Soon From LAHORE & KARACHI A sister publication of **CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency** www.islamabadpost.com.pk **ISLAMABAD EDITION** Thursday, November 23, 2023 Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper Price Rs. 30 Shubman Gill Gaza resistance proves Rulers carrying on legacy of East retains top spot time not on Israel's side if war drags on **India Company** in ODI ranking Detailed News On Page-06 **Detailed News On Page-08 Detailed News On Page-08**

Briefs ANF challenges **Abbasi's** acquittal

FAISAL SHEIKH

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

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, and cultural," Erdogan emphasized. its commitments. "While we announce the

Continued on Page 06

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 econom-

Continued on Page 06



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



STAFF REPORT

vice (IED) exploded near a

convoy of security forces in

North Waziristan district's

Razmak area, the military's

media wing said Wednesday.

RAWALPINDI: Two soldiers were martyred when an improvised explosive de-

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

Justice Nagvi asked to submit response within 14 days

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT



le gal 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 Dilawar 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



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 Iatoi. and other leaders contributed to the discussions.



'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 Wednes- tor Waqar Ahmed and PML-N stalwart day said that the reason behind the failure Amir Muqam called on the former of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PD-M)-led coalition government was "vengeful

Continued on Page 06

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 Pakhtunkhwa's Dera Ismail the country's economy. Former sena-Khan and South Waziristan districts. A 26-year-old soldier – Sepoy Shahzeb,

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 Prime Minister Kakar **COURT REPORTER** ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Wednesday issued

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

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 devel-

opment comes a day after the security forces gunned down three terrorists in two intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Khyber

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

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Judicial Council (SJC), with a majority of 4 to 1, has issued a detailed show cause notice to Justice Savved Mazahar Ali Akbar Nagvi 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



www.dnanews.com.pk, www.centreline.com.pk

mined during the interrogation and asked what was said in **Continued on Page 06**

notices to the federation and the interior ministry on Paki-

stan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's bail plea

in the cipher case. The petition was heard by a three-mem-

ber 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 Saf-

dar, 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 misus-

ing 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 deter-

Continued on Page 06

prime minister. On the occasion, both belonging to Rawalpindi leaders commended Shehbaz Sharif for had also embraced martyrpolitics" as the former ruling parties had his acquittal in Ashiana Housing. Durdom after an IED exploded no focus on serving the public. Addressing ing the meeting, matters in line with in the general area of Ghara PPP workers convention in Chitral, the the country's political situation were youm, North Waziristan. young politician said that the ways of old underscored. Expressing his thoughts, Pakistan has faced a **Continued on Page 06** Continued on Page 06

NATIONAL

Islamabad **POST** Thursday, November 23 , 2023

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

02

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 incharge 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.

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,

Complex tax system contributes to a high regulatory burden it imposes. Our complex

FAISAL SHEIKH

landscape contribute to a ISLAMABAD: Today was high regulatory burden. the second day of the 37th Pakistan ranks low in ease AGM and Conference of of paying taxes, discourthe Pakistan Society of aging firms from growth Development Economists and formalization. PIDE's (PSDE). The Conference approach suggests improvon "Breaking the Aid-Debt ing the system first before Chains" is being hosted by considering additional taxthe Pakistan Institute of ation. Mukarram Ansari explained Pakistan's fiscal Development Economics (PIDE), in collaboration model, highlighting an anwith Bahauddin Zakariya nually rising tax collection University, Multan. target given to the FBR. The second panel discus-Two-thirds of the collection sion of the Conference was on "Is Taxing More is from customs and withholding agents. Taxing at the Only Solution?" The the import stage, however, hampers businesses due to session was moderated by Mahmood Khalid, Senior restricted cash flow. Asim Research Economist at Saeed questioned the pur-

that tax collection does not tax system and regulatory 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 pose of taxing, i.e., whether targets. He urged the digitization of the FBR



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 Mohammad 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

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister of State for Tourism Wasi Shah on Wednesday attended the historic FIFA World Cup Qualifier matchup 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

between Pakistan, Tajikistan 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

Cup Qualifier match

crowd. Highlighting the sports-manship of Pakistani especially the fans, vouth, 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 Pakistani the team's progress in football, un-

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

derscoring the potential

HDF marks 25 years of transformative impact

DNA ISLAMABAD :The Human

Former Chairperson HEC, HDF but HDF supports the Dr. Tariq Banuri, Managing Director HDF North America. Ms. Fatima Hussain and Executive Director SDPI Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri. The discussion explored HDF's transformative journey and the way forward, focusing on poverty eradication and grassroots impact, said a press release. Looking back on HDF's journey through the years and the support of the expatriates who made it possible, Dr. Adil Najam, one of the founding members of the organization, remarked, "Human development is not about holding hands. It is not that the diaspora supports

diaspora. HDF gives meaning to their support, that is why this partnership works." Addressing the team that works tirelessly to create positive change in society, another one of HDF's founding members, Dr. Tariq Banuri's words, "We are happy to live whatever life God gives us but we want to make a difference in the lives of others,' resonated, leaving the audience deeply moved. CEO HDF, Mehboob Ul Haq in his opening remarks, stated, "Today, we gather not merely to celebrate a milestone but to reaffirm our commitment to the noble cause of human.

light industry, agriculture, and

textiles and it is considered an

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, hosted by UNED-San José. 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.

sari, 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

PIDE, while the panelists

included Mukaram Jah Anit is to cover expenditures or fiscal discipline. He emphasized the weak social contract in Pakistan, urging careful expansion of sovereign revenue. He critiqued 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

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 Rail-

ways was putting maximum effort into improving infrastructure including tracks, bridg-

es, 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 (Mughalpura), Badami Bagh, and Azakhel

had been upgraded. He said under the Immediate Track Safety Works (ITS W-II & IMTS

W-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 mainte-

nance 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 frame-

work. 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-Afghani-

stan-Pakistan (UAP) Railway Connectivity Project through Kohat-Kharlachi. - DNA

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.

