation Council. He said the country's economy has been improving in recent days as a result of the government's efforts, enhancing investors' confidence. The prime minister encouraged the delegation to invest in Pakistan. Besides, views were exchanged on exploring new avenues of cooperation and further enhancing business-to-business relations between Pakistan and the United Kingdom. The delegation praised the prime minister's economic policies and expressed their confidence in the stability and sustainable development of the national economy.

No objection if provincial govts wish to purchase PIA: Minister

He added that if the provinces collectively invested and purchased shares, PIA could potentially become profitable

DNA

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Investment Board, Communications, and Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan has said that there is no objection if any provincial government wishes to purchase Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). Addressing a press conference in Lahore on Sunday, Khan mentioned that if provincial governments—such as those of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Punjab, or Sindh—expressed interest in acquiring PIA, there would be no objection. He added that if the provinces collectively invested and purchased shares, PIA could potentially become profitable. This statement comes in light of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif suggesting that the Punjab government consider buying PIA, while the KP government has also shown interest in such a purchase. The minister

also clarified that the groundwork for PIA's privatization had already been set before he assumed office. "His role was to oversee the sale of the national airline rather than to reform it." "I took office in March, inheriting the airline's massive debt. My role is not to operate or fix PIA, but to reduce the government's losses by facilitating its privatization," said Khan. Criticizing the mismanagement that led to PIA's financial troubles, Khan said that all ruling political parties contributed in the decline of the airline. "Every political entity has played a part in sinking PIA, some more than others," he remarked. The minister provided a detailed account of the national airline's financial status, clarifying that his primary objective is to alleviate the burden on the government by privatizing PIA, which has accumulated losses of

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LAHORE: A delegation of leading businessmen of the United Kingdom calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. – DNA

National Assembly session today

Govt likely to pass three bills including amendment in practice and procedure act

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The next session of the National Assembly has been convened at 4pm today, November 4. According to reports, lawmakers will focus on a seven-point agenda during the next session. The Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Amendment Ordinance is also on the agenda for the next session. Federal Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar will present the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Bill in the House, while different lawmakers will express their views during the debate on disputed points

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Contempt case

ECP summons two former PMs Nawaz Sharif, Imran Khan

The ECP's case list indicated that hearings for matters involving the two political figures are scheduled for Tuesday



SAIFULLAH ANSAR

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has summoned two former prime ministers, PTI founder Imran Khan, and Muhammad Nawaz Sharif - to respond respectively in two separate cases to contempt and disqualification on Tuesday (November 5). The ECP's case list indicated that hearings for matters involving the two

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Govt mulling additional taxation measures

Hiking of withholding tax on plots' sale, purchase also on cards

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Briefs

Maryam to leave for London on Nov 5

She would stay in London for one week

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz is expected to depart for London on Nov 5 for the treatment of throat infection. As per Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) sources, Punjab CM would leave for London on Nov 5. Maryam Nawaz would get treatment from her personal physician in London. She was facing throat infection for a long time and she might get an operation for the infection, according to sources. Maryam Nawaz's London visit would be the first foreign visit after assuming office of chief minister. The Punjab CM would stay in London for one week and return back to the country along with her father, Nawaz Sharif.

CJP for effective prison system

The Chief Justice expressed serious concern on overcrowding in the country's prisons

COURT REPORTER

LAHORE: Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi says a humane and effective prison system is essential to ensure a fair legal framework. He was chairing a consultative meeting on prison reforms in Lahore. The Chief Justice expressed serious concern on overcrowding in the country's prisons, describing the situation as alarming. Justice Yahya Afridi said the total prison capacity across the country is 66,625, while the number of inmates stands at 108,643. He said in Punjab, the prison capacity is 36,365, but there are currently 67,837 prisoners, with 36,128 awaiting trial.

'Violating citizens' rights'

HRCP urges govt to withdraw new anti-terror bill 2024

"... there is also the fear that preventive detention may be used against political rivals," says HRCP chief

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) on Sunday expressed concern over the recently introduced Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Bill 2024 in the National Assembly, terming it a "gross violation of right to due process" and "fair trial". According to the human rights body, the bill will "authorise the state to detain individuals for 'inquiry' for up to three months merely based on 'credible information' or 'reasonable suspicion' without judicial oversight on the presumption that they pose a threat to national security or public order". "The HRCP strongly urges the government to withdraw this bill and formulate legislation and a plan of action that cannot be abused as a means of violating citizens' fundamental rights," read a statement by the HRCP. The government has proposed authorising

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Missing PTI lawyer Intizar returns home

The police said that efforts are being made to arrest the culprits

DNA

LAHORE: Missing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawyer Intizar Punjtha, on Sunday returned home. The Attock police earlier recovered Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf lawyer Intizar

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3 terrorists shot dead in Musakhel operation

The terrorists were planning to attack key installations, and a large cache of arms was recovered

STAFF REPORT

MUSAKHEL: At least three terrorists were killed and two arrested in a joint operation by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), Frontier Corps (FC), and police in Musakhel. According to CTD spokesperson, the operation, which took place at night, resulted in an exchange of gunfire that

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Kamala Harris, Donald Trump ramp up campaigns on final weekend

Seventy-five million people have already cast early ballots as hours tick down to November 5 climax



FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: United States Vice President Kamala Harris and former president Donald Trump duelled across the swing states on Saturday marking the final weekend of one of the tenses US elections of modern times. The Democratic presidential candidate urged voters to "turn the page" on the Republican's scorched-earth brand of politics. According to AFP, 75 million people have already cast early ballots as the hours tick down to the Election Day climax Tuesday.

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Egypt hosts Fatah-Hamas post-war Gaza talks

AGENCIES

CAIRO: Senior officials of the rival Palestinian groups Fatah and Hamas are meeting in Cairo to discuss forming a committee to manage Gaza's post-war governance, an Egyptian security source was quoted as saying by Egypt's Al-Qahera News TV on Saturday. The talks are part of Egypt's broader mediation efforts to broker a ceasefire between Israel and militant group Hamas and to expand humanitarian access to the enclave. Leaders from Hamas and the Fatah faction of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas met in Cairo last month to discuss forming the committee based on a proposal put forward by Egypt, but talks were adjourned for later discussion, sources close to the talks told Reuters. The sources said the committee would be made up of independent Palestinian figures not aligned to a particular movement,

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Punjab CM urges swift completion of PIC-II

The Chief Minister noted that efforts to provide comprehensive cardiology services across every district in Punjab are already in motion. She added that the newly introduced card system for children's heart surgeries has significantly streamlined hundreds of operations for young patients

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif emphasized the importance of completing the Punjab Institute of Cardiology-II (PIC-II) to ease the patient burden on the existing Punjab Institute of Cardiology (PIC-I). During her visit to the under-construction hospital at Canal Bank on Sunday, she directed the team to expedite efforts to make the facility operational as soon as possible. The Chief Minister noted that efforts to provide comprehensive cardiology

services across every district in Punjab are already in motion. She added that the newly introduced card system for children's heart surgeries has significantly streamlined hundreds of operations for young patients. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif reviewed the ongoing construction, inspecting various departments, building materials, and other project aspects. She praised Punjab Infrastructure Development Authority CEO Shahmeer Iqbal for his efforts and suggested further design improvements for the hospital. Additionally,

she instructed officials to ensure the timely delivery of essential machinery for PIC-II. Construction work on dry partition walls and the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system is progressing across multiple floors. The PIC-II project, which will have a capacity of 250 beds, is set to include advanced hybrid operation theaters, emergency, surgical, and medical ICUs. Over 90 per cent of the gray structure has been completed, and the project is moving steadily toward its final stages.

Rs 1b approved for KP police' modern vehicles

PESHAWAR: For the capacity building of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police, faced with shortage of modern arms and vehicles, the provincial government has decided to release an advanced grant of Rs one billion rupees for police department to overcome their shortcomings. A document on Sunday said the grant will be utilized in acquiring B-6 level security vehicles. On procurement of B-6 level protective vehicles, a sum of Rs 800 million would be spent while Rs 200 million for the purchase of mine-resistant vehicles. The document said the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police were facing an acute shortage of required arms and modern anti-crime vehicles. To overcome this situation, the document said the KP government has decided to release Rs one billion as an advanced grant. It further confirmed that the provincial cabinet has accorded approval to the release of this advance grant.—APP

Total sanitation still a challenge for KP city govts

PESHAWAR: Massive rural urban population influx is gradually adding to problems of major cities in terms of fresh air, clean drinking water and sanitation cover and waste disposal, exposing millions of residents to environmental and health hazards. Sanitation cover conspicuously has emerged as a persisting challenge to city governments in wake of emerging poor localities and slum areas with residents either defecating in open or lack the facility of proper toilets. Peshawar once known as 'City of Flowers' is also not an exception to this phenomenon like other mega cities in the country where numerous localities still lack sanitation cover although the government officials claim launching of number of projects in this area. The city's historical charm, characterized by its Mughal-era gardens and fragrant Guli Dawoodi blooms, is being overshadowed by pollution, poor waste management and an inadequate infrastructure for sanitation. Safdar Baghi, former Nazim of Nothia Jadeed mentions to areas like Kohati, Gunj, Khalasa, Hazarkhwani, Lateefabad and Faqirabad that speak loudly of sanitation and sewerage crisis with visitors often coming across unpleasant odor of garbage and sight of rusty pipes spewing contaminated water. "Situation in these localities situated in the heart of city portrays a grim picture of sanitation and cleanliness services," Safdar said. "Foul odour oozing out of uncovered drains, stagnant sewage and absence of toilets make these neighborhoods hazardous for residents.—APP

From Lahore to Istanbul

Pakistani motorcyclists explore avenues of Pak-Turkiye friendship

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A group of seven Pakistani motorcyclists followed the Iranian route to Turkiye on their journey, which they called the "Lahore-Istanbul Rally" to strengthen Pakistan-Turkiye friendship. The group members traveled approximately 8,000 kilometers, passing through many cities in Anatolia. Arriving at their destination of Istanbul after 18 days, the group led by Mukaram Tareen took a friendship tour in Fatih and shared his journey of "unforgettable moments and their feelings". Turkiye's Anadolu said in its report published on Sunday. Tareen, the 57-year-old group leader, said that they started their journey from Lahore on October 11 and then went to Iran and then Turkiye. Tareen said, "Paki-

stan, Iran and Turkiye are friendly Islamic countries and our culture, food and friendships are based on hundreds of years of history. Istanbul is a deep-rooted city like Lahore, so we wanted to continue this journey to Istanbul." Referring to what reaching Istanbul after a difficult journey meant to them, Tareen said, "Reaching here symbolizes the strong friendship between our two countries. This provided an opportunity to establish a closer bond with our Turkish friends." Tareen pointed out that Lahore's narrow streets and historical texture are similar to Istanbul, and said, "While walking through the narrow streets of Istanbul, we felt like we were in Lahore at times. The people, shops and the old city walls of the city resemble Lahore."

Emphasizing that eastern Turkiye fascinates them, Tareen said, "People usually only visit big cities like Istanbul or Izmir. However, eastern Turkey has a unique beauty with its high peaks, snow-capped mountains and villages. The people in eastern Turkiye are very hospitable, kind and sincere. This region is definitely a place we would like to explore again." Stating that they met many people along the way, Tareen said, "We travel 300 to 400 kilometers every day. We have the opportunity to stop and taste local foods and chat with people on the way. We met many motorcyclists from Iran and Turkiye. We invited Turkish motorcyclists to Pakistan and with this trip we aim to promote tourism exchange between the two countries."

