



# Islamabad POST

Friday, December 08, 2023

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

**Greece, Türkiye seek to turn Aegean into 'sea of peace'**

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**Xi Jinping urges enhanced China-EU cooperation**

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**Shan Masood moves to Karachi Kings**

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## Illegal foreigners 'seriously affecting' security, economy

### Pakistan Army to safeguard every inch of motherland till last drop of blood: COAS

STAFF REPORT / DNA

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir Thursday maintained that illegal foreigners were "seriously affecting" Pakistan's security and economy, stressing the decision to send them to their home country was taken in the country's interest. The army chief's remark, according to a statement by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), came during his visit to Peshawar where he was briefed in detail about the overall security situation, ongoing counter-terrorism operations, repatriation of illegal foreigners and socio-economic developments in the newly merged districts. "Decision to repatriate them has been taken by the government in the interest of Pakistan," General Asim said, as quoted by the military's media wing. The army chief emphasised that the illegal foreigners are being repatriated to their countries in a "humane and dignified manner" as per the established norms. Meanwhile, the process of illegal foreigners' repatriation, largely comprised of undocumented Afghan migrants, is underway. So far, at least 2,55,029 illegal residents have returned to Afghanistan from KP, alone. According to the Interior Ministry, 2,50,814 people have left via the Torkham border, while 3,516 and 698 left through the Angor Ada and Kharlachi border crossing. Pakistan's decision to repatriate illegal foreigners was closely linked with the increasing terror attacks in the country, especially in KP and Balochistan provinces, as well as the escalating tension between Islamabad and the Taliban's administration in Kabul. The ISPR added that during his visit to the COAS, who was received in the city by Corps Commander Peshawar Lieutenant General Sardar Hassan Azhar Hayat, also highlighted the importance of economic growth and development in the newly merged districts. The army chief also lauded the support of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) towards security forces for ensuring stability in

Continued on Page 06

## Haqqani's Pakistani passport: Pakistan to 'ascertain facts'

### FO yet again condemned the continuous Israeli aggression in the Gaza Strip

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan said Thursday it will first ascertain facts before issuing a comment on a report that claims that Afghanistan's acting Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani possessed a Pakistani passport until recently. In her weekly press briefing, Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said: "I have seen the report on the use of a Pakistani passport by the Afghan minister. The matter will be answered after [ascertaining] the facts." A report published in The News today revealed that Haqqani was issued a Pakistani passport for five years which he used to travel abroad, particularly to Qatar for negotiations with the United States for the signing of the Doha Agreement that resulted in the latter's exit from Afghanistan. The publication, via the interior ministry officials, learnt that these passports were issued from different cities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and Sindh. Meanwhile, two passport officials involved in issuing Haqqani's passport have been arrested,

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PESHAWAR: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir during his visit to Peshawar talking to civil and military leadership. - DNA

## Denmark passes law to ban Quran burnings

Bill also criminalizes public burning of Bible and Torah

DNA

COPENHAGEN: Denmark's parliament on Thursday adopted a law that will ban the burning of the Quran, local media reported. The Danish parliament passed a bill criminalizing "the improper treatment of writings with significant religious importance for a recognized religious community" by a vote of 94 to 77. This bill also criminalizes the public burning of the Bible, and the Torah. In August, the Danish government introduced a bill that could outlaw the public burning of the Quran. This move, according to Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen, sent a message of global importance. Under the law, burning a Quran in public would be punishable by fines or even imprisonment for up to two years.