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.

> 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 Hussian 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 than 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 Strom,

volcanic eruption and green house gases and human activities includes burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, industries, vehicles. Climate change have major effects on all the life forms on earth including human being, animals plants, microorganisms, 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 county 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 on 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 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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Development Foundation (HDF) on Wednesday commemorated its 25th Anniversary at the Sustainable Development Conference 2023, in collaboration with Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). The celebration was unfolded with a dynamic panel discussion on 'Transforming Communities,' featuring luminaries including Chairman HDF, Dr. Muhammad Khalid Riaz. Vice Chairman HDF Lt. Gen. (Retd) Anis Abbasi, President WWF, Dr. Adil Najam,





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



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



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 inaugured 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". The minister made this announcement on the occasion of the Independence Day and the Armed Forces Day of Poland. A special musical recital was also acremized on the acresiter

was also organized on the occasion. The Information Minister further said Pakistan greatly valued its relations with Poland adding both countries are committed to take these this relationship to new levels. Ambassador of Poland in Pakistan Maciej Pisarski, on the occasion, said, "This year, we have celebrated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Poland and Pakistan. We are just about to start the seventh decade of our cooperation." Regarding trade ties between the two countries, he said, "We can point to an upward trajectory in the trade between our countries, approaching \$900 million. This



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." Expressing interest in cooperation in new fields with Pakistan, he said, "We see opportunities in exploring collaboration in the water sector: water purification and water management technologies. Such projects can address some of the challenges of the adverse effects of climate change." The ambassador also said that his country would continue engagement with Pakistani non-governmental organizations in projects 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." The ambassador expressed excitement about the initiative to name one of the

prominent streets in Islamabad after 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". Talking about the Gaza situation the Ambassador hoped that both the Palestinian and the Israelis will be able to live in peace. He said human rights must be protected in line with international humanitarian law.

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. The Police Register Number 10 holds crucial information about individuals wanted by the police for their alleged involvement in criminal activities. The program seeks to inform the public about these wanted individuals, urging citizens to be vigilant and collaborate with law enforcement to ensure the apprehension of these offenders. The Islamabad Police emphasized the importance of bringing such criminals under the full force of the law, stating that their program serves as a tool to create awareness and garner public support in the fight against crime. The police have urged the public to watch the program in its entirety to stay informed about the criminals listed in Police Register Number 10 (Monitoring of Criminals). Islamabad Police have called on citizens to actively participate in the collective effort to bring these offenders to justice. If anyone possesses information about the whereabouts or activities of these wanted individuals, they are encouraged to promptly report it to the police. This collaborative approach is seen as crucial in ensuring the safety and security of the community. The program marks a proactive step by the Islamabad Police to engage with the public and harness community support in the ongoing battle against crime. By leveraging social media platforms, the police aim to reach a wider audience and encourage citizens to play an active role in maintaining law and order. It is anticipated that this program will lead to valuable tips and information that will aid law enforcement agencies in their mission to apprehend and bring these criminals to justice.-APP

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 Embassay 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. He informed that the main products which were exported last month included sesame, seafood, rice and other agricultural products. Ghulam Qadir

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. River Indus would flow through the diversion system and re-join its natural course downstream of main dam site, they said. They said that the river diversion was one of the key activities for the implementation of this mega multi-purpose project. The upstream starter (coffer) dam to facilitate river diversion under stage 1 had already been completed, they said. Diamer Basha Dam is scheduled for completion in 2028.

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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Sufficient gas available to meet consumers needs in capital

He further said that a "Sit-

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 SNG-PL on Wednesday. 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 said that regional complaint centres are operating 24/7 to swiftly resolve consumer complaints. He said, that due to the rapid response of these area complaint centres, individual

uation Room" had been established at the regional office I-9 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 spokesperson informed that numerous major pipeline projects have been completed in the Islamabad region, including multiple large-diameter pipelines from Rawat to Faizabad. Additionally, rehabilitation work on old pipelines is in progress to eliminate low-pressure problems, he said. He said that the objective of these pipeline projects is to ensure a consistent and reliable gas supply for the residents of

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. He said that individuals involved in such unlawful activities have been arrested, with many facing trials in the courts. Shahid Akram urged citizens to report gas theft and the illegal use of compressors without fear. He assured that the identities of informants would be kept confidential to encourage active participation in maintaining the integrity of the gas supply system.

Three booked for fireworks, aerial firing at wedding

RAWALPINDI: Police on Tuesday night raided a marriage party and arrested three persons for displaying firearms, aerial firing, and use of firecrackers. According to a police spokesman, Race Course police conducted a raid and arrested Toqeer, Shehroz and Jamshaid, 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. He made it clear that it was the prime duty of the police to protect the lives and properties of people.-APP

opined that the increased exports were the result of the participation of over 200 Chinese businessmen in the Food and Agri Expo held in Karachi this year. "We arranged many meetings between the Chinese businessmen and traders with their Pakistani counterparts and we must continue to work on it to see more positive results," he added. Responding to a question about further increase of Pakistani products to China keeping in view the huge potential, he said that Pakistan will soon start exporting meat to Chinese market. All out efforts are being made for value addition in dairy products, chilly, cherries and sesame seed, adding, "We want to convert sesame seed into sesame oil and byproducts and work is underway in this regard." Ghulam Qadir said that in terms of food and agriculture, the country expects more exports to China. "Similarly, for textiles and other pet exports, we are pinning our hopes on more presence of Pakistani players in China through e-commerce and other platforms." He said that copper is also one of the biggest exports to China and the government is focusing on turning our copper into value added copper. About Chinese support and investment in different sectors, he said that the government expects investment in food and agriculture and we really like all the Chinese investors to make best use of the US\$30 billion market. It should be better utilized with more investment, more technology transfer and more Chinese characteristics and we can make a big impact from that. "Similarly, we also want the Chinese enterprises to come to Pakistan and invest in textiles, footwear, toys, agriculture and all the labour-intensive sectors plus electronics, light engineering, and consumer products," he added. He said the government is also focusing on establishing a copper processing plant for which the Chinese investment will be welcomed.

