



# Islamabad POST

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**Rania calls out world's 'double standard' in Israeli war on Gaza**

Detailed News On Page-07

**Nov 01 deadline for all illegal foreigners**

Detailed News On Page-08



**Maxwell blasts fastest World Cup century**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Pakistan tells UNSC Stop war, open urgent aid corridor

Any attempt to create a false equivalence between Israel, the occupying power, and the Palestinians, the victims of this occupation, is untenable – legally, morally and politically

DNA

NEW YORK: Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Munir Akram demanded the immediate opening of the Aid Corridor to Gaza. Addressing the Security Council meeting, he said that Pakistan demanded an immediate and unconditional ceasefire. He warned that Israeli aggression could lead to a wider and more dangerous conflict. Muner Akram lamented that the ceasefire resolution could not be passed, placing heavy responsibility on those responsible for escalating the conflict. "Continuation of the Israeli campaign in the Gaza will lead to further massive civilian casualties and could trigger a wider and more dangerous conflict," the Pakistani envoy told the meeting addressed by a total of 86 speakers from countries and regional groups – including more than 20 ministers – that pushed the conflict to the centre of world geopolitics. In his speech to the Security Council, Ambassador Akram conveyed Pakistan's full support and solidarity with Palestinian brothers and sisters in these tragic and challenging times. Israel's relentless and indiscriminate bombardment of Gaza over the last 17 days has killed more than 5,000 people and injured another 15,000, the Pakistani envoy said, "strongly and unequivocally" condemning Israel's air-strikes and military actions in Gaza, particularly attacks on schools, residential buildings and hospitals. "These Israeli attacks on civilians, civilian objects and infrastructure, blockade of water, food and fuel as well as the forced transfer of people from the occupied territory, are flagrant

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## 'This is a Nazi Zionist aggression'

NEWS DESK

DOHA: Member of Hamas's political bureau Ezzat al-Resheq has called on the Arab and Muslim nation along with all free people in the world to mobilize and take part in the massive events taking place in support of the Palestinian people and in condemnation of the Israeli brutal aggression on the civilians in the besieged Gaza Strip. In press remarks on Wednesday, Resheq said that the Israeli aggression has been ongoing for 19 days, charging Israel with deliberately killing children, women and old people in their houses which are being bombed while inhibited with dozens of families gathered inside. The Hamas official pointed out that the Israeli aggression has led to the martyrdom of around 6,100 Palestinians and the injury of more than 17,000 others including critical cases. Entire families have been completely removed from civil registry, he added. Referring to the Israeli destruction of infrastructure, hospitals, schools, mosques, and churches amid total cut of water and electricity services, Resheq affirmed that

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong calls on the Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar. – DNA

## IMF team to visit Pakistan on Nov 2

The finance ministry, too, has started preparing for the upcoming talks

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: An International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation is scheduled to visit Pakistan for talks regarding the initial assessment of the country's \$3 billion standby arrangement (SBA) on November 2. The finance ministry, too, has started preparing for the upcoming talks with the global lending institution. The development was confirmed by the IMF's resident representative, Esther Perez Ruiz, as the cash-strapped nation, currently functioning

Continued on Page 06

## Recent accords with China to add new chapter to CPEC

Friendship between China and Pakistan was "higher than the towering mountains and deeper than the deep seas

KHAYAM ABBASI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said Pakistan was committed to the implementation of projects recently concluded with China in diverse sectors. He said the recent agreements between the two countries would add a new chapter to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). In a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong, he said China's Belt and Road Initiative was the guarantor of the development and prosperity of the entire region. The prime minister expressed gratitude to Chinese President Xi Jinping and the Chinese leadership for the warm welcome and arrangements during his recent visit to China. "Pakistan will take strong steps to implement the Memoranda of Understanding and agreements signed during my recent visit to China," he said.

Continued on Page 06

## PIA unable to fly as 49 flights cancelled

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: More flights on domestic and international routes were cancelled on Wednesday as the cash-strapped PIA is unable to fix its finances and ensure fuel to sustain flight operations, forcing the passengers to look for other options. Wednesday saw cancellation of as many as 49 flights, meaning that those living in the smaller towns and cities in the far-flung regions of Pakistan are also facing great hardships as people of places like Gwadar, Turbat, Skardu and Gilgit prefer air travel to save time and

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## Briefs

### Bilawal visits Palestine embassy

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party and former Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari called on the Palestinian diplomat Ahmad Jawad Rabei at the Palestinian Embassy in Islamabad on Wednesday and expressed concern and sorrow over the situation in Gaza. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari expressed solidarity with the Palestinian brethren. Chairman PPP said that Pakistan stands with the people of Palestine in this trying and difficult time. He said that the leadership of PPP together with the Palestinian leadership fought the cause of Palestine in the world.

### Zulfi to be brought back through Interpol

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a significant development, the Ministry of Interior has approved the issuance of a red warrant for prominent PTI leader and former federal minister for overseas Pakistanis, Zulfi Bukhari. The decision, reported by Express News, signifies a new chapter in the ongoing legal proceedings against the PTI leader who has been residing abroad. On Wednesday, the Ministry of Interior directed FIA to forward a formal request to Interpol Secretariat in France, seeking the issuance of a red warrant for Zulfi Bukhari.



ISLAMABAD: PPP Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari visits Palestinian embassy and expresses condolences on the loss of innocent lives. – DNA

## APNS, CPNE shocked over PM remarks about print media

If the PM thinks this business model is flawed, then the print media is prepared to correct the flawed model by withdrawing these subsidized

DNA

KARACHI: In a statement, APNS has expressed great shock at a statement made by the Prime Minister, Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar against the print media wherein he has stated that the business model of print media is flawed and it should not depend on government for financial support. The All Pakistan Newspapers Society in its statement expressed great disappointment at these remarks of the caretaker Prime Minister against print media while speaking to the media at Islamabad. The Prime

Minister while answering a question on the pending summary of the Ministry of Information for an increase in the government advertisement rates, stated that the print media should change its flawed business model and instead of depending on government funding should generate revenue through its own resources. It appears that the Prime Minister is ill-informed about the summary as the print media is not seeking any grant or subsidy from the government but on the contrary, newspapers publish government ads at subsidized rates.

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## Pak seeks \$1b oil facility from KSA

The existing facility will expire in December of this year

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: With Pakistan set to begin review talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the government has requested Saudi Arabia to provide a \$1 billion oil facility on deferred payment for the calendar year 2024. "Pakistan has made a formal request for \$1 billion Saudi Oil Facility (SOF) on deferred payment with effect from January 2024. The KSA has not yet given its

Continued on Page 06

## ECP invites int'l observers to monitor upcoming polls

The Election Commission has announced General Election is tentatively scheduled in the last week of January 2024

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Wednesday gave another indication that it would be holding elections in January as it extended an invite to international observers and media to monitor poll process to ensure transparency and impartiality. In a two-page invite, sent under Section 238 of the Elections Act, 2017, the ECP explained the process for international observers and media to avail accreditation cards and visas to enter the country for the nationwide polls. "The Election Commission has announced General Election is tentatively scheduled in the last week of January 2024. The Election Commission of Pakistan, has an Open Door Policy for accreditation of any national and international Observer subject to the fulfillment of codal formalities (Section 238 of the Elections Act 2017)," said the ECP. The law makes it clear that observers will not be allowed to monitor polls till they have an accreditation which will be issued after the relevant documents and security clearance have been granted. For the visa process, the ECP has explained that it may be obtained via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' "Pakistan Online Portal". Along with the visa

Continued on Page 06

## Aitzaz approaches SC against 'enforced disappearances'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former senator and senior lawyer Aitzaz Ahsan on Wednesday filed a constitutional petition in the Supreme Court to "challenge the illegal and unlawful practice of enforced disappearances". The move comes amid the PTI's complaints as it faces a months-long crackdown following the May 9 riots that occurred due to party chairman Imran Khan's arrest. Last month, anchorperson Imran Riaz Khan was back home after remaining missing for four months. This month, four PTI-affiliated politicians who were said to have been "missing" –

Continued on Page 06

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**REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

5 DAYS

**05**

## ATC sends former KP deputy speaker on two-day remand

PESHAWAR: An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) approved the police request on Wednesday for being granted physical remand of former deputy speaker of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and PTI leader Mehmood Jan, handing him over to police for two days. The former deputy speaker KP was accused of killing a person and injuring another person over a property dispute in the Reggi area here. According to the investigating officer, a case of murder and attempted murder was registered against the accused in Reggi police station. He said that the accused needed to be investigated, so physical remand should be granted.—APP

## MU announces new date for MDCAT retest

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Medical University (KMU) has announced that the re-conducting MDCAT test would be held on November 26. It has been decided in a meeting of higher authorities of KMU, said the spokesman of the university adding that the test would be organized by KMU. He said that in order to ensure transparent conduct of the test, help would be sought from the police, FIA, Intelligence Bureau and other security and intelligence agencies of the province. He said that more than 46,658 candidates have registered to appear in the retest for admission in the medical and dental colleges. The registration of 219 candidates who were having charges of cheating and unfair means during the past test had been cancelled.—APP

## Body formed to grill DG health, DHO

PESHAWAR: The Health Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has constituted a three-member committee to probe corruption charges against Director General Health Service (DGHS) Dr Shaukat Ali and District Health Officer (DHO) Dr Irshad Ali. A notification from the health department said that a three-member committee led by Chief Planning Officer Health Department Qaisar Alam and two members including Dr Ikram Ullah, Project Director HCIP and Dr Sadiq Shah, District Health Officer Malakand would probe the two officers. It said that the committee has been formed on the complaint of the National Accountability Bureau Khyber Pakhtunkhwa which said that the two officers were allegedly involved in corrupt practices, illegal appointments and purchase of land during the posting of present DGHS Dr Irshad Ali as the then DHO Dir Lower.

