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Gaza resistance proves time not on Israel's side if war drags on

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Rulers carrying on legacy of East India Company

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Shubman Gill retains top spot in ODI ranking

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Briefs

ANF challenges Abbasi's acquittal

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has lodged an appeal in the Supreme Court (SC) against the acquittal of PML-N leader Hanif Abbasi in the ephedrine case. The petition challenged the decision of the Lahore High Court (LHC), which had cleared Abbasi of charges on Oct 18. The trial court had previously sentenced him to a life imprisonment. The ANF seeks reexamination of the case, extending the legal proceedings for another fourteen days. The ephedrine case continues to be a focal point in the legal battle, highlighting the complexities of drug related prosecutions.

Marwat appointed PTI senior vice president

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Sher Afzal Khan Marwat, a member of PTI Chairman Imran Khan's legal team, was appointed a senior vice president of the party on Wednesday. The party's official account shared the notification for Marwat's appointment, which was signed by Secretary General Omar Ayub, on social media platform X (formerly Twitter). The party said that the lawyer had been appointed senior vice president "with immediate effect". Marwat said his new responsibilities would motivate him to work harder. "I am indebted to PTI Chairman Imran Khan for his trust in me," he said. Earlier this year, PTI leaders Qasim Suri, Firdous Shamim Naqvi and Saifullah Abro were also appointed senior vice presidents. It should be noted that Marwat represented the PTI chief in Toshakhana trial. He became close to Imran when he launched a tirade against trial court judge Humayun Dilwar during the proceedings of the trial and was subsequently added to the PTI core committee. In October, a case was registered against Marwat on allegations of instigating the public against state institutions through social media.

GDA to actively participate in elections

DNA

KARACHI: Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) leader Pir Pagar a chaired a meeting at Kingari House which affirmed its full engagement in the upcoming elections. The meeting identified the provincial caretaker government as the PPP's B-team, advocating the removal of PPP-affiliated officials who held crucial roles during their tenure. Pir Syed Sadruddin Shah Rashidi, Dr Safdar Abbasi, Ghulam Murtaza Jatoti, and other leaders contributed to the discussions.

Death toll crosses 14,532 Hamas, Israel agree on four day ceasefire

50 hostages will be released in exchange for 150 Palestinians imprisoned in Israel, and the entry of humanitarian aid into besieged enclave

NEWS DESK

GAZA CITY: Palestinian resistance group Hamas has confirmed a four-day truce deal with the Israeli regime in the besieged Gaza Strip, mediated by Qatar and Egypt, which is subject to extension. Under the deal, Hamas will release 50 Israeli prisoners of war held since October 7 in exchange for 150 Palestinian women and children who have been languishing in Israeli jails for years. The deal will also facilitate the entry of humanitarian, medical and fuel trucks to the besieged territory and halt the Israeli occupying regime's indiscriminate, murderous attacks on Palestinians in Gaza. Israeli drones hovering in the skies of Gaza will also stop for four days, as per the deal. In northern Gaza, they must stop for at least six hours a day. The regime will also not be arresting or attacking anyone "in all areas of the Gaza Strip" these days. The statement released by Hamas stressed that the terms of the ceasefire deal are based on "the vision of the resistance and its principles," adding that talks were held "from a position of steadfastness and strength in the field, despite the occupation's attempts to prolong and procrastinate the negotiations." While Hamas has declared its commitment to the deal, it has also warned that its hands "remain on the trigger" in case the Tel Aviv regime breaches the deal or backtracks on its commitments. "While we announce the arrival of a pause of fighting agreement,

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Israel's 'terrorism' is crime against humanity

NEWS DESK

ANKARA: The fall of Gaza would constitute a deep wound for the unity of the Islamic world, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned on Wednesday, urging Muslim countries to raise their voices against the Israeli occupation. "Breaking the blockade cannot be achieved through one or two countries, but through the steps and strategies created by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Arab League," Erdogan told journalists on his return flight from Algeria. "We have to display the term 'team play approach' often used in politics, in full. Breaking the blockade cannot be achieved only through bringing some aid into Gaza. A cease-fire has to be reached; the necessary aid needs to be brought to Gaza while the city laid to waste by Israel must be rebuilt through using several elements including economic, political, diplomatic, sociological and cultural," Erdogan emphasized.

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'Vengeful politics' Behind PDM govt's failure: Bilawal Bhutto

PPP chairman says old polititions intend to settle personal scores after forming govt



STAFF REPORT / DNA

CHITRAL: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari Wednesday said that the reason behind the failure of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)-led coalition government was "vengeful politics" as the former ruling parties had no focus on serving the public. Addressing a PPP workers convention in Chitral, the young politician said that the ways of old

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Defeating inflation PML-N's top priority

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif underlined on Wednesday the significance of powering the country to political stability in a bid to strengthen the country's economy. Former senator Waqar Ahmed and PML-N stalwart Amir Muqam called on the former prime minister. On the occasion, both leaders commended Shehbaz Sharif for his acquittal in Ashiana Housing. During the meeting, matters in line with the country's political situation were underscored. Expressing his thoughts,

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Cipher case: SC issues notices in Imran's bail plea

Cabinet committee recommends names of Imran, others be placed on ECL in Al-Qadir Trust case

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Wednesday issued notices to the federation and the interior ministry on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's bail plea in the cipher case. The petition was heard by a three-member bench comprising Justice Sardar Tariq Masood Justice Yahya Afridi and Justice Ayesha Malik. At the outset, the bench asked when the issue came up and the punishment it carries if a person is found guilty. Barrister Salman Safdar, Khan's counsel, then briefed the court on the inquiry report and accusations made against the former prime minister in the case. He added that Khan's then-principal secretary Azam Khan also accused the PTI chief of misusing the cipher. Justice Masood then inquired whether the role of co-accused was determined in the case. The lawyer stated that Asad Umar had been released while Azam Khan from being an accused was turned into a witness for the case. On this, Justice Afridi interjected and stated that in the inquiry it was said that the co-accused's role be determined during the interrogation and asked what was said in

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Prime Minister Kakar summoned by IHC

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar has been summoned by the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on November 29 to personally appear before it in a case pertaining to the missing Baloch students. The court's orders, announced today during the hearing on the enforcement of recommendations of the aforementioned commission, came after the government failed to recover missing students. Advocate Imaan Mazari had moved the IHC on the matter. The court subsequently ordered the government to produce the 55 missing students as per the recommendations of the Baloch Enforced Disappearance Commission. The court has also summoned the defence and interior ministers as well as

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ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting on preparations with regard to COP-28. – DNA

2 soldiers martyred in NW

Security forces are determined to eliminate terrorism



STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Two soldiers were martyred when an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded near a convoy of security forces in North Waziristan district's Razmak area, the military's media wing said Wednesday. In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that the soldiers who lost their lives were identified as Lance Naik Ehsan Badshah, 33, resident of Karak district, and Lance Naik Sajid Hussain, 30, resident of Kurram district. The military's media wing added that a sanitisation operation was being carried out "to eliminate any terrorists present in the area".

It noted that Pakistan's security forces are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of "our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve". The development comes a day after the security forces gunned down three terrorists in two intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Dera Ismail Khan and South Waziristan districts. A 26-year-old soldier – Sepoy Shahzeb, belonging to Rawalpindi – had also embraced martyrdom after an IED exploded in the general area of Gharoum, North Waziristan. Pakistan has faced a

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PM terms climate change as matter of national security

Pakistan through its climate diplomacy is playing a positive role in the global debate on the matter

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar says the climate change has become a matter of national security for countries like Pakistan, despite their least contribution to environmental degradation. He said this while chairing a meeting in Islamabad today regarding the upcoming COP 28 conference to be held in the United Arab Emirates next month. The Prime Minister will represent Pakistan in the high-level segment of the COP28 being held on first and second of the next month. Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said Pakistan through its climate diplomacy is playing a positive role in the global debate on the matter. He said one-third of Pakistan's population was affected in recent flooding. The Prime Minister also applauded rehabilitation work of the concerned departments after the floods. He also directed the relevant departments to make a

Continued on Page 06

Justice Naqvi asked to submit response within 14 days

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Judicial Council (SJC), with a majority of 4 to 1, has issued a detailed show cause notice to Justice Sayeed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi in connection with misconduct complaints lodged against him. The SJC – the only forum that can inquire into the conduct of judges of the superior judiciary – by a 4-1 majority ruling directed the jurist to submit a reply within 14 days in connection with 10 complaints lodged against him. The show cause notice was backed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP)

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ANYONE WHO'S SOMEONE... reads Centreline



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US-funded women, juveniles facilitation centre inaugurated

The WJFC will go a long way to provide a safe haven for those affected by violence, fostering a culture of compassion and justice in Balochistan

