



# Islamabad POST

Friday, November 24, 2023

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

**Denmark welcomes humanitarian pause deal in Gaza**

Detailed News On Page-07

**Anti-Islam Wilders wins shock election**

Detailed News On Page-07

**Samuels handed a six-year ban from cricket**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Formation Commanders' Conference Pak Army extends unequivocal support to Palestinians

Army top brass resolve to deal with terrorists, facilitators and abettors with full might of state



STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), presided over the 82nd Formation Commanders Conference at GHQ, which was attended by Corps Commanders, Principal Staff Officers and all Formation Commanders of Pakistan Army. The forum paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of Shuhadas including officers and men of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies and Pakistani Citizens. The participants were briefed on professional matters, national security challenges and measures being undertaken to counter traditional and non-traditional security threats. The forum took holistic view of the ongoing counter terrorism operations and resolved that all terrorists, their facilitators and abettors, working on the behalf of hostile forces to destabilise Pakistan will be dealt with full might of the state. COAS expressed satisfaction over operational preparedness and high standards of training and morale maintained by formations to deal with the emerging threat paradigm. The forum expressed unequivocal diplomatic, moral and political support to the people of Palestine and reiterated Pakistan's principled stance supporting the two-state solution, based on pre-1967 borders with Al Quds Al Sharif as the capital of Palestine. The participants also expressed

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## Gaza truce to start today at 10:00 am PST

NEWS DESK

DOHA: Qatar's foreign ministry says the truce will begin at 7am (10:00 am PST) local time on Friday. The first 13 captives will be released at 4pm (07:00pm PST) local time. Majed al-Ansari, spokesperson for Qatar's foreign ministry said, during a news conference in Doha: "Those hostages who are from the same families will be put together within the same patch. "Obviously every day will include a number of civilians as agreed to total 50 within the four days." "The communications that took place all through yesterday went on until early morning today with the Egyptians and the parties of the conflict present here in Doha," said Majed al-Ansari. "The meetings went very well and in a positive environment. "The result of course was the implementation plan of the agreement, which we have always said needed to be something that is concrete and very ready to create a safe environment for the release of hostages." Al-Ansari says he cannot disclose information about the routes by which the captives will be taken out of Gaza for "security reasons". "Our main objective here is

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ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the Russian Federation in Pakistan, Danila Ganich paid a farewell call on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar. – DNA

**Pakistan makes formal request to join BRICS**  
Calls to end TTP shelters in Afghanistan



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has made a formal request to join BRICS, an important group of developing countries. This was confirmed by Foreign Office spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch at her weekly news briefing in Islamabad on Thursday. The spokesperson said the government had taken this decision after having noted the BRICS-related developments in Johannesburg. She said by joining

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## Russian envoy pays farewell call Russia a key player in the region: PM

The PM said that connectivity and energy are key sectors to develop collaboration which will benefit our people as well as the region

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the Russian Federation in Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Danila Ganich paid a farewell call on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in Islamabad. The Prime Minister appreciated the valuable contribution of the Ambassador towards further strengthening bilateral ties. The Prime Minister wished the Ambassador well for his next assignment and hoped that he would always remain Pakistan's friend. Discussing bilateral relations, the Prime Minister emphasized that Russia, a key player in the region and internationally, remains an important partner of Pakistan. The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction at the steady growth of bilateral ties and reiterated the need to further develop mutually beneficial cooperation. The Prime Minister said that connectivity and energy are key sectors to develop

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## President for long-term ties with Russia

DNA

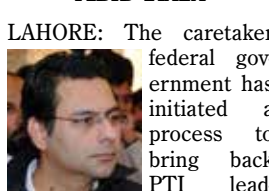
ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has reiterated Pakistan's desire to forge a long-term, multi-dimensional partnership with Russia in all fields, including trade, economy, food security, energy, defence and people-to-people contacts. He emphasised the need to increase bilateral trade and economic ties, adding that there existed enormous potential for the growth and expansion of cooperation in the areas of trade and economy for the mutual benefit of the two countries. The President gave these remarks while talking to the

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## Briefs

### Interpol's help sought to nab Elahi

ABID RAZA



LAHORE: The caretaker federal government has initiated a process to bring back PTI leader Moonis Elahi who has reportedly been living in Spain since December 2022 to avoid "political victimisation" in the country. According to federal government sources, FIA has approached the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) for the issuance of a red notice to detain the PTI leader in a money laundering case. In September this year, a local court in Lahore issued a bailable arrest warrant for Moonis – a close aide of incarcerated PTI Chairman Imran Khan and son of party president Parvez Elahi – in a case relating to money laundering.

### No plans for alliance with PTI

ADIL SHAHEEN



ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Peoples Party is not forming a political alliance with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf in the upcoming general elections in February next year, PPP Secretary Information Faisal Karim Kundi said on Thursday. Addressing a press conference here, Kundi asserted that the PPP would participate in the upcoming general polls in line with the party manifesto outlined by its chief Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Kundi expressed the belief that "all political forces should respect the mandate of the masses."

## ECP declares PTI's intra-party polls not transparent

ECP's biased, unjust decision to be challenged at relevant forums: PTI spokesperson

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday ruled that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) intra-party polls were not transparent, ordering the party to hold new elections if it wishes to retain its "bat" symbol. The PTI has been asked by the commission to hold fresh elections within 20 days in a reserved verdict announced today. In the verdict, the ECP stated that the PTI failed to hold free and fair intra-party elections, adding that the polls were objectionable and controversial. "PTI's intra-party elections cannot be accepted," stated the verdict, directing it to hold polls and submit the record within seven days. "If PTI fails to hold elections within 20 days then it will have to face severe consequences. In case of failure to hold [intra-party] elections, the [PTI] will not be eligible to secure an election symbol," said the verdict. The ECP had issued notices to the PTI for not holding intra-party

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## ECP, president violated constitution: J. Minallah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: In his additional note, Supreme Court's (SC) Justice Athar Minallah clarified that a delay of a single day in holding the general elections beyond the expressly provided time frame [90 days] is the "most grave violation of the constitutional rights of the people. Earlier this month, a three-member bench headed by Chief Justice of

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## 4 Indian soldiers killed in Kashmir

DNA

SRINAGAR: Four soldiers have been killed in Indian-occupied Kashmir during ongoing clashes with freedom-fighters in the disputed Himalayan territory. The Indian army said on Thursday that an "intense firefight" broke out Wednesday after troops pursued fighters into the dense forests of Kalakote in southern Occupied Kashmir. "The attackers have been

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## Mitsuhiro affirms efforts for strong Pak-Japan ties

Japan envoy to Pak hosts exclusive reception for Journalists

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Japan Ambassador to Pakistan WADA Mitsuhiro has said Japan greatly valued ties with Pakistan adding "there is a strong

will on both sides to further deepen Japan and Japan-Pakistan relations. 'My staff from Political, Economic & Development, and Public Affairs Sections are waiting for talking with you. JICA's Chief Representative, Mr. Kinoshita, is also here. Thank you,

Mr. Kinoshita, for joining us tonight." He said, "The Chief of the Public Affairs Section, Mr. Takane, newly arrived here. Some of you might remember the Kendo performance in the Self-Defense Forces Day reception on November 1st. One of the newspapers put a photo of the performance. That was him." "I want you to enjoy meeting each other while you taste the Japanese cuisine that my Japanese chef has prepared especially for you." Ambassador Mitsuhiro further said, "Our two countries celebrated the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations last year and have continued to develop the relationship this year. My staff will give you the details later, but I would like to share some of the highlights" "Last summer, Pakistan experienced the largest flood in its history. Prime Minister Kishida sent a message saying that Japan will

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## Empowering Women

UBG, BMP  
hosts round  
table summit

This significant event is expected to draw women entrepreneurs from across Pakistan, fostering a platform for dialogue and collaboration

ABID RAZA

LAHORE : In a collaborative effort, UBG and BMP Progressive Group are set to host a groundbreaking Round Table on Women Empowerment in Lahore. This significant event is expected to draw women entrepreneurs from across Pakistan, fostering a platform for dialogue and collaboration. Samina Fazil, Chairperson of the Women Wing of UBG, announced that the Mr S M Tanveer patron InChief of UBG will be Chief Guest on the occasion and distinguished

speakers at the Round Table will include Zubair Tufail, President UBG, Zafer Bukhtawari Secretary General Malik Sohail Cordinator UBG. Atif Ikram, Presidential Candidate of UBG, and Saqib Fayyaz Magoon, candidate for the SVP seat. The Round Table aims to chart a roadmap for women entrepreneurs, outlining their pivotal role in women economic empowerment. Samina Fazil emphasized that the event will showcase the unity, enthusiasm, and progressiveness of women entrepreneurs dedicated to fortifying Pakistan's economic landscape. It is poised to exemplify the

unwavering commitment of women to contribute significantly to various economic sectors, including health, education, engineering, social work, and service industries. Prominent figures expected to participate in the Round Table include Rubina Amjad, Dr. Shela Akram, Rizwana Asif, Naima Ansari, Maheen Khan, Dr. Tasneem, Zahida Iftikhar, Naheed Masood, Farzana Barni, Syeda Saeed Bano, Rizwana Shahid, and Shabnam Zafar. Their collective presence underscores the diversity and strength of women making strides in diverse fields, further emphasizing their impact on the nation's progress.



ISLAMABAD : Special Representative to the Prime Minister for Religious Harmony and Islamic Countries and Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi presenting a commemorative shield to Saudi Ambassador at Ta'azeem-e-Harmin Sharifain Conference. DNA

DC Multan  
reviews  
facilities  
in public  
hospital

DNA

MULTAN : Deputy Commissioner Multan Rizwan Qadir here on Thursday visited Shehbaz Sharif Hospital to review administrative measures for the treatment of patients at the Hospital. The DC met with patients in different wards and inquired about their health to ensure their quality treatment as per the required level. He distributed shields among the doctors and paramedics for their improved performance. The Medical Superintendent of the Hospital briefing to the DC about the upgradation of the wards and told that the hospital's Pathology Laboratory has started working with modern equipments under qualified doctors and staff. Installation of burn plant for disposal of medical waste was also in progress, he said. The DC directed to increase the registration of health card in order to provide maximum benefits to the poor. Talking to the members of the administrative body of the Hospital, the DC said that there should be no compromise on the cleanliness and service delivery at the Hospital.

CJP indicates at transferring  
BT case amount to govt

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faiz Isa has said that the Supreme Court has nothing to do with the cash in its accounts in connection with Bahria Town implementation case. During proceedings on Thursday, the CJP said that the apex court could not hold that amount in its accounts any more. "If no one lays claim on the amount then the cash will be transferred to the Government of Pakistan. The court has nothing to do with this amount," he added. Earlier, a 10-member survey team, headed by Commissioner Karachi, on Thursday submitted to the Supreme Court (SC) a report in the case of collecting Rs460 billion from Bahria Town, Karachi on the order of the apex court. The report, compiled in collaboration with SUPARCO, Survey of Pakistan and Forest Department, revealed that contrary to the agreement signed in the light of the apex court order, under which Bahria Town was allowed to occupy 16,896 acres of land, it

was currently in possession of 19,931 acres of land; 3,031 acres more than what had been agreed. It was further disclosed that Bahria Town possessed 813 acres in district Malir of Karachi and over 2,222 acres in Jamshoro. Furthermore, it had occupied the land reserved for the forest. The SC, on the last hearing, had ordered the survey of the land in possession of Bahria Town, Karachi. The report revealed that Bahria Town Karachi has occupied 3,031 acres of land, more than the land agreed. The report revealed that the housing society possessed a piece of land beyond what was agreed in the contract. According to the court decision, 16,896 acres of land was agreed for Bahria Town, Karachi. However, it currently possessed 19,931 acres, according to the report. Bahria Town has occupied 3,031 acres more than the size agreed with the court. Out of this, 813 acres fell in Malir district and 2,222 acres in Jamshoro. The report was prepared with the help of SUPARCO, the Survey of Pakistan and the forest department.