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## UN, APF Afghanistan a stronghold of global terrorists

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Afghanistan has become a stronghold of international terrorist organizations as from Afghanistan, 23 terrorist organizations spread terrorism in around 53 countries, including the US, China and Pakistan. According to Asia Pacific Forum (APF) and UN reports Pakistan is one of the top targets of terrorism from Afghanistan as 17 out of 23 terrorist organizations target only Pakistan. Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Jamaat-ul-Ahrar and Baloch terrorist

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## Death toll reaches 17,177 Israeli aggression on Gaza intensifies

### President Raisi urges 'immediate' stop to Israeli genocide as he meets Putin

FOREIGN DESK

KHAN YUNIS: The Israeli occupation forces (IOF) continue their brutal aggression on the Gaza Strip for the 62nd consecutive day on Thursday, amidst intensified airstrikes, artillery shelling, and the destruction of homes, resulting in the killing of civilians and committing more massacres and acts of genocide. The humanitarian situation has worsened due to forced displacement and aggression, while the infiltration fronts witness fierce clashes and heroic resistance from the resistance forces. The group's military wing says it destroyed 79 Israeli army vehicles, either completely or partially, in the last 72 hours. Qassam Brigades said on its Telegram channel its fighters also set up a booby trap at the opening of a tunnel in Gaza City's Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood and blew it up as Israeli soldiers advanced towards it. It added that several Israeli forces were either killed or wounded. Separately, the group said it attacked a group of ground troops who were stationed inside a house in Beit Lahia in Gaza's north, and reported "injuries" among the soldiers, without providing more details. Local media reported that

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## UN Chief invokes Article 99 on Gaza

FOREIGN DESK

NEW YORK: In a dramatic constitutional move, the UN secretary-general has invoked one of the few powers that the Charter gives him, to call on the Security Council to declare a ceasefire to avert a humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza that could have "potentially irreversible implications for Palestinians as a whole and for peace and security in the region." He cautioned that such an outcome should be avoided "at all cost." In a letter to the Security Council seen by Arab News, Guterres invoked Article 99 of the UN Charter, which says the secretary-general "may bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in his opinion, may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security." UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said this

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## Solangi assures Elections to be held on Feb 8

DNA

KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi categorically said on Thursday that general elections in Pakistan would be held on February 8, 2024 and no one should have any doubts in that regard. Addressing a press conference along with Provincial Information Minister Ahmed Shah here, he said the caretaker regime was fully committed to ensure free and fair elections on the date given by Election Commission of Pa-

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kistan (ECP). Murtaza Solangi reaffirmed the commitment of the government that all the financial, administrative and security needs of ECP would be met. He said that the federal government was making all out efforts to ensure that there was no lack of communication between the federal and provincial governments. The minister said that the federal and provincial information ministers would formulate a joint strategy regarding upcoming elections. He said it was prerogative of the people of Pakistan to decide who would rule the country. The preamble of the Constitution of Pakistan clearly stated that the country would be run by its elected representatives, he said. Murtaza Solangi said "Making major decisions is the job of the elected parliament and elected government." The minister said it was the effort of the present government that the situation should not deteriorate in the run up to the general elections. "We will hand over the country in a better condition to the elected government," he added. Conducting free and transparent elections was the responsibility of ECP and the caretaker set up was

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## Briefs

### Imran denounces Israeli war crimes

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Founding and Chairman-for-life of PTI, Imran Khan, has strongly condemned Israeli war crimes and ongoing genocide of innocent Palestinians in the besieged Gaza. He has also urged the UN and world powers to shun duplicity and double standards and take immediate measures for the safety and security of the victims of Israeli inhuman assault. Imran Khan, who has been unjustly imprisoned in Adiala Jail, in his message on Thursday, strongly denounced the massacre of helpless Palestinians and expressed great disappointment over the double standard being adopted by the UN and int'l community.

### PML-N will challenge Lahore delimitations

DNA

LAHORE: Khawaja Saad Rafique made this announcement at press conference held on Thursday, where he cited the changes made in not only his constituency but also that of PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif, saying they had serious reservations over the delimitations. Delimitations affected my constituency too after being divided and included into four different constituencies, he told reporters. "We are not satisfied with new delimitations. We are moving courts against new delimitations."