Technology integration key to sustainable uplift

LAHORE: Honorary Consul Kyrgyzstan Meher Kashif Younis has said that integration of technology across various sectors serves as a catalyst for sustainable development, economic growth, and social transformation. Speaking at a seminar on "Integration of Technology" here on Sunday, he said technology for development was a crucial necessity for Pakistan which strives to accelerate its progress and enhance the quality of life. He said in today's rapidly evolving economic landscape, technology serves as a crucial driver of growth, fostering business transformation and creating development opportunities. Its positive impacts include productivity enhancement, market expansion and GDP growth. He said one of Pakistan's greatest assets was young and dynamic population, constituting almost 64 percent of total population. He said one of the primary areas where technology could make a significant impact was education. With a substantial portion of the population residing in rural areas with limited access to quality education, e-learning platforms and digital classrooms can bridge the gap. These technological parks can provide students with access to a wealth of resources and skilled educators, irrespective of their geographic location. On the occasion, another keynote speaker CEO IT Professional Mian Faiz Bukhsh Arain said in agriculture, technology could revolutionize farming practices through precision agriculture, drone surveillance, and smart irrigation systems. These advancements could increase crop yields, optimize resource use, and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Given that a significant portion of Pakistan's population relies on agriculture for their livelihood, these improvements could have a profound economic and social impact. He said embracing technology for development was not just an option but a necessity for Pakistan. "By leveraging technological advancements, we can foster inclusive growth in all sectors especially in healthcare, improve public services, and enhance overall national development in every sphere of life." Dr Waqar Ch, Advisor to Federal Tax Ombudsman said fostering a robust tech-driven entrepreneurial ecosystem could stimulate job creation and innovation. Supporting start-ups and tech enterprises through favorable policies, incubation centers, and access to funding can position Pakistan as a hub for technological innovation in the region. He said to realize these benefits, we must address several challenges, including the digital divide, inadequate infrastructure, and a lack of digital literacy. Investments in high-speed internet, reliable power supply, and comprehensive digital literacy programs are essential to ensure that the benefits of technology are accessible to all segments of society, he concluded.—DNA

Balochistan Youth erasing imprints of deep rooted scorn

QUETTA: When violent protests erupted in some parts of Balochistan in 2006, many of the youth people used to perceive that government policies in the province could prove to be counter-productive, fueling the wrath of misguided youngsters. Unfortunately, they were kept aloof of mainstream and often swayed by perennial vested rhetoric of traditional politicians about willfully depriving them of their rights, a perception that deeply entrenched in their minds and gradually turned into hatred. Aslam Baloch, a passionate student of Balochistan University's Mass Communication department before getting the government job, had same

views about the government policies and showed no remorse on damages caused by angry youth during violent demonstration in 2006, after the death of late Nawab Akbar Bugti. "Charged youth had a solid reason to burn the government installations" was his notion about the sorry state of affairs during discussion with university fellows, very next day of vandalism. Aslam, hailing from the suburbs of Quetta, and a die-hard worker of a political party remained in the party influence until his pathetic period of joblessness ended after finally getting a job. "I wasted my time in politics of hate and violence. But, now I find no reason to pursue my past

life," said Aslam soon after his return from Islamabad, after spending two years in job. A hundred and eighty-degree turn was just because he was financially empowered that relieved him from the fear of livelihood. The story of Aslam is a clear source of insight that how youth become a soft target for saboteurs when they are unemployed and live in fear. But, on the contrary, they are a potential asset for the country if provided social and economic development opportunities. "Baloch youth need immediate attention of the government," said Information Officer, Saeed Yusuf, commenting on prevailing situation in the province. "We need to en-

gage them in constructive activities and development programs before that they are swayed by lethal social media onslaught." Since Balochistan is experiencing unrest and a victim to the agenda of our enemies, it is high time to hammer out reasons resulting in their deprivation. "Our youth are our future. They are large portion of our population and we need to engage them in constructive activities," pleaded the youngest MNA from Balochistan, Nawabzada Jamal Raisani. "Their role is critical, particularly in the progress of Balochistan and Pakistan as a whole." Raisani said ignoring the aspirations of youth creates space for anti-state



ISLAMABAD: Safe City cameras being take off owing to the Construction of Underpass at Khayaban-e-Suhrwardy Road.

114 new dengue cases reported in Punjab

DNA

LAHORE: The dengue outbreak in Punjab shows no signs of slowing, as the total number of cases has risen to 6,011 this year. Health authorities reported 114 new cases on Sunday, spread across 36 districts in the province, with Rawalpindi bearing the brunt of the surge. According to recent Health Department data, Rawalpindi alone reported 105 cases in the past 24 hours, marking it as the hardest-hit area in recent weeks. Throughout Punjab, 954 cases were reported over the last week, further intensifying the situation. Lahore reported four new cases, while Attock, Multan, Khanewal, Sialkot, and Sahiwal each confirmed one new case during the same period. In response to the alarming increase, the Health Department has assured the public that all necessary resources are being mobilized to address the crisis. Medicine supplies have been stocked in public hospitals across the province to ensure proper care for dengue patients. For residents seeking information, treatment, or wishing to register complaints, the Health Department has set up a free helpline at 1033. Authorities are emphasizing the importance of vigilance and proactive measures to curb the dengue spread.—APP

Combating smog: an urgent solution to save environment

The PM 2.5 level pollution can lead to severe respiratory issues, cardiovascular diseases, and stunted children

PESHAWAR: As the sun sets behind a thick haze in Kohi Sufaid Mountain at Khyber district, Peshawar, which once enjoyed the fragrance of Gul e Dowadi these days, are exposed to various environmental hazards mostly caused by smog and air pollution. This pervasive winter smog, primarily stemming from traffic emissions, brick kilns, and waste burning at open places, has started having negative effects on the human health and ecosystem in Peshawar Valley. In recent years, cities like Peshawar have witnessed an upward increase in air pollution levels due to massive traffic jams, brick kilns, and marble factories, particularly during the winter season. The PM 2.5 level pollution can lead to severe respira-

tory issues, cardiovascular diseases, and stunted children. Gulzar Rehman, former conservator of forests, said, "PM 2.5 air pollution is a silent killer, emphasizing the grave risks posed by smog." "Many individuals are unaware of the long-term effects of smog, mostly caused by air pollution, until they become victims to asthma, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and heart complications," he added. "The primary issues behind this environmental problem are vehicular emissions, industrial discharges, brick kilns, and burning of solid waste in open," he said. The tragic story of Hosan Zadgaj, a 65-year-old resident of Nowshera, had exemplified the grim reality of air and household pollu-

tion. She had fallen prey to the chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)—an ailment mostly linked to air pollution in a local hospital. Hosan's battle ended after being diagnosed with advanced COPD, a condition exacerbated by the increasingly hazardous smog that enveloped several areas of the country during the winter months. "My mother collapsed suddenly while preparing breakfast," recounted Shageef Bagum, Hosan's daughter, while talking to APP. "Despite the doctors' best efforts over 16 days in various wards of Lady Reading Hospital, the pollution-induced COPD took her life." Shageef's heartbreak echoed the experiences of countless families facing similar tragedies.—APP

Peshawar's Gandhara museum innovates tradition

PESHAWAR: Gandhara Museum in Peshawar, a home to an unparalleled collection of ancient Buddhist art, continues to captivate visitors, yet there is a growing sentiment that its treasures deserve a broader digital presence imperative for economic prosperity. This idea was articulated by Zar Lal, a sixth-grade student whose recent visit to the museum left her deeply inspired

by the stories and artifacts that connect the region to its rich historical legacy. Zar Lal, accompanied by her parents, explored the museum's intricate displays, including biographical panels that trace the life of Lord Buddha, founder of Buddhism. "Seeing the rare artifacts and statues of Lord Buddha was like stepping into history," she reflected. Her visit underscored the museum's vital

role in preserving Gandhara art, which flourished between the 2nd century BC and the 6th century AD, making it a significant cultural hub in Southeast Asia. With over 30,000 rare antiquities showcased, the Peshawar Museum is renowned not just for its Buddhist sculptures but also for its architectural beauty, a blend of Mughal and British colonial styles.—APP



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Lahore
F-4, Gulberg Centre, Main Boulevard, Lahore. Tel: (+92 42) 3579881, 3579195. Fax: (+92 42) 3579140. E-mail: lahore@freelinemovers.com

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Office No. C-8, 2nd Floor, Zuhra Plaza, Leaf Road, Ring Road, Peshawar. Tel: (+92 91) 2823778. Fax: (+92 91) 2823789. E-mail: peshawar@freelinemovers.com

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

NOVEMBER

- Nov 01/Algeria National Day
- Nov 04/Italy Armed Forces Day
- Nov 07/Russian Federation Socialist Revolution
- Nov 09/Cambodia National Day
- Nov 11/Poland Independence Day
- Nov 14/Jordan Birthday of King Hussein
- Nov 15/Belgium Kings Day
- Nov 15/Brazil Republic Day
- Nov 15/Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus National Day
- Nov 18/Oman National Day
- Nov 18/Morocco Independence Day
- Nov 21/Bangladesh Armed Forces Day
- Nov 22/Lebanon Independence Day
- Nov 25/Suriname National Day
- Nov 28/Mauritania National Day
- Nov 28/Albania Flags Day

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Holy Family.....9290322-7
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RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

UBG, ICCI vow to help resolve small traders' issues

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari while discussing the problems faced by the business community and their solutions, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari mentioned that UBG is taking effective measures to address the traders' issues and is in close contact with the government. He stated that mutual cooperation and partnership are the keys to success, and through this, we can achieve our goals

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A member of the Central Core Committee of the United Business Group (UBG) and former president of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, stated that small traders and small industrialists are the backbone of the national economy. He emphasized that sustainable economic growth is not possible without their development and support. UBG has always maintained that the challenges faced by small business people should be addressed on a priority basis to pave the way for their progress. He expressed these views during his visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries, where he congratulated the newly elected cabinet of the chamber with a 40-member high-level delegation that included Shahzad Abbasi, Saqib Abbasi, Asad Aziz, Abdul Rahman, Zahir Abbasi, Raja Hassan Akhtar, Yusuf Rajput, Raja Javed, Raja Daniyal, Umar Khayyam, Azhar Iqbal, Ajmal Baloch, Akhtar Abbasi, Altaf Shah, Nasir Chaudhry, Babar Chaudhry, Khalid Chaudhry, Irfan Chaudhry, Saif ur Rehman, Asim Sethi, Nisar Mirza, Akhtar Awan,



Chaudhry Muhammad Ali, Faizan Mahmood, Zia Chaudhry, Malik Shabeer, Malik Mohsin, Muhammad waqas, Zahid qureshi, Zarif ahmed khan, Shahid zafar, Fasih ulls khan and others. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari also offered sweets to Qazi Ilyas, the founding president and group chairman of the Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries, newly elected president Owais Satti, senior vice president

Sheikh Tayyab, vice president Sardar Zaheer Ahmed, and other officials. He assured the newly elected cabinet that UBG would provide them with all possible assistance and cooperation and that serious efforts would continue to resolve their issues. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari while discussing the problems faced by the business community and their solutions, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari mentioned that UBG is taking effective measures to ad-

dress the traders' issues and is in close contact with the government. He stated that mutual cooperation and partnership are the keys to success, and through this, we can achieve our goals. The newly elected cabinet of the Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries welcomed Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari's visit, expressing their gratitude for sharing his experiences and assuring support for solving the problems of small

business people. They stated that under Bakhtawari's leadership, they would work together for the development of small traders and industrialists. They felt encouraged by his visit and were determined to accelerate their efforts to find new solutions to their community's problems. They hope that with his guidance, they can implement effective measures for the betterment of small business individuals.

DHO appeals to vaccinate children against polio

ISLAMABAD: The District Health Officer (DHO) Rawalpindi has issued an urgent appeal to parents to vaccinate their children against polio, a crucial step towards eradicating this debilitating disease and called on all stakeholders to join forces in the fight against polio. Talking to a private news channel, Chief Executive Officer of District Health Authority Rawalpindi Dr. Asif Arbab Khan Niazi said to achieve our target goal, health officials will deploy vaccination teams at bus stops and other high-traffic areas to administer polio drops to children traveling from Kashmir and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. By targeting these key locations, the District Health Authority hopes to minimize the risk of transmission and protect Pakistan's progress in reducing polio cases, he added. He announced the expansion of the Polio program's scope to combat the spread of the virus. He also emphasized that protecting children from this crippling disease requires a collective effort, where every parent plays a vital role. He further pledged that field teams will not only meet their vaccination targets but also work diligently to reduce refusal rates among parents. By minimizing refusals and maximizing vaccinations, Pakistan can move closer to eradicating polio, he added. CEO of District Health Authority Rawalpindi has reaffirmed his commitment to eradicating polio by ensuring that all children under five, particularly those traveling from outside Rawalpindi, receive 100% polio drops. —APP

CTP issues 66,482 challan tickets in Oct

DNA

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi, while taking action in accordance with the law against traffic rules violators, issued 66,482 challan tickets in October, said a CTP spokesman. He informed me that CTP also provided driving licenses and related facilities to over 148,000 citizens during last month. CTP on the vision of Chief Minister of Punjab Maryam Nawaz and the special instructions of Chief Traffic

Officer (CTO) of Rawalpindi Beenish Fatima, working hard to enforce the traffic rules. Strict action was taken against those who violated the traffic rules, he said. CTP issued 858 challan tickets for no parking and 2177 challan tickets for traffic signal violations. 1074 challan tickets were issued for one-way violations and 4268 challan tickets for line violations. 12,659 challan tickets were issued in the crackdown against unlicensed drivers, he informed. CTP also took

action against smoke-emitting vehicles and issued 1929 challan tickets. In October, traffic police also penalized 1716 drivers for underage driving. 1782 challan tickets were issued to public transport vehicles checked without fitness certificates, the spokesman said, adding that 2518 vehicles were challaned for not having route permits. 6932 bikers were fined for riding motorcycles without helmets. The CTO informed that CTP was making efforts to make Rawalpindi

city accident-free. Actions were taken against underage driving. Drivers without licenses and those not wearing helmets and more strict actions would be taken against the rule violators, she added. She urged the citizens to use seat belts and safety helmets while driving. No person would be allowed to violate the law, she added. Traffic wardens had been directed to make all-out efforts to prevent road accidents and improve traffic flow in Rawalpindi district, she said.

