



# Islamabad POST

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### Taylor Swift makes history, sweeps 2023 Billboard Music Awards

Detailed News On Page-07

### Lloyd Austin in unannounced visit to Ukraine

Detailed News On Page-08



### Djokovic claims seventh ATP Finals title

Detailed News On Page-06



## We are witnessing 'children holocaust' in Gaza: PM Kakar

### We are leaving no stones unturned to cease violence in Gaza through OIC platform, says prime minister

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: While condemning the atrocities committed by Israel, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday called upon the world powers to help end the brutal killing of innocent people, especially children. "We are witnessing the children holocaust in Gaza that must have to be stopped immediately," he said while addressing an event in connection with the Universal Children's Day in Islamabad. The remarks of the prime minister came as Israel "expanded" its military operation in Gaza on Monday. The Palestinian health authority said the death toll from Israel's aerial bombardment and ground operations in Gaza has reached 13,000, thousands of them children. PM Kakar maintained that the Israeli armed forces had become "pigmies" in the eyes of the people around the world who were killing defenceless people and children, instead of fighting with a professional army. He said this had become an issue of all mankind that went beyond any religion, adding that the world is condemning Israel's atrocities over the defenceless people of Gaza and the West Bank. "We are doing our utmost endeavours to cease violence in Gaza at the platform of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)," the PM added. Later, interacting with the differently-abled children, the prime minister said he was amazed by their intellect, perseverance, and desire to positively contribute to the social sphere. "Their spirit for proving their talents against all odds is simply impressive." The prime minister said that the government was determined to ensure inclusive development, education, healthcare, participation, dignity and security for all children, as envisaged in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, adding that the children were the most precious asset of any nation and the sole guarantee for its

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## Number of civilian casualties staggering, says UN Chief

FOREIGN MINISTER

NEW YORK: The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Sunday the Israeli aggression on Gaza is inflicting a "staggering" and "unacceptable" number of civilian casualties, reiterating his calls for an immediate humanitarian cease-fire. The Palestinian Ministry of Health announced Sunday evening that the number of casualties who fell in the Israeli bloody aggression on Gaza has risen to 12,415 martyrs and 32,500 wounded, since October 7. The Ministry explained, in its daily report on the aggression, that it has been encountering difficulties in obtaining updated information for the seventh day in a row due to the communication blackout across the Gaza Strip and the collapse of the internet service in hospitals north of Gaza. The report affirmed that the number of martyrs in the Gaza Strip, as of Saturday evening, surged to more than 12,300 martyrs, including about 5,000 children, 3,250 women, and 690 elderly people, while the number of the injured reached more than 29,500.

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ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of UAE to Pakistan, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi called on Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar at the Prime Minister's House. - DNA

## UAE envoy calls on PM Kakar

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of U.A.E. to Pakistan, H. E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi called on Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar at the Prime Minister's House in Islamabad today. The Emirati Ambassador presented a formal invitation to the Prime Minister for attending the forthcoming COP-28 meeting in Abu Dhabi. He said that Pakistan was one of the leading countries in climate change negotiations and the U.A.E. was hopeful that Pakistan would play its part in ensuring the success of COP-28. The Prime Minister congratulated the U.A.E. for hosting this important global climate

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## Despite Zardari's trust Bilawal Bhutto remains wary of election fixing

### "There's no use of an election if the results are pre-decided," PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari says

SHAMIM SHAHID

NEWSHERA: Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) top leaders' statements about the credibility of the upcoming polls apparently indicate contrast in the party's policy as Asif Ali Zardari is hopeful of transparent polls while his son Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari raises concerns about manipulation of the results and rigging. A day after PPP Co-chairman Zardari said the country was moving towards transparent polls, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said the results of the poll might have been pre-decided. "The country is moving towards transparent elections," Zardari had said in a recent statement amid PPP's calls for a "level-playing field", saying that the caretakers - appointed to oversee the country's affairs till an elected government takes charge - were favouring the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). In his address to a rally in Nowshera on Monday,

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## No plan to alter 18th Amd: PML-N

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) on Monday rejected a report claiming that the party would bring changes to the 18th Constitutional Amendment if it is voted back to power. PML-N's manifesto committee chief Senator Irfan Siddiqui and the party's Information Secretary Marriyum Aurangzeb both have rejected the assertions made in the report. "We have not received any such recommendations," said Senator Siddiqui, who is also a close aide of PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif. He added that changes in the 18th Amendment were "never discussed" in party meetings.

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## Briefs

### Qureshi approaches Supreme Court for bail

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi Monday moved the Supreme Court to seek post-arrest bail in the cipher case, requesting it to annul the Islamabad High Court's decision of November 8. The former foreign minister's plea challenges the IHC's decision to dismiss his post-arrest bail petition on the aforementioned date. The petition, filed on behalf of the senior politician earlier today, stated that the IHC did not properly assess the facts in the matter.

## SJC rejects complaint against J. Tariq

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) on Monday disposed of a complaint filed against top court's Justice Sardar Tariq Masood. Sources said the council in its meeting led by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Ishaq reviewed the complained filed by Amna Malik against Mr Masood for not filing tax returns. The SJC unanimously announced the decision to dispose of the complaint. The council is yet to take a decision on complaints filed by against SC's Justice Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi. Meanwhile, Justice Naqvi has challenged Supreme Judicial Council's proceedings against him in the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

## Justice Naqvi challenges SJC's proceedings in SC

### Justice Naqvi terms complaints against him as "violative of and inconsistent" in petition challenging SJC proceedings

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: As the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) is set to meet today to hear complaints against SC judges, Justice Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi filed a petition in the Supreme Court, terming the malicious campaign and consequent complaints against him a direct and blatant attack on the independence of the judiciary. The SC judge has also accused the SJC of subjecting him to a "media trial" which has further maligned and ridiculed him in the public eye. Justice Naqvi's plea challenged the show-cause notice issued to him by the judicial panel on October 27. Justice Mazhar Naqvi has hired the services of lawyers Makhdoom Ali Khan, Khawaja Haris, Latif Khosa, Ali Zafar and Saad Hashmi to represent him in the reference. The SJC, on the other hand, scheduled to meet today after Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Ishaq, on Friday, had summoned its meeting to review the complaints against

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## Hamid slams caretaker govts

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and senior lawyer Hamid Khan has slammed the incumbent caretaker governments in the centre and provinces for challenging the Supreme Court's decision declaring the military trial of civilians under the Pakistan Army Act 1952 as unconstitutional. Addressing a press conference in Lahore today, Khan said the interim governments have no mandate to file review appeals against a SC verdict. His remarks came after the caretaker federal and provincial governments of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and

Continued on Page 06

## Shahera Shahid appointed Information Secretary

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Shahera Shahid has been appointed Secretary Information and Broadcasting. The notification has been issued in this regard. Ms Shahera is a Grade 22 officer of the Information Group and currently was awaiting posting. She has also served as the Information Secretary in-charge before. Ms. Shahera has also served as the Principle Information Officer.

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## US unveils new package for anti-terrorism coop with Pak

### The funds will be specifically target the enhancement of capabilities of law enforcement agencies in Pakistan, focusing on training

DNA

QUETTA: AMBASSADOR BLOME: It is an honor to stand with you today to reaffirm the United States' commitment to Pakistan as it works to protect and defend its people from the scourge of terrorism. The police and law enforcement officials assembled here are on the front lines of that fight every single day. Today, with support from the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, I am delighted to announce four new initiatives to support the Balochistan Police in their efforts to protect and serve local communities: First, we will provide \$4 million in assistance to expand the Anti-Terrorist Force training facility, doubling the current capacity by offering simultaneous instruction to an additional 800 trainees;

Second, we will provide \$2 million to repair or replace 10 flood-damaged police stations with upgraded model police stations. These model police stations include dedicated facilities that will allow Balochistan Police to better serve women and girls with a gender desk, establish digital record management, and support alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. Third, we will provide \$2 million to construct 10 new police stations that incorporate that same model to improve service to women, girls, and all Pakistanis. Finally, we are providing \$250,000 in equipment to protect law enforcement officers in the course of conducting their work. These new initiatives build on more than 40 years of partnership between the U.S. Mission and Pakistan on civilian security and rule of law. Our partnership improves justice institutions and provides law enforcement agencies with the tools they

need to protect Pakistan's citizens. We have helped Pakistan secure its border, fight narcotics trafficking, and combat terrorism. We have provided lifesaving protective equipment, improved law enforcement training curriculum, built and upgraded police stations, and helped ensure gender-inclusive policing. Taken together, these actions make Pakistan safer, stronger, and more secure. Here in Quetta, in 2022 we assisted with the construction of the academic blocks, multipurpose hall, and women's barracks, which have dramatically increased training capacity. In a few minutes, IG Shaikh will announce the inauguration of Balochistan's first Women and Juvenile Facilitation Center just around the corner from here, built with funding from our Mission's International

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# ISSI launches Dr. Ishrat Husain's book

ISSI organized an event to launch a Book, titled "Development Pathways: India-Pakistan-Bangladesh (1947-2022)" authored by Dr. Ishrat Husain

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives and India Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized an event to launch a Book, titled "Development Pathways: India-Pakistan-Bangladesh (1947-2022)" authored by Dr. Ishrat Husain. The event was attended by eminent members of foreign and civil services, academia, civil society, media, and the diplomatic corps in Islamabad. Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance, Dr. Waqar Masood Khan, was chief guest on the occasion. DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, in his welcome remarks, introduced both the author and the Book. He highlighted Dr. Ishrat's six decades of distin-

development. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood also lauded the author's direct and accessible writing style, making complex economic issues and policy debates more understandable to readers across a broad spectrum. He noted that given the rich data sets of the three countries were contained in the Book, it could serve as a solid foundation for further studies on the economic trajectories of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. The most valuable aspect of the Book, according to him, was the chapter dealing with risk factors and "pain points" for the future. He also pointed out that the Book made it clear that sound economic management alone did not produce the desired effect and that investing in social and human development was an imperative, which would also

Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz, President of the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), shared his thoughts on Dr. Ishrat Husain's Book. He praised the author for his sound academic work and gave a detailed account of the major subjects covered in the Book. These included macroeconomics, balance of payments, remittances, human development, social protection, service deliveries, poverty reduction, digitalisation, labour market, and applications of emerging technologies. Ambassador Riyaz particularly focused on the Book's extensive conclusions. He recommended that Pakistan should concentrate on addressing the instability and unpredictability in the economic realm. He highlighted that all three countries had heavy regulations and administrations, problems with start-ups, and issues of taxation that continue to restrict small and medium enterprises. Lastly, Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz commended the author for the valuable effort to sum up the long period of 75 years. Dr. Idrees Khawaja appreciated the author's efforts in writing this timely Book. Dr. Khawaja also praised the author for including young co-authors. He gave a summary of the Book, explaining that it compared the economic performances of three countries with similar histories and backgrounds. He lauded the author for analyzing the factors behind the divergent economic growth trajectories of these countries. Dr. Khawaja also shared his own analysis of the Book and asked thought-provoking questions about the various themes taken up in the comparative analysis. He also recommended studying the different patterns of foreign assistance for Pakistan that appeared in the 1960s, 1980s and 2000s.



guished public service and contributions for economic and institutional reforms - including a consistent emphasis on political stability and policy continuity for sustainable long-term

enhance the dividends manifolds. In conclusion, he described the Book as a valuable contribution to the existing literature and a source of thought-provoking ideas on a range of subjects.

## Teachers shortage leads to closure of 3,500 schools

QUETTA: Caretaker Balochistan Education Minister Abdul Qadir Bakhsh Baloch has said that some 3,500 schools in the province had been closed due to shortage of teachers during the last two months. "The Provincial Education Department has been facing acute shortage of teachers. Due to political and departmental constraints, the department has not been able to recruit the teachers since 2019. Moreover, over 300 teachers are retiring every month," he said while talking to state-run media. The minister said, "Without enrolling children in schools, it is impossible to increase the literacy rate in the province." He said the caretaker government had decided to upgrade 150 primary schools to middle in the province, four each in every district. To a question, Qadir Bakhsh said due to the last year's flood, more than 5,500 schools in the province were destroyed, and only 50 of them had been repaired so far. "The international organizations have assured their all-out support to repair the damaged schools," he added. The minister said the government had decided to establish a model school which would help in the promotion of education in the province. As per official data, about 0.8 million children of school-going age are out of school in the province, and some 1,964 schools have no building.—DNA

## Science can serve as a gateway to diplomacy

ISLAMABAD: Science can serve as a gateway to diplomacy," said Dr Ousmane Kane, leading plant scientist from Senegal. He was speaking at an event on scientific diplomacy organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) on Monday. Dr Kane was of the view that the scientific cooperation can transcend boundaries leading to benefits of the mankind. He added that the scientific community could also assist the diplomats in negotiations with regard to issues related to their scientific specializations. He further

maintained that, conversely, diplomacy could also be leveraged to promote scientific cooperation among nations. Elaborating on his personal experiences of working with different organizations, he encouraged all Muslim countries to increase scientific collaboration and promote greater interaction between their scientists through scientific events and collaborations. He stated that embassies of all Muslim countries can play an active role in promoting such collaboration between the scientific communities across borders.