DNA

QUETTA: The U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Donald A. Blome, inaugurated the one-stop Women and Juvenile Facilitation Centre (WJFC) in Quetta on 20 November 2023 in a high-level ceremony hosted at the Chief Minister House in Quetta. The WJFC is funded by the U.S. Embassy Office of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) and established through the technical support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in coordination with the Balochistan Police and local authorities from the Government of Balochistan. The launch ceremony took place in the presence of Inspector General of Police, Balochistan, Abdul Khalique Sheikh (PSP) and Country Representative for Pakistan, UNODC, Jeremy Milsom, along with a cross-section of senior officers and stakeholders from

the rule of law sector in Balochistan. The Women and Juvenile Facilitation Centre underscores the collective commitment of the Government of Balochistan towards creating safer spaces for survivors of gender-based violence. The Country Representative for Pakistan, UNODC, Jeremy Milsom stated, "UNODC has so far established two similar facilities in Punjab that are successfully supporting survivors of domestic and gender-based violence. This Women and Juvenile Facilitation Centre is modelled on the global standards of providing protection and safeguard services to vulnerable groups, particularly women, children, and juveniles who are often victims of violence. We express our deepest gratitude for INL's commitment to making a tangible difference in the lives of GBV survivors." The in-charge of the WJFC, Pari Gul Tareen - who is also the first female Assistant Superintendent Police in Quetta - pro-

vided a guided tour to the U.S. Ambassador and the visiting delegation from the INL. She shared, "WJFC is a great step forward in addressing GBV issues in Balochistan. I hope we are able to replicate this intervention across the province to ensure every survivor finds the support they deserve." The Centre is fully equipped and easily accessible to offer inclusive and all-encompassing gender and GBV-sensitive services, including first aid, counselling, legal advice, psychosocial support and referrals for access to shelter, legal aid and protection. In addition, the WJFC also provides a host of dedicated facilitation services to women such as character certificate, police verification, learner driving license, driving license renewal, etc. The WJFC will go a long way to provide a safe haven for those affected by violence, fostering a culture of compassion and justice in Balochistan.



QUETTA: US funded Women and Juveniles Facilitation Centre has been inaugurated in Quetta.—DNA

MoU inked between KPBoIT-Hangzhou Municipal Bureau

DNA

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade (KPBoIT) and Hangzhou Municipal Bureau of Commerce (Hangzhou Government) in China, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for extending strategic cooperation and collaboration in E-Commerce and related IT opportunities for investment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to a press release issued here on Wednesday, the signing ceremony was held during the China Innovation Summit, an initiative by CAREC for cooperation, collaboration, and promotion of E-Commerce and related IT interventions. During the ceremony, on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), KPBoIT, a representative of the board, Gul Muhammad signed the MoU with the Director of Hangzhou Municipal Bureau of Commerce. It merits mention here that Hangzhou is an industrial city with many diverse sectors such as light industry, agriculture, and textiles and it is considered an important manufacturing base and logistics hub for coastal China. Furthermore, the city is an e-commerce and technology hub. According to the Director of Business Promotion, KPBoIT Mr. Iqbal Sarwar, this MoU will bridge investors from China with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for establishing e-commerce-related facilities in KP. Similarly, it will also pave the way for engaging local service providers.

Wasi attends FIFA World Cup Qualifier match between Pakistan, Tajikistan

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister of State for Tourism Wasi Shah on Wednesday attended the historic FIFA World Cup Qualifier match between Pakistan and Tajikistan held here at Jinnah Stadium. Emphasising resilience in the face of defeat, he engaged in an exclusive conversation with the youth, encouraging them to view setbacks as opportunities for growth, said a news release. Serving as Chief Guest, the minister also Chairman PTDC and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Youth Affairs, was joined by top government officials, including Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti and Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Maliki. In his address, Wasi Shah

expressed unwavering support for the youth, the Pakistani team, and the sport of football. Post-game, Wasi Shah engaged with journalists, particularly addressing the youth, drawing parallels to a cricket match in Ahmedabad where a single shot hushed the crowd. Highlighting the sportsmanship of Pakistani fans, especially the youth, he commended their collective heartbeat for the national team. He acknowledged the audience's applause for every goal by the Tajikistan team, showcasing the spirit of fair play. Despite limited resources, Wasi Shah praised the Pakistani team's progress in football, un-

derscoring the potential for even greater achievements with adequate resources and training. He urged not to forget the substantial investments made over decades in the teams participating in today's World Cup. With the assurance of ample resources and training, he emphasized the significant talent within the sector, stating that the Pakistani team possesses the ability to excel on the international stage. During the match, Saudi ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Maliki also had an informal conversation with Wasi Shah and expressed the same thoughts that there is immense talent in every field in Pakistan.—APP

VU gets ICDE prize of excellence 2023

The conference was attended by delegates from over 50 countries worldwide

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE) awarded the 2023 ICDE Prize of Excellence to the Virtual University of Pakistan during the 29th ICDE World Conference 2023 held in Costa Rica, Central America. The award was presented by the Secretary-General and President of ICDE, said a press release on Wednesday. This Excellence Prize for 2023 was unanimously decided by an international committee of experts in recognition of the Virtual University's extensive contribution in the field of open, flexible, and distance learning. ICDE, an international organization based in the Netherlands, has a membership body of more than 200 institutions from around the globe. The Rector of Virtual University of Pakistan, Prof. Dr. Arshad Saleem, received this award during the conference held at the National Convention Center of Costa Rica, Costa Rica. During his remarks, he dedicated this award to the founding Rector, Dr. Naveed A. Malik, and the VU family. The conference was attended by delegates from over 50 countries worldwide. He mentioned that the Excellence Prize for VU adds more responsibility to deliver quality education. Dr. Saleem informed the participants that the establishment of VU was a futuristic idea in 2002 and has played a key role in educating and imparting skills to the youth of Pakistan. He also added that VU is not hesitant to harness the strength of generative AI to offer knowledge and skills to its students. Finally, he expressed gratitude to the Ministry of IT&Telecom and HEC for their unconditional support.

Complex tax system contributes to a high regulatory burden

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Today was the second day of the 37th AGM and Conference of the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE). The Conference on "Breaking the Aid-Debt Chains" is being hosted by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), in collaboration with Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan. The second panel discussion of the Conference was on "Is Taxing More the Only Solution?" The session was moderated by Mahmood Khalid, Senior Research Economist at PIDE, while the panelists included Mukaram Jah Ansari, Member Customs, Legal and Accounting at the FBR, Asim Saeed, Former Member at the Planning Commission, Abdul Jalil, Professor at the NDU, and Omer Siddique, Senior Research Economist at PIDE. In his introduction to the session Dr. Mahmood Khalid, PIDE said that the current focus on taxing more ignores the burden

it imposes. Our complex tax system and regulatory landscape contribute to a high regulatory burden. Pakistan ranks low in ease of paying taxes, discouraging firms from growth and formalization. PIDE's approach suggests improving the system first before considering additional taxation. Mukarram Ansari explained Pakistan's fiscal model, highlighting an annually rising tax collection target given to the FBR. Two-thirds of the collection is from customs and withholding agents. Taxing at the import stage, however, hampers businesses due to restricted cash flow. Asim Saeed questioned the purpose of taxing, i.e., whether it is to cover expenditures or fiscal discipline. He emphasized the weak social contract in Pakistan, urging careful expansion of sovereign revenue. He criticized the focus on the tax-to-GDP ratio, suggesting attention to direct tax improvement. Abdul Jalil criticized Pakistan's projection as a nation of tax thieves, emphasizing the need to build a narrative of growth, and stressed

that tax collection does not cause growth, citing China and India's examples of promoting growth first. Omer Siddique posed the question of whether taxing is a panacea for our ills. He said that even though taxes create distortions and disincentivize economic activity but nevertheless are essential. He highlighted PIDE's research on the heavy taxation burden on the retail sector. For charting a way forward Member Customs FBR recommended fixing how FBR works, separating the regulator from the tax collector. Tax policy should focus on promoting growth and investment, not just meeting revenue targets. He urged the digitization of the FBR and provincial taxing authorities and redressal of HR issues. Asim Saeed felt there was a need for a short-term focus on cutting expenditures, reviewing subsidies, and taxing untaxed sectors of the economy. He called for bringing down interest rates and avoiding ad hocism in taxing windfall gains.

