



# Islamabad POST

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

**Ambassador Zaidong highlights impact of Chinese practices**

Detailed News On Page-08

**Ex-PM Cameron makes surprise return to govt**

Detailed News On Page-08



**Morkel steps down as Pak bowling coach**

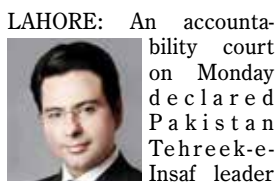
Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

**Moonis Elahi declared absconder**

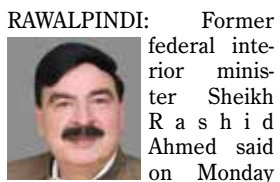
ABBAS HASHMI



LAHORE: An accountability court on Monday declared Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Moonis Elahi absconder in his alleged involvement in illicitly obtaining billions in kickbacks related to development projects. The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) alleged that Moonis, son of PTI President Parvez Elahi, engaged in financial misconduct across various development initiatives. Legal proceedings were initiated on Oct 6 to declare Moonis, a former federal minister, as a proclaimed offender. The NAB asserted that Moonis had been avoiding arrest and legal procedures. Having departed the country last year during the government's crackdown on the PTI, Moonis is confronting multiple charges of corruption and money laundering. These charges have been filed against him by the Federal Investigation Agency, the Anti-Corruption Establishment, and the NAB.

**Sh. Rashid seeks details of cases**

ADIL SHAHEEN



RAWALPINDI: Former federal interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said on Monday he always remained loyal to Gate No 4 (a reference to army) but now he had fallen a victim to an "evil eye". Speaking to journalists outside the Lahore High Court (LHC) Rawalpindi bench, he bemoaned that cases were being registered against him in cities he never visited. He requested that he be provided details of the cases registered against him. He said the effects of his 'seclusion' persist. "I accompanied former premier Nawaz Sharif at Gate No 4 and I have always remained loyal to this gate. However, now someone has cast an evil eye and I am waiting for a time Sharif will face the music," he added. Elections should be held among political parties rather than institutions, he said.

**Bushra Bibi's name placed on ECL**

DNA



ISLAMABAD: The caretaker federal government has placed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi's name on the Exit Control List (ECL). Former prime minister and PTI chairman Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi's name has been placed on ECL in the National Crime Agency (NCA) £190 million scandal, sources privy to the development said. Her name was put on the ECL on the recommendation of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). Earlier, the former first lady appeared before the NAB investigators in connection with an ongoing probe into the National Crime Agency (NCA) £190 million scandal. She has been handed over a questionnaire seeking her response on 11 queries.

## More children die Palestinian PM urges 'Parachute aid' into Gaza

Jordan's king rejects any Israeli plan to occupy parts of Gaza

NEWS DESK

GAZA CITY: The UN Palestinian refugee agency's fuel depot in Gaza has run dry and within a few days UNRWA will no longer be able to re-supply hospitals, remove sewage, and provide drinking water, its chief said on Monday. The agency chief, Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini, told donors on Monday that it had been slowly emptying a fuel depot on the Israeli border containing strategic reserves. A request to the Israeli military to replenish it had gone unanswered, he said. "That reservoir is now empty," Lazzarini said. "If we project out a couple of days, by the 14th of November this will severely impact ambulances and major hospital operations. Some of them (hospitals) have a bit of solar but it is marginal, so those hospitals cease functioning," he said. The Palestinian government is battling in all international circles to stop the Israeli occupation's aggression against the Palestinian people and to secure the delivery of food and medicine to all areas of the Gaza Strip, especially the north. "We are doing everything possible to save our people there," today said Prime Minister Muhammad Shtayyeh speaking at the start of the weekly cabinet meeting held in Ramallah, rejecting the establishment of temporary camps for the displaced, as the Israeli occupation army requests from international organizations. "We want our people to return to their homes from which they were displaced," he said.

Continued on Page 06

## UN observes minute's silence

AGENCIES

GENEVA: United Nations workers observed a minute's silence on Monday to honour the more than 100 employees killed in Gaza since the Israel-Hamas war began last month, the largest toll of humanitarian workers in the organisation's 78-year history. Staff at UN offices in Geneva bowed their heads as a candle was lit in memory of the 101 employees of UN Palestinian refugee agency UNRWA killed in the Israeli assault on Gaza. UN flags across the world flew at half mast. "This is the highest number of aid workers killed in the history of our organisation in such a short time," said Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the UN office in Geneva. "We are gathered here today, united in this very symbolic location, to pay respect to our brave colleagues who sacrificed their lives while serving under the United Nations flag."

Continued on Page 06

## Pak hopeful about first IMF review

Policy-level talks between IMF and Pakistani authorities began yesterday and will continue till November 15

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is optimistic about the successful completion of the first International Monetary Fund (IMF) review of the \$3 billion standby arrangement (SBA) as the negotiations between the two sides have entered the final round, said well-placed sources. The policy-level talks between the IMF and Pakistani authorities began yesterday (Monday) and will continue till November 15, the sources added. The Pakistani delegation was led by Interim Finance Minister Shamsad Akhtar and comprised State Bank of Pakistan Governor Jameel Ahmad, Federal Board of Revenue Chairman Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwan, and officials from the finance and energy ministries. Nathan Porter was heading the IMF team during the negotiation. Finance ministry sources said that the IMF delegation presented their recommendations and demands during today's

Continued on Page 06

## IMF talks push PSX to new highs

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Monday skyrocketed to a new record as it crossed the 56,000 milestone for the first time in history as investors bet on the positive talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation. The benchmark KSE-100 index reached an intraday high of 56,583.59 points. However, it closed at 56,523.58 points after gaining 1,132.22 points or 2.04%, up from the previous close of 55,391.36 points. Capital market expert Saad Ali told Geo.tv that the market was extending last week's gains as the

Continued on Page 06

## Pakistanis will not accept 'selected raj' anymore

PPP chairman says he looks to people for his election, not left or right

NAZIR SIYAL

MITHI: As general elections draw close, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari announced Monday the people will not accept "selected raj (selected government)" anymore — a term used for the previous Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government. Addressing a public rally in Mithi, Bilawal said: "People bore selected raj for five years, but now any selected raj is unacceptable." Without naming any party, the PPP chairman said that people would respond to those who were getting their election results made while sitting in the room. It is pertinent to mention here that the PPP leadership has been accusing the Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) of having a "hidden alliance" with the caretaker government. Slamming the PTI, Bilawal said people would answer those who attacked the state installations on May 9 in the upcoming general elections — slated to be held on February 8, 2024. "On the other hand, we have friends, if they think that they will contest



Continued on Page 06

## Nothing wrong in 'ties' with establishment

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Hamza Shehbaz has said that there is nothing wrong with maintaining "cordial ties" with the establishment. Speaking to journalists in Lahore on Monday, the PML-N leader said the establishment plays an important role in domestic affairs across the world. "It's good if the establishment supports any government," he remarked. His statement comes as the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) have been raising concerns over "preferential treatment" being given to PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif since he returned to the country ending four-year self-imposed exile in London. Both the major political parties have claimed that a level-playing field is being denied to them and attempts are being made to pave the way for the PML-N's return to power ahead of general elections

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting on the matters related to the Federal Board of Revenue. — DNA

## Solangi meets caretaker KP CM

Says no doubt about elections

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Monday called Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (Retd) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah and discussed with him the upcoming elections, cooperation in the media sector and other important issues including the problems of the journalists. During a telephonic talk, he congratulated Syed Arshad Hussain Shah on assuming the charge of caretaker chief minister KP.

Continued on Page 06

## Ishaq Dar demands 'clear-cut programme' to tackle terrorism

Senate passes resolution calling for civilians' trial under Army Act

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: PML-N leader and Leader of the House in the Senate Ishaq Dar on Monday demanded the caretaker government provide a "clear-cut programme" to tackle the spike in terrorism in the country. Pakistan has witnessed an uptick in terror activities in recent months, especially in KP and Balochistan, after the banned militant Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) ended its ceasefire with the government last year. Earlier this month, caretaker Prime Minister AnwaarulHaq pinned the recent surge in terrorist attacks on the Taliban government in Afghanistan. He said there was a 60 per cent increase in terrorism and a 500 per cent spike in suicide bombings since the Afghan Taliban came to power in August 2021. The government has also decided to deport all illegal immigrants in the country, a process which is currently under way. The government has insisted that the deportation drive is not aimed at any particular ethnicity. Last week, Dar had blamed an understanding reached with Kabul in 2018 and the subsequent release of hardcore TTP militants for a surge in acts of terrorism in the country.

Continued on Page 06

## New border crossings open

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: In order to step up the repatriation of illegal immigrants including undocumented Afghans, the authorities on Monday opened three new border crossings in Balochistan. Interim Information Minister of Balochistan Jan Achakzai said new crossings were set up at the Afghan border in the province in addition to the main crossing in Chaman district. The repatriation of illegal foreign nationals including Afghans to their homeland is continuing and thousands of Afghan nationals are returning to Afghanistan via the Torkham and Chaman borders on a daily basis. In addition to other measures for the dignified return of Afghans to their country, transit camps equipped with all facilities have also been established in various districts for their temporary accommodation.

Continued on Page 06

**TURKISH AIRLINES**

BEST PART OF THE JOURNEY

Stopover IN ISTANBUL

EASY VISA

FREE ACCOMMODATION

FOR UNITED KINGDOM, IRELAND, USA, SCHENGEN PASSENGERS

Economy BUSINESS

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT: [TURKISHAIRLINES.COM](http://TURKISHAIRLINES.COM)

#turkishairlines #pakistanbul

+92 21 384 02 333 | FREEHOTEL@THY.COM

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

# GEW facilitates access to growth capital : RCCI

"It's a great opportunity for youth to participate in interactive sessions, training workshops to learn about success stories, innovative ideas and enhance their knowledge about entrepreneurship." : RCCI President

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) President Saqib Rafiq has said that "Entrepreneurship week serves as an opportunity to collaborate and engage with organizations and individuals across the world to celebrate and spotlight entrepreneurs, expose people to the path of entrepreneurship, help them get started and facilitate access to capital and the resources to grow". Speaking at the opening ceremony

of Metropolitan and Global Entrepreneurship Week at a local College, Saqib Rafiq said that GEW helps students to focus themselves on job creators instead of job seekers. GEW helps us to improve networking and create opportunities to share ideas and experiences, he added. To promote entrepreneurship there is a need to strengthen industry-academia connections, he said. He said that the role of the young generation will be important to improve the future of Pakistan, they need awareness and guidance. He said that there is also a need to appreciate the youth and their

ideas involved in creating a modern world based on innovation, ease and progress in every sphere of life. Saqib Rafiq said, "It's a great opportunity for youth to participate in interactive sessions, training workshops to learn about success stories, innovative ideas and enhance their knowledge about entrepreneurship." He said the RCCI had taken the initiative to be a part of global entrepreneurship week as a step to facilitate youth, develop a stronger private sector, assist the innovators and support the idea of entrepreneurship as a career opportunity.



Islamabad : Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar offering Fatiha at the residence of late caretaker Chief Minister KP Azam Khan in Charsadda.—DNA

## Tribal police need to improve capacity : Commissioner

## ITP, a best traffic force in world: Bugti

DNA

DERA GHAZI KHAN : Commissioner Dera Ghazi Khan Dr. Nasir Mahmood Bashir stressed enhancing the capacity of Border Military Police (BMP) to counter smuggling, power theft and other crimes in the tribal areas of DG Khan division. During a visit to BMP lines on Monday, accompanying deputy commissioner Mahr Shahid Zaman Lak and other officials, the commissioner said that checking smuggling of Iranian oil and other banned items has become a challenging task in DG Khan, a district of Punjab that is connected to three provinces including Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh.

Dr. Nasir Mahmood Bashir also chaired a meeting of SHOs of tribal police and said that BMP was functioning as a continuation of 150-year-old tradition and its survival depended largely on its performance. He said that BMP need to improve its information-gathering system, and officials should go through proper physical and weapons training. He said that the BMP force must be active and vigilant to plug the chances/possibility of criminals or terrorists taking shelter in tribal areas. A lot of hard work and resilient effort were required to yield the desired results. The commissioner said that circle officers and SHOs of BMP can be replaced as and when needed.—DNA

ISLAMABAD : Caretaker Interior Minister, Sarfraz Bugti on Monday said that Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) were the best force in the world and there was no one above the law. Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the new building at the traffic police headquarters, he said that discrimination between the VVIP and the common man would be removed. The event was attended by Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, senior police officers and other officials. A smart contingent unit of the police force presented a guard of honor to the chief guest. The newly

established Traffic Police Office aims to streamline traffic-related affairs and facilitate the citizens of the federal capital. The minister emphasized the importance of upholding the law without any political interference, urging the officers to prioritize public service. He commended the dedication of the ITP officials for maintaining smooth flow of traffic in the capital during challenging weather conditions and public events. The minister stated, "Law is equal for everyone; ensure its enforcement without any bias. Let your commitment to public service be your motto. You have been chosen by Allah for this service; take pride in your responsibilities." IC-CPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan

highlighted the achievements of the ITP for managing traffic efficiently during adverse weather conditions and construction activities. He praised the use of modern technology, including citywide surveillance cameras, to enforce traffic laws and issue e-challan for the violators. The IC-CPO said that, the Islamabad Traffic Police, with 600 officers and officials were currently handling the city's traffic, adding but there was an urgent need for additional 2600 personnel to address the growing population and traffic challenges. He commended the continuous efforts of the police force in maintaining traffic flow and providing optimal travel facilities for the citizens.