President IRS Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz stated that contemporary diplomacy was challenging as it has to deal with a wide variety of subjects including the common threats of climate change and the need for scientific collaboration in fields like energy, science and technology, human rights, tolerance, water scarcity, etc. It was essential for scientists and diplomats to support each other's endeavours for creating synergy against common threats and addressing the common needs of humanity.—DNA

## Ashrafi : Pakistan stands firm with Palestine amid Gaza crisis

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and the Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Islamic Countries, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Monday stated that Pakistan's stance on the Gaza issue had been unequivocal since October 7, affirming its unwavering support for Palestine in this just cause. Addressing a press conference here, he highlighted that certain entities aimed to disturb the country's peace through disinformation, with miscreants operating numerous fake social media accounts from India

to fuel religious disharmony and political instability. Furthermore, Ashrafi who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council emphasized that Pakistan was among the first nations to provide aid to Palestine, with contributions coming from the government, army, and people of Pakistan for the well-being of their Palestinian brethren. He conveyed that the matter of Palestine prominently featured in the Corps Commander Conference, and Pakistan maintained a clear and unequivocal stance on the burning issues of Palestine and Gaza during the OIC meeting. He highlighted that even after the meeting between the army chief and the

Palestinian ambassador, Pakistan's unambiguous position remained evident. Moreover, he mentioned that both Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman and Pakistan Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar directly engaged with the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. The first meeting between the Pakistani prime minister and the Palestinian president took place during the special summit in Riyadh. Emphasizing that the Palestine and Kashmir issues formed the foundation of their approach, he asserted that deviating from these concerns was not a viable option. He expressed gratitude to the



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Railways and Maritime Affairs Shahid Ashraf Tarar hosting a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong at the Ministry.—DNA

## CS inaugurates e-Procurement System

DNA

LAHORE: 'The e-Procurement System' developed by the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) in collaboration with the Federal and Provincial Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Boards, was inaugurated by Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman at Arfa Software Technology Park (ASTP) on Monday. The system has been introduced by the Punjab government in departments to streamline the public procurement process. The ceremony presided over by Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman was attended by key officials and stakeholders, including SMDR Nabeel Javid, Additional Chief Secretary Ahmed Raza Sarwar, Planning & Development Secretary Mazhar Sial, PPRA Punjab MD Waqar Azim, PITB Chairman Faisal Yousaf and DG e-Governance Sajid Latif. Addressing the ceremony, the chief secretary highlighted that the e-procurement system was a significant step toward good governance, ensuring transparency, efficiency, and time-saving in government procurements. He commended the Punjab IT Board team for the successful launch, expressing hope for the system's success in achieving its goals. PITB Chairman Faisal Yousaf stated that the system incorporated modern techniques to make government procurement secure and efficient. He outlined the computerization of various processes, including Procurement Planning, Online Advertisement, Online Bidding, e-Submission, e-Evaluation, and Contract Awarding.

## JI chief announces to travel to Gaza to help Palestinians

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Jamaat-i-Islami Amir Sirajul Haq has announced to go to Gaza Strip to help the terror-stricken Palestinian brothers. Addressing a news conference in Lahore on Monday, the JI chief said the US does not want his party to form next government in Pakistan after winning the elections. During his speech at the JI's Gaza March a day earlier in Lahore, Sirajul Haq strongly condemned the mainstream political leadership's silence regarding Israeli atrocities in Gaza, attributing it to a fear of the United States. The JI chief criticised politicians for prioritising self-interest and focusing on political victories in Balochistan or Sindh while neglecting the dire situation in Palestine, including the killing of innocent children and women in the occupied area. He expressed dismay

that these leaders never truly represented the nation's sentiments on crucial issues, always aiming to please Washington and secure power with its backing. Thousands, including women and children, participated in the march to show solidarity with the people of Palestine. Palestinian representative Dr Nawaf al-Takroui also attended the event, expressing gratitude to the public and JI for raising their voices for Palestine. JI vice-emir Liqat Baloch and secretary general Amirul Azeem also addressed the audience. Sirajul Haq urged the public to vote for JI in the upcoming elections, emphasising the need to eliminate the influence of 'US agents'. He stated that over four billion people would cast their votes in 76 countries with scheduled elections next year. "One could never expect rigging in any country," he said, lamenting the historical prevalence of rig-

ging in Pakistan. He called for free and transparent general elections in February. The JI chief pointed out that Pakistan's ambassador did not meet with the Palestinian leadership in Doha due to fear of the US, contrasting it with diplomats from other countries who expressed solidarity with the Palestine. He questioned the absence of the caretaker prime minister or any government representative in the Gaza march, stating that people knew the 'reasons'. While acknowledging global pro-Palestine rallies and public pressure in Western countries to revise policies supporting Israel, Sirajul Haq criticized Muslim world rulers for failing to take practical steps to support Gaza. He highlighted the OIC summit's ineffective declaration, emphasising that history would remember the cowardice of Islamic world rulers in the face of the ongoing crisis.

## Dr. Jamal inspects Holy Family and Benazir Bhutto hospitals

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare and Population Welfare Dr. Jamal Nasir visited Holy Family Hospital and Benazir Bhutto Hospital.

Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Hasan Waqar Cheema and CEO Health Dr. Ijaz Ahmed were also present with him. Speaking on this occasion, Provincial Minister Dr. Jamal Nasir said that 20 percent of the reconstruction and renovation work of Holy Family Hospital has been completed and the

deadline for the completion of this work is February 20, but due to Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi's personal supervision, the project will be completed before the deadline. He said that the work of upgradation of 100 government hospitals across Punjab is going on and all necessary available resources are being provided. He said that Holy Family is being converted into a modern hospital and for the first time in history a hospital is being closed for three months to complete reconstruction and renovation work. Provincial Minister Dr. Jamal Nasir said that 10 crores will be provided for

reconstruction and repair of Benazir Bhutto's physiotherapy and psychiatric ward and this work will also be completed by 'Mohsin Speed'. He said that work on revamping of OPD of BBH is going on at a cost of Rs.16 crore while Rs.11 crore have been provided to DHQ Rawalpindi to complete the repair work of the building. Dr. Jamal Nasir said that the process of handing over the custody of Mother and Child Hospital Rawalpindi to Punjab is in progress and the Punjab government is working seriously on it and the proposal to convert this hospital into a general hospital is also being considered.

## GEW shifts focus: Job creators over job seekers

RCCI President Saqib Rafiq has urged youth to focus themselves on job creators instead of job seekers. Addressing a session as part of Global Entrepreneurship Week 2023 at NUML

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) President Saqib Rafiq has urged youth to focus themselves on job creators instead of job seekers. Addressing a session as part of Global Entrepreneurship Week 2023 at National University of Modern Languages (NUML) Saqib Rafiq said that Entrepreneurship week serves as an opportunity to collaborate and engage with organizations and individuals to celebrate and spotlight entrepreneurs, expose people to the path of en-

trepreneurship, help them get started and facilitate

access to capital and the resources to grow. He said

that RCCI has been celebrating the global entre-

preneurship week every year, and strongly believes that GEW is a step to facilitate youth, develop a stronger private sector, assist the innovators and support the idea of entrepreneurship as a career opportunity. He emphasized on universities to update the curriculum and provide such opportunities so that students could polish their skills and knowledge about entrepreneurship. He also shared the success and inspiration stories of renowned entrepreneurs from Pakistan including women who excel themselves and helped in branding the true and positive image of the country across the globe.



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## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### NOVEMBER

Nov 01/Algeria National Day

Nov 04/Italy Armed Forces Day

Nov 07/Russian Federation Socialist Revolution

Nov 09/Cambodia National Day

Nov 11/Poland Independence Day

Nov 14/Jordan Birthday of King Hussein

Nov 15/Belgium Kings Day

Nov 15/Brazil Republic Day

Nov 15/Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus National Day

Nov 18/Oman National Day

Nov 18/Morocco Independence Day

Nov 21/Bangladesh Armed Forces Day

Nov 22/Lebanon Independence Day

Nov 25/Suriname National Day

Nov 28/Mauritania National Day

Nov 28/Albania Flags Day

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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



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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

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CDA.....9208301-04  
Met Office.....9250360-6  
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Cantonment Board 9270151-3

## Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# Islamabad's 35% residents segregate waste at source

The segregated waste included the selling of plastic bottles, paper, and other materials to a local scrapyards by the household or their domestic help. Other non-sellable materials are disposed of at the community collection point

ISLAMABAD: A recent study titled "Waste as Resource: Case Study of Lahore and Islamabad" has revealed that 35% of residents of Islamabad and only 10.3% of Lahore segregate waste at the source for economic reasons. The segregated waste included the selling of plastic bottles, paper, and other materials to a local scrapyards by the household or their domestic help. Other non-sellable materials are disposed of at the community collection point. The Institute of Urbanism (IoU) and Heinrich Böll Stiftung (hbs) jointly organized a consultative meeting on a research report titled "Waste as Resource: Case Study of Lahore and Islamabad". The meeting aimed to explore current practices, policies, and gaps in waste management, focusing on the potential of waste as a valuable resource, a news release said. The findings of the research report revealed that approximately 50 million metric tons of waste are produced annually in Pakistan, highlighting the urgency to adopt sustainable practices.

The survey was meant to find out about the behaviour of communities in Islamabad and Lahore towards waste management. Ms. Ayesha Majid, Senior Program Coordinator IoU, presented research findings and shed light on the gravity of waste-related illnesses. It was alarming to note that 24% of the respondents in Islamabad and 12.3% in Lahore reported burning waste around their locality. It was evident that residents wanted the municipality to initiate waste segregation by providing multiple bin systems in residential areas. Residents of Islamabad (69%) and Lahore (68%) showed their support for adopting waste segregation in households given the infrastructure provision by the municipality. On average 50% were also willing to pay extra for the improvement of waste management services where recycling and segregation were

a priority. The role of private and public sector and youth was discussed by a panel of experts including Mr. Farid Rais, Senior Anchorperson from Dunya News, Farah Rashid, expert environmental sustainability; Gulraiz Yaqoob, Managing Director of Five Star Pvt. Ltd.; Uniqsha Batool, Co-Founder of DIYAR; and Umar Chaudhary, Senior Manager of Communication at Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC). The private sector was of the view that trash can be recycled which they affirmed is an untapped opportunity, especially for young entrepreneurs. Uniqsha Batool, a young startup lead expressed, "We are recycling plastic and making prefabricated walls for building low-cost and affordable houses, contributing to sustainable housing solutions." Gulraiz Yaqoob spoke about the clear PET flakes that they make out of recycled plastic at the facility in Lahore. They discussed the challenges and opportunities in

recycling and highlighted the industry's growth opportunities and the need for municipalities to support businesses in the provision of the basic capital i.e. waste plastic. Farah Rashid shared the role of the development sector in uplifting new ideas and finding new avenues for recycling. She highlighted that Engro Foundation announces internship opportunities for youth annually where they can work on their ideas around sustainability and produce successful green business models. Umar Chaudhary underscored the adoption of critical policy measures during the meeting. These initiatives encompass a robust focus on encouraging source-level segregation through public awareness campaigns, the implementation of comprehensive youth engagement programs like the "50 Thousand Clean Campus Drive" to instil responsible waste practices, and the active promotion of public-private partnerships.

Additionally, a transparent policy framework is adopted for issuing No Objection Certificates (NOCs) to the private sector for waste management. Collectively, these policy measures aim to establish sustainable waste management practices, mitigate environmental impact, and nurture a sense of responsibility among both citizens and businesses. The IoU team that convened the meeting included Samima Durrani, Head of Finance and Operation, Tayyaba Pervaiz and Mohsin Ali, Program Assistants, and Muhammad Haris, Finance Officer. The consultative meeting helped bring together important and diverse actors that can contribute to making waste management efficient in Lahore and Islamabad including experts, entrepreneurs, and policymakers. The policy recommendations of the report will form basis of the future dialogues with the policy makers and other actors for making cities more green and clean.—APP

## Lunching of Airline to strengthen air bridge between Pak, China

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Launching of new Airline will not only strengthen the air bridge between Pakistan and China but also boost investment, trade, travel and tourism, said Pakistan's envoy to China, Ambassador Khalil Hashmi Pakistan's private Serene Airlines operated its inaugural flight on Sunday to Beijing on Sunday. The flight originated from Karachi while stopping in Islamabad and then left for Daxing airport in Beijing. The maiden flight was received amidst a warm welcome ceremony, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Caretaker Adviser to the Prime Minister on Aviation, Air Marshal (Retd) Farhat Hussain Khan HI(M), described the commencement of this flight operation as another milestone in advancing China Pakistan relations through connectivity, travel and tourism. It also signified Pakistan's commitment to providing seamless travel facilities to the people of the two nations and fostering strong people to people ties. On the occasion, Pakistan's envoy to China, Ambassador Khalil Hashmi said that launching of airline services by private sector will not only strengthen the air bridge between Pakistan and China but also boost investment, trade, travel and tourism. The new route is poised to facilitate increased business, tourism, and cultural exchange between the two nations, added the Ambassador. He noted that in addition to bolstering economic ties, increasing air connectivity aims to contribute to the growth of the tourism sector as well.