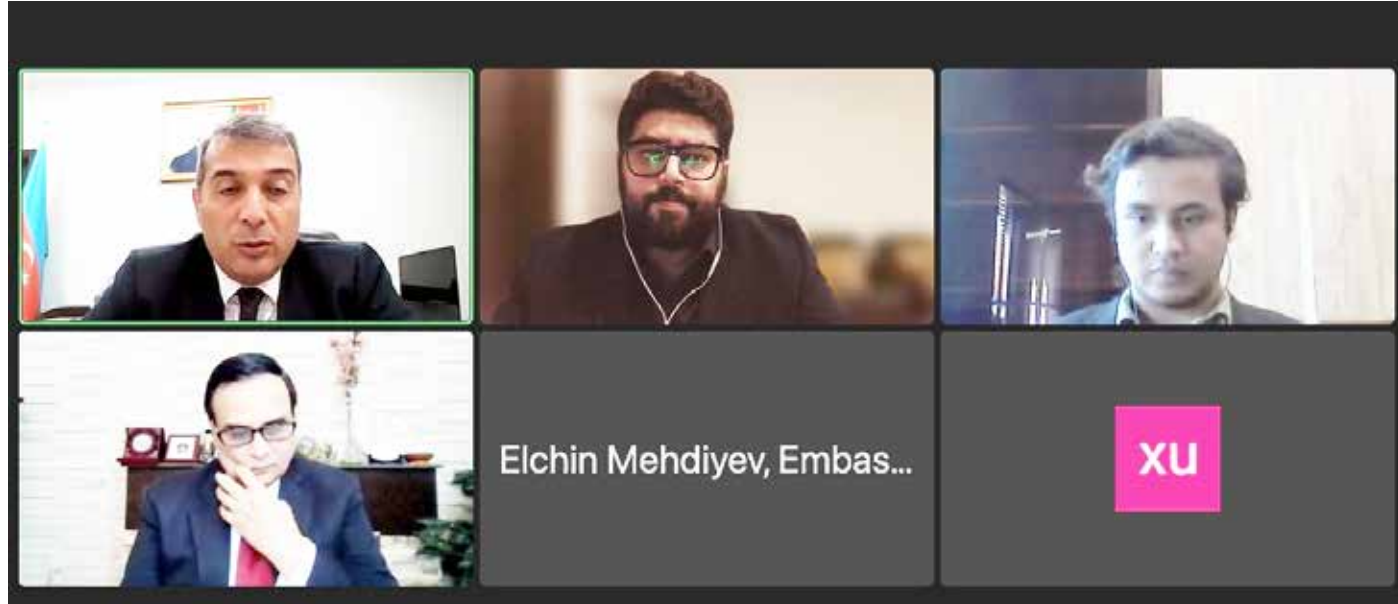
## Customs removes all procedural irritants in exports

LAHORE: Collector Customs Lahore, Ms. Azmat Tahira, said on Wednesday that all procedural irritants in smooth flow of export consignments have successfully been removed by Pakistan Customs. She disclosed this to Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) office-bearers and member during her visit to APTMA House here. She was accompanied by Ms. Farah Farooq, Additional Collector Customs Lahore and Syed Kareem Adil, Deputy Director, IOCO, APTMA Senior Vice Chairman Asad Shafi and others were also present. The Collector Customs Lahore highly appreciated the contribution of APTMA members towards enhancing textile exports, saying that Customs department would leave no stone unturned to facilitate exports of textile sector. She added that most ardent demand for expeditious issuance of Analysis Certificate has been amicably resolved. She announced that Input Output Coefficient Organisation (IOCO) of FBR and Customs Collectorate would now onwards issue Input Output ratios.

# Patriotic War: Azerbaijan envoy all praise for heroics of soldiers

DNA

LAHORE: Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov showed great respect for soldiers and officers and all the martyrs who fought heroically in the patriotic war and waved the Azerbaijan flag in the liberated lands from Armenia. The envoy highly appreciated the visionary leadership of the President Ilham Aliyev enabling the liberation of illegally occupied territories of Azerbaijan during the famous 44 days Patriotic War. Addressing an international webinar titled, "Liberation of Karabakh Region of Azerbaijan from Armenia Occupation: Implementation of the UN Security Council's Resolutions". The webinar was jointly hosted by the Center of South Asia & International Studies (CSAIS) Islamabad and the Institute of Legal Studies Lahore. It was jointly arranged to celebrate the United Nation Day October 24. It was attended by a large number of experts, researchers, students and media persons. Special participation of Xu Vivien the editor of China Daily graced the event. Ambassador Khazar Farhadov called for global harmony and peaceful coexistence with neighbours. The envoy termed the 44-day of Patriotic as one of the most glorious pages in the history of Azerbaijan which ended with the liberation of its occupied lands and the historical triumph of Azerbaijan. The envoy shared that as a result of the Patriotic War in 2020, Azerbaijani Army liberated its territories from Armenian occupation within 44 days. Right after the liberation, the Government of Azerbaijan started large-scale restoration



Elchin Mehdiyev, Embas...

XU

and reconstruction works there and the Great Return of former Azerbaijani IDPs and refugees to their land has begun. The envoy shed light on the constructive role of the international organizations and platforms like UN Security Council which endorsed principal stance of Azerbaijan about Karabakh and supported peaceful negotiations for conflict resolution with Armenia. While responding a question the envoy replied that the government desires to have peaceful diplomatic ties with all the regional countries having spirits of mutual respect, sovereignty and territorial integrity. He upheld that trilateral military cooperation among Azerbaijan, Pakistan and Türkiye is getting momentum useful for regional peace and stability. The envoy Khazar maintained that military preparedness, tactical readiness, professional skills of armed forces

of Azerbaijan, economic stability, prosperity and last but not least visionary leadership of Ilham Aliyev jointly played an important role in the liberation of occupied regions from Armenia. Dr. Fariz Ismailzade, Vice Rector of ADA University while highlighting the strategic importance of the UN Day appreciated Azerbaijan's strong commitment to extend international cooperation for conflict resolution in South Caucasus. Vice Rector Ismailzade shared salient features of successful foreign policy of Azerbaijan to liberate Karabakh and other regions from Armenia. Dr. Ismailzade showcased positive, productive and participatory role of Azerbaijan in securing peace and stability in South Caucasus and Caspian Sea regions through immense socio-economic integration, trans-regional connectivity, free trade and food & energy co-

operation. He was of the opinion that constant vigilance and military preparedness paved the way of splendid victory in the Patriotic War against Armenia. Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan in his detailed and articulated speech termed conflicting socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic realities in the South Caucasus, Black Sea, Middle East, greater Eurasian region and beyond geared the greater socio-economic, diplomatic and military ties among Azerbaijan, Pakistan and Türkiye covering all aspects of security, development and regional connectivity. While emphasizing that "Karabakh is Azerbaijan" Dr. Khan endorsed Azerbaijan national narrative, narrating that even before its liberalization the right of Azerbaijan on Karabakh territories had been recognized by the United Nations Security Council which

adopted four resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 condemning the use of force against Azerbaijan and the occupation of its territories in 1993. It reaffirmed respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, reconfirmed that the Karabakh region is an integral part of Azerbaijan and demanded the immediate, full and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from all the occupied territories. DR Khan concluded that Azerbaijan's better military preparedness, tactical and professional superiority, use of innovative and advanced technologies of warfare, effective and ideal combination of human as well as artificial intelligence mechanism and last but not least, "visionary leadership" of Ilham Aliyev ultimately achieved a "miracle" in the second war for the liberation of illegally occupied areas of Karabakh from fascist Armenia.

## CM Punjab conducts Surprise Visit to DHQ Hospital Jhang

DNA

JHANG: Care taker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday conducts surprise visit to District Headquarters (DHQ) hospital. According to CM office, Mohsin Naqvi arrived at DHQ Jhang after visiting DHQ hospital Toba Tek Singh last midnight, accompanied by Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman and Inspector General Police Dr Usman Anwer. Chief Minister took round of almost all wards as well as the under construction new blocks of the hospital and met with the patients and asked about the treatment facilities including free medicines and free Lab tests. He inspected under construction Emergency Block and Mother and Child Block of 70 beds and directed to speed up the construction work. In charge DHQ told that hospital presently had 310 beds facilities in all wards and after completion of new blocks the number of beds would increase to 530. CM directed Chief Secretary Punjab to solve issue of funds for the hospital and more funds would be provided to the hospital for medicines so that patients might get free medicines from the hospital.

## Awareness best key to deal with 'breast cancer' in country

She suggested that there is a critical need for community-based breast health education initiatives that take into account Pakistani women's distinctive cultural and societal attitudes and work to dispel common misconceptions about the condition

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Expert on Wednesday stressed self-examination for a lump or abnormality in the breast which can play an important role in the early detection of Breast Cancer disease where thousands of women die each year due to lack of awareness and bust of myths. Most women are hesitant and shy to have any type of breast examination due to cultural norms so embrace breast awareness which is a vital component to fight against breast-related

health concerns, talking to a private news channel Oncologist Prof Dr Saira Afzal highlighted. October is an important to bust myths that make people paranoid or keep them from getting frequent screenings done, she said, adding, that women in Pakistan are still reluctant to get screened early for breast cancer because of social taboos about female bodies and by the time cancers are diagnosed, it is often too late. Cancer experts emphasize that early screening is critical to preventing serious consequences of breast cancer. She explained that 'Breast cancer' is one of the most prevalent types of cancer in the female population, adding, that cultural diversity, religious beliefs, myths, and misinformation regarding the disease contribute to diagnostic delays and enhanced burden on the healthcare system. She suggested that there is a critical need for community-based breast health education initiatives that take into account Pakistani women's distinctive cultural and societal attitudes and work to dispel common mis-

conceptions about the condition. She said myths and misconceptions contribute to the increased breast cancer burden in Pakistan, adding, that the misinformation regarding the clinical presentation, diagnosis, and management of breast cancer hinders early diagnosis, creates a negative doctor-patient relationship, and hinders the approach toward management. Healthcare providers should be aware of the myths and misconceptions commonly prevalent in our society, she said, adding, the people of Pakistan are influenced by religious.

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ISLAMABAD: The High Commissioner of Australia H.E. Mr. Neil Hawkins called on Federal Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hasan Fawad.—DNA

## Mushaal Malik appeals UN to put pressure on India

Kashmir and Palestine are the oldest unresolved issues on the UN agenda risking world peace if the people of the two regions are not granted the right to self-determination, she mentioned

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Human Rights Minister Mushaal Malik Wednesday expressed its concern over the plight of illegally detained Hurriyat leaders and activists and appealed to the United Nations to put pressure on India to release the detainees and resolve the Kashmir dispute as per Security Council resolutions. "Kashmiri people must be granted an opportunity to decide their future by themselves", she

said while talking to a Private news channel. The Modi's government is using illegal and crude tactics to prevent Kashmiri Hurriyat leaders from the freedom movement, she added. She urged the international community and world human rights organizations to force India to stop its state terrorism in IOJK and to give the Kashmiris their right to self-determination. Minister said that the jail authorities were not only treating these detainees inhumanely but also inten-

tionally prolonging their illegal detention by not presenting them in courts on the days of hearing of the false cases registered against them. Kashmiris will not accept anything less than freedom from India, because they have rendered unprecedented sacrifices and are determined to continue their struggle till complete success, she added. The United Nations and the world's major powers she asked to show seriousness about settling the lingering Kashmir dispute, which has claimed

thousands of innocent lives, so far. Replying to a question, she said that the Modi government is using terrorism as a state policy to intimidate Kashmiris, adding, Kashmiris were making a lot of sacrifices for freedom from India which would not go to waste. Kashmir and Palestine are the oldest unresolved issues on the UN agenda risking world peace if the people of the two regions are not granted the right to self-determination, she mentioned.