Police arrest two bike lifters with five motorcycles

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested two bike lifters and recovered five stolen motorcycles from their possession, said a police spokesman on Wednesday. He informed that a team under the supervision of SHO, Taxila Police Station managed to net two bike lifters namely Tariq and Ijaz and recovered five stolen motorcycles and other items from their possession. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is underway. Superintendent of Police, Potohar Muhammad Wagas Khan said the accomplices and facilitators of the accused would also be sent behind the bars. He said that the operation against the bike and car lifters have been accelerated.

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 - Price water house Coopers (PwC) for Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB)" he shared this on social media platform. The minister expressed the hope that due the initiative. the country's exports would reach to \$10 billion during next three years .- APP

ISSI holds Webinar on the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

Mehtab Pirzada

and area complaints have

substantially decreased in

the region, and valued con-

sumers are enjoying the fa-

cility at normal pressures.

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, Turkiye; Dr. Hanan AlHajeri, Department of Political Science, University of Kuwait: Dr. Aziz Alghashian, Saudi researcher and fellow with the Sectarianism, Proxies and De-sectarianisation project; and Dr. Omid Babelian, 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 Secre-



tary General had rightly pointed out that this did not happen in a vaccum. He noted the historical context of illegal occupation, unabated oppression, relentless appropriation of Palestinian lands, and systematic denial of Palestinian rights. The occupied Palestinians' right to resistance was recognized by international law and their right to self-determination enshrined in numerous UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. He decried the ongoing Israeli military onslaught as tantamount to genocide, being conducted in complete violation of international law and international humanitarian law, and with full impunity. 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.

TWIN CITIES

Islamabad **POST** Thursday, November 23, 2023

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 Qasre-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 Ordi-nance 1960. – APP

AIOU 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(AIOU) on World Cities Day 2023. Executive Director of United Nations Habitat Memona Sharif was the keynote speaker. She emphasized the cru-



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.

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 Inter-change (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 north-bound 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

Constant increases

Cement exports

Pak-China venture Regal

cial 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 AIOU 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

in gas and electricity prices are unbearable

has to take huge loans.

and other sectors.

vised because the people

are bearing their effects.

Mian Zahid Hussain fur-

ther 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 fur-

ther increase poverty in

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

the country. The high cost of living has business community, the

The

Executive

veteran business leader forced people to continusaid that the IMF is justiously reduce the expensfied in its demand that eleces of feeding themselves, children's education and tricity and gas should not be sold cheaper than the cost medical treatment, which of production because, in will devastate the country's economy in the long this case, the government run.

He said that the current He added that the people and the industrialists ask caretaker government has why they should pay the yet to do any substantial work in the field of reprice for corruption, mismanagement and incomforms but has considered petence in electricity, gas increasing the price of everything as the solution The business leader said to all problems, equivalent the agreements with the to indifference to the peo-IPPs should also be reple'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.

increase 40.46% to \$93.087 min 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

NOVEMBER 2023

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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

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.

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 Novemtion (WHO). ber 27 to December 01, 2023 in the inter provincial bordering district Attock. A spokesman of DC Attock says environmental

on Wednesday. Among other the meeting was also attended by the Chief Executive Officer Health Authority Attock Dr. Asad Ismail, Medical Superintendent Govt Afsanyar Bokhari District Hospital Attock Dr. Jawad Elahi, District Health Officer Attock

Dr. Kashif Hussain. that this was disclosed Chief Executive in a health department 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 Organisa-He said that after the detection of the Afghan origin of Type-1 Wild Poliovirus (WPV1) in (sewage) samples in the adjacent district Rawalpindi, the health authorities have also announced to launch anti-polio drive across of the district. While talkfrom ing to our scribe Chief district health authority Attock Health Dr Asad Ismail has said

meeting held under the chairmanship of 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 representatives provincial and Federal health authorities and the World Organisation (WHO), he added.



Regional inequalities: they still need fixing

HATEVER happened to the "Medici model"? Two years ago, Mi-chael 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.

Islamabad POST

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Momentum of improving ties should be cherished

USTRALIAN 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

OULD 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 retailation 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."

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 rightwing 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.

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-

- 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...

AHRAIN this week hosted the seventh GCC-EU Business Forum, right after the conclusion of the D 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.

WORLD / SPORTS



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," the Gazabased resistance group said. "Inspired by our responsibility towards our patient and determined Palestinian people, and our tireless endeavor to support the steadfastness of our heroic people in the dignified Gaza Strip, and to provide relief and treat their wounds, and in our work to consolidate the will of our victorious resistance on October 7 in the face of the Zionist enemy," it hastened to add. The movement assured Palestinians that they will "remain loyal to their blood, their sacrifices, their patience, their steadfastness, and their aspirations for liberation and freedom, the restoration of rights, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital."

Israel's

'terrorism'...

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.