Railways spend over Rs 18m for rehabilitation of track

Presently, Pakistan Railway had planned to improve its functional links with regional countries, including India and Iran, he added

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways is spending Rs 1862.84 million for the rehabilitation of 518 kilometers of track between Kotri-Khanpur under the project of Immediate Track Safety Works (ITSW-I). Despite financial constraints, the management of Pakistan Railways was putting maximum effort into improving infrastructure including tracks, bridges, and stations, an official in the Ministry of Railways told media. Under the project of rehabilitation of Karachi Port tracks, 24-kilometre tracks, 17 level crossings and seven bridges had been rehabilitated, along with the replacement of turnouts, he added. The official said that Railway Dry Ports at Lahore (Mughalpur), Badami Bagh, and Azakhel had been upgraded. He said under the Immediate Track Safety Works (ITSW-II & IMTSW-III), the railway track between Tando Adam-Khanpur covering 456 kilometers would be rehabilitated at a cost of Rs 4830.437 million and Rs 4875.461 million, respectively, by replacing the US components of the track and ensuring the safety of train operation. A PC-I amounting to Rs 4930.22 million for the rehabilitation of track machinery has been approved, which would ensure the quality of track maintenance work. Meanwhile, as many as 11 stations have been upgraded, including Peshawar, Hassan Abdal, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Lahore, Narowal, Nankana Sahib, Raiwind, Okara, Sahiwal, and Bahawalpur, under PSDP projects. The assets of Pakistan Railways are mainly related to the track (11881 kilometers), and rolling stock (15699), and most of these assets have lived their useful life. Therefore, he said the department took several measures for efficient maintenance of these assets, which included an increase in fiscal space for maintenance through the transfer of pensions, reduced utility bills through solarization, improved procurement management through prioritized procurement, and an efficient fuel management system. Regional Connectivity is an important aspect of the Pakistan Railway development framework. Presently, Pakistan Railway had planned to improve its functional links with regional countries, including India and Iran, he added. Furthermore, the official said the following new rail links would be established, including the Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (UAP) Railway Connectivity Project through Kohat-Kharlachi.—DNA

Polio drops to be administered to 0.3m children in Attock

DNA

ATTOCK: A meeting regarding the anti-polio campaign was held at the DC Office Attock, chaired by Deputy Commissioner, Atif Raza. Representatives from the Department of Health, Education, WHO, and other relevant departments were present. CEO Health Attock, Dr. Asad Ismail and DHO Dr. Kashif Husain gave a detailed briefing to DC Atk and other participants regarding the upcoming polio campaign, scheduled from 27 November to 1st December. The deputy Commissioner appealed all the citizens of the district to extend their cooperation to the polio teams to make the district a polio free territory.—APP

Effect of climate change on production of wheat in Pakistan

Climate change poses challenges to production of wheat in Pakistan

NUSRAT SULTAN

Atmospheric conditions that remain for short time or for some days is called weather. On the other hand if such condition prevails for a long time, season, decades or even for century then it is called as climate. Climate change refers to change in climate due to natural or anthropogenic activities (human activities). and this change remains for a long period of time. Natural activities includes forest fire, thunder storm,

volcanic eruption and green house gases and human activities includes burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, industries, vehicles. Climate change has major effects on all the life forms on earth including human being, animals plants, micro-organisms, even it effects abiotic factors of earth like soil, water etc. due to climate change temperature rises, unpredictable weather patterns occur, land degraded, loss of biodiversity and wildlife also caused by climate change but here we only focus on the produc-

tion of wheat effected by climate change. As we know that Pakistan is an agricultural country it simply means that agriculture is the back bone of Pakistan economy. About 68% of the population in Pakistan engaged in farming directly or indirectly through production, processing and distribution of major agricultural commodities. Wheat is the major cereal crop and it's production is widespread. It is staple crop worldwide producing a significant source of food and nutrition for billions






of people. Climate change like higher temperature may negatively affect the growth process of wheat. Under high temperature spike production is reduced and spikes get vulnerable to disease stress. Temperature above 32 degree at the time of anthesis make grain shorter in size, grain filling duration in the spikes is also reduced which ultimately effects the wheat yield. The major objective of the study is to look at the impact of climate change on wheat production. While there have been no

major effects of climate change on the production of wheat yet but in 2022 the production of wheat was affected by flooding in all over Pakistan. Wheat yield in south Asian countries, including Pakistan, is feared to decline by 16 percent by 2050 due to climate change, reveals a new study released by the international maize and wheat improvement Centre. Climate change poses challenges to production of wheat in Pakistan but proactive measures can help to mitigate its impact.

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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

Hotels & Restaurants

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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



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PIA Flight Info.....114
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Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Pak greatly values ties with Poland: Information Minister

Embassy of Poland celebrates 105th anniversary of Independence, Armed Forces Day

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The caretaker Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has said the recently inaugurated Bara Kahu bridge is being named after the Air Commodore Wadystaw Turowicz, a leader of the Polish pilots who came to Pakistan to help create the Pakistani air forces, stating, "It has their full support".



growth has a lot to do with Pakistani exporters taking advantage of the European Union's generous GSP plus program. The ambassador highlighted that Orlen/PGNIG - Polish Oil and Gas Company, invested in the exploration of tied gas deposits in Pakistan. He said, "The Polish government fully supports the company's engagement in bringing indigenous Pakistani gas to Pakistani consumers."



related to education and women empowerment. "We are eager to continue political and strategic dialogue with our Pakistani partners. This year's successful high-level political consultations have given us a lot of encouragement in this regard," the envoy added. He said, "We are promoting Polish-Pakistani joint historical heritage."

Islamabad police launch program to uncover wanted criminals

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police have initiated a program aimed at unveiling information about wanted criminals and their involvement in various crimes. The program, which is being broadcast on social media platforms, sheds light on Register No. 10 (Monitoring of Criminals), a comprehensive record maintained by the Islamabad Police documenting proclaimed offenders and absconders involved in crimes of various nature.

Pak exports to China up by 70 percent in October

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's export to China touched US\$368 million in October this year, showing 70 percent increase as compare with same month of the previous year, Commercial Counselor, Pakistan Embassy Beijing, Ghulam Qadir said on Wednesday. "We're very happy to note that Pakistan's exports to China for October as per the Chinese data, have improved by 70% and have touched US\$368 million figure after a very long time. And there's an appreciable increase of over US\$150 million in a month," he told media.

WAPDA all sets to achieve major milestone

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) is all set to achieve a major milestone to divert the River Indus by the end of November for the Diamer Basha Dam project. Official sources told APP here that the River Indus was being diverted through an almost one-kilometer long diversion tunnel and 0.8-kilometer diversion canal.

Sufficient gas available to meet consumers needs in capital

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has sufficient gas to meet the needs of consumers in the capital, said a spokesperson of the SNGPL on Wednesday. A spokesperson Shahid Akram said that to address the issue of low gas pressure in the Islamabad region, the company is connecting multiple large-diameter pipelines to the system.

He further said that a "Situation Room" had been established at the regional office 19 Islamabad for monitoring gas pressures and resolving complaints through dedicated teams. The spokesperson said that an effective load management strategy has been devised and implemented throughout the region, including Islamabad, Attock, Wah, Taxila, Fateh Jang, Murree, and Kahuta.

the capital. Regarding LPG cylinder services, Shahid Akram said that SNGPL provides cylinders to consumers at competitive rates, adhering to international quality and safety standards. The spokesman highlighted SNGPL's Anti-Gas Theft Campaign being carried out in collaboration with FIA, in which numerous cases of gas theft and improper domestic to commercial use, including illegal use of compressors, have been traced.

Three booked for fireworks, aerial firing at wedding

RAWALPINDI: Police on Tuesday night raided a marriage party and arrested three persons for displaying fireworks, aerial firing, and use of firecrackers. According to a police spokesman, Race Course police conducted a raid and arrested Toqeer, Shehroz and Jamsaid, setting off fireworks during a wedding ceremony. Police also recovered weapons from their possession and registered a case against the accused. SP Potohar Muhammad Waqas appreciated the performance of the police team and said that action would continue against such lawbreakers who endanger the lives of the citizens through aerial firing and fireworks.

ISSI holds Webinar on the Palestinian- Israeli Conflict

MEHTAB PIRZADA

The Centre for Afghanistan Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), hosted a webinar titled, "Regional Perspectives on the Palestinian- Israeli Conflict." The webinar was moderated by Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA. The speakers at the webinar included Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI; Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI; Dr. Nader Al-Turk, the Deputy Ambassador of Palestine in Pakistan; Dr. Moatamer Amin, Department of Political Science, University of Cairo, Egypt; Dr. Joseph Bahout, Director, Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) at the American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon; Dr. Ali Bakir, Professor, Ibn Khaldon Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences, Qatar University, Doha; Dr. Bilgehan Öztürk, Researcher SETA Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research, Türkiye; Dr. Hanan AlHajeri, Department of Political Science, University of Kuwait; Dr. Aziz Alghashani, Saudi researcher and fellow with the Sectarianism, Proxies and De-sectarianisation project; and Dr. Omid Babolian, Research Fellow IPIS, Iran. DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted the heart wrenching situation being faced by the people of Gaza. He added that while there was an array of international opinion about the 7 October attack, the UN Secretary General had rightly pointed out that this did not happen in a vacuum. He noted the historical context of illegal occupation, unabated oppression, relentless appropriation of Palestinian lands, and systematic denial of Palestinian rights.



Advocating urgent priorities, he called for an immediate ceasefire, unhindered humanitarian aid delivery to Gaza, and the protection of innocent Palestinian civilians. Expressing deep concern over settler attacks and atrocities in the West Bank, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood urged immediate action to halt these injustices. Additionally, he underscored the importance of addressing long-term issues, advocating for a just and final settlement based on a two-state solution. Calling for a comprehensive review of the U.S. position, he urged proactive steps to move Israel towards a ceasefire and recommence peace talks.