Traffic  
police files  
5,830 cases  
against  
underage  
drivers

DNA

LAHORE : The City Traffic Police, during its ongoing crackdown on underage and unlicensed drivers, registered 5,830 cases in the provincial capital during the last 10 days. According to a spokesman for the traffic police office, on directives of Chief Traffic Officer Mustansar Feroze, policemen are determined to control accidents and protection of young lives and during the crackdown, 3,689 cases were registered against underage drivers, while 2,141 for without licenses besides impounding hundreds of vehicles in various police stations. Chief Traffic Officer Mustansar Feroze appealed to citizen to ensure obtaining driving license as the city had 30 licence offices, 10 mobile vans, and three centres working 24/7. He said that cases would be registered against those providing vehicles to underage children, and advised parents to not provide vehicles to their children under any circumstances.W

Bike lifters  
gang busted  
in Wah

DNA

WAH CANTT: The Taxila Police on Thursday busted a motorcycle lifters gang and recovered stolen motorcycles from their possession. According to a police spokesman, a team of Taxila Police while acting on a tip-off, raided the den of the gang and arrested their two members who were identified as Tariq and Ijaz, and recovered five stolen motorcycles from their possession. He said that during the preliminary interrogation, the gang confessed to stealing the motorcycles from the different parts of the city.

ECP to release final list of  
constituencies on Nov 30

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday announced that the final list of the freshly defined constituencies for the upcoming polls will be released on November 30, moving another step closer to the much-awaited general elections of 2024. The announcement came during a meeting of the ECP, headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja, on the preparations for the general elections. Last month, the polls governing body, pursuant to the directions of the Supreme Court, had announced that general elections would be held on February 8, 2024 – ending months of ambiguity surrounding the poll date. The top electoral body

announced the election date after consulting with President Arif Alvi on the apex court's three-member bench's directions given while hearing multiple pleas seeking timely elections within 90 days. "The election commission is ready to conduct the polls," the ECP stated in an official statement regarding today's meeting. Today's meeting of the electoral watchdog was attended by the Commission members, the ECP secretary, and the provincial election commissioners. The meeting was apprised that the ECP has completed hearings on all the objections filed on the preliminary delimitation of constituencies and the final list of the fresh constituencies in the light of the commission's decision will be issued on November 30. The ECP had received over 1,300 objections on preliminary delimitation of

constituencies by the end of October. The statement read that the printing of final electoral rolls is underway in the National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) and their delivery to the relevant constituencies will be ensured by the start of the election programme. It said that the ECP has given the approval for the election code of conduct after the consultations with the political parties as per the law, and an official notification for this will be issued in a few days. Moreover, the meeting was told that the plan for training the district returning officers, returning officers and polling staff is ready and its timely implementation will also be ensured. The ECP statement said that all the necessary arrangements have been made for the printing of the ballot papers, while the purchase of election material has also been completed.

Renewables cut business  
energy costs : Saqib Rafiq

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has urged the government to promote renewable sources of energy like wind, solar and hydro to get cheaper energy and lower the electricity bills. Addressing the panel discussion, titled, "Renewable Energy - The Way Forward "Opportunities & Challenges" by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting at Information Service Academy Islamabad, Saqib Rafiq said that Pakistan has tremendous potential to generate solar and wind power and added that the renewable energy would bring manifold benefits to the national

economy as it would reduce cost of doing business, promote industrialization, encourage investment, and create plenty of new jobs and enhancing exports. He further added that high dependence on imported fuels has exposed Pakistan to energy insecurity, including price shocks and disruptions and exorbitantly high energy costs.

The seminar was attended by officers of various attached departments of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, including Muhammad Ali, Caretaker Minister for Power and Petroleum, Federal Ministries, Divisions and Departments dealing with Finance and Investments.

UK Govt Climate Finance Accelerator programme  
selects eight transformative projects in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Eight innovative projects that contribute to climate change mitigation with strong adaptation co-benefits, have been selected to join the second phase of the UK's Climate Finance Accelerator Pakistan, following a call for proposals that attracted 70 applications. The projects were announced by the British High Commissioner, Jane Marriott, at an event held to mark King Charles's Birthday. The projects in the second CFA cohort come from a variety of sectors including transport, agriculture, forestry, waste management and technology. This follows a successful first round in 2022, where seven successful projects were

provided with four months of capacity building before being introduced to investors. The CFA Pakistan is a practical and deal-oriented programme that supports climate projects to improve their proposals and attract investment from Pakistan and international financiers. To ensure the projects are in the best position to generate investment, the selected projects will receive advice and support from a range of technical and financial experts to help them to improve their bankability and appeal to financiers. Support for projects includes improving financial models, advice on pitching to investors and how to embed gender equality and social inclusion (supporting women and other disadvantaged communities) within their businesses. Fol-

lowing the capacity building and mentoring sessions, the projects meet with investors and financial institutions in 2024 in Pakistan. If financed, the projects have the potential to transform communities across Pakistan by addressing critical issues such as pollution reduction, employment opportunities, efficient waste management, e-mobility, and fostering gender equality and social inclusion. Ms. Jane Marriott, Her Majesty's High Commissioner to Pakistan, said: "I'm delighted to announce these eight exciting projects at the start of their journey with CFA Pakistan. The projects in this second phase of CFA Pakistan are truly forward-looking, and the fact that they come from a wide range of industries, I am certain that the support provided by the CFA will help them move

closer to finding investment. I am looking forward to following their progress over the next few months." Khuram Lalani, Team Leader (CFA)/ Arsalan Ali Faheem, Country Director from DAI, said: "The Climate Finance Accelerator is a game-changer, fostering innovation and preparing us for a sustainable future. As we launch our second cohort, the excitement is palpable. The journey ahead is set to be as incredible as the first, empowering us to take on climate change with unwavering determination." The selected CFA projects are: 1. Davaam Life (Sector: Waste Management) - Davaam's refill station dispenses liquid products accurately, promoting safety and hygiene in waste reduction efforts. 2. Electric Two Wheelers Project by Charged

Vehicles Pvt. Ltd. (Sector: e-mobility): Locally assembled electric two-wheelers, will replace internal combustion engines, reducing carbon emissions, with a supporting app for convenient usage. 3. Afforestation & Reforestation Project Pakistan by Pact Capital (Sector: AFOLU) - Contributing to carbon capture and storage through fostering biodiversity, sustainable land use practices and through 5,000 HA afforestation. 4. Scaling-up use of AI-based Precision Farming amongst Rural Farmers in Pakistan by Food Security & Agriculture Center of Excellence (FACE) (Sector: Agriculture) - Utilising agricultural drones for efficient pest management, higher yield, and responsible resource usage.

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- Warehousing
- Storage

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## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### NOVEMBER

Nov 01/Algeria National Day

Nov 04/Italy Armed Forces Day

Nov 07/Russian Federation Socialist Revolution

Nov 09/Cambodia National Day

Nov 11/Poland Independence Day

Nov 14/Jordan Birthday of King Hussein

Nov 15/Belgium Kings Day

Nov 15/Brazil Republic Day

Nov 15/Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus National Day

Nov 18/Oman National Day

Nov 18/Morocco Independence Day

Nov 21/Bangladesh Armed Forces Day

Nov 22/Lebanon Independence Day

Nov 25/Suriname National Day

Nov 28/Mauritania National Day

Nov 28/Albania Flags Day

## Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



## Emergency

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



## Enquiry

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



## Hospitals

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



## Departments

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

## Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# Creative Minds organization fetes lawyers' community

Sadaf Shan, the President of Creative Minds, highlighted their contributions not only within their own community but also their efforts in assisting the less privileged segments of society

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Creative Minds organization in Islamabad recently organized a welcome lunch to honor and appreciate the contributions of Christian lawyers in Pakistan (CLAP). This event served as a commendable initiative that highlighted the valuable role played by these legal professionals in the country.

The occasion not only acknowledged their individual achievements but also aimed to strengthen connections and promote unity within the broader legal community.

The event took place under the leadership of Sadaf Shan, the President and Founder of Creative Minds organization. Shah Itikhar and Aqsa Tanveer, the team members also put in their best to make the event a success. The presence of THE influential figures such as J. Salik, Asia Nasir, Ch. Manzoor, Sharon Arif, Ch Ashraf Farzand, Advocate Sheharyar Shams, Advocate Saima Khokhar, Akash Tara, Tariq Chaman, Jamshed Khushi, Shahzad Safdar, Emanuel Siraj, Padri Rashid Manzoor, Safdar Masih, Aleer David, the leading figure of the Christian community, underscored the significance of the occasion and the commitment to fostering inclusivity and appreciation within the legal community.

Sadaf Shan, the President of Creative Minds, expressed the purpose of the event, emphasizing the need to recognize the services of Christian lawyers. She highlighted their contributions not only within their own community but also their efforts in assisting the less privileged segments of society. This acknowledgment aimed to shed light on the positive impact that Christian lawyers have had on both their community and the broader social fabric.

By hosting this welcome lunch, Creative Minds provided a platform for celebration, gratitude, and connection. It served as a wonderful opportunity for legal



professionals to come together, share their experiences, and build networks that can contribute to a more cohesive and supportive legal community in Paki-

stan. The event demonstrated a commitment to appreciating diversity within the legal profession and promoting unity across different religious and ethnic

backgrounds. In summary, the welcome lunch hosted by Creative Minds for Christian lawyers in Pakistan was a fantastic initiative that not only

recognized the accomplishments of these legal professionals but also aimed to strengthen connections and promote unity within the legal community. It reflected

a commitment to appreciating diversity and acknowledging the positive contributions made by Christian lawyers to both their community and society at large.

## Expert stresses more media awareness for 'Dengue'

ISLAMABAD: Health expert here Thursday appealed every citizen to play a responsible citizen role to keep environment clean and urged media to cooperate with health departments to raise more awareness drives at community level complimented by enhanced surveillance along with implementation of measures against the mosquito-borne sickness (Dengue). Talking to PTV news channel, Principle Lahore General Hospital Prof Dr Muhammad Ul Farid Zafar urged that public should actively participate in anti-dengue activities and play their role in eradicating the virus completely. The citizens should keep their houses clean to avert breeding of dengue mosquitoes, he said, adding, all government departments were alert and regularly monitoring the situation to deal with any emergency. Keeping in view of the alarming spike in the dengue fever cases, he said, "The health department in collaboration with the district administrations has begun fumigation and an awareness campaign in the country, adding, people are now much aware with the symptoms of Dengue virus." Prof explained, "Dengue is one of the major diseases in the world which can be avoided by taking precautionary measures." He asked for adopting a healthy lifestyle for ensuring good health and advised to get inoculated against the diseases that require immunization. "We have to educate the people to avoid contaminated water, unhygienic food, polluted environment, adulterated spices and fake medicines for keeping themselves healthy and remain safe from diseases," he added. While elaborating the symptoms of disease, he said that symptoms include high temperature, headache, pain behind the eyes, joint and muscle pains, nausea, rash and malaise. "There is no specific medical treatment and no vaccine the best way to protect against dengue virus and other mosquito-borne diseases is to avoid mosquito bites," he added. He advised that citizen should protect themselves against mosquito bites to avoid dengue virus (and other mosquito-borne diseases) in dengue-affected areas. Citizens should wear socks, long pants and long-sleeved shirts, he said. "Loose fitting clothing makes it harder for mosquitoes to bite you through your clothes," he added.—DNA

## Crackdown against underage drivers

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi in their ongoing operation launched against underage drivers have issued over 1600 chalan tickets and imposed fines amounting to Rs 800,000, said Chief Traffic Officer (CTO), Taimoor Khan. Talking to APP he informed that CTP had also lodged 370 FIRs against the rules violators. He said fatal road accidents occur due to speeding and reckless driving of the drivers particularly underage. In a recent tragic incident that took place in Lahore, due to the carelessness and negligence of the parents and an underage driver, precious lives were lost. The CTP said that earlier, action by the law was being taken against the underage drivers and now on the decision of the Lahore High Court and special orders of Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, the ongoing operation against the rules violators had been accelerated.—APP