Many fans went to the Maracana to watch Messi in likely his last match in Brazil, a superclasico against the hosts. Instead, they saw Nicolás Otamendi score the only goal of the match. It was Brazil's third consecutive loss in the round-robin tournament - another blow for new coach Fernando Diniz. It was also the first time since 2009 that the five-time World Cup winners failed to score in a home game. Messi left the pitch in the 78th minute amid a mixture of jeers and applause from Brazil fans. Dozens of children arrived at the Maracana wearing the shirts of Barcelona, the star's previous club, and Inter Miami.

The Argentine star was unable to end one of his last barriers in the sport, though, failing to score against the Brazilians in a World Cup qualifier at the Maracana.

The Argentina squad celebrated on the pitch for 10 minutes after the win, knowing they're leading the South American qualifying standings. They also gave fans one more chance to celebrate a victory at the historic stadium in Rio de Janeiro. Two years ago, Ángel di Maria scored the only goal in an empty Maracana to give his team the Copa America title. "I am so happy. We made history again and gave this joy to our people," said midfielder Rodrigo de Paul, who



kneeled and opened his arms in celebration after the final 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.'

The violent pre-match incident, starting shortly after the national anthems, stalled the start for 27 minutes. Messi led his team off the field and into the locker rooms for 22 minutes. At least one fan left the stadium bleeding from his head. Rio police said they had arrested eight people due to the brawl. The crowd aggression was reflected on the field in the first 20 minutes of the encounter, leading to the referee awarding a succession of fouls against Brazil during that time. The tension eventually eased, allowing Argentina to 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. Brazil maintained the pressure after the break, and Rodrygo forced goalkeeper Dibu Martinez into a close-range save in the 54th.

But Argentina's goal in the 63rd with a header by Otamendi, who jumped above the Brazilian defenders to meet a corner kick, was one of the few chances the team created. "This is a beautiful win, but it has no comparison with what we achieved in Qatar," Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni told a news conference. "You know it is not easy to win here, but we managed to." Teenager Endrick, one of Brazil's big hopes up front, didn't make much difference after he went on in the 72nd. In the 81st, midfielder Joelinton, who had just stepped in as a substitute for Brazil, was sent off after pushing an Argentine player. Brazil fans ended the match chanting "ole" for every touch of the Argentinians, while the visiting supporters waved their shirts as some of their players celebrated on the pitch. Argentina leads the 10-team continental qualifying competition with 15 points from six matches, followed by Uruguay on 13 and Colombia with 12. Venezuela is next with nine points. Ecuador, which started the qualifying with -3 points due to a FIFA punishment, has eight points. Brazil will end the year in sixth position, with seven points, two clear of Paraguay and Chile. The 2026 World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada will include 48 teams, meaning direct entry for the top six teams from South America. The seventh-place team can earn a berth in an intercontinental playoff.

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. He was chairing a meeting on power sector reforms in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and welfare of families of martyrs of war on terror in Islamabad on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, he said the federal government will ensure the protection of the rights of the people of all provinces including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar directed WAPDA officials to remove all obstacles in the way of net hydel profit payments to KP on priority basis.

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. He requested the court to nullify the misconduct allegations against him, deeming them 'without lawful authority and of no legal effect.' The petition, filed under Article 184 of the Constitution, seeks the annulment of the show cause notice issued after an SJC meeting on October 27 and the hearing notice from November 13.

Behind PDM govt's failure...

FROM PAGE 01 politicians would add to the nation's sufferings. "They

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," Erdogan added, referring to the recent OIC and Arab League meeting held in the capital of Saudi Arabia. The final declaration of the OIC summit rejected Israeli claims that it is acting in "self-defense." It demanded that the United Nations Security Council adopt "a decisive and binding resolution" to halt Israel's "aggression." It also called for an end to weapons sales to Israel and dismissed any future political resolution to the conflict that would keep Gaza separate from the Israeli-occupied West Bank.



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

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, but any slip-up would have allowed Wales to leapfrog them into second place in Group D. In the end it was a header two minutes before half-time by Ante Budimir that gave Croatia a 1-0 win to take them through, while Wales could only draw 1-1 with already-qualified Turkey in Cardiff. Croatia's prospects of automatic qualification had appeared in doubt when they lost to both Turkey and Wales in October, but they become the 21st and final automatic qualifier for the 24-team tournament next June and July. "We deserve to be at the Euro and we have a lot of time now to prepare for what awaits us there," veteran captain Luka Modric told UEFA.com. Wales will now go into the play-offs next March to determine whether they qualify for a third consecutive Euro. A draw this Thursday will decide whether they face Finland, Ukraine or Iceland in the play-off semi-finals. A victory in that would set up a final decider against Poland or Estonia, with three qualifying spots in total on offer in the play-offs. - Agencies

the acts and attacks of Israel on Gaza as "state and occupational terrorism" and "humanitarian crime, as well as genocide.'

Erdogan further described

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. "Look, this is how the truth comes out," said Justice Masood. On this, Safdar then contended that his client was being politically victimised. During the hearing, Justice Malik asked the lawyer what was the central ground of his case. "Our case is that this case is not maintainable," responded Safdar. The sections included in the FIR against the PTI chief are those that are included in espionage offences.

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," IHC Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani remarked. Meanwhile, the additional attorney-general for Pakistan has requested the court not to summon the premier and ministers. At the onset of the hearing, Justice Kayani expressed displeasure and rejected the report of the committee set up to look into the matter. It comprised three ministers and was formed by the federal government. The one-page six-point report was submitted to the court by Assistant Attorney General for Pakistan Usman Ghuman. The judge, however, was annoyed at the report and returned it. He later summoned Additional Attorney General Munawwar Iqbal Dogal at 11:00 am.