Metro Bus requires overall refurbishment

Overcrowding of Metro buses during peak hours is another pressing issue for daily commuters. Buses frequently operate at full capacity, leaving many commuters waiting for extended periods to catch a ride

ISLAMABAD: The Metro Bus, with a full track-record of public service, urgently requires multiple initiatives to ensure safe and smooth traveling for general public in twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Apparently, an overall refurbishment seems to be the sole option in order to streamline the service, launched over a decade ago, to provide a reliable and efficient mode of transportation. Regular commuters, especially elderly, were not fully satisfied with operational issues, just like faulty escalators, elevators and damaged chairs at different stations, especially from Faiz Ahmad Faiz station to Islamabad International Airport routes. Firdos Shamim, an elderly commuter said: "Peeling paint, damaged chairs, non-functional escalators, elevators and broken stair tiles

at most of the stations depict negligence on the part of the officials." "It is a tough task to climb stairs at this age, as often I find escalators and lifts dysfunctional at different stations particularly at, Faizabad, NHA and G13 Western stops," she added. Overcrowding of Metro buses during peak hours is another pressing issue for daily commuters. Buses frequently operate at full capacity, leaving many commuters waiting for extended periods to catch a ride. "I love that the buses are more frequent, but during rush hour, they're still overcrowded," said Noreen Asif, a Shamsabad resident who relies on Metro Bus service to commute to her job at a private firm in Blue Area. "I often have to wait for the second or third bus because there's no space to get on." Muhammad Talha,

a student at NUST University, said the service should be connected to across city areas to help commuters. More feeder buses should be run from every nook and cranny of the twin cities especially, to connect Islamabad Expressway from Rawat to Faisal mosque. Talha also noted that the rural areas were still lacking proper transport service. The blue line services should be extended up to Rawat, he added. Usman Khan, an elderly passenger, expressed his concerns while using the Orange Line Bus service. "It's an uphill task to cross the Srinagar Highway," he said, highlighting that "Heavy traffic and fast-moving vehicles on the highway pose significant risks for pedestrians, attempting to cross the road as some of the stations lacking double-way access."

Shakeel Abbas, a traveller en route to Islamabad International Airport, voiced his concerns about the fare disparity on the same route. "It is beyond my understanding why there is a different fare while commuting on the Orange Line Bus service," Abbas stated. He recounted his experience, explaining that he paid 50 rupees from Faiz Ahmad Faiz to the N5 stop, and then again paid 90 rupees from N5 to Airport. "I have to change the bus and have to pay 90 rupees more," he highlighted the anomaly of the fare structure. When contacted, Mujtaba Ali, an official at G13 station said, "We are committed to addressing these issues and improving the overall travel experience for everyone using the Metro Bus Service.—APP

Crackdown on price gouging, vendors fined, wholesaler arrested

ISLAMABAD: Following the directions of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, the district administration officials were stepping up efforts to control rising food costs, targeting vendors charging above government-set prices. In this regard, Magistrate Saddar Zone, Mir Yamin led a price check operation in the G-15 area, the 26 No. Chungi, and adjacent areas to monitor the grocery pricing. During the operation, Magistrate Saddar Zone oversaw inspections across markets and grocery stores to ensure vendors followed official rates for vegetables and fruits. The operation aimed to prevent overcharging and to help keep essential food items within reach for citizens. During the checks, he fined several vendors who were selling food, vegetables, and fruits above the government's rate list. In a significant move, one wholesaler selling items at inflated rates was arrested and transferred to the police station in Tarnol, where further legal action will follow. Talking to media, Magistrate Mir Yamin said, "The district administration teams are continuously conducting operation against the price gougers to ensure affordable food access for all citizens." Meanwhile, he urged citizens to report any instances of overcharging. He reiterated that shopkeepers must adhere to the prices set by the administration.—APP

IRSA releases 115,400 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 115,400 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 59,700 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1526.46 feet and was 128.46 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 31,400 cusecs and 55,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1184.30 feet, which was 134.30 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 5,900 cusecs and 38,000 cusecs respectively.—APP

PMYP and SIA unite to empower Balochistan's Youth

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) has partnered with the Social Innovation Academy (SIA) to empower the youth of Balochistan through innovative approaches to social entrepreneurship. The Letter of Intent (LOI) was signed in a ceremony attended by Rana Mashhood, Chairman of PMYP, marking a significant step in the region's commitment to fostering a new generation of change-makers. This partnership will focus on developing social enterprises, engaging youth in meaningful projects, and facilitating knowledge sharing across various sectors. Through targeted skills training, mentorship and access to essential resources, PMYP and SIA aimed to equip young people to effectively address pressing social challenges in Balochistan. "Empowering our youth is crucial for the sustainable development of Balochistan," Rana Mashhood said adding, "Through this collaboration, we aim to inspire young minds to become proactive problem-solvers and innovative leaders in their communities." The Social Innovation Academy's commitment to social innovation aligns perfectly with PMYP's vision of a thriving, empowered youth population. "By combining our strengths, we can create impactful opportunities for young entrepreneurs," said a spokesperson from SIA, adding, "We believe that through social entrepreneurship, the youth of Balochistan can drive positive change and contribute to the region's growth." The initiative will offer a variety of programs, including workshops, incubators for social enterprises and networking events.—APP

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Briefs

Security guidelines issued to personnel at checkpoints

ISLAMABAD: Superintendent of Police (SP) Pari Gul Tareen visited various checkpoints in the Swan Zone, on Sunday where she provided special security instructions to officers and personnel stationed at these locations. "Police officers and personnel are actively engaged in patrolling the streets," SP Pari Gul Tareen stated. A public relation officer told APP that, the Pari Gul instructed officers to ensure that roads are not blocked during vehicle checks to maintain a smooth flow of traffic and directed them to set up barriers for designated vehicle inspection areas. "Special care must be taken to consider families traveling in vehicles during checks," she added, advising that lady police officers be called upon to assist in inspecting suspicious vehicles with families on board. "It is crucial that citizens do not feel intimidated by the police during checks," SP Pari Gul urged. SP Pari Gul also instructed officers to remove helmets from motorcyclists for thorough checks. "During inspections, every citizen must be treated with the utmost courtesy," she emphasized. SP Pari Gul also urged the public to cooperate with police efforts to maintain security. "These measures are designed to ensure the safety of the city and its residents," SP concluded.—APP

Police elevate officers to higher ranks

ISLAMABAD: Approved by the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Ali Nasir Rizvi, the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police have announced the promotion of a total of 240 officers to higher positions following a recent meeting of the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) chaired by Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Dr Syed Mustafa Tanveer. The promotions were made consequent upon the recommendations of the DPC in its meeting held at the Central Police Office. A public relations officer told APP that the promotion board convened to address vacancies for the ranks of Head Constable, Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI), Sub-Inspector, and Inspector. The board recommended the following promotions based on exemplary service records and overall satisfactory performance: 20 Sub-Inspectors (BS-14) promoted to the rank of Inspector (BS-16). 55 Assistant Sub-Inspectors (BS-11) promoted to the rank of Sub-Inspector (BS-14). 65 Head Constables (BS-09) promoted to the rank of Assistant Sub-Inspector (BS-11). 2 Inspectors (BS-16) promoted to the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police (BS-17). Additionally, under the leadership of AIG Logistics Muhammad Shoaib, a separate board recommended the promotion of 98 Constables to the rank of Head Constable. All promotion notifications have been issued promptly. IGP Rizvi had previously instructed that all vacancies be filled as quickly as possible.—APP

Climate financing for developing countries vital: Sherry

In his remarks on the occasion, Amb. Jauhar Saleem, President of the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) highlighted the potential role of COP29 in advancing climate adaptation efforts and ensuring essential funding

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Speaking at the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) pre-COP29 panel discussion titled 'Bridging the Gap: Humanitarian/Development Agencies and Climate Adaptation in Pakistan' Senator Sherry Rehman underpinned the critical role of development organizations in fostering climate resilience through providing adequate funding. Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, also underscored the need for local climate action backed by robust international financing. Advocating proactive measures in flood-prone areas to prevent escalating climate impacts, she urged major emitters to honour their Internationally Determined Contributions (IDCs) and called for a Global Goal on Adaptation that prioritises funding for on-ground initiatives. Calling upon major emitters to commit to their Internationally Determined Contributions (IDCs), Senator Rehman emphasized that climate financing for the Global South should be directed towards on-ground adaptation initiatives, not just reporting. In his remarks on the occasion, Amb. Jauhar Saleem, President of the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) highlighted the potential role of COP29 in advancing climate adaptation efforts and ensuring essential funding. He also stressed upon the importance of decentralised approaches to climate adaptation —while ensuring that strategies are tailored to local contexts to address diverse climate challenges effectively — and shared that IRS was conducting a number of pre-COP discussions to gener-



ate concrete recommendations for COP-29. Dr Altaf Abro, Head of Mission for Secours Islamique France (SIF) Pakistan, emphasized the importance of linking development funds with humanitarian resources to enhance adaptation efforts and enable more effective resilience strategies. Dr Samuel Rizk, Resident Representative of UNDP Pakistan, stressed the need for coordinated government action in addressing climate change. He also invited attention to rapid population growth and worsening climate

impacts as significant challenges for Pakistan, which were deepening vulnerabilities for marginalised communities. Bilal Anwar, CEO of the National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF), accentuated the need for transformative adaptation initiatives to meet the mounting challenges of climate change. He also called for mobilisation of resources, enhancement of expertise, and inclusion of indigenous practices to build resilience and drive sustainable climate action. Dr. Rizwan Naseer, Senior Research

Fellow at IRS, underscored the importance of aligning humanitarian responses with development strategies to create a more integrated approach. Muhammad Arif Goheer, Executive Director of the Global Climate Change Impact Study Centre (GCISC), brought out the urgency for effective adaptation strategies in Pakistan's agricultural sector and called for climate-smart farming practices and improved water management to safeguard this vital sector. Isabel Bogorinsky, Head of Programs at Welthungerhil-

fe (WHH) Pakistan, highlighted the threat that climate change poses to food security and emphasized upon the vital role of government organisations and think tanks in building resilience and developing strategies to mitigate climate risks while enhancing adaptive capacities. Ahmed Kamal, former Chairman of the Federal Flood Commission (FFC), discussed government-led disaster risk reduction initiatives, including the 10-year National Flood Protection Plan and advancements in flood forecasting systems.

China-Pakistan technical education center set up

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) - Industrial Center of Excellence was unveiled here at the Belt and Road Digital Education Development Forum. In a bid to train more Pakistani youth in Chinese language and vocational skills, 15 key disciplines including IoT, automation, textile, big data, engineering, etc. would be prioritised in the following year. According to China Economic Net (CEN) it will be carried with digital curriculum to be developed under a mutually-formulated set of standards, and teachers will be trained to upgrade their vocational

knowledge. Industry-specific committees in textile, resource and environment, and food were set up in tandem, which are expected to equip students with exceptional internship and employment opportunities in these sectors, contributing to economic cooperation and development of Pakistan. "This move comes in line with the desire for talent by Chinese companies investing in Pakistan and by local companies as well which are catching up with the tide of industrial upgrade", said Mr. Ammar Muhammad, Secretary General of China Pakistan International Academic Integration Alliance. So far, the alliance has attracted the participation of over 300 universities and colleges, and

more than 80 enterprises in China and Pakistan, providing vocational training in a variety of key sectors such as agriculture, information, health, energy, etc. Apart from skill development, the establishment of eight smart Chinese language centers is listed in the first-year plan of the TVET - Industrial Center, with the first one unveiled at the conference, which would be supported by Liaoning Petrochemical College. China-Pakistan cooperation on vocational education has been on the fast track since 2021. Earlier this year, the first IT City of Pakistan was inaugurated in Lahore under bilateral cooperation, providing local young people with training on artificial intelligence, cloud computing,

graphic design, cybersecurity, data analytics, machine learning, and game development. "Last year, Chinese enterprises registered RMB 220 billion of non-financial investment in Belt and Road countries, up by 28% year on year. In many scenarios, the demand for low-skilled workforce shrinks, such as unmanned factories. This is happening at a faster pace than ever, urging us to build a local service ecology while helping partner countries cope with the impact of new technologies," said Mr. Li Jinsong, President of Tang International Education Group, an organizer of the forum and herald of the "Chinese language plus skill development" mode of vocational education.