## IRSA releases 89,600 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 89,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 45,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1506.92 feet and was 106.92 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 24,100 cusecs and 42,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1185.20 feet, which was 135.20 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 5,400 cusecs and 32,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 49,800, 44,800, 41,900 and 14,400 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 7,500 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 2,200 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

## Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi remembered

ISLAMABAD: Renowned Urdu poet, journalist, literary critic, dramatist and short story writer Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi was remembered on the occasion of his birth anniversary on Monday. Born on November 20, 1916 in the village Anga of Khushab, his birth name was Ahmed Shah Awan. He got his early education from a high school in Campbellpur in 1931, (now Attock), around the time when he wrote his first poem. He studied at Government College Attock. Later, he studied at Sadiq Egerton College in Bahawalpur. He graduated from the University of the Punjab, Lahore in 1935. He wrote 50 books on poetry, fiction, criticism, journalism and art. He was a major figure in contemporary Urdu literature. His poetry was distinguished by its humanism, and his Urdu asana (short story) work is considered by some second only to Munshi Prem Chand in its depiction of rural culture.—APP

## Global solar leader upgrades solar power in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The global leader (LONGi) in solar technology has taken a crucial step toward a green and sustainable future in Pakistan, said Ali Majid, General Manager of Pakistan, LONGi Solar. We know harnessing solar power across the globe will improve local economies and the lives of billions of people." Li Zhenquo, founder and president of LONGi, noted, also as a featured speaker at the ongoing Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit in San Francisco on November 15, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. "Our team will remain steadfast in working towards a sustainable future for the country," Ali Majid pledged at the launching ceremony of the MEA&CA Office in Pakistan in Lahore. According to the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority's (NEPRA) 2021 yearly report, Pakistan's total installed power generation capacity is 39772 MW, of which 63 percent of energy comes from thermal (fossil fuels), 25 percent from hydro, 5.4 percent from renewable (wind, solar and biomass) and 6.5 percent from nuclear. The current proportion of renewable energy is far from enough. According to the revised Renewable Energy (RE) Policy, the government of Pakistan aims to derive 30 percent of energy from renewable sources by 2030 which would wean Pakistan's dependence on imported fuel products.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Wife of the Italian ambassador posing for a picture on the occasion of the Foreign Office Women Association bazaar.—DNA

## Pak exports textile products worth \$5.565 bln in 4 months

On the other hand, the imports narrowed by 18.54 per cent and were recorded at \$17.033 billion compared to \$20.910 billion last year

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan exported textile products worth \$5,565.079 million during the first four months of the current financial year (2023-24), the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The exports of the product however witnessed a decline of 6.33 percent during July-October (2023-24) when compared to the exports of \$5,940.992 million during July-October (2022-23). The textile commodities that witnessed positive growth in trade included raw cotton, the exports of which grew by 137.13 per-

cent, from \$9.845 million last year to \$23.346 million this year. Likewise, the exports of cotton yarn increased by 42.85 percent, from \$285.315 million last year to \$407.564 million this year, cotton carded or combed by 142.76 percent, from \$0.213 million to \$0.518 million, tents, canvas and Tarpulin by 1.09 percent, from \$37.355 million to \$37.763 million and towels, the exports of which grew by 6.67 percent, from \$316.860 million to \$337.987 million. The textile commodities that witnessed negative growth include cotton cloth, the exports of which declined by 13.94 percent, from \$750.115 million to

\$645.535 million, yarn other than cotton yarn by 6.50 percent, from \$245.777 million to \$13.773 million, and knitwear by 13.41 percent, from \$1,712.595 million to \$1,482.864 million. Likewise, the exports of bed wear declined by 5.18 percent from \$996.841 million to \$945.182 million, ready-made garments by 8.71 percent, from \$1,187.060 million to \$1,083.683 million. The exports of art, silk and synthetic textile also decreased by 19.85 percent, from \$146.275 million to \$117.241 million, madeup articles by 1.45 percent, from \$238.010 million to \$234.555 million whereas the exports of all

other textile materials also went down by 4.36 percent, from \$245.777 million to \$235.068 million. It is pertinent to mention here that the country's merchandise trade deficit contracted by 34.70 per cent during the first four months of the current fiscal year compared to the corresponding period of last year. The Trade deficit from July-October (2023-24) was recorded at \$7.416 billion as against the deficit of \$11.356 billion in July-October (2022-23), showing negative growth of 34.70 per cent. During the period under review, the exports increased by 0.66 per cent to \$9.617 billion compared to the exports of \$9.554 billion.

## WAPDA launches project for 300 MW floating solar power generation

TARBELA: The Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) Monday has embarked on a groundbreaking project aimed at producing 300 megawatts of cost-effective electricity through solar panels. A delegation from approximately 21 foreign companies keenly interested in securing contracts for the project conducted on-site inspections at the Ghazi Barotha Dam and Barotha Jail locations. The project, set to be completed within 27 months, secured a substantial financial boost from the World Bank (WB), with a funding allocation of \$326 million. WAPDA has taken significant measures in advancing the initiative, focusing on the utilization of floating solar panels, also referred to as floating solar panels. Detailed briefings on the project's specifics were presented by the General Manager and Project Director (PD) Tarbela Dam Zahoor Atiq, along with Waseem Raza, Chief Engineer of the Tarbela Expansion Project. Upon the project's successful completion, an impressive three megawatts of affordable electricity are expected to be generated. The World Bank's substantial contribution of \$326 million underscores the global significance of this endeavor. The Tarbela Dam will play a key role in the project, harnessing 150 megawatts each from the Ghazi Barotha Dam and the Ghazi Barotha Power House Dam through the innovative use of floating solar panels.—APP

# Climatic crisis in Pakistan 2022

LAILA RIZWAN

For decades to come, the most discussed topic is still climate. Pakistan is the country most impacted by the growing global threat of climate change. In the brief period of 2-3 months in 2022, Pakistan experienced severe drought conditions brought on by atypical floods. Natural disasters, rising temperatures, shifting monsoon patterns, and altered seasonal patterns are a few consequences of climate change. Global warming is also a result of Pakistan's changing climate, which produces high monsoon rains that will create flooding in 2022 and cause havoc in Pakistan. According to the Global Change Impact Studies Centre in Islamabad, the primary cause of floods is expected to be significant rainfall from July to September due to extremely

high temperatures. According to CNBC, there were over 1300 fatalities and about 1.2 billion destroyed homes in Pakistan as a result of the floods. In addition, hospitals, schools, bridges, and crops have all been destroyed nationwide. Shelters established by non-governmental and governmental organizations accommodated 634,000 individuals. Infectious ailments such as skin infections, diarrhoea, and eye disorders are also battled by people. The most important issue of our time is climate change. The most catastrophic floods in Pakistani history occur in August 2022 as a result of the monsoon season. The WHO estimates that this flood affected 33 million people. Islamic Relief Pakistan Support for thirty years, Pakistan has been striving to address this particular climate issue brought on by global warming. In this piece,

I want to focus on the topic of climate change and its detrimental effects. We have seen how this change has wreaked havoc throughout Pakistan's history, not just in 2022 but also in years past. As a result, it is imperative that the right frameworks be put in place to combat climate change in order to eliminate this kind of severe destruction from Pakistan in the near future. Even still, many Pakistani authorities are still focusing on it. Considerations about climate change can be debilitating. Its causes have been known for decades, and its destructive impacts on ecosystems and communities are evident everywhere we look. The good news is that we are making quantifiable, significant progress in the fight against climate change because we now know exactly what it will take to succeed. Every day, revolu-

tionary advancements in energy efficiency, electric vehicle technology, and sustainable energy are made. Our climate problem' causes and impacts, as well as its solutions, are now more apparent than ever. Lastly, it should go without saying that everyone of us has a personal responsibility to address the climate crisis—not only by advocating to our politicians and speaking out in our communities, but also by implementing climate-related changes in our day-to-day activities. We can make a difference by turning off fossil fuels in our homes and increasing our awareness of the impact that our purchasing choices, diet, transportation, usage of plastics and fossil fuels, and business decisions have on the climate. However, true change occurs when we work together, it is our duty to think through the effects of the

decisions we make and to ensure that they are truly lessening rather than just deflecting the effects of climate change. Remember that low-income and communities of colour are disproportionately affected by the effects of climate change, which cross over into and exacerbate a great deal of other environmental, economic, and social challenges. Because of this, it is our leaders' duty to give these communities' needs top priority when developing climate policies. We won't be tackling the core causes of the climate catastrophe if people living on the front lines don't participate in discussions about climate solutions or don't experience the advantages of things like better job prospects and cleaner air. —The writer is the student of M.phil (Biology)



## Briefs

ICT admin's  
crackdown on  
professional  
beggars  
intensifies

ISLAMABAD: In a concerted effort to curb the menace of professional begging, Islamabad's Civil Defence teams, under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon, have launched a series of operations across the city. These operations, conducted under the watchful eyes of Assistant Commissioner Secretariat Aneel Saeed and Assistant Director Civil Defence, have resulted in the apprehension of 19 beggars from various locations, ICT spokesman Dr Abdullah Tabasum talking to APP said on Monday. In a parallel move, the Assistant Commissioner City also took action, arresting 11 professional beggars within his jurisdiction. These apprehended individuals were subsequently transferred to the police station for further processing. While professional beggars were taken into custody, minor children encountered during the operations were compassionately directed to the Edhi Center, a renowned social welfare organization. This gesture reflects the authorities' commitment to ensuring the well-being of all individuals, regardless of age or circumstance, he added. He further said that the ongoing crackdown on professional beggars is a clear message from the Islamabad administration that such activities will not be tolerated. These operations, conducted on a daily basis under the supervision of Assistant Commissioners, aimed to restore order and create a more conducive environment for all citizens.—APP

Pakistan  
signs historic  
agreement  
with NESMA &  
Partners

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has signed a historic agreement with NESMA & Partners for manpower export from Pakistan to Saudi Arabia. In a significant development for the Pakistani workforce, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Jawad Sohrab Malik held a productive meeting with the President and CEO of NESMA & Partners, Samer Essam AbdulSamad, at the Embassy of Pakistan in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, said a press release here on Monday. The meeting culminated in the signing of a landmark agreement between the Pakistan Overseas Employment Corporation (POEC) and NESMA & Partners for the export of skilled Pakistani labor to Saudi Arabia, specifically for NESMA's ongoing and upcoming projects. The agreement marks a pivotal collaboration between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, paving the way for the export of a substantial Pakistani workforce to contribute to Saudi Arabia's ambitious infrastructure and development goals. NESMA & Partners, as the leading construction company in Saudi Arabia, holds responsibility for numerous mega-projects within the kingdom.—APP

Pak works with China to  
learn from its experience

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "Pakistan is strengthening its cooperation with China in the field of public welfare, aiming to learn from Chinese wisdom to uplift its own society, thereby promoting the well-being of the people and the earth." This was stated by Waseem Bari, founder of Growth Plus Welfare Organization (GPWO) in Dadu during a session at the first Asia Philanthropy Forum inaugurated in Hainan on 16 November, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. About 400 guest official representatives and observers from social organizations in 16 Asian countries and regions and 15 international organizations attended the forum. As the representative from Pakistan, Waseem Bari was amazed by the speed of development in China. "The forum is a testament to the global recognition of China's remark-



able achievements in social welfare, poverty alleviation and healthcare", he said. Participants discussed and exchanged views on building a more open, growing and influential charity ecology, expanding cooperation space with a focus on global issues such as "community of human destiny", climate change, poverty reduction, education, health, culture, sports and social services, and Asia's development needs, and promoting the development of charity in various countries with an international perspective

and local experience. This enabled Waseem to understand more ideas and examples that can be positively applied to philanthropy in Pakistan. "Inspired by China's success, Pakistan has been actively seeking to learn from and implement Chinese strategies in its own context", Waseem Bari noted that recognizing the value of this exchange, GPWO has partnered with the Beijing One Heart Sphere Charity Foundation and the China-Pakistan Youth Exchange Community.

Children's delegation discusses  
issues & rights with President

The children also shared their experiences and called for taking steps to provide them with a conducive environment to grow and flourish in life



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi meeting with delegation of children wearing traditional attires representing four provinces, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Faisal Sheikh

ISLAMABAD: In connection with World Children's Day a delegation of children, representing four provinces and Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, called on President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday and dis-

cussed issues and rights of the children. The delegation was nominated by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and led by the Fund's first-ever Youth Advocate in Pakistan, 16-year-old Taqwa Ahmad. The children, besides discussing their hopes and expectations for the future

highlighted various issues and challenges being faced by them. Talking to children, the president said that Pakistan was committed to taking steps for the rights and well-being of children. He said that measures were being taken to equip children with education, skills and training. He stated that children with dis-

abilities needed to be provided inclusive education in regular schools to make them part of mainstream of society, besides equipping them with skill sets to help them find employment in the market. The children asked various questions about climate change, girls' education, children with disabilities, and

other challenges being faced by them. The children also shared their experiences and called for taking steps to provide them with a conducive environment to grow and flourish in life. Later, the children also attended a hearing, held by the President, in a case related to the banking sector.

## Plant pathogens interaction

HABIBA AKRAM

Pathogen are most diverse and potent biotic agent, interacting with plants. A Plant pathogen refers to any of organisms such as fungi, bacteria, viruses, protists that cause plant pathogens. Plant pathogen interaction is a multifaceted process, mediated by the pathogen- and plant-derived molecules which mainly include protein, sugar and lipopolysaccharides. It is a complex process involving pathogens and Plant-derive dmo-

ecules. Many factors are involved in the evolution of plant pathogen which are mutations, Sexual recombination, lateral gene transfer, whole genome exchange, Chromosomal instability. Plant pathogens cause disease in plants and cause losses in food and other necessary items. These losses may be light or severe, and destroying all plants and causing hunger, starvation and famines. Such interaction can influence plant growth and development, change nutrient dynamics, and alter a plant's susceptibility to

disease and abiotic stress. Most phytopathogenic bacteria are rod shaped bacillus (thread-like, filament) bacteria. Three major steps occurring during interaction are recognition, signal transduction and response by host plant. A variety of chemical are available that have been designed to control plant disease by inhibiting the growth of or by killing disease-causing pathogens. Chemical used to control bacteria (bactericide), Fungi (Fungicides), and nematodes (nematicide) may be

applied to seeds, Foliage, Flower, Fruits and soil. Plant have an innate immunity system to defend themselves against protective spray and dusts applied to foliage, fruits of crop and ornamental include organic chemical to prevent pathogens. Upon infection, both plant as well as pathogens secret molecules including protein which determine the fate of their infection.