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). India's batting lynchpins Virat Kohli (791 points) and Rohit Sharma (769 points) occupy 3rd and 4th spots respectively, with the India duo rising one spot each in the latest update on Wednesday. Kohli scored a tournament best 765 runs during the recent ICC Men's Cricket World Cup and that helped the in-form right-hander jump one place to third on the latest rankings and within just 35 rating points of teammate Shubman Gill. Kohli reached triple figures on three occasions at the World Cup to break the record of former teammate Sachin Tendulkar for most ODI centuries, while Rohit smashed 597 runs as the India duo finished the tournament as the two leading run scorers.

With Gill managing a reasonable output of 354 runs during the event and Babar just 320 runs as Pakistan failed to reach the knockout stages of the tournament, it paved the way for Kohli and Rohit to make their run on the top ranking. Kohli famously held the No.1 ranking for a total of 1258 consecutive days during a reign of almost four years between 2017 and 2021, with Babar spending the majority of time in the premier position in recent years until Gill claimed top billing during the World Cup. The rise of the India duo means South Africa opener Quinton de Kock drops two spots to fifth on the ODI batter rankings, with New Zealand right-hander Daryl Mitchell rising five spots to sixth on the back of his 552 runs at the World Cup. The biggest eye-catcher on the updated ODI batter rankings is Travis Head, with the Australia opener jumping a massive 28 places to 15th overall after his brilliant century and Player of the Match performance in the World Cup final. South Africa spinner Keshav Maharaj remains on top on the updated ODI bowler rankings, with a host of Australia players making some good ground after their successful World Cup campaign. - DNA

Holders 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 Heliovaara beat Vasek Pospisil and Alexis Galarneau 7-5 6-3 to move in to the semi-finals for the first time. Milos Raonic, playing in the event for the first time in five years, had given Canada the perfect start as he dispatched lowly-ranked Finn Patrick Kaukovalta 6-3 7-5 thanks to 18 aces. Both teams were hit by injuries with Canada's top-ranked player Felix Auger-Aliassime unable to take to the court while Finland's number one Emil Ruusuvuori was also ruled out. But 171stranked Virtanen stepped up for his country with an impressive defeat of fellow 22-year-old Gabriel Diallo to take the tie into a deciding doubles rubber. Virtanen again produced some stunning tennis while Canada's hopes were not helped by an injury to Pospisil who battled on. A service break in the eighth game of the second set proved enough and Finland sealed the win to set up a clash later this week against Czech Republic or last year's runners-up Australia.

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. Changes to the format of the historic competition in recent years following a now defunct alliance with Spanish invest-



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. "The home and away format is not going to work and the players told us that in the past," he told BBC Sport. "It would not be a good competition if we went back to only home and away. Sometimes the loudest voices aren't always the majority.' Tuesday's near sell-out crowd certainly provided the sort of atmosphere that was sadly lacking in some ties in September and the Finnish fans, many of whom are resident in Spain, will be out in force again on Friday. "Obviously it's a great moment now today and it's still not time to celebrate. We have the chance to go even further," Finland captain Jarkko Nieminen said. "With this great feeling and confidence, it's really nice to step on court on Friday. It's incredible, the whole journey with these guys since I started as a captain." - DNA

scores after forming the government. They want to pursue revenge politics by coming into power," he said. This is the reason, he added, that all the targets his party had set for the coalition government were not fulfilled. In the run-up to the elections slated to take place on February 8 next year, Bilawal has begun his campaign to woo the public with PPP organising rallies and gathering with workers and supporters across the country. In his bid to emerge victorious in the 2024 general polls, the young politician is not leaving any opportunity to target his opponents - including the leaders of PML-N.

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. Meanwhile, he commended the efforts of Shehbaz Sharif to avert the risk of the country's default during his 16-month tenure as the prime minister. Separately, former lawmakers also held a meeting with Shehbaz Sharif.

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. Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS), in a report released in October, noted that the security forces lost at least 386 personnel in the first nine months of 2023, marking an eight-year high. In the third quarter of 2023, some 445 people lost their lives and 440 suffered injuries from as many as 190 terror attacks and counter-terror operations.

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. This decision is driven by the need to ease the strain on an increasingly congested cricket calendar.

In light of these circumstances, both cricket boards are actively exploring alternative options to find a suitable time to reschedule the T20I series. While expressing disappointment over the postponement, Roland Lefebrve, the High-Performance Manager at KNCB, conveyed understanding of the situation. "We're obviously disappointed but of course we understand the situation, and



remain optimistic a new window will be found to play the series either at home or away" KNCB High Performance Manager tively scheduled for early May, preceding

Roland Lefebrve told Cricbuzz A three-match T20I series had been tentaPakistan'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 January 12: New Zealand vs Pakistan -

First T20I in Auckland January 14: New Zealand vs Pakistan -

Second T20I in Hamilton January 17: New Zealand vs Pakistan -

Third T20I in Dunedin January 19: New Zealand vs Pakistan -

Fourth T20I in Christchurch

January 21: New Zealand vs Pakistan -Fifth T20I in Christchurch.