Pak to benefit from China's logistics expertise

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will benefit from China Linyi's logistics and customs operations expertise, said, Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi during his visit to Linyi, Shandong province. This, he said will help to enhance bilateral trade cooperation between China and Pakistan. The Ambassador met with the Mayor of Linyi Zhang Baoliang, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday. The two sides held extensive discussions to further deepen bilateral cooperation in various sectors and explore new avenues for enhancing trade and investment, particularly in developing logistics networks and training initiatives, Gwadar Pro reported. The Ambassador expressed Pakistan's keen interest in benefiting from Linyi's logistics and customs operations expertise. The two sides also discussed cooperation in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). The Ambassador underscored enhanced partnership with Linyi would strengthen the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and contribute to shared prosperity through mutually beneficial initiatives. As part of his visit, Ambassador Hashmi visited several key facilities in Linyi, including the Linyi Import Commodity City Mall, Linyi International Trade Centre, Linyi Trade City Holding Group, Linyi Port, and Linyi Logistics Park.—DNA

HEC Awards 200 scholarships to Sri Lankan students

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD/COLOMBO: Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan has awarded 200 fully and partially funded scholarships to the 6th batch of Sri Lankan students under the Allama Muhammad Iqbal Scholarship Programme. Around 500 Sri Lankan students, apart from these awardees, are already pursuing their undergraduate, MS and PhD studies in leading universities in Pakistan. In

this connection, HEC in collaboration with the Pakistan High Commission, Colombo held a ceremony for the newly selected students in Colombo. General Shavendra Silva, Chief of Defense Staff was the chief guest. High Commissioner of Pakistan to Sri Lanka Maj. Gen. (R) Faheem Ul Aziz also graced the occasion. Speaking on behalf of the Chairman HEC, the Project Director, Pakistan Sri Lanka Higher Education Cooperation Programme Mr. Jehanzeb Khan congratulat-

ed the Sri Lankan students and briefed the participants about various aspects of the scholarship programme. He highlighted the importance of education in bringing regional economic stability and enhancing collaboration between the two friendly countries. In his remarks, the High Commissioner said that awarding these scholarships to Sri Lankan students is yet another testament to the excellent brotherly relations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Chinese solar panels ease pressure on Pakistan Grid

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Affordable Chinese solar modules accounting for 10,450 MW in the first half of 2024 has eased out pressure on Pakistan national grid system. Inflow of financially viable Chinese solar panels in Pakistan have also made the people the sigh of relief upset by power outage as millions of people in Pakistan have been switching over to renewable energy paradigms powered up by Chinese solar bonanza. Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) official told Gwadar Pro that during the first half of 2024, Pakistan became beneficiary of China inverters worth a total of RMB 1.714 billion. In August alone, the total value of inverter exports to Pakistan reached 326 million yuan, showing a year-on-year surge of 429.04 percent," he added. Positive results that came to fore due to Chinese solar panels in Pakistan market has let national grid system to breathe better as previously grid infrastructures that direly needed revamp across the country had to suffer frequent trips. After the pressure ebbs, September generation on the grid went down 6 percent year-on-year to 12.1 billion units. It was down 17 percent year-on-year in August. September's generation is the lowest for the month since September 2018.—APP

PIAF calls for proactive economic agenda

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has stated that political uncertainty has rattled the Pakistan economy, asking the government to take proactive measures to counter external and domestic challenges, besides stabilizing the economy. In a statement issued here today, the PIAF Chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol outlined a comprehensive economic agenda aimed at steering the country towards progress. He emphasized the critical need for a strategic approach to economic development, calling for concerted efforts from both the government

and political parties. He observed that industry was expecting to presage easing of all political uncertainty paving the way for economic stability and all stakeholders and associated media pundits insisted would be a key factor in turning the economy around. This in the face of ever-rising electricity rates as pledged to the International Monetary Fund in an attempt to attain full cost recovery (instead of improving the management of the sector as is required). Faheem Saigol said that the government should be committed to transforming the economy of the country, as the process of transforming the economy is already underway in the country, acknowledging that structural reforms in

every sector takes time. He mentioned that the government will have to take joint action to combat currency smuggling and narrow the difference in dollar rates between official and open markets. It is the fact that the government has undertaken various initiatives for the betterment of the country. The trade deficit narrowed by 3.6 per cent to \$1.3 billion, demonstrating positive progress and expressed optimism that the government's efforts would lead to an expansion in export potential and the export market. The PIAF leader said that the government would encounter the external and domestic challenges, which are enormous but the government will have to take proactive

measures to overcome them. He said that the Pakistan Credit Guarantee Company had been formed for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), emphasizing that the companies had to stand on their own feet and should not rely on subsidies. He stated that a substantial change should introduce to the FBR to enhance its performance with a view to raise the economic growth of this country. He said that the economic managers should diligently work on reforms in the FBR and ensure their implementation. He praised the efforts of the caretaker government and urged consultations with the BMP in the fiscal budget-making process to facilitate the business community.

SMEs shocked over hike in Pol prices

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has rejected the recent increase in prices of petroleum products, as despite a decline in the international market, the government has increased the prices of petrol and high-speed diesel which is unjust and unfair. The APBF appealed the government to bring down the prices of utilities to the regional competitors besides lowering interest rate which is also very high when compared to the other countries. APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood remarked that at a time of unsatisfactory export volumes and low industrial growth, the hike in oil products along with constant raise in electricity and gas tariffs for the industry, especially for the SMEs, was really surprising. If the decision is not withdrawn, it will prove dangerous for the country's SME sector, he stressed. The average prices of petrol and HSD decreased in the international market by about \$1.5 and \$2.5 per barrel, respectively, after October 15. The average price of petrol had dropped to about \$76 per barrel from about \$77.5. The price of HSD also declined to about \$84 per barrel from \$86.5 in the last fortnight.—APP

ICT admin crackdown on price gouging

ISLAMABAD: Following the directions of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, the district administration officials were stepping up efforts to control rising food costs, targeting vendors charging above government-set prices. In this regard, Magistrate Saddar Zone, Mir Yamin led a price check operation in the G-15 area, the 26 No. Chungi, and adjacent areas to monitor the grocery pricing. During the operation, Magistrate Saddar Zone oversaw inspections across markets and grocery stores to ensure vendors followed official rates for vegetables and fruits. The operation aimed to prevent overcharging and to help keep essential food items within reach for citizens. During the checks, he fined several vendors who were selling food, vegetables, and fruits above the government's rate list. In a significant move, one wholesaler selling items at inflated rates was arrested and transferred to the police station in Tarnol, where further legal action will follow.—APP



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+9235 47 47 01 | +92 51 8900 682

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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 05 Issue: 182

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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

Race to net zero

AS Azerbaijan's capital Baku prepares to host the Cop29 climate conference from November 11, Asia stands at a crossroads in the global fight against climate change. The region, home to 60 per cent of the world's population and 53 per cent of global emissions, is emerging as an unlikely champion in the race to net zero. While challenges remain formidable and estimates suggest meeting its goals by 2050 will cost about US\$70 trillion, Asia's commitment to climate action is reshaping the global environmental landscape in unprecedented ways. Asia's climate journey embodies a striking paradox. The region remains heavily dependent on fossil fuels, with China alone consuming 53.8 per cent of the world's coal in 2022. However, it is precisely this enormous carbon footprint that has sparked some of the most ambitious climate commitments anywhere. Southeast Asian nations are showing remarkable leadership in climate action. The Philippines' bold commitment to reduce emissions by 75 per cent by 2030 sets a new standard for developing nations. Singapore, despite its size, has established a precise emissions cap of 60 million tonnes by 2030, backing this commitment with comprehensive carbon pricing mechanisms and investments in renewable energy infrastructure. The region's approach to carbon pricing is particularly noteworthy. Singapore's carbon tax framework, implemented in 2019, has become a model for other economies. Indonesia's carbon trading scheme, launched in 2021, shows how emerging economies can integrate market-based mechanisms into their climate strategies while maintaining economic growth. Vietnam's renewable energy transformation deserves special mention. It has become a leader in solar power deployment, increasing its capacity to 16.5 gigawatts in just a few years. This shows how rapidly-developing nations can pivot towards clean energy when supported by appropriate policies and international cooperation. While remaining the world's largest carbon emitter and coal consumer, China has simultaneously emerged as the global leader in renewable energy installation. Beijing's commitment to peak emissions before 2030 and to achieving carbon neutrality by 2060 has inspired massive investments in clean energy infrastructure. The numbers tell a compelling story. China's non-fossil-fuel capacity is expected to reach 1,200GW by 2030, and its share of global emissions is projected to decrease from 33 per cent to 22 per cent by 2050. This transformation, while maintaining economic growth, offers valuable lessons for other developing nations. China's leadership in electric vehicle (EV) adoption and manufacturing is particularly impressive. It accounts for more than half of global EV sales and has built a comprehensive supply chain for battery production. This transition both reduces emissions and creates new economic opportunities and jobs in the green economy. India's climate journey exemplifies Asia's potential for transformation. It is currently the world's third-largest source of global emissions but has emerged as a leader in renewable energy deployment, ranking fourth globally in installed renewable capacity. The country's commitment to producing 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030 and achieving net zero by 2070 has opened up huge investment opportunities in the clean energy transition. New Delhi's ambitious National Green Hydrogen Mission and solar energy expansion plans demonstrate how developing economies can align climate action with economic development.



North Korea's missile test

IN an unmistakable show of military might just days before the US presidential election, North Korea launched its newest solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), the Hwasong-19, on October 31. Far from a simple reminder of Pyongyang's capabilities, the event, carefully timed amid condemnation of North Korea's reported deployment of troops in support of Russia, highlighted its deepening alliance with Moscow. The signal for the United States and its allies is that the foreign policy stakes are sharply escalating. By leveraging this moment of electoral uncertainty, North Korea and Russia appear to be challenging the global power structure, leaving global and regional observers increasingly anxious about what may come next. North Korea's missile launch underscores a significant pivot in the global power dynamics, suggesting that Pyongyang's threats are no longer isolated provocations but part of a broader, potentially coordinated threat landscape with Russia. This evolving alliance presents a complex and intensifying challenge, particularly for the US and its allies in Asia and Europe, forcing regional stakeholders to reassess their defence postures and alliances as previously separated threats converge. While the launch marks Pyongyang's first ICBM test this year, North Korea's missile threat was firmly established last year. In April 2023, South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol visited the US, where President Joe Biden agreed to extend nuclear deterrence efforts on the Korean peninsula. Earlier that month, North Korea had tested its Hwasong-18, a missile it also tested in July and December last year when the US and South Korea sat down to Nuclear Consultative Group meetings. Japanese intelligence has confirmed the Hwasong-18 could reach up to 15,000km (9320 miles), theoretically covering continental US and possibly parts of Europe. The Hwasong-19 has at least the same range capability. North Korea claims it is "the world's strongest strategic missile" but questions remain as to how advanced it really is. Nevertheless, the Hwasong-19 launch underscores North Korea's ability to directly threaten the US and other Nato members. Such ICBM threats can be nuclear. North Korea is believed to possess 50 nuclear warheads and has conducted six nuclear tests. After its fifth test in 2016, Seoul said North Korea was ready to conduct an additional nuclear test at any time. This nuclear threat complicates US and allied missile defence strategies and heightens the need for resilient, layered defences against a potential multilateral threat. Some analysts see this ICBM launch as an attempt by North Korea to divert attention from its heavily scrutinised reported troop dispatch to Russia. More likely, it consolidates North Korea's allied image with Russia which, coincidentally, conducted a nuclear drill on October 29, reinforcing their nuclear posture. The alliance appears to have evolved into a genuine strategic partnership with serious implications for both regional and global stability. Kyiv and Seoul say Pyongyang has allocated up to 12,000 troops to support Russian operations in Ukraine - North Korea denies this - and Russia has been suspected of reciprocating with military and strategic technological support. The developing Moscow-Pyongyang axis poses a broad spectrum of combined nuclear and conventional threats to the US and its allies across Asia and Europe, underscoring the challenge of facing two nuclear-armed adversaries openly hostile to US interests.

USA Elections 2024: Hinged and unhinged

Qamar Bashir



White Trump supporters, at their core, are driven by racial concerns, opposing immigration and harboring a deep desire to rid the country of what they see as the scourge of immigration. Asian communities, particularly those from South Asia, are also split. Many are hesitant to openly express their political preferences, but when they do, they tend to favor Harris. However, younger South Asians, especially second-generation immigrants, show some support for Trump, citing concerns about the economy and job layoffs

IT is an exhilarating experience to be in one of the most pivotal states in the U.S.—Michigan, one of the seven key swing states that, alongside Arizona, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Georgia, and North Carolina, will shape the outcome of the presidential election, the future of America, and, by extension, the world. Swing states are crucial because Democratic (blue) states control 180 electoral votes, while Republican (red) states outside the swing states hold 186. Both parties are likely to retain their blue and red strongholds in the upcoming election, which is just two days away (November 5, 2024). As a result, the fate of both Democrats and Republicans hinges on these swing states, which hold the key to their success or failure. The most impactful part of this experience has been the healthy and objective discussions among canvassers and with voters at their doorsteps. Canvassing door-to-door, particularly for me, was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to truly understand the sentiments of everyday people, not the elites in their luxurious homes. These doorstep interactions with various segments and races revealed distinct preferences. Among Michigan's population of 10,077,331, which is 73.9% white, I observed two notable trends. White men overwhelmingly support Mr. Trump, with only a few exceptions. On the other hand, white women are more divided, with many supporting Kamala Harris due to her stance on women's reproductive rights, particularly the right to choose regarding abortion. Meanwhile, the Black population, making up 13.7% of the state's population, is almost entirely in favor of Harris. White Trump supporters, at their core, are driven by racial concerns, opposing immigration and harboring a deep desire to rid the country of what they see as the scourge of immigration. Asian communities, particularly those from South Asia, are also split. Many are hesitant to openly express their political preferences, but when they do, they tend to favor Harris. However, younger South Asians, especially second-generation immigrants, show some support for Trump, citing concerns about the economy and job layoffs. One young Bangladeshi-American I spoke to mentioned he supports Trump because, during the previous Democratic administration, most of the men in his family were

unemployed. Interestingly, when asked about the main issue or problem in the upcoming elections, many respondents replied that "everything is a problem." They expressed a general dissatisfaction, feeling that nothing is right and that everything needs to be realigned with democratic values, emphasizing civility, forgiveness, and compassion for each other irrespective of creed, color or race. A significant number of respondents voiced their dislike for both Trump and Harris, noting that candidates often promise paradise before the election, but once in power, they forget those promises and focus on enjoying the perks of power and wealth, which they believe was the primary motivation behind running for office. These conversations reminded me of similar sentiments often expressed by people in my own country, where there's a shared frustration with political leaders who fail to deliver on their promises once they assume power. During the group discussion, another hotly debated point was the use of divisive election rhetoric. Many noted that, despite knowing their slogans and rhetoric against races, immigrants, and opponents are irrational, illogical, and contrary to the norms of decency, political leaders continue to use them. They are aware that such rhetoric creates deep divisions and hatred among different racial groups, yet they inject this hateful "virus" purposefully to stir emotions, create frenzy, and push people toward extremist attitudes. The belief is that this tactic will solidify support among less-educated and racially biased voters, whose strong sentiments against their opponents will translate into votes. According to most individuals in the discussion, this is a narrow and parochial approach, which they view as highly detrimental to the security, safety, and well-being of the American people. Interestingly, this growing sense of insecurity has even permeated Working America, the agency conducting door-to-door surveys on behalf of the Democrats. The agency has had to hire private security to protect its operations and personnel, highlighting the increased risks in the current political climate. When it comes to election predictions, numerous surveys and polls have been conducted by various agencies and institutions, resulting in different and sometimes conflicting outcomes, making the pre-