## Chinese startup and PARB to promote food processing innovation

ISLAMABAD: In a significant stride toward technological innovation and economic growth, Nanjing-based Enfinity Innovate Technology Development Co., and the Punjab Agriculture Research Board (PARB), under the Government of Pakistan, have announced a groundbreaking joint venture. The joint venture aims to leverage cutting-edge technology and advanced manufacturing processes to build sophisticated food processing infrastructure in Pakistan, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday. The focus is on improving the efficiency of agricultural produce utilization, minimizing waste and creating value-added products for domestic consumption and international markets. The collaboration is intended to introduce innovative techniques in food processing, integrating automation, data analytics and quality control measures. By fostering a blend of international expertise and local agricultural knowledge, the venture will elevate Pakistan's food industry to global standards.—DNA

## Kashif emphasizes importance of Kyrgyz-Pakistan ties

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Kyrgyzstan Trade House, Meher Kashif Younis on Thursday said that the Kyrgyz-Pakistan Inter-Governmental Commission was playing pivotal role in establishing stronger economic foundation and fostering enhanced mutual cooperation between the two countries. Speaking to a delegation of exporters and importers at trade house, he said the 4th session of the Kyrgyz-Pakistan Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) on Trade- Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation organized in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan recently, was poised to yield a positive impact for promoting bilateral trade between two Muslim brotherly countries, said a press release issued here. Stressing the significance of the CASA-1000 regional project, Meher Kashif emphasized the commitment from both sides to its expeditious completion to realize shared goals. While underlining a remarkable trade surge from \$1.14 million in January 2017 to \$11.23 million, he stressed the need for a robust action plan to address trade barriers, with the joint working group on Trade and Investment playing a key role. He commended the ongoing talks for the Transit Trade Agreement, citing the year-round accessibility of the Karakoram Highway as a big opportunity for facilitating transit trade and fortifying bilateral economic relations. Delving into cultural and people-to-people connections, he spotlighted the presence of more than 15,000 Pakistani students pursuing higher education in Kyrgyzstan and the growing influx of tourists to the country, illustrating a shared affinity for Kyrgyz heritage, culture, and scenic landscapes.—DNA

## SDPI confers living legend award on Dr Parvez Hassan Faisal Sheikh

ISLAMABAD: The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) conferred Living Legend Series Award to the country's pioneer environmentalist Dr Parvez Hassan for his unparalleled contributions in the fields of environmental protection and education. The award was presented to him at the plenary session titled: 'SDPI's Living Legend Series Award 2023', at the 26th Sustainable Development Conference organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute. Dr Parvez has numerous achievements to his credit not only in Pakistan but also globally. He is internationally acclaimed and respected for his extraordinary contributions and commitment to the cause of environmental protection and conservation. It is to his credit and efforts that Pakistan got its first environmental protection legislation and is the pioneer of Pakistan Environmental Protection Act (PEPA 1997). "The history of Environmental law would

be incomplete without the work of Dr Parvez. He is the force behind the first environmental protection legislation in Pakistan, and he has set up Parvez Hassan Environmental Law Centre at the University of Punjab," said Justice Mansoor. "There is a Chinese proverb when the wind blows, some people build walls, while others build windmills. Dr Parvez has been building windmills all his life", Justice Mansoor remarked. Dr Ishrat Hussain called Dr Parvez a man of vision. "During the time when economists, including me, were skeptical about climate change, Dr Parvez believed that it was a serious issue and felt the urgency to raise awareness. Another admirable quality of Dr Parvez is his commitment to education; his firm belief that the future of Pakistan lies in investing in human capital," he said. Abdul Razzak Dawood, the former federal minister, said, "Dr Parvez Hassan is a man of exceptional character and true patriot. Recalling an incident

of the past when a foreigner made some abusive remarks about Pakistanis, Dawood said, "Dr Parvez Hasan responded to the foreigner in a way that the latter had to apologize." He said, "Dr Parvez is one of the main brains behind setting up the charter of LUMS and Beaconhouse National University." He also established Law School at LUMS in the name of his father, and Razia Hassan School of Architecture at Beaconhouse National University in loving memory of his mother." "Dr Parvez is a living embodiment of John F. Kennedy's words; Ask not what your country has done for you, rather what you have done for your country. May he live long and continue to serve his people", said Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed. President of WWF-International, Dr Adil Najam, while extending his respects for his mentor said Dr Parvez Hassan's role in National Conservation Strategy was crucial and the first Pakistan-India Environmental Summit.

"Vice Chancellor (VC) of Beaconhouse National University (BNU), Dr Moeed Yusuf termed the most meticulous person he ever met who possessed an esteemed personality. His hard work still at this age is commendable and he has been absolutely fair and on point in his professional dealings," Dr Yusuf added. Dean of BNU School of Architecture Omar Hassan who is the son of Dr Parvez Hassan, said his father considered integrity and fair mind as the only quality for an individual. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Parvez Hassan said in 2001, he had received the GC University Lifetime Achievement Award and today's SDPI award was a humbling moment for him. "The Living Legends Award demands stories and mine is the life fully blessed," he added. Shedding light on his childhood participation in the world scouts league to his professional career as lawyer, he said, "The lawyering in 1970 was dominated by individuals damag-

ing general practice. I professionalized legal practice through my law firm where I started regular counseling of young lawyers at my office. My new approach was received well and got me national fame." He provided free of cost extended legal services to people and communities unable to afford legal services for public interest issues like environmental conservation or human rights. Dr Parvez Hassan mentioned that his pro bono work was extremely rewarding for him as he spent almost 50% of his professional life on Pro Bono work. "My parents would be proud of me and my family as well. I dedicated my environmental law book to my wife for supporting me throughout my life. Giving back is my overarching message to this gathering," Dr Parvez concluded. Among the notable speakers were Ambassador Shafiq Kakakhel, and Nasreen Kasuri. Syed Babar Ali and Prof. Nicholas A. Robinson also shared their video messages.—DNA

## Briefs

## Diwan inks deal with Jinko Solar for 200MW solar module procurement

DNA

ISLAMABAD, Nov. 23 (): In a stride towards addressing the nation's growing electricity demands through sustainable and eco-friendly means, Diwan International Pvt Ltd has forged a partnership with the renowned Chinese solar giant, Jinko Solar. Through the collaborative agreement, the companies will pursue green energy solutions, with the procurement of a formidable 200 MW of cutting-edge solar modules, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday. "This strategic partnership marks a significant milestone for both companies, as they join forces to harness the power of solar energy," Diwan International, one of the country's leading energy company's announced. The company added that the partnership aimed to strengthen its position in the renewable energy sector and contribute to the global transition towards sustainable energy sources. The company recognizes the immense potential of solar energy in meeting the world's growing energy demands while reducing carbon emissions. Jinko Solar Co., Ltd is a globally recognized innovative solar technology company. Headquartered in Shanghai China, Jinko Solar's products serve over 180 countries and regions worldwide, catering to more than 3,000 customers, as per the company's official website. In addition to its partnership with Jinko Solar, Diwan International is an authorized dealer of Huawei FusionSolar (solar inverters), Trina Solar LEOCH Battery in Pakistan.

## Gwadar-Plan underway to meet energy needs

ISLAMABAD: In the mushrooming landscape of Gwadar, the pivotal gateway of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a remarkable transformation is underway as the city rapidly evolves into an international business hub. However, this meteoric rise in economic activity comes hand in hand with an escalating demand for electricity. Recognising the critical need to address the increasing power requirements of the Makran/Gwadar region, with a focus on short-, medium-, and long-term scenarios, the government has laid out comprehensive plans to bolster the city's energy infrastructure. According to Gwadar Pro, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Wednesday released the power supply options for Makran/Gwadar from short to medium scenarios. As per NEPRA's document, operational since 2003, 70 to 90 MW of electricity is imported from Iran on the existing 132 kV transmission line (T/Line) from Jackigoor to Mand (Gwadar).—APP

## ICCI calls for expediting TAPI project to boost industrialization

He said that being a landlocked country, Turkmenistan wants access through the sea to the outside world and Pakistan provides it shortest route through Karachi and Gwadar ports

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Faad Waheed, Acting President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that high energy cost in Pakistan is a major hurdle in smooth growth of industrial activities and urged that Pakistan and Turkmenistan should speed up the work on the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project that will ensure cheap energy and boost industrialization in the country. He said this while talking to Mohammad Yaqub Tabani, Honorary Consul of Turkmenistan in Pakistan during his visit to ICCI along with his son Hatim Tabani. Faad Waheed said that both countries should focus on enhancing bilateral trade and economic relations as they have good potential to do trade in many items. He stressed that Pakistan and Turkmenistan should introduce easy visa policy for businessmen to facilitate the frequent exchange of trade delegations that would help boost two-way trade between the two countries. The current strict visa policy on both sides is a major hurdle in promoting business relations between the two countries. He termed the establishment of



air, road and railway connectivity between Pakistan and Central Asian Republics very important to improve Pakistan's trade and exports with these countries. Speaking on the occasion, Mohammad Yaqub Tabani, Honorary Consul of Turkmenistan to Pakistan said

that Turkmenistan is an energy rich country and can meet energy needs of Pakistan. He said that Turkmenistan is producing cheap electricity which can be supplied to Pakistan to meet the energy needs of its industry and growing population. He said that being a

landlocked country, Turkmenistan wants access through the sea to the outside world and Pakistan provides it shortest route through Karachi and Gwadar ports. Therefore, close cooperation between the two countries would produce win-win outcomes for them. Engr.

Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Acting Senior Vice President and Ahmed Khan Acting Vice President ICCI said that direct air connectivity between Pakistan and Turkmenistan should be the focus of both countries to enhance bilateral business and investment relations.

## Dr. Saif unveils first ever national IT Export Strategy

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD, Caretaker Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications Dr. Umar Saif Thursday unveiled the nation's first ever national IT Export Strategy to increase Pakistan's IT exports, up to \$ 10 billion in the next three years. Speaking as a chief guest at the launching ceremony, he said that the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) under Ministry of IT and Telecommunication (MoITT) in collaboration with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), and other international partners, including faculty from the University of Oxford, developed the strategy closely aligned with the government's vision. The minister said that Information and Communications Technology (ICT) was the only key that open the door

to stabilizing and strengthening the country's economy. He said that Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) had a significant role in enabling the sector and removing departmental bottlenecks. The minister hoped the forum of the SIFC would attract more Foreign Direct Investment in Pakistan. Highlighting about the strategy to increase ICT exports, Dr. Umar Saif said that according to the official figures, IT exports were \$ 2.6 billion, the government would add another 200,000 skilled people to the existing IT workforce, which would increase exports to \$ 5 billion. Similarly, allowing IT companies to keep dollars (Dollar retention facility) will increase exports by one billion dollars, while the establishment of The Pakistan Startup Fund will increase the total volume of IT exports by another \$

1 billion to help it meet the target of \$ 10 billion. Dr. Umar called for the strategy's potential, presenting a vision that prioritizes human resource development, capacity building, the implementation of a freelancers' facilitation program, a startup funding initiative, and the nurturing of a resilient IT ecosystem. Talking about the key points of the report, he said that the report confirmed that there was a substantial opportunity for Pakistan to grow its IT/ITeS Export revenues to \$10-\$18bn by 2028 and would make Pakistan a Global IT hub, with a commensurate increase in the Domestic industry to over \$6bn per annum. He further said this was particularly the case in five priority IT/ITeS market segments, and within those, 12 priority sub-segments for the Pakistan IT/ITeS Industry which have been identified as having a combination of

a high global market growth rate, significant global market size and a large part of the global market available to exploit as there are relatively few established players. Additionally, an increase of activity, capacity, and capability of the IT/ITeS Industry will have spin-off benefits for associated industries and the economy at large - for example e-Commerce, Financial Services, or the provision of public services (e-Government). Growth in Pakistan's IT/ITeS exports will result from the global growth in IT markets, and to support this, the country needed to undertake a significant training and skills initiative over the next five years. However, the Export market growth will be sub-optimal if the macro-conditions in the country are not also made more favorable - if this is not done, it is likely the level of ambition for IT/ITeS exports will not be met.