## Punjab govt announces various category student scholarships

DNA

LAHORE : The Punjab government has announced scholarships for talented and deserving students. Punjab Education Endowment Fund (PEEF) official sources told APP that candidates who have passed the matriculation and intermediate examination in 2023 with at least 60 percent marks will be able to apply. To avail the scholarships, online application can be submitted to Punjab Education Endowment Fund, besides orphan students can also apply for scholarship. Children of government employees in grades 1 to 4 with salary below Rs60000 will be eligible, they said.

Likewise, students belonging to minority are also eligible to apply. Moreover government of the Punjab has also decided to accommodate the 'special students' for these scholarship. It is worth mentioning here that scholarships will be given to talented minority students under the Department of Human Rights and Minority Affairs. Children of civilians martyred in terrorism will also be eligible only through respective departments. It should be noted that the application can be submitted online till January 31.

## SECP registers 2,463 new companies in Oct

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission (SECP) registered 2,463 new companies in October 2023, raising the total number of registered companies to 205,456. The cumulative capitalization (paid-up capital) of newly incorporated companies is PKR 4.24 billion. About 56% of companies were registered as private limited companies, while 41% were registered as single-member companies. The remaining 3% were registered as public unlisted companies, not-for-profit associations, trade organizations, limited liability partnerships (LLPs), and foreign companies. Almost

99.6 percent of companies were registered online, and three foreign companies have also established places of business in Pakistan. The information technology sector took the lead with incorporation with 326 companies, trading with 322, services with 298, real estate development & construction with 290, education with 107, tourism with 100, food & beverages with 90, e-commerce and mining & quarrying with 67 each, corporate agricultural farming with 63, marketing & advertisement with 61, textile with 55, pharmaceutical with 54, transport with 49, engineering and chemical with 45 each,

power generation with 44, healthcare with 32, cosmetics & toiletries with 31, broadcasting & telecasting with 30, lodging with 28, communications with 24, cables & electrical goods, and paper & board with 16 each, and 203 companies were registered in other sectors. As a result of integration with FBR and other provincial departments, the SECP eService was used by 2,281 companies for registration with FBR; 61 companies got registration with the Employees Old Age Benefit Institute (EOBI); 27 companies with PESSI/SESSI; and 34 companies with the excise and taxation departments.—APP

## 3-day expo on Seerat-e-Tayyaba concludes

ISLAMABAD : A three-day educational 'Seerat-e-Tayyaba Expo' concluded in the Federal Capital on Monday, highlighting the importance of being fully aware and guided by the biography of Holy Prophet Muhammad's (Peace Be Upon Him). Under the auspices of US International Schools at Multi Garden B-17, the expo was held at PIPS Schools B-17 Campus Islamabad from November 11 to 13. A large number of people from various strata of the society, including teachers, students, parents, and political, social and academic personalities from different cities, including Rawalpindi and Islamabad, visited the exhibition to show their love for the Holy Prophet (PBUH). According to the organizers, the main objective of the exhibition was to highlight the various aspects of the Holy Prophet's life so that the people, particularly the youth, could follow his footsteps. Director of US International Schools Dr Sumira Gull said the students and the staff of different schools put in a lot of hard work of weeks to prepare research papers, models and presentations to highlight the Holy Prophet's life and teachings. The Makki and Madani periods of the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) life, Ghazwat, Hajjatul Wida, Treaty of Hudaibiyah, Hijrat (Migration), Miraj-ul-Nabi, Ghare-Hira and Gha-e-Sor were particularly highlighted through presentations and research papers, she added. An important part of the exhibition was to present in a practical and visual manner the intricacies of the Prophet's blessed life through a number of unique models, Dr Sumira said. All Pakistan Colleges and Academies Association Chairman Rana Nasir Mahmood, at the concluding ceremony, appreciated the organizers for holding a unique exhibition, which was a good effort to make the new generation aware of the Seerat-e-Tayyaba. He said following every aspect of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) would bring about a significant change in an individual's personal life as well as the country's development. The characteristics like tolerance, patience, struggle, honesty, truthfulness and above all 'the fear of the Almighty' should be inculcated by all for success in the life here and hereafter, he added. Rana Nasir Mahmood said the Holy Prophet (PBUH) through his teachings and practical life revolutionized the lives of the people of a corrupt Arab society and transformed them to rule the world. Various placards and posters were also displayed at the exhibition to highlight the Palestine issue and the current situation in Gaza, whose residents were suffering from the worst Israeli bombardment.—DNA

## Religious leaders unite against Israeli aggression in Gaza

They concluded with a joint appeal for an immediate cessation of hostilities, humanitarian assistance for the people of Gaza, and intensified efforts to end the injustice inflicted by Israel

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD : Religious leaders from across the nation, representing diverse faiths and beliefs, on Monday joined forces to make a global appeal for an immediate end to Israel's aggression and brutality in Gaza. Addressing a unified audience at the Palestine Conference here at Cathedral Church, they urged the world powers to immediately play their role in ending the persecution of the oppressed Palestinian people. Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, and Archbishop

Dr. Sebastian Francis Shaw were among the prominent figures who emphasized that the ongoing situation in Gaza was not a matter confined to followers of any specific religion but a violation against humanity itself. Ashrafi who is also the Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and the Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Islamic Countries, stated that Saudi Arabia and the Muslim world were actively playing their role against Israeli aggression, urging the global community to step forward to end Israeli oppression. He stressed the need for international solidarity to

halt Israel's atrocities and called for an immediate ceasefire to stop the bloodshed in the Gaza Strip so that relief operations could be started in the region. According to a report of United Nations, 300,000 people of Gaza did not have food, water or medicine, he added. Ashrafi warned, "If this war spreads, everyone from Lebanon to Syria will be under its influence and it will harm mankind." He highlighted the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, where even hospitals had not been spared from Israeli airstrikes and added 12,000 people including 4,000 children had been martyred in Israeli aggression. Arch-

bishop Sebastian Francis Shaw urged the world to raise its voice against the ongoing conflict in Gaza and called for initiatives to provide aid to the affected population. He said innocent children, women and churches were targeted in Gaza. Syed Kazim Raza Naqvi said the Islamic world must take steps beyond appeals. He said innocent children and churches were being attacked which was inhumane and against the principles of war. He appealed to all the Islamic countries to establish an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. Maulana Asim Makhdoom, Pastor Emmanuel Khokhar, Maulana Muham-

mad Aslam Siddiqui, Hafiz Kazim Raza, Maulana Asadullah Farooq, Maulana Muhammad Aslam Qadri, Maulana Mubashir Rahimi and others also addressed the conference. They concluded with a joint appeal for an immediate cessation of hostilities, humanitarian assistance for the people of Gaza, and intensified efforts to end the injustice inflicted by Israel. The religious leaders emphasized the responsibility of the United Nations, Europe, America, Britain, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to play a decisive role in resolving the crisis and bringing about lasting peace in the region.

The Smooth Moving Connection

# freeline MOVERS

PACKING, SHIPPING & FREIGHT FORWARDING







### Our Services

- Packing
- Shipping
- Freight Forwarding
- Land, Sea & Air Freight
- Custom Clearance
- Relocations
- Office Removals
- Fine Art Handling
- Project Management
- Pet Relocation
- Warehousing
- Storage



Head Office  
3rd Floor, Yasin Plaza, 74-West, Blue Area, Islamabad.  
Tel: (+92-51) 2822471, 2274221, 2878029, 2272273, 2822711, 2874289 - Fax: (+92-51) 2825132, 2274227.  
E-mail: moving@freelinemovers.com - Website: www.freelinemovers.com

**Karachi**  
Room No. 14 & 15, 3rd Floor, Markazi Mall,  
Main Tariq Road, T-7-Block-2, P.E.C.S.  
Karachi. Tel: (+92-21) 34531747  
Fax: (+92-21) 34531747  
E-mail: karachi@freelinemovers.com

**Lahore**  
F-4, Gulberg Centre,  
Main Boulevard, Lahore.  
Tel: (+92-42) 3579888, 3579705  
Fax: (+92-42) 3571423  
E-mail: lahore@freelinemovers.com

**Peshawar**  
Office No. C-6, 2nd Floor, Zameer Plaza,  
Laf Azeem Ring Road, Peshawar.  
Tel: (+92-91) 2502778  
Fax: (+92-91) 2502558  
E-mail: peshawar@freelinemovers.com

**Kabul**  
House # 4, Street # 4,  
Chahar Anzar Road, Shahr-e-Naw,  
Kabul - Afghanistan  
Tel: +93 799211773, 93 797898 808, 93 779488 288  
E-mail: kabul@freelinemovers.com

## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### NOVEMBER

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

### Hotels & Restaurants



Serena Hotel.....111 133 133  
Marriott.....051- 2826121  
Monal.....0334-5421812



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



### Emergency

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



### Enquiry

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



### Hospitals

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



### Departments

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

### Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Nepal Tapas Adhikari hosted DEEPAWALI celebrations at his residence. Among others Pakistan's ambassador to Nepal Abrar H Hashmi, Editor Daily Islamabad POST Ansar M Bhatti and others also attended the event.—DNA

## PRCS Chairman calls on Ambassador of TRNC

PRCS Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari provided a comprehensive overview of the PRCS's programs and its initiatives regarding rescue, relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction following the recent floods in Pakistan

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: PRCS Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari met with the Ambassador of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Her Excellency Dilsad Senol, in Islamabad on Monday. H.E. Dilsad Senol warmly welcomed Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari to the Northern Cyprus Embassy. Both the dignitaries engaged in discussions encompassing various topics, including bilateral relations and the importance of strengthening cooperation for the betterment of humanity. In the course of the meeting, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari provided a comprehensive overview of the programs and initiatives undertaken by the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), particularly in response to the recent floods in Pakistan. He highlighted the organization's active assistance in

55 districts, benefitting over 2.7 million people through the provision of tents, food, non-food items,

shelter, cash assistance, and essential household items. Chairman Laghari also underscored

PRCS's substantial contributions since the 2005 earthquake, with responses to over 45 major emer-

gencies and disasters across Pakistan, aiding more than 12.4 million beneficiaries. He emphasized the extensive network of 6 million volunteers across Pakistan and proposed collaboration between the Pakistan Red Crescent Society and the Northern Cyprus Turkish Red Crescent on various healthcare and community-based initiatives through different programs and projects. Additionally, he extended an invitation to Ambassador Dilsad Senol to visit the PRCS National Headquarters. Ambassador Dilsad Senol praised the exceptional services of PRCS during natural disasters and emergencies, specifically commending their recent humanitarian assistance to flood-affected families. She assured that cooperation with the Red Crescent would be strengthened to ensure uninterrupted service to humanity. During the occasion, Chairman Laghari presented a commemorative shield from PRCS to Ambassador Dilsad Senol.



## ILO assures to continue working with Pak authorities

ILO delegation appraised SAPM that ILO is actively collaborating with Government of Pakistan, under the leadership of Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, in ensuring safe migration

### MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (SAPM on OP&HRD), Jawad Sohrab Malik met with ILO delegation led by Mr. Geir Tonstøl, Country Director ILO for Pakistan, to discuss various strategies for enhancing overseas employment for Pakistani migrant workers. The delegation of ILO included; Mr. Dino Corell (Migration Specialist), Mr. Gabriel Bordado (Skills Specialist), Mr. Amish

Karki (Programme Manager for GOALS Project), Mr. Saghir Bukhari (Senior Programme Officer ILO, Islamabad) and Mr. Shahzad Ahmed (Project Officer- GOALS). The discussion centered around devising a strategy to ensure fair recruitment and secure migration, while upholding the principles of inclusive and equitable migration for dignified and decent employment. The SAPM expressed the desire for the ILO to lead the development of a national roadmap. This roadmap will set forth practical measures, ranging from short to long term, aimed at enhancing

people's capacities through skills development. Furthermore, it should establish a policy framework that advocates for international accreditation, raises awareness among prospective migrant workers, and encourages private sector engagement in recognizing prior learning and integrating labor provisions into bilateral trade agreements. ILO delegation appraised SAPM that ILO is actively collaborating with Government of Pakistan, under the leadership of Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, in ensuring safe mi-

gration practices, especially for blue-collar workers who are frequently vulnerable to exploitative working environment. In this regard, together with Bureau of Emigration and Protectorate offices, the ILO provides predeparture support and awareness initiatives to both workers and public service providers for effective governance, aiming to enhance effective governance. SAPM and ILO delegation agreed upon continuous support to each other, in ensuring provision and securing of decent employment opportunities, in countries of destination, to migrant work force of Pakistan.