## Ombudsman Office instructs depts to return Rs 1.8 m to aggrieved persons

DNA

MULTAN: In a remarkable display of public service, Federal Ombudsman Multan Region's Senior Investigation Officer, Dr. Zahid Malik has heard public complaints and instructed different institutions to return over Rs 1.8 million to the aggrieved persons. During his visit to Shujaabad to address grievances and complaints against the mismanagement of federal institutions, he set up court at office of the Town Municipal Corporation. During this open court session, Dr. Zahid Malik personally handled more than 20 cases, delivering on-the-spot resolutions

for many. The senior officer also issued orders for the return of more than 18 lakhs to the public, covering various utility bills. The beneficiaries included individuals dealing with federal institutions such as Mepeco, Sui Gas, Postal Life Insurance, NADRA, Pakistan Railways, Agricultural Development Bank, and Pakistan Baitul Mal. Dr. Malik underlined the importance of promptly addressing public complaints, urging these federal institutions to expedite the resolution process. He expressed resolve of Federal Ombudsman's office to ensuring the swift implementation of all decisions without any tolerance for delays.

Dr. Malik extended an invitation to the public, encouraging them to submit their complaints on plain paper directly during these open court sessions. He reiterated that the Ombudsman's responsibility was to resolve public issues in accordance with established rules and regulations without any delay. The visit of Dr. Zahid Malik to Shujaabad not only provided relief to numerous individuals but also reinforced the institution's dedication to serving the people and ensuring their concerns were addressed effectively, said an aggrieved person. Ombudsman Office instructs depts to return Rs 1.8 m to aggrieved persons

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**National Days and Armed Forces Days**

**OCTOBER**

Oct 01/China National Day

Oct 01/Cyprus National Day

Oct 01/Republic of Korea Armed Forces Day

Oct 01/Nigeria Armed Forces Day

Oct 02/Guinea National Day

Oct 03/Germany Unification Day

Oct 03/Republic of Korea National Foundation Day

Oct 05/Indonesia Armed Forces Day

Oct 06/Egypt Armed Forces Day

Oct 09/Uganda Independence Day

Oct 12/Spain National Day

Oct 23/Hungary National Day

October 24/United Nations United Nations Day

Oct 25/Romania Armed Forces Day

Oct 26/Austria National Day

Oct 27/Turkmenistan Independence Day

Oct 28/Czech Republic National Day

Oct 29/Turkey Republic Day

# Every person should get basic know-how of first aid

He lauded the vision of the girl guides for positively contributing to society by being ready to offer help to others



**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday said every person needs to get basic knowledge about first aid and CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) to cope with situations in medical emergencies, thus saving lives. Addressing the 12th All Pakistan Camp of Pakistan Girl Guides Association (PGGA) here at its National Headquarters, he said emergency aid on disaster management, first aid, and CPR could increase the survival rate of a person. The president stressed that the message of the emergency response plan, which was an integral part of girl guiding, needed to be spread at the levels of schools and colleges. President Alvi said by being able to provide basic aid, one could stabilize a patient or injured person in case of accidents, earthquakes, or other medical emergencies such as cardiac arrest, until the medical services arrive. He lauded the vision of the girl guides for positively contributing to society by being ready to offer help to others. He advised them to also play their role in creating

awareness among communities on breast cancer, mainstreaming persons with disabilities, environmental protection, and physical and mental well-being. He expressed satisfaction that the Pakistan Girl Guides Association was focusing on the character-building of girls to become useful members of society. However, he pointed out that the number of 140,000 girl guides across the country needed to be increased to expand its scope. Terming

women as a strong anchor in a family stressed that educated and healthy women not only raised good generations but also played a vital role in the progress of the country. He called upon the girl guides to also attain financial empowerment and mentioned that information technology had opened doors of opportunities to earn money through online businesses. He mentioned that the Chief Guide of PGGA, Begum Samina Alvi who remained

active in championing women's empowerment could not attend the event due to her twice knee-replacement surgery. National Commissioner Pakistan Girl Guides Association Maria Maud Sabri said the Girl Guide programme laid stress on community development projects by giving girls the opportunity to learn about health, nutrition, environment, and economic empowerment through different practical activities. The volunteer movement, she

said, was started in 1947 on the desire of the country's founder Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah with his sister Fatima Jinnah as its patron. She mentioned that seven branches of PGGA in four provinces besides others in AJK, GB, and ICT were functioning actively. Around 265 girl guides from the four provinces of the country, Islamabad, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan along with senior guides attended the event.

## More than 7 kg drugs recovered during raid

**DNA**

RAWALPINDI: The police here on Wednesday arrested 7 drug dealers and recovered more than 7 kg drugs from their possession during a crackdown. The police spokesman said Rata Amaral police held Zubair and recovered 1.7 kg drugs from his possession. Similarly, Pirwadi police nabbed Shah Fahad and recovered 1.4 kg drugs from his custody. While, Gujjar Khan police arrested Raheel and recovered 1.3 kg drugs from his possession. Following operation, Naseerabad police recovered 1.1 kg drugs from Abid. The Civil Line Police arrested Sher Ali and recovered 505 gram of charas from his possession. Sadiqabad police recovered 500 gram of charas from Nadeem. Race Course police recovered 500 grams of charas from Hassan. The police have registered separate cases against the accused and started further investigations. City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Mehmood Hamdani appreciated the performance of police teams and said that the arrested outlaws would be brought to justice with solid evidence, and the crackdown would be continued against drugs dealers.

## Ahlebada for Tent Pegging's inclusion in Olympics

ISLAMABAD: Upon assuming the leadership of the Tent Pegging Chair at the Asian Equestrian Federation, Sahibzada Sultan Muhammad Ali has embarked on a significant mission to advocate for the inclusion of Tent Pegging in the Olympics. During his recent tour to Oman, he engaged in discussions with the President of the Asian Equestrian Federation, Hamad bin Abdulrahman Al Attiyah, said a statement on Wednesday. During the meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was officially executed between the International Tent Pegging Federation and the Asian Equestrian Federation in Oman. Sahibzada said this groundbreaking MoU would open doors for Tent Pegging's potential inclusion in the Asian Games.—APP

## PR all set to upgrade Rawalpindi Railway Station

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways is all set to upgrade and commercialize the Victoria-era Rawalpindi Railway Station aimed at facilitating the passengers and making it the business hub, considering its location in the centre of business activities. "The Railway Station is built a century ago in a British style, the value addition to station and its surroundings would make it commercially viable and would generate significant revenues for all the stakeholders involved", an official in the Ministry told APP. He said the upgradation was already decided in a meeting that reviewed the upgradation as well as commercialization plan of Rawalpindi Railway Station, and observed that the railway stations will remain important commercial hub in the future, earning substantial revenue and generating economic opportunities at a large scale. The official said that besides improving passenger

facilitation, the redevelopment of Rawalpindi Railway Station can become a business hub. As per the plan, he said around 100-kanal space available adjacent to Jinnah Road (City Saddar Road) would be commercialized, besides uplifting the railway station. However, the Victorian-era building depicting 'Indo-Saracenic' architecture will remain intact. He said the main purpose of the plan is to redevelop the Rawalpindi Railway Station as a business hub and multi-model network; expanding platforms and creating separate cargo platforms; bringing inside the retail space; service apartments and motels; connecting it to all transport services; ensuring energy as well as water efficiency and commercially and financially viable interventions on the adjacent land. The official said the main building of Rawalpindi Railway Station consisted of three sections

included the freight section, the passenger section and the main offices. The Railway Club building and Police Station are adjacent to the main building which has three separate entrances for regular passengers and baggage passengers. To a question, he said that Pakistan Railways had already started to upgrade the five major railway stations across the country on modern lines to facilitate the passengers and help the department to generate more revenue. "The purpose of upgrading the railway stations is to make them commercial hubs for business activities and facilitate the passengers," he added. He said the stations included Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Peshawar and Quetta, while the department was taking other steps to improve the performance of Pakistan Railways and would provide maximum facilities to the masses. The government had allocated Rs 50 million

in the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), in the last three years for the up-gradation and renovation of railway stations across the country, he added. The official said the renovation of the railway stations had been approved by the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) and the department had already upgraded six railway stations in different parts of the country. The names of the upgraded railway stations were Bahawalpur, Raiwind, Narowal, Okara, Sahiwal and Gujranwala. The basic aim of the upgradation was to facilitate the passengers and improve the outlook and modernize the railway stations. Pakistan Railways had upgraded the passenger waiting halls, prayer area, operation offices, water filtration plant, toilets, passenger shelter, platforms, ticket counters, parking area and external development work.—APP

## COMSTECH, Ethiopia discuss institutional collaboration

ISLAMABAD: Ethiopian Ambassador, Jemal Beker Abdula met with COMSTECH's Coordinator General Dr Iqbal Choudhary on Wednesday and discussed potential areas of bilateral cooperation in the field of science and technology. Both sides discussed several initiatives including institutional collaboration for effective capacity building of Ethiopian human resource in healthcare, education, technology and innovation sectors. The coordinator general expressed keenness to support capacity-building initiatives of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia through knowledge sharing which would help the country to develop indigenous technologies in important socio-economic sectors. The ambassador expressed gratitude to Dr Iqbal Choudhary for his keen interest in sharing knowledge and expertise with the government of Ethiopia and assured him of full cooperation in this regard. The ambassador said the government of Ethiopia attached great importance to the technology sector which was on priority in Home Grown Economic Reforms Agenda launched by Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia. He also proposed exchange of delegations from education, healthcare and technology sectors for institutional development in Ethiopia. The ambassador also highlighted the boost witnessed by Ethiopia and Pakistan's bilateral relationship in the recent past including commencement of the Ethiopian Airlines' flight operations in Karachi playing critical role in further strengthening people-to-people contacts between the two countries. "Ethiopia is a gateway to Africa and by bringing the Ethiopian Airlines in Pakistan, we have connected Pakistan with the whole African continent," the ambassador remarked.—DNA

## Solo art exhibition at Tanzara today

ISLAMABAD: Tanzara Art Gallery is holding a solo art exhibition, presenting the masterful works of Farrukh Shahab titled "Ethereal Bond". This exhibition is an artistic journey that delves deep into the enchanting interplay between humanity and the natural world, with a particular focus on our feathered co-inhabitants. It is a testament to the artist's masterful ability to capture the essence of this connection and present it in a way that speaks directly to the soul. Shahab's canvases are transformed into vibrant tapestries of vivid and stylised figuration, where birds take centre stage as powerful symbols of our intricate relationship with the avian realm. With every stroke of the brush, the artist weaves threads that intricately bind us to the world of birds. The palette of rich, dynamic colours employed in these works vividly conveys the vitality and energy of this profound connection. Drawing inspiration from the themes explored in the artist's previous exhibition, "Avian Humanoid," "Ethereal Bond" presents a deepening and enriching of the narrative. This exhibition extends a heartfelt invitation to its viewers, urging them to embark on a reflective journey through the enigmatic and enduring ties that bind humanity to our feathered companions. Through Shahab's skilful use of the universal language of art, this bond is eloquently conveyed. "Ethereal Bond" is not merely a collection of art but a celebration of the exquisite relationship between humanity and the natural world.—DNA

## Islamabad police ensuring enhanced security measures

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police have taken robust measures to bolster security arrangements in the high-security zone and ensure effective measures around important buildings. The diligent efforts of the Islamabad Capital

Police teams in the high-security zone have been instrumental in ensuring the safety and security of crucial hearings in the superior courts. Under the guidance of senior police officers, police spokesman said that all personnel on duty have been instructed to prioritize the security of vital government offices,

superior courts, and embassies situated within the high-security zone. Furthermore, strict adherence to duty protocols has been emphasized, with all officers and personnel urged to display unwavering commitment in maintaining peace and security. Any form of negligence or complacency during duty

hours is strictly prohibited. Islamabad Capital Police is resolutely implementing all necessary measures to safeguard the lives and property of the citizens. Any disruptions to public peace will be dealt with firmly and swiftly. Wcitizens are earnestly requested to collaborate with the police by promptly reporting any suspicious activities or items to their respective police station or by contacting the emergency helpline "Pucar-15."