## Experts call for repatriation of illegal Afghan migrants

ISLAMABAD: Participants of a roundtable discussion called for repatriation of illegal Afghan migrants in Pakistan back to their home country. The discussion, organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) here on Thursday, included the Director General of the Pak-Afghan Youth Forum Mr Salman Javed, senior journalist Sumaira Khan, expert on international humanitarian and human rights law Ms Sibah Farooq, advocate Supreme Court Ms Asma Mushtaq, and President IRS Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz. They were of the view that even though the current drive of repatriation of undocumented Afghans residing illegally in Pakistan also had to do with the dip in the diplomatic relations between the two neighbouring countries, Pakistan as a sovereign country had the right to regulate the presence of illegal aliens on its soil. The participants urged the Government of Pakistan to take care of the humanitarian needs of the repatriating illegal migrants and provide them with all necessary support. They urged the concerned authorities to also protect the registered Afghan refugees and Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders in Pakistan against harassment by law enforcement agencies. The speakers expressed their concern and disappointment over the continued hostility in Afghanistan against Pakistan. They emphasized that Pakistan had hosted the Afghan refugees for a protracted duration and had provided them with all the possible facilities including access to shelter, healthcare, education, as well as earning respectable livelihoods. The participants of the discussion also urged the international community to assist Pakistan in supporting the existing Afghan refugees on its soil and to expedite the resettlement applications of the potential aspirants. The participants also urged improvement in the legal framework governing refugees and aliens in the country to provide an improved system for administration of aliens and protection of refugees. —DNA

## ANF recovers 44 kg drugs in 11 operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 11 operations across the country managed to recover 44 kg of drugs and arrested eight accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday. He informed that 2.4 kg of heroin was recovered from a parcel at a courier office located in Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi. The heroin was soaked in six pants, booked for the UK. 230 grams of weed was recovered from a parcel sent from Canada at a courier office in Multan. The spokesman informed that 1174 grams hidden in a passenger's trolley bag was recovered at Sialkot airport. The accused was leaving for Bahrain by flight number GF-769. 7.2 kg hashish was recovered from two suspects riding a motorcycle on Shangla Hill Road, Faisalabad. 2.4 kg hashish and 150 grams of Ice drug were recovered from a motorcycle rider intercepted on Lahore Road, Faisalabad. 18 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle stopped on Kahuta Road Islamabad while an accused was also arrested during the operation. —DNA

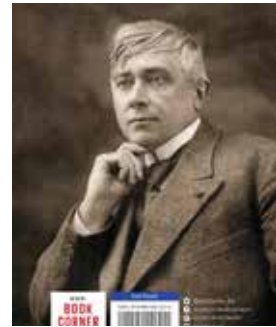
## 80% Pakistanis view climate change as the world's one challenge

ISLAMABAD: A recent research conducted by GSMA Intelligence with support from Huawei revealed that about 80% of Pakistanis across 16 countries now view climate change as the world's number one challenge. According to a survey, 60% in Pakistan would accept a lower salary to work for an organization that had set a target to reduce its carbon emissions. That compares with about half of respondents, on average, in other countries surveyed, said a news release. Pakistan is working to decrease CO2 equivalent emissions. The government is pursuing strategies for combating climate change, including the promotion of renewables and electric vehicles, a ban on plastic bags, and the billion-tree plantation drive. It found that 60% of respondents consider climate or sustainability when buying a product, while 45% say they are willing to pay a premium for products and services that have been certified carbon neutral. The inclination toward such "green purchasing" appeared to be greatest in countries that are most exposed to extreme weather conditions induced by climate change. —APP

## Belgian theatre meets Pakistani culture

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Belgium is proud to present three theatrical masterpieces staged by the Islamabad-based theatre group, "Theatre Walay", as part of the Belgian Week 2023 festivities in Pakistan. These plays, written by the Belgian playwright Maurice Maeterlinck, laureate of Nobel Prize of Literature in 1911, were translated into Urdu by Shaukat Niazi, a decorated and award-winning translator and will grace the stage at the Pakistan



National Council of the Arts (PNCA). Maurice Maeterlinck's work, renowned for its profound symbolism and evocative storytelling, is set to mesmerize the audience in

Islamabad. Event Details: Date: 24 November 2023. Time: 6.30 p.m. Venue: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) Admission: Free and open to the public This event is another witness of the enduring cultural ties between Belgium and Pakistan and serves as a bridge between the Belgian theatre and the Pakistani culture. The Embassy of Belgium invites all theatre enthusiasts, Belgians in Pakistan, and Pakistani friends of Belgium to join its collaborator, the PNCA, to celebrate this unique and first-of-its-kind cultural exchange.

## Aurangzeb Waraich announces to join PPP

ISLAMABAD: A well-known businessman and social activist, Aurangzeb Waraich has called on the Central President Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Women's Wing, Faryal Talpur at the Zardari House Islamabad and announced to join PPP. Aurangzeb Waraich reposed full confidence in the leadership of Chairman Bilawal and Asif Ali Zardari and said that only the PPP leadership can get the country out of the different challenges. Faryal Talpur welcomed Aurangzeb Waraich into the party and said that only the PPP leadership has the ability to take along together all sections of the society. She said Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's narrative is to end the politics of hatred and division and unite Pakistan. Faryal Talpur said Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's narrative is the voice of the people of Pakistan, especially the youth. —APP



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of the Russian Federation, Mr Danila Ganich, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. —DNA



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin, called on Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs Dr. Shamshad Akhtar at Finance Division. The discussions focused on economic, trade, & investment matters of mutual interest. — DNA

NOVEMBER 2023

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Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 05 Issue: 39

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

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## Ceasefire in Gaza: A step forward

The ceasefire and hostage release deal between Israel and Hamas will be deeply felt. To some, it will mean everything. If it proceeds as agreed, the families of 50 women and children of Israeli and other nationalities, held hostage by Hamas since its murderous raids on 7 October, will at last be reunited with their loved ones – with the first release expected on Friday at the earliest. For traumatised families in Gaza, the deal will bring respite from relentless airstrikes and the prospect of desperately needed aid. It will also see the release of 150 Palestinian women and children from Israeli prisons. There has been talk of such an arrangement for weeks. There is fury among relatives that hostages have ranked so low on Benjamin Netanyahu's list of priorities: the Israeli prime minister did not meet family members until this week. Hamas refused to provide identifying information on hostages and threatened to cut talks over Israel's raid on al-Shifa hospital. In the intervening time, several hostages have died, and thousands more Palestinians. Another 100 people in Gaza were killed within hours of the deal being announced. Nonetheless, the hope is that this brings, however belatedly, a critical change in dynamics. The deal, brokered by Qatar and the US, includes an option to extend the four-day ceasefire if more hostages are released. The sight of family reunions, and the suffering of hostages, might build support in Israel for a longer-term deal. A fuller picture of the devastation in Gaza, through access for outside journalists, is likely to increase international pressure. What this does not mean is an end to the war. Almost 200 hostages will still be held. Martin Griffiths, the UN humanitarian chief, describes the situation in Gaza as "the worst ever ... complete and utter carnage". Two-fifths of the estimated 14,000 dead are children, and 1.7 million people have been displaced – three-quarters of Gaza's population. The emergency effort can offer only very limited relief: Oxfam called the deal "a Band-Aid that will be ripped off a bleeding wound after four days". The Israel Defense Forces say that it is an "operational pause", not a ceasefire, and Mr Netanyahu has stressed: "We'll continue in the war." Hamas insists: "Our hands will remain on the trigger." The same forces that delayed this deal will work against its extension. Hamas will seek a higher price for the remaining hostages. Mr Netanyahu is fighting for political survival. While he carried this proposal with the support of some of the extremists in his cabinet, the national security minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, attacked it as "immoral". Israel continues to state that its goal is eliminating Hamas. There is no sign that Israeli political opinion is cohering around a plan for what may come after the war – still less any indication that the necessary international parties would sign up. If matters proceed as arranged, however, it may at least lead to a longer-term diminution of the assault on Gaza. The Biden administration has already made it clear that it will not stomach a full-scale expansion of Israeli operations into the south. The offensive might resume at a lower intensity and continue indefinitely. Though this would be better than the 160 children that the UN estimates have been killed each day, no one could celebrate it. This agreement is to be welcomed. It must be made to work and, if possible, built upon. But its limitations must be fully understood.



## Canberra should not let past bias cloud judgment

Statistics released by the General Administration of Customs indicate China resumed imports of Australian barley in October, with the amount of the first batch of imports in more than three years reaching 313,700 tons worth \$88.4 million. Latest GAC statistics also indicate trade between China and Australia reached \$189.88 billion from January to October, up 4 percent year-on-year, with China's imports from Australia rising 8.4 percent year-on-year. Speculation is high that other Australian exports to China such as lobsters and wine will resume soon, boosting the uptick in bilateral trade. The rosier trade picture points to the new warmth that has been generated in the bilateral relationship since Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese took office and changed the country's policy course toward China. Yet the recent war of words between Canberra and Beijing over which side was to blame for an incident involving a naval vessel of each country points to the necessity of them remaining alert so as to prevent any unexpected disruptions from drawing them apart again. It is normal that China and Australia should still encounter some differences. But as long as the two sides keep the channels of communication open and seek to handle any incidents in good faith, the foundation for their shared resolve to improve and deepen bilateral ties need not be shaken. Since Albanese's visit to China earlier this month, China and Australia have successfully reset their relations. But as their recent spat shows, to fully melt the ice that had formed over several years will take time as the two sides need to rebuild mutual trust. To sustain the positive momentum that has been generated by the efforts of both sides, Canberra and Beijing need to maintain an objective view of bilateral relations and not allow their previous disagreements to nudge their relations back onto the wrong trajectory because of a biased misperception. An unhurried evaluation of an unexpected incident will ensure that any lingering vestiges of the previous animosity do not cloud judgments. In this regard, Australia's High Commissioner to Singapore Allister Cox's recent remarks deserve note. According to Singaporean media reports on Wednesday, Cox told the media that Australia-China relations are now more stable and have a more solid foundation. He rebutted the suggestion that Australia and its allies are working together to contain China, emphasizing that this is not in Australia's interests. His assessment of the state of the Sino-Australian relationship highlights that Canberra and Beijing should not let a storm in a teacup gather strength to become a tempest that leaves their ties foundering again.