## Bilawal says he is unaware of 'gate no.4 politics'

Bilawal Bhutto claimed that he is the only politician whose "hands are clean"

DNA

SHANGLA: As the nation is gearing up for next year's general election, former foreign minister and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has intensified his electioneering by insisting that he isn't aware of "Gate No 4 politics" and that he solely relies on the people to bring his party into power. In his address to a workers' convention in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) Shangla district on Thursday, said: "On the one hand there is politics of divide, and on the other, economic conditions are getting worse", as per Geo News. "We don't know the politics of abuse and TikTok. We don't know the politics of Gate No 4. I trust the people; I will not look anywhere else; I will not ask for help from anyone, but only the people." Bilawal claimed that he is the only politician whose "hands are clean"

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## IHC decides to hear Nawaz's appeal on merit

Former PA deputy speaker Dost Mazari and others joined PML-N

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday decided to hear Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif's appeal against his conviction in the Al-Azizia reference on merit. A division bench, consisting of Chief Justice Aamir Farooq and Justice Mian Gul Hasan Aurangzeb, heard

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## PM Kakar urges business community to leverage SIFC

PM urged the corporate sector to explore opportunities in regions like ECO, Caucasus

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday reiterating the government's commitment to providing a conducive environment and streamlining regulations, urged the local business community to take advantage of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). The prime minister, addressing the ceremony for the distribution of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) awards to the top 25 companies of the country for the year 2022, said the caretaker government's ultimate goal was to provide a blueprint for the next government. He said the govt had sought help from the Pakistan Army to facilitate the business environment through the SIFC forum. He told the gathering that the measures taken by the government including the crackdown on smuggling, illicit foreign currency trade, and power theft had yielded results, triggering market

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## ECP to announce polls schedule soon: CEC Raja

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: National Voters' Day is being celebrated across the country on Thursday to promote the importance of the right to vote. Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja in his message on the occasion appealed to the people to exercise their right to vote for the brighter future of the country. People should remember that the power to vote is in their hands. They should use their vote keeping their own and their children's future in mind, said CEC. Raja said the Election Commission of

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**DECEMBER 2023**

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# Grand conference honors Afghan war martyrs

Speakers stated, that through unity they could establish peace in Afghanistan. Muslim unity worldwide is the need of the hour to peacefully stand against oppression

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD : A grand conference was organized at the "Memorial Mosque for innocent martyrs of the Afghan War" in the Logar province of Afghanistan. Logar is a strategic province, which is called the "Gateway of Jihad War", according to a message received here on Thursday. Addressing the conference, speakers stated, that through unity they could establish peace in Afghanistan. Muslim unity worldwide is the need of the hour to peacefully stand against oppression. The Innocent Martyrs' memorial mosque was constructed by the local people of Logar Province adjacent to the Kabul Expressway to commemorate the sacrifices of innocent Afghan martyrs during the USA and allied forces' war against Afghanistan. This mosque will provide a platform for the families of innocent martyrs to educate their children and help them find suitable jobs and meet their basic needs. Over one thousand people gathered to memorialize the martyrs and their sacrifices and pay tribute to the innocent Afghan martyrs and victims. At the same time, the USA and allied forces' oppression was condemned and demonstrations were held against the killing of innocent civilians in Afghanistan and Palestine. Central and