Recognizing the vital role of international institutions, he called for united and assertive efforts from the UN Secretary-General, the Security Council, the Arab League, and the OIC. Director CAMEA Amina Khan highlighted the severe consequences of Israel's total blockade on Gaza, attributing it to the systematic oppression of the Palestinian people. She characterized Israel's military campaign as devastating and indiscriminate, using terms such as apartheid and genocide. Ms. Khan stated that over 13,000 casualties, including 5,500 children and 3,500 women, as of October 7, 2023 have taken place. Criticizing the international system's prioritization of conflicts, she questioned the sanctity of human rights and international law. Ms. Khan contested Israel's right to self-defence, asserting it cannot be invoked when the threat originates from the territory it occupies. She warned of broader regional repercussions, suggesting Israel's actions might be part of a plan to reoccupy Gaza and force Palestinians into neighboring countries, impacting regional dynamics and Israel's ties with the Muslim world, particularly those involved in the Abraham Accords, and heightening vulnerability to spillover. Dr. Nader Al-Turk highlighted that the events on October 7, 2023, are part of a 75-year history of Israeli apartheid. He condemned Israel's actions, emphasizing the collective punishment inflicted on Palestinians. Expressing gratitude to China and Russia for support, he criticized Western double standards.

Govt to launch first national IT export strategy

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr Umar Saif on Wednesday said that the government would launch first national IT export strategy report on November 23. "This has been developed in collaboration with a top-tier international consulting firm - PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) - for Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB)" he shared this on social media platform. The minister expressed the hope that due to the initiative, the country's exports would reach to \$10 billion during next three years.-APP

Briefs

Ministry allocates Rs 5.80m for electricity bill of Qasr-e-Naz lodge

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Housing and Works has allocated an amount of Rs 5.80 million in the current financial year 2023-2024 for electricity bills of Qasr-e-Naz Lodge, South Zone Karachi due to financial constraints. "Out of the total Rs 5.80 million, only an amount of Rs 0.87 million have been released at the rate of 15 percent in this regard so far," an official source told APP here on Wednesday.

He said that the Karachi Electric Supply Company bill was Rs 7.26 million for the month of September, 2023 along with arrears and the electricity connection had been disconnected in June, 2023. As per the statement of K-Electric, the official said that the electricity connection would be restored after payment of complete amount along with arrears. To a question, the official source said that the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) had opened registration to allot plots to general public in sectors G-12 and F-12, Islamabad in August 2023. He said the award of land of Sectors F-12 and G-12 was announced by the Deputy Commissioner Capital Development Authority (CDA) in April and June 1985 under section 25 of CDA Ordinance 1960. —APP

AIUO holds seminar on World Cities Day

ISLAMABAD: A one-day seminar titled "Financing Sustainable Urban Future for All" was held at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIUO) on World Cities Day 2023. Executive Director of United Nations Habitat, Memona Sharif, was the keynote speaker. She emphasized the crucial role of urban areas in accomplishing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. She further explained that ensuring safe and stable cities is an integral part of achieving sustainable development goals. Javed Ali Khan, Country Program Manager of UN-Habitat Pakistan, congratulated Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, the Vice Chancellor of AIUO on the university's 50th anniversary. He praised the university's educational services, stating that they are truly commendable. Javed Ali Khan and a consultant from the World Bank, Gul Najam Jami, delivered presentations that highlighted the facilities, opportunities, and problems faced in the urban areas. They also shared valuable information about the services and financial assistance provided by the United Nations and the World Bank about urbanization.

Dutch envoy calls on Dr. Gohar Ejaz to foster trade growth

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Netherlands to Pakistan Henny Fokel de Vries, on Wednesday called on Minister of Commerce and Industries Dr. Gohar Ejaz and discussed ways and means to explore avenues for further collaboration. The envoy expressed satisfaction with the strong trade ties between the two countries, particularly in the textile sector, and conveyed the Netherlands' interest in livestock and potatoes from Pakistan, said a news release here. While highlighting the potential for a formidable partnership in agriculture, she emphasized the abundance of land and labor in Pakistan. The ambassador also expressed the Netherlands' commitment to exploring additional opportunities for trade growth, citing technology and academic exchange as potential areas for collaboration. Acknowledging the Netherlands as one of Pakistan's top ten foreign trade partners, the minister outlined Pakistan's vast investment potential, particularly in IT, agriculture, and mining.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Shafqat Abbas Joint Secretary, Ministry of I&B presenting a bouquet to newly appointed Federal Secretary Information & Broadcasting Ms. Shahera Shahid upon her taking over charge of the office of the Secretary.

Pakistani businessman explores textile opportunities in Shanghai

The Pakistani government has been actively facilitating Pak-China textile machinery collaboration by providing incentives and creating a conducive business environment for Chinese textile machinery manufacturers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "Recognizing the importance of the textile industry for Pakistan's economy, the country has been actively seeking opportunities to upgrade its manufacturing capabilities. China, renowned for its expertise in textile machinery, has emerged as a valuable partner in this endeavor," said Waseem Bari, a Pakistani businessman with a keen interest in the textile industry who visits the ongoing ITMA Asia + China International Textile Machinery Exhibition (CITME) in Shanghai, according to a report published by Gwadar

Pro on Wednesday.

The event, which runs from November 19 to 23, is renowned as Asia's leading textile machinery exhibition, attracting more than 1,500 textile machinery manufacturing enterprises from 23 countries and regions. The exhibition, which showcases the latest advancements in textile technology including machinery, materials and digital solutions, presents an ideal setting for Waseem, who has 10-20 years of collaboration with over 10 Chinese manufacturers, to gain insights into the latest trends and innovations in the textile machinery sector. As his 4th time visiting ITMA

Asia + CITME, Waseem noticed that many new products were added to the exhibition, including the promotion of low carbon energy saving, the use of artificial intelligence, the improvement of quality control, the ease of production and the reduction of labor input, reflecting the future trend of the industry. To maintain the textile industry's leading position in the country's export contribution, Pakistani textile enterprises have been striving to meet global standards in terms of efficiency, productivity and sustainability amid a new wave of scientific and technological revolution. Waseem highlighted the need

for continuous innovation and investment in modern machinery to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the Pakistan's textile industry. He added that "Chinese textile machinery companies have been providing cutting-edge technologies, equipment, and technical support to Pakistani textile manufacturers by conducting training instructions programs in Pakistan to educate local manufacturers about the latest advancements in the machinery." The Pakistani government has been actively facilitating Pak-China textile machinery collaboration by providing incentives and creating a conducive business environment for Chinese textile machinery

manufacturers. Special economic zones and industrial parks have been set up to attract foreign investment and promote technology transfer. He was of the view that by embracing the latest technologies and sustainable practices showcased at the expo, Pakistani textile manufacturers could enhance their competitiveness on the global stage. "We welcome more Chinese textile machinery manufacturers to invest in Pakistan and involve joint research and development projects, where experts from both countries work together to innovate and create solutions tailored to the specific needs of Pakistan's textile industry," he added.

Constant increases in gas and electricity prices are unbearable

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Wednesday that the continuous increase in the price of electricity and gas is beyond the tolerance of the people and the business community. He said that the IMF wants electricity and gas not to be subsidized, and full cost recovery must be ensured. However, the business community believes that if the government reduces the expenses by eliminating mismanagement, incompetence and corruption in these sectors, the prices can be reduced instead of increasing. Talking to the business community, the

veteran business leader said that the IMF is justified in its demand that electricity and gas should not be sold cheaper than the cost of production because, in this case, the government has to take huge loans. He added that the people and the industrialists ask why they should pay the price for corruption, mismanagement and incompetence in electricity, gas and other sectors. The business leader said the agreements with the IPPs should also be revised because the people are bearing their effects. Mian Zahid Hussain further said that after the overall increase in gas prices by 194%, electricity rates are also likely to be increased soon, which will benefit the power sector but will affect people and business activities and further increase poverty in the country. The high cost of living has

forced people to continuously reduce the expenses of feeding themselves, children's education and medical treatment, which will devastate the country's economy in the long run. He said that the current caretaker government has yet to do any substantial work in the field of reforms but has considered increasing the price of everything as the solution to all problems, equivalent to indifference to the people's problems. The caretaker government should take difficult and unpopular reforms and administrative measures as it focuses too much on administrative actions. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the government's intervention had reduced the dollar's value, but it should be examined what was left behind in these measures, which is causing the dollar to rise again.

Polio drops administered to children

QAZI SHOAIB KHAN

ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Attock Mr Atif Raza on Wednesday while addressing the stake holders of health department has directed to ensure the administration of polio drops to over 0.3 million children of up to five years during the polio campaign being launched from November 27 to December 01, 2023 in the inter provincial bordering district Attock. A spokesman of DC Attock says on Wednesday. Among other the meeting was also attended by the Chief Executive Officer Health Authority Attock Dr. Asad Ismail, Medical Superintendent Govt Afsan-yar Bokhari District Hospital Attock Dr. Jawad Elahi, District Health Officer Attock

Dr. Kashif Hussain. The Chief Executive district health authority Attock Dr Asad Ismail while briefing the session has said that arrangements are finalized to administer polio drops to over 0.3 million children across the district under the supervision of representatives from provincial and Federal health authorities and the World Health Organisation (WHO). He said that after the detection of the Afghan origin of Type-1 Wild Poliovirus (WPV1) in environmental (sewage) samples in the adjacent district Rawalpindi, the health authorities have also announced to launch anti-polio drive across the district. While talking to our scribe Chief Executive district health authority Attock Dr Asad Ismail has said

that this was disclosed in a health department meeting held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza. All deputy district health officers (DDHO) of six tehsils, Superintendent Vaccination, Incharge Polio Control Room officials from education, health department, Punjab anti-polio program and representatives of WHO were also present on this occasion. Briefing the participants of the meeting, Chief Executive district health authority Dr Asad Ismail has said that arrangements are finalized to administer polio drops to over 0.3 million children across the district under the supervision of representatives from provincial and Federal health authorities and the World Health Organisation (WHO), he added.