## Why Knocked at China's door to end Gaza Genocide...

Qamar Bashir



The entire Muslim world, Organization of Islamic Countries, Arab League, the United Nations, the Red Cross have tried their hardest to use all diplomatic channels available to stop Israel from committing genocide against the Palestinians. However, their combined power appeared to have no value, clout, or influence over Israel or the United States to stop this madness. Israel, despite being one of the smallest countries surrounded by Muslim countries, has grown so large and formidable that it has had the audacity and wherewithal to frustrate all attempts by the international community and rational people all

The death toll in Gaza is approaching the Zionist target of 14000 martyrs in place of 1400 Israelis killed, which is now abundantly clear that the majority of the Israelis were killed by Israeli airstrikes to get a pretext to decimate the Palestinian population, forcing them to migrate to other parts of the Arab world, paving the way for complete and final occupation of both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and to fulfil Jews' dreams of cleansing their pure land from Arabs. The entire Muslim world, Organization of Islamic Countries, Arab League, the United Nations, the Red Cross have tried their hardest to use all diplomatic channels available to stop Israel from committing genocide against the Palestinians. However, their combined power appeared to have no value, clout, or influence over Israel or the United States to stop this madness. Israel, despite being one of the smallest countries surrounded by Muslim countries, has grown so large and formidable that it has had the audacity and wherewithal to frustrate all attempts by the international community and rational people all over the world to stop Israel from unleashing terror, inhuman bombing, sulphur rain, and other forbidden weapons in Gaza while trampling human values and human rights with total impunity. Frustrated and humiliated by the combined might of Israel and the United States, having lost faith in the United Nations and lacking confidence in their own clout, all Muslim countries have turned to China for intervention to stop Israel's merciless assault on unarmed Palestinian civilians, destroying places of worship, hospitals, schools, civilian residential areas, and refugee camps. This visit has many connotations, interpretations, and outcomes regardless of China's appetite to intervene in this highly complex, sensitive, and dangerous conflict where any wrong move by any player will almost certainly attract the wrath of a trigger-happy US and its stooge Israel, which has long forgotten any sense of decency or respect for human lives other than its own. This is the significance of China, which has been bestowed with the position of a superpower by virtue of its ability to counter or face off with the United States. If there had been another superpower, the Muslim may have knocked instead of China. Why did Muslim countries not visit the UK is because it has been reduced to a puppet of the United States. They did not go to Russia, which has the mussels but is already overburdened with its stand-off with Ukraine. With no other country in sight to say what needed to be said, Muslim countries were left with no alternative but to knock on China's door in their final bid and last resort to save what little remained of Gaza and the West Bank. China may be the only country that consistently maintains its position on a higher moral pedestal. It does not meddle in the internal affairs of other countries. In order to achieve its goals, it does not change the government of any country or replace one dictatorship with another. Throughout its history, even when the Chinese monarchy was among the most powerful in the world, it never colonised

any territory or nation. On the other hand, it constructed a powerful wall to protect itself from outside assault. Pakistan's historical interactions with global powers have been marked by challenging experiences, with notable exceptions in its relationship with China. The bitter legacy includes the UK's colonial rule over the Indian subcontinent, which encompassed the region Pakistan calls home. Pakistan also felt the impact of the USSR's hegemonic designs, especially during its presence in neighboring Afghanistan, a situation that directly affected Pakistan's security. Furthermore, the U.S. involvement, from using Pakistan as a frontline state against the USSR during the Cold War to subsequent engagements against Taliban and Al Qaeda, has left lasting impacts. More recently, Pakistan experienced destabilization attributed to U.S. involvement in regime changes, impacting the nation profoundly. Throughout these encounters, Pakistan's relationship with China stands out as a positive exception. China's stance toward Pakistan represents a departure from conventional power dynamics. Despite being a major global player with significant interests in Pakistan, China has refrained from manipulating its political landscape. This approach has been consistent, even during China's challenging periods in the 1960s and 70s and its remarkable progress from the 1980s onwards. China's approach exhibits astute political acumen, displaying the capacity and adaptability to foster positive relations with various regimes, encompassing a wide political and military spectrum. This consistent approach extends comfort and ease across diverse political landscapes within Pakistan. Throughout my four decades in the corridors of power, I witnessed our leaders facing substantial pressure and demands from the USA, consistently urging us to do more. The USA staunchly opposed the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and when we sought their aid in resolving our communication, infrastructure, and power issues, they declined outrightly, offering no solutions or assistance. Contrastingly, when we turned to China with our challenges, it extended its support without any conditions or expectations. China came to our aid without hesitation, without posing any questions, and without attaching any strings, demonstrating a stark contrast in their approach compared to the USA. In the context of the Hamas-Gaza conflict, while millions of people from the developing and developed worlds took to the streets to demand an end to Israeli massacres in Gaza and the West Bank, governments from the developed world stood with Israel and threatened any other country with dire consequences if it even considered military intervention. They provided open air, ground, and sea access to Israel, allowing it to launch strikes from every direction and slaughter children, women, the elderly, and youth with impunity. They rendered the United Nations, the World Health Organisation, the Red Cross, and other similar organisations obsolete and silent. They reduced all Muslim countries to a condition of helplessness, irritation, indignation, and silence as they saw their unarmed religious brothers and sisters viciously and brutally butchered and slaughtered for no fault or crime of their own. Feeling insulted and humiliated, Muslim

countries resorted to seeking Chinese intervention to end this quagmire in the same manner and approach that helpless and victimised countries used to seek the help of the superpower of the time to rescue them from the aggression and brutality of enemies stronger than them. In the eighth century, the Abbasid Caliphate partnered with Tang China to fight the threat posed by the Göktürks, a formidable nomadic confederation. The Ottoman Empire supported and protected Muslim populations across Europe, particularly in the Balkans and Eastern Europe, in the 15th and 16th centuries. Mohammad Bin Qasim liberated Muslims imprisoned by Raja Dahir of Sindh in 711 CE. It is disheartening and shameful for the entire Muslim world that there is no longer a single Muslim country or Muslim leader in the world with the tenacity, resources, and courage to defend our Muslim brothers and sisters from the tyranny of Israel and its handlers, and they have finally knocked on the doors of China. China made a statement in which it stated that the world must act quickly to end the crisis in Gaza and committed to step up its efforts to play a role in creating a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas conflict, as well as its determination to firmly support justice and fairness. It demanded an immediate ceasefire and the distribution of relief supplies in the war zone. Beijing amid its efforts to avert open confrontation with Washington and Israel and is struggling to maintain its status of a power broker in the region. Unlike the USA, which is doing all it can to fuel the war against humanity in Gaza, China adopted exactly the opposite path. It supported the peaceful resolution of conflict and firmly defended the legitimate rights and interests of Arab and Muslim countries and firmly stood with the Palestinian people in their efforts to restore their legitimate national rights and interests. China was the main motivation when the UN passed its first resolution calling release of hostages and extended humanitarian corridors to protect civilians. The peace diplomacy led by China has given it the status of civilised and humane super power while USA and Israel have been branded as brute force and senseless force which are bent upon inflicting untold miseries to the helpless civilians of Gaza and west bank. With China's emerging status as a responsible state that seeks not to wage war but to lift people from all around the world out of poverty. China, despite its overwhelming economic, financial, and military might, does not threaten any country and instead prefers peaceful resolution of crises. China, which is willingly and happily sharing the fruits of its prosperity and growth with all countries of the world without any strings attached while maintaining the dignity, honour, and respect of recipient countries, possesses all of the ingredients to assure global leadership and lead the world to shared prosperity and growth. It is playing a critical role in restoring some semblance of humanity to the Hamas-Israel dispute and will hopefully continue to play a pacifying role in resolving the issues and conflict through peaceful ways free of threats, arm twisting, and coercion.

—The writer is Former Press Secretary to the President Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France Former MD, SRBC

## Turkey and Iran's converging perspectives

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



They've also deployed 900 troops to strengthen defenses against attacks by Iran-affiliated groups. Turkey and Iran are uneasy about the U.S. getting involved, seeing it as a threat to their interests Both Turkey and Iran have connections with

Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, causing concern in the Middle East. The U.S. is worried about the conflict escalating and has sent two aircraft carrier groups to the region. They've also deployed 900 troops to strengthen defenses against attacks by Iran-affiliated groups. Turkey and Iran are uneasy about the U.S. getting involved, seeing it as a threat to their interests Both Turkey and Iran have connections with Hamas, but in different ways. Turkey doesn't consider Hamas a terrorist group and supports them as part of its policy to defend the Palestinian cause. However, since 2020, Turkey has distanced itself from Hamas to repair relations with other countries. Iran, on the other hand, provides comprehensive support to Hamas. Turkey and Iran also share concerns about the U.S. presence in Syria. Turkey opposes U.S. support for Kurds, while Iran sees U.S. efforts in Syria as a threat to its access through Iraq. Despite differences, Iran and Turkey have tried to mediate between Syria and Turkey. They also have overlapping interests in the South Caucasus, despite a rivalry. Turkey and Azerbaijan are open to working with Iran on regional initiatives, like the 3+3 proposal. In summary, the conflict between Hamas and Israel has brought the U.S.

back into the Middle East, causing concerns for Turkey and Iran. While they have differences, they share some common interests and are navigating regional dynamics together. Ankara and Tehran both think that the world is changing. Turkey's leaders believe the West is losing touch with the rest of the world on issues like China, migration, and terrorism. Iran's top officials also see the decline of America's global role and expect a shift to a non-Western global order. They both question the effectiveness of Western institutions. Turkey criticizes the United Nations Security Council's structure and calls for an international order treating every nation equally. It's also causing disruptions within NATO and forming alliances outside Western influence. Iran wants to move away from Western-dominated structures, forming partnerships with emerging powers like China, being part of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS, and supporting Russia in the Ukraine war. Since October 7, events seem to support their views. The belief in Israel's invincibility has been challenged, disrupting U.S. efforts for Arab-Israeli normalization. Many in the Global South are disappointed with the U.S. and EU's strong support for Israel. The dysfunctionality of international institutions is emphasized by Israel refusing visas for U.N.

officials. This situation might bring together revisionist actors, such as Hamas visiting Moscow and talks between Iranian and Turkish officials. However, there are limits to this "Axis of Revisionism." Turkey is still a NATO member, allowing flexibility, and Erdo an approved Sweden's NATO membership. Turkey's revisionism is more reformist than Iran's, and both countries have competing interests in Syria and Iraq. The common threat of the U.S. returning to the Middle East due to the ongoing Gaza conflict might prevent a clash between their regional policies. In the long run, their rivalry for regional influence might resurface once a new global order is established. Despite aligning interests, the commitment of other revisionist actors like Russia and China is uncertain. Russia benefits from cooperation between Turkey and Iran but may not have the capacity to sustain it. China may find Iranian-Turkish reconciliation useful but needs to consider its relations with the Gulf States. Overall, while Iranian and Turkish interests are aligning against Israel and a U.S.-led regional order, their historical competition and distinct forms of revisionism suggest that any emerging alliance between them may remain fragile and susceptible to strains in the mid to long term.

## Briefs

## Pak Army extends unequivocal support...

FROM PAGE 01 concerns over continued repression of Kashmiris in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and condemned the unabated human rights violations by Indian forces. Forum reaffirmed that Pakistan shall continue to support Kashmiris politically, diplomatically and morally. Participants stressed that the only solution to the issue lies in providing the right of self-determination to the people of Kashmir according to relevant UNSC resolution. The forum resolved to fully support government's initiatives in various domains for sustainable recovery of the economy and curbing illegal activities including smuggling, hoarding, electricity theft, implementation of One Document Regime, dignified repatriation of illegal foreigners and safeguarding of national database etc.

## Gaza truce to start...

FROM PAGE 01 the safety of the hostages," he told reporters. "We will be focusing on making sure that they get there safely through our operations room," he said, adding that there will be collaboration with the Red Cross and the parties to the conflict. Answering a question about the release of non-Israeli captives, al-Ansari replied: "The criteria on which to prioritise the hostages were purely humanitarian and our focus was getting the women and children out of harm's way as soon as possible." He added that the hope was that "the momentum carried by this deal will help us get everybody out in time and at the same time, of course, lessen the hardship of the people in Gaza through the humanitarian pause that is taking place".

## PTI's intra-party...

FROM PAGE 01 polls on August 2 and reserved its verdict on the matter on September 13. Today's verdict will be a worry for the PTI as most of its leadership, including Chairman Imran Khan, his deputy Shah Mahmood Qureshi and party president Pervez Elahi, are in jail or have deserted the party following the crackdown launched against them after the May 9 riots. PTI lawyer Barrister Gohar, in his media talk outside the ECP office, said that he was disappointed with the verdict. "Election Commission did not fulfill the requirements of justice," said Gohar. He also alleged that the ECP delayed the announcement of the verdict for a "special purpose".

## ECP, president...

FROM PAGE 01 Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Minallah and Justice Amin-Ud-Din Khan had ordered the government to ensure the conduct of general elections on February 8, after President Arif Alvi and Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja unanimously agreed on the aforementioned date during a meeting held at the President's House. The court, in its order, mentioned that the notification of the general election date has also been issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), stating that no party has any objection to holding elections on February 8 next year.