## GCF approves \$120 mln for Partnership Program

ISLAMABAD: The Green Climate Fund (GCF) has approved \$120 million in climate adaptation financing to support the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Community Resilience Partnership Program (CRPP), which aims to strengthen climate resilience in poor and vulnerable communities by scaling up climate adaptation investments at the local level. According to ADB press statement received here, the GCF approved the funding at its 37th board meeting. Based in Songdo, Republic of Korea, GCF is a global fund created to help developing countries address the challenge of climate change. ADB has supported developing member countries to access \$1 billion since becoming an accredited GCF entity in 2015. Launched in 2021, the CRPP is a regional program that will mobilize large-scale public investments that support community-level adaptation of poor and vulnerable people, develop national and local policies and initiatives that promote financing for community-led adaptation, and increase the meaningful participation of poor people, especially women, in resilience-related decision-making. This ensures that those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change can engage in a fair process and receive a fair share of the benefits of adaptation efforts. "Scaling up local climate adaptation investments is essential to protecting vulnerable communities and promoting inclusive and sustainable development amid growing climate risk in Asia and the Pacific," said ADB Vice-President for Sectors and Themes Fatima Yasmin. "The CRPP is our long-term, programmatic response that pinpoints adaptation measures that address climate, poverty, and gender challenges. The CRPP is designed for implementation over a 10-year period from 2021 to 2031 and we thank the GCF for supporting the program," Yasmin added. The CRPP is operationalized through the Community Resilience Financing Partnership Facility (CRFPF), which includes the CRPP Trust Fund supported by the Nordic Development Fund, the French Development Agency, the United Kingdom, and the CRPP Investment Fund financed by GCF to support the implementation of local adaptation measures through downstream investments. As Asia and the Pacific's climate bank, ADB aims to deliver \$100 billion in cumulative climate finance from its own resources between 2019 and 2030. The CRPP will contribute to this target by supporting climate adaptation solutions at the local level, especially in the context of investments in social protection, livelihoods, and decentralization.—DNA

**Hotels & Restaurants**

Serena Hotel.....111 133 133  
 Marriott.....051- 2826121  
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 & Rescue Services.4451122  
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 PIMS.....9261170-79  
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 TMA.....5770886  
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**Water Tank**

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

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## Briefs

## PM for enhanced liaison between Centre, Provinces on tourism

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday stressed the need for increasing collaboration between the Centre and Provinces to exploit the massive potential of tourism. The prime minister expressed these views in a meeting with Special Assistant for Tourism Wasi Shah here at the PM House. PM Kakar said owing to serene natural beauty, huge opportunities existed in Pakistan in the tourism sector. Wasi Shah briefed the prime minister about the steps taken on tourism at the federal level.—APP

## PTA conducts raid against illegal internet service provider

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Zonal Office Multan, in close collaboration with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), conducted a successful raid against an illegal internet service provider at Layyah. During the raid, operational internet setup and allied equipment were confiscated, and two people were apprehended by FIA on the spot. The culprits have been taken into custody for investigation and further inquiry, as per law said a news release. The successful efforts against illegal internet service providers were made possible because of continuous monitoring, commitment, and persistent efforts by the PTA in curbing the menace of illegal internet services, thus curtailing the loss to the national exchequer in terms of tax evasion and misreporting of revenues. The public is cautioned to avail telecom services from only PTA-licensed operators to avoid sudden discontinuation of service. A list of licensed operators is available at: <https://pta.gov.pk/en/industry-support/home/list-of-operators>—APP

## Telenor Pakistan conducts cleanup drive

ISLAMABAD, Oct 25 (APP): Telenor Pakistan employees on Wednesday conducted a cleanup drive in Margalla Hills National Park with the cooperation of the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB). The activity demonstrated Telenor Pakistan's commitment to the environment and climate action. The cleanup drive was carried out in line with the International Day of Climate Action, said a news release issued here. The world experienced extreme climatic conditions like high temperatures, droughts, wildfires, and floods this year, making the need for collective action against climate change more pressing than ever.

## IRSA releases 89,200 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD, Oct 25 (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 89,200 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 64,700 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1528.29 feet and was 130.29 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 32,000 cusecs and 40,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1207.55 feet, which was 157.55 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 8,500 cusecs and 25,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 38,400, 45,000, 37,900 and 10,300 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 11,300 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 4,900 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Laborers are busy in the carpeting of the road of parking area at sector 1-9 in Federal Capital. —ONLINE

## Pakistan is the best option for CARs for the sea trade

Dr Saud was of the view that the Central Asian Republics (CARs) could not use the Iranian route for their trade through the warm waters of the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea because of the Western sanctions against Iran

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: "Pakistan provides the best possible route for the Central Asian states to reach the warm waters of the Arabian Sea for their trade," said Dr Adam Saud, the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Bahria University. He was speaking at a roundtable on developing rela-

tions between Afghanistan and Central Asia organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) here on Wednesday.

Dr Saud was of the view that the Central Asian Republics (CARs) could not use the Iranian route for their trade through the warm waters of the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea because of the Western sanctions against Iran. He added, however, that Afghanistan will continue to remain a source of concern

in terms of trade connectivity for CARs because of the likelihood of terrorist violence in Afghanistan and the country's poor physical and institutional infrastructure.

Dr Saud maintained that although Afghanistan had witnessed a considerable decrease in terrorist violence since the arrival of the Taliban at the helm, concerns about Daesh and internal divisions among the Taliban remained a concern. Dr Saud added that formation of an

inclusive government and safeguarding the human rights of all Afghans as per international standards, especially the rights of women remained a challenge for Afghanistan.

This, he argued, however, had not deterred the CARs from establishing trade and economic linkages with the country, which were all involved in trade relations with Afghanistan. Responding to a question about

Chinese investment in Afghanistan and the extension of the BRI to the country, he stated that it was too early to assume the inclusion of Afghanistan in the BRI. He added that Afghanistan was not that important for China and that Chinese will be cautious in expanding their economic interests in the country despite the fact that Beijing had appointed an ambassador to Afghanistan last month.

## 'World AIDS Day' to be observed with full zeal: Dr Nadeem

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan on Wednesday said that the 'World AIDS Day' would be observed on December 1 with full zeal and zest. He was chairing a preparatory meeting in that regard, which was attended by representatives from Common Management Unit, APL-HIV, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA and WHO. The minister said HIV outbreaks typically occurred due to factors like unsafe injection practices, unprotected sexual activity, or the sharing of contaminated needles. "It is essential to address these issues through education, prevention, and healthcare interventions," he added. Dr Nadeem said, "We do not want to see another outbreak of HIV like Larkana, Ratodero (Sindh) in 2019," adding the government was committed towards controlling AIDS. "Our work will ensure that people of all ages, genders, and population groups have equitable access to life-saving HIV prevention and treatment services based on the most up-to-date science," the minister said. He said that World AIDS Day was a time to show support and solidarity for individuals living with HIV. "This can include providing information on available resources, support groups, and advocating for the rights and well-being of people with HIV," he added.—APP

## Residents welcome CDA's user-friendly online payment service

ISLAMABAD: The residents of the federal capital have welcomed the initiative of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to introduce a user-friendly online payment service for utility bills as a part of the digitalization process, ensuring customers' convenience. "The online payment service is set to simplify the payment process for all utility bills to offer a more convenient and efficient way for customers to fulfil their financial responsibilities," said a resident Fateh Muhammad.

He said the advantages of the digital payment service go beyond convenience as allowing residents to pay their utility bills online minimizes the environmental hazards caused by paper billing and physical transactions. Another resident, Naseem Begum said that it is a direly needed step towards reducing the use of cash and promoting a more secure and efficient financial system. Such steps bring ease and comfort in the lives of the general public and ensure a safe and secure payment system which are important at a time when societies are becoming cashless. Another user of this online facility, Shagufta Mehmood who is a working woman said that today is the era of digitalization and all institutions and departments must adopt digital ways to compete internationally. Digitalization of such services which are accessed by the general public is essential to make their life easier and ensure transparency.—DNA

## Pak handicraft enterprise aiming to increase offline presence in China



DNA

ISLAMABAD: "We have many partnerships, and people enjoy using our products. We foresee an increase in the number of our physical stores in China," said Yang Han, sales manager of a China-based Pakistani art enterprise, told China Economic Net (CEN) in an exclusive interview at the 2023 Beijing Interna-

tional Cultural and Tourism Consumption Expo.

The Pakistani brand, specializing in premium handmade scarves and carpets from Pakistan, India and Iran, boasts nine offline stores in major Chinese cities including Beijing, Hangzhou, Shanghai, Xi'an, Nanjing, and Tianjin, the sales manager told CEN.

With an effective distribution network based in Hangzhou, Asia has become in-

creasingly popular in China.

"Our products from Pakistan, India and Iran normally arrive in Hangzhou first, and then they are distributed to offline shops in other cities," Yang informed CEN, adding that the handicrafts have the potential to penetrate smaller markets as well.

To this end, the company has formed a dedicated expo team to promote its products at various exhibitions in China. "This year, we also participated in

the China International Fair For Trade In Service (CIFFS).

"We plan to distribute our products from Hangzhou to various other cities, leveraging our established relationships," he concluded. Held from October 20 to 22 in Beijing, the tourism expo spanned 20,000 square metres, featuring over 350 institutions and enterprises from 18 countries worldwide alongside 20 provinces in China.