## 7th Cohort of National Faculty Development Programme ends

### FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE) marked the successful conclusion of the seventh Cohort of the Pre-Service National Faculty Development Programme (NDFP) 2023, designed for Interim Placement of Fresh PhDs (IPFP) Phase-II (Batch-IV). This enriching three-week training programme was attended by 22 PhD Fellows and was held at HEC Regional Centre in Lahore. Ms. Noor Anna Malik, Managing Director NAHE, was chief guest in the closing ceremony. She congratulated the participants on successful completion of their training. She elaborated the profound impact of these initiatives, emphasizing how they significantly enhance the learning accomplishments of both educators and students alike. She emphasized that the participants, who have gained an array of soft skills, teaching tools, and techniques during their training, will have the opportunity to implement these valuable learnings in their professional careers. Ms. Malik commended the unwavering commitment of the NAHE team to the facilitation of faculty development programmes, recognizing their dedication to fostering educational excellence. While underscoring the importance of well-trained educators, Ms. Malik urged the participants to actively engage and contribute toward elevating standards within the education sector.

## Gang involved in motorcycle theft nabbed

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested five members gang involved in motorcycle theft and recovered 11 stolen motorcycles from their possession during a crackdown here on Monday. According to a police spokesman, Civil Lines Police held three member bike lifter gang, Ahmed, Afzal and Faisal and recovered 06 stolen motorcycles from their possession. Similarly, New Town police nabbed two member gangs Majid and Zahid Khan, and recovered 05 stolen motorcycles from their custody. Divisional SPs appreciated the performance of police teams and said that the arrested accused will be chaled with solid evidence, and effective measures are being taken to prevent motorcycle theft. Strict action will be taken against organized and active gangs operating in the city.—APP

## FBR Makes Historic Seizure of Non-Duty Cigarettes

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: In an unprecedented drive to get to grips with the menace of Non-Duty paid/Counterfeit cigarettes, the designated teams of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) have successfully recently conducted 429 raids throughout the length & breadth of the country. The effort culminated into the seizure of about 16 million Non-Duty paid/Counterfeit cigarette sticks. On the direction of Chairman FBR, Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana, Member Inland Revenue Operations, Mir Badshah Khan Wazir supervised the whole exercise. According to him, the success of this exercise would convey an unequivocal message to the duty evaders to forthwith halt their illicit practices. He also reiterated to continually fight the issue till its logical conclusion.

## 3 private members' bill introduced in Senate

ISLAMABAD: The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) on Monday witnessed introduction of three private members' bills and deferred seven bills due to the absence of relevant lawmakers. Three bills introduced in the House included the Banking Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2023; the Pakistan Names and Emblems (Prevention of Unauthorised Use) (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Pakistan Council for Science and Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2023. These bills were referred to the relevant committee for further consideration as the relevant ministers did not oppose to discuss them in detail in committee meeting. Seven other bills were deferred by the House due to absence of relevant lawmakers. These bills were the Right of Access to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2023; the Guardians and Wards (Amendment) Bill, 2023; the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2023; the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (Substitution of section 289 of PPC and subsequent amendment in schedule II of Cr.PC); the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking (Amendment) Bill, 2023; the Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Factories (Amendment) Bill, 2023.—APP

## PBM's 'Khuly Ketchery'

ISLAMABAD: Managing Director of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM), Amir Fida Paracha Monday conducted a 'Khuly Ketchery' personally met with beneficiaries, discussed the implementation of their requests, and instructed relevant departments to prioritize requests based on established criteria. The beneficiaries presented their requests regarding medical, education, disability welfare, and other matters during the session. The beneficiaries and the applicants expressed their gratitude to MD for the input and commitment to resolving their issues. Furthermore, MD Bait-ul-Mal emphasized that his office is always open to beneficiaries and that it was his first priority to individually meet with them in the office premises upon joining the office every day.—APP

## NOVEMBER 2023

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:

www.centrelines.com.pk  
www.dnanews.com.pl  
www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@PostIslamabad/ @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Islamabad POST

11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,  
G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan  
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165



## Briefs

## Pakistan to promote agricultural machinery coop

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Asif Shah, Honorary Consultant of Pakistan Luban Workshop and Executive Board Member of Punjab Agricultural Research Board, visited Tianjin Modern Vocational Technology College (TM-VTC) and participated in a seminar on the integration of industry and education of Pakistan Luban Workshop agricultural machinery training project. As the honorary consultant, Asif actively promotes the development of agricultural machinery project in vocational education of the two countries, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. He also advocates for the seamless integration of the training project with local agricultural talent training in Pakistan. During the seminar, Asif mentioned that the training project addressed the pressing need for technical expertise in the development of local agricultural mechanization in Pakistan. He emphasized that the project played a crucial role in promoting Pakistan's agricultural development and received high acclaim from experts, scholars, and local farmers in the fields of agriculture and education.

## Police asked to beef up security in Attock

QAZI SHOAB KHAN

ATTOCK: The Inspector General Punjab Police Dr. Usman Anwar directed the RPOs, DPOs of the province to beef up the security measures of all churches including district Attock to avoid an untoward security threats. This was said by Syed Mubashar Hussain, Director Public Relations, Punjab Police in his press release here on Monday. He said that IGP has also issued instructions to all SPs, supervisory officers for checking the security arrangements of churches and important places. IG Punjab directed that additional police personnel and snipers should be deployed at sensitive churches, Dolphin Squad, PRU, Elite teams should conduct effective patrolling around the churches. IG Punjab further said that the police officers and officials posted on security duty should remain extremely alert and keep a close watch on the evil elements. Dr. Usman Anwar further said that search and sweep operations should be continued around churches, Christian communities and sensitive places, whereas scholars, christian community leaders and members of peace committees should promote inter-faith harmony. Dr. Usman Anwar said that Punjab Police has also established Meesaq centers to solve the problems of the minorities including the Christian community on a priority basis, and these centres are providing full relief to the Christian citizens. Inspector General Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, Punjab Police is ensuring foolproof security arrangements to protect the lives and properties of the citizens, in continuation of which the police teams to provide excellent security to churches in the whole province including Lahore. Police teams remained on high alert in all the districts of the province and performed their duties with great diligence and ensured fool-proof arrangements for worship and prayer programs. Earlier, on the direction of Inspector General Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, Punjab Police's crackdown against dangerous proclaimed offenders and fugitives continues without interruption, in continuation of which, the another dangerous proclaimed offender wanted in the case of double murder has been arrested from Italy after 17 years. According to the details, proclaimed offender Abrar Hussain along with his accomplices had killed two citizens in the satellite town of Gujranwala in 2006. After the incident, the murderer first fled to South Africa and then to Netherland.WW



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan Frederico Silva is taking keen interest in handmade items during Behbud art and craft bazaar at Pak China Friendship Center in Federal Capital.— ONLINE

## ICCI, KATI for promoting ease of doing business

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that the FBR has assured the IMF to bring 1.5 million new taxpayers into the tax system by the end of June 2024

Faisal Shiekh

ISLAMABAD: Faraz ur Rehman, President, Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) said that Pakistan's exports have dwindled by 5% during July-September this year compared to last year while the country needs a substantial increase in exports to revive the economy. He stressed that the government should address the key issues of the export sector enabling it to play an active role in steering the economy out of crisis situation. He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI). Prominent businessmen of the city including Atif Ikram Sheikh, Presidential candidate of UBG for FPCCI

and Ms. Rizwana Asif, President, Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, were also present on this occasion. Faraz ur Rehman said that the export sector needs easy credit to expand & grow, but the 22 percent interest rate in Pakistan is a major obstacle in its development, due to which, during July-October this year, the credit to private sector credit shrunk by over 290% compared to the same period of last year. He said that only the business sector can bring the economy out of the current troubles, however, it needs lower production cost and ease of doing business to put the economy on the path of sustainable growth. He resolved that KATI will play its role in cooperation with ICCI to promote the interests of the business community. Ahsan Zafar

Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that the FBR has assured the IMF to bring 1.5 million new taxpayers into the tax system by the end of June 2024. However, the current tax system of the country is creating problems for taxpayers instead of facilitating them due to which the potential taxpayers shy away from this system. He urged that the government, in consultation with the stakeholders, should bring drastic reforms in the tax system to make it business friendly, which will significantly increase the country's tax revenue. He said that appointing more tax officers in the RTOs is not the real solution to the problem, rather reduced tax rates and a simple tax system can attract more taxpayers. Khalid Iqbal Malik,

Group Leader ICCI, said that the business community is driving the economy and the government should consult them to formulate short- and long-term policies for revival of the economy. Zafar Bakhtawari, Former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan said that the United Business Group has nominated a young and emerging industrialist from Islamabad as its Presidential candidate for FPCCI and hoped that after winning, he would set new standards of serving the cause of the business community. Atif Ikram Sheikh, Presidential candidate of UBG for FPCCI resolved that if he wins the FPCCI election, he will work closely with the government to address the key issues of the business community and facilitate them in business promotion.

## CDA initiates studies for recycling of Solid Waste

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has initiated studies for recycling and disposal of the Capital's Solid Waste intending to reduce environmental pollution which is posing a threat to the health of the general public. "The detail of studies included waste characterization studies, waste generation studies, situational analysis report, municipal solid waste (MSW) collection, haulage, treatment and disposal, rapid assessment report of landfill sites Islamabad and communication and behaviour change strategy," an official told APP. The Urban Unit Lahore carried out studies during the period from January to March 2023 with a total cost of Rs. 21.926175 million. However, this is an unfortunate fact that CDA has

been unable to develop an international system for solid waste disposal, in the capital owing to land availability and legal issues. The authority is working on developing a system whereby it will be initiating a mechanism of solid waste minimization, reuse, segregation at source and recycling of waste keeping in view the standards for optimum disposal using the method of land-filling. These activities will take an approximate time of one year. It is also pertinent to mention here that CDA launched a pilot project to segregate solid waste last year to reduce environmental pollution and use items for recycling on a commercial basis. It is a critical requirement since it enables recycling,

reuse, treatment, and scientific disposal of different components of waste. Sorting out waste makes it easier to understand how to reduce general waste output, identify items that can be reused, and set aside others that should be recycled. Waste segregation practices and a workforce that understands the importance of sorting waste prevent items suitable for recycling from being thrown away with general waste. Approximately 700 tons of solid waste are collected and transported by the Sanitation Directorate and Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) from the federal capital daily. The waste segregation also makes it easier to apply different processes-composting, recycling, and incineration.—APP

## IRSA releases 107,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 107,000 cusecs of water from various rim stations with inflow of 59,000 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1512.22 feet and was 112.22 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 26,200 cusecs and 50,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1191.30 feet, which was 141.30 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded at 10,800 cusecs and 35,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 65,900, 50,900, 35,600 and 7,000 cusecs respectively.—APP

## ANF recovers 225 kg drugs in 10 operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 10 operations managed to recover 225 kg of drugs and arrested eight accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that in an operation at Allama Iqbal International Airport, 59 hashish-filled capsules were recovered from the possession of a passenger, leaving for Bahrain on flight number

GF-768. 81 heroin-filled capsules were recovered from a passenger at Multan Airport. The accused, a resident of Lahore, was leaving for Sharjah by flight number PA-812.105 kg hashish was recovered from an accused resident of Quetta in an operation conducted on Hazarganji Road Quetta. Five kg of hashish hidden for smuggling was recovered in an uninhabited area of

Zakhakhel Khyber. Over 4.2 kg of Ice drug was recovered from the trolley bag of a foreigner at Jinnah International Airport. The accused was leaving for Bangladesh by flight number FZ-336. 3.6 kg hashish was recovered from an accused resident of Bajor, rounded up in Bahria Town Karachi. During the operation in Chagat, 100 kg of opium was recovered from a vehicle.—DNA

## 2-day workshop on Techniques for Nanomaterials'

ISLAMABAD: NUST U.S. Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies in Energy (USPCASE) has scheduled a two-day workshop on "Hands-on Experience of Characteri-

zation Techniques for Nanomaterials" from November 23-24. The individuals interested in learning about nanomaterial and getting

hands-training on the available equipment, industry professionals, and faculty members of Research and Development organizations, applicants pursuing

a job in a relevant field or labs, BS, MS, and PhD students related to the field. The objectives of the workshop are to demonstrate the participants with the working of different equipment used for materials characterization and to give CPD points for PEC Certified Engineers after successful completion of the workshop.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Senior Photo Journalist of Online International News Network Sultan Bashir is receiving awarding certificate from Caretaker Federal Minister for Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah on his best media service and coverage of annual Lok Mela 2023, at Lok Versa.— ONLINE

## Railways retrieve 1,037 acres land from illegal land grabbers

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has retrieved as many as 1,037 acres of its precious land worth millions of rupees from illegal land grabbers during various anti-encroachment operations across the country. "As many as 507 acres retrieved in Punjab, 153 acres in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 343 acres in Sindh and only 34 acres in Balochistan," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. He said that about 3,287 acres in Punjab, 832 acres in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 5,180 acres in Sindh, and 687 acres of land in Balochistan were being encroached. The official said that in light of the directives of the Supreme Court, the anti-encroachment operations for retrieval of encroached railway land all over the Railway network were initiated and a joint procedure order was issued to all divisional superintendents for retrieval of railway land from encroachment. "The anti-encroachment schedules, on a three-month basis, are being prepared and sent to all concerned in line with the joint procedure order," the official added. He said Pakistan Railways had also decided to accelerate its ongoing anti-encroachment operation against land grabbers across the country to recoup its land from different individuals, groups, and even business organizations which were using it for residential, commercial and agricultural purposes for decades. "The encroachment operation will be launched with the assistance of Railway Police and district administrations of the relevant provincial governments," he added. He said the organization was taking several steps to retrieve encroached land from the land grabbers including a detailed survey being carried out to identify the encroached land, occupied by the individuals and under illegal occupation by various government departments.—APP

**NOW IN PAKISTAN**  
Invisible Braces  
Dental Implants

**Dr. Abrar & Associates**  
DENTAL SURGEONS

House # 6-A, Ismail 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

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 05 Issue: 29

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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

## World needs to rally to humanitarian cause

The attacks on and in the vicinity of Al-Shifa Hospital, Al-Rantisi Naser Paediatric Hospital, Al-Quds Hospital, and other major medical facilities in Gaza City and northern Gaza, that have killed many, including children, over the past few days have horrified the world.