—The writer is the student of M.phil (Biology) PMAS Arid Agriculture University

Punjab utilizing  
modern techs  
to bring down  
intensity of smog'

The Punjab government has also imposed hefty fines against violators contributing to the pollution in industries and transportation systems

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Caretaker Environment Minister Bilal Afzal said on Monday that the department is considering testing twelve imported weather generators and advanced artificial rain technology across the province to tackle the emerging menace of smog intensity. Talking to a private news channel, the federal minister said that a weather generator that will arrive in Pakistan next month will be capable of dissolving smog in an area of 75 square kilometres. He said that reducing the emission of harmful gases and using modern technology to control air pollution is the need of the hour. To address this, the Punjab government is also looking into providing modern machinery to farmers to reduce reliance on open-air crop burning, adding, consultation on artificial rainfall to eliminate smog is also part of this campaign and it was decided that preparations should be made regarding artificial rain on November 28 or 29, when there is possibility of a cloudy weather. He further explained that we need long-term continuous policies, and awareness drives in Punjab to control Air quality as the smog crisis in Lahore is a complex issue, stemming from various sources of pollution, including vehicle emissions, industrial activities, construction projects, and the burning of crop stubble. These factors collectively contribute to the city's deteriorating air quality, posing serious health risks to its residents, he added. Despite the challenging circumstances in the whole province, the present government remains focused on its commitment to mitigate the smog problem by introducing long-term strategies. A crackdown against smoke-emitting vehicles is already underway as part of a wider effort to improve air quality and ensure the well-being of the people of Lahore, he mentioned. The Punjab government has also imposed hefty fines against violators contributing to the pollution in industries and transportation systems.—DNA

NCRC urges more public  
awareness on 'child rights'

ISLAMABAD: Member of the National Commission on the Rights of Children, Khalid Naeem on World Child Rights Day has stressed the need to adopt an integrated approach and more public awareness drives at the grassroots level to ensure joint efforts of all institutions for the protecting child rights. Talking to the PTV news channel, he said ensuring Children's Rights Day was particularly important day as Pakistan had a unique window of opportunity where the youth could truly determine the country's future, adding,

that all social organizations should jointly work towards developing synergies to create a Pakistan where all children grow up in an environment free from violence and abuse. He emphasised the society for ensuring education, healthcare, equal rights, safety and security for every child. The World Child Day focused attention on the need to address the challenges children face and to promote child empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights, he mentioned. Replying to a question, he said the NCRC

was committed to leveraging collective expertise to address the multifaceted challenges posed by child labour and child trafficking, adding, that NCRC firmly believed that safeguarding children's rights was a collective responsibility to create a safer and more just society for children. World Children's Day offers each of us an inspirational entry point to advocate, promote and celebrate children's rights, translating into dialogues and actions that will build a better world for children. He further explained that World Children's Day was first es-

tablished in 1954 as Universal Children's Day and is celebrated on 20th November each year to promote international togetherness, and awareness among children worldwide, and to improve children's welfare. Governments non-governmental organizations, and communities had been holding several ceremonies, highlighting the unique needs of children and working towards protecting their rights, he added. He also urged parliamentarians to play an active role in the welfare and well-being of children.—APP

Iconic  
poet 'Faiz  
Ahmad Faiz'  
remembered

ISLAMABAD: Iconic poet and writer Faiz Ahmad Faiz was remembered on his 39th death anniversary today (Monday) where fans from all walks of life through media platforms paid him rich tributes for his unforgettable services. Faiz Ahmad Faiz was born on February 13, 1911, at Kala Qader in the Narowal district of Punjab. He was a notable member of the Progressive Writers' Movement and an avowed Marxist. He received the Lenin Peace Prize from the Soviet Union in 1962, a private news channel reported. Faiz's literary work was posthumously publicly honoured when the Pakistani Government conferred upon him the nation's highest civil award of Nishan-e-Imtiaz, in 1990. The timeless quality of Faiz Ahmad Faiz's poetry and its multi-layered resonances across cultures have been a source of inspiration to many, including the distinguished academic Anjum Altaf, who transmuted and adapted Faiz's poems into a 2018 collection, Transgressions: Poems Inspired by Faiz Ahmad Faiz. His major literary works include, 'Naqsh-e-Faryadi', 'Dast-e-Saba', 'Zindan-Nama', 'Dast-e-Tah-e-Sung', 'Mere Dil Mere Musafir', 'Sare-Wadi-e-Sina' which have been combined as one book 'Nuskha Haa-e-Wafa'.—APP

Pakistan's  
earns  
\$654.930  
million from  
IT services'  
export

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan earned US \$654.930 million by providing different Information Technology (IT) services in various countries during the first three months of the current fiscal year 2023-24. This shows a growth of 3.31 per cent as compared with the US \$633.938 million earned through the provision of services during the corresponding months of the last fiscal year 2022-23, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. During the months under review, the export of computer services grew by 3.33 per cent as it surged from US \$516.318 million last year to US \$533.510 million during July-September 2023. Among the computer services, the exports of software consultancy services witnessed an increase of 57.31 per cent, from US \$0.923 million to US \$1.452 million this year while the export of hardware consultancy services dipped by 2.28 per cent, from US \$186.6015 million to US \$182.367 million. The export of repair and maintenance services increased by 31.65 per cent from US \$0.218 million to US \$0.287 million whereas the export and imports of computer software services also surged by 7.25 per cent, from \$142.793 million to \$153.001 million. Meanwhile, the export of information services during the months under review dipped by 31.07 per cent from US \$1.030 million to US \$0.710 million.—APP

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## Sudan war ravages unnoticed, leaves destruction and death

Sudan's descent from the promise of freedom to the brink of genocide has come at dizzying speed. The revolution that led to the military ousting of the dictator Omar al-Bashir in April 2019 was followed by a coup that removed civilian leaders – and then, this spring, by the outbreak of war between the Sudanese army and paramilitary forces. At a relentless pace, the clash between the army under Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) under Lt Gen Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, known as Hemedti, has spread across the country. More than 10,000 people are estimated to have been killed so far, and 4.8 million displaced internally, with another 1.2 million fleeing to neighbouring countries. The UN humanitarian coordinator for the country, Clementine Nkweta-Salami, said earlier this month that the violence against civilians is “verging on pure evil”. Greed for resources and power, and longstanding rivalries and hatreds, all fuel the fire. More than 1,000 members of the Masalit community are believed to have been killed in Ardamta, West Darfur, in early November by the RSF and allied Arab militias. It led the EU to warn that the world cannot allow a repeat of the genocide of the early 2000s, through which the Janjaweed militia rose, later formalising into the RSF. New reports of the enslavement of women and men are emerging. What looked for some months like a stalemate in the wider war has morphed with dramatic gains by the RSF over the last few weeks in Darfur and elsewhere in the west, and advances into former army strongholds. US, European and African officials believe arms shipments from the United Arab Emirates as well as via the Wagner Group have been key, though the UAE says it does not equip either side. Egypt's support for the Sudanese army, though less sustained, has also deepened the conflict. Western governments should pressure Abu Dhabi and Cairo to pull back. One prospect is that Sudan could effectively become divided into two zones, as Libya has been. Another is perhaps even more disturbing – that rather than splitting, it may splinter, leaving those on the ground in ever more danger. The RSF has no experience in governing, and apparently little interest. Some think there are cracks in the coalition under Gen Burhan. Yet all of this is happening with minimal interest or attention from the outside world, which is consumed by the wars in Gaza and Ukraine and broader geopolitical rivalries. The difficulties of reporting from Sudan have further enabled this neglect. Even the basic task of feeding refugees is not adequately addressed: the UN has warned that food for the half a million who have fled to Chad will run out next month without extra funding. Little wonder that they feel abandoned. Officials as well as analysts warn of the lack of international engagement and urgency when it comes to finding an exit from this conflict, even if greater leverage were available. Though both sides apparently wanted to resume narrowly focused talks in Jeddah, hopes for a breakthrough are low. The RSF has no reason to make concessions as it advances. Gen Burhan denies the need to make them. Amid all of this, the innocent are terrorised, and the aspiration to civilian rule appears a receding dream. But the generals have shown they are neither fit to govern Sudan, nor capable of doing so.



## Fate of IPEF stuck in limbo without 4th pillar

It would have been a tremendous achievement for the Joe Biden administration had the negotiations been finalized on the trade “pillar” for its Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity in San Francisco. The administration desperately wanted such a success, not only as a symbol of the United States’ economic reengagement with the Asia-Pacific, but also to present countries in the region with an “alternative” to trading with China. Yet they failed. Many believe, the IPEF may repeat the dismal ending of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the other US-initiated economic grouping aimed in part at countering China. The Biden administration has proposed four “pillars” for the IPEF: supply chains, climate, tax and anti-corruption, and trade. A deal on the first of those pillars was signed in May. US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo announced in San Francisco the US government had reached agreements in principle on the second and third pillars. When it comes to the most crucial pillar, pillar four, however, the US and other IPEF members will have to “regroup”, “recalibrate”, and have “a little different path” for their negotiations next year, according to US Deputy Trade Representative Sarah Bianchi. But everyone, Bianchi included, seems to be pessimistic about the IPEF surviving the election year. Proposed by the US president during his May 2022 visit to Japan, the IPEF was an ambitious response to China’s trade position in the Asia-Pacific. But it always seemed to be too overambitious to succeed. Negotiating such an expansive framework in a year and a half with a dozen other countries is a challenging, if not impossible, task. India was the first to sit out of the trade talks under pressure from domestic businesses. Some other members have found the US demands for labor and environmental standards difficult to accept. Not to mention their more pressing needs of lower US tariffs and better access to the US market are simply not on the table for discussion. But the biggest obstacle is the domestic politics in the US. Two US senators from the president’s own party have urged the White House to drop the IPEF altogether. Senate Banking Chair Sherrrod Brown called the trade portion of the IPEF “unacceptable”. The fear is Republicans will paint the IPEF as a job-outsourcing trade deal, which will frustrate the Democrats in 2024. After all, US labor unions opposed the TPP in 2015 for this reason, and many voters dislike the idea. Donald Trump, the former president who personally killed the TPP and is now a front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination, has vowed to do the same to the IPEF should he win in 2024. “The Biden plan for ‘TPP II’ will be dead on day one”, he promised.

## Gaza crisis unveils broader regional challenges

Abdulrahman Al-Rashed

The battle’s compass shifted a year later, with the extremist narrative successfully luring thousands of young Arabs to join the ranks of Al-Qaeda and later Daesh; thereby reshaping the geopolitical landscape, resulting in the US forces’ withdrawal and the rise of Iran’s influence in the region. Dissatisfied with their impact in Iraq, extremist groups pressed forward between 2003 and 2010, expanding their influence to more than half of the Arab nations. In this complex scenario, Gaza emerges as the catalyst for a much larger and more explosive

Amid the tumultuous Gaza crisis, the entire region teeters on the edge of a volcanic eruption. The dynamics extend far beyond the immediate struggle for survival waged by Hamas and the retaliation efforts of Israel that aim to erase its humiliation and reclaim its status. In this complex scenario, Gaza emerges as the charger for a much larger and more explosive situation. Here, the pivotal question arises: Should nations ride the wave and strategically align themselves with the prevailing popular sentiments or rather adopt a stance of detachment when addressing the Gaza crisis? Before exploring potential solutions, it is imperative to delve into the origins of extremism and its intricate connection to the theater of warfare. Wars, it seems, often produce fertile grounds for the cultivation of extremist ideologies.

Reflecting on the aftermath of the US war on Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan in 2001, extremism took root within the fabric of mosques, homes and schools across the region. This pattern was repeated on a grand scale after the US invaded Iraq in 2003. Then, Saddam Hussein’s forces crumbled within three weeks, and Baghdad was occupied easily.