## Thar Block II generates over 17,000 jobs for locals

ISLAMABAD: The power plants at Engro Thar Block II, developed within the framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), serve as more than just coal-fired stations utilizing indigenous resources to generate power for the country, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday. In fact, the development of Thar Block II has resulted in the creation of over 17,000 employment opportunities for the local community. Khushhal Thar, an initiative by the Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC), has played a pivotal role in providing the local community access to employment across various projects in Block II. The Gwadar Pro quoting a statement issued by SEMSC, stated "To promote inclusivity, Khushhal Thar has facilitated over 28,000 employment opportunities, accounting for a significant 61% of the total employment in Thar Block II." This indicates that 17,080 individuals, making up 61% of the total workforce, have been engaged in various roles within Thar Block II. The statement, released on Tuesday evening, further emphasizes SECMC's commitment to empowering the local community. In order to prioritize locals for industry-specific and labor-intensive positions within Block II, where the mine-mouth power plant is located, Khushhal Thar was established. It operates as a local database using a first-come, first-served approach to providing employment opportunities. Khushhal Thar has proven to be effective in enabling locals to secure jobs in various projects within Thar. SECMC is a joint venture between the Government of Sindh and Engro Powergen, formed to extract coal reserves in Sindh. The 660MW Engro Thar Coal Power Project, developed under CPEC at Thar Block II and executed by Engro PowerGen Thar Ltd., China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC), was completed in 2019 and is currently operational. The 330MW HUBCO Thar Coal Power Project (Thar Energy) is another coal-fired station at Thar Block II executed and sponsored by HUBCO, FFC, and CMEC. The project, completed on September 30, 2023, is currently operational. The 330MW HUBCO TharNova Thar Coal Power Project is another initiative under CPEC in Thar Block II, also financed and executed by HUBCO, FFC, and CMEC. Completed on February 17, 2023, the project is currently operational.—DNA

## Indonesia to start direct flights with Pakistan, says envoy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Adam M. Tugio, Ambassador of Indonesia said that his country is to start direct flights with Pakistan in near future that would help boost people to people contacts and bilateral trade ties between the two countries. He said that Indonesia is keen to further strengthen trade and economic ties with Pakistan and launch of direct flights would be helpful in achieving this goal. He said that an Indonesian Corner would be inaugurated soon in the National Book Foundation of Pakistan that would create better awareness about Indonesia in Pakistan and improve bilateral ties between the two countries. He said this while addressing the business community during his farewell visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry. H.E. Adam M. Tugio said that Pakistan and Indonesia have good potential to explore untapped

potential of cooperation in Halal herbal medicines. He said that Pakistani pharmaceutical products are quite affordable and can penetrate the Indonesian

market. He said that Indonesia would organize a Pakistan-ASEAN specific expo in Jakarta next year and the Pakistani business community should participate

in it. He lauded the ICCI for sending its delegation to attend a trade expo in Indonesia and stressed that ICCI should send its regular delegations to Indo-

nesia to explore all untapped areas of business collaboration between the private sectors of two countries.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawar, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that Indonesia and the ASEAN region offer a lot of potential to Pakistan and stressed that Pakistan should focus on these countries for trade and exports. He said that ICCI would encourage more trade delegations to Indonesia to explore new business opportunities with it. He said that Indonesian investors should also be encouraged to invest in Pakistan's tourism infrastructure and other sectors. He said that Pakistan, Indonesia and Nigeria are big markets of Muslim world and they should sign an FTA to strengthen their trade ties that would bring prosperity to their nations. He reaffirmed ICCI's commitment to strengthen liaison with the Indonesian

Embassy to improve business linkages between the private sectors of both countries.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI lauded the efforts of H.E. Adam M. Tugio for improving trade ties between Indonesia and Pakistan and hoped that his successor would take forward these efforts to bring both countries even closer. He highlighted Pakistan's prospective industries for cooperation with Indonesia including IT, tourism, pharmaceuticals, textiles, cooking oil and others. Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI briefed the Indonesian Ambassador about the successful recent visit of ICCI delegation to Indonesia and thanked them for the great hospitality extended by the Indonesian authorities. Hamayun Kabir, Faseeh ullah Khan, Malik Mohsin Khalid and others also spoke on the occasion and shared useful proposals to further improve bilateral cooperation between the two countries.



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Email: [dailyisbpost@gmail.com](mailto:dailyisbpost@gmail.com)

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off 11: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad

## Life in occupied West Bank amid Israeli crimes

While Israel talks about the settlers and soldiers being held hostage by Hamas, it has adopted a similar tactic to pick Palestinian men and children from their homes and torture them in custody. In the village of Beit Liqya, west of Ramallah, Israeli soldiers stormed the home of Palestinian researcher Najib Mafarja. When they didn't find him indoors, they detained his three-year-old child for two hours to pressure his father to surrender himself. The child returned shaken, trembling with fear. Detaining family members to pressure Palestinian men to surrender themselves before the Israeli army has become an almost daily occurrence in the West Bank. Former prisoner Bushra al Taweel from the city of Al-Bireh in the central occupied West Bank told us that the Israeli army stormed her home at dawn on October 19 and ransacked the property. The raid was aimed at arresting her 61-year-old father, former prisoner Jamal al Taweel, who was released less than a year ago after spending two years under Israeli detention. He has been arrested 12 times and sent to various Israeli prisons. In total, he has spent 16 years in jail. "My father was not there, so they arrested my brothers to pressure him to surrender," she said. Hours after their arrest, the two brothers, Nasrallah and Yahya, were released. Both were tortured—their bodies, from head to feet, had marks of deep wounds and bruises. The family immediately admitted them to the hospital. While Israeli bombing has killed over 6,546 Palestinians, including 2,704 children, since October 7, the situation in the occupied West Bank has been deteriorating for years. Controlled by the Palestinian Authority, the West Bank is under a perpetual assault of both the Israeli army and illegal settlers, who harass and kill Palestinians at whim. The illegal Jewish settlers have been swallowing Palestinian lands and transferring them to Israeli control without any hindrance. From the beginning of this year until October 7, 223 Palestinians were killed by Israeli occupation bullets and more than five thousand were arrested in the West Bank. Palestinian analyst Sari Orabi told TRT World that Israel has always sought political cover from Western powers to murder Palestinians and wipe out entire residential neighbourhoods in Gaza. "Israel said that the reason for all of this was the Al-Aqsa Flood operation, but it knows that the world public opinion will not support its claims and practices, and rather will be sympathetic towards Palestinians", Orabi said. Recent assaults on the Al Aqsa Mosque, the abuse of Palestinian prisoners, the daily killings of defenceless Palestinians and other injustices triggered the October 7 Hamas attack as a sign of resistance, he added. "Israel doesn't want to discuss the root of the issue or its practices, but rather wants to give cover to the killing of Palestinians," Orabi said.



## An alternative to American exceptionalism

Since OBOR was an evolving reality where more "roads" were added, it was later renamed the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Moreover, the GDI, GSI and GCI were announced to the world by Xi in 2021, 2022 and 2023 respectively for the nations of the Global South, which were attracted to Beijing's alternatives to the US-dominated Bretton Woods institutions, the National Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and Silk Road Fund, but had not yet joined the BRI. As two geostrategic players with global visions and the capability, capacity, and political determination to shape them, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping have met 42 times since 2013. Their main purpose has been to synchronize two visions – Russia's Greater Eurasia and China's BRI. Greater Eurasia, a dynamic concept like the BRI, seeks to integrate Putin's vision of a pivot to Asia for development and connectivity. The region is comprised of Russia's Far East, India, Pakistan, Iran, the Arab world, the ASEAN countries, and China, while the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) includes Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia and Belarus. Unlike what the Western nations wish to believe, the no-limits strategic partnership between Russia and China is about two global leaders bringing their strengths together to offer an alternate to the US-led "rules-based order" or American Exceptionalism, where the rules have never been spelled out. In sharp contrast, Greater Eurasia-BRI has been suggested as a multilateral partnership in a multipolar world with no coercion from anyone. Of course, given the huge gap between the two economies – China's \$18 trillion GDP versus Russia's \$ 1.84 trillion GDP, and the reality that China alone matches the US in its Artificial Intelligence (AI) ecosystem and emerging technologies, the question remains whether Russia would be relegated to becoming China's junior partner. The answer is 'no' for three reasons: One, Russia is a great power with a landmass straddling eleven time zones, has an abundance of natural resources including food, minerals, and rare earth elements, and is a big exporter of energy (oil, gas and nuclear reactor production). Russia and China are working on fast neutron reactors which will contribute to green development. Russia has an impressive military-industrial complex, is a major arms exporter, has veto power in the United Nations, and has thousands of nuclear weapons. Two, while China's deep pockets and infrastructure-building capability attracts the nations of the Global South, the dynamism of BRICS and SCO stem from their two big founding members. Three, unlike the US, which believes in global dominance through its exceptional military power and maintains bases around the world, China seeks global respect, which means it wants nations to be sensitive to its foreign policy and core concerns. Russia is unlikely to have problems with this. Thus, in all international meetings, it is normal to find the top diplomats of Russia and China, Sergei Lavrov and Wang Yi, coordinate their moves to synchronize with the higher goals set by Putin and Xi. Regarding China's assertiveness, it is pertinent to listen to US President Joe Biden's interaction with CNN's Fareed Zakaria in June. Claiming to have met Xi more times than any world leader, Biden said that China is not expansionist and does not seek wars but desires a united China.

## Feed the birds, not the bin

Gulzaib Rafiq



Every day in Pakistan, a substantial amount of food goes to waste. An estimated 36 million tonnes of food are wasted every year. This is equivalent to every citizen of Karachi, Lahore, and Hyderabad tossing out entire lunches and dinners every day. According to a report, 40% of food in Pakistan is wasted. Unfortunately, many birds and street animals face challenges due to the lack of food

Understanding is an individual duty, as is the issue of food waste itself, and whether food is being discarded when there are alternative options, or if it's simply that we don't think there is a problem. My concern is that it's not a priority for most individuals. Additionally, there are those who truthfully don't care. We need to begin caring and be responsible individuals. My objective is to raise awareness about this issue while helping myself and others understand more about food waste and how to avoid it. As we know, the population increases day by day, so the availability of food for birds in fields may decrease. It's important for us to be mindful of this impact and create alternative food sources for birds. For this, we need to start working from our homes. Instead of wasting leftover food, we can repurpose it to feed birds and street animals. It's a great way to reduce food waste. Every day in Pakistan, a substantial amount of food goes to waste. An estimated 36 million tonnes of food are wasted every year. This is equivalent to every citizen of Karachi, Lahore, and Hyderabad tossing out entire lunches and dinners every day. According to a report, 40% of food in Pakistan is wasted. Unfortunately, many birds and street animals face challenges due to the lack of food. It's disheartening to see food waste while birds struggle to find enough to eat. Birds face many problems and issues when searching for food, especially in urban areas. Loss of natural habitat and the use of pesticides can make it difficult for birds to find enough food. Additionally, the availability of food sources may fluctuate with changing seasons and environmental conditions.