Cement exports increase 40.46% to \$93.087 mln in four months

ISLAMABAD: The exports of cement witnessed an increase of 40.46 per cent during the first four months of the financial year 2023-24, as against the exports of the corresponding months of last year. The cement exports from the country were recorded at US \$93.087 million during July-October (2023-24) against the exports of US \$66.271 million during July-October (2022-23), according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). In terms of quantity, the exports of cement also surged by 81.69 per cent going up from 1,324,110 metric tons to 2,405,798 metric tons, according to the data. Meanwhile, year-on-year basis, the exports of cement witnessed an increase of 32.58 per cent during the month of October 2023 as compared to the same month of last year. The exports of cement from the country during October 2023 were recorded at US \$26.405 million against the exports of US \$19.916 million in October 2022. On a month-on-month basis, exports of cement however witnessed.—APP

Pak-China venture Regal automobiles launches its first EV Seres 3

ISLAMABAD: Regal Automobiles, a technical venture between Dong Feng Sokon (DFSK), the largest and most reputed brand in China and RP Group, one of Pakistan's most renowned business conglomerates launched their first Electric Vehicle (EV) Seres 3, in Pakistan. Since the country's car industry welcomed a number of electric vehicles recently, this is another update translating the way the auto sector is gearing itself to enhance green technology. The launch marks a significant milestone in Pakistan's automotive industry and a major step in addressing the rising fuel costs and shifting focus toward electric cars in the country. According to Gwadar Pro on Wednesday, official price, booking details, and delivery time have also been unveiled. According to the company, the locally assembled Seres 3 is priced at Rs. 9,199,000. The Completely Built-up Seres 3 was selling for above Rs. 10 million. The vehicle is expected to be delivered by March 24, 2024. The manufacturing facility is located at a 26-acre site in Lahore. The products will be delivered to end customers nationwide through a strong network of 19 independent 3S Dealerships spread across the country. The company has a workforce of more than 200 people. It invests heavily in training the team members and management employees and creating a culture of high-performing and empowered teams who work seamlessly across the various processes in search of quality and continuous improvement. Pakistan is catching a ride on the global EV boom as statistics from the International Energy Agency (IEA) show that in 2022, one in every seven passenger cars bought worldwide was an EV, as compared with one in every 70 just five years earlier. Last year, EV sales rose by 55%, reaching a total of 10.5 million, according to the EV Volumes sales database. Pakistan, in its timely joining the trend, is ramping up cooperation with international EV giants to amplify its own competence. A number of Chinese companies such as BAIC, Changan, JAC Motors, Great Wall Motors, MG, FAW, and Chery Automobile have established their presence and even formed joint ventures in Pakistan, driving the EV industry in the country towards intelligence and electrification. While there is a long way to go for Pakistan to build the EV infrastructure, cut down EV prices, and produce parts locally, we have a lot to benefit from the technology transfer from global tycoons like China.—DNA

Motorway M-1 North Zone faces traffic turbulence

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The travelers on the M-1 motorway, the main artery connecting Peshawar to Islamabad, are advised to be aware of ongoing roadwork and lane closures that may impact their journey on Wednesday. According to NHMP Public Relations Officer (PRO) of Wali Interchange (KM 450-451), "Northbound traffic on the M-1 will encounter lane closures at the Wali Interchange due to ongoing roadwork. The second and third lanes will be affected, potentially causing congestion and delays." "Swabi Interchange (KM 422-422.400), Southbound traffic approaching the Swabi Interchange will face lane closures affecting the first and second lanes. The roadwork activities in this area may lead to slower traffic flow and increased travel time." "Near Swabi Interchange (KM 424-424.900), both northbound and southbound traffic will encounter lane closures near the Swabi Interchange, impacting the first and second lanes in both directions. Roadwork in this section may cause temporary delays and disruptions to traffic flow," he added. "Motorists are advised to plan their journeys accordingly, allowing extra time for potential delays and considering alternative routes if necessary." "Please stay alert and follow traffic instructions to ensure a safe and smooth travel experience," said the PRO.

ICP ensures robust security measures in high-security zone

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police is actively implementing robust security measures in high-security zone and maintaining heightened vigilance in the area. The teams of Islamabad Capital Police stationed in the high-security zone are dedicatedly executing their duties to guarantee effective security arrangements for crucial court hearings. Senior police officials have instructed on-duty officers and personnel to prioritize the security of vital government offices, superior courts, and embassies situated in the high-security zone. Emphasizing unwavering commitment, all officers and personnel have been directed to execute their duties diligently, ensuring no lapses or complacency during duty hours, thereby upholding peace and security. The Islamabad Capital Police is proactively taking all necessary measures to protect the lives and property of citizens, with a zero-tolerance policy toward any disruptions to public peace. Citizens are urged to collaborate with the police, reporting any suspicious activities or objects to their respective police stations or utilizing the emergency helpline "Pucar-15" or the "ICT-15" application.

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Regional inequalities: they still need fixing

WHATEVER happened to the "Medici model"? Two years ago, Michael Gove enthusiastically outlined his desire to embed the cultural and economic dynamism of renaissance Florence in England's neglected post-industrial regions. Sadly for the secretary of state for levelling up, it became clear that Rishi Sunak's Treasury had no intention of releasing the kind of sums that could truly address inequalities in a disastrously unbalanced economy. What has unfolded instead has been an unsatisfactory cosmetic affair, in which councils hollowed out by cuts have fought for limited Westminster largesse. This week, Mr Gove's department unveiled the third tranche of cash from the levelling up fund – around £1bn for more than 50 projects across Britain. There is no doubt that money such as that allocated to improve the Penistone railway line between Sheffield and Huddersfield is welcome. But salutary context is provided by comparing the £12bn or so dedicated to levelling up with the close to €2tn spent by Germany on improving living standards in its east between 1990 and 2014. It also turns out that a flawed and sometimes nakedly political decision-making process has undermined even the modest level of ambition. Last week, the National Audit Office reported that work has not even begun on many supposedly "shovel-ready" schemes agreed in the aftermath of the 2019 "red wall" election. Some are now deemed unrealistic, given the impact of inflation on costs. The public is justifiably underwhelmed. When it comes to the touchstone issue of rejuvenating dilapidated town centres, a More in Common survey this month found that less than a quarter of respondents believed real progress has been made. Meanwhile, a landmark study will on Wednesday highlight the grimmest of all indicators of entrenched regional inequality: according to research by the Centre for Ageing Better, older people in the north of England continue to die younger after spending more years in poor health and longer periods out of work. Strikingly, however, More in Common also says that almost 40% of Britons believe that reducing geographic disparities should remain a top priority for any government. The idea of levelling up has been criticised as too vague and all-encompassing. But beyond the golden triangle of London and the south-east, it struck a popular chord and spoke to the lived experience of civic decline that contributed to the Brexit vote in 2016. Sir Keir Starmer has recognised this by pledging to introduce a "take back control" bill if Labour wins power, echoing the leave campaign slogan in the referendum. Promises to devolve greater powers to local authorities and communities are right and necessary. But after four years in which Tory administrations have half-heartedly papered over cracks resulting from years of austerity, there must be more to any Labour version of levelling up. To areas that suffered disproportionately from cuts to council funding, sufficient resources must be restored to allow public services to be rebuilt. An industrial strategy aimed at the regions needs to be backed by concerted fiscal firepower at a national level.



Momentum of improving ties should be cherished

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's Nov 4-7 China visit inspired hope that the two countries would move fast to repair strained ties. But mutual suspicions may have run too deep to allow that to happen smoothly. Just a week after Albanese's trip, an unexpected close encounter between the two countries' navies left them exchanging the blame. Albanese told the media on Monday he was "very concerned" about the Nov 14 incident between Australian and Chinese vessels, where "one person suffered an injury as a result of the actions of China", which he called dangerous and reckless. Claiming the incident has damaged bilateral ties, and his government has lodged a "strong objection", the Australian leader emphasized the need for "communication guardrails" between the two militaries. What happened was obviously an outcome of the rapidly increasing military activities in the West Pacific and the resulting escalating tensions, which in turn are occurring amid the broader deepening strategic distrust in the background. According to the Australian Defense Ministry, its frigate HMAS Toowoomba was conducting a diving operation in the "Japanese Exclusive Economic Zone" to clear fishing nets from its propellers. An approaching People's Liberation Army Navy destroyer ignored the vessel's notice of the ongoing diving operation and operated its sonar, causing personnel injuries. The Chinese Defense Ministry has flatly denied that version of events, saying that the Chinese destroyer Ningbo monitored and identified the Australian vessel from a "safe distance" and "did not carry out any activities that might affect the diving operations of the Australian side". It must be pointed out that China and Japan have not carried out maritime delimitation in the relevant waters, so the claim of Chinese military activity in "Japanese Exclusive Economic Zone" is not correct. The Chinese military is strictly disciplined and always operates professionally in accordance with international law and international common practices. The Australian side should stop making trouble in front of China's doorstep and work with China to preserve the momentum of improving bilateral ties. As has been the case in all the recent encounters between Chinese and foreign militaries in nearby areas, everyone seems to believe they were behaving in accordance with international law. Divergent readings of some critical clauses of international law may mean such beliefs are sincere. Even if that is the case, the active territorial and maritime disputes in the East and South China seas significantly complicate the matter. Unless the parties involved can communicate their intentions and purposes beforehand and explain corresponding actions in a clear and timely manner, misjudgments may greatly amplify the risk of unintended conflict. As more extraterritorial militaries swarm around China, avoiding any mishap or misjudgment will prove critical to peace and stability.