Premature and newborn babies on life support are reportedly dying due to power, oxygen, and water cuts at Al-Shifa Hospital, while others are at risk. Staff across a number of hospitals are reporting a lack of fuel, water and basic medical supplies, putting the lives of all patients at immediate risk, a United Nations report said. With the intense hostilities preventing safe access for health staff, the injured, and other patients to major hospitals in northern Gaza, the joint calls of the regional directors of United Nations Population Fund, UNICEF and World Health Organization on Sunday for the world to give greater attention to the worsening humanitarian crisis in northern Gaza should not fall on deaf ears. As around 100 Palestinian children are killed each day in the region, some Western countries that proclaim themselves to be champions of human rights are engulfed by large-scale protests against their government's complicity in prolonging the hostilities. These governments should waste no more time and help to broker a cease-fire as soon as possible by making full use of their influence on Tel Aviv. Since the conflict broke out on Oct 7, the WHO has recorded at least 137 attacks on healthcare agencies in Gaza, resulting in 521 deaths and 686 injuries, including 16 deaths and 38 injuries of health workers on duty. So far, more than half of the hospitals in the Gaza Strip are closed. Those still functioning are under massive strain and can only provide very limited emergency services, lifesaving surgery and intensive care services. Shortages of water, food, and fuel are also threatening the well-being of thousands of displaced people, including women and children, who are sheltering in hospitals and their surrounds. Whatever the Israeli side's excuse, it should know that attacks on medical facilities and civilians are unacceptable and are a violation of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law and Conventions. These moves cannot be condoned under whatever circumstances and the right to seek medical assistance, especially in times of crisis, should never be denied. Unimpeded, safe and sustained access is needed now to provide fuel, medical supplies and water for these lifesaving services. Those supporting Israel's military actions should not stand silent. They should put aside all geopolitical considerations and their double standard, as decisive concerted action is imperative to secure an immediate cease-fire to preserve what's left of the healthcare system in Gaza. A cease-fire is by no means a diplomatic statement. It is the only hope for the people of Gaza to survive, and a test of the world's conscience.



## China, EU natural partners despite differences

In yet another sign that China and the European Union are determined to push ahead with their mutually beneficial cooperation, the two sides will hold a summit in Beijing next month, more than 18 months after their previous such meeting. The EU's internal market chief Thierry Breton confirmed that the summit will be held on Dec 7-8 during a news conference in Beijing on Friday after a series of meetings with Chinese officials. He said that "it was very good to reengage" after the challenging pandemic period and his meetings had been an "opportunity to rebalance our relationship ... and also to address global challenges together". He described the meetings he held with his Chinese counterparts as "constructive" yet "tense on some issues". China, in particular, raised concerns about the EU's anti-subsidy investigations over the country's electric vehicles. But as well as this, the topics of discussions ranged from Sino-EU trade relations to 5G technology and supply chains, underscoring not only the broad extent of the two sides' practical cooperation but also the shared belief in its potential. Breton's visit to Beijing came on the heels of a series of trips to China by top EU officials including the bloc's foreign policy leader Josep Borrell last month and its trade commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis in September. These visits, as well as the Chinese premier's visits to France and Germany in June, are indicative of the two sides' willingness to strengthen strategic communications and jointly promote the healthy and stable development of bilateral ties, which serves their mutual interests. Of course it would be unrealistic to believe that the irritants in their relations are being swept aside. But the two sides have always maintained an open attitude toward their differences and worked together to try to resolve them. A shared attitude that has enabled the generally healthy development of Sino-EU relations in the past. As China is now opening up at a higher-level, by reducing the negative list for foreign investment and creating a level playing field for foreign businesses, it is offering new market opportunities to the world. Europe has been no slouch in seizing these. European investments in China still surged in 2022 despite headwinds from the pandemic and bilateral tensions. In the eyes of many European companies, China remains a "predictable, reliable and efficient" market despite calls by some politicians to "de-risk" from the country. German chemical giant BASF, for example, is pushing ahead with plans to spend 10 billion euros (\$10.9 billion) on a new production complex in Guangdong, in the largest foreign investment ever made by the company. Indeed, as two major forces and economies of the world that seek to promote multilateralism and support free trade, China and the EU are natural partners rather than "systemic rivals".

## What if the British had divided Cyprus, like India?

Ishtiaq Ahmad



These contrasting solutions of Partition in British India and Partnership in Cyprus offer interesting parallels, in both pre-and post-colonial periods.

India and Pakistan have evolved as independent states, though in different trajectories, in the past 76 years. The Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities, on the other hand, have lived separately since the breakup of the Partnership Republic in 1963.

This division has reinforced since the 1974 intervention by Turkiye in the island and the subsequent establishment of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in 1983. In the past half century, consistent international efforts to amicably resolve the Cyprus conflict, which has

After a long struggle against the British Empire, which had many twists and turns along the way, the Indian Subcontinent was partitioned in 1947. This led to the emergence of India and Pakistan as two separate states. In the eastern Mediterranean island of Cyprus, however, the British colonial administration opted for a different course: the establishment in 1960 of a Partnership Republic between its majority Greek and minority Turkish communities. But it collapsed within three years, as the Greek side refused to comply with its founding principle of political equality.

These contrasting solutions of Partition in British India and Partnership in Cyprus offer interesting parallels, in both pre-and post-colonial periods. India and Pakistan have evolved as independent states, though in different trajectories, in the past 76 years. The Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities, on the other hand, have lived separately since the breakup of the Partnership Republic in 1963. This division has reinforced since the 1974 intervention by Turkiye in the island and the subsequent establishment of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in 1983. In the past half century, consistent international efforts to amicably resolve the Cyprus conflict, which has reinforced the island's division. The only aberration during the period is that the Greek side has monopolized the status of the Republic of Cyprus and solely enjoyed the fruits of EU membership since 2004. Despite this injustice, however, the TRNC continues to survive, with a functioning democratic but under dire economic conditions. The current division in Cyprus, with little prospect for a unified solution, begs the question as to why the British did not divide the island into two separate states along the lines of the preceding partition of India. To answer this question, let us review the run-up to the Partition of British India and its co-relation the events that led to the establishment of the Partnership Republic in Cyprus. To start with, British colonialism in both India and Cyprus was preceded by centuries of Muslim rule, including the Sultans/Mughals (1206-1858) and the Ottomans (1571-1878), respectively. The majority communities in both cases, the Hindus in India and the Greeks in Cyprus, were the subjects of the minority rule. governance. The Orthodox Christian Greeks were the subjects before as well under the Catholic Venetians. The Ottomans, in fact, liberated them from centuries of religious persecution. Like elsewhere, British colonialism thrived on divide and rule. In order to sustain its control over India and Cyprus, the colonial administration victimized the former minority rulers, the Turks, and favored the former majority subjects,

the Greeks. This paved the way for Hindu revivalism in India and Greek Hellenism in Cyprus, which, in turn, contributed to the demise of colonial rule. The majority Greeks and Hindus turned against their benefactor, including in violent ways, even while the minority Indian Muslims and Turkish Cypriots sought a peaceful transition from colonial rule. Having ruled for centuries, their respective demand for separate electorates and political equality in the post-colonial constitutional structures in India and Cyprus made perfect sense.

The Indian National Congress, instead, sought Hindu domination of Indian politics after the end of colonial rule, rejecting successive British offers to accommodate the Muslim demand for separate electorates. It even refused to accept the 1946 Cabinet Mission Plan, which proposed a loose federation between the Hindu- and Muslim-majority states sharing foreign, defense and communication affairs. Consequently, the Indian Muslim League under the leadership of Muhammad Ali Jinnah was left with no option but to translate the Pakistan Resolution of 1940 into action. In Cyprus, the colonial administration was able to address the Turkish Cypriot demand for equal political and constitutional rights. The Zurich and London accords, which established the Republic of Cyprus, were deliberately structured to establish and maintain "a delicate but immutable equilibrium between the rights and interests" of the two Greek and Turkish communities. The international agreements of Alliance and Guarantee helped accommodate another unique aspect of the Cyprus situation, which was absent in India's case: that of the existence of two motherlands for the two Cypriot nations, Turkey and Greece, and their influence in Cyprus. In addition to Great Britain, which was allowed to retain two sovereign military bases on the island under the Treaty of Establishment, Turkey and Greece became the security guarantors of Cyprus. However, despite such extensive political and security arrangements, the Republic collapsed within three years due to Greek Cypriot unwillingness to share power. The 13 amendments to the Constitution proposed by then-Greek Cypriot President Archbishop Makarios 1963 sought to create a unitary state in Cyprus, a forerunner to Enosis. In fact, the Greek Cypriot paramilitary, EOKA, had already waged a decade-long Hellenic campaign for uniting Cyprus with Greece against the colonial administration. Its successor, EOKA-B, continued this deadly mission against the Turkish Cypriot people until the 1974 Turkish intervention. On the basis of above discussion, we can argue that it was the fear of Hindu domination that forced the Indian Muslim League to demand Pakistan

as a separate homeland for Indian Muslims. On the other hand, the Partnership Republic collapsed due to the Hellenic ambition of Greek Cypriots for Enosis, the island's union with motherland Greece. It is clear that the establishment of two separate republics for its Greek and Turkish communities right at the start could have prevented communal hostilities after the breakup of the Partnership Republic in 1963 and the perpetuation of the conflict over the last several decades. These two republics have progressed smoothly with security guarantees provided by their respective motherlands, Greece and Turkey.

While the blame for the collapse of the Partnership Republic falls squarely on the shoulders of the Greek Cypriot leadership, the UK is also at least partly responsible for not doing enough afterwards. After all, as a former colonial power and guarantor state, it was legally and morally bound to intervene on behalf of the Turkish Cypriot minority to prevent inter-communal violence till 1974 and conflict resolution thereafter. Why did the colonial administration not realize before withdrawing from Cyprus and establishing a federation there that the Greek side, with the paramilitary EOKA in its midst, would not allow the Turkish Cypriots to exercise their right of political equality in a federal republic? It was but natural for this precarious constitutional arrangement to collapse instantly, which it did in 1963. However, since then, it seems the UK has been more interested in the survival of its two sovereign military bases in Cyprus than any political settlement of the issue. Perhaps, given the strategic location of the island and British interests in the Middle East, the political stalemate in Cyprus suits the British, notwithstanding the gravity of its political and economic cost for the Turkish Cypriots. Meanwhile, the Greek side continues to draw political and economic benefits on behalf of the entire island internationally, especially as EU member. Last but not least, that the British empire sowed the seeds of conflict in post-colonial states across Asia and Africa is a common belief. Kashmir and Cyprus remain its two bitter legacies. The UN is also to blame here. In the case of Kashmir, it has failed to implement Security Council resolution for holding a plebiscite to determine the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people. The issue of Cyprus remains unsettled because the UN Security Council in its resolution of March 4, 1964, unfairly gave only Greek Cypriots the right to represent the whole of the island as the 'Government of Cyprus.' To be continued.

— The writer is an international relations expert.

## Pakistan's Changing Foreign Policy

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



To build and maintain cordial and friendly relations with all countries and to protect its independence and sovereignty are the main objectives of Pakistan's foreign policy. Pakistan came into existence due to the tireless struggle and unprecedented sacrifices of millions of Muslims. Therefore, protecting our

No country can live independently in the age of globalization. Therefore, every country wants to establish its multi-dimensional relations with other countries for its survival and security, which not only makes it possible to achieve its national interests but also ensures its survival. Foreign policy co-ordinates strategies determined and then systematically implemented to manage relations with other countries and nations. Foreign policy also seeks to deal with other countries and nations to achieve political, economic, and military goals, and to maintain and maintain relationships with non-state actors in the national interest.