Birds are one of the most important species on our planet. They play a crucial role in the ecosystem, responsible for pollinating plants, dispersing seeds, and controlling pests. They also provide us with food and feathers and are a source of inspiration and enjoyment. Without birds, we could expect significant changes in our ecosystem, including a loss of crops and trees. Due to food shortages, pollution, and climate change, birds will face hazards in the future. These factors will disrupt their food sources, migration patterns, and nesting habitats. It's important for us to take action to protect their environments and ensure their survival by reusing waste food and providing bird feeders and creating bird-friendly gardens for the nourishment they need. "Feed the birds, not your bin". Reducing food waste is a concerning issue because it helps protect the environment by conserving resources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. When we throw away food, it ends up in landfills and produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas. By being mindful of our food consumption and finding creative ways to use leftovers, feeding our feathered friends with food scraps is a great way to repurpose leftovers. If we don't take steps to control this issue, it has severe consequences for the environment and society. It contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, strains resources, and exacerbates food insecurity. In Islam, there is also a strong emphasis on avoiding wastefulness, including when it comes to food. Our Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) taught us to eat and drink in moderation and not to waste any food. To manage food waste and feed our feathered friends,

we can start by being mindful of our food consumption and planning meals to minimize leftovers. Composting is a good way to repurpose food scraps and create nutrient-rich soil. By reducing food waste, it not only protects us from pollution and food insecurity but also gives us an opportunity to help our feathered friends and make a better ecosystem. I have been putting out small amounts of leftovers for our garden birds for the last two years now, and I can't believe the amount of life-saving 'bird-food' that others simply throw into the landfill bin. If we all scrape our plates into a bag or container and put them outside during the day for our beloved feathered friends, we would not only save thousands of birds' lives but also significantly reduce our landfill contribution. Once your garden birds get to know there is a reliable source of food in your garden, they will arrive daily, and you will be amazed at how quickly it all disappears. Feeding our feathered friends and reducing food waste is a win-win situation. It's a fun and eco-friendly way to make a positive impact. Watching the birds come and go and listening to their chirps is a wonderful, stress-releasing way to de-stress. Feeding birds can be an enjoyable and rewarding hobby that helps you connect with nature, so the next time you're out in the garden or walking in the park, consider putting out a bird feeder. You never know what kind of beauty you might spot! And don't forget to take a few moments to appreciate the natural world around you. Enjoy the beauty of nature and share it with everyone.

– [gulzaibrafiq007@gmail.com](mailto:gulzaibrafiq007@gmail.com)

## Pakistan's efforts and struggle in achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs)

Huma Arshad



While the SDGs are not legally binding, governments are expected to take ownership and establish national frameworks to achieve the goals, a challenging prospect given competing government financial and programmatic priorities. The targets have been grouped into three broad themes

The SDGs are an urgent call to the world to shift towards a more sustainable path and approach. In 2015, all member-states of the United Nations including Pakistan adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a global agenda to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all by 2030. The SDGs are ambitious set of 17 goals, 169 associated targets, and 232 indicators pursued through national action and international cooperation according to United Nations, 2015. While the SDGs are not legally binding, governments are expected to take ownership and establish national frameworks to achieve the goals, a challenging prospect given competing government financial and programmatic priorities. The targets have been grouped into three broad themes: people, planet, and prosperity highlighting the UN's focus on social, environmental, and economic pillars of development. Pakistan integrated the SDGs into its national development agenda NDA in Feb 2016, The government, like other developing countries, faces huge fiscal challenges to meet SDGs. Pakistan was the first country to adopt SDGs 2030 agenda through a unanimous resolution of parliament. The government conducted discussions on post-Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with all stakeholders for coordinating and strengthening efforts at federal and provincial levels to achieve Pakistan's sustainable development and poverty reduction targets. The seven pillars of Vision-2025 are fully aligned with the SDGs, providing a comprehensive long-term strategy for achieving inclusive growth and sustainable development. At the federal level, a SDGs Monitoring and Coordination Unit, in coordination with UNDP, has been being set up to serve as a national

coordinating entity with similar units in the provinces. The focus of the government from the start was on inculcating SDGs in planning processes, ensuring strong monitoring and reporting on SDGs, ensuring public financial allocations are aligned to SDGs and alternate financing modalities are being explored, and to benefit from use of technology to accelerate progress towards SDGs. Pakistan affirmed its commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by adopting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as its National Development Agenda through a unanimous National Assembly Resolution. SDG support units have been established at federal and provincial levels with the planning institutions (Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives and Provincial Planning and Development Departments) to guide SDGs implementation and monitoring it progress. Earlier the Government designed and approved a National SDGs Framework that envisages a national vision to prioritize and localize SDGs. Localized provincial SDG Frameworks are being formulated. UNDP is supporting the Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives (MoP&SI), Government of Pakistan for localizing the SDGs by applying UNDG. MAPS approach focusing on mainstreaming SDGs in Plans, Policies and Resource Allocation aligned to 2030 Agenda, SDGs monitoring, reporting and evaluation capacities and strengthened Financing flows. Pakistan, like many other developing countries, has not been able to meet the United Nations Millennium Development Goals of 2015, largely because of weak institutions and a lack of policy enforcement. SDGs are not moving forward and we do not see much progress due to frequent changes in the government sector. Pakistan still ranked 129th out of 165 countries

in a recent Sustainable Development Goal Index ranking, Population growth remain the major obstacle in achieving goals. Energy crisis, education reforms are still needs lot of changes and immediate attention. Here we cannot forget or overlook that Pakistan has the highest rate of urbanization in South Asia. All the political parties, government has to take serious measures to attain the goals by 2030. Several challenges remain to achieve the SDGs in Pakistan. Financing the SDGs in a slow-growth economic environment is a difficult task. There is also a knowledge and technology gap in developing local solutions and improved governance. The path towards sustainable development is not easy if a country is acting alone. In the case of Pakistan, development has been hampered by fluctuating levels of foreign investment, trade, and development assistance over the years. As long as global partnerships are not encouraged worldwide, the prospects for the development of SDGs remains weak. This global partnership must have different elements, such as development assistance aid, debt relief, trade agreements, and foreign funding. If Pakistan is to achieve its SDGs, it has to pay extra focus on building robust partnerships which priorities integration through cooperation. Lastly, Pakistan needs strong institutions which can transform the current business trajectory of the country. As a country we must remember the motto of United Nations for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) i.e. "LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND"—the motto is the guiding principle in solving the most pressing problems of today. "We will only secure a prosperous, peaceful and livable planet if we harness economic growth and development to social solidarity across and between generations." Oscar Auliq-Ice (humanist, Philosopher)



## Briefs

## Sudan army to resume talks on ending war

WAD MADANI: The Sudanese army said Wednesday it has accepted an invitation to resume US- and Saudi-brokered talks aimed at ending more than six months of conflict with the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces. The war between forces loyal to army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his former deputy, RSF commander Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, has killed more than 9,000 people and displaced over 5.6 million since it erupted in April. Previous mediation attempts have only succeeded in brief truces, and even those were systematically violated. In a statement, the army said it had accepted an invitation from Saudi Arabia and the United States to travel to the Saudi city of Jeddah "out of a belief in the armed forces that negotiations is one of the means that may end the conflict".

"The resumption of negotiations does not mean a halt of the national battle of dignity, for the defeat of the rebel militia," the statement added. The war in Sudan has decimated already fragile infrastructure, shuttered 80 percent of the country's hospitals and plunged millions into acute hunger. "For six months, civilians - particularly in Khartoum, Darfur and Kordofan - have known no respite from bloodshed and terror," said UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths. —APP

## France's Macron in Egypt to meet Sisi

CAIRO: French President Emmanuel Macron arrived in Cairo on Wednesday, an AFP correspondent reported, for talks with his Egyptian counterpart Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, the latest leg of a whistlestop crisis tour.

On Tuesday Macron was in Israel where he voiced support for its retaliation against Hamas after gunmen from the Islamist group unleashed the deadliest attack on Israel in its history on October 7. Hamas militants attacked southern Israel, killing more than 1,400 people, most of them civilians, according to Israeli authorities.

In relentless Israeli bombing since, more than 6,500 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in Gaza, according to the Palestinian territory's Hamas-controlled health ministry.

Macron on Tuesday also visited the occupied West Bank for talks with Mahmud Abbas, president of the Palestinian Authority.

In Amman, he met King Abdullah II, who stressed that "stopping the war on Gaza is an absolute necessity, and the world must move immediately in this direction", a Jordanian royal court statement said.

Arab leaders have pushed for a ceasefire and a return to a political process, echoing wider warnings of a potential regional spillover of the Israel-Hamas war.

## Hezbollah leader meets with Palestinian resistance leaders

BEIRUT: The leader of Lebanese Hezbollah has discussed the situation in Gaza with top officials of Palestinian groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Meeting in Lebanon, Hassan Nasrallah met with Salih Al-Aroui, the deputy head of Hamas' Political Bureau, and Ziyad Al-Nakhhalah, Islamic Jihad secretary-general, where they "reviewed developments in the Gaza Strip and the ongoing confrontations at the Lebanese border with occupied Palestine," as reported by Al-Manar, a TV channel affiliated with Hezbollah. "Recent events in the Gaza Strip since the start of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood on Oct. 7 and subsequent developments on all fronts were reviewed," it added.

Clashes between Hezbollah and Israeli forces along the Lebanese border followed the start of the conflict in Gaza, which has been under Israeli bombardment and a blockade since Oct. 7. —APP



BEIJING: Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani alongwith the Pakistani delegation witnessing signing ceremony of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between a leading Chinese Company Tgoad and the Rec Group of Pakistan China. —DNA

## Erdogan calls for ceasefire in Gaza, canceled Israel trip

Almost half of those killed in Israeli attacks on Gaza are children, says Recep Tayyip Erdogan

## FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: All parties in the Palestine-Israel war should take their fingers off the trigger, said the Turkish president on Wednesday, urging an immediate ceasefire in the conflict.

At the Justice and Development (AK) Party's parliamentary group meeting in Ankara, Recep Tayyip Erdogan said before Oct. 7, when the conflict erupted, he had planned to visit Israel but then canceled his plans.