local leaders from the Afghan government, civic institutes, and different spheres of the community took part in the conference. Prominent among them were Ahmad Gul Rashidi, Government Secretary Rashidiya University, Abdullah Mufakkar, Director Ministry of Management, Disaster and Emergency, Logar Province, Mohammad Ibrahim, Director of the Ministry of Religious Legal Affairs, Abdul Qadir Haq Parast Minister of Religious Properties and Mosques, Mr. Hamd Wali Kher Khawa Assistant Commissioner Logar Province, Abu Yousuf Murtaza Aamir, Director of the Ministry of Enforcing Social Behavior, Muhammad Ibrahim Haqqani Raeesi, Deputy minister department of interior, Logar Province, Molana Abdul Nafeh, Minister, Ministry of Islamic moral and legal system, Molana Rahim Gul, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Islamic moral and legal system, Qari Ahmad Muhajar, Professor Quran Teaching Institute, Logar Province, Molvi Noor Gul, Senior Officer Civil Services, Logar Province, Molvi Inayat Ullah, Deputy Governor Logar Province, Molana Zabihullah Zakir, Chief Executive Security Affairs Logar Province, Molvi Shafique Ullah Shaqat Raeesi, University Professor, Kabul, Molvi Kher Ullah Kher Khua, Famous Celebrity Afghanistan, Qari Ahmad Muhaahijir, Religious Head Preacher, Abazak District and Mufti Rooh Ullah

Ghalib, Chief Justice of the Sessions Court. The speakers thanked the Allah Almighty and praised the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) for the victorious restoration of peace in Afghanistan against the USA and allied forces, and prayed for the innocent civilian victims and innocent martyrs killed as heinous war crimes committed by the USA and allied forces in Afghanistan and USA-backed Israel hegemony in Palestine. Condolences were extended to the families of the innocent martyrs. In the ceremony, tribute was paid to the souls of the innocent martyrs and along with this recitation of the Holy Quran and Naita poems were read. Prayers were offered for the security and prosperity of Afghanistan. Speaking on the occasion Ahmad Gul Rashidi, Government Secretary Rashidiya University said construction of the 'Innocent Victims Memorial Mosque' is not only to remember hundreds of thousands of innocent Muslim civilians who died in the Afghan war but also to let the Afghan people remember this national disaster from generation to generation. "We will not forget, and all Muslims will not forget! We Afghans and the world should unite and accuse the United States and other countries of their shameful behavior!", he added. Abdullah Mufakkar, Director Ministry of Management, Disaster and Emergency, Logar Province said that the war, which lasted from 2001 to 2021.



ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner Jane Marriott meets JUI chief, Maulana Fazlur Rehman at his residence. —DNA

## Govt intends to enhance defence ties with Azerbaijan

RAWALPINDI : Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Khazar Farhadov called on Minister for Defence, Lieutenant General (R) Anwar Ali Hyder here on Thursday, where the Defence Minister said that the government intends to enhance defence relations between the two countries. The minister welcomed the dignitary and highlighted the importance of bilateral brotherly relations between the two countries which are based on historical, cultural and religious commonalities, a news release said. He stated that Pakistan views Azerbaijan as an important country due to its strategic location, immense resources, progressive outlook and fast growing economy. He appreciated continued interaction between higher military and defence leadership of the two countries. The Minister for Defence, expressed the desire for enhanced cooperation in the field of Defence Production by exploring potential joint venture areas in the Defence industry.

## CM KP warns against corruption's terrible impact

DNA

PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (R) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah said that corruption is a social evil that eats away at any nation or society like a termite; a society which becomes a victim of corrupt practices, does not need any external enemy for its destruction; its corrupt system is enough to destroy it. And that's why, he added that the corruption has always been considered as a roadblock to national progress and development, and as a result, people lose their trust in the system. He made it clear that incumbent caretaker provincial government was not only committed to promote transparency and to eradicate the scourge of corruption but also taking curative measures to this effect, adding that the government has introduced "Prosperous Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Vision" and the most important component of that vision is "Zero Tolerance