BUSINESS / WORLD

Islamabad POST Thursday, November 23, 2023

Briefs

No more food aid cash for Sudan refugees: UN

LIBREVILLE: The UN's World Food Programme warned lack of funds threat ened to halt food and nutrition assistance for more than a million people in Chad - including newly arrived Sudanese refugees. The organization said funding constraints emanating from a range of other crises including the wars in Gaza and Ukraine meant its capacity to help was spread too thin. It comes "as aid agencies scramble to respond to a fresh wave of refugees fleeing an unimaginable humanitarian crisis" in Sudan's western region of Darfur, WFP said in a statement. "In just the last six months of conflict in Sudan, as many refugees have fled into Chad as had crossed the border in the preceding 20 years starting from the outbreak of the Darfur crisis in 2003," it added. The organization said it urgently needed some \$200 million of funding. "Dwindling funding and soaring immense humanitarian needs is forcing WFP into making brutal choices," it added in a stark assessment. "In December, WFP will be forced to suspend assistance to internally displaced people and refugees from Nigeria, Central African Republic, and Cameroon due to insufficient funds.-APP

China, Uruguay boost bilateral ties, empowering South America

China and Uruguay upgraded their bilateral ties, setting the stage for further trade and investment, as the tiny neighbour of Argentina and Brazil seeks to strike deals

News Desk

BEIJING : China and Uruguay on Wednesday upgraded their bilateral ties, setting the stage for further trade and investment, as the tiny neighbour of Argentina and Brazil seeks to strike deals abroad that it deems would be more beneficial than membership of a local trade bloc. At a meeting in Beijing's Great Hall of the People, Chinese President Xi Jinping told his Uruguayan counterpart Louis Lacalle Pou that: "China is ready to work with Uruguay to take establishing a comprehensive strategic partnership as a new starting point... and enrich cooperation," according to Chinese state media. The announcement elevates Uruguay's ties with China to an equal footing with Brazil and Argentina, two other members of the Mercosur trade bloc. For years, China has sought closer ties with the emerging markets of South America, in large part to secure raw materials including grains and oils for its economy. The world's second-largest economy is also a major investor and has offered tariff-free access to its huge consumer market to four states. Lacalle Pou in 2021 first proposed a free trade agreement with China to secure similar opportunities for its exporters as those enjoyed



by Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Peru, and to boost its exports of raw materials, industrial goods and technology, but faces opposition from other members of the Mercosur bloc who want to settle an FTA with Europe instead. At present, China has no tariff preference for Uruguayan beef, which constituted 67% of the South American country's exports to the Asian

giant in 2022, according to United Nations COMTRADE data, and in which market beef pays a 12% tariff. Australia and New Zealand, two other major beef exporters with FTAs with China, pay tariffs at 3.3% and 0%, by comparison. Uruguay cannot easily sign an FTA with China because it agreed to a 'Common External Tariff' with the Mercosur members, so cannot unilaterally of-

fer Beijing better terms. Not least because the bloc reached agreement in principle on an FTA with Brussels in 2019. Under the Mercosur CET, Chinese exporters must pay tariffs at 9%, should they wish to export to Uruguay, which is better than the 12% tariff Uruguayan ranchers face when they ship beef to China. According to a study conducted by the National Meat

Institute of Uruguay in 2021, if China signs an FTA with Uruguay, the meat industry can implement a 0% preferential tariff, which will reduce tariffs by 150 million US dollars. After the talks, Xi and Lacalle Pou witnessed the signing of several cooperation documents, across a wide of sectors including agriculture, education, and science and technology, as well as over customs inspections, which could be a boon for the Latin American country's meat exports. Uruguay is one of the few countries to run a trade surplus with China, which last year doubled to \$1.5 billion up from \$766 million in 2021, according to data from China's National Bureau of Statistics. The elevation of ties with Uruguay to the level of Brazil and Argentina also pushes the remaining Mercosur member Paraguay further outside of China's global trade and investment network. Agriculture-dependent Paraguay, whose main exports include beef and soybeans, is the last South American nation that has ties with democratically governed Taiwan, which China claims as part of its territory, and not with Beijing.

Xi said he hoped the two sides would work: "to build China-Uruguay relations into a model of solidarity and cooperation between countries of different sizes, systems and cultures.

ADB project to help strengthen climate resilience BEIJING ; The Asian Devel-

opment Bank (ADB) has approved a \$200 million equivalent loan to strengthen the ecosystem, livelihoods, and climate resilience of the Dabie Mountain region in Huanggang Municipality, Hubei Province, China.

The Hubei Huanggang Dabie Mountain Ecosystem Protection and Carbon-Neutral Green Development Project will support sustainable ecosystem protection and low-carbon resilient development, said ADB Senior Water Resources Specialist Xueliang Cai. The project will demonstrate the viability of ecosystem protection as a business model to broaden financing opportunities for ecosystem conservation and sustainable development. The Dabie Mountain region has dense forest cover, extensive water networks, and rich biodiversity. However, compared with provincial and national average, it lags in socioeconomic development and faces deteriorating environmental quality due to intensive resource use, according to a press statement issued by the ADB Office in Beijing. Public services in key areas including water utilities and flood and drought risk management are inadequate. The government has invested heavily in ecosystem protection but is yet to find long-term viable revenue-generating solutions for continued financing.

The project will work with the government to strengthen institutions for natural resources management and green financing capacity. This includes integrated digital management systems; policy development and capacity building, with a pilot in natural capital accounting and value realization mechanism: and business opportunities development in related fields. It will help scale up a result-based eco-compensation mechanism in the Bailian River to facilitate upstream-downstream cooperation in water quality management. Advanced technologies and nature-based solutions to help

Manila courts global Muslim investors for Halal ventures

MANILA: The Philippines is inviting global Muslim investors to establish halal businesses in the country, the Department of Trade and Industry said on Wednesday at the Philippine Halal Economy Festival in Manila. The predominantly Catholic Philippines is aiming to position itself as an Asia-Pacific hub of the halal industry, seeking to tap into a global halal market estimated to be worth more than \$7 trillion. As Manila seeks to reach \$4 billion in halal trade and investments over the next five years. Philippine lawmakers have also passed new regulations and amended older laws to facilitate foreign companies doing business in the country. "These laws give more incentives to Muslim investors from around the world. We invite them to establish and operate their halal enterprises right here in the Philippines," DTI Secretary Alfredo E. Pascual said on Wednesday. One of those laws is the amended Foreign Investment Act, which allows qualified non-Philippine nationals to do business in the country or invest in a domestic company, Pascual added. – APP