However, it can be said that foreign policy is a set of strategies and actions to deal with non-state actors to maintain strong relations with other states and nations and to protect and promote state and national interest. Pakistan's foreign policy is guided by the vision and principles of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. According to him, "Our foreign policy is the desire of friendship with all the nations of the world. We do not like aggression against any country or nation. We believe in the principle of honesty and fair play in national and international affairs and we are ready to cooperate fully with all the nations of the world in the promotion of peace and prosperity. There will be no backing down. Pakistan's foreign policy is designed to achieve the country's national and international goals: restoration of territorial integrity, political freedom, accelerating social and economic development, its place in the world as a strong nation. To build and maintain cordial and friendly relations with all countries and to protect its independence and sovereignty are the main objectives of Pakistan's foreign policy. And this factor is also the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy. Pakistan does not interfere in the affairs of other countries and always tries to establish cordial relations with its neighboring countries and other countries of the world. Pakistan has always expressed its concerns about India and Israel-administered Kashmir and Palestinian territories, Afghanistan and the critical situation in the Middle East. Pakistan has always offered its shoulders for the protection of the rights of the Muslim world and also raised its voice for the solution of their problems. Pakistan has always followed the principle of national sovereignty, non-use of force against any state and non-interference in the affairs of other states. Pakistan has always fully adhered to the UN Charter and supports all the steps taken by the UN to implement it. Pakistan has always been on the front line for the eradication of apartheid and colonialism. He has also been supporting the Kashmiri people for their right to self-determination. Although Pakistan is a nuclear power, its intention is to maintain the balance of power in South Asia. Pakistan has always fulfilled its international nuclear non-proliferation commitments and has supported collective efforts for peace and security through non-use of weapons. Non-proliferation is considered a prerequisite for sustainable peace and stability at the global level. This is the reason why non-proliferation

is also included in the principles of Pakistan's foreign policy. Pakistan is also a member of United Nations, OIC, ECO, SCO, SAARC and ASEAN. Being a member of these international organizations, Pakistan continues to strive for regional and global peace and also strives to unite Muslim countries to promote mutual cooperation in political and economic activities. In the past, satisfaction and dissatisfaction have always existed in Pakistan's policies, but today Pakistan is moving towards a better direction in world affairs. Pakistan has always followed the policy of non-alignment and has been reluctant to become the ally of any major power, but unfortunately during the Cold War, Pakistan had to side with America. During the Afghanistan-Soviet war, Pakistan was a frontline ally of America and it also played an important role in dismembering the Soviet Union. Pakistan, the alliance of US and NATO forces was formed to ensure its security as the Soviet Union was increasing threats to the security of the Pak-Afghan border. After the end of the Cold War, Pakistan once again helped Washington to establish peace in Afghanistan and fight against terrorism. Today, as the US forces are withdrawing from Afghanistan, Pakistan is again refraining from adhering to its core principle of non-alignment policy and becoming part of any military bloc and major conflict. Therefore, Islamabad is making great efforts to help the withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan and to establish lasting peace in Afghanistan. At the end of the cold war, the bipolar system was also eliminated from the world and the sun of the unipolar system rose in the world. The US and its allies have been more inclined to act independently since the end of bipolarity. And now the multilateral system has also emerged in the world. Now Pakistan is considered as a power in the regional and international system which worked with the western countries to transform the international bipolar system into a unipolar world. After fighting several wars one after the other, the United States faced an economic crisis and was forced to withdraw from Afghanistan. And Pakistan is fully supporting America to withdraw from Afghanistan. Therefore, the world and the United States recognize the role of Pakistan. With the United States withdrawing from international engagements, a new vacuum is being created for regional rivals to be filled again by regional powers such as China, Russia or Pakistan. Now Pakistan is also struggling to get out of the influence of America and seems to be inclined to form a new regional bloc along with China and Russia. In the coming days, important changes are coming in the region and the roles

of world politics are also changing, which will make the coming decade very important for the world. Countries around the world are making new alignments, so the foreign policy is being revisited in Pakistan as well. After many decades, diplomatic and economic relations between Pakistan and Russia are increasing. Experts agree that in recent years, the ice is seen melting on both sides and now the relationship between Pakistan and Russia is feeling softer and warmer. The recent contacts between Pakistan and Russia show that both countries want to be closer to each other. Moreover, there is a possibility of Russia joining the CPEC after China's consent. A major challenge in Pakistan-Iran relations is sectarianism. Iran's Shia revolution laid the foundation for sectarianism in Pakistan. Pakistan's proximity to Gulf Arab states such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates has fueled sectarianism and Iran-Pakistan relations have been strained. Now, Pakistan and Iran will have the same position on many issues and are also going to do mutual trade, even Iran has also expressed its participation in CPEC. India's move of August 5 has also opened the eyes of South Asian countries and SAARC countries are also not happy with India anymore. China is currently in an aggressive mode and is offering an economic development package to Iran, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan and also offering to join the CPEC. CPEC is a game changer for Pakistan and China and is a thought of development. This is the reason why the world now wants closeness to Pakistan, while on the other hand India and America have expansionist ambitions and arrogance. In recent days, the talks between the Prime Ministers of Pakistan and Bangladesh are also a positive development. After expressing India's displeasure on Pakistan-Bangladesh relations, Bangladesh made it clear to Delhi that it is independent in its foreign policy. And now Bangladesh and Pakistan trade has also started. Moreover, Prime Minister Hasina Wajid may plan to visit Pakistan. In the coming days, as the world scenario becomes clearer, there will be a clear shift in Pakistan's foreign policy as Pakistan is also trying to get rid of American influence. China and America are opposite each other in many issues and interests. Pakistan's relations with China are very good, which is an emerging economy of the present time. Moreover, due to the strategic cooperation and CPEC between Pakistan and China, the interdependence has increased manifold, which is mainly due to the strategic position of Pakistan in the region. And this cooperation will increase in the coming years. Pakistan and China are going to play an important role in the politics and economy of the region.

## Briefs

## Palestinian PM urges...

FROM PAGE 01

"In the history of Palestine, there is no such thing as temporary, as we learned from experience that temporary means permanent." The Prime Minister expressed regret that some countries are still calling for "Israel's right to defend itself," stressing that the aggressor has no right to self-defense. "Occupying other people's lands is not self-defense. We are the victims," he said. He called on the United Nations and the European Union to parachute aid into the Gaza Strip, especially in the north, as was the case in various other parts in the world, and to open relief corridors to Gaza and not limit it to the Rafah crossing only.

## UN observes minute's...

FROM PAGE 01

UNRWA has said that some staff members were killed while queuing for bread while others were killed along with their families in their homes in Israel's aerial and ground war against Hamas in response to the Oct. 7 cross-border assault by the Islamist movement that rules the Gaza Strip. "UNRWA staff in Gaza appreciate the UN lowering the flag around the world," Tom White, director of UNRWA in Gaza, said in a statement. "In Gaza however, we have to keep the UN flag flying high as a sign that we are still standing and serving the people of Gaza." After Gaza, the next most deadly conflict for UN aid workers was Nigeria in 2011 when a suicide bomber attacked their Abuja office during an Islamist insurgency, killing 46 people.

## Pakistanis will not...

FROM PAGE 01

elections by copying the PTI, they will fail." He said: "People will defeat Mahengai-league on February 8." The PPP leader further said that people will give a "surprise" in the next elections. Addressing the rally, the PPP chairman hoped that "jialas (the term used for PPP workers)" would become prime minister and chief executive of Punjab this time. Bilawal vowed to complete the unfinished mission of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto — who was hanged to death on April 4, 1979, in a murder case but his party terms it a "judicial murder".

## Nothing wrong in...

FROM PAGE 01

scheduled to be held on February 8, 2024. In today's interaction, the PML-N central leader said the upcoming general elections will be the most difficult in the country's history. He called upon all political parties to unite to work for the economy's betterment. "We have to control dollar and petrol rates." Hamza also stressed the need for promoting politics of tolerance saying it will take many years to eliminate intolerance from country's political landscape.

## Pak hopeful about first...

FROM PAGE 01

session. In the technical-level talks, economic data was shared with the team of the international lender. The sources privy to the matter claimed that Pakistan has completed all the conditions of the IMF. The staff-level agreement will be finalised during the ongoing policy-level talks, the sources said, adding that after the successful completion of the first review, around \$700 million will be released to Pakistan. IMF review mission had commended the government on its progress toward economic recovery, the finance ministry had said earlier this month. The IMF loan programme, approved in July, helped avert a sovereign debt default. Under the \$3 billion SBA, Pakistan received \$1.2 billion from IMF as the first tranche in July — with the remaining amount subject to two reviews. Akhtar has also ruled out the possibility of making any requests to the IMF to increase the timeframe or size of SBA programme.

## Morne Morkel steps down as Pakistan bowling coach

Morkel stepped down Monday as the Pakistan cricket team's bowling coach following the team's humiliating exit from the World Cup 2023

## SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Former South Africa pacer Morne Morkel has resigned as the bowling coach of the Pakistan Men's team, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced Monday. "Morne Morkel has resigned as the bowling coach of the Pakistan Men's team. The former South Africa fast bowler joined the Pakistan team on a six-month contract in June this year," said PCB in a statement. "Morkel's first assignment with the men's team was their tour to Sri Lanka for the two-match Test series,"

the statement added. The cricketing body further shared that Morkel's replacement will be announced in due course. "Pakistan Cricket Board will announce his replacement in due course. Pakistan's next assignment is a three-match Test series against Australia scheduled to take place from December 14, 2023, to January 7, 2024, in Australia," PCB stated. Notably, Morne Morkel's resignation came just days after Pakistan were knocked out of the ICC World Cup 2023 from the group stage, failing to make it to the knockout stage. Pakistan, famous



for their lethal pace bowling, failed to do wonders in their go-to department in the ongoing mega event. In their last league match against defending champions England, Pakistan needed to win by a hefty margin of 287 runs or 260

balls to spare to go past New Zealand's superior net run-rate, who consequently managed to hold on to their fourth spot in the standings. Pakistan, while chasing a daunting 338-run target, could get to 30/2 in 6.4 overs, resulting in them

bowling out of the semi-final race. The Green Shirts' campaign in the ICC World Cup 2023 was nothing short of a rollercoaster ride. Babar Azam's men started their World Cup campaign with two victories. They outclassed the Netherlands by 81 runs in their campaign opener before they pulled off the highest run chase in the history of the ODI World Cup to down Sri Lanka by six wickets. However, it was a sudden change of fortune for the men in green as they succumbed to a four-match losing streak, their first in the history of the World Cup. Their four-match losing

streak saw them sink to their first-ever loss against Afghanistan in ODIs before losing to South Africa for the first time in a World Cup match in this century. When it appeared to be done and dusted for the Green Shirts, Babar Azam's men scripted an astonishing comeback to the ICC World Cup 2023 semi-final race by thrashing Bangladesh by seven wickets and 105 balls to spare. Pakistan then pulled off another heist when they downed New Zealand by 21 runs as per the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method despite the latter side scoring a mammoth 401/6 in the allotted 50 overs.

## IMF talks push PSX...

FROM PAGE 01

IMF concluded technical talks without any issue. "There are no signs of the IMF disallowing rate cuts," he added. The IMF's mission began its review of Pakistan's bailout package on November 2 and is expected to conclude by December 15. The review will determine whether Pakistan will receive the second tranche of \$700 million in December. The country received \$1.2 billion in July from the global lender as the first instalment of the standby arrangement. Last week, the benchmark index set a new milestone after it jumped past the 55,000 barrier on the ongoing IMF review, domestic institutional buying, and reducing Pakistan Investment Bond (PIB) yields.

## Ishaq Dar demands...

FROM PAGE 01

In today's Senate session, Dar said: "I will very humbly request the relevant individuals, the interior minister and the government to kindly formulate and present a clear-cut programme [on tackling the recent terrorism spike] in this House. "Give the facts and figures of the past 15 or 20 years so we know [..] let everybody know in this House what was the [situation] in 2010 or 2008, when it peaked, when it declined and why this spike occurred again," the PML-N leader said. He said the reasons behind the increase in terrorism should be analysed so that the mistakes which had led to the current situation could be identified.

## New border crossings...

FROM PAGE 01

Many Afghans have opted to go home voluntarily to avoid deportation under a government push for undocumented migrants to be expelled. Pakistan's move affects more than 1 million Afghans, many of whom Islamabad says have been involved in militant attacks and crime. The main crossing had been overwhelmed with Afghan refugees seeking to return home voluntarily, he said. More than 280,000 Afghan nationals have left Pakistan since the new policy was announced in early October, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Islamabad has begun round-up operations across the country after the deadline for voluntary departure expired on November 1.

## Solangi meets...

FROM PAGE 01

Both the federal minister and the caretaker CM KP expressed their determination to provide all possible support to the Election Commission to make the electioneering process fair, transparent and impartial. Solangi said that the Caretaker Government fully believed in freedom of expression and would provide all possible facilities to the media during the elections. The caretaker government was fulfilling its responsibilities under the Constitution and equal opportunities were being provided to all political parties. Syed Arshad Hussain assured that the problems of journalists of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would be resolved on a priority basis. He made it clear that the general elections will take place on time.

## Petroleum prices...

FROM PAGE 01

vegetables and other eatables. On Oct 31, the government had kept the petrol and HSD prices unchanged. Sources said the global prices of both HSD and petrol had declined over the past two weeks. Nevertheless, the rupee lost value against the dollar during the same period, reducing the benefit of lower international prices for consumers. For price calculations, officials said HSD had become about \$9 per barrel cheaper on average, down from about \$113 to \$104, during the week, while the price of petrol had dropped by a dollar from \$91 to \$90. The rupee, on the other hand, lost Rs6 in value against the dollar, declining from Rs280 to Rs286.