Policy" against corruption. We will strictly monitor the public service delivery centers and eradicate the root causes of corruption and malpractices. He was addressing a seminar jointly organized by the NAB Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Provincial Anti-corruption Establishment at Nishtar Hall, Peshawar on Thursday. Provincial Caretaker Cabinet's Members, higher government officials, students and representatives from civil society attended the seminar. Addressing the participants, the caretaker Chief Minister said that it was a brutal and painful fact that the corruption had become a major obstacle in the way of our socio-economic development. "Corruption misallocates resources, stifles economic growth, paves the way of black money and perpetuates a cycle of inequality that compromises the potential of our nation", he added and said that it is our collective responsibility to combat corruption. We may not

be able to make any other major achievement during this limited caretaker tenure and mandate, however, we will go all out to develop an effective mechanism against corruption, which hopefully, will be a good start up and a role model for the successive governments, he stated. The chief minister on this occasion, appreciated the efforts of NAB Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Provincial Anti-corruption Establishment against corruption and assured that his government will stand by the NAB for this purpose. He also stressed the need to create awareness among the masses against corruption and change their thinking adding that each and every segment of the society would have to play its role in eradicating the corruption from our society. Syed Arshad Hussain Shah said that equality, transparency, justice and supremacy of merit were the real spirit of a good governance. "Today, we all are here to reiterate our commitment to continue the fight against corruption, he concluded.

## IG Punjab ensuring for the health welfare of police

LAHORE: According to the sources of Daily Naba, Inspector General Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar is ensuring regular measures for the health welfare of police officials, in continuation of which Dr. Usman Anwar has issued more than 12 lakh rupees for the health welfare and medical expenses of 10 more officials. According to the details, ASI Raja Shahid Mehmood of Rawalpindi was given two and a half lakh rupees for the treatment of his wife. Constable Muhammad Saeed was given 02 lakh 50 thousand rupees for the treatment of his wife's liver. Sub-inspector Muhammad Anwar was given Rs.02 lakh for open heart surgery. Faisalabad constable Sajid Mehmood Hasan has been released Rs.01 lakh for the treatment of heart disease. Tele Transport Punjab constable Sarwar Ahmed was given Rs.01 lakh for the treatment of his leg. Inspector Amanat Ali, Head Constable Qayyum Ali, Constable Barkat Aslam were given 70 thousand rupees each for treatment. Head Constable Muhammad Tahir and Constable Muhammad Farooq Anwar were given 50 thousand rupees each for the treatment of his daughter. —APP

## Vice Admiral Rao launches third maritime book

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: A coordinated national effort is essential to exploit and safeguard the inherent potential of Pakistan's maritime domain and coastlines. The Pakistan Navy upholds collaboration in its international dealings; the same must also be demonstrated internally to protect the oceans and unlock the potential of the blue economy. This was highlighted by speakers at the book launch ceremony of Maritime Security: Challenges & Responses in a Changing World, authored by Vice Admiral Iftikhar Ahmed Rao (retd), Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Maritime Affairs, and published by IPS Press, the publishing arm of the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS). The event was organized by IPS in coordination with the University of Management



and Technology (UMT), Lahore, at the university's campus. The gathering was addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, Lt. Gen Javed Hassan (retd), acting president, UMT, Vice Admiral Iftikhar Ahmed Rao (retd), the author of the book, Dr Maliha Zeba Khan, assistant professor, NUML, Islamabad, and Dr Fatima Sajjad, head, Department of Political Science and

International Relations, UMT. The speakers observed that the book provides a comprehensive look at the multifaceted domain of maritime security. It unravels the historical background of the maritime sphere while navigating the evolution of the concept of maritime security, old and emerging sea challenges, and solutions that define this evolving landscape.

## SNGPL cuts off another 178 illegal connections

LAHORE : Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) intensifying its ongoing crackdown against gas theft cut off another 178 connections, imposing Rs 9.19 million fines during the last 24 hours. —APP

## South Asia's first aesthetic physicians association launched

DNA

RAWALPINDI : According to a statement issued here the launching ceremony of South Asia's first Association of Aesthetic Physicians of Pakistan will be held on 10th Dec in local hotel in Rawalpindi. The caretaker minister for Information Murtaza

Solangi and caretaker minister for human rights Mashal Malik will be the chief guest in this launching ceremony. The opening ceremony will start at 9AM in the morning where well-known doctors, physicians and other personalities across the country will participate as special guests. As per statement Dr.