Hateful rhetoric will remain a threat to hopes of peace

Mohamed Chebaro

The inflammatory language could normalize the discussion of ideas that would have been off limits before Oct. 7. It risks becoming the new normal and further tearing apart peoples that have been condemned by geography to always live alongside each other. On one side, a right-wing and increasingly ultrareligious Israel talks of erasing the people of Gaza, the nuclear annihilation of the Strip and even ethnic cleansing. This is met with an equally hateful narrative from Hamas that celebrates the barbaric acts its militants carried out last month

COULD the Hamas-Israel conflict finally enter a new phase as a result of Wednesday's deal to release 50 civilian hostages held by Hamas in return for 150 Palestinian prisoners detained by Israel during a four-day truce brokered by Qatar, Egypt and the US? One would hope this agreement will pave the way for reason to triumph over the flood of hate that has been pouring out ever since Hamas gunmen killed about 1,200 Israelis, mostly civilians, during cross-border raids on Oct. 7 – the deadliest attack on Israel in its 75-year history. In retaliation, Israel launched a relentless bombing campaign and ground offensive in Gaza, the enclave ruled by Hamas, killing more than 14,000 people, many thousands of them children. Such deals are usually riddled with uncertainties, especially in the case of Hamas and Israel. The cross-border attack and subsequent retaliation have added a new dimension to this existential conflict, namely the hateful rhetoric, extreme name-calling and inciteful references leveled against each other since Oct. 7. This has not previously been seen or heard of, at least publicly. References by Israeli officials, journalists and influencers have crossed a Rubicon that threatens to make impossible any future climbdown that would allow the two peoples to coexist. "We are fighting human animals," said Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. "We are fighting Nazis," said Naftali Bennett, the former prime minister. Current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu drew on the Bible to remind of ancient threats to the "Israelites," when they faced calls to exterminate "men, women and infants." The cross-border attack and subsequent retaliation have added a new dimension to this existential conflict Hamas' narrative and rhetoric has been no better, as for years it has called for Isra-

el to be wiped out and to "throw Israelis into the sea," even justifying its violence, though this never reflected the mindset of all Palestinians. The fear is that, this time around, inflammatory rhetoric will take root and become mainstream. If that were to happen, it would need several generations to weed it out of hearts and minds and to pave the way for any possible peace settlement, which is the only way for Israel to ensure security for its citizens and for the Palestinians to have their right to a state and peaceful coexistence. The inflammatory language could normalize the discussion of ideas that would have been off limits before Oct. 7. It risks becoming the new normal and further tearing apart peoples that have been condemned by geography to always live alongside each other. On one side, a right-wing and increasingly ultrareligious Israel talks of erasing the people of Gaza, the nuclear annihilation of the Strip and even ethnic cleansing. This is met with an equally hateful narrative from Hamas that celebrates the barbaric acts its militants carried out last month. In times of crisis, experts often claim that people on both sides of a conflict feel the need to see matters in clear black and white, either "with us or against us" or "good guys versus bad guys." This is because the masses often do not have the luxury of seeing things in all their multilayered complexities. Hence, leaders tend to up the tempo in order to rally the people and prepare them to make sacrifices. This often leads to dehumanizing the "other" – in Israel's case, that is the people of Gaza, along with the further mistreatment of Palestinians in the West Bank and even Palestinian citizens of Israel, who could face mistreatment in the long run. Legitimizing hateful rhetoric will be a major obstacle that makes turning the wheels back nearly impossible

Language is, unfortunately, a double-edged sword: it could help to relieve and contain the anger today, but become an obstacle tomorrow. And while the international community continues to try to grapple with ways of ending the conflict, starting with the hostage exchange and humanitarian truce, many have been hard at work discussing ideas about the day after a ceasefire. They have raised the possibility of forming a multinational force, rehabilitating the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah and enabling it to govern Gaza, tabling a plan for a UN-type protectorate in Gaza, or simply re-imagining a formula for a new two-state solution. While the actual war and the accompanying war of words, propaganda, fake news and manipulated or doctored "realities" continue to be waged on all actual and virtual fronts, major fears remain about the possibility of the conflict further inflaming the volatile situation in the West Bank and dragging in other actors in the Middle East. The best way to ensure Israel's security is through the establishment of a Palestinian state, as EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said this week. My fear remains that legitimizing hateful rhetoric will be a major obstacle that makes turning the wheels back in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict nearly impossible. It will likely require a reeducation that might yield fruit for future generations, but only if done properly. One can only hope, therefore, that the initial truce and hostage exchange will instigate a reimagining of the peace process. An internationally brokered formula to help impose a cessation of violence, temporarily, is maybe the easy part, however difficult it might seem at the moment. But the damage caused by the inciteful rhetoric in the wake of the Oct. 7 attack is likely to plague both peoples for the foreseeable future.

– Sourced by Arab new

Energy security, regional security key to expanding GCC-EU ties

Dr. Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg

The ministers also called for the successful conclusion of the "Global Stocktake" as the backbone of the ambition cycle of the Paris Agreement and the speedy implementation of commitments previously made. Just as importantly, they agreed on joint GCC-EU action to mitigate climate change and adaptation, develop renewables and improve energy efficiency. They also called for more climate investments by private investors. The GCC region has significantly contributed to the achievement of climate change mitigation, including Saudi Arabia's...

BHRAIN this week hosted the seventh GCC-EU Business Forum, right after the conclusion of the annual Manama Dialogue. Both stressed the intertwined connections between the energy transition, climate change and energy security. The business forum started in 2016 and has developed into an important annual event that allows the exchange of views between the business communities and officials from the EU and the Gulf Cooperation Council. A lot has changed since 2016. The GCC's economic growth has been phenomenal, with its gross domestic product rising by about 70 percent since then to reach \$2.3 trillion in 2023, making it the fastest-growing region globally. The GCC also has a sharper focus on diversification, climate change mitigation and renewable energy. The EU too has changed; its GDP has grown to \$18.4 trillion, up 32 percent since 2016, and it has adopted the comprehensive European Green Deal, which aims for carbon neutrality and commits sizable funds to finance multiple policies to reach that objective by 2050. A partnership with the GCC is essential to meet that goal, since this region can produce renewables on a massive, low-cost scale, just as it has traditionally been key to conventional energy. Besides oil and gas, the GCC region is best suited to solar and wind energies and has favorable conditions for green and blue hydrogen production too. This means that the GCC region will remain very much relevant to the energy markets, even if oil becomes less important in the future. The GCC region will remain very much relevant to the energy markets, even if oil becomes less important. This year has witnessed remarkable growth in investments in the energy transition in GCC countries. For example, Saudi Arabia's NEOM Green Hydrogen Project, one of the world's largest commercially based hydrogen facilities, is expected to produce 600 tons of clean hydrogen daily in 2026 and 1.2 million tons of green ammonia annually. When complete, the project will mitigate the impact of 5 million tons of carbon emissions per year. Meanwhile, Oman this year awarded a \$6.7 billion contract for one of the world's largest green hydrogen plants in Duqm, which is expected to come online in 2028. And Qatar last year started work on a \$1 billion hydrogen plant. Saudi Arabia, a regional pioneer in solar energy for decades, is now building some of the largest solar farms in the world. This year, it started another one in Makkah province that is expected to begin operations by the end