The battle’s compass shifted a year later, with the extremist narrative successfully luring thousands of young Arabs to join the ranks of Al-Qaeda and later Daesh; thereby reshaping the geopolitical landscape, resulting in the US forces’ withdrawal and the rise of Iran’s influence in the region. Dissatisfied with their impact in Iraq, extremist groups pressed forward between 2003 and 2010, expanding their influence to more than half of the Arab nations. In this complex scenario, Gaza emerges as the catalyst for a much larger and more explosive situation. As their efforts to instigate change faltered, the so-called Arab Spring erupted in 2011, serving as a continuation of the preceding events. It show-

ed a myriad of protest movements and local leaders in countries with a history of extremist activity, including Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen and Syria – previously a breeding ground for groups linked to Iraq. The current crisis in Gaza is not merely a standalone event. It is, indeed, part of an ongoing war, with the Strip assuming the role of the charging agent, akin to the roles played by Afghanistan, Iraq and the Arab Spring in the past. It has become evident that only a handful of nations possess the adeptness to control and fortify their internal landscapes in the face of emerging risks. The battles raging in northern Gaza and the ensuing tragedies threaten to obscure the larger picture evolving within Arab societies. The recurrent theme across past wars, and the current conflict, is the exploitation of these crises by opposition forces to encircle governments and regional powers. These entities that persist in their repeated attempts are now making a comeback for the first time since setbacks in Iraq, Syria, Libya and their defeat in Egypt. Each nation, however, charts a unique course in addressing the crisis. Saudi Arabia has unambiguously opposed the Israeli offensive on Gaza. Spearheading diplomatic initiatives, it played host to Arab and Islamic summits, along with African leaders. Moreover, it has facilitated substantial donations, exceeding \$500 million (\$133 million) – an unparalleled figure in the region. Notably, traditional breeding grounds for extremism, such as schools, mosques, public gatherings and local media, no longer serve as the hotbeds they once were. Calls for extremism and youth recruitment have notably diminished. Some governments have chosen the opposite path; engaging in a bidding war with purveyors of provocative rhetoric in a bid to channel public anger and gain popularity. These governments risk repeating past mistakes, when extremist ideologies surpassed governmental countermeasures, when they demanded severing ties with Western countries,

and challenged them to combat and advocating violence. Israel’s approach inadvertently fuels the narrative of extremist groups, amplifying their influence among the public. Historical precedents indicate that such actions often backfire, regardless of Gaza’s fate. Solidarity with the people of Gaza and “Hamas” does not warrant elevating extremist discourse, unleashing propaganda campaigns or opening religious, educational and media platforms for it. It is evident that the groups orchestrating extremist propaganda have honed their organizational skills and have become more adept. In today’s landscape, their outreach is notably swifter, even amid the tumult of the 2011 revolutions. Amid the ongoing Gaza war, extremists are strategically promoting symbols and ideologies, leveraging figures such as Abu Obaida, Osama bin Laden, Hassan Nasrallah and many other figures that emerged after the events of Oct. 7. For them, Gaza is not a central cause, but rather it mirrors the situation in Fallujah, Iraq. The trajectory of Gaza’s fate is likely to follow a comparable path, marked by devastation, fading from the limelight and leaving its populace to navigate an uncertain destiny. Israel’s actions in Gaza, in the meantime, manifest as a vengeful and brutal assault, primarily targeting innocent civilians. This approach inadvertently fuels the narrative of extremist groups, amplifying their influence among the public. As Israel remains indifferent to the proliferation of extremism and extremists, it often capitalizes on extremism by portraying its Palestinian adversaries as such. Thus, societies that tolerate extremist discourse by opening up platforms in schools, mosques and the media, face heightened risks. This time, their adversaries are individuals born in the last two decades, having matured within expansive, borderless networks, armed with more effective tools and a higher level of expertise.

Sourced by Arab News.

## Israeli hawks set the stage for Gaza ethnic cleansing

Baria Alamuddin

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich declared that Israel “would no longer be able to accept” a Palestinian entity in Gaza, calling for the “emigration” of Gaza’s entire population. Agriculture Minister Avi Dichter championed the military campaign as “Gaza Nakba 2023,” while Heritage Minister Amichai Eliyahu was suspended for saying that dropping a nuclear bomb on Gaza was “a possibility” – an embarrassing own goal given that Israel doesn’t even admit it possesses nuclear weapons. While Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dismissed Eliyahu’s nuclear bomb comments as “disconnected from reality,” he hasn’t refrained from genocidal

Israeli pop singer Eyal Golan told a right-wing TV channel: “Erase Gaza. Don’t leave a single person there.” A host on the same channel declared: “It’s time for Nakba Two.” Such repulsive genocidal rhetoric could be dismissed as heat-of-the-moment hyperbole. But it chimes with exterminatory language emerging from the highest levels of Israel’s political echelons, demanding the eradication of Palestinians from Gaza. Extreme-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir proposed that anyone who sympathized with Hamas should be “eliminated.” Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich declared that Israel “would no longer be able to accept” a Palestinian entity in Gaza, calling for the “emigration” of Gaza’s entire population. Agriculture Minister Avi Dichter championed the military campaign as “Gaza Nakba 2023,” while Heritage Minister Amichai Eliyahu was suspended for saying that dropping a nuclear bomb on Gaza was “a possibility” – an embarrassing own goal given that Israel doesn’t even admit it possesses nuclear weapons. While Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dismissed Eliyahu’s nuclear bomb comments as “disconnected from reality,” he hasn’t refrained from genocidal advocacy himself. Referring to Hamas, Netanyahu said that Israel was “committed to completely eliminating this evil from the world,” before cryptically adding: “You must remember what Amalek has done to you.” This is a chilling biblical quote from the Prophet Samuel instructing King Saul to “attack the Amalekites and totally destroy all that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.” Among official proposals for how such an ethnic cleansing project could be implemented, a leaked Intelligence Ministry document advocated forced transfer of Palestinians to Sinai. A bill has been submitted to the Knesset mandating the return of Israelis to Gaza after the war. Even if Israel ultimately backed off from such a brazen move, it may refuse to allow a million Palestinians to return to northern Gaza – although the army has said it will expand its operations into southern Gaza too. Israeli Holocaust historian Omer Bartov denounced this genocidal rhetoric as having “clear intention of ethnic cleansing,” while a UN human rights panel warned

that Israel’s actions raised “the risk of genocide in Gaza.” Arab states that made peace with Israel are also warning that the Gaza campaign has gone too far. Bahrain Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, speaking at the Manama Dialogue last weekend, emphasized the necessity of a “just and lasting peace” entailing both the establishment of a Palestinian state and security for Israel. “There must be no forced displacement of Palestinians in Gaza, now or ever. There must be no reoccupation of Gaza. There must be no reduction in Gaza’s territory. And on the other side, there must be no terrorism directed from Gaza against the Israeli public. Those are the red lines,” he said. Truth is inevitably the first casualty of war, but clumsy Israeli efforts to perpetuate untruths about the conflict serve only to trap Israel in permanent conflict. Hamas and Hezbollah have also been guilty of exterminatory rhetoric, amid calls for a new era of “armed resistance.” Senior Hamas leader Ghazi Hamad vowed that the group would wipe out Israel and threatened to repeat the Oct. 7 atrocities. Such far-fetched macho bombast, at a time when Gaza citizens are being slaughtered, is routinely exploited to peddle the lie that “Palestinians are not interested in peace.” Perpetrating genocide requires dehumanization of the victims. Hence comments by Defense Minister Yoav Gallant that “we are fighting human animals,” echoed by former Prime Minister Naftali Bennett’s “we’re fighting Nazis.” The military war has run parallel with a comparably ferocious information war. Fake online content production has gone into overdrive on all sides, including nefarious parties such as Russia, China and Iran. Amid this sea of disinformation, it’s shocking how amateurish Israel-produced footage had been. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs posted a video purportedly showing a Palestinian nurse condemning Hamas for taking over Al-Shifa hospital. However, observers quickly noted her strange Arabic accent, inauthentic visuals and sound effects, and the fact that the woman in question had never worked at the hospital. The ministry quickly removed the video in the face of mounting ridicule. Another video, supposedly depicting an Israeli girl tortured then burnt to death by Hamas militants, originated in Guatemala. Israel already appears

to be manufacturing clumsy fake videos to cover its failure to discover Hamas “command centers” among the labyrinthine corridors of Al-Shifa hospital. A BBC analysis found that the footage of a military spokesman discovering a bag containing a gun behind an MRI scanning machine had been recorded hours before the arrival of the journalists to whom he was supposedly showing it in real time. When the video was shown later, the number of guns in the bag had magically doubled. Israel knows that failure to unearth Hamas infrastructure at Al-Shifa will fuel calls for war crimes charges for illegal invasion of hospitals containing thousands of patients who had been grievously injured by Israel’s own airstrikes on densely populated civilian areas. If Israel is calculatedly trying to make itself look as bad as possible, then this war has been an immense success. Israeli disinformation has spawned an entirely new genre: Pallywood – horror movies generally feature blood-drenched screaming Palestinians being rushed to hospital in ambulances, alongside maimed babies with missing limbs. Each video inevitably ends with a camera cutaway revealing that the “victims” are actors and the babies are made-up dolls. Who knows what such desperate nonsense seeks to achieve, when reliable statistics put the death toll at more than 13,000, at least 5,000 of whom are children – with thousands more buried under the rubble? The UN high commissioner for human rights estimated last week that 1 in every 57 Gaza residents had been killed or injured. We traditionally expect Israeli propaganda and fake news to be slick, eloquent and convincing. Instead, Israel’s botched phony videos reek of panic and desperation, because they know they are calamitously losing the information battle as horrified global audiences witness the Gaza massacre playing out in real time. Instead of a gratuitous land grab of the minuscule, impoverished, rubble-strewn Gaza Strip – which can only create lasting global enmity – Israel should seek peace and security within its actual borders, alongside a sovereign Palestinian state. Truth is inevitably the first casualty of war, but clumsy Israeli efforts to perpetuate untruths about the conflict serve only to trap Israel in permanent conflict – ultimately jeopardizing the tenets of its own nation statehood. –Sourced by Arab News.



## Briefs

## We are witnessing 'children...'

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future prosperity. The premier said that the government remained devoted to the well-being and safety of the children, stressing that the government, non-governmental organisations and society as a whole to contribute towards the noble cause of safeguarding the children's rights and making their future safe and prosperous. Universal Children's Day is being celebrated under the theme "For every child, every right" to reaffirm the commitment to safeguard the rights and wellbeing of children. The prime minister on the occasion launched the ZARRA Alert App which is a mobile application that can be used to report missing and abducted children.

## Number of civilian casualties...

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Some people recently displaced from the north reported corpses of martyrs in the streets. As of November 15, more than 4,000 citizens including 2,000 children are still missing. The Ministry revealed as well that around 205 health personnel and 36 civil defense personnel were martyred, along with more than 215 wounded health workers. More than 60 ambulances were attacked, 55 of which were damaged and knocked out of service. It also indicated that 26 out of 35 hospitals in Gaza, and 52 out of 72 primary health care clinics, which means more than two-thirds of the clinics, stopped working due to damage caused by bombing or because of the lack of fuel. The remaining nine hospitals are though operating partially.

## US unveils new package for anti...

FROM PAGE 01  
Narcotics and Law Enforcement section in partnership with the UN Office of Drug Control. The facility will soon be operational and provide a better space for police to better protect and serve women and girls. We hope that all these projects will significantly increase police capacity to protect the civilians of Balochistan. The tragic attacks that have taken place over the past few months in Balochistan remind us that much work remains. This year alone, more than 50 officers have made the ultimate sacrifice - laying down their lives in the line of duty as they worked to provide safety and security for the Pakistani people. On behalf of the government and people of the United States, I want to extend my deepest sympathies and condolences to their families, loved ones, colleagues, and friends, many of whom are with us today. Let us pause to honor their service and their sacrifice.

## Justice Naqvi challenges SJC's...

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Justices Sayeed Mazahir Ali Akbar Naqvi and Sardar Tariq Masood. "These are violative of and inconsistent with the right to access to justice guaranteed under Articles 4, 9 and 10A of the Constitution," it read, adding that Justice Naqvi reserves the right to "urge further grounds and submit additional material in support thereof at the time of hearing". The Supreme Court judge, in this petition, mentioned that the complaints against him are "mala fide and non-est". "The proceedings of the SJC and the SCN are without jurisdiction, coram non iudice and void ab initio. These are without lawful authority and of no legal effect," the plea read. It added that these complaints give rise to the following question of public importance with reference to the enforcement of fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution. In his plea, Justice Naqvi asked the following questions.

## Wahab announces Pakistan test squad for Australia series

Shan Masood to lead squad; Haris Rauf opts out "at last minute"; Saim Ayub earns maiden call

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Chief selector Wahab Riaz Monday announced an 18-member Pakistan Test squad for the tour to Australia comprising three matches scheduled from December 14, 2023, to January 7, 2024. This will be Wahab's first assignment since he took charge of the national men's selection committee last week, while the same applies to Shan Masood - who was picked as captain after Babar Azam resigned. Masood has been named Pakistan's captain for the ICC World Test Championship 2023-25 cycle after taking over the reins from Babar following a humiliating World Cup campaign. Haris Rauf "pulls out": Riaz, in his maiden press conference as chief selector, said pacer Haris Rauf had assured the cricket board that he would play Test cricket for the national side, but yesterday, he informed the management that he does not want to be part of this series. "It is important to inform you about this because people should have clarity about what's going on," Riaz told journalists, highlighting that Rauf had concerns about whether he would have fitness issues if he partook in the tour. "We have tried facilitating him in every way. Even if he failed in this tour, I was ready to accept it. Our fitness consultant told us that he [Rauf] would not have any issues moving forward." "We could have managed the issues [...] but he pulled out at the last moment. I believe this will be a set back to Pakistan," the chief selector explained. **Maiden calls:** Left-handed opening batter Saim Ayub has earned his maiden call-up to the Test team after an impressive run in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2023-24. The 22-year-old scored 553 runs in four matches for Karachi Whites and had three centuries to his name, including a match-winning double-century against Faisalabad in the final of the tournament. He continued his form in the Pakistan Cup (one-day tournament), where he was named the best batter of the tournament, ending as the competition's highest run-getter. Right-



arm fast bowler Khurram Shahzad has also been awarded his maiden Test call-up, on the back of a successful domestic season thus far. The 23-year-old was the highest wicket-taker of Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2023-24 with 36 wickets in eight matches at an average of 20.31 and picked up 13 wickets at 16.62 in the recently concluded Pakistan Cup. Returns: Pace bowling all-rounder Faheem Ashraf, who last appeared in Tests for Pakistan during England's tour of Pakistan in late 2022 has returned to the squad. Left-arm pacer Mir Hamza, who registered 32 wickets at 20.88 in Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2023-24, and right-arm pacer Mohammad Wasim Jr are making a return to the squad as well. The two fast bowlers were part of

Pakistan's squad during New Zealand's tour of Pakistan that took place from December 2022 to January 2023.

**Finding success in Australia:** Chief selector Wahab Riaz, reflecting on the squad selected for the Australia tour, said: "The squad has been assembled keeping in mind the challenging Australian conditions. We have kept the pitches in mind and added more pace bowling resources to the team to ensure that the management can be flexible with the team combinations in all three Test matches."