## Russia a key player in...

FROM PAGE 01 collaboration which will benefit our people as well as the region. Prime Minister also appreciated cooperation between the two countries at international fora. Earlier, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said Pakistan would continue to extend political, moral, and diplomatic support to its Kashmiri brethren till the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Quaid-e-Azam Trust (UK) Raja Muhammad Ishtiyak talking to media person at local hotel in Federal Capital. – Online

## Army to face Wapda in National Basketball Championship final

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Defending champion Pakistan Army and Wapda comfortably won their respective semi-finals of the National Men's Basketball Championship 2023 at Govt College University Lahore on Thursday organised by Punjab Basketball Association. The semifinals, played on Thursday, showcased intense battles and stellar performances. In the first semifinal, Pakistan Army faced a formidable challenge from Lahore Division Basketball Team but emerged victorious with a scoreline of 84-58. At halftime, Army held a close lead of 38-23. Tuglab Ammar led the charge for Pakistan Army with an impressive 33 points, supported by M Shehbaz Ali (9 points) and Sheraz Aslam (9 points). La-



hore's contributions came from Safi Khan (27 points), Ibtisam Murtaza (8 points), and Mohsin Mehtab (8 points). The second semifinal witnessed Pakistan Wapda securing an impressive 80-51 points victory over Pakistan Air Force. Leading 38-

30 at halftime, Wapda showcased outstanding basketball skills, with Zainul Hassan (28 points), M Zahid Arif (16 points), and M Usman (15 points) steering their team to success. For Pakistan Air Force, Umair Jan scored 23 points, with M Akhter contributing 8 points and Ahmed Jan securing 7 points. A sizable crowd, including spectators such as Shahid Mirza, Tajamal Riaz, Umer Sardar, Mateen Akmal, Director of Sports at GCU Waseem Akhtar, PBBF Secretary General Khalid Bashir, Muhammad Azam Dar, and students of GC University, witnessed the thrilling matches officiated by referees Ghulam Muhammad Memon, M M Alam, Gul Jamal, Umer Muhammad, Syed Adnan Ali, and Saadat Jehangir. Army and Wapda teams will vie for the championship title on Friday while Lahore and PAF will fight for third position match.

## Marlon Samuels handed a six-year ban from cricket

STAFF REPORTERS

CARIBBEAN: Former West Indies all-rounder Marlon Samuels was banned by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Thursday, for breaching the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) Anti-Corruption Code. Samuels, who was charged by the ICC (in its capacity as the Designated Anti-Corruption Official under the ECB Code) in September 2021, was found guilty by the Tribunal in August this year for four offences. Article 2.4.2 - Failing to disclose to the Designated Anti-Corruption Official, the receipt of any gift, payment, hospitality or other benefit that was made or given in circumstances that could bring the Participant or the sport of cricket into disrepute. Article 2.4.3 - Failing to



disclose to the Designated Anti-Corruption Official receipt of hospitality with a value of US \$750 or more. Article 2.4.6 - Failing to cooperate with the Designated Anti-Corruption Official's investigation. Article 2.4.7 - Obstructing or delaying the Designated Anti-Corruption Official's investigation by concealing information that may have been relevant to the investigation.

According to the ICC, the six-year ban on Marlon Samuels takes effect from 11 November 2023. Commenting on the West Indies all-rounder's ban, ICC General Manager - HR and Integrity Unit, Alex Marshall stated that Samuels played international cricket for about two decades and attended various anti-corruption so he knew what his obligations were.

"Samuels played international cricket for close to two decades, during which he participated in numerous anti-corruption sessions and knew exactly what his obligations were under the Anti-Corruption Codes. "Though he is retired now, Mr Samuels was a participant when the offences were committed. The ban of six years will act as a strong deterrent to any participant who intends to break the rules." Marlon Samuels played a pivotal role in West Indies' two T20 World Cup triumphs in 2012 and 2016. The highlight of which was his unbeaten 85 in the final of the 2016 edition against England. He accumulated 8,134 international runs across formats with the help of 17 centuries and 64 half-centuries before calling time on his professional career in 2020.

## Paris transport will not be ready for Olympics

PARIS: The transport system in Paris will not be ready in time for the 2024 Olympic Games in the French capital, its mayor said, sparking anger Thursday from political opponents. With less than a year before the event kicks off, the transport infrastructure in Paris is already under huge pressure, with commuters and tourists alike complaining of poor frequency, overcrowding and uncleanliness. Speaking on the Quotidien talk show on TMC TV, Hidalgo said that while the Games infrastructure will be ready "there are two things for which we will not be ready" namely transport and also the problem of homelessness. On transport, "we still have problems in daily transport issues and we are still not reaching the comfort and punctuality needed for Parisians." "There are places where the transport will not be ready and there will not be enough trains." Political opponents lashed out at the Socialist mayor, who has been under pressure this month after it emerged she extended a low-key official trip to a French Pacific territory in October with a two-week private visit in the holiday paradise. Critics have dubbed the controversy as "Tahtigate" and accused the mayor of seeking to disguise her absence by posting archive images on social media channels of her in Paris, including a video of her cycling along the Seine. Hidalgo has vehemently denied any wrongdoing. Transport Minister Clement Beaune, a close ally of centrist President Emmanuel Macron, accused Hidalgo of not being present at committee meetings aimed at discussing transport infrastructure. – Agencies

## Mitsuhiro affirms efforts...

FROM PAGE 01 always be with Pakistan and will spare no effort to provide the necessary support for the earliest possible recovery of the affected areas." "In January, Japan pledged approximately 77 million US dollars in assistance for the recovery from the flood damage, more than half of which has already been disbursed. As part of this pledge, a grant aid project was signed last month. This is a project to rebuild 9 schools or 44 classrooms in Sindh Province. JICA and Government of Sindh are being prepared for implementation." Talking about the history of Pak-Japan friendship he said, "Japan has been providing development assistance to Pakistan since 1954 and we will celebrate the 70th anniversary of our ODA cooperation next year. Please talk with Mr. Kinoshita and the staff of the Economic & Development Section later for details of our efforts." "Secondly, I would like to mention Foreign Minister's visit to Japan in July. I attended the meeting between the two Ministers in Tokyo and saw them having an open and frank exchange of views. While Pakistan is heading toward general elections, we have a new Foreign Minister, Ms. Yoko Kamikawa." "She recently visited Palestine and Israel to discuss the situation, especially how to improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza. Between the governments of Japan and Pakistan, we have several high-level consultation frameworks including Foreign Secretary Level Political Dialogue, which was held in June. In the coming year and beyond, we will make use of the frameworks to move bilateral relations forward."

## President for long...

FROM PAGE 01 outgoing Ambassador of the Russian Federation, Mr Danila Ganich, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Ambassador Danila is leaving Pakistan after completing his term. This was Ambassador Danila's second posting in Pakistan. Previously he served as the Press Counsellor back in 2007. Welcoming the Ambassador, the President said that Pakistan attached great value to its relations with the Russian Federation and expressed satisfaction over the existing level of cooperation between the two countries at multilateral fora. He added that Pakistan-Russia cooperation was rooted in their common approach towards the centrality of the United Nations and a rule-based international order.

## Stokes skip 2024 IPL to manage fitness

LONDON: England Test captain Ben Stokes has made himself unavailable for the 2024 Indian Premier League in order to manage his workload and fitness. All-rounder Stokes, 32, is due to have knee surgery before England's five-match Test series in India next year. Stokes was Chennai Super Kings' most expensive signing for the 2023 IPL but played just twice due to injury issues. A statement from CSK said their "management is supportive" of Stokes' "decision to manage his workload." Stokes scored only 15 runs and bowled one over for 18 runs in his two appearances for the Super Kings in the 2023 competition. The dates for the 2024 edition of the IPL have yet to be confirmed but the T20 tournament is expected to take place from the end of March through to the end of May. Stokes has been hampered by a persistent knee issue throughout recent years, although he declined to reveal more about the exact nature of the injury or the operation when asked about it during the World Cup earlier this month. – Agencies

## Pakistan squad kicks off training for Australia Tests

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan's 18-member squad kicked off training for the upcoming three-match Test series against Australia, scheduled to commence on December 14. Earlier Thursday, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) invited three more pacers Sameen Gul, Ali Shafique, and Muhammad Ali to the training camp. The players participated in several fielding drills and carried out robust batting and bowling sessions. Pakistan's training camp for the Australia tour will run until November 28. Opening batter Imam-ul-Haq and all-rounder Faheem Ashraf will miss the entirety of the training camp due to their upcoming wedding festivities. They are expected to join the squad in Lahore on 30th November, just before the team's departure to Australia. Pakistan's quest for their first Test series victory over Australia in their backyard will

18 players including seven additional players Arshad Iqbal, Kashif Ali, Mohammad Nawaz, Shadab Khan, Shahnawaz Dahani, Usama Mir, Usman Qadir, partook in team's first training session

commence on December 14. It will be a tough challenge for left-handed opener Shan Masood, who became the Test captain after Babar Azam relinquished the role from all formats after his side's dismal show in the recently concluded ICC World Cup 2023. The Green Shirts will get an opportunity to get used to the testing Australian conditions as they will take on the Prime Minister's XI in the four-day red-ball fixture at Manuka Oval from 6-9 December 2023. Pakistan squad: Shan Masood (c), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafiq, Abrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Faheem Ashraf, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Khurram Shahzad, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Wasim Jr, Nauman Ali, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Shaheen Afridi, Saud Shakeel, Sarfaraz Ahmed. –DNA

## Pakistan makes...

FROM PAGE 01 the organisation, Pakistan could play an important role in furthering international cooperation and revitalisation of inclusive multilateralism. She hoped that BRICS would move forward on Pakistan's request in line with its commitment for inclusive multilateralism. The spokesperson said Pakistan enjoyed friendly ties with most members of the BRICS as well as the newly-invited group of countries. Baloch said Pakistan was an ardent supporter of multilateralism and was member of several such organisations. She said the country had played an important role for global peace and development.

## 4 Indian soldiers...

FROM PAGE 01 injured and surrounded", the Indian army's White Knight Corps said late Wednesday. It did not give details of casualties. But an army officer and a police official, both speaking on condition of anonymity as operations were ongoing, told media on Thursday that four soldiers had been killed, including two elite commandos. The army did not give details of how many fighters were involved. Meanwhile, Indian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism martyred one more Kashmiri youth in Rajouri district of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, taking the number of the martyred youth to two since Wednesday.

## Cricket Australia announce PM's XI to face Pakistan

The opening Test will be played at the Perth Stadium on 14 December and it will mark the first instance of Pakistan playing a Test at the venue

SPORTS DESKS

SYDNEY: Cricket Australia (CA) on Thursday, Prime Minister (PM) XI lineup that will take on Pakistan in a four-day red ball match at Manuka Oval from 6-9 December 2023. The PM XI features six Test-capped players Cameron Green, Cameron Bancroft, Marcus Harris, Todd Murphy, Michael Neser and Matthew Renshaw. The four-day practice match will also serve as a vital opportunity for Australian players such as Cameron Green to try and reclaim his spot in the national team. The 24-year-old all-rounder will be desperate to find himself among runs and wickets when Australia's PM XI take on Pakistan in Canberra. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese stated that he, alongside, CA Chair of Selectors George Bailey, selected experienced players to face Pakistan, who are on the cusp of Test selection. "The Prime Minister's XI has a rich history within Australian cricket, and I am delighted to confirm the squad to face Pakistan next month," said Albanese.

"George Bailey, Tony Dodemaide and I have selected an experienced squad of players who are on the cusp of Test selection. "I want to congratulate Nathan McSweeney

on the honour of being named as captain. I know he'll lead the side expertly and within the traditions and spirit of this great fixture." The match returns to a four-day red

ball fixture after last year's day/night pink ball match against the West Indies and will be played in the week leading up to the first Test of the Men's NRM Insurance Test Series in Perth. It will be the third time Pakistan will face the PM XI after matches in 1990 and 2005 while Mr Albanese is the 10th Prime Minister to lead the team. Prime Minister Albanese expressed his anticipation for the encounter and acknowledged Pakistan's cricketing prowess. "Pakistan is such a proud cricketing nation. "I've previously loved watching players like Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis steaming in with the new ball, so I'm excited the PM's XI will face the talented Pakistan squad in Canberra.