Fiji PM says China may help develop ports

SUVA : China may help economic development, Rabuka told parliament af-Fiji develop its ports and shipyards, the Pacific island ter meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping last country's prime minister said Wednesday, raising week. "I anticipate potenthe prospect of stronger tial collaboration with Chities with Beijing in a key na in that endeavour," the area of its economy. Prime Fijian leader said, citing Minister Sitiveni Rabuka, the Asian giant's "globally who has been cautious competitive shipbuilding" about China's expanding capacity. Fiji and other Pacific nations have sought security footprint in the Pacific, praised Beijing's to strike a delicate balance record of aid to Fiji in fightas China competes for ining Covid-19, developing fluence in the region with agriculture and revamping the United States and its infrastructure. The modallies. Xi pledged to help ernisation of Fiji's port Fiji safeguard its "security facilities and shipyards is a and sovereignty" and to signed a secretive defence and development improve-"key focus" for sustainable cooperate on infrastruc- pact with Solomon Islands

ture when he met with Rabuka on the sidelines of an Asia-Pacific economic summit in San Francisco, China's foreign ministry said last week. During a visit to Australia

last month, Rabuka said he preferred dealing with democratic "traditional friends" when asked about China's security role in the South Pacific. Rabuka has also advocated the creation of a "zone of peace" in the region. China notably alarmed Western countries when it

last year, sparking fears it could deploy military forces there. Asked about the Fijian leader's comments, Beijing described the two countries as "good friends and partners". "The two countries have carried out practical cooperation in various fields, including infrastructure, to boost Fiji's economic and social development," foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said. Beijing "is committed to helping the island nations realise

Russia claims it destroyed sea drones headed for Crimea

MOSCOW: Russian forces have destroyed four Ukrainian sea drones in the Black Sea that were headed for Crimea, the news agency cited Russia's Defence Ministry as saying. "On November 22, in the western part of the Black Sea, four unmanned boats of the Ukrainian Navy were discovered heading towards the Crimean Peninsula. All detected targets were destroyed," the ministry said. Ukrainian officials have said that Russia's military appeared to be sending fewer troops and less equipment into the battle for the shattered eastern town of Avdiivka, seen as a gateway to the capital city of Donetsk region. Ukrainian military spokesperson Oleksandr Shtupun said there were fewer ground assaults and fewer air strikes on Avdiivka, a town with a pre-war population of about 32,000, which has been under Russian attack for more than a month. "Russian occupying forces have reduced the number of ground and air attacks, though they still violate the rules of war by shooting at medical teams and evacuation vehicles," Shtupun told national television. "The invaders are not abandoning their plans to surround Avdiivka. Eight attacks were repelled today."-APP

Tokyo shares rebound in early trade

TOKYO :Tokyo shares reversed earlier losses on Wednesday despite a drop on Wall Street. The benchmark Nikkei 225 index rebounded after starting under water to add 0.32 percent, or 105.76 points, to 33,459.90 in morning trade, while the broader Topix index added 0.46 percent, or 10.25 points, to 2,378.04. The Nikkei started lower after US shares fell as the latest Federal Reserve minutes suggested interest rates could stay high for a while. Semiconductor-related shares also faced selling pressure after US chipmaker Nvidia dropped despite releasing a robust earnings report. "The fall of Nvidia shares was affecting some semiconductor shares in Tokyo,' Nomura Securities said. Despite early morning losses, the Nikkei quickly rebounded as investors searched for shares overlooked in recent market gains, the brokerage said. "Not all high-tech shares are being sold. Some electronics parts makers are attracting buyers despite the falls of semiconductor shares," Nomura noted. "It's not that a few selected, major shares are rising to drive up the Nikkei. All kinds of shares are rising slightly."-APP

livelihood ment", she added.–APP

revitalisation

N.Korea claims successful launch of spy satellite

TOKYO : North Korea claimed Wednesday to have successfully launched it's first military spy satellite into orbit, with state media claiming leader Kim Jong Un was already reviewing images of U.S. military bases in Guam. Washington, Seoul and Tokyo have slammed the sanctions-busting launch, Pyongyang's third attempt this year to put a satellite into orbit, and the first since Kim met President Vladimir Putin at a Russian cosmodrome in September. After failed attempts in May and August, the official Korean Central News Agency reported that a rocket had blasted off late Tuesday and "accurately put the reconnaissance satellite 'Malligyong-1' on its orbit." Images in state media showed Kim watching the launch, then smiling and waving, surrounded by white-uniformed scientists and engineers celebrating the satellite's purported success. The satellite will "formally start its reconnaissance mission from Dec. 1 after finishing seven to 10 days' fine-tuning process", KCNA said, adding that it was already transmitting images. Kim "watched the aerospace photos of Anderson Air Force Base, Apra Harbor and other major military bases of the U.S. forces taken in the sky above Guam in the Pacific, which were received at 9:21 a.m. on Nov. 22," according to KCNA. Eyes and fist Washington said the launch was a "brazen violation" of successive rounds of U.N. resolutions barring the North from tests of ballistic technology - used in both missiles and satellite launch rockets. In response, Seoul on Wednesday partially suspended a 2018 military deal with the North, saying it would resume surveillance operations along their border. South Korea's military said the purported spy satellite "was assessed to have entered orbit, from a comprehensive analysis of flight track information and various circumstances."- Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Delegation from BRI-GDC Beijing visited ZLK and AIERD office in Islamabad and had meeting Mr Zahid Latif We had wonderful discussion of financing sector, carbon credit and Green BRI.-DNA