of 2025, with a generation capacity of more than 2 gigawatts. Qatar last year opened Al-Kharsaah solar power plant with an 800 megawatt capacity. And, just a few days ago, the UAE announced that the Al-Dhafra solar farm – believed to be the world's largest operating single-site solar power plant – had come online ahead of the COP28 climate change conference, which opens in Dubai on Nov. 30. The 2 GW facility will power nearly 200,000 homes and eliminate more than 2.4 million tons of carbon emissions annually. It created 4,500 jobs during construction. The UAE's solar power production capacity has now reached 3.2 GW and it is aiming to increase its renewable energy capacity to 14 GW by 2030. Unfortunately, the energy transition is costly in the short term and probably the medium term too, putting it beyond the reach of many developing countries and making it necessary to manage energy transitions. When GCC and EU foreign ministers met last month in Muscat, they agreed to work together toward a sustainable, just, affordable, inclusive and orderly energy transition. They stressed the principles of "fairness and equity," which mean common but differentiated responsibilities, taking into consideration different national circumstances and capabilities in implementing climate agreements. For the same reasons, it is equally important to continue to invest in oil and gas production to meet global demand, including from developing countries, which may not be able to afford state-of-the-art renewables during the energy transition. The ministers also called for the successful conclusion of the "Global Stocktake" as the backbone of the ambition cycle of the Paris Agreement and the speedy implementation of commitments previously made. Just as importantly, they agreed on joint GCC-EU action to mitigate climate change and adaptation, develop renewables and improve energy efficiency. They also called for more climate investments by private investors. The GCC region has significantly contributed to the achievement of climate change mitigation, including Saudi Arabia's Middle East Green Initiative, with a budget of \$2.5 billion to support its governance and projects, and the establishment of an international water organization in Riyadh. The UAE has also launched a water initiative to address global water scarcity, in addition to the joint UAE-EU initiative on the Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge, which aims to triple renewable energy capacity and

double energy efficiency and is expected to be announced at COP28. Israel's war against Gaza has put energy security in jeopardy, as the war in Ukraine did before. The EU and GCC have also agreed to further engage on a joint agenda to decarbonize energy systems by deepening technical cooperation in this area, including on hydrogen, energy efficiency, the integration of renewables and the development of electricity interconnections, with the ultimate goal of achieving climate neutrality. The Joint Action Program the two sides adopted in 2022 includes important provisions on the modalities of such cooperation. For GCC-EU cooperation to happen at the required scale, especially for the private sector to invest significantly in energy transition and climate change mitigation projects, more work needs to be done to enhance energy security and regional security as a whole. Energy security involves the security of supplies, protection of production and export infrastructures and safeguarding of international shipping lanes. Regional security covers more, including cybersecurity, fighting terrorism, tackling organized crime and more. In addition to its unspeakable humanitarian toll, Israel's war against Gaza has put energy security in jeopardy, as the war in Ukraine did before. The longer the war goes on, the more harm it is inflicting on energy security. Energy production and transport capacity have been affected, as has international shipping. There is also some evidence of capital flight. To maintain energy security, greater international cooperation is needed, including through the Combined Maritime Forces umbrella. Energy security also requires managing the energy transition toward a fully renewable future, so that investment in conventional energy keeps pace with demand. If we fail to do so and renewables are unable to meet the energy needs of consumers, shortages and higher prices will make it difficult to afford energy costs, especially in poor countries and vulnerable communities. One of the new developments in the GCC-EU partnership is a decision to upgrade security cooperation. The EU has appointed Luigi Di Maio, Italy's former foreign minister, as its representative to the region, with a focus on regional security and political dialogue. The instruments for this heightened engagement are currently being developed and should help the two sides carry out their joint commitments toward regional security and energy security.

– Sourced by Arab new

Briefs

Hamas, Israel agree on four day ceasefire

FROM PAGE 01 we affirm that our hands will remain on the trigger, and our victorious brigades will remain on the lookout to defend our people and defeat the occupation and its aggression...

Israel's 'terrorism'...

FROM PAGE 01 He underlined that countries must force Israel to account for its actions and to abide by international law. "The Islamic world must act with the spirit of unity to apply the decisions and stand behind the decisiveness it displayed in Riyadh..."

Cipher case: SC issues...

FROM PAGE 01 the final investigation report by the investigating officer. Safdar shared that the investigation officer did not did not adopt a clear stance. He added that Azam was "kidnapped" and after the "kidnapping" his statement was recorded under Section 164...

PM Kakar summoned..

FROM PAGE 01 the secretaries from both ministries and has sought a report from the federal government committee within a week. "We are sitting in Islamabad and talking about the rights of Balochistan. I'm giving [you] seven days time to ensure the implementation..."

Argentina sink Brazil in ill-tempered clash

It was Brazil's first home defeat ever in World Cup qualifying, a game that was delayed because of a brawl between fans in the stands

SPORTS DESK

RIO DE JANEIRO: Lionel Messi's Argentina squad celebrated like they'd won the World Cup again after a dramatic 1-0 win over archrival Brazil. It was Brazil's first home defeat ever in World Cup qualifying, a game that was delayed because of a brawl between fans in the stands.



kneeled and opened his arms in celebration after the whistle. "The derbies are like this. If we need to keep the ball, we do it. If we have to defend and suffer, we do, too. That's why we are the best team in the world."

avoid direct confrontation. Brazil wasted opportunities, with Raphinha's free kick in the 38th minute and Cristian Romero saving Argentina near the goal line six minutes later after a crossed shot by Gabriel Martinelli.

PM terms climate change...

FROM PAGE 01 comprehensive preparation to present Pakistan's stance on climate finance and other related matter at the COP 28 conference being held under the auspices of the United Nations. Earlier, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has said it is responsibility of the federation to ensure equitable distribution of resources in all provinces.

Justice Naqvi asked to submit...

FROM PAGE 01 Qazi Faiz Isa, Justice Sardar Tariq, Justice Amir Bhatti, and Justice Naeem Afghan whereas Justice Ijazul Ahsan dissented with the majority opinion. Earlier, Justice Naqvi had lodged a petition in the apex court, contesting the SJC proceedings.

Behind PDM gov't failure...

FROM PAGE 01 politicians would add to the nation's sufferings. "They intend to settle personal scores after forming the government. They want to pursue revenge politics by coming into power," he said.

Defeating inflation PML-N's...

FROM PAGE 01 Shehbaz Sharif said: "It is the topmost priority and the national agenda to steer the country out of the economic quagmire. Earlier, Waqar Ahmed decided to join the PML-N. He rallied behind Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif, saying, 'Only the Sharif brothers have the ability to uplift the country.'"

2 soldiers martyred..

FROM PAGE 01 surge in terrorism in recent months, with the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other militant outfits intensifying their actions against security forces. In response, the state has also launched operations to curb terrorism.

Croatia deserve to be at Euro: Modric

PARIS: Croatia clinched the final automatic qualifying spot for Euro 2024 as Wales were forced to settle for a play-off place, while France had to come from behind to draw in Greece. Semi-finalists at the World Cup 12 months ago, Croatia knew they would qualify for next year's European Championship in Germany with a win against Armenia in Zagreb...



ISLAMABAD: The Dutch Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Henny Fokel de Vries meeting with Minister of Commerce and Industries Dr. Gohar Ejaz. - DNA

Babar closes in on reclaiming top ODI spot

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan batter, Babar Azam, is only three rating points away from reclaiming the number spot in the ICC Men's ODI batting rankings. Currently, Shubman Gill (826 points) continues to lead the way in the batting rankings after dethroning Babar Azam (824 points).

Holder Canada knocked out of Davis Cup by Finland

The Final Eight continues on Wednesday with the Czechs taking on Australia when organisers, the International Tennis Federation, will hope the atmosphere matches that of the week's opening battle



MALAGA: Canada's reign as Davis Cup champions was ended by outsiders Finland who produced a big shock on the opening day of the Final Eight in Malaga on Tuesday. Roared on by thousands of Finnish fans, Otto Virtanen and Harri Heino beat Vasek Pospisil and Alexis Galarneau 7-5 6-3 to move in to the semi-finals for the first time.

ment company Kosmos have not been everyone's cup of tea, with the traditional 'home and away' ties largely replaced. But ITF president David Haggerty said the new format, featuring qualifiers spread across four cities in September to determine the Final Eight in Malaga, is the best formula.

Pak tour of Netherlands postponed over PCB's request
In light of these circumstances, both cricket boards are actively exploring alternative options to find a suitable time to reschedule the T20I series

OUR CORRESPONDENTS

LAHORE: Pakistan's three-match T20I tour to the Netherlands, scheduled for May in 2024, has been postponed to scheduling problems, according to a report by Cricbuzz. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) formally approached the Royal Dutch Cricket Association (KNCB) to request a rescheduling of the series.



remain optimistic a new window will be found to play the series either at home or away" KNCB High Performance Manager Roland Lefebvre told Cricbuzz... A three-match T20I series had been tentatively scheduled for early May, preceding

Pakistan's planned tour to Ireland and England in 2024. However, the tight schedule, particularly due to Pakistan's five-match home T20I series against New Zealand in April, left limited room for the Dutch leg of the European tour. Consequently, the PCB sought to reschedule the series to ensure a more manageable and feasible cricketing calendar. Pakistan's T20I schedule leading up to T20 World Cup: January 3-7: Australia vs Pakistan - Third Test in Sydney

Briefs

Time not on Israel's side: Iran FM

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian says six weeks of heroic resistance of the oppressed Palestinian people in Gaza has proved that time is not on Israel's side if the war drags on, stressing that the global public opinion would see the occupying regime and the US as the main losers. Amir-Abdollahian made the remarks upon his arrival in the Lebanese capital Beirut on Wednesday, where he is expected to discuss the recent developments in the region, including the Israeli regime's war on the Gaza Strip, with Lebanese authorities. "Without a doubt, the future of Gaza and the future of Palestine will be decided only by the Palestinian people," the top Iranian diplomat said. "We have heard from the resistance leaders in the region that the finger of the resistance will remain on the trigger until the Palestinian people's rights are fully restored and their fight has achieved its goals," he added. Amir-Abdollahian further noted that he is in Beirut "to consult with high Lebanese authorities about how to maximize security in the region and how to restore Palestinian rights." Iran's foreign minister's remarks came hours after Palestinian resistance movement Hamas announced a four-day truce with Israel in the Gaza Strip that will see the cessation of Israeli assaults on the Gaza Strip.