"Saim Ayub has been added to the squad after the extraordinary domestic season he has had this year. He has impressed with the bat during the Quaid-e-Azam trophy and Pakistan Cup, pushing the case for his selection. His inclusion will strengthen our solid batting line-up. "Pakistan has started off the ICC World Test Championship 2023-25 really well, after their success in Sri Lanka earlier this year. We hope that the team can carry this momentum ahead in Australia as well. We have tried to ensure that the team has all relevant resources to find success in Australia."

**Preparations:** The squad will assemble in Rawalpindi on November 22 for a training camp ahead of the tour. The camp is scheduled to run from November 23 to 28 at Pindi Cricket Stadium. The team will fly out on November 30 from Lahore. Some additional players have also been invited to feature in the training camp. The players called for the camp are Arshad Iqbal, Kashif Ali, Mohammad Nawaz, Shadab Khan, Shah Nawaz Dahani, Usama Mir, and Usman Qadir.

**Squad:** Shan Masood (captain), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Faheem Ashraf, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Khurram Shahzad, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Wasim Jr, Noman Ali, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Saud Shaheel, Shaheen Shah Afridi

**Pakistan tour of Australia**  
First Test: December 14-18, Perth Stadium  
Second Test: December 26-30, MCG  
Third Test: January 3-7, SCG.

## Record-breaker Djokovic claims seventh ATP Finals crown

TURIN: Novak Djokovic claimed yet another record on Sunday with his seventh ATP Finals title, sweeping aside local hero Jannik Sinner 6-3, 6-3 in Turin and leaving tennis fans wondering when he will relinquish his tennis dominance. Djokovic came into the Finals at the end of an age-defying year which has brought three Grand Slams, taking his total to an all-time best of 24, and a 40th Masters 1000 title. He will clock a 400th week at world number one after crowning an incredible season - in which he also reached the Wimbledon final - by moving clear of retired great Roger Federer in victories at the season-ending tournament. The 36-year-old took his record-breaking crown by beating in straight sets the game's best two young players in Sinner and vanquished semi-finalist Carlos Alcaraz, showing that he still has plenty to give with the Paris Olympics around the corner and a gold medal the only major title missing



from his list of honours. "Very special, one of the best seasons I've had in my life, no doubt. To crown it with a win against a home town hero in Jannik, who has played amazing tennis all week, is phenomenal," said Djokovic. "I'm very proud of the performances of the last two days against Alcaraz and Sinner, who are probably the two best players in the world, next to me and Medvedev at the moment. The way they have been playing I had to step

it up." Sinner was bidding to become the first ever Italian to win the Finals and looked like the right man to do it after his impressive group stage win over Djokovic. But the 22-year-old, like Alcaraz in Saturday's semi, simply could not handle Djokovic, a man on a mission who hit his best form at exactly the right time in the tournament. It is a testament however to how far Sinner, a four-time winner this year, has come in the past year that he had

Djokovic's tournament fate in his hands at the end of the group stage, when defeat by Holger Rune would have sent the Serb home early. Sinner saved Djokovic's skin and in the end paid for it in the final, but the quality of his performances at the Pala Alpitour has been a cause for much optimism in Italy and suggests that he should be a Grand Slam contender next season. "We've seen today that there's still plenty to work on... but we can look at the positives from this season," said Sinner.

"When I started this season I was one type of player, now I'm another. Let's see how we go next season." Djokovic took control early in the match, breaking Sinner at the first opportunity in game four and then comfortably serving out the opening set. Such was his dominance that Djokovic silenced a partisan crowd which has been rambunctious for all of Sinner's matches, and he immediately broke serve again at the start of the second set. - Agencies

## India's ICC final loss sparks search for solutions

NEW DELHI : India were left grappling for answers after the team's devastating defeat to Australia in the final of the ICC World Cup 2023 at home extending their drought in global tournaments. A much-fancied India team led by skipper Rohit Sharma went into Sunday's final in front of nearly 100,000 fans in Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad undefeated and favourites to capture the ODI crown. But they were outplayed by Pat Cummins' Australia, going down to a six-wicket defeat and leaving players, fans and pundits with a familiar feeling of disappointment. "You can't deny the fact that it's been more than 10 years since they won a global title," Indian sports journalist R. Kaushik told AFP on Monday. "If you look at the semi-final losses then there is a pattern, maybe there is something wrong in the planning," he added. "You can interpret that as, 'Yes, they freeze on the big stage', or you can say that, 'On that day they were not good enough'. But it's hard to say they freeze mentally." India's record makes for painful reading for its hundreds of millions of fanatical supporters. Their last global title came a decade ago with the 2013 Champions Trophy. Sunday was also India's second loss to the Australians in a final in five months after they went down in the World Test Championship decider in June. India won the ODI World Cup in 1983 and 2011 at home but then faltered at the semi-final stage in 2015 and 2019. "India are the real chokers, they are the new chokers," fan Abir Saini, wearing a Virat Kohli Indian jersey, fumed as he trudged away from the world's biggest cricket stadium. "They play well but fall at the final hurdle." Fans had turned anticipating an Indian victory after the hosts stormed into the final with 10 straight victories in the lead-up matches. But it was Australia who triumphed to win a record-extending sixth World Cup crown, with Travis Head hitting a sparkling 137. India coach Rahul Dravid appeared as baffled as anyone at his team's inability to get over the line. - Agencies

## Ex-South Africa rugby star dies in car crash

CAPE TOWN: South Africa's former rugby star Hannes Strydom has died in a car accident at the age of 58. He was part of the Springbok team that famously won the 1995 Rugby World Cup after the end of apartheid in 1994. Strydom gained 21 Springbok caps in his career between 1993 and 1997. Former teammate and close friend Kobus Wiese told local media that details of the accident were still vague, but the vehicle Strydom was travelling in collided with a minibus taxi. The accident took place on Sunday near the coal mining town of eMalaheni in Mpumalanga province. South African Rugby Union President Mark Alexander hailed Strydom as "one of the heroes of our club game" in the Springboks' tribute to him. His former club, the Lions, also paid tribute to him, describing him as a legend who had formed a formidable lock combination with Wiese. "We share a tight bond as members of the 1995 group and to lose yet another one of our brothers is a big blow," said Lions Rugby Company chief executive officer Rudolf Strauli. Strydom made his debut for the Springboks in 1993, and helped defeat arch-rivals New Zealand in the 1995 World Cup - the biggest sporting event in South Africa after the end of apartheid. He ended his Springbok career in 1997 after playing in the British and Irish Lions series. Strydom also captained the Lions team that hoisted the local Currie Cup trophy in 1999. - Agencies

## No Pakistanis in ICC's WC 2023 team

The selection panel consisted of Ian Bishop, Kass Naidoo, Shane Watson (Commentators), Wasim Khan (ICC General Manager, Cricket) and Sunil Vaidya (Journalist, Ahmedabad Mirror)

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) revealed on Monday the World Cup 2023 Team of the Tournament with no player from the Pakistan team making it to the list. Pakistan were knocked out of the tournament in the group stage even after entering the World Cup as the top-ranked side. The Green Shirts lost five matches out of nine. The ICC's lineup features players from champions Australia - who bagged the trophy for the sixth time - runners-up India, semi-finalists South Africa and New Zealand, as well as Sri Lanka. Take a look at the ICC Men's World Cup 2023 team in batting order. Quinton de Kock (wk) (South Africa) - 594 runs at 59.40 Rohit Sharma (c) (India) - 597 runs at 54.27 Virat Kohli (India) - 765 runs at 95.62

Daryl Mitchell (New Zealand) - 552 runs at 69  
KL Rahul (India) - 452 runs at 75.33  
Glenn Maxwell (Australia) - 400 runs at 66.66 and six wickets at 55  
Ravindra Jadeja (India) - 120 runs at 40 and 16 wickets at 24.87  
Jasprit Bumrah (India) - 20 wickets at 18.65  
Dilshan Madushanka (Sri Lanka) - 21 wickets at 25  
Adam Zampa (Australia) - 23 wickets at 22.39  
Mohammed Shami (India) - 24 wickets at 10.70  
12th player: Gerald Coetzee (South Africa) - 20 wickets at 19.80

The selection panel consisted of Ian Bishop, Kass Naidoo, Shane Watson (Commentators), Wasim Khan (ICC General Manager, Cricket) and Sunil Vaidya (Journalist, Ahmedabad Mirror). A day earlier, Australia won a record-extending sixth 50-overs World Cup title after opener Travis Head smashed a brilliant ton to secure their six-wicket victory against India on Sunday. Asked to bat first, India rode battling half-centuries by KL Rahul and Virat Kohli to post a below-par 240 all out in exactly 50 overs at a packed Narendra Modi Stadium. Australia suffered a top-order wobble of their own but Head's 137 off 120 balls saw them romp home with seven overs to spare in the match that never reached great heights. - DNA

## Portugal clinches 10th win, Serbia qualify for Euro 2024

Bruno Fernandes and Ricardo Horta netted the goals for Roberto Martinez's Portugal, with Cristiano Ronaldo not on the scoresheet, to end with 10 wins

OUR CORRESPONDENTS

PARIS: Portugal finished their Euro 2024 qualifying campaign with a 100-percent record by beating Iceland 2-0, after Serbia booked their place at next year's finals in Germany and Romelu Lukaku scored four goals for Belgium. Bruno Fernandes and Ricardo Horta netted the goals for Roberto Martinez's Portugal, with Cristiano Ronaldo not on the scoresheet, to end with 10 wins from 10 matches in Group J. The 2016 winners will be among the favourites for the title in what could be the 38-year-old Ronaldo's last major tournament. Slovakia finished eight points behind Portugal in the second qualifying place after a 2-1 win over Bosnia and Herzegovina in Zenica. Luxembourg, who will head into the play-offs, were a further five points adrift after closing out an impressive group-stage showing with a 1-0 success in Liechtenstein. Earlier Sunday, Serbia qualified for the first time as an independent nation, after four previous failures to get to the main event, with a 2-2 draw against Bulgaria.

The Serbs finish second in Group G behind Hungary who snuffed out any hopes Montenegro had of progressing by beating them 3-1 in Budapest. "The players showed a mentality of not giving up, believing in themselves," said Serbia coach Dragan Stokovic. "It's a big day for Serbian football.

Serbia is finally at the European Championship. "I congratulate my boys, who fought until the end and believed. We are happy and satisfied." Centre-back Milos Veljkovic put Serbia ahead in the 17th minute before substitute Georgi Rusev levelled for Bulgaria in the 59th. Ten minutes later Kiril

Despodov put the visitors ahead but Srđjan Babic equalised eight minutes from time to ensure Serbia would become the 17th team to qualify for Euro 2024. Montenegro needed Serbia to lose to have any hope of taking their place in Germany but also needed to win against the Hungarians who have eased impressively through qualifying. Slobodan Rubezic put Montenegro ahead on 36 minutes but Hungary hit back in the second half with two goals in three minutes from Liverpool midfielder Dominik Szoboszlai before Zsolt Nagy rounded off the win in added time. Lukaku scored four goals as Belgium finished with a 5-0 thrashing of Azerbaijan. Roma striker Lukaku extended his record tally of international goals for Belgium to 83, with all of his goals coming in a remarkable first half in Brussels. He opened the scoring in the 17th minute by converting a Jeremy Doku cross, before Eddy Israfilov was shown a second yellow card seven minutes later to leave the Azeris with a mountain to climb. Lukaku fired home shortly afterwards and then headed in Wout Faes' delivery to complete a hat-trick.



## Bilawal Bhutto remains...

FROM PAGE 01  
Bilawal warned that his party would not accept the elections if anyone interfered with the results, reiterating his demand for transparent polls. "Parties with a 2/3 majority say they have reached an agreement [regarding upcoming set up]," Bilawal said, without elaborating further about who had made a deal with whom. "There's no use of an election if the results are pre-decided," Bilawal warned, noting that if anyone becomes the prime minister, then others will protest and hold sit-ins against the newly formed government. Pakistan has a history of parties not accepting results and alleging outside interference after the announcement of results, with the winning candidates saying that the polls were transparent.

## No plan to alter 18th Amd...

FROM PAGE 01  
"We reject the false report related to changes in the 18th Amendment," said Murrhythm. A news report, published in an English daily, claimed that the PML-N's manifesto committee has received several suggestions including the reversal of the 18th Amendment to change the distribution mechanism of finances among provinces. The PML-N had formed its manifesto committee comprising over 33 members on November 7 with Senator Siddique as its chairman. The committee was formed days after Nawaz Sharif returned to Pakistan as the party geared up its political activities ahead of the Feb 8 polls. "There's a very strong feeling, rather conviction, among the party's top leadership that the current arrangements of financial resources distribution among the provinces [under the 18th Amendment to the Constitution] has created unsustainable financial problems," PML-N source had told the publication on the condition of anonymity.

## Hamid slams caretaker govts

FROM PAGE 01  
Balochistan on Friday filed into-court appeals against the apex court's October 23 judgment. The same day a petition was also filed by the defence ministry and federal government challenging the verdict. Earlier, the Sindh caretaker government and others separately requested the apex court to set aside its judgment declaring unconstitutional the trials of civilians in military courts. However, the Sindh government later denied doing so. The PTI leader, addressing a press conference in Lahore today, termed the caretaker governments "unconstitutional", adding that their term has expired.

## UAE envoy calls on PM Kakar

FROM PAGE 01  
change conference and assured of Pakistan's active participation in the event. Progress on bilateral cooperation was also discussed. The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction at the robust and wide-ranging engagement between the two countries and stressed the need to focus on strengthening cooperation in energy, trade and investment. During discussion on the situation in Gaza, the Prime Minister urged Muslim countries to speak with a united voice to urge the international community to end the violence and brutal murder of innocent civilians in Gaza at the hands of Israeli Occupation forces.