diction process even more complex. Having served in government roles in Pakistan, assisting ministers and even the President, I have insight into the mechanisms behind such surveys. I quickly realized that during elections, poll-conducting agencies are often driven by profit. Political parties hire these agencies, either directly or through third parties, and, in exchange for payment, results that favor the hiring party are often injected into the media to create the perception of their widespread popularity. For instance, according to "FiveThirtyEight", Harris leads with 48.0% compared to Trump's 46.8%, a margin of 1.2 percentage points. Similarly, "RealClearPolitics" shows Harris ahead by 4 points in a CBS News poll and by 5 points in an NBC News poll. According to the New York Post analysis, recent polls show Trump leading Harris. In Pennsylvania, Trump is predicted to be ahead by 48% to 47%; in Michigan, he leads 48% to 47%. In Arizona, Trump holds a 48% to 46% lead, and in Georgia, he leads 48% to 46%. However, Marist College finds Harris ahead by 3 points in Michigan, 2 points in Pennsylvania, and 2 points in Wisconsin. Additionally, the Australian Report states that national polls show Trump slightly ahead of Harris, with a poll average of 48.4% to 48.3%. These diverse polling results reflect how polls can vary, possibly influenced by the interests of those funding the surveys, raising concerns about their objectivity and accuracy. In Pakistan, we are familiar with how, seemingly overnight, the tide begins to turn in favor of a particular political party once the establishment has decided to install it in power as their preferred choice. Similarly, in the U.S., it appears that the election winds are now blowing in favor of Kamala Harris—not necessarily because people have deep faith in her or feel particularly passionate about her candidacy, but rather to prevent Donald Trump from returning to power. Trump, who former Democratic President Bill Clinton aptly described as "more unhinged" than he was during the 2016 elections, is seen by many as a greater risk, and this sentiment seems to be driving support for Harris.

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

From Napoleon to Putin

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The US saw this as an opportunity to weaken Russia's military capabilities without engaging in direct combat, a tactic that had been effective in past conflicts such as in Afghanistan during the Soviet invasion. Another major miscalculation was Russia's overestimation of Europe's dependence on its energy supplies. It assumed that Europe, especially Germany, would be reluctant to jeopardize their economic ties with Russia, leading to minimal...

OVER two and a half years ago, Russia launched a military invasion into Ukraine, a nation that was once part of the Russian Empire and later the Soviet Union. The reasons behind this invasion were deeply rooted in geostrategic considerations. Russia, historically wary of threats from its western and southern borders, perceived Ukraine as a critical buffer state. Moscow's concern was not solely based on contemporary threats but also on historical precedents. Both Napoleon and Hitler had invaded Russia through its western front, and the lack of strategic depth in these areas had made it vulnerable. Thus, for Russia, maintaining control or significant influence over Ukraine was a matter of national security. Russia's invasion was driven by the need to prevent what it saw as the possibility of a hostile force using Ukraine as a staging ground for an attack. Even if no immediate invasion plans existed from the West, the Kremlin's geopolitical strategy required preparing for a worst-case scenario. Geopolitics often demands a proactive approach, wherein states prepare for potential threats long before they manifest. For Moscow, the presence of a pro-Western government in Kyiv was a signal that the West was inching closer to Russia's sphere of influence. This concern was exacerbated by events in 2014, when a pro-Russian president of Ukraine was ousted following a popular uprising, which Moscow believed had Western backing. For Russia, this represented a shift towards Western encroachment, heightening fears of a broader strategy to weaken or encircle it. The West's apprehensions were also based on historical and contemporary analyses. Many Western nations feared that Russia's invasion of Ukraine could set a precedent for further aggression, potentially threatening other parts of Europe. The mutual fear and suspicion between Russia and the West were not entirely irrational; both sides had strategic concerns that, over time, seemed to validate each other's fears. Russia, seeking to safeguard its borders, and the West, aiming to deter potential Russian expansionism, ended up in a state of strategic opposition. The early days of the invasion were marked by a bold but flawed strategy. Russia aimed to execute a rapid assault, deploying tank columns on multiple fronts to instill panic and quickly overpower Ukrainian forces. The logic behind this maneuver was to swiftly neutralize Ukrainian resistance, thereby discouraging foreign intervention, particularly from the United States and NATO. However, the execution of this plan proved problematic. The infamous 40-kilometer-long column of Russian tanks heading towards Kyiv from the north became a symbol of strategic failure. Despite the imposing visual of Russian military hardware, these columns faced logistical issues, with inadequate

supplies of fuel and ammunition. The tanks stalled, creating an opportunity for Ukrainian forces to pick off Russian units from the front and rear, effectively immobilizing the column. This marked the first major setback for Russia. Ukraine's defensive strategy capitalized on these missteps. Unlike conventional warfare, which would involve massing troops to confront an invading force, Ukraine deployed small, mobile units that could strike Russian positions opportunistically. This agile, decentralized approach disrupted Russia's plans, making it difficult for the invading forces to maintain cohesive advances. Ukraine's resistance, combined with logistical failures on Russia's part, undermined the Kremlin's hope of a swift and decisive victory. Russia's strategy was further hampered by several key intelligence miscalculations. Moscow did not anticipate the extent of U.S. and European involvement. Washington, with its extensive experience in proxy conflicts, decided against deploying American troops directly but provided significant military aid to Ukraine. This included the supply of advanced weaponry, intelligence sharing, and logistical support, all aimed at blunting Russian advances. The U.S. saw this as an opportunity to weaken Russia's military capabilities without engaging in direct combat, a tactic that had been effective in past conflicts such as in Afghanistan during the Soviet invasion. Another major miscalculation was Russia's overestimation of Europe's dependence on its energy supplies. It assumed that Europe, especially Germany, would be reluctant to jeopardize their economic ties with Russia, leading to minimal cooperation with NATO efforts. However, European nations demonstrated resilience and adaptability. Germany and other countries sought alternative energy sources, accelerated their transition to renewable energy, and remained aligned with NATO's strategic objectives. While energy constraints posed significant challenges, the collective resolve of European nations to find alternatives and reduce dependency on Russian oil and gas represented a strategic misjudgment by the Kremlin. One of the critical aspects that Moscow misread was Ukraine's military strategy. Ukrainian forces adopted a strategy of flexibility and adaptability. They avoided large-scale confrontations, which would have made them vulnerable to Russia's superior firepower. Instead, Ukrainian units focused on ambushes, guerrilla tactics, and quick, mobile strikes that disrupted Russian supply lines and forced Russian units into defensive positions. This decentralized approach was successful because it allowed Ukrainian forces to exploit the vulnerabilities in Russia's logistical and strategic planning. From a strategic standpoint, Russia's initial objective seemed to prioritize the rapid capture of major Ukrainian

cities, including Kyiv. However, this approach was resource-intensive and overlooked the complexities of urban warfare. Capturing a city does not equate to controlling it, as evidenced by the prolonged conflicts in urban settings throughout modern history. Russia's inability to secure decisive victories in cities like Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Mariupol revealed the limitations of its approach. While Russia managed to take control of some parts of eastern Ukraine, these gains were not sufficient to achieve a definitive strategic victory. Compounding Russia's strategic difficulties was the decision to deploy the Wagner Group, a private mercenary organization, to the battlefield. Traditionally, mercenary groups serve supplementary roles, providing additional manpower or engaging in operations that are not suitable for conventional forces. However, the Kremlin's reliance on Wagner blurred the lines between state and private military functions. Wagner's operations became a focal point of internal power struggles, particularly regarding ammunition distribution and command hierarchy. President Vladimir Putin's apparent preference for Wagner over conventional Russian military command exacerbated tensions, leading to an attempted insurrection by Wagner's leader, Yevgeny Prigozhin. Prigozhin's rebellion, which was quickly quelled, nonetheless exposed fractures within Russia's military apparatus. The subsequent death of Prigozhin in a plane crash was widely interpreted as a consolidation of control by the Kremlin, but it also highlighted the extent of internal discord. The fallout from this incident weakened the cohesion of Russia's military command, further complicating efforts to implement a coherent and unified strategy. In the wake of these strategic failures, Russia's military command has had to reconsider its approach. Moscow initially sought to achieve rapid victories by capturing major cities, but this has not yielded the desired outcomes. The Ukrainian counteroffensive, marked by a surprising invasion into Russian territory, signaled a shift in the dynamics of the conflict. Ukraine's ability to mount offensives into Russian border areas reflected the strategic limitations that Russia faces, including stretched supply lines and vulnerable logistical nodes. Russia's failure to decisively crush Ukrainian resistance has left it in a precarious position. The prolonged nature of the conflict, combined with international sanctions and diplomatic isolation, has strained its resources. If Russia continues to prioritize city capture without addressing the broader strategic need to neutralize Ukrainian forces, it risks further setbacks. To prevent more failures, Moscow will need to adapt its strategy, possibly by fortifying defensive positions and reconsidering its offensive tactics.

Briefs

No objection if provincial govts wish to purchase...

FROM PAGE 01
Rs 830 billion. Abdul Ajeem Khan explained that he oversees three departments under his ministry, including privatization, and reiterated that the PIA privatization framework was set by the caretaker government. He noted that Rs600 billion is parked in Holdcom while Rs200 billion remains tied to PIA. Addressing calls to prioritize the nation's assets, Khan asserted, "This is not my business; it is the nation's asset. I will not compromise on the privatization law or sell the airline at any price." Khan also pointed out that more than 25 ministers have previously attempted to tackle PIA's longstanding issues.

Kamala, Donald ramp up...

FROM PAGE 01
The country—and the world—could then face a nail-biting wait to know whether Harris becomes the first US woman president or Trump secures a spectacular return to power after his unprecedented and at times violent campaign to overturn his 2020 re-election loss to Joe Biden. The rivals literally crossed paths Saturday, with Harris's official vice presidential Air Force Two and Trump's personal jet sharing the airport tarmac in Charlotte, North Carolina. Both held rallies in North Carolina, while Harris also spoke to supporters in Georgia, another of the seven swing states seen as the keys to victory in an otherwise dead-even nationwide contest. Trump added in a stop in Virginia. The rounds of high-stakes speeches before thousands of people at each stop continue Sunday when Harris holds multiple events in the swing state of Michigan and Trump rallies with supporters in Georgia, North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

Egypt hosts Fatah-Hamas...

FROM PAGE 01
addressing the question of who would run Gaza after the year-long war is over. Israel rejects any role by Hamas in Gaza after the war is ended and has said it does not trust the rival Palestinian Authority of Abbas to run the enclave. Mediators, including Egypt and Qatar with backing from the United States, have so far failed to secure a truce that would end the Gaza war and facilitate a release of Israeli and foreign hostages held by Hamas, along with thousands of Palestinians detained by Israel. Hamas is pressing for an end to hostilities while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has stated that the war will continue until Hamas is dismantled. Hamas political official Izzat Al-Risheq dismissed proposals of limited or temporary truces as "smokescreens."

HRCP urges govt to withdraw...

FROM PAGE 01
the law enforcement agencies (LEAs), armed forces, and civil armed forces to detain individuals for up to three months through the aforementioned amendment bill introduced in the lower house of parliament on Saturday. The bill would envisage the substitution of section 11EEE of the Anti-Terrorist Act 1997 with a new amended section. According to the substitution of section 11EEE in the introduced bill, the government, the armed forces or civil armed forces on receiving credible information or a reasonable suspicion exists against a person, may issue detention orders for three months. In a statement released today, the HRCP said it recognises the urgent need to address the country's deteriorating security and law and order given the recent upsurge in militancy and significant loss of life. However, it added, "preventive detention is not the solution as such powers are liable to be abused".

Ahmed clinches title of CNS amateur golf cup

The four-day-long Golf Cup was held from 31st October to 3rd November at the scenic Margalla Greens Golf Club (MGGC) in Islamabad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ahmad Zafar Hayat won the title of the 17th Chief of the Naval Staff Amateur Golf Cup 2024, whereas Irtaza Hussain was declared the winner of Net Category. While Mr. Alam Afzal, Miss Humna Amjad and Master Abdullah Khan won the titles in the Senior, Ladies, and Junior categories, respectively. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf graced the prize distribution ceremony as the Chief Guest.

While addressing the ceremony, the Chief of the Naval Staff congratulated the prize winners on their well-earned success, appreciated their skills and dexterity, and commended the high stand-



ard of golf displayed by all participants throughout the event. He also lauded the consistent and generous support from sponsors, the media, and the management of Margalla Greens Golf Club (MGGC); without whom, the

event would not have been such a resounding success.