Shamaila, Dr. Samina Mohsin, Dr. Samina Sohail, Dr. Laila Hasan, Dr. Madiha Azmat, Dr. Kashif, Dr. Taman, Dr. Farah, Dr. Ayesha Zubair, Dr. Uzmi Towana, Dr. Mubasher Randhawa, Dr. Zafar Abbas, Dr. Rizwan Rajput, Dr. Shehla Ashfaq and Dr. Asma Qaiser Qureshi will also participate in the ceremony.

## Lost & Found

I Bilal Mehmood S/o Muhammad Ikhtlaq R/o PWD street 4, House No 41D, Teh, Dist Islamabad have lost my original Passport (No YT0156331) at Sabzi Mandi, I-11/4 on 07-12-2023. If Found Please Contact on +92 312 5865993.



ISLAMABAD: Children are enjoying swing at their tent houses colony in the slum area of the Federal Capital. —ONLINE

## Chinese firm joins third Pakistan property exhibition

The exhibition will be held from 15-17 December 2023 at Pak-China Friendship Centre. Renowned builders, developers and business community from across the country will participate, Khurshid Barlas

DNA

ISLAMABAD : Sarfaraz Malik along with Director Beijing Dynamic Power Company Limited, AJA Holding (Hong Kong) Limited and Jiangxi China Worldwide Ecological Agriculture Company Limited, Guangdong Jinson Management and Consulting Company Limited, Rhine International Limited (Pakistan) Managing Director Alan Xiao along with the delegation visited Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry and met with Chairman Khurshid Barlas and Fahad Barlas Convener Exhibition. During the meeting, Chairman Khurshid Barlas briefed about "Third Pakistan Inter-



national Property Housing and Construction Exhibition 15-17 December 2023" Pakistan China Friendship Center Islamabad. In the three-day

exhibition, he briefed about the large number of participation of various business community related to the bank's project and tourism industry,

including famous builders, developers, allied construction industry from all over the country. Managing Director Alan Zhao said during the

conversation that AJA Holding And Jiangxi China Worldwide Ecological Agriculture Co., Ltd. will also participate in this exhibition. AJA Holding Limited and Rain International Limited are already operating in Pakistan. It is hoped that China will continue development work on several projects including CPEC in Pakistan. Having such an exhibition will play an important role in Pak-China friendship. China is serious about investing in Pakistan and increasing trade. Pakistan and China have deep and strong relations. Which are getting more stable day by day. Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Chairman Khurshid Barlas is presenting the shield to Alan Xiao, Managing Director of AJA Holding (Hong Kong) Limited.

حکومت پاکستان کا عوام الناس اور بزنس کمیونٹی کے لیے

ایم پی سی اے

سوئی ناردرن گیس

Sui Northern Gas

SNGPL Official

پیٹرول کے مقابلے میں

کم قیمت

ایندھن کی فراہمی

پنجاب میں سی این جی اسٹیشنز کو

ایل این جی سیپلائی

بحال کر دی گئی ہے

CNG

سی این جی اسٹیشن کی گیس سیپلائی بحال کروانے کے لیے

سوئی ناردرن کے متعلقہ ریجنل آفس سے رجوع کریں

PID/L1818-D

## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### DECEMBER

- Dec 01/Romania National Day
- Dec 02/United Arab Emirates National Day
- Dec 02/Laos Republic National Day
- Dec 05/Thailand National Day
- Dec 06/Finland Independence Day
- Dec 07/India Armed Forces Flag Day
- Dec 09/Tanzania National Day
- Dec 11/Oman Armed Forces Day
- Dec 12/Kenya Independence Day
- Dec 12/Turkmenistan Neutrality Day
- Dec 16/Bahrain National Day
- Dec 16/Kazakhstan Independence Day
- Dec 18/Qatar National Day
- Dec 18/Niger National Day
- Dec 23/Philippines Armed Forces Day
- Dec 23/