Noting that Türkiye has no problem with the Israeli state, Erdogan said his country will never approve of it committing atrocities. Almost half of those killed in Israeli attacks on Gaza

so far are children, showing that the aim is deliberate brutality to commit crimes against humanity, he added. He said that when those who stood up for the world in Russia's war on Ukraine are silent about the massacre in Gaza, this is the "most concrete expression of hypocrisy." Accusing countries outside the region of "adding fuel to the fire" in the name of supporting Israel, he said the US will lose as it does not seem to want the world to be ruled fairly. Türkiye is deeply saddened by the helplessness the UN has fallen into, and no one takes it seriously as it turned a blind eye to the brutal killing of children, he added. Türkiye's objections



to the unfair structure of the UN Security Council were again confirmed by recent news, he added, referring to how a Mideast cease-fire resolution was vetoed by one of the council's five permanent members, a structure Türkiye has long cried foul over. Erdogan reiterated his quotable slogan for UN reform, "The world is big-

ger than five," referring to the unrepresentative nature of the UN Security Council's five permanent, veto-wielding members. The Jewish people know well that Türkiye is the only land that has been without antisemitism for centuries, he added. The conflict in Gaza, which has been under Israeli bombardment since Oct. 7, began when Hamas initiated Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, a multi-pronged surprise attack that included a barrage of rocket launches and infiltrations into Israel by land, sea, and air. It said the incursion was in retaliation for the storming of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and growing violence by Israeli settlers. The Israeli military then launched

a relentless air campaign against the Gaza Strip. Nearly 7,200 people have been killed in the conflict, including at least 5,791 Palestinians and 1,400 Israelis. Gaza's 2.3 million people have been running out of food, water, medicines and fuel, and aid convoys allowed into Gaza have carried only a fraction of what is needed. Israel launching a ground operation into the Gaza Strip could escalate the situation there from brutality into a "massacre," the Turkish foreign minister warned on Wednesday. Speaking at a press conference in Doha alongside his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-

Thani, Hakan Fidan said the targeting of Palestinians regardless of whether they are children, the sick, or the elderly, and even in schools, hospitals, and mosques, is a crime against humanity. As deaths mount in Gaza, the backlash in the region will naturally grow, said Fidan, adding: "It is impossible to predict consequences in advance." Israel launched a relentless bombing campaign on Gaza following a surprise attack by the Palestinian group Hamas on Oct. 7, putting the enclave's residents under total siege, with a blockade of food, fuel and medical supplies. For several days aid supplies started to trickle in, but at a level far below the needs of the deprived enclave.

## Germany to accelerate deportation of rejected asylum seekers

BERLIN: The German government introduced a draft law on Wednesday to accelerate the deportation of irregular migrants whose asylum applications were declined by the authorities. Speaking at a news conference in Berlin, Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said the proposed legislation will ensure that people without the right to stay in Germany will leave the country quickly. "We envisage a package of restrictive measures to ensure more and faster deportations. This is necessary so that we can continue to live up to our humanitarian responsibility for the people that we have to protect from war and terror," she said. The Social Democrat politician argued that they must significantly limit irregular migration and return economically motivated illegal migrants to their home country, so that the resources can be used for asylum seekers who really need protection in Germany. "Our new regulations will improve the possibilities for deportations in a large number of cases. This also includes deporting criminals and dangerous persons more consistently and more quickly. This would apply particularly for those involved in organized crime, which we are combating even more resolutely," she said. According to the proposed bill, authorities will have legal powers to check the cell phones of irregular migrants to determine their identities. They will be allowed to use all data without restriction. In refugee accommodations, the police will be allowed to carry out searches and enter almost all rooms while trying to find the person who is to be deported. For persons who are requested to leave the country, the maximum length of pre-deportation custody will be extended from 10 to 28 days, in order to give the authorities more time to prepare for the deportation. —DNA

## Jilani, Kyrgyz president discuss strengthening bilateral relations

## DNA

BISHKEK: Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani on Wednesday called on President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Zhaparov wherein the two sides exchanged views on the current state and prospects of Kyrgyz-Pakistani bilateral cooperation. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 22nd meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization being held in Bishkek. On Thursday, Pakistan will assume the Chair of CHG SCO. The meeting will be attended by the Heads of Government of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, vice-president of Iran and foreign ministers of Pakistan and India. SCO Observer States namely Belarus and Mongolia as well as Guest State Turkmenistan will also attend the meeting. In a post



on X, Foreign Minister Jilani said that in the meeting, he conveyed warm greetings of Pakistan leadership and people. Both sides expressed a mutual desire to build stronger economic, political, and educational relations. The Kyrgyz leader noted that Pakistan occupied an impor-

tant place in the system of international and regional relations, and Kyrgyzstan was interested in developing cooperation in bilateral and multilateral formats, according to Kabar, the national news agency of Kyrgyzstan. He emphasized great opportunities for increasing the

volume of mutual trade between the countries. In this context, Zhaparov expressed interest in diversification of export-import positions with Pakistan and active work with Pakistani investors on promising projects. Jalil Abbas Jilani conveyed warm words of greetings to the head of state from President Arif Alvi and Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar. He expressed Pakistan's readiness to further establish relations between the two countries in all spheres of mutual interest. Foreign Minister Jilani extended an invitation to Sadyr Zhaparov to visit Pakistan. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Jilani also met SCO Secretary-General Zhang Ming and discussed areas of critical and practical cooperation, including connectivity, poverty alleviation, energy and others. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to Shanghai Spirit for Regional Development and a shared future.

## Estimated 114M people displaced by war, violence worldwide

## WEB DESK

GENEVA: The UN refugee agency announced on Wednesday the estimated number of displaced people worldwide, driven by war and violence, hit 114 million by the end of September. "The main drivers of forced displacement in the first half of 2023 were: war in Ukraine and conflicts in Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Myanmar; a combination of drought, floods, and insecurity in Somalia; and a prolonged humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan," the UNHCR said in a statement, citing its mid-year trends report. Noting that the world's focus is now on the "humanitarian catastrophe" in Gaza, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said: "But globally, far too many conflicts are proliferating or escalating, shattering innocent lives and uprooting people." "The international

community's inability to solve conflicts or prevent new ones is driving displacement and misery," Grandi stressed, underlining the need to work together to end conflicts and allow refugees and other displaced people to return home or restart their lives. According to the UNHCR, 110

million people had been forcibly displaced worldwide by the end of June - an increase of 1.6 million from the end of 2022.

The report found that over half of all people who are forced to flee "never cross" an international border. Only in the three months from June to the end of Septem-

ber, UNHCR estimated that the number of forcibly displaced grew by 4 million, bringing the total to 114 million. "As we watch events unfold in Gaza, Sudan, and beyond, the prospect of peace and solutions for refugees and other displaced populations might feel distant," Grandi said. "But we can-

not give up. With our partners, we will keep pushing for - and finding - solutions for refugees." Of the refugees and other persons in need of international protection, 75% were hosted by low- and middle-income countries, the report said. In the initial six months, 1.6 million individual asylum applications were filed globally, the highest ever recorded.

While not all were in safe circumstances, over 404,000 refugees returned, more than twice as many as in the same period in 2022. Almost 2.7 million internally displaced individuals returned to their homes during the same period, exceeding twice the number of returns in the first half of 2022, it said. There was also an increase in the number of resettled refugees. The conflict in the Middle East started on Oct. 7, which falls outside the reporting period and is not factored into its analysis of human displacement, the statement underscored.



## Kiev slams Musk over calls to end war

KIEV: Mikhail Podolyak, a senior aide to Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky, described Elon Musk's calls for an urgent ceasefire in the Ukraine conflict to avoid a larger conflict as a "catastrophic mistake" with far-reaching consequences in a Telegram post on Tuesday. On his channel, Podolyak called Musk's recent proposal equivalent to surrendering Ukraine to "mandatory large-scale genocide" from Russia and suggested that refusing to support Ukraine would "inevitably lead to a sharp increase in conflicts around the world, the end of the era of international law, the collapse of the international economy, and the triumph of the forces of evil." The advisor's comments came after Musk stated in a conversation on X (formerly Twitter) Spaces on Tuesday that the US was "sleepwalking" into World War III by antagonizing countries like Russia, Iran, and China. Musk said he believed that "civilization itself may be at stake" and stressed that the US must work to prevent a global conflict. To that end, he called on the US to "resume normal relations with Russia" and "figure out" a way to establish peace in Ukraine, labeling the war a hopeless situation. —Agencies

## Muslim councilors ask Labour to call for cease-fire

LONDON: More than 150 Muslim councilors from the UK's main opposition Labour Party on Wednesday called on the party leadership to call for an immediate ceasefire in the Israel-Palestine conflict.

"As a party that bases its principles on fairness and justice, we cannot sit idly by as Palestinians face collective punishment, said a letter signed by the councilors.

The letter was published by Labour Muslim Network (LMN), an inclusive organization that seeks to promote British Muslim engagement with the Labour Party.

"We urge the Labour Party to urgently adopt a position of calling for an immediate cease-fire, calling on the UK government and the international community to act upon this proposal to save innocent human lives," the letter added.

They also stressed that hostages held captive must be returned to their families.

The Labour Party has seen a series of resignations from councilors after its leader Keir Starmer said in controversial remarks that Israel had the "right" to cut power and water supplies to Palestinians living in Gaza. The remarks sparked controversy among the party.

Israel launched a relentless bombardment campaign on Gaza following a surprise attack by Hamas on Oct. 7, putting the enclave's residents under total siege and a blockade of food, fuel, and medical supplies. Aid supplies have since started to trickle in, but at levels far below the public need. —APP

## Protest held in Paris in solidarity with Palestinians

PARIS: Protesters gathered in the French capital Paris on Tuesday to demonstrate against Israel's attacks on Gaza, calling for a ceasefire. Converging on the Place de la Republique following a call by labor unions, they called for an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They chanted pro-Palestine slogans and carried signs with various messages including "Stop the bombings" and "Ceasefire." Speaking to Anadolu, Emelyne Perrin, a member of the Human Rights League (LDH), said Palestinians are being offered no solution in the ongoing situation. Expressing her solidarity with the Palestinian people, she accused the French government of supporting "Israel's crimes." Another protester, Marceau Labadie, told Anadolu about his feelings on what is happening in Gaza, pointing to the importance of supporting Palestinians. —APP

## Briefs

### Arabs shocked over 'double standards' of West

DNA

AMMAN: Queen Rania of Jordan on Tuesday blasted Western leaders for their "glaring double standard" as deadly Israeli bombardment in Gaza and blockade worsened the humanitarian crisis. Over 5,700 Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip have been martyred in the air strikes, including over 2,300 children, 1,200 women and 295 elderly people. According to Gaza officials, over 16,200 are wounded as hospitals warn of collapse in the wake of low supplies due to Israeli blockade since October 7 in response to Hamas attacks. In an interview with American news channel, Queen Rania who is also of Palestinian descent said, "The people all around the Middle East, including in Jordan, we are just shocked and disappointed by the world's reaction to this catastrophe that is unfolding." She regretted the Western world's "glaring double standard" and added that Arabs perceive the criminal support to Israel as "aiding and abetting" the mass killings of civilians in Gaza. "When October 7 happened, the world immediately and unequivocally stood by Israel and its right to defend itself and condemned the attack that happened... but what we're seeing in the last couple of weeks, we're seeing silence in the world," Queen Rania said.

### US 'definite accomplice' in Israeli crimes

DNA

TEHRAN: Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says the United States is a "definite accomplice" in the Zionist regime's crimes against the people of the Gaza Strip. He made the remarks during a meeting with members of the Lorestan Province's Martyrs Commemoration Congress on Wednesday. Ayatollah Khamenei further said the US somehow manages the crimes being committed against Palestinians in Gaza. "The presence of the heads of oppressive and villain states in the occupied territories shows their concern about the disintegration of the Zionist regime," the Leader added, referring to Western leaders' trips to the Israeli-occupied territories to reaffirm their support for the regime. "Islamic governments should not be passive in the face of criminals. Victory certainly belongs to Palestine," Ayatollah Khamenei also said that Gaza is now "the scene of innocence on the one hand and strength on the other hand." He described as "decisive" and "irreparable" the blow dealt to the usurping entity by Palestinian fighters in their October 7 raid, dubbed Operation Al-Aqsa Storm.