The four-day-long Golf Cup was held from 31st October to 3rd November at the scenic Margalla Greens Golf Club (MGGC) in Islamabad. Around 300 golfers from

across Pakistan participated in various categories, including Amateurs, Seniors, Ladies, and Juniors. The Golf Cup has been part of the National Golf Circuit since 2007 and is considered one of the finest competitions. It symboliz-

es the Pakistan Navy's steadfast commitment to promoting sports. The closing and prize distribution ceremony was attended by various dignitaries, including officers, organizers, sponsors, golfers, and members of the media fraternity.

Sohail Akram Janjua appointed team manager Alliance hockey team

WMH World Cup is being played in Auckland, New Zealand. The tournament will run from November 7 to November 16, 2024

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Sohail Akram Janjua, an international umpire and Secretary General of the Rising Stars Hockey Club, has been appointed as Team Manager for the Alliance M45 hockey team in the upcoming WMH World

Cup in Auckland, New Zealand. The tournament will run from November 7 to November 16, 2024. The management of the Rising Stars Hockey Club, along with the wider hockey community, has extended warm congratulations to Sohail Akram on this significant achievement and wished him the best of luck in his new role.

Mohammad Rizwan vows support for players ahead of series

"Babar and Shaheen understand this thing, [and] I will support them as much as I can," says Rizwan

FOREIGN DESK

MELBOURNE: Pakistan's newly-appointed white-ball captain Mohammad Rizwan on Sunday, expressed his willingness for a consultative approach during his leadership tenure. While addressing the pre-series media talk at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), Rizwan asserted that he is open to take advice from young players as well. "For me, everyone is a captain, if they feel they have something good, they can share it [with me]," said Rizwan. "I am going to go [forward] via a consultative approach [on matters] and also seek advice from young players as well," he added. Rizwan was appointed as Pakistan's white-ball captain last Sunday, replacing star batter Babar Azam, who relinquished the role last month in a bid to focus more

on his batting. The new-look side will be coached by Jason Gillespie, who was named the interim white-ball head coach after Gary Kirsten resigned from the position, owing to his differences with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

Despite being under a new leadership, the national team can capitalize on Gillespie's familiarity with the Australian conditions. In response to a question regarding the inclusion of Babar Azam and Shaheen Shah Afridi in the playing XI for the first ODI against Australia after being rested for the remaining two Tests of the recently-concluded three-match series against England, Rizwan highlighted their performances for the national team and vowed to support them. "Today Babar, Shaheen are known to [the world] only because of their performances," said Rizwan. "Babar and Shaheen

understand this thing, [and] I will support them as much as I can," he added. When probed about the absence of top-order batters Fakhar Zaman and Imam-ul-Haq, the skipper highlighted the contributions of the players for the team. "Fakhar is a game changer, his runs have made a big difference," he said. The Pakistan captain then went on to assure the fans that the national team will not let them down on the Australia tour. The green shirts will start their tour to Australia with a three-match ODI series, scheduled to run from November 4 to 10. The two teams will then play a three-match T20I series. Pakistan's Playing XI for first ODI against Australia: Abdullah Shafique, Saim Ayub, Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan (c/wk) Kamran Ghulam, Salman Ali Agha (vc) Muhammad Irfan Khan, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Naseem Shah, Haris Rauf, Mohammad Hasnain.

New Zealand hand India 3-0 Test whitewash at home

SPORTS DESK

MUMBAI: The Tom Latham-led New Zealand on Sunday, created history as they became the first team to whitewash India on their home ground in a three-match Test series. The last time India suffered a home Test series whitewash was in 2000 when they were outclassed by South Africa 2-0. Chasing a modest 147-run target on a difficult pitch, which saw 29 wickets falling in just two days, India were outclassed by Ajaz Patel's spin mastery and were eventually bundled out on a mere 121. Wicketkeeper batter Rishabh Pant offered a notable fight in a stiff run chase and scored a gutsy half-century. He was also involved in a crucial 42-run partnership for the sixth wicket with Ravindra Jadeja (6) but was caught behind off Patel when India needed 41 runs with four wickets in hand. Pant remained the top-scorer for India with a counterpunching 64 off 57 deliveries. Besides him, only Ravichandran Ashwin (12) and skipper Rohit Sharma (11) could amass double figures.

Amjad Ali secure 47th place in Istanbul Marathon

Ethiopia's Dejene Debela emerged as the champion

KARACHI: Pakistani runner Amjad Ali delivered a standout performance at the Istanbul Marathon on Sunday, recording a time of 2 hours, 49 minutes, and 29 seconds to become Pakistan's fastest finisher in the race. Competing among thousands, Ali secured an impressive 47th place overall.

Ethiopian runner Dejene Debela emerged as the marathon's champion, completing the race in 2 hours, 11 minutes, and 40 seconds.

In addition to Amjad Ali, several other Pakistani athletes showcased commendable endurance and skill at Istanbul Marathon. Muzammil Khan Niazi completed the marathon in 3 hours, 13 minutes, and 45 seconds, while Bilal Umar finished in 3 hours, 45 minutes, and 58 seconds. Other Pakistani runners Ali Khurshid, Rohail Ahmed, Asad Tuneker, and Muhammad Adnan all succeeded in completing the race in under four hours.

Following are the results of all the Pakistani runners competing at Istanbul Marathon:

Players	Time
1 MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI	2:49:29
2 MUZAMMIL KHAN NIAZI	3:13:45
3 BILAL UMAR	3:45:58
4 ALI KHURSHID	3:47:02
5 ROHAIL AHMED	3:48:17
6 ASAD TUNEKER	3:54:46
7 MUHAMMAD ADNAN	3:55:59
8 ISMAIL KHAN	4:15:42
9 YAYA IMRAN	4:20:17
10 MUHAMMAD MUZAMMIL	4:24:56
11 MUHAMMAD HATIM KHAN	4:30:46
12 UMAIR SHABBAR	4:35:44
13 ABDUL RAHMAN ZAKARIA	5:13:23
14 IMRAN KHAN NIAZI	5:36:02
15 NABEEL IDREES BAWANY BAWANY	5:36:25

SL beat Pak to clinch Hong Kong Super Sixes title

Pakistan's battling line-up failed in the all-important clash

WEB DESK

HONG KONG: Sri Lanka outclassed Pakistan by three wickets and won the Hong Kong Super Sixes 2024 title on Sunday. Sri Lanka chased down the modest 73-run target for the loss of three wickets and six balls to spare. They had a decent start to the pursuit as openers Sandun Weerakkody and Dhananjaya Lakshan recorded a brisk 39-run partnership. Skipper Faheem Ashraf drew the much-needed breakthrough for Pakistan in the fourth over by dismissing set batter Weerakkody, who top-scored with a 13-ball 34. Pakistan then struck twice in quick succession and had reduced Sri Lanka to 59/3 in 4.2 overs but Tharindu Rathnayake played a gutsy

16-run knock under pressure and took his side over the line in the penultimate over. For Pakistan, Hussain Talat and Faheem could pick up a wicket apiece. Sri Lanka captain Lihuru Madhusanka's decision to bowl first bore fruits as his bowlers bundled out Pakistan with a 20-ball 48 until falling victim to Lihuru Madhusanka in the final over. The next-best contribution to Pakistan's total came from skipper Faheem Ashraf, who scored 13 off four deliveries. For Sri Lanka, Lakshan and Tharindu Rathnayake bagged two wickets each while Nimesh Vimukthi and Lihuru Madhusanka shared two wickets between them.

Earlier in the semi-final, skipper Faheem Ashraf's all-round brilliance powered Pakistan to beat Australia and qualify for the final. Put into bat first, Australia

notched a commendable total of 107/1 in the allotted six overs. Opening batters Sam Heazlett and Jack Wood gave Australia a steady start by put-

ting together a dominant 56-run partnership. The duo appeared to have settled down until Faheem breached Wood's defence and cleaned him up in the fourth over. Wood struck four fours and two sixes on his way to a 17-ball 36. Coming out to bat at No.3, Dan Christian took no time to settle down and went after the Pakistan bowlers. He smashed a quickfire 42 off just 10 balls and remained the top-scorer for Australia, while skipper Heazlett remained unbeaten on a nine-ball 26. For Pakistan, skipper Faheem claimed the solitary wicket. Set to chase 108, Pakistan knocked the winning runs on the penultimate delivery when Faheem hit Christian for a match-sealing four. Earlier, in-form openers once again provided Pakistan with a flamboyant start

as they put together 40 runs in just nine deliveries. Asif Ali, who was the core aggressor of the opening stand, perished on the fifth delivery of the second over after scoring a swashbuckling 32 off just eight deliveries. His knock featured five sixes. Muhammad Akhlaq made sure to keep the momentum in Pakistan's favour as he kept up the pace until his dismissal in the fourth over. He scored 32 off 10 balls, hitting three fours and as many sixes in the process. Faheem Ashraf was then joined by all-rounder Aamer Yamin and together they knitted a match-winning 38-run partnership which took Pakistan over the line with a ball to spare. Faheem scored an unbeaten 19 from nine balls, while Yamin made 24 not out off just eight deliveries.



Missing PTI lawyer Intizar returns...

FROM PAGE 01

Punjutha, who had been missing since October 8, from GT Road, Attock. According to police, the law enforcers signaled a suspicious vehicle to stop on the GT Road but it refused, leading to a brief standoff. The police chased and intercepted the car on which the kidnappers fled, abandoning their vehicle and hostage. Intizar Panjhoti, a senior lawyer who has also represented PTI in different cases, has been rescued by the police. The police said that efforts are being made to arrest the culprits. Meanwhile, visibly unwell Intizar Punjutha has been shifted to hospital for medical treatment.

ECP summons two former..

FROM PAGE 01

political figures are scheduled for Tuesday. A notice has been issued to the PTI chairman to record evidence in a contempt case initiated by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in 2022 for allegedly using "Intemperate language" against the chief election commissioner and the electoral body. Likewise, former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has been directed to submit a reply and provide arguments on a disqualification petition filed against Member of the National Assembly (MNA) from NA-262, Quetta, Adil Bazzi. The petition, based on Article 63A, concerns Bazzi's failure to vote in favor of the budget and the 26th constitutional amendment.

Govt mulling additional...

FROM PAGE 01

although not confirmed, may send its mission to Islamabad anytime in the coming weeks with Pakistani authorities saying that the lender's team would visit the country next month (December 2024). However, insiders insist that the IMF team might prefer to come anytime soon. An ordinance has been drafted and is likely to be presented before the federal cabinet soon. It is expected that the ordinance may be promulgated within the ongoing month. The FBR high-ups claim that the proposed ordinance might implement stringent enforcement measures such as freezing bank accounts, and banning the purchase of plots, vehicles or other steps.

National Assembly session today

FROM PAGE 01

through Calling Attention Notices. Two Calling Attention Notices will also come up for a discussion during the upcoming session. Lawmaker Alia Kamran will present her Calling Attention Notice on an issue related to airplanes of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). Lawmaker Sehwar Kamran will also present a Calling Attention Notice during the session.

3 terrorists shot dead in Musakhel...

FROM PAGE 01

left three terrorists dead and two others in custody. The terrorists were planning to attack key installations, and a large cache of arms and ammunition was recovered from the deceased and arrested terrorists. A case was also registered against the arrested terrorists, and investigations are underway. Earlier, the Security Forces conducted a successful operation and arrested an alleged terrorist from Mastung, a town in the Balochistan province. Sources close to the development disclosed that the security forces arrested a terrorist while conducting an operation in the Spalangi Bazaar area of Mastung district. During the operation, the security officials recovered weapons, ammunition, and binoculars from the possession of the arrested terrorist.

Briefs

Uzbekistan-Pak
intergovernmental
joint commission
today

DNA

TASHKENT: The 9th meeting of the Uzbekistan-Pakistan Intergovernmental Joint Commission will be held in Tashkent today (Monday). A delegation headed by the co-chairman of the Joint Commission—Minister of Commerce of Pakistan Jam Kamal Khan will visit Uzbekistan to participate in this meeting. The delegation will be accompanied by representatives of more than 30 Pakistani business circles, which are active in food, textile, pharmaceutical, automotive, electrical and chemical industries, transport and logistics sphere. Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade of Uzbekistan Laziz Kudratov will co-chair the meeting of the Joint Commission from the Uzbek side. At the end of the event, a package of documents is expected to be signed. The heads of delegations will also participate and deliver a speech at Uzbekistan-Pakistan Business Forum, and attend "G2B" meeting. The program of the visit includes several meetings of the Minister of Commerce of Pakistan with the heads of ministries and authorities of Uzbekistan.—APP

UAE, Qatari
leaders
discuss ties,
regional
developments

DUBAI: UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan on Saturday had a phone call with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani to review ties between the two nations and the latest regional developments. They also discussed ways to strengthen cooperation to advance the shared ambitions of both countries and their peoples, WAM news agency reported. The two leaders exchanged views on regional and international issues, and underscored the need for concerted efforts to prevent further escalation in the Middle East and avoid additional crises.—APP