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



## Briefs

## NATO Urges members to get their logistics homework done

## FOREIGN DESKS

BRUSSELS :NATO has warned its members that too much red tape is hindering troop movements across Europe, a problem that could cause major delays were a conflict with Russia to erupt. A Yale Report Says Ukrainian Kids are Being Re-Educated in Belarus NOW PLAYING Devastation in Kherson: residential building hit by Russian shelling Tank strikes and shelling ravage homes in Donetsk conflict Domsday Clock Nears Midnight as Global Tensions and Nuclear Threats Escalate Residents flee war-torn Bakhmut amidst escalating Ukrainian-Russian conflict

"We are running out of time. What we don't get done in peacetime won't be ready in case of a crisis or a war," the chief of NATO's logistics command JSEC, Lieutenant-General Alexander Sollfrank. NATO's Joint Support and Enabling Command (JSEC) in the southern German town of Ulm started operating in 2021. Its job is to coordinate the swift movement of troops and tanks across the continent as well as logistical preparations such as the storage of munitions on the alliance's eastern flank.

## Denmark welcomes humanitarian pause deal

COPENHAGEN : Denmark Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen on Thursday welcomed a humanitarian pause deal in the ongoing conflict in the Gaza Strip, saying it was much needed to protect children, the sick, and the injured. Frederiksen called the developments "important news" that could lead to a long-term cessation of hostilities in Gaza, the Danish Broadcasting Corporation reported, citing her statement. The premier reiterated that her country remains committed to a two-state solution for long-term peace in the Middle Eastern country. Earlier on Wednesday, a Qatar-mediated agreement was reached between Israel and the Palestinian group Hamas for a four-day humanitarian pause in fighting and a hostage swap. Fifty Israelis detained by Hamas will be released in exchange for 150 Palestinians detained in Israeli jails. The agreement also includes the entry of 300 trucks carrying humanitarian aid, including fuel, into Gaza. "It's so we can protect the children, and so the sick and injured can get the treatment they desperately need. —APP

## Number of Palestinian deaths is 'unacceptable'

## DNA

OVIEDO: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez told his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday that "the number of Palestinian deaths is unacceptable," according to media reports.

In his first face-to-face meeting with Netanyahu in Tel Aviv since the Israeli-Palestinian conflict escalated, Sanchez urged Israel to distinguish between civilian and military targets. While acknowledging Israel's "frustration and pain" for the "terrible terrorist acts of Hamas," the Spanish premier told Netanyahu that Israel must respect international law and end the "humanitarian catastrophe" in the Gaza Strip. Traveling alongside his Belgian counterpart Alexander De Croo, Sanchez is trying to build momentum for peace talks and an eventual two-state solution. "Today, more than ever, we need to bring back a serious and credible prospect for peace. We are bound to keep running into a never-ending cycle of violence," Sanchez told Netanyahu, according to a video released by the Spanish government.



ISLAMABAD : Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar interacting with team members and officers during his visit to National Emergency Operation Centre.—DNA

## Anti-Islam Dutch politician wilders wins shock election

PVV led by Geert Wilders secures 35 out of 150 seats in parliament, according to exit polls and initial results

## NEWS DESKS

ROTTERDAM : The far-right, anti-Islam Party for Freedom (PVV) was on track to achieve a significant victory in general elections in the Netherlands according to initial results Wednesday, with its leader declaring they can no longer be ignored. Geert Wilders said that based on the results, they cannot be dismissed, contending that any alternative would be undemocratic and rejected by voters. "We will govern the nation," he said. "I address other parties; the campaign is over, and the voters have spoken. Now we need to find similarities with each other. We need to work together. PVV has secured 35 seats that no party can ignore. We're fed up. We want the Dutch to be in first place again, and we will make it happen," he said, addressing his supporters after exit polls and initial results placed his party in first position. PVV is in first place, followed by the La-

bour Party and Green Left alliance led by former European Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans, with 25 seats. In an attempt to soften his previous rhetoric,

Wilders in a statement to public broadcaster NOS expressed his desire to be the prime minister for everyone, regardless of their ethnic origin or religion.

He also expressed hope that they could reach an agreement in coalition talks with other parties. "I am hopeful. I understand that parties do not want a government that acts contrary to the Constitution. We won't do that. We won't talk about mosques, the Quran or Islamic schools. We will talk about giving priority back to the Dutch, the hope of the Dutch," he said. The Freedom and Democracy Party led by Dilan Yesilgoz-Zegerius dropped to third place with 24 seats. The New Social Contract Party led by Pieter Omtzigt, who was a member of the Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA) party and later formed his own party, participated in the election for the first time and secured fourth place with 20 seats. Omtzigt, previously said his party would not enter into a coalition with Wilders, but after the initial results, he refrained from making a clear statement on the matter. The number of seats of the Denk Party, the majority of whom are Turkish and Muslim, remained unchanged at three compared to the previous election.



## CSTO remains 'integral part' of Eurasian security

ISTANBUL: Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko on Thursday said the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) remains an "integral part" of Eurasian security. "Our organization remains an integral element in ensuring the security of its member states and the Eurasian region as a whole," Lukashenko said during an opening address at the military alliance's Collective Security Council meeting in the Belarusian capital Minsk. Lukashenko said CSTO member states conducted a series of exercises during its chairmanship in the Russia-led bloc in 2023 to bolster the military component of the organization. He said he announced the priorities of Minsk's chairmanship during a session in the Armenian capital Yerevan last November. "Internally, we sought to increase the cohesion of CSTO member states in order to strengthen the organization itself, as well as ensure security and stability in the area of responsibility," Lukashenko said. He added that the goal was to strengthen CSTO's role and significance in the international arena. "Today we can state that the goals set by the Belarusian side in November last year have been generally achieved," Lukashenko said, adding that it is necessary to find new solutions to strengthen the security of the members. The CSTO meeting was also attended by the presidents of Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, except Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.—DNA

## WHO asks China for detail on respiratory illness outbreaks

## WEB DESK

BEIJING : Northern China has reported an increase in "influenza-like illness" since mid-October when compared to the same period in the previous three years, the WHO said. "WHO has made an official request to China for detailed information on an increase in respiratory illnesses and reported clusters of pneumonia in children," the UN health body said in a statement. China's National Health Commission told reporters last week that the respiratory illness spike was due to the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions and the circulation of known pathogens, namely influenza and common bacterial infections that affect children, including mycoplasma pneumoniae. The Chinese capital of Beijing, located in the north of the

country, is currently experiencing a cold snap, with temperatures expected to plummet to well below zero by Friday, state media said. Temperatures plummeted as the city "entered a high incidence season of respiratory infectious diseases", Wang Quanyi, deputy director and chief epidemiological expert at the Beijing Center for Disease Control and Prevention, told state media on Wednesday. Beijing "is currently showing a trend of multiple pathogens coexisting", he added. "Due to the season" at Beijing's Capital Institute of Pediatrics' Children's Hospital on Thursday, AFP journalists saw crowds of parents and children dressed in winter clothes. A parent surnamed Zhang accompanied her coughing nine-year-old son and said he had fallen ill with pneumonia. "There are really a lot of children who have caught it recently," she

said. Li Meiling, 42, had brought her eight-year-old daughter, who was suffering from mycoplasma pneumoniae — a pathogen that can cause sore throats, fatigue and fever. "It's true that a lot of children her age are ill with this at the moment," she told AFP. But she said she was "not particularly worried" about the WHO announcement. "It's winter, so it's normal that there are more cases of respiratory illnesses. It's due to the season." On November 21, media and public disease surveillance system ProMED reported clusters of undiagnosed pneumonia in children in northern China. The WHO said it was unclear if ProMED's report was related to the authorities' press conference and that it was seeking clarification. The agency "has also requested additional information on recent trends in the circulation of known pathogens, including influ-

enza, SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that gives rise to Covid-19), RSV affecting infants and Mycoplasma pneumoniae, as well as on the degree of overcrowding in the health system," the statement added. In the meantime, it urged people to take preventative measures, including getting vaccinated, keeping distance from sick people and wearing masks. The WHO gave no indication of China's response to the request for more information. And China's foreign ministry did not respond to a request for comment on Thursday. Calls for transparency Over the course of the Covid-19 pandemic, the WHO repeatedly criticised Chinese authorities for their lack of transparency and cooperation. More than three years after cases were first detected in Wuhan, heated debate still rages around the origins of Covid-19. Scientists are divided between two main theories of the cause.

## Zambia seeks UN help deal with food shortages

LUSAKA: Eight Southern African countries have been heavily impacted by external food demand as a result of climate change-induced pressures such as drought and famine has prompted Zambia to request assistance from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in the agriculture sector in order to cope with the situation. Zambia's President Hakainde Hichilema told FAO Director General Qu Dongyu on Wednesday during a meeting in Rome, Italy's capital, that food scarcity in neighboring countries has threatened his country's food sufficiency. "Zambia's food sufficiency is threatened by shortages in neighboring countries. Therefore, we urged the FAO to leverage Zambia's central location and favorable hydrological and water conditions for two cycles of cereal crop production per year, enhancing per-acre yields," Hichilema said in a post on social media platform X following his talks with Dongyu. Zambia is surrounded by eight Southern African neighbors and has been largely hit by external food demand due to climate change-induced pressures such as drought and famine that have hit the region. Hichilema said his country is desirous of acquiring cutting-edge technology in water harvesting, precision irrigation, mechanization, and husbandry efforts, making FAO support emerging farmers through an agriculture credit window created by his administration to enhance productivity for both local and regional markets.—APP

## 9 SYRIZA lawmakers resign amid turmoil

ATHENS : Nine lawmakers, including former ministers, on Thursday resigned from the Greek main opposition SYRIZA party and accused the party leader of running it "undemocratically." Among those who quit the party are former Labor Minister Efi Achiotioglou, former Alternate Foreign Minister Sia Anagnostopoulou, former Deputy Labor Minister Nasos Iliopoulos, former Government spokesperson Dimitris Tzanakopoulos, one of the party's founders Meropi Tzoufi, former Alternate Social Solidarity Minister Fotiou Theano, former Interior Minister Alexis Charitisis, and lawmakers Ozzur Ferhat and Huseyin Zeybek — both representing the country's Turkish minority in the Western Thrace. Commenting on the development, Iliopoulos announced that former Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos and former member of the party's central committee Peti Perka will join them and a separate parliamentary group of 11 will be formed.