### 3 injured in suicide attack on check post

DNA

PESHAWAR: At least three security personnel were injured on Wednesday when a suicide car bomber attacked a check post established in the Tirah valley area of Khyber district. The SHO of Tirah station confirmed the incident and said a car packed with explosives attacked the QaumAkakhel-Sarozey checkpoint. He identified the injured as Subedar Muhammad Asrar, SepoyIftikhar, and SepoyShafiqNarul. The injured security personnel were transferred to a nearby hospital for treatment.. Previously in March, a police post in KP, Meri Khel, was attacked, which was termed a "terrorist attack". Police told Express Tribune that a motorcycle parked at the checkpoint caught fire due to the explosives.

# Ensemble 4.1: A magnificent evening of classical music

The German Ambassador, Alfred Grannas, in his inaugural address, emphasized unifying power of art, particularly music, transcending geographical and cultural boundaries, further enhancing cultural exchange between Pakistan and Germany



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The German Embassy in Islamabad, in collaboration with the Goethe-Institut Pakistan, proudly hosted a captivating German Classical musical concert featuring the renowned Ensemble 4.1 at Marriott Hotel Islamabad. The German Ambassador, Alfred Grannas, in his inaugural address, emphasized the unifying power of art, particularly music, transcending geographical and cultural boundaries, further enhancing the cultural exchange between Pakistan and Germany. Ensemble 4.1, a unique piano windtet, was founded a decade ago following an

invitation from the then Director of the Goethe-Institut Karachi, which served as the catalyst for its formation. Over the years, the ensemble has achieved remarkable milestones, including 125 concerts, the release of two critically acclaimed CDs, and a prestigious 'OPUS Klassik' nomination. In celebration of their tenth anniversary, the ensemble has graced some of the world's most iconic venues, including the Berlin Philharmonic, the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, the Wigmore Hall in London, and Carnegie Hall in New York. As a tribute to their beginnings, Ensemble 4.1 has returned to Pakistan, where their journey started in Karachi. The ensemble comprises five distinguished

members from top German Orchestras: • Jörg Schneider, the principal oboe of the Jena Philharmonic Orchestra, boasts numerous accolades, including victories in international chamber music competitions in Osaka, Marseille, and Schwerin, as well as a scholarship from the German Music Competition. • Alexander Glücksmann, the principal clarinet of the Berlin Symphony Orchestra, has displayed his artistry at the Opera Barga chamber music festival in Italy alongside members of the Berlin Philharmonic. He is also recognized for his work on contemporary music projects with the Chamber Ensemble Quillo. • Christoph Knitt, the principal bassoon

at the Potsdam Chamber Academy since 2006, has been actively involved in cultural reconstruction efforts in Iraq in collaboration with the Goethe-Institut since 2009.

• Sebastian Posch, a distinguished horn player, secured third prize at the international horn competition in Stams/Austria in 1999. His impressive solo performances span prestigious orchestras, including the Frankfurt/Oder State Orchestra, the Philharmonic Orchestra of the Altenburg-Gera Theater, the Young Symphony Berlin, the Berlin Chamber Academy, and the Göttinger-Symphoniker.

• Thomas Hoppe, considered one of the finest pianists of his generation, imparts his expertise through masterclasses in piano accompaniment and chamber music across Europe, Australia, China, South America, and the USA. The ensemble's performance showcased a repertoire spanning from the late 19th to the 20th century, earning thunderous applause from the discerning audience. The program included masterpieces by revered German composers such as Ludwig van Beethoven's "QuintettEs-Dur op.16" and Walter Gieseck's "Quintett B-Dur," among other exquisite encore pieces.

Ensemble 4.1 has received global acclaim through extensive tours and recitals in countries including China, Pakistan, Austria, Germany, Algeria, Canada, and the USA. They have graced prestigious venues in cities such as Berlin, Istanbul, New York City, Toronto, Ottawa, Karachi, Shanghai, and Torino. The ensemble has left an indelible mark at renowned festivals in Denmark, Malta, Italy's MiToFestival, and the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg. Prior to their performance in Islamabad, the ensemble captivated audiences in Karachi, Hyderabad and Lahore on this remarkable tour.

### Cipher case: Imran Khan challenges indictment in IHC

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan on Wednesday moved the Islamabad High Court (IHC) against his indictment in the cipher case by a special court formed under the Official Secrets Act. Earlier this week, the special court indicted Khan and his deputy Shah Mehmood Qureshi in the cipher case that included charges of violating the secret law by misusing and misplacing the diplomatic cable based on conversations between Pakistan's envoy to Washington and the US diplomat during the tenure of Khaled government last year. Special court judge Abul-HasnatZulqarnain read out the charges, which said that Imran Khan "illegally retained and wrongly communicated" the cipher. "The said information/cipher was relating to top secret information, which were inter-se two states i.e., United States and Pakistan," said the charge-sheet, adding that the PTI chief used the cipher in a "prohibited place (jalsa)" and "wilfully communicated" the secret information to the participants, in violation of "interests of the State of Pakistan". In a petition filed through his counsels Salman Safdar and Khalid Yousaf today, the incarcerated former prime minister implored the IHC to declare his indictment null and void citing procedural lapses.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Austria to Pakistan Andrea Wicke cut the cake along with the Ambassador of European Union to Pakistan Dr Riina Kionka during the celebrations of the National Day of the Republic of Austria at the Residence of Austrian Ambassador on 24 October in Federal Capital. - Online

## Not only Afghans, deadline for all illegal foreigners

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Interior Minister SarfrazBugti Wednesday clarified that the November 1 deadline is not limited to Afghans, but applies to all foreigners illegally residing in Pakistan. Speaking in the Senate Standing Committee on Interior, the security czar clarified that the government addressed the issue of expulsion of "all" illegal foreigners living in the country, however, the message was wrongly received as if the state wanted to repatriate only Afghan citizens. The caretaker government, earlier this month, had directed all "aliens" - including 1.73 million Afghan nationals - to leave the country following a series of terrorist attacks in which Afghan nationals were found to be responsible for 14 of 24 suicide bombings. "Government's message [to leave

the country] is not limited to Afghans, [it is applicable] on all illegal foreigners living in the country," Bugti said. The government is also deporting Baloch people coming into the country from Iran, Bugti said while reassuring that those with refugee cards and visas are "our guests". The issue is being given an ethnic angle, it's not like that at all as we intend to expel all illegal foreigners, he stressed. In a bid to tighten the noose around illegal "foreigners", the caretaker government has set November 1 as a deadline for the immigrants residing in the country unlawfully, warning that action will be taken against them after the time limit. The decision was taken in an apex committee meeting on the National Action Plan (NAP) on October 3 after a deadly suicide blast in Balochistan'sMastung, in which over 60 people lost their lives. In most of the recent terror incidents in Pakistan, Afghan nationals or soil was reportedly used. According to a statistical report released by the independent think tank Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS), at least 271 militant attacks took place during the first half of 2023, resulting in the loss of 389 lives and injuring 656 individuals. Terror activities in the country soared by 79% during the period. The United Nations (UN) has also said that refugees residing in Pakistan should be allowed to exit the country voluntarily and no pressure should be exerted on them.

## Israel intensifies bombing in Gaza as world leaders call for pause

Gaza's death toll soars to 6,546 amid Israeli airstrikes, 2,704 children among victims

NEWS DESK

GAZA: Israel's military intensified its bombing of southern Gaza overnight after one of the deadliest days for Palestinians since the conflict began as world leaders called for a halt to fighting to allow aid into the besieged enclave. The Palestinian death toll from ongoing Israeli airstrikes on the Gaza Strip has soared to 6,546, the Health Ministry said Wednesday. "The fatalities included 2,704 children, 1,584 women, and 364 elders," the ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra told a press conference in Gaza City. He said 17,439 other people were injured in the assaults, while 1,600 people remained trapped under the rubble, including 900 children. The spokesman said 73 medics were killed and 25 ambulances destroyed in the Israeli attacks. "Gaza's healthcare system went out of service" amid relentless attacks and critical shortages, al-Qudra said. Amid concerns the Israel-Hamas conflict will spread across the Middle East, Israel's military said its jets struck Syrian army infrastructure and mortar launchers in response to

rockets launched from Iran ally Syria. The military did not provide further details. It did not accuse Syria's army of firing the two rockets, which set off air raid sirens in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. Citing a military source, Syrian state news agency (SANA) said the Israeli attack killed 8 soldiers and wounded 7 more in an "aerial aggression" near the southwestern city of Deraa. The United States and Russia are leading international calls for a pause in fighting between Israel and Hamas to allow aid into Gaza where Palestinians are living in harrowing conditions. US President Joe Biden and Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman spoke by phone on Tuesday and agreed on broader diplomacy "to maintain stability across the region and prevent the conflict from expanding," the White House said. Deadly clashes have intensified between the Israeli military and Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, and resurged between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah armed group along the Israeli-Lebanon border. Iran, which has sought regional ascendancy for decades, backs both Hezbollah and Hamas, and has warned Israel to stop its onslaught on Gaza.

## President stresses upon holding of free, fair, credible elections

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday emphasized that for the future of the country, free, fair and credible elections should be held in which all the political parties be given a level-playing field to contest. In an interview with a private TV talk show, the president said different quarters were talking about ensuring level-playing field to all the political parties in the country. He said the basic norm should be the democracy and all the political leaders should be given equal opportunities to contest the upcoming elections. To a question, the president maintained that he had condemned 9th May incidents as he was always against such acts of damaged and destruction. To another query, he said that the constitution provided that a president might continue in the office till election of his successor and as the electoral requirement could not be met in the absence of assemblies, so leaving his office in vacuum was not good for him. In the parliamentary system, changes could take place to governments, he said adding, in the past, unconstitutional elements had derailed the democratic system in the country. The president expressed that despite difficult times, the country was moving on the path to democracy and there was a path to move forward. Appreciating former premier Benazir Bhutto, the president recollected that during 2001 when he was arrested and sent to jail, he was told by the jail authorities that contrary to dictatorship era, the environment in jails had been changed under the PPP government. He said credit should be given to the PPP as a political party that was the standard bearer of democracy and women's rights. The president also lauded former president Asif Ali Zardari for raising the slogan of 'Pakistan Khappy'. To a question, the president said the people had the confidence in the superior courts and appreciated incumbent CJP Justice Qazi Faez Isa as 'highly respectable personality', adding that CJP had unified the court. - DNA

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House # 6-A, I-smail Zabeeh Road, (Service Road Parallel to Faisal Avenue) F-8/3, Islamabad.  
e-mail: abrar\_associates@yahoo.com | www.drabrarassociates.com  
Ph: +92 51 228 7691 | +92 51 228 7692 | Fax: +92 51 228 7693