Bangladeshi
killed in air
strike in
Lebanon

DHAKA: A Bangladeshi worker died in an air strike in Lebanon, Dhaka's foreign ministry said Sunday, as the Israeli bombardment hampered efforts to repatriate citizens. The foreign ministry estimates that between 70,000 and 100,000 of its nationals are working in Lebanon, many as laborers or domestic workers. The first flights, organized by Dhaka's government with the UN's International Organization for Migration, brought home scores of Bangladeshis from Beirut last month. Mohammad Nizam, 31, was killed on Saturday afternoon in a reported strike as he stopped at a coffee shop on the way to work in Beirut, Bangladesh's ambassador to Lebanon, Javed Tanveer Khan said in a statement. Mohammad Jalaluddin said his younger brother Nizam had lived in Beirut for more than a decade, and had not been among the estimated 1,800 Bangladeshis who had registered for an evacuation flight home. "We want to bury him in our ancestral home, and are now waiting for the government's response," Jalaluddin told AFP. But senior Bangladeshi foreign ministry official Shah Mohammad Tanvir Monsur said it was challenging to arrange a flight into Beirut. "With the ongoing war, there are hardly any flights from Lebanon to Bangladesh," Monsur said. "It's becoming increasingly difficult to repatriate our citizens who have registered to return home." Israel drastically escalated its air campaign against Lebanon's Hezbollah group in September, displacing hundreds of thousands of people. It has since launched a ground offensive intended to push the group back from its northern border. Hezbollah has been firing thousands of projectiles into Israel over the last year, displacing tens of thousands of Israelis.—APP

Rizwan calls for strengthening
Pakistan-US business ties

The Pakistan's ambassador to the United States held series of meetings with Pakistani-Americans in NY, calling for greater collaboration in areas of mutual interest between Pakistan

NEW YORK: Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, has met a cross-section of Pakistani-Americans in New York where he went through a busy schedule, outlining efforts to strengthen Pak-US ties and calling for greater collaboration in areas of mutual interest. The ambassador also met US Congressman Tom Suozzi, who is the Co-Chair of the Congressional Pakistan Caucus, to discuss ways towards boosting relations between the two countries. In this regard, the discussion focused on promoting economic partnership, security cooperation, and people-to-people ties, according to a press release. Ambassador Sheikh also invited the Congressman to visit Pakistan. He also met with prominent Pakistani-origin businessmen representing key sectors, including travel and tourism, petroleum, textiles, IT services, and food imports, the press release said the discussions focused on enhancing bilateral trade and economic ties, ensuring mutual growth. Ambassador Sheikh assured them of his commitment to support their efforts towards exploring investment and partnership opportunities. He also met with the office-bearers of the Pakistani American Community of Long Island (PACOLI), which is led by Humayoun Shabbir. Pakistan's Consul



General in New York Aamer Ahmed Atozai, accompanied him. The meeting focused on initiatives to enhance community welfare, including facilitating skilled labour opportunities for Pakistani professionals in healthcare and IT sector. Ambassador Sheikh

commended PACOLI's efforts in promoting local political engagement, emphasizing the importance of leveraging network of Pakistani-Americans to bolster business linkages and address community concerns. He also reaffirmed Pakistan's com-

mitment to supporting its diaspora in the United States. He also attended a community meeting hosted by Dr. Abid Sheikh, emphasizing initiatives to boost trade, investment & community support with the Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent

of North America (APPNA) New York chapter, the ambassador discussed cooperation in healthcare. He lauded the Chapter's role in strengthening Pak-US bilateral ties in the social sector and the humanitarian domain.—DNA

BMP wants serious reforms for
long-term economic stability

Nisar says without addressing fundamental dysfunctions country will falter

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Businessmen Panel (BMP) on Sunday placed significant responsibility on the government to pursue reforms for long-term stability, as with continuous hike in cost of production in the country, what the Pakistan's economy really needs is persistent and sound economic management. The FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar said the authorities for undertaking economic reforms and improving the regulatory environment for better Ease of Doing Business level to boost foreign investment so that financial stability can be achieved in the long-run, warning the government that extensive borrowing is unlikely to put the country's economy back on track. He said that Pakistan's industry had been harmed by the high cost of doing business, which discouraged investment in capacity and capability and called for easing the burden of heavy taxes on the power sector. Mian Anjum Nisar stated that the constant increase in power tariffs on the pretext of fuel adjustment had increased electricity prices and added to the already high cost of trade and industry. Seeking comparable energy tariffs for domestic industries in order to capture the global market, he stated that due to high electricity rates, power theft became rampant as the tariff was unaffordable to consumers. Pakistan had reached agreement with the IMF for the 37-month loan, the 25th since 1958. The government has hailed the decision, insisting that the government was committed to implementing reforms demanded by the deal. He said he also hoped that this would be Pakistan's last IMF program. Economic analysts said that while Pakistan has stabilised after a prolonged period of volatility, much work needs to be done. The agreement, in the short term, will create space for the government, but if the medium-term outlook is to improve, then the government needs to pursue structural reforms that create both fiscal space for Islamabad and assuage concerns about debt sustainability, they said. Pakistan's debt, which poses the biggest strain on its \$350 billion economy, requires \$90 billion in repayments over the next three years, with the next major tranche due in December. Foreign reserves with the central bank currently stand at \$16 billion, sufficient to cover just over three months of imports. The senior economists said that the loan primarily aims to ease Pakistan's debt repayments. While much needed, a program built around rollovers, expensive borrowing from commercial banks to fill in financing gaps is hardly to bring any sustainable solutions to Pakistan's economic and financial challenges, they added. Pakistan is the IMF's fifth-largest debtor, owing more than \$7 billion as of September 25, according to the lender's data, after Argentina, Egypt, Ukraine and Ecuador. Analysts say one challenge before Pakistan will be to build a broad political consensus around the reforms needed under the IMF deal, including taxes, raising energy tariffs and allowing market forces to determine the Pakistani rupee's value.—DNA

Israel army issues new
evacuation call for
Lebanon's Baalbek region

JERUSALEM: The Israeli military on Sunday called for the evacuation of the Baalbek area in eastern Lebanon, warning that it was ready to strike Hezbollah targets there and in nearby Douris. The latest evacuation call came as the military's Home Front Command activated sirens at regular intervals along the border as dozens of projectiles were identified crossing from Lebanon into Israeli territory since Sunday morning. "You are currently located near the facilities and assets associated with Hezbollah, which the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) will be targeting in the near future," the Israeli military's Arabic-language spokesman Avichay Adraee said in a post on X addressed to residents of Baalbek and Douris. The Israeli air force intercepted several projectiles that were fired from Lebanon into Israeli territory, while some fell in open areas, the military said in a statement. On Thursday, rocket fire from Lebanon killed seven people in the town of Metula in northern Israel, including four Thai farmers. Israel and the Lebanese armed movement Hezbollah have been locked in a deadly war since September 23 that has killed more than 1,900 people in Lebanon, according to an AFP tally of Lebanese health ministry figures. Israel's military says 38 soldiers have been killed in the Lebanon campaign since it began ground operations on September 30. Clashes between Israeli forces and Hezbollah militants first erupted on October 8 last year when the Lebanese group began firing rockets into Israel in support of its ally Hamas, a day after the Palestinian militant group launched an unprecedented attack on Israel from Gaza. Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel resulted in 1,206 deaths, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally of Israeli official figures. Israel's sweeping military response against Hamas has led to the deaths of 43,314 Palestinians in Gaza, a majority of them civilians, according to figures from the Hamas-run territory's health ministry which the United Nations consider to be reliable.

Uzbekistan termed as important
trade partner of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: President of Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) Rana Muhammad Siddique Khan has described Uzbekistan as an important trade partner of Pakistan and reiterated that he would soon take a business delegation from different sectors to Uzbekistan. "The role of the business community of Gujranwala is significant in increasing bilateral trade between Uzbekistan and Pakistan, and the role of the private sectors of both countries is very important for flourishing both sides economic ties," President GCCCI said. During a meeting between ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Alisher Tukhtaev, and President Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Rana Muhammad Siddique Khan, at the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Islamabad, both sides discussed the promotion of bilateral economic and trade relations between the two countries and the possibility of the Uzbek Ambassador visiting GCCCI soon. President GCCCI describes Uzbekistan as important trade partner of Pakistan. On the occasion, the President said, "Gujranwala Industrial Sector contributes eight percent to Pakistan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and similarly, Pakistan's exports from Gujranwala are currently \$2.5 billion, and the city is the third largest contributor to the country's revenue also." The President said, "There are currently 18,000 small and medium entrepreneurs in Gujranwala, which are the backbone of the country's economy." "Uzbekistan is a central country among the Central Asian states, and Pakistan and Uzbekistan can play a very important role for economic integration in the region." He said, "Pakistan and Central Asian states, especially Uzbekistan, have a common economic and trade future, and only through the concept of shared economic prosperity can economic development come to our region." Rana Siddique Khan said, "The current trade volume of \$400 million between Pakistan and Uzbekistan is much less than its potential, and the role of the business community of both countries is significant for the promotion of bilateral trade." "Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce is already doing business in Uzbekistan in different sectors, which needs to be further increased, and Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce will play its full role in that regard," he said. President GCCCI said, "The Uzbek Embassy provides ease of visa and other business process facilities to Gujranwala traders and industrialists for the promotion of mutual business and direct flight between the two countries, which is very important." The President of the Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce said, "GCCCI is soon organizing an exhibition in Islamabad in which he invites the Uzbek trade delegation to participate in it." On the occasion, the Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Alisher Tukhtaev, hinted at further increasing cooperation with the GCCCI in the near future and said that he would soon visit it too. The ambassador said, "He is seeing an important role of the Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the mutual economic and trade relations between Uzbekistan and Pakistan." It is pertinent to mention that Pakistan and Uzbekistan have a long history of close economic ties and a number of areas for potential cooperation. Bilateral trade between the two countries has increased significantly in recent years to \$ 400 million, and in 2022, Uzbekistan exported \$134 million to Pakistan, while Pakistan exported \$153 million to Uzbekistan. The main exports from Uzbekistan to Pakistan were dried legumes, non-retail pure cotton yarn, and onions. The main exports from Pakistan to Uzbekistan were potatoes, rice, and packaged medicament. Pakistan and Uzbekistan have signed a bilateral transit trade agreement (UPTTA) and a bilateral preferential trade agreement (PTA) on 17 items.—DNA

Iranian protesters mark anniversary of
1979 US embassy hostage crisis in Tehran

The enemies, both the USA and the Zionist regime, should know that they will definitely receive a tooth-breaking response to what they are doing against Iran, the Iranian nation and the resistance front," Khamenei said in a speech to students in Tehran

TEHRAN: Iranian demonstrators gathered on Sunday outside the former US embassy in Tehran to mark the anniversary of the 1979 hostage crisis that has for decades shaped relations between Washington and Tehran. The hostage crisis began in November 1979 following the Islamic revolution led by Iran's late supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini which ousted the Western-backed Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi. Students loyal to Khomeini stormed the embassy building and held 52 staff hostage for 444 days while demanding that Washington hand over Iran's recently toppled shah, who was being treated in the United States for cancer. Washington officially broke off relations with Tehran in 1980, midway through



the crisis, and they have been frozen ever since. "Death

to Israel, Death to America!" chanted crowds of Iranians out-

side the building, which is currently a museum known as the "Den of Spies", and covered with striking anti-American murals. Others burnt the Israeli and US flags. Iranians have held the rallies annually since 1979. Regional tensions have soared since the outbreak of the Gaza conflict in October 2023, triggered by the Palestinian Hamas militant group's unprecedented attack on Israel. Israel, an ally of the US and a long-standing foe of Iran, has since engaged in a deadly conflict with groups including Hamas and Hezbollah in Lebanon. On October 26, Israel conducted air strikes on military sites in Iran in response to Tehran's October 1 attack on Israel, itself retaliation for the killing

of Iran-backed militant leaders and a Revolutionary Guards commander. Israel has warned Iran against responding to its attack. Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei vowed on Saturday a harsh response against Israel and the US to attacks on Iran and its allies. "The enemies, both the USA and the Zionist regime, should know that they will definitely receive a tooth-breaking response to what they are doing against Iran, the Iranian nation and the resistance front," Khamenei said in a speech to students in Tehran. Sunday's event took place days ahead of the US elections pitting Republican Donald Trump against Democrat Kamala Harris.—Agencies

Harris, Trump
go toe to
toe in final
campaign
weekend

WASHINGTON: Kamala Harris and Donald Trump enter the final weekend of the most tense US presidential campaign of modern times with a flurry of swing-state rallies that will test their stamina - and ability to persuade the country's last undecided voters. Harris, bidding to become the country's first woman president, will use rallies in Georgia, North Carolina and Michigan to drive home her message that Trump is a threat to US democracy. Trump - seeking a sensational return to the White House after losing in 2020 and then becoming the first presidential nominee to have been convicted of crimes - promises a radical right-wing makeover of the government and aggressive trade wars to promote his policy of "America first." In an interview with Fox News Saturday morning, Trump took a swipe at the state of the economy under the Biden-Harris administration, calling the disappointing job numbers released Friday "a gift to me." The candidates' frantic schedules will run right into Monday, culminating with late-night rallies - in Grand Rapids, Michigan, for Trump and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for Harris. Election Day is Tuesday, but Americans have been voting early for weeks, with more than 72 million ballots already cast - including a record four million in Georgia, where Democrats seek to pull out all the stops to keep the state in their column. Opinion polls continue to show a tied race, particularly in the seven battleground states likely to determine the result in the US Electoral College system, leaving the Republican businessman and his 60-year-old Democratic rival fighting hard to peel off even slivers of support from each other's camps.—APP