## Superb Fernandez seals Canada's first BJK Cup title



SEVILLE: Canada's Leylah Fernandez steered her country to their maiden Billie Jean King Cup title as she delivered the decisive point in a 2-0 defeat of Italy in Seville on Sunday. The former U.S. Open runner-up maintained her stunning form throughout the week as she beat Jasmine Paolini 6-2 6-3. After the 21-year-old converted match point the Canadian team celebrated wildly on court in front of their jubilant fans. "I don't know what to say," Canada's captain Heidi El Tabakh said. "I'm so proud of this team, these girls are incredible. "It's a dream come true." Teenager Marina Stakusic had earlier put Canada within sight of glory thanks to a stunning victory over Martina Tre-

visan. The 18-year-old, 258th in the WTA rankings, produced a nerveless display to win 7-5 6-3 against an opponent ranked 43. Only when victory was within her grasp did Stakusic wobble when four match points went adrift as Trevisan served at 2-5. But she shrugged off that disappointment and powered through her next service game, ending the contest with a crunching forehand winner. "I'm so happy and honoured that I could play this week, this has been the best week of my life," Stakusic, who did not even play a WTA main draw match this year, said on court. It was then over to Fernandez who duly claimed her fourth singles win of the week by outclassing Paolini. Fernandez had produced heroics the

previous day against the Czech Republic when she beat Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova to keep Canada in the semi-final. She then teamed up with Gabriela Dabrowski to defeat Czech multiple Grand Slam doubles champions Barbora Krejickova and Katerina Siniakova. Fernandez delivered five points for her side but paid tribute to her team mates, including Eugenie Bouchard who won a doubles in the group stage. "I can finally say this: We're world champions, and we rightfully deserve it," Fernandez said. "We worked really hard the past years, and we just keep improving. "Now it has shown in the biggest stage in the world." Canada's team will receive \$2.4 million in prize money — a record for the women's team event formerly known as the Fed Cup. They were also presented with the trophy by American King while team members received blue jackets like the ones so-loved by the trailblazing American. "Congratulations to Canada for capturing their first Billie Jean King Cup title," King said. "They played some incredible tennis this week and are deserving world champions, and it was a great honour to present them with the trophy. "I'm already excited for 2024!" Canada are the 13th nation to win the Billie Jean King Cup and the second new champions in two years following Switzerland's triumph in Glasgow 12 months ago.

## Kiptoo triumphs, smashes Athens marathon record

ATHENS: Kenya's Edwin Kiptoo has won the 40th Athens Marathon in a course-record time of 2 hours, 10 minutes and 34 seconds. The 30-year-old Kiptoo gradually shook off his main challengers, most of them his compatriots, over the second half of the course, running the last 10 kilometers alone. As Kiptoo was crossing the finish line, about a 100 people in Athens' Panathenaic stadium unfurled a banner saying "Free Palestine" and waved Palestinian flags. Some spectators also held and waved Palestinian flags along the course. Kenya's Rhonza Lokitani Kilimo came in second at 2:12:36 and Felicien Muhitira of Rwanda was third in the same time, his late charge just failing to edge out Lokitani. Kenyan runners have won the race 17 times since 2001, including Felix Kandie, who had set the previous record of 2:10:37 in 2014. Soukaina Athane of Morocco won the women's race in 2:31:52, good for 19th overall; Kenya's Caroline Jechpichir was runner-up 2:32:19, and Greece's Gloria Privilegio came in third at 2:43:20. The Athens Marathon course is hilly, rising almost continuously between the 17th and 32nd kilometers before descending most of the rest of the way. This feature does not allow for times close to the world's best, although a British runner, Bill Adcock, clocked 2:11:07 in 1969, only about a minute and a half behind the then-record. His time was not improved until Italy's Stefano Baldini ran 2:10:57 in the 2004 Athens Olympics. Kandie was the next record holder. The start of the race is near the battlefield where Athenians and their allies beat a far larger Persian army in 490 BC. Legend has it that a messenger who ran the distance to Athens to announce the victory died upon arrival. The race ends at the Panathenaic Stadium, a marble U-shaped reconstruction of an ancient arena that seats about 80,000 and hosted the track events in the inaugural modern Olympic Games in 1896. A record 20,322 runners were registered to start at the village of Marathon, beating the previous record of 20,041 set in 2019. Attendance had dropped off by more than half in the first two races held after the coronavirus pandemic, in 2021 and 2022. — Agencies

## Vu climbs back to number one

MIAMI: Lilia Vu grabbed her fourth LPGA title of the year, firing a four-under par 66 to win The Annika by three strokes to return to the top of the world rankings. Vu had five birdies and one bogey at Pelican Golf Club in Belleair, Florida, more than enough to overhaul overnight leader Emily Kristine Pedersen of Denmark. Pedersen's bid for a first US LPGA title stalled, the Dane finishing with two bogeys and a closing double-bogey that left her tied for fifth. With the season-ending Tour Championship coming up next week, Vu has joined France's Celine Boutier as the only players with at least four wins this season. The 26-year-old Californian notched her first career win in Thailand before adding major titles at the Chevron Championship and the Women's Open. Despite those successes, which will see her replace China's Yin Runing atop the rankings and which have her neck and neck with Boutier in the race for Player of the Year, Vu said winning didn't seem to be getting any easier. "It doesn't," she said. "I think each win of mine has had its own battle and I think today (it) was, again, myself. The wheels were kind of falling off a little bit on the back nine, early on the back nine." She took heart from her caddie, who told her "we can make a putt from anywhere," and after her lone bogey of the day at the 12th added birdies at the 15th and 16th that proved decisive. Vu said the biggest lesson of her breakthrough season had been "to not give up." "I know I tend to be really hard on myself," she said. "As long as I set myself kind of easy, just to be in contention on the weekend, then it kind of just somehow happens." Vu had played her way into contention with a 62 on Saturday and Pedersen, who started the day with a three-stroke lead over Vu, Amy Yang and Alison Lee, was unable to find the birdies she needed to fend off her pursuers. — Agencies

## Cricket Australia conformed PM's XI match against Pak

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Cricket Australia (CA) on Monday announced that the Prime Minister's XI match against Pakistan test cricket team will happen from December 6-9 at Manuka Oval. The fixture will be played in the week leading up to the first Test of the Men's Test Series between Australia and Pakistan in Perth. The match, whose tickets have been put on sale, returns to a four-day red ball fixture after last year's day/night pink ball match against the West Indies. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will meet with Cricket Australia Chair of Selectors, George Bailey and selector, Tony Dodemaide to discuss selection of the squad. "Pakistan is such a proud cricketing nation. I've previously loved watching players like Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis steaming in with the new ball, so I'm excited the PM's XI

will face the talented Pakistan squad in Canberra. In the coming weeks, I will meet with the National Selectors to discuss what I suspect will be a strong PM's XI," said Prime Minister Albanese in a statement. The first PM's XI fixture was played in 1951 and will be the second under Albanese after a two-year hiatus prior to 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It will be the third time Pakistan will face the Prime Minister's XI after matches in 1990 and 2005 while Mr Albanese is the 10th Prime Minister to lead the team. "We are looking forward to meeting with the Prime Minister and I'm sure those selected will be excited for the challenge of facing the quality of Pakistan. As the Australian Men's Test team continues to evolve in the short to medium term, the timing of the match comes at an important stage of the summer with five home Tests and two away in New Zealand." "We've seen some strong individual

performances to start the Sheffield Shield season and with another round left before the squad will be selected, we are looking forward to seeing players continue to put their hands up for selection. Opportunities to face international opposition like this are rare and taken seriously, and as such we are looking to select a strong and highly talented squad," said Bailey. It will be played in the week leading up to the first Test between Pakistan and Australia at the Perth Stadium on 14 December and it will mark the first instance of the Men in Green playing a Test at the venue. The two teams will face off in the Boxing Day Test at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground from 26 till 30 December and the third and final match will be played at the Sydney Cricket Ground from 3 January, 2024. Both teams will contest for the Benaud-Qadir Trophy, with the series a part of the 2023-2025 ICC World Test Championship cycle.

## Schedule:

**Four-day match: PM's XI vs Pakistan — December 6-9: Manuka Oval, Canberra**  
**1st Test — Australia vs Pakistan — December 14-18: Perth Stadium**  
**2nd Test — Australia vs Pakistan — December 26-30: Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG)**  
**3rd Test — Australia vs Pakistan — January 3-7: Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG)**

## Novak Djokovic reigns, sinks Rune at ATP Finals

Serb secures year-ending world number ranking after beating Rune at ATP Finals

## OUR CORRESPONDENTS

TURIN: Novak Djokovic will finish the year as world number one for a record-extending eighth time after beating Holger Rune 7-6 (7/4), 6-7 (1/7), 6-3 in his opening match at the ATP Finals on Sunday. The 24-time Grand Slam champion needed just one win or a defeat for young rival Carlos Alcaraz in order to secure top spot in the ATP rankings for 2023 and prevailed in a three-hour Green Group clash with spirited debutant Rune. Djokovic, on a run of 19 straight wins, has had an age-defying year, winning three Slams to become the all-time record holder of major titles. The 36-year-old came into the Finals in Turin off the back of his seventh triumph at the Paris Masters, his 40th victory at a Masters 100 event. Those are two more records to add to a long and growing list for Djokovic, who is hunting a seventh Finals title which would take him one ahead of retired great Roger Federer. "It means a lot. You could see that there were a lot of emotions on the court," said Djokovic. "I could feel it, I was very eager to win the match and get that monkey off my back... Obviously a big objective, a big goal has been achieved, everything else now is a bonus." Novak Djokovic looked on course for victory when he took a brutal opening set in decisive fashion, prevailing in the tie-break with a stunning cross-court return winner. And the match looked to have turned decisively in the third game of the second set, when after Rune won the first two Djokovic broke back in a brilliant 11-point game eventu-

ally won at the third attempt. Rune kept plugging away, however, and after the pair slugged each other with bigger and bigger hits Djokovic slipped in the tie-break, missing a simple volley to draw level on the second point and then collapsing to concede the set. But after briefly losing it for allowing Rune to break back in game three of the third set, kicking his rackets in a rage, Djokovic composed himself and saw out a historic win. "I found a way to win today against an opponent who played brilliantly... he had a lot of courage today," added Novak Djokovic in Italian. "If I



want to keep up with these youngsters I'm going to have to work even harder!" Home hope Jannik Sinner got off to a near-perfect start by beating Stefanos Tsitsipas in straight sets, 6-4, 6-4, delighting the crowd in Italy's northwest. Sinner has had the best season of his career to date, winning four tournaments and is set to become the first Italian ever to finish a season in the ATP top five. The 22-year-old comfortably dealt with 2019 champion Tsitsipas in front of an enthusiastic crowd, not dropping a service game nor facing a break point in the whole match. "The atmosphere was really, really nice. It's huge pleasure for me to play here in Turin, in Italy," Sinner told reporters. "Obviously a little bit more pressure, but I managed it really well today, so I'm happy." Afterwards, Greek Tsitsipas denied he had any physical problems even though he looked way below his best, telling reporters "I'm healthy. I'm ready to compete." The 25-year-old had to play down reports of an elbow injury which curtailed practice ahead of his tournament opener. "I'm absolutely fine and I'm ready to play this tournament. Turin is one of the most important events of the year for me," he said. On Monday, Alcaraz makes his ATP Finals debut in the Red Group against Alexander Zverev, the second seed Novak Djokovic's closest challenger. However the Wimbledon champion is in uncertain form after being dumped out of the Paris Masters by Russian qualifier Roman Safiullin following return from an injury lay-off. The Spaniard hadn't played since the Shanghai Masters in early October due to lower back and left foot problems.