## Shahera appointed Info Secretary

FROM PAGE 01  
Ms Shahera is a respected figure among the media fraternity because of her positive and media friendly approach. It is expected that during her tenure issues facing especially the print industry shall be resolved on priority basis



## Briefs

## Torrential rains kill 21 in Dominican Republic

SANTO DOMINGO : At least 21 people, including three children, died after heavy rainfall inundated the Dominican Republic over the weekend, authorities said, warning the downpours were linked to the worsening climate crisis. Torrential storms over the past 48 hours have caused flooding, damaged infrastructure and brought down houses in the Caribbean nation, in what President Luis Abinader on Sunday called the "largest rainfall event ever" in the country's history. "Those who do not believe in climate change, start believing," said Abinader, who spoke of "extensive and substantial" damages, though without detailing precise figures. The rains, from a tropical depression, are expected to continue across portions of the country for the next 24 hours, the United States embassy said in a weather alert. In one particularly deadly incident, a wall collapsed on Sunday onto several vehicles travelling on a major avenue in the capital, Santo Domingo, killing nine. The water "infiltrated a saturated subsoil," and the foundation of the concrete wall gave way, the Ministry of Public Works said on Sunday. An investigation into the incident has been ordered by the ministry. Nine other people died in separate instances in Santo Domingo on the same day. Others have died after being swept away by flood waters.—APP

## France test-fires long-range ballistic missile

PARIS :The missile, which did not carry a nuclear weapon, was fired from the French army's Biscarosse missile testing site in southwest France and landed in the North Atlantic, "hundreds of kilometres from any coastline" the ministry said, without giving further detail. "The flight has allowed to confirm a major improvement of the missile which will contribute to the lasting credibility of France's oceanic deterrence in coming decades," the ministry said in a statement on Sunday. It added that maintaining operational credibility of France's nuclear weapons is required given the international environment. Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly warned the West that he would be ready to use nuclear weapons to defend Russia. The M51.3 missile is an upgraded version of the M51, a three-stage sea-land strategic ballistic missile designed to be launched from French Navy submarines. The M51 was first test-fired from a ground base in 2006 and from a submarine in 2010, the year it was commissioned.—APP

## Turk Eximbank extends \$33.6B exporters

ANKARA :Turk Eximbank has provided financing — both loans and insurance — worth of \$33.6 billion for exporters so far this year, the Turkish trade minister said. "Turk Eximbank, Türkiye's largest export credit and credit insurance institution, provided a total of \$33.6 billion support to our exporters as of the end of October 2023, including \$15.1 billion of loan and \$18.5 billion of insurance and guarantee," Omer Bolat wrote on the social media platform X after a visit to the bank on Monday. The meeting with Eximbank General Manager Ali Guney and his team addressed projects to ensure that the institution's supports will further grow, Bolat added. Since Turk Eximbank was founded in 1987, it conducts international credit, guarantee, and credit insurance programmes aimed at developing economic and political relations between Türkiye and other countries.—DNA

## Milei makes history

## Argentina swings right in presidential upset

"Argentina's situation is critical. The changes our country needs are drastic. There is no room for gradualism, no room for lukewarm measures," Milei told supporters

## NEWS DESK

BERLIN : Javier Milei, a populist figure, decisively secured victory in Argentina's presidential election, steering the nation to the right after an intensely polarized campaign. During his spirited run, Milei pledged a substantial overhaul of the state to address surging inflation and escalating poverty. With 99.4% of votes tallied in the presidential runoff, Milei had 55.7% and Economy Minister Sergio Massa had 44.3%, according to Argentina's electoral authority. This marks the highest percentage a presidential candidate has received since the South American country's return to democracy in 1983. In the streets of Buenos Aires, drivers honked their horns, and many took to the streets to celebrate in several neighborhoods. Outside Milei's party headquarters, a hotel in downtown Buenos Aires, a full-on party kicked off with supporters singing, buying



beers from vendors, and setting off colored smoke bombs. They waved Argentine flags and the yellow Gadsden flag, emblazoned with the words "Don't Tread On Me," which Milei's movement has adopted. Inside, the self-described anarcho-capitalist who has been compared to former U.S. President Donald Trump delivered his victory speech, saying the "reconstruction of Argentina begins today." "Argentina's situation is critical. The changes our country needs are drastic. There is no room for gradualism, no room for lukewarm measures," Milei told supporters, who chanted "Liberty, liberty!" and "Let them all leave" in reference

to the country's political class. Massa of the ruling Peronist party had already conceded defeat, saying Argentines "chose another path." "Starting tomorrow ... guaranteeing the political, social and economic functions is the responsibility of the new president. I hope he does," Massa said. With a Milei victory, the country will take an abrupt shift rightward, and a freshman lawmaker who got his start as a television talking head blasting what he called the "political caste" will assume the presidency. Inflation has soared above 140%, and poverty has worsened while Massa has held his post. Milei has said he would slash the size of the government, dollarize the economy, and eliminate the Central Bank to tackle galloping inflation that he blames on successive governments printing money indiscriminately to fund public spending. He also espouses several conservative social policies, including opposition to sex education in schools and abortion, which Argentina's Con-

gress legalized in 2020. "This is a triumph that is less due to Milei and his peculiarities and more to the demand for change," said Lucas Romero, the head of Synopsis, a local political consulting firm. "What is being expressed at the polls is the weariness, the fatigue, the protest vote of the majority of Argentines." Massa's campaign cautioned Argentines that his libertarian opponent's plan to eliminate key ministries and otherwise sharply curtail the state would threaten public services, including health education and welfare programs many rely on. Massa also drew attention to his opponent's often aggressive rhetoric and openly questioned his mental acuity; before the first round, Milei sometimes carried a revving chainsaw at rallies. "There were a lot of voters that weren't convinced to vote Milei, who would vote null or blank. But come the day of the vote, they voted for Milei because they're all pissed off," Andrei Roman, CEO of Brazil-based pollster Atlas Intel, said by phone.

## Zelensky calls for rapid operations changes for soldiers

## FOREIGN DESK

KYIV : Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky demanded rapid changes in the operations of Ukraine's military and announced the dismissal of the commander of the military's medical forces. Zelensky's move was announced as he met Defense Minister Rustem Umerov, and coincided with debate over the conduct of the 20-month-old war against Russia, with questions over how quickly a counteroffensive in the east and south is proceeding. "In today's meeting with Defense Minister Umerov, priori-

ties were set," Zelensky said in his nightly video address. "There is little time left to wait for results. Quick action is needed for forthcoming changes." Zelensky said he had replaced Maj. Gen. Tetiana Ostashchenko as commander of the Armed Forces Medical Forces. "The task is clear, as has been repeatedly stressed in society, particularly among combat medics, we need a fundamentally new level of medical support for our soldiers," he said. This, he said, included a range of issues — better tourniquets, digitalization and better communication. Umer-

ov acknowledged the change on the Telegram messaging app and set as top priorities digitalization, "tactical medicine" and rotation of servicemen. Ukraine's military reports on what it describes as advances in recapturing occupied areas in the east and south and last week acknowledged that troops had taken control of areas on the eastern bank of the Dniro River in southern Kherson region. Ukrainian commander in chief General Valery Zaluzhnyi, in an essay published this month, said the war was entering a new stage of attrition and Ukraine needed

more sophisticated technology to counter the Russian military. While repeatedly saying advances will take time, Zelensky has denied the war is headed into a stalemate and has called on Kyiv's Western partners, mainly the United States, to maintain levels of military support. Ostashchenko was replaced by Maj. Gen. Anatoly Kazmirchuk, head of a military clinic in Kyiv. Her dismissal came a week after a Ukrainian news outlet suggested her removal, as well as that of others, was imminent following consultations with paramedics and other officials responsible for providing support to the military.

## Taylor Swift dominates 2023 billboard awards

Washington : Taylor Swift continues her streak of breaking records, this time at the 2023 Billboard Music Awards, where she seized a remarkable ten awards, positioning herself as the most-awarded female artist at the prestigious event and tying with Drake for the most awards overall. Even amidst her ongoing South American leg of the Eras Tour, Swift managed to mark her presence at the BBMs. Scheduled to perform in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, she took a moment to extend gratitude to her fans for their immense support that led her to clinch ten trophies. Out of the 20 nominations she received, Swift triumphed in half of them, scooping up accolades for categories including Top Artist, Top Female Artist, Top Song Sales Artist, and more. In a video shared by the BBMs' official X handle, a visibly moved Swift expressed her disbelief and appreciation for the recognition. She attributed her success entirely to her fans, acknowledging their passion for her music and their contribution to the magic of The Eras Tour, expressing profound love and gratitude. Despite not being the highest-awarded artist at the BBMs this year, Taylor Swift's 39 total BBMA trophies, after this year's haul, stand tied with Drake's impressive record.—APP

## Baku dismisses French statement on Karabakh decision

BAKU : Azerbaijan has said that a statement issued by the French Foreign Ministry about a decision last week by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) regarding the situation in Karabakh is "irrelevant and unacceptable." The ICJ issued an order on Friday which stipulates that Baku should ensure the safety of those who wish to depart Karabakh and that those who wish to stay must remain "free from the use of force or intimidation that may cause them to flee." The French Foreign Ministry said this corresponds to the position of Paris. The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry said, "France's disregard for the rejection by the Court of most of the unlawful requests by Armenia is another vivid example of double-standards and bias against Azerbaijan." "It is lamentable that this country, which has presented itself as the greatest advocate of justice and order, misinterprets and meddles in the Court's affairs on a matter that has nothing to do with France," it added. Azerbaijan takes international obligations "seriously" It said that France should "focus on the implementation of orders that are related to it, including with regard to its notorious colonial policy and illegal acts, including related to nuclear tests." "Unlike France, Azerbaijan takes its international obligations seriously," it added. The ICJ on Friday announced a court order as part of Armenia's lawsuit against Azerbaijan. Armenia accuses Baku of violating the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination due to the recent escalation of tensions in Karabakh, though UN agencies earlier categorically stated that they had not recorded any cases of Azerbaijan's discriminatory attitude toward Armenians. The French Foreign Ministry said on Saturday that the ICJ's decision on the order "reinforces the position consistently held by France, which recalls on this occasion its unwavering support for the International Court of Justice and the binding nature of its decisions.—DNA



BRUSSELS : Ambassador Amana Bloch paid a courtesy call on Ambassador of Oman to H.E. Rua Issa Ashraf Alzadjali. They Reaffirmed bonds of friendship and commitment to enhance cooperation between Pakistan and Oman.— DNA

## Australia, India hold talks to boost regional cooperation

The Ministers of Australia and India will engage in discussions on regional and global issues, as stated by India's Ministry of External Affairs

## FOREIGN DESK

NEW DELHI : India and Australia are set to hold talks focused on bolstering their strategic, defence and security ties in New Delhi. Australia's defence minister Richard Marles and foreign minister Penny Wong arrived on Monday to meet with their counterparts for the second India-Australia 2+2 Dialogue, where they're expected to discuss regional and global issues, according to a statement from India's Ministry of External Affairs. "Both sides will also exchange views on shared priorities for strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation," the statement said. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will hold a bilateral meeting with Marles, who is also the deputy prime minister. India's Minister of External Affairs Subramanyam Jaishankar will take stock of ties between the two countries with his counterpart Wong on Tuesday, according to the statement. The talks come a few weeks after India hosted



Defense Lloyd Austin in New Delhi, where both countries underlined their commitment to boosting security ties, and reaffirmed their support for a free and resilient Indo-Pacific region. India and Australia are also part of the Quad, an alliance that includes Japan and the United States, which aims to counter China's rising influence in Asia. The two countries upgraded their relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2020, when they signed various agreements to strengthen defence ties and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. Earlier this year, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese arrived in India on a four-day visit where he held talks with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi and praised the two countries' progress in ties, including in scientific and technological cooperation and military exercises. Marles arrived Sunday and watched Australia beat India to win the Cricket World Cup for the 6th time in Ahmedabad city. The victory, much to India's dismay, ended the host country's dominant run in the tournament.