Spain sends
thousands
more troops
to flood zone

VALENCIA, SPAIN: Spain is deploying 10,000 more troops and police officers to the eastern Valencia region devastated by historic floods that have killed 211 people, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said on Saturday. Hopes of finding survivors ebbed four days after torrents of muddy water submerged towns and wrecked infrastructure in the European country's worst such disaster in decades. Almost all the deaths have been recorded in the Valencia region, where thousands of security and emergency services personnel were frantically clearing debris and mud in the search for bodies. Sanchez said in a televised address that the disaster was the second deadliest flood in Europe this century and announced a huge increase in the security forces dedicated to relief works. The government had accepted the Valencia region leader's request for 5,000 more troops and informed him of a further deployment of 5,000 police officers and civil guards, Sanchez said.—APP

Carpet
industry seeks
govt support
to boost
exports

LAHORE: Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) Chairman Mian Atiqur Rehman said on Sunday that increasing exports is impossible without removing unnecessary obstacles and securing government support. Addressing a review meeting of the Association here, he said organizations like SMEDA should provide financial and technical assistance for establishing carpet production centers in rural areas to increase production. "The 41st International Exhibition, scheduled for 2025, will be designed according to new trends, for which proposals will be solicited in advance," he added. PCMEA Patron-in-Chief Abdul Latif Malik, Vice Chairman Riaz Ahmed, Carpet Training Institute (CTI) Chairperson Ejaz-ur-Rehman, senior leaders Usman Ashraf, Major (R) Akhtar Nazir, Saeed Khan, Shahid Hassan Sheikh, Akbar Malik, Saad-ur-Rehman, Faisal Saeed Khan, and others attended the meeting.—APP

Briefs

Govt to hand over Karachi Industrial Park to China

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: A strategy to revitalise the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is in the works as the government is piloting it to hand over Karachi Industrial Park (KIP) to China. A senior government official told the publication that KIP, which is among one of the nine SEZs developed throughout Pakistan under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework, is being developed on the land of non-functional Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM). The project, covering 1,500 acres, will be developed on the land of the steel mills spanning 19,000 acres. Islamabad is considering to dismantle the existing steel mill structure, while the Sindh government has been allocated 700 acres to establish a new state-of-the-art steel mill on the same site. Officials said that the transition to Chinese hands will set a precedent for making Pakistan's SEZs more appealing to investors by integrating international standards and practices. PM Shehbaz has already approved this initiative aimed at enhancing the investor-friendliness of SEZs through the adoption of global best practices, he said.

Source says 13 killed in attack blamed on Sudan paramilitaries

PORT SUDAN: At least 13 people were shot dead on Sunday in an attack blamed on Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Al-Jazira state south of Khartoum, a medical source told AFP. "Thirteen people were killed as a result of the Rapid Support Forces opening fire on civilians in the town of Al-Hilaliya in eastern Al-Jazira state," about 70 kilometres (43 miles) north of the state capital Wad Madani, the source said on condition of anonymity. Sudan's Al-Jazira state has become a key battleground following the defection of RSF commander Abu Aqla Kaykhal. Kaykhal recently joined the Sudanese army, along with what the military described as "a large number" of his troops, in the first high-ranking defection from the RSF. According to the United Nations humanitarian coordinator in Sudan, Clementine Nkweta-Salami, the RSF launched major attacks across eastern parts of Al-Jazira state between October 20 and 25. The paramilitaries allegedly committed mass killings, sexual assaults, extensive looting of markets and homes and widespread farm burnings, Nkweta-Salami said. The UN official described these "atrocious crimes" as mirroring those documented in Darfur last year, where the RSF was accused of human rights abuses such as "rape, targeted attacks, sexual violence and mass killings". - Agencies

Govt allocates Rs 2 billion for merged districts

Health service will receive Rs 300 mln, and the home department Rs240 mln

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has approved Rs2 billion for the merged districts. Key allocations include Rs15 million for agriculture, Rs1 million for religious affairs, Rs500 million for water and sanitation, and Rs135 million for elementary and secondary education. Health service will receive Rs300 million, and the home department Rs240 million. Additional funds include Rs23 million for livestock, Rs18 million for industries, Rs144 million for water resources and Rs 300 million for road infrastructure. Additionally, Rs3 million have been allocated to the mineral and mines sector, Rs30 million for local government, Rs23 million for livestock and Rs5 million for law and justice.

Pakistan-Russia bilateral ties developing rapidly: Russian CG

Andrey said "People's Unity Day" is the day when our country rose from the ashes and liberated itself from the Polish occupants during the so-called Time of Troubles



NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Consul General of Russian Federation in Karachi Andrey V. Fedorov has said the bilateral cooperation among Pakistan and Russia was rapidly developing and high level contacts between leadership of both the countries had further strengthened it. He said this while talking to APP and later on, addressing the "People's Unity Day" ceremony held here late Friday night at the Consulate General of the Russian Federation. People's Unity Day, is being celebrated by people of Russia on November 4 every year to commemorate an unprecedented resilience of our nation, Fedorov said in his speech. Relying a question regarding Russia-Pakistan ties and the SCO Summit, Andrey V. Fedorov said the relations between Russia and Pakistan were developing with passage of time and currently there was a trade volume of over \$ 2 billion between the two countries. He said all members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization are

equal and working together to save future of our children. He said SCO was providing stability of the region and it was working well. Later on, addressing the ceremony, Andrey said "People's Unity Day" is the day when our country rose from the ashes and liberated itself from the Polish occupants during the so-called Time of Troubles. He said at the end of the 16th century and the beginning of the 17 century, Russia struggled through political chaos, Western intervention, impostors, famines and many other horrible events. Our civilization, culture and people were literally on the brink of extinction. And in that very moment in the year of 1612, an ordinary shopkeeper Kuzma Minin and a rich Duke Dmitry Pozharsky formed the people's volunteer militia that helped Russia to regain its true independence. At the end of the time of troubles our nation learned many valuable lessons that have continued to pass through generations. Firstly, instead of another civil war and internal strife of the elites Russians assembled a democratic Council from all regions and social classes to elect a new czar Mikhail Ro-



manov, whose dynasty ruled Russia for more than 300 years. Referring to Pakistan-Russia relations, Andrey V Fedorov said in the recent years, bilateral cooperation of the two countries had rapidly developed. The level and frequency of the high-level contacts between Russia and Pakistan have elevated dramatically since the last year, when we celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Establishment of Russia-Pakistan diplomatic relations, the Russian CG said and added that it was especially reflected on July 3 at the SCO Head of States meeting in Astana, on the sidelines of which Russian President Vladimir Putin met with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He also referred the visit of the Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Aleksei Overchuk to Islamabad on September 18-19, Russia-Pakistan Trade and Investment Forum in Moscow on October 1 that gave a powerful impetus to our economic cooperation, the SCO Heads of Governments Meeting on October 15-16 in Islamabad, on the sidelines of which Head of the Russian Government Mikhail Mishustin met with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

and discussed all the critical issues on the bilateral agenda. He said, just recently the Chairwoman of the Russian Senate Valentina Matvienko also paid a visit to Pakistan as well. He hoped that all these meetings will result in a further progress in our ties, the projects discussed during our interactions will take form and the true potential of our cooperation will soon be realized. Sindh Governor Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, senior members of provincial cabinet, Senator Syed Sarmad Ali Khan, former Speaker Sindh Assembly Agha Siraj Durrani, MNA Dr Farooq Sattar, PPP Sindh president Nisar Ahmed Khuro, Diplomats of other countries, business community representatives and media persons were present on the occasion. A cake cutting ceremony was also held on People's Unity Day while Russian artists performed and mesmerized the audience with their traditional Russian dance before being served with delicious dinner. On the occasion of the Unity Day ceremony, a photo exhibition was also arranged that attracted the participants.

Resistance front will give crushing response to Israel

NEWS DESK

TEHRAN: The chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has warned the United States and Israel that they will receive a "tooth-breaking response" from the regional resistance groups for any acts of aggression and mischief. Major General Hossein Salami made the remarks in a statement on Sunday to commemorate the National Day of the Fight against Global Arrogance, also known as the National Student Day, which marks the 1979 takeover of the US Embassy by Iranian university students in the capital Tehran. Salami extolled the historic day as an "indelible watershed" in exposing the true nature of the United States and its mischief against the freedom-loving and rights-seeking nations of the world. Salami said the Israeli atrocities, perpetrated under the command and all-round support of the administration in Washington, against the strategic region of West Asia, not least the innocent people in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon, are regarded as the "biggest and most valid reason and justification for the loss of American human rights." "We warn the enemy number 1 of the Iranian nation and the rabid dog of that terrorist and criminal regime that the Islamic resistance in the region, by the grace of God and with the help of the courage of the combatants and the faithful warriors who maintain the upper hand in the current military field, will give a tooth-breaking response to the wickedness front," the statement said. "On this path, the resistance front and Islamic Iran will equip themselves with everything necessary to confront and triumphantly overcome the enemy...with no fear of the threats and saber-rattling of the thugs ruling Washington and Tel Aviv." The nationwide mass marches, marking National Day of the Fight against Global Arrogance, kicked off at 09:30 a.m. local time (0600 GMT) on Sunday to commemorate the anniversary of the US embassy takeover. In the Iranian capital Tehran, the protesters gathered outside the former headquarters of the US embassy, also known as the Den of Espionage. On November 4, 1979, Iranian university students took over the US embassy building less than a year after the Islamic Revolution toppled the US-backed Pahlavi dictatorship.

Israeli military issues displacement order for Baalbek region

BEIRUT: The Israeli military has issued new evacuation orders for the city of Baalbek in eastern Lebanon, warning that it is planning to strike positions belonging to the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah in the area. Israeli military spokesperson Avichay Adraee announced the new forced displacement order in a post on X on Sunday, calling on all the residents of Duris, a village located almost in the vicinity of Baalbek, to immediately evacuate there. "You are located near Hezbollah facilities and interests, against which the Israeli military will operate in the near future," the Israeli military spokesman said. "For your safety and the safety of your family members, you must evacuate the building and its surroundings immediately and stay away from them for a distance of no less than 500 meters within the next four hours," he added. The Israeli military has previously issued a displacement order for the entire city of Baalbek and its outskirts. Baalbek, a significant urban center in the Bekaa Valley, is renowned for being home to some of the best preserved Roman temples. Designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1984, it has a population of over 100,000 residents. On Thursday, Israeli strikes in two towns in the Baalbek region killed at least 19 people, including eight women. The latest evacuation order came as sirens were activated along the border as dozens of missiles were identified crossing from Lebanon into the occupied territories since the morning. Also on Saturday, Hezbollah launched a barrage of missiles targeting three Israeli military bases in northern occupied territories. The resistance group also carried out missile and drone attacks against five Israeli settlements in the Galilee, the occupied Golan Heights. - Agencies

Tory's new leader offers glimpse of policy, priorities

"We're not going to be able to oppose anything in terms of getting legislation through," she said, adding she could only "make the argument that raising taxes in this way... is not going to grow our economy"



FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch said her approach to the economy would be "completely the opposite" to that of Chancellor Rachel Reeves. Speaking to the British media on her first day in the job, Badenoch gave a first glimpse of her policy priorities, including on reversing the VAT hike for private schools. She said the Conservatives "got a lot of things wrong" ahead of their historic election defeat, including on immigration and tax, but refused to give a "post-mortem" of her predecessors and claimed the Partygate scandal was "overblown". With appointments to her shadow cabinet expected in the next couple of days, Badenoch said she wanted to show the party was united

with a meritocratically selected front bench. When asked whether she would reverse the chancellor's decision to increase employers' national insurance (NI) contributions, Badenoch said she is not the chancellor and also has "very few" MPs. "We're not going to be able to oppose anything in terms of getting legislation through," she said, adding she could only "make the argument that raising taxes in this way... is not going to grow our economy and will leave all of us poorer". However, when asked directly whether she would reverse the VAT hike on private schools, Badenoch was definite, saying "yes, yes, I would... because it's a tax on aspiration, but it won't raise any money" and was therefore "against our principles". Badenoch also told Ms Kuenssberg that "it is not the government that creates growth, it is business creates growth", adding that this is "completely the opposite of what Rachel Reeves is doing". Badenoch, who is the first black leader of a Westminster party, said she not only disagrees with Reeves' economic policies but also the way she has discussed being the UK's first woman chancellor in 800 years. She said: "I think that the best thing will be when we get to a point where the colour of your skin is no more remarkable than the colour of your eyes, or the colour of your hair. I find it astonishing that Rachel Reeves keeps talking about how she's the first female chancellor, which in my view is a very, very low glass ceiling within the Labour Party, which she may have smashed. "Nowhere near as significant as what other women in this country have achieved."

Amid smog crisis Punjab orders week-long school closure

Authorities recommend that 50% of the workforce should work from home during this period

LAHORE: The Punjab government has announced a one-week closure of schools for primary classes in Lahore due to severe smog conditions. Senior provincial minister Maryam Aurangzeb indicated that the prevailing wind patterns bringing air from India are expected to persist, complicating efforts to control the smog. "We cannot stop or redirect the Indian air, and the only solution is dialogue," she stated, urging cooperation to tackle the environmental crisis. In addition to the school closures, the government has advised that 50% of the workforce should work from home to reduce exposure to the polluted air. Parents are being encouraged to provide masks for their children and to keep them indoors as much as possible. The minister also highlighted measures being taken to mitigate the effects of the smog, including a ban on certain vehicles within a one-kilometre radius of green zones. Maryam Aurangzeb mentioned that the technology for artificial rain, previously acquired from the UAE, is now locally available, and plans for implementation will proceed when conditions are suitable. - DNA

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