In a joint statement, the lawmakers said: "Greece is at a critical point ... the extreme right and reactionary perceptions are gaining ground ... Faced with this development, the forces of the progressive opposition appear at a distance from the anxieties and problems of the citizen." "This is a deeply political issue. There is a lack of a modern political and social project that convinces us, not rhetorically.—Agencies

## Ukraine trying to repel Russian forces in Kharkiv

The increasingly cold weather in the region, where snowfall has been reported and temperatures dropped below zero, has caused more difficult conditions for the soldiers on the front line

## WEB DESKS

KYIV : Ukraine's army is trying to repel increasing attacks conducted by the Russian military in the eastern Kharkiv region. Despite harsh winter conditions, clashes between Ukrainian and Russian forces have intensified notably in the direction of the city of Kupiansk, similar to those near Bakhmut, Avdiivka, Marink a, Lyman, Vuhledar and other settlements. The increasingly cold weather in the region, where snowfall has been reported and temperatures dropped below zero, has caused more difficult conditions for the soldiers on the front line. "There are ... clashes in the Kupiansk direction. Like (in) Bakhmut, there are ... clashes in this direction, I think there is no difference. Now the situation is the same on the entire front line," a Ukrainian soldier, codenamed Monakh, said. Ukraine says 3 civilians killed by Russian shelling Russian shelling killed

three civilians in southeastern regions of Ukraine, Kiev authorities said, while a Russian television journalist was reported to have died from injuries he sustained in a Ukrainian drone attack. Southern Ukraine's Kherson region received eight nighttime artillery barrages, killing a 42-year-old man in his apartment building and wounding another man, the Ukrainian presidential office said. Russian shelling also killed two people in the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine, the office said. Russian state media reported that TV journalist Boris Maksudov died after being wounded in a drone attack while working in southern Ukraine's Russia-controlled Zaporizhzhia region. Russia sentences Ukrainian to 18 years over bomb plot Russia sentenced a Ukrainian man to 18 years in prison for trying to blow up buildings in the Moscow-controlled Ukrainian city of Melitopol in a plot allegedly orchestrated by Kiev, state media said. A

military court in Russia's southern city of Rostov-on-Don found Dmitri Golubev guilty on various "international terrorism" charges for one explosion and two attempted blasts in Melitopol in August last year, Russian state media reported. Prosecutors said Golubev planted an explosive device at the entrance to the regional traffic police headquarters, with the subsequent detonation damaging the building. Kremlin calls Russian war reporter's death in alleged Ukrainian drone attack a "big tragedy" The Kremlin described the death of a Russian war reporter in an alleged Ukrainian drone attack on Wednesday as a "big tragedy." "This is truly a big tragedy. Each time the death of a journalist is a tragedy both for the team and for loved ones," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in an interview with Rossiya-1 TV. Peskov went on to say that the Kremlin does not expect to hear a reaction from the West on the death of the correspondent. Russia says reporter dies after Ukraine drone at-

tack A journalist working for Russian state television has died from injuries sustained in a drone attack in Ukraine, the network said. Moscow has repeatedly accused Kiev of attacking reporters. Last month, it said three correspondents from the Izvestia news outlet were injured by shelling in the Donetsk region. "Boris Maksudov, a military correspondent for the Rossiya 24 TV channel, has died," Vladimir Solovjev, a prominent presenter on the state-controlled network announced on social media. Ukraine welcomes Western allies' air defence bloc President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his defence minister have welcomed the formation of a 20-nation "coalition" by Ukraine's Western allies to boost air defences, seen as a key element in the country's campaign against Russian forces. Zelenskyy said the group, one of several devoted to specific areas of Ukraine's defence, was formed at a virtual meeting of the "Ramstein group" examining Ukraine's military needs. Germany's defence ministry

had earlier announced the formation of the group in a posting on X, formerly Twitter, with Germany and France taking on leading roles. Zelenskyy warns of "difficult defence" in east as cold sets in Ukrainian troops face "difficult" defensive operations on parts of the eastern front with bitter winter cold setting in, but forces in the south are still conducting offensive actions, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said. Russian troops launched offensives on different sections of the front line in Ukraine's east this autumn, trying to advance on the devastated town of Avdiivka and in the northeast between the towns of Lyman and Kupiansk. "Difficult weather, difficult defence on the Lyman, Bakhmut, Donetsk and Avdiivka fronts. Offensive actions in the south," Zelenskyy said on Telegram messenger. Operations could be complicated by cold weather, with daytime temperatures of minus 5 degrees Celsius expected to dip as fighting moves to an attritional phase.

## Briefs

### Establishment of independent Palestinian state vital: Siraj ul Haq

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami chief Siraj ul Haq has stated that his party's primary objective is the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Speaking at JI's Gaza March in Islamabad, Haq conveyed that the presence of children at the gathering symbolised solidarity with the people of Gaza. He underscored the significance of the massive gathering in front of Faisal Mosque, describing it as a powerful message condemning the oppressors to their demise. The JI chief lamented the dire situation in Gaza, attributing the devastation to Israel and characterizing the region as a heartbreaking mix of debris and a graveyard for children. Haq vehemently called for the punishment of all oppressors and described them as "barbaric beasts". Highlighting international support, the JI chief noted that the people of Turkey and Istanbul, as well as individuals in London, Washington and conscientious individuals worldwide stood in solidarity with the people of Gaza. The JI chief questioned the mandate of the president and caretaker prime minister to discuss a two-state solution without the explicit support of the Palestinians. He contested the suggestion by the president to recognise Israel and the caretaker prime minister's advocacy for a two-state solution, asserting that neither of them had the authority to deviate from Pakistan's national policy.

### Resistance will emerge victorious in Gaza war

BEIRUT: Secretary General of the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah says he is confident that resistance will emerge victorious and the Israeli regime will suffer a decisive defeat. Nasrallah made the remarks in a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in the Lebanese capital Beirut on Thursday, during which they discussed the latest developments in the region, particularly in Palestine and Lebanon. Nasrallah hailed resistance of people in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and reiterated the resistance's full readiness in various fronts. Amir-Abdollahian, for his part, outlined Iran's diplomatic efforts and consultations over recent weeks about possible ways to help the Palestinian people and stop the Israeli regime's war crimes against civilians in the Gaza Strip. The Iranian foreign minister said the agreement reached between Israel and Hamas on the humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza and the captive swap deal were the result of the Palestinian people's resistance and Israel's desperation in the face of the resistance. — Agencies



**ISLAMABAD:** A delegation from the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), headed by President Nazafreen Saigol, engaged in constructive discussions with the caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaarul Haq Kakar. The delegation, which comprised Secretary General Syed Sarmad Ali and Finance Secretary Shahab Zubairi, addressed pressing concerns related to payment issues. During the meeting, Prime Minister Kakar conveyed his commitment to resolving the payment issues and ensuring a fair and timely resolution. He emphasized the importance of a thriving and sustainable media industry and acknowledged the crucial role played by newspapers in informing the public. To expedite the resolution process, the prime minister issued directives to the Information Minister and Secretary, urging them to prioritize and address the concerns raised by the APNS delegation. This proactive approach reflects the government's dedication to fostering a conducive environment for media organizations, thereby contributing to a robust and independent press in Pakistan. The APNS delegation expressed appreciation for the prime minister's responsiveness and commitment to resolving their concerns. This collaborative effort between the government and media stakeholders sets a positive precedent for effective communication and cooperation in addressing industry-related challenges. — DNA

## Pak firmly supports two-state solution of Palestine issue

The President appreciated the role played by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) for important Muslim causes. He emphasized the need for unity and solidarity among Muslim nations to address the common challenges being faced by them

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has reiterated that Pakistan firmly supports a just and peaceful resolution of the Palestine issue, based on the two-state solution. He said that the world must realize the pain of the Palestinian people and play its role in ending the Israeli atrocities in Gaza that had killed thousands of innocent people, including women and children. The President expressed these views while talking to Imam Khatib at Masjid Al-Haram and Advisor at Saudi Royal Courts of Saudi Arabia, Dr Saleh bin Abdullah Humaid, who called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr today. Ambassador of the Kingdom of



Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Mr Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malki, also attended the meeting. The meeting exchanged views on the situation in Gaza, Islamophobia, and other challenges being faced by the Islamic World. Welcoming the Imam Khatib, the President said that Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) enjoyed excellent brotherly relations, based on common faith, shared history, and people-to-people contacts. Dr Saleh bin Abdullah Humaid stated the Muslim World had adopted a unanimous stance on the Palestine issue that the Palestinians should be given their due rights based on the two-state solution. He

remarked that joint efforts by the Muslim World were needed to end the ongoing violence and atrocities in Palestine and extend humanitarian and diplomatic support. The President appreciated the role played by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) for important Muslim causes. He emphasized the need for unity and solidarity among Muslim nations to address the common challenges being faced by them. The President lauded the leadership of KSA for the recent Saudi-Iran normalization of relations and termed it a major breakthrough that would bring peace and security in the region, besides promoting trade and development. He also appreciated the Saudi initiatives for peace and stability in Yemen, Syria, and Sudan. The President deeply thanked KSA for its economic support to Pakistan in difficult times as well as for extending humanitarian aid and supporting development projects, especially in the education and healthcare sectors in Pakistan. The President also highlighted the issue of Islamophobia, particularly in India, and the atrocities being committed by India against the people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). He said that India was changing the demography of IIOJK and was involved in the ethnic cleansing of Muslims. Dr Saleh bin Abdullah Humaid expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him by the Government of Pakistan.

## Imran wanted 'minus-Zardari PPP' to form alliance

ISLAMABAD: In a fresh revelation against the former ruling party, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari has insisted that the Imran Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had offered his party six ministries to join its government in the Centre. In an interview with a private news channel on Thursday, the former president said he was told to leave the country as the Imran-led government wanted to form an alliance with a "minus-Zardari" PPP. "[The PPP] was offered six ministries in return for contesting elections with the PTI," the PPP stalwart said. Speaking about the ouster of the PTI-led regime in April 2022, Zardari said removing Imran from power via a no-confidence motion was the correct decision. "Pakistan was isolated in the world due to Imran Khan," he said while accusing the PTI government of destroying the country's economy and bilateral relations. The PPP leader further said that Imran was planning to hold "RO elections" (a reference to the 2013 "rigged" elections) with the help of a military officer to remain in power till 2028. "A truck full of money would be required to buy even one litre of milk," he said while referring to the worst economic crisis which he believed would follow had Imran succeeded in his plan to remain in power for a longer period. — DNA

## Nawaz Sharif rejects 'greed' for power

MURREE: Chief of his own faction of Muslim League, Nawaz Sharif, said on Thursday he did not tell a lie for political gains. Speaking to his party workers here in the afternoon, he reiterated he had returned with a vision to work for the prosperity of the masses. He said he had a bond with the people of Murree, which grew stronger over the years. Nawaz said he was ousted from power thrice. "This is not the way to run a country. We did not learn from the past, that's why we're ruined. I have no lust for power. The government that was installed ruined the country." He said he could not deceive people. "I cannot cheat to get vote; and do nothing after returning to power. No one will be crueler than I if I do so. The government that followed us ruined culture." The three-time former prime minister claimed that he bade adieu to IMF. — DNA

## Nepalese envoy Tapas Adhikari meets FM Jilani

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan Tapas Adhikari paid a courtesy call on the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Jalil Abbas Jilani at his office in Islamabad. During the call on, they discussed the matters of bilateral relations between Nepal and Pakistan and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). They also discussed on the forthcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The Foreign Minister recalled his visits to Nepal on different occasions and his association with Nepali officials. During the call on, senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, Embassy of Nepal in Islamabad were also present.



## Court orders to present Imran Khan, Qureshi at FJC

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: A special court, established under the Official Secrets Act 2023, Thursday ordered authorities to present Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan and Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi at the Federal Judicial Complex (FJC) on November 28. The orders were issued today in the first hearing of the cipher case that held outside the Adiala prisons after the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) decision to nullify the August 29 notification for a jail trial. Judge AbulHasnatZulqarnain has been conducting the trial in jail citing security concerns since Khan was indicted on the charges last month. The PTI chairman is currently in Adiala jail after he was indicted by the special court on October 23. During today's hearing, the judge asked the court staff to provide him with a copy of the recent IHC order on jail trial. The judge also told Qureshi's lawyer Ali Bukhari that the IHC verdict was a big victory for his client. The IHC on Tuesday nullified the notification for conducting Imran Khan's jail trial on charges of leaking state secrets. The ruling came as a division bench comprising Justice Miranul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice SamanRiffatImtiaz announced the verdict it reserved earlier in the day on the intra-court appeal filed by PTI chief against his jail trial.

## IHC extends Fawad's interim bail

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday extended the interim bail of former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry till December 4. The case was heard in the District and Sessions Court Islamabad for violation of Section 144. The court granted exemption from appearance to Fawad Chaudhry and extended his interim bail till December 4. The District and Sessions Court on Thursday summoned a challan in a fraud case against former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry. Fawad Chaudhry was not present in the court on Wednesday on completion of his judicial remand and his online appearance was made from Adiala Jail itself.

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