## Finland accuses Russia of forcing migrants

HELSINKI : Finland has accused Russia of systematically pushing irregular migrants into the country, local media reported. Citing Capt. Jouko Kinnunen, the head of the southeastern border station of Vartiuss, public broadcaster YLE said Russian authorities are actively and systematically bringing irregular migrants to the border area and forcing them across the border. Kinnunen said Russian border authorities have pushed people through the border opening and then closed the gates behind them, making it impossible for them to return to Russia. He added there were signs that some people had been obliged to cross the border against their will. On November 16, Finland announced its decision to close four border crossings with Russia from midnight of November 17 in response to suspicions that Russian officials had allowed undocumented asylum seekers to arrive at the Finnish border in growing numbers.—DNA

## Turkish Intelligence Neutralizes High-Ranked PKK Terrorist

ANKARA :Türkiye's National Intelligence Organisation (MIT) has neutralised the PKK/YPG terrorist organisation's so-called social area responsible for the Iraq/Sulaymaniyah region. Terrorist Gulsume Dogan, codenamed Jiyan Mardin, has been neutralised with an operation carried out in Sulaymaniyah, northern Iraq, security sources said on Monday. Turkish intelligence has determined that the terrorist, closely associated with senior executives of the organisation, extorted funds from the people in the region under the guise of taxation. The acquired money was used to recruit cadres to carry out attacks against Turkish security forces, and to provide logistical support to the organisation, the sources added. Terrorist Gulsume Dogan, with the codename Jiyan Mardin, has been neutralised with an operation carried out in Sulaymaniyah, northern Iraq. Dogan joined the PKK's rural cadres in 2006. She was recruiting new militants for the terrorist organisation, including underage children. The Turkish intelligence meticulously analysed all information transmitted from field agents and first identified the location of the terrorist, who was closely monitored upon being neutralised in a pinpoint operation. MIT, which continues to strike against separatist terrorist organisations in every field, also delivered the message that it will continue with pinpoint operations as part of its policy to eliminate terrorism at its source in the upcoming period.—APP

## Asian markets mixed as traders eye Fed minutes

HONG KONG : Asian stocks were mixed Monday following small gains on Wall Street as investors grow increasingly optimistic that the Federal Reserve has come to the end of its interest rate hiking cycle. After a string of reports pointing to slowing inflation and a cooling jobs market, traders are shifting back into riskier assets as they bet on a loosening of financial conditions in the new year, with many eyeing rate cuts. Focus will be on the release later in the week of minutes from the Fed's November policy meeting, where officials held borrowing costs and hinted that they could be finished with their tightening campaign. "While the Fed is likely pleased with the evolving data, the minutes will be scrutinised in the context of easier financial conditions since the meeting and a more favourable macro environment supporting the soft landing narrative," said SPI Asset Management's Stephen Innes. All three main indexes on Wall Street ended slightly higher Friday.—APP



## Briefs

### Germany blasts Taliban official's appearance at Cologne

DNA

BERLIN: Germany on Monday condemned an appearance by a Taliban official at a mosque in Cologne, with the interior minister demanding explanations from the Turkish organisation running the site. Abdul Bari Omar, who is an official with the Taliban-run health authority in Afghanistan, attended the mosque to speak at a conference organised by an Afghan association in the city. "The appearance of a representative of the Taliban in Cologne is completely unacceptable and must be strongly condemned. "No-one should offer radicals a platform in Germany," said Interior Minister Nancy Faeser. She urged Ditib, the Turkish-Islamic association managing the mosque in the city's Chorweiler district to explain "how it could have been possible that the room was used" in this manner. Ditib's management said it had no prior knowledge of the Taliban official's planned appearance. "Contrary to the original contract, it was transformed into a political event and a speaker who was not known to us had been invited," it said. Ditib rejected "any proximity - even spiritual - to the Taliban".

### 'Ban Rs5,000 note to curb corruption'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senator Mohsin Aziz has called for discontinuing the Rs5,000 currency note in a bid to end the end of "corruption and rein in inflation". Senator Aziz tabled the resolution in the Upper House of Parliament on Monday, seeking a ban on the highest denomination which he said contributes to corruption, terrorism, and smuggling. "Rs5,000 note is the cause of corruption and inflation in the country. It is also used in terror and corruption activities," the senator said during the debate. He said Rs5000 currency notes worth Rs3.5 trillion have been issued to date. Of which, he said, Rs5,000 notes worth Rs2 trillion were not in circulation and are stored in "safe deposit". "These are the proceeds of money laundering, tax evasion, and smuggling, which have been blocked," the lawmaker claimed. He said a limited time period should be given to surrender the highest denomination.

### Sacked OpenAI boss to join Microsoft

NEW YORK: Sam Altman is joining Microsoft, the tech-giant has announced, ending speculation he might return to OpenAI just 48 hours after his chaotic ousting. Microsoft chief executive Satya Nadella wrote on X, formerly Twitter, that Mr Altman would be joining Microsoft to lead "a new advanced AI research team". Meanwhile, ex-Twitch CEO Emmett Shear will become OpenAI's new interim boss. Writing on X, he called the job a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity". But he added the way Mr Altman had been sacked was "handled very badly" and "seriously damaged our trust". Mr Altman, 38, helped launch the firm - best known for creating the popular ChatGPT bot - and has become one of the most influential figures in the fast-growing generative artificial intelligence (AI) space. So when the board dismissed him on Friday, after saying it had lost confidence in him, it sent shockwaves through the industry, and set in train a chaotic series of events. A number of Silicon Valley bosses offered support, including former Google chief executive Eric Schmidt who called Mr Altman "a hero of mine", and there was a backlash from investors, prompting speculation that Altman might even be reinstated. - Agencies

# 'Israel seeks to end Palestinians' presence'

Beijing hosted a delegation of foreign ministers from the Palestinian Authority, Indonesia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan for talks



## NEWS DESK

BEIJING: Israel seeks to end the Palestinian people's presence on their "historical land," Palestine's foreign minister has said. Riyadh al-Maliki's comments came as diplomats from Arab and Muslim-majority nations met their Chinese counterparts in Beijing on Monday. Beijing is hosting a delegation of foreign ministers from the Palestinian Authority,

Indonesia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan for talks aimed at finding a solution to end the war in the Gaza Strip. The summit, during which China pledged to work to "restore peace in the Middle East," is seen as part of a push by Beijing to step up its international role. The Palestinian Authority's al-Maliki accused Israel of seeking to "bring to an end the Palestinian people's presence on what remains of its historical land," AFP reports. A spokesperson for Egypt's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the displacement of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip will threaten peace, security and stability in the region and the world. "Egypt is making every effort to bring aid into the Gaza Strip through the Rafah crossing, but Israel's policy of obstructing the entry of aid is a systematic policy aimed at pushing the Palestinians to leave the strip under the weight of bombing and siege," the spokesperson said. China, the host of the summit, has historically been sympathetic to the Palestinians.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi told the visiting diplomats that his country could see that "a humanitarian disaster is unfolding in Gaza" and that it must be stopped. "The situation in Gaza affects all countries around the world, questioning the human sense of right and wrong and humanity's bottom line," he said, before urging the international community to "act urgently" to prevent the war from spreading. Following the outbreak of the war last month, Wang reportedly told his Saudi counterpart Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud in a phone call that "Israel's actions have gone beyond self-defence". Wang and other Chinese officials called for an immediate ceasefire and a "cooling down" of the situation. Beijing has repeatedly called for a two-state solution to end the war, which has now killed more than 13,000 Palestinian people in Gaza and some 1,200 in Israel. Beijing's Middle East envoy Zhai Jun visited the region last month seeking a solution to end the war and has been in talks with Russia to work together to help Israel and Palestine reach a two-state solution. At the summit, Wang highlighted again that Beijing is "a good friend and brother of Arab and Muslim countries". "China firmly stands with justice and fairness in this conflict," he said. "We are willing to work together with our brothers and sisters in Arab and Islamic countries to make unremitting efforts to settle the war in Gaza as soon as possible," he added. The meetings are a sign that China is stepping up its international role by filling a power vacuum left by the US, according to political analyst Ibrahim Frahat.

### LHC orders 2 weekly offs for school, colleges

DNA

LAHORE: In a bid to help curb smog, the Lahore High Court (LHC) has directed the government to implement two days weekly off for public schools, colleges and universities and all educational institutions till the end of January next year. LHC's Justice Shahid Karim issued the directives in a three-page order released on Saturday on pleas seeking the court's intervention in tackling smog in the province. The order acknowledged that the caretaker Punjab government had "announced measures such as closure of schools and colleges on Saturdays" in line with the court directives. However, the court noted that the notification should not have been issued under the provisions of the Punjab Infectious Diseases (Prevention and Control) Act, 2020. It added that the Lahore deputy commissioner's decision to issue the notification under the Punjab National Calamities (Prevention and Relief) Act, 1958 should have been taken into consideration. The court explained that the 1958 law was appropriate and that could be used to "place a restriction on the movements of public and to close and shutdown schools and colleges".

### Yasmin, Omar remanded in new case

DNA

LAHORE: PTI leaders Yasmin Rashid and Omar Sarfaraz Cheema, already held in multiple cases tied to May 9 events, faced a fresh arrest linked to an attack on ex-PM Shehbaz Sharif's Model Town residence. They appeared before a court in Lahore, where they were remanded to jail for 14 days. In court today, fresh charges against Yasmin and Cheema were detailed in a supplementary statement by the police. Allegedly, on May 9, a group including PTI leaders attempted to breach the gates of the PM House, instigating around 800-900 supporters armed with clubs and stones, threatening staff and attempting to start a fire. The charges listed include obstruction of public nuisance, creating public nuisance, intimidation, mischief by fire, rioting, theft, and even terrorism charges.

## APNS calls for early payment of dues



### Welcomes appointment of Shahera Shahid as the new Information Secretary

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The APNS expresses its grave concern over the non-payment of advertisement dues by the Federal and provincial governments despite various assurances by the respective governments. Mr. Sarmad Ali, Secretary General, APNS has stated that the meeting of the Executive Committee held on November 20, 2023 chaired by the President, APNS, Mrs. Nazafreen Saigol Lakhani has noted that the Federal and provincial governments have not paid the dues related to display, SPL and non-budgeted advertisements which has caused serious liquidity crisis for newspapers to meet their expenses. The members of the Executive Committee strongly urged upon the Prime Minister of Pakistan and Chief Ministers of the provinces to advise

the concerned departments to release the payment at the earliest. The APNS in a resolution, welcomed and congratulated Ms. Shahera Shahid on her appointment as Secretary Information for the second time and hoped that during her tenure, the problems faced by the print media, would be addressed and the relations between the APNS and the Ministry would be further strengthened. In another resolution, the APNS strongly condemn the brutal murder of Mr. Jan Muhammad Mehr, senior journalist, Sukkur Bureau Chief of Kawish Group and urged upon the IG Police, Sindh to expedite the arrest of the culprits who are at large for three months. The members expressed their profound grief over the killing of innocent peoples including journalists, children and women in Gaza by the Israeli forces and offered fateha for the martyrs.

The following attended the meeting: Nazafreen Saigol Lakhani, President, Sarmad Ali, Secretary General, Shahab Zuberi, Finance Secretary, Bilal Farooqui (Daily Aghaz), Mohsin Bilal (Daily Ausaf), Khalid Mahmood (Weekly Family), Muhammad Younus Mehar (Daily Halchal), Kazi Asad Abid (Daily Ibrat), Syed Akbar Tahir (Daily Jasarat), Mush-taq Ahmed Qureshi (Monthly Naey Ufaq), Zahida Abbasi (Daily Nau Sijj), Salman Qureshi (Monthly Naya Rukh) and Faisal Zahid Malik (Daily Pakistan Observer). Shahid Saati of Daily Vatan Gujrati ) attended as special observer. Following attended on ZOOM. Mohsin Seyal (Daily Aftab), Waseem Ahmed (Daily Awam, Quetta), Anwar Mahmood Bhatti (Monthly Centre Line), Fauzia Shaheen (Monthly Dastak), Rukhsana Saulat Saleemi (Weekly Nikhar), Jamil Ather (Daily Tijarat) and Nasir Daad Baloch ( Daily Sindh Sujaag)

## US defense secretary in unannounced visit to Ukraine

KYIV: US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin made an unannounced visit to Kyiv on Monday to reassure Ukraine that Washington will continue supporting its fight against invading Russian forces. The United States has provided tens of billions of dollars in security aid for Ukraine and repeatedly pledged to back Kyiv for "as long as it takes," but opposition from hard-line Republican lawmakers has raised doubts about the future of American assistance. Austin "traveled to Ukraine today to meet with Ukrainian leaders and reinforce the staunch support of the United States for Ukraine's fight for freedom," the Pentagon said in a statement on the trip, which was not announced ahead of time due to security concerns. "He will also underscore the continued US commitment to providing Ukraine with the

security assistance it needs to defend itself from Russian aggression," it said. The trip to Kyiv - via train from Poland - is the Pentagon leader's second since Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Washington is by far the biggest donor of military assistance to Kyiv, and a cut to American aid would be a major blow to Ukraine as it readies for the second winter of the war. Austin and Secretary of State Antony Blinken urged lawmakers during a hearing in October to sustain support for Ukraine, with the US defense chief saying that "without our support, (Russian President Vladimir) Putin will be successful." But some Republican lawmakers oppose continued aid, and new support for Ukraine was left out of a temporary deal passed by Congress last week to avert a US government shutdown. US assistance has not however been halted and there is still previously authorized aid to draw on. But Deputy Pentagon Press Secretary Sabrina Singh said earlier this month that assistance packages "have been getting smaller because we have had to meter out our support for Ukraine." The United States has spearheaded the push for international support for Ukraine, quickly forging a coalition to back Kyiv after Russia invaded and coordinating aid from dozens of countries. Ukraine's supporters have also provided training to Kyiv's troops, while the United States and other countries imposed tough sanctions on Russia, with targets including financial institutions, technology imports and energy exports. - Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior, Sarfraz Bugti in a meeting with the Ambassador of China, Jiang Zaidong. - DNA

## IHC extends stay against jail trial of Imran

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Monday extended for a day (November 21) the stay against the jail trial of the former prime minister in the cipher case. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman is currently detained in Adiala jail in Rawalpindi on judicial remand. A two-member Justice Gul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Saman Rafat bench heard arguments. During today's hearing, the court approved an extension in the stay order on the request of Imran Khan's lawyer Salman Akram Raja until Tuesday, November 21. Justice Aurangzeb asked why the special court judge had written a letter asking for the trial to be held in jail and what security concerns he was aware of. The IHC judge remarked that the notifications issued by the federal government for the jail trial seemed to be prima facie against high court rules. He also said that many questions needed to be answered about the trial and summoned the notification of the appointment of the special court judge. The court has also sought reports about the security threats on which basis the trial of the case is being conducted in jail. The first information report (FIR) was registered on August 15 under the Official Secrets Act.