## Briefs

130 factories  
shut in BD  
amid protest

DHAKA : A total of 130 readymade garment (RMG) factories in two major industrial hubs, Savar and Ashulia, on the outskirts of Bangladesh capital Dhaka, have suspended operations for an indefinite period due to ongoing worker protests for higher wages. Mohammad Sarwar Alam, a superintendent of Industrial Police, told journalists Saturday that a section of workers has still been demanding a minimum monthly wage of 23,000 taka (209 U.S. dollars). Workers continued their protests, rejecting the government's announcement of a 56 percent wage increase Tuesday. The protests have reportedly led to vandalism of cars and factories, with clashes between police and workers erupting in and around Dhaka. A female garment worker was killed in a clash between police and workers demonstrating for a pay hike in Gazipur's Konabari area on the outskirts of Dhaka on Wednesday. Paramilitary Border Guard Bangladesh soldiers have been deployed in major industrial zones in and around Dhaka.—APP

Emirates  
orders 95  
Boeing  
planes in  
\$52b deal

DUBAI : Emirates airline announced a \$52 billion order for 95 Boeing planes on Monday in the biggest sale so far at the Dubai Airshow. A purchase of 55 Boeing 777-9s and 35 777-8s comes alongside an upgrade to an existing order for 30 787 Dreamliners, which rises to 35. "This order represents a significant investment that demonstrates Dubai's commitment to the future of aviation," Emirates CEO Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum told a press conference. Separately, budget carrier flydubai announced an order for 30 Boeing 787-9s. With the latest deal, Emirates' order book rises to 295 planes including 205 777X aircraft. The Middle East's biggest airline also ordered 202 GE9X engines to power its 777X fleet. The 777-9s are expected for delivery in 2025 and the 777-8s are scheduled for 2030, Sheikh Ahmed said. Also at the airshow on Monday, Boeing announced an order of 45 737 MAX aircraft from budget carrier SunExpress, while speculation is swirling about Turkish Airlines after reports it is poised to book about 350 aircraft. A bumper week of deals would underline the sector's recovery from the Covid pandemic, which caused havoc in the sector as international travel ground to a halt. Last week Emirates Group announced record half-year net profits of 10.1 billion AED (\$2.7 billion), up 138 percent from a year earlier, driven by strong demand. The company unveiled record annual profits of \$3 billion in May.—APP

The growing  
cyber threat  
to global  
shipping

SEOUL : The cyberattack that paralysed several major Australian ports was a sharp reminder of what governments and experts say is a growing threat to shipping, the lifeblood of the global economy. The attack on DP World's ports - which handle 40 percent of Australia's freight trade - forced them offline for days and was the latest in a series of breaches at ports around the world in recent years. Cyberattacks have disrupted or halted operations at some of the world's busiest ports in recent years. A ransomware attack in July at Japan's busiest port, Nagoya, disrupted operations for days. Oil terminals last year at some of Western Europe's largest ports could not process vessels because of a cyberattack. And in 2017, the "NotPetya" malware spread into systems around the world, crippling the operations of global shipping giant Maersk. There have also been cyberattacks at major ports in the Netherlands, Canada, India, South Africa and the United States.—Agencies

Ukrainians to prepare for  
Russian winter onslaught

Zelensky issued his warning during his nightly video address a day after Russian forces carried out their first missile attack on the capital, Kyiv in some seven weeks

## NEWS DESK

KYIV: President Volodymyr Zelensky warned Ukrainians to prepare for new waves of Russian attacks on infrastructure as winter approached and said troops were anticipating an onslaught in the eastern theatre of the war. A military spokesman said Russian attacks on the shattered eastern town of Avdiivka had eased in the past day, but were likely to intensify in the coming days. And Ukrainian military intelligence said an explosion killed at least three Russian servicemen in the Russian-occupied southern town of Melitopol, which it described as an "act of revenge" by resistance groups. Zelensky issued

his warning during his nightly video address a day after Russian forces carried out their first missile attack on the capital, Kyiv in some seven weeks. "We are almost half way through November and must be prepared for the fact that the enemy may increase the number of drone or missile strikes on our infrastructure," Zelensky said. "Russia is preparing for Ukraine. And here, in Ukraine, all attention should be focused on defence, on responding to terrorists on everything that Ukraine can do to get through the winter and improve our soldiers' capabilities." Last winter about 10 months into Russia's invasion of neighbour Ukraine, Russia made waves of attacks on power stations and other plants inked to the



energy network, prompting rolling blackouts in widely separated regions. Energy Minister German Galushchenko said on Saturday that Ukraine would have enough energy resources to get through the winter, but added: "The question is how much fu-

ture attacks can affect supplies." Ukrainian officials last Wednesday said Russia had struck Ukrainian infrastructure 60 times in recent weeks, an indication that a campaign of attacks may already be under way. In his remarks, Zelensky hailed the "heroic" efforts

of troops defending Avdiivka, under pressure from attempted Russian advances since mid-October. Pictures show buildings in the town reduced to shells. Military spokesman Oleksandr Shtupun said the number of infantry attacks in the past 24 hours was half of levels earlier in the week, but air strikes were on the rise. "The enemy suffered significant losses the day before yesterday and has to regroup," Shtupun told national television. The head of Ukraine's ground forces, General Oleksandr Syrskyi, said on Telegram that Moscow's forces were "more active in the Bakhmut sector and trying to recover lost positions". Bakhmut, north of the city of Donetsk, was captured by Russian forces

in May after months of heavy combat, but Ukrainian troops have since retaken nearby villages. Russian accounts of the fighting on Sunday said its forces had repelled five Ukrainian attacks near Bakhmut. In Melitopol, a hub for Russian occupation forces, the blast killed three men during a meeting at a post office used as a military headquarters. Ukraine's military intelligence directorate said. The dead were officers of Russia's National Guard or FSB intelligence service, the directorate said in a statement. There was no comment from Russian officials. Ukraine's military has been increasingly active in attacking Russian-held areas, but does not always acknowledge the strikes.

Kenya's president  
urges progress on  
global plastics treaty

## WEB DESK

NAIROBI: Negotiators working on the world's first treaty to curb plastic pollution need to hurry up and strike a deal, Kenya's President William Ruto said on Monday at the start of talks in Nairobi. The world produces about 400 million metric tonnes of plastic waste a year and less than 10% of it is recycled, according to the UN Environment Programme. At least 14 million metric tonnes ends up in the ocean every year, the International Union for Conservation of Nature says, while more piles up in landfills. International delegates meeting in the Kenyan capital for the third round of talks will consider a list of possible measures to include in the treaty. "I urge all the negotiators to recall that

we are working on, is the first domino in that change. Let us bring it home," he said. The plastic industry and oil and petrochemical exporters like Saudi Arabia do not want plastic use curtailed, arguing that the global deal should promote improved recycling and reuse of plastic. "The vast majority of countries are eager to advance the negotiations to get the job done," said Pamela Miller, Co-Chair of the International Pollutants Elimination Network, a global public interest organization. "On the other hand a small group of like-minded countries of mainly major fossil fuel, petrochemical and plastic exporters like Saudi Arabia and Russia, are actively attempting to take us backwards." Saudi and Russian delegates were not immediately available to comment.

we are working on, is the first domino in that change. Let us bring it home," he said. The plastic industry and oil and petrochemical exporters like Saudi Arabia do not want plastic use curtailed, arguing that the global deal should promote improved recycling and reuse of plastic. "The vast majority of countries are eager to advance the negotiations to get the job done," said Pamela Miller, Co-Chair of the International Pollutants Elimination Network, a global public interest organization. "On the other hand a small group of like-minded countries of mainly major fossil fuel, petrochemical and plastic exporters like Saudi Arabia and Russia, are actively attempting to take us backwards." Saudi and Russian delegates were not immediately available to comment.

Scientists to  
investigate  
climate  
change impact  
on Antarctic

## DNA

CANBERRA : Australian scientists will depart within days on a voyage to study the impact of climate change on the planet's strongest current, the national science agency said on Monday. A team of scientists will spend over a month onboard its research vessel Investigator studying how the Antarctic Circumpolar Current contributes to melting ice shelves, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) said. The Antarctic Circumpolar Current flows clockwise around the continent from west to east and is the strongest ocean current on the planet. Benoit Legresy, the voyage chief scientist from the CSIRO, said in a statement that the current has historically prevented warm water from reaching Antarctica and melting ice but that heat has been approaching the pole.

Death toll  
rises to 31 in  
Somalia floods

MOGADISHU : Floods caused by torrential rainfall have killed at least 31 people in various parts of Somalia, authorities have said. Since October, floods have displaced nearly half a million people and disrupted the lives of over 1.2 million people, Minister of Information Daud Aweis told reporters in the capital Mogadishu on Sunday. They have also caused extensive damage to civilian infrastructure notably in the Gedo region of southern Somalia, he said. 1.6 million people at risk. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, or OCHA, which has given \$25 million to help mitigate the impact of flooding, warned in a statement Thursday of "a flood event of a magnitude statistically likely only once in 100 years, with significant anticipated humanitarian impacts." "While all possible preparatory measures are being pursued, a flood of this magnitude can only be mitigated and not prevented," OCHA said, recommending "early warning and early action" to save lives as "large-scale displacement, increased humanitarian needs and further destruction of property remain likely." The lives of some 1.6 million people in Somalia could be disrupted by floods during the rainy season that lasts until December, with 1.5 million hectares of farmland potentially being destroyed, it said. Mogadishu has been ravaged by downpours that, at times, swept away vulnerable people, including children and the elderly, and disrupted transportation. Floods are also affecting neighbouring Kenya, where the death toll stood at 15 on Monday, according to the Kenya Red Cross. The port city of Mombasa and the northeastern counties of Mandera and Wajir are the worst affected.

Triumphant  
de Lima wins  
bail release

MANILA : Philippine human rights campaigner Leila de Lima was "triumphant" on Monday after a judge granted her bail, putting her a step closer to freedom after nearly seven years behind bars. De Lima, one of the most outspoken critics of former president Rodrigo Duterte and his deadly anti-drug war, was jailed on narcotics-related charges she says were fabricated to silence her. The former senator, justice minister and human rights commissioner waved to supporters as she exited the Manila court, surrounded by police officers and journalists. "This is a moment of triumphant joy and also thanksgiving," de Lima said before being taken back to prison briefly ahead of her release. "I've been praying so hard for this day to come. It's very painful to be jailed despite being innocent." Her lawyer, Filibon Tacardon, said de Lima "cried" when the decision was announced in the court. "We expected the bail solely because of the merits of the case," Tacardon told reporters. "We believe that she's innocent - we all believe that she's innocent and all these charges are trumped up." De Lima, 64, is accused of taking money from inmates inside the largest prison in the Philippines to allow them to sell drugs while she was justice minister from 2010 to 2015.—APP

Italian  
'Maxi-Trial':  
mobsters  
face hard  
time

ROME : Hundreds of alleged members of the 'Ndrangheta - Italy's most powerful organised crime group - and their white-collar collaborators face sentencing this week following a historic, nearly three-year trial. Prosecutors have asked for prison sentences totalling nearly 5,000 years for 322 defendants, who bear nicknames like "The Wolf," "Fatty," "Sweetie," and "Lamb Thigh" and are accused of a dizzying array of offences. Based in the poor southern region of Calabria, the 'Ndrangheta is Italy's wealthiest and most powerful criminal organisation, which has a near-monopoly on the European cocaine trade. While it has stealthily expanded to now operate in more than 40 countries, back home the 'Ndrangheta has suffocated the local economy, infiltrated public institutions and terrorised its people for decades. Since January 2021, three judges in Calabria have heard thousands of hours of testimony - including from dozens of mobsters turned state's witness - about the Mancuso clan and its associates, which control the province of Vibo Valentia. "It's an important trial because it targets one of the most powerful 'Ndrangheta families based in Calabria, with international ramifications," mafia expert Antonio Nicaso told AFP. The sentences could come this week.—Agencies

S. Korea's  
jobless  
claims rise  
3.8 pct

SEOUL : South Korea's jobless claims rose last month amid lingering concerns about economic downturn, labor ministry data showed on Monday. The number of new applicants for job-seeking benefits came in at 80,000 in October, up 3.8 percent from the same month of last year, according to the Ministry of Employment and Labor. The number rebounded this year on the back of mounting worry about the economic slowdown, driven by sluggish exports and faltering housing market. The benefit applicants expanded in the manufacturing, construction, and information and communications industries. The job-seeking benefits are offered by the government to help the unemployed seek jobs, taking up a majority of unemployment benefits. It is financed by the state employment insurance fund. The number of benefit receivers totaled 566,000 in October, up 5.9 percent from a year earlier. It kept an upward trend for the ninth straight month since February.—APP

Balance shifts : New  
Polish parliament  
opens today

WARSAW: Poland's new parliament meets Monday for the first time with both the ruling populists and the pro-European opposition bidding to form the next government. The ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party won the largest number of seats in October's elections, though well short of a majority. Even so, President Andrzej Duda has given it first crack at forming a new government, which it has no chance of doing. Three pro-EU parties led by former prime minister and European Council president Donald Tusk won enough to form a majority and are gearing up to take power, though they first will have to wait for PiS's efforts to fail. "This is an unprecedented situation in more than 30 years of the history of democratic Poland," said Stanislaw Mocek, a sociologist and president of the Collegium Civitas university in Warsaw. "The first votes on Monday will show the real balance of power in the new legislature," he said. PiS holds 194 out of 460 seats in the lower chamber, compared to 248 seats for the pro-EU opposition. Despite this electoral maths, Duda gave his PiS allies, who have ruled since 2015, first chance to form the government. At the inaugural parliamentary session at 12:00pm (1100 GMT), Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki will dissolve the government, which will stay on in an interim capacity. The newly-elected MPs will also select the leadership of the lower house - a first test of strength for the current opposition. PiS has said it will "do everything" to be able to form a new government within the constitutionally allocated 14 days and then for that government to pass a vote of confidence within 14 days after that. "This mission is seen as destined to fail," Mocek said. He said PiS was just "playing for time" to receive additional financing, put their people in key posts and "ensure a soft landing" when it goes into opposition. Jaroslaw Kuisz, a political analyst, said PiS could simply "wait" for its next chance.—DNA



KARACHI: Head of delegation from IMO Jun Sun addressing at IMO Workshop under Integrated Technical Cooperation Program for Implementation of Hong Kong Convention, Pakistan in PC hotel. — DNA

## Morocco-Azerbaijan ties poised for bright prospects

## FOREIGN DESK

The session, which was attended by a large Azerbaijani delegation representing numerous ministries and state institutions, was an opportunity for the two countries to consolidate their commitment to further promoting cooperation in various fields

RABAT: Morocco and Azerbaijan hailed, on Monday in Rabat, the excellence of their bilateral cooperation and underlined their common will to open new perspectives for a fruitful and mutually beneficial partnership. Co-chairing the work of the 2nd session of the Joint Cooperation Commission, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Nasser Bourita, and his Azerbaijani counterpart, Jeyhun Bayramov, "expressed their satisfaction with the level reached by bilateral cooperation, thanks to the High Guidance of His Majesty King Mohammed VI and His Excellency President Ilham Aliyev". The session, which was attended by a large Azerbaijani delegation representing numerous minis-

tries and state institutions, was an opportunity for the two countries to consolidate their commitment to further promoting cooperation in various fields. On this occasion, four agreements and Memorandums of Understanding in various fields were signed between the two countries, illustrating the determination of Morocco and Azerbaijan to diversify and deepen their cooperation relations. The Morocco-Azerbaijan Business Forum scheduled for Tuesday in Rabat promises to further strengthen economic ties between the two countries, reflecting the importance of this promising relationship for the future. Discussions at this session of the Joint Commission also focused on the prospects for establishing triangular cooperation for the benefit of African

partner countries. This initiative is in line with the High Guidelines of HM King Mohammed VI, who places Africa and South-South cooperation at the heart of the Kingdom's foreign policy. Azerbaijan is also showing a growing interest in developing its relations with the African continent, paving the way for mutually beneficial opportunities for the triangular activities envisaged. At this session of the Joint Commission, discussions between the two parties took place in an atmosphere of understanding and friendship, reflecting the excellent relations that bind the Kingdom and the Republic of Azerbaijan. Morocco was among the first countries to recognize Azerbaijan's independence in December 1991. The following year, the two countries formally established diplomatic relations,

laying the foundations for a long and fruitful relationship. In 2007, Azerbaijan accredited its first ambassador resident in Rabat. In 2008, Morocco took a similar step, accrediting its first ambassador to Baku. These acts consolidated the two capitals' commitment to intensifying their political ties and strengthening their economic partnership. Over the years, relations between Morocco and Azerbaijan have reached a level of excellence, characterized by solidarity, mutual trust, reciprocal respect and mutual support on issues of common interest. This includes a real convergence of views on the sanctity of the principle of safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, which is an essential point in maintaining peace and stability in their respective regions.