Indian rescuers drill in two directions for 41 trapped men But a government statement also noted that "timelines provided are subject to change due to technical glitches, the challenging Himalayan terrain, and unforeseen emergencies"

NEW DELHI: Indian rescue teams cleared rubble with excavators and dug tunnels Wednesday to clear a path for long metal tubes - the hoped-for escape route for dozens of workers trapped in a collapsed road tunnel for 11 days. Teams are drilling in two directions in a bid to dig a rescue shaft nearly half a kilometer (over a quarter of a mile) long to reach the 41 increasingly desperate men. Excavators have been removing tons of earth, concrete and rubble from the under-construction tunnel in the northern Himalayan state of Uttarakhand since November 12, when a portion of the tunnel collapsed. But rescue efforts

have been slow, complicated by falling debris as well as repeated breakdowns of crucial heavy-drilling machines, with the air force having to twice airlift in new kit. An AFP journalist at the site on Wednesday said the site was busy with excavators and heavy trucks that were bringing in tubes the width of a man to the entrance of the tunnel. The tubes are designed to create a safe exit route as drilling through the debris pushes forward horizontally toward the men. At least 57 meters (187 feet) of earth and rock still divide the men from freedom, but engineers have been trying to drive a steel pipe through

that, just wide enough to fit

the men. Uttarakhand chief into boulders, and work was minister Pushkar Singh paused on Friday after a Dhami on Wednesday spoke of the "positive progress made in the last 24 hours," without further details. The workers were seen alive for the first time on Tuesday, peering into the lens of an endoscopic camera sent by rescuers down a thin pipe through which air, food, water and electricity are being delivered.

While trapped, they also have plenty of space, with the area inside some 8.5 meters (28 feet) high, and stretching some two kilometers (1.2 miles) in length. A giant earth-boring machine being used to dig the initial route to the men ran

cracking sound in the roof. Digging resumed Tuesday. But rescue teams are working on two new approaches to reach the men.

One involves drilling a vertical shaft down from the forested hill above, forcing rescuers to cut an entirely new track to the hilltop for the heavy equipment needed.

Officials have estimated the proposed vertical shaft would need to be 89 meters (291 feet) deep, a potentially complex dig above the men in an area that has already suffered a collapse. Installation of the machine to dig the vertical rescue tunnel is "currently underway," a government

statement late Tuesday said. The other is to approach from the far side of the road tunnel, a much longer route estimated to be around 480 meters, officials said. "They have started drilling from the other end of the tunnel," Mahmood Ahmad, additional secretary technical road and highways, said, saying they had begun blasting through the hillside on Tuesday. Ahmad said he hoped for "happy news" by Thursday night, without giving further details. But a government statement also noted that "timelines provided are subject to change due to technical glitches, the challenging Himalayan terrain, and unforeseen emergencies."

improve water resources management, flood protection, and wastewater and solid waste management will be mainstreamed by the project. It will restore forests, wetlands, and lake systems.-Agencies

Rohingya refugees land in Indonesia

JAKARTA : More than 200 ethnic Rohingya came ashore in Indonesia's Aceh province late on Tuesday, taking total arrivals of members of the Myanmar Muslim minority to more than 1,000 for the week, a leader of the province's fishing community said.

During November to April, when the seas are calmer, many members of the persecuted minority leave Myanmar on rickety boats for Thailand, Muslim-majority Bangladesh, Malaysia and Indonesia. Acehnese fishing community chief Miftach Cut Adek said that the latest arrivals, 216 mostly of them women and children, "weak and lacking nutrition," had arrived near Sabang, off the northern tip of Sumatra island, late on Tuesday. Mitra Salima Suryono, a spokesperson for the UN refugee agency in Indonesia, said there did not appear to be any particular reason for the big number of Rohingya arriving. "The reason why they migrated is to find a safer life," she said. Mitra said Aceh villagers had tried to prevent hundreds of Rohingya arriving in the Bireuen area in northeast Sumatra last week although they eventually came ashore on Sunday. For years, Rohingya have left Buddhist-majority Myanmar where they are generally regarded as foreign interlopers from South Asia, denied citizenship and subjected to abuse. Nearly a million Rohingya live in refugee camps in the Bangladeshi border district of Cox's Bazar, most after fleeing a military-led crackdown in Myanmar in 2017. Indonesia's Foreign Ministry has said it "has no obligation nor capacity to accommodate refugees, let alone to provide a permanent solution." Usman Hamid, the director of rights group Amnesty International Indonesia, called for authorities to take in the Rohingya and talk with neighbors, especially Malaysia.-Agencies







TALIAN ENVOY BIDS FAREWELL TO INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR

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 author ities."Without a doubt, the fu ture 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 re marks 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



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

Rulers carrying on 'legacy' of East India Company

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD:Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs MurtazaSolangi 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. MurtazaSolangi 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 an memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of

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 conspir-

acy to assassinate the pro-Khalistan leader of Sikhs For Jus-

tice (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 famil-

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".

iar with the case who spoke to the Financial Times (FT).



next meeting of the SCO was being held in Kazakhstan. Terming SCO a dynamic platform for building relations with regional countries, MurtazaSolangi 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

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR:Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir SirajulHaq 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,

Party (PPP) senator Wagar 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. Waqaremphasised 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 (1210 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 Svrian 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

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, MurtazaSolangi 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

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 sepa-

ratist 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 nofly zone established under the military pact. Some analysts have said these developments could escalate tensions further. Pyongyang fired a rocket, said to contain its Malligyong-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."

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.

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.'