Former PPP senator joins PML-N

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Former federal minister for privatisation and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) senator Waqar Ahmed Khan on Wednesday announced his decision to join the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). Addressing the media alongside PML-N Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's President Amir Muqam, Waqar Ahmad Khan stated that his political orientation revolves around serving the people, with national interest taking precedence over personal goals. Uniting all political parties on a common platform demands skill, he noted, emphasising the country's requirement for stability and experienced leadership. The former minister highlighted that Nawaz Sharif's team, during his three terms as prime minister, is credited with saving Pakistan from economic challenges and steering clear of default. Waqar emphasised that political stability was essential for any country, serving as a prerequisite for achieving economic stability. He hoped that under the leadership of Ishaq Dar, PML-N would possess the most competent economic team to navigate the country through challenging times.

Syria repel Israeli aggression near Damascus

DAMASCUS: The Syrian Army's air defense units have intercepted and shot down an Israeli missile near the country's capital city of Damascus, amid an upsurge in the Tel Aviv regime's acts of aggression against the Arab nation. "At around 3:10 p.m. local time (12:10 GMT) on Wednesday, the Israeli enemy perpetrated an air aggression and fired two missiles from the direction of the occupied Golan Heights at some targets in the vicinity of Damascus," the official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) quoted an unnamed military source as saying. The source added that Syrian air defenses downed one of the missiles, while the second caused "material losses." The report noted that there were no injuries in the strike. The upsurge in Israel's attacks against Syria comes following the Tel Aviv regime's bloody onslaught against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip. — Agencies

ITALIAN ENVOY BIDS FAREWELL TO INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Italy Andreas Ferrarese and Madam Albana Ferrarese hosted a farewell dinner for the outgoing Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio, who is leaving Pakistan on Saturday after completing his tenure here. The dinner was attended by Editor Daily Islamabad POST/Centreline Ansar M Bhatti, World Bank representative and his wife, High Commissioner of Malaysia and his wife, Aziz Boolani CEO Serena Hotels and his wife, Ambassador of Austria and her spouse, and former Pakistani Ambassador of Italy Nadeem Riaz. The Italian ambassador lauded the services of outgoing Indonesian ambassador. He said during his tenure in Pakistan he contributed greatly towards promotion of relations between Indonesia and Pakistan. — DNA

Solangi meets Kazakh envoy Pakistan-Kazakhstan set to establish State media offices

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday said that Pakistan valued its relations with Kazakhstan and was working on strengthening them in diverse fields. During a meeting with Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin important issues including bilateral relations, strengthening cooperation in the media sector, promoting public relations and regional situation were discussed. Murtaza Solangi and the ambassador agreed to establish offices of state media organizations of both countries in Pakistan and Kazakhstan. "There is a need to promote public relations and exchange of cultural delegations between the two countries," he said and stressed for further promoting the cooperation between state media institutions of two countries. He said that the PTV and Radio Pakistan were the main source of access to information on both sides. The issue of signing a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of



Information and Broadcasting of Pakistan and the Ministry of Information and Social Development of Kazakhstan was also discussed in the meeting. In this regard, it was also agreed to hold a Zoom meeting between the Information Ministers of Pakistan and Kazakhstan. A memorandum of understanding for media cooperation was signed between Associated Press of

Pakistan and Kazakh Information Agency in 2018, Murtaza Solangi said. A team from Lahore was leaving for Kazakhstan for film shooting, which was an important step towards promoting cultural relations between the two countries, he said. Pakistan, he added, was a key member of Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Economic Cooperation Organization and next meeting of the SCO was being held in Kazakhstan. Terming SCO a dynamic platform for building relations with regional countries, Murtaza Solangi said Pakistan maintained deep, historical and cultural ties with members of the SCO as "Our interests and objectives are broadly intertwined". The Ambassador of Kazakhstan invited the minister to visit Kazakhstan to sign the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of Pakistan and the Ministry of Information and Social Development of Kazakhstan. He said that the President of Kazakhstan profoundly loved Pakistan and the people of Pakistan. The Ambassador said the President of Kazakhstan will visit Pakistan next year. This visit of the President of Kazakhstan will be a milestone in terms of trade, which will further promote bilateral trade relations, the ambassador said. "We want to further strengthen the cooperation between the state media of the two countries", he added. He said Pakistan was an important country for access to warm waters in the Middle East. He pointed out that Sialkot was a leading centre for manufacturing football and surgical instruments.

Rulers carrying on 'legacy' of East India Company

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Sirajul Haq assailed the political opponents on Wednesday, asserting the rulers are carrying on the "legacy" of the East India Company. Addressing the convention in Peshawar, Haq took a swipe at former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari. "The PPP had ruled the country for four terms." "The PML-N had come to power on a regular basis," he added. Speaking about self-accountability, Haq said, "I am ready for self-accountability in 2023. Nawaz Sharif, Shehbaz, and Asif Ali Zardari should also be ready for self-accountability."

US thwarts Indian plot to kill Sikh leader

Protest to New Delhi was allegedly lodged after Indian PM Narendra Modi's state visit to US in June

WEB DESK / FT

LONDON: The US authorities thwarted an Indian conspiracy to assassinate the pro-Khalistan leader of Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) Gurpatwant Singh Pannun on American soil and issued a warning to India's government over concerns it was involved in the plot, according to multiple people familiar with the case who spoke to the Financial Times (FT). In a shocking story, the FT has revealed that the target of the Indian plot was Gurpatwant, an American and Canadian citizen who is general counsel for Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), a US-based group that is part of a movement pushing for an independent Sikh state called "Khalistan".

The intelligence people familiar with the case, who requested anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the intelligence that prompted the warning, told FT the Indian government was behind the plot to kill Pannun, who has been running a worldwide campaign called Khalistan Referendum in which over 1.3 million Sikhs have voted so far. The US sources didn't tell the FT whether the protest to New Delhi led the plotters to abandon their plan, or whether the FBI intervened and foiled a scheme already in motion. The US informed some allies about the plot following the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian Sikh separatist killed in Vancouver in June. In September, Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said there were "credible allegations" linking New Delhi to Nijjar's fatal shooting. The FT reported that one person familiar with the situation said the US protest was issued after Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a high-profile state visit to Washington in June. The FT revealed that apart from the diplomatic warning, US federal prosecutors have filed a sealed indictment against at least one alleged perpetrator of the plot in a New York district court, according to people familiar with the case. The US justice department is debating whether to unseal the indictment and make the allegations public or wait until Canada finishes its investigation into Nijjar's murder, said the paper. Further complicating the case, one person charged in the indictment is believed to have left the US, according to people familiar with the proceedings. The US Justice Department and FBI declined to comment.

South suspends military deal after North Korea spy satellite launch

NEWS DESK

SEOUL: South Korea has suspended parts of its 2018 agreement with the North aimed at lowering military tensions. This comes after Pyongyang claimed to have successfully launched a spy satellite into space. Prime Minister Han Duck-soo said the launch threatened South Korea's security. Seoul said it would resume surveillance flights along its border with North Korea, breaching a no-fly zone established under the military pact. Some analysts have said these developments could escalate tensions further. Pyongyang fired a rocket, said to contain its Mallyong-1 spy satellite, late on Tuesday and hailed the launch as a "success". On Wednesday, South Korea's military confirmed that the satellite had entered orbit but noted that it was too soon to tell if it was actually functioning, though both it and the US strongly condemned the launch. US National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson said the move risked "destabilising the security situation in the region and beyond." Developing a functioning spy satellite is a major part of North Korea's five-year military plan, set out by its leader Kim Jong Un in January 2021. The technology could in theory enable Pyongyang to monitor the movement of US and South Korean troops

and weapons on the Korean Peninsula, allowing it to spot incoming threats. It would also allow the North to plot its nuclear attacks with more precision. North Korea's space agency, the National Aerospace Technology Administration, said the launch was an attempt to bolster the country's self-defence capabilities, in the face of "dangerous military moves" by its enemies. Pyongyang added that it planned to launch several more spy satellites "in a short space of time". Some analysts are sceptical as to whether the satellite is advanced enough to be effective. Jang Young-geun, who runs the Missile Centre at the Korea Research Institute for National Strategy, predicted that given past attempts, the resolution of the satellite's camera is "probably not at a level to allow for detailed military reconnaissance." Nonetheless, he said, a low resolution is "better than nothing", as an attack - regardless of the target - will need information to make it more effective. Ankit Panda, a nuclear policy expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, also reckoned that while the satellite could enhance the effectiveness of North Korea's armed forces, it could conversely have a "stabilising effect" on the Peninsula. "It could make Pyongyang act less skittishly in crises," he said. "For instance, it could use its satellites to verify that the US and South Korea were, in fact, not surging their forces to prepare for a major attack."

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