## Briefs

### Uzbek deputy PM visits Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Commerce Minister Goharlajz has welcomed Uzbekistan's Deputy Prime Minister for Trade and Investment, Dr. Jamshid Khodjaev, to Pakistan for a two-day visit. This visit is a testament to the strong and growing economic ties between our two countries. In his Tweet he said, 'I look forward to productive discussions with Dr. Khodjaev on ways to further strengthen our bilateral trade and investment ties, and to explore new avenues for collaboration in a range of sectors, including trade, transit, agriculture, IT, and mineral development. I am confident that this visit will be a success, and that it will lead to increased cooperation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan in all areas of mutual interest'.

### Cabinet approves jail trial in cipher case

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The caretaker federal cabinet on Monday approved the jail trial of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan and Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi in the cipher case. The cabinet gave its assent to the summary by the Ministry of Law regarding the former prime minister and foreign minister's trial in the Adiala jail due to security concerns. In its summary, the ministry wrote that it had issued a no-objection certificate (NOC) for the jail trial on August 29 which was requested by the Interior Ministry and Judge Abul-Hasnat Zulfikar. "The jail trial was requested for the PTI chairman keeping in view the security concerns," said the summary. The Islamabad High Court (IHC) will hear the intra-court appeal filed by Khan against the jail trial on November 14 (today). The court has sought arguments from the attorney general. The deposed prime minister - who was ousted from office following a no-confidence motion in April last year - had moved IHC against the jail trial which was rejected by the court's single bench on October 16. The single bench, led by IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, announced no apparent malice behind conducting Khan's jail trial in the cipher case, the court's verdict read and directed him to approach the trial court if reservations persist.

### Govt to challenge SC verdict against military trials

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The interim federal government intends to challenge the Supreme Court (SC) judgment declaring military trials of civilians unconstitutional, it emerged on Monday. The Attorney General of Pakistan Mansoor Awan will represent the federal government while the defence ministry has engaged senior lawyer Khawaja Haris and the interior ministry has hired Ahmer Bilal Sufi. Meanwhile, the Balochistan and Sindh governments intend to submit pleas against the verdict through Sikandar Bashir Mohmand and Jahanzaib Awan, respectively. Under the law, intra court appeals have to be filed within 30 days and the same are to be fixed for hearing within 14 days of application. A five-judge bench of the SC had in October unanimously declared the trial of civilians in military courts as null and void and ordered that the 103 accused in cases relating to the violence on May 9 and 10, 2023 be tried under the ordinary criminal laws.

## ITALIAN CUISINE WEEK KICK STARTS

# Italian ambassador's cooking class draws huge interest

Italian Food Week is a regular feature and we celebrate it regularly, says Ambassador of Italy Andreas Ferrarese

CENTRELINE REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Food enthusiasts in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi thronged to the Zigolini restaurant, Islamabad Marriott Hotel to enjoy mouth-watering Italian cuisines. The hallmark of the event was a special cooking session spearheaded by Ambassador of Italy Andreas Ferrarese and his wife Albana Ferrarese. The Italian Ambassador, addressing the gathering, enthusiastically shared insights into the annual Italian Food Week, a cherished tradition that we joyously celebrate each year. With an air of culinary excitement, the Ambassador highlighted a special addition to this year's festivities - the introduction of a unique and exquisite variety of olive oil. In a culinary feat that delighted the senses, the cooking during the event showcased the exceptional qualities of this newly unveiled olive oil. The Ambassador emphasized the pivotal role of this distinctive oil, infusing each dish with the rich and authentic flavors that characterize Italian cuisine.

It was a gastronomic journey that not only celebrated tradition but also introduced a delightful innovation, symbolizing the ever-evolving nature of Italian culinary excellence. He especially thanked his wife and the embassy staff for helping him



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Italy Andreas Ferrarese leading a cooking class while the Italian chef looks on. - DNA

organize the event in a befitting manner. In his last cooking session on November 26, 2020, the

Italian ambassador had cooked pasta, which the guests enjoyed very much. He told the audience

he used to cook this dish when he was a student for it was a cheap dish and easy to cook as well.

## Ex-PM Cameron makes surprise return to govt



NEWS DESK

LONDON: Britain's beleaguered Prime Minister Rishi Sunak carried out a dramatic Cabinet reshuffle on Monday, firing his divisive home secretary and bringing back former premier David Cameron to the heart of government after a seven-year absence from politics. The headline Home Secretary Suella Braverman was fired early on Monday morning, after making inflammatory comments about the policing of pro-Palestinian protests in central London over the weekend. Her tenure was wrought with scandals and

divisive remarks, which had long caused fractures in Sunak's government. Sunak then announced he was bringing Cameron back to frontline politics as foreign secretary, in a stunning move that has few parallels in recent British political history. Cameron served as prime minister from 2010 to 2016, resigning after Britain voted to leave the European Union in a referendum that he had called. His premiership set the course of 13 years of Conservative rule, but the self-inflicted chaos of the Brexit referendum and its aftermath threw his party into years of instability from which it is still struggling to emerge. Downing Street confirmed that James Cleverly, formerly the foreign secretary, will take over from Braverman, a shift that made space for Cameron's remarkable return to Cabinet. Braverman had served as Sunak's interior minister throughout his tenure in Downing Street, but her confrontational rhetoric towards migrants, protesters, the police and even the homeless had caused rifts in the government and sparked speculation that she was plotting a future leadership bid. She most recently courted criticism by accusing London's police force of applying "double standards" in the way they manage protests, in an op-ed in the Times of London newspaper condemning a pro-Palestinian march that Downing Street said had not been cleared by Sunak.

## 2 soldiers martyred, 1 terrorist killed



RAWALPINDI: On night 12/13 November 2023, a fire exchange took place between own troops and terrorists in general area Mir Ali, North Waziristan District. Own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location resultingly one terrorist was sent to hell. However, during intense fire exchange, Sepoy Abdullah (age: 25 yrs, resident of Mardan) Sepoy Muhammad Sohail (age: 19 yrs, resident of Tharparkar), having fought gallantly, embraced Shahaadat. Sanitization of the surrounding areas is being carried out to neutralize any terrorists found in the area. Security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve. - DNA

## LHC orders to close schools, colleges on Saturdays

Judge also orders introduction of a work-from-home policy for two days in a week

LAHORE: Justice Shahid Karim of the Lahore High Court on Monday ordered the government to close all schools and colleges on Saturdays in Punjab as the provincial authorities fail to curb smog. The directives from the LHC judge came during a hearing today pertaining to measures taken by the Punjab government to control air pollution that has reached dangerous levels in recent days. The judge, reprimanding the Lahore commissioner, also ordered the introduction of a work-from-home policy for two days a week. "Commissioner Lahore has failed completely

in controlling smog. He talks big but nothing happens on the ground. Just a notification is issued to shut everything," he remarked. Justice Karim also ordered the immediate removal of deputy commissioners in Sheikhupura/Jhang, Hafizabad, Khanewal, Nankana and Bahawalnagar, saying that the situation is very bad in these districts. He ordered the chief secretary of Punjab to immediately issue a notification to transfer the aforementioned officers. The judge also ordered the removal of the director general environment. "Videos of crop residual burning being shared are very disappointing," he said. The judge remarked that everything is shut down through a notification, adding that all the officers go on leave after the government announcement. The judge said the entire city gets disrupted if the traffic stops for five minutes. "Most smog is caused by vehicle exhaust." The Lahore Development Authority (LDA) counsel said the provincial government constructed an underpass in just 70 days. "The smog that will follow this construction will affect us through the winter. You may have become an underpass expert, but also consider other matters," he observed. Justice Karim ordered the commission member to hold a meeting with the Punjab chief secretary and inform him about the court orders. - DNA

## Zaidong highlights impact of Chinese practices on developing nations

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong on Monday highlighted the far-reaching impact of Chinese organizational practices on developing nations, catalyzing their robust development. Addressing an event in the framework of the "Dosti Park Club" with the theme of Chinese modernization and diplomacy, the ambassador highlighted the significance of the practices in instilling hope and confidence, especially among countries aspiring to a shared future. Reflecting on President Xi Jinping's eight major steps unveiled during the Belt and Road Forum, Ambassador Zaidong asserted that the steps offered new opportunities for involved countries. He lauded China's accomplishments under President Xi's



leadership, particularly the noteworthy achievement of lifting 800 million people out of poverty, surpassing the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals by a decade. As regards the ongoing discussions on China's modernization, Ambassador Zaidong reiterated his nation's commitment to achieving the common prosperity of all Chinese citizens and improving the lives of ordinary people. Shifting focus to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the ambassador highlighted its early harvest, citing impressive figures such as \$25.4 billion in direct investment and jobs creation for 236,000 individuals. Highlighting CPEC's impact on infrastructure development, he noted the completion of 510 kilometers of highways, 868 kilometers of national roads, and 8,020 megawatts of electricity projects. CPEC would further improve the lives of Pakistan's people and the new international airport at Gwadar would also be functional soon, he added. "We are also bringing benefits for people in Balochistan including 10,000 solar panels." He said that the figures showed tangible benefits for local communities, significantly boosting Pakistan's economic and social development. Expressing optimism about CPEC's positive outcomes, particularly in alleviating Pakistan's electricity shortages and enhancing local commutes through projects like the Orange Line in Lahore, Ambassador Zaidong remarked, "CPEC truly demonstrates that Chinese people are dedicated to bringing tangible benefits to local communities and aiding Pakistan in achieving superior development." - APP

## NAB arranges essay writing, painting competition

DNA

PESHAWAR: NAB (KP) arranges essay writing, poster / painting and declamation competitions in collaboration with provincial Higher / Elementary Education, Social Welfare, Commerce departments and TEVETA as part of awareness and out-reach plan. The Awareness & Prevention (A&P) Wing of NAB KP arranged essay writing, poster / painting and declamation competitions in the month of November as per Annual Plan 2023 in collaboration with Higher / Elementary Education, Secretary Social Welfare, DG Commerce and DG TEVETA. The essay writing competitions were conducted both in Urdu and English wherein participants wrote about "Honesty pays honours and corruption dishonor". The competition was arranged for different institutions including School / Special children, College / university and at Commerce / Technical Education levels.

## Toxic haze in Delhi after Diwali

DNA

NEW DELHI: Residents of India's capital, Delhi, woke up to smoky skies as air quality dropped after the festival of Diwali. People in the city burst crackers late into Sunday night despite a ban on fireworks due to high pollution levels. Delhi has been battling toxic air for weeks, with the government announcing an early winter break for schools in an effort to protect children. The city has high pollution through the year due to factors including vehicular emissions and dust. But the problem becomes worse in winter as farmers in neighbouring states burn crop stubble. Low wind speeds also trap pollutants - such as those produced by firecrackers - in the lower atmosphere, making it hard to breathe. On Monday afternoon, according to the federal government's Safar app, the Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi was 445, with some places recording readings above 520. The AQI measures the level of PM 2.5 - fine particulate matter that can clog lungs and cause a host of diseases - in the air.

**MURREE SPARKLETT'S**  
Bottled Drinking Water

**WATER TASTES BEST IN GLASS!!**

CARBONATED WATER ALSO AVAILABLE IN GLASS BOTTLE

For Sales & Supply Contact:

Rizi Abbas 03325599169	Kaiser Waheed 03325808422	Riaz Muhammad 0335 5111043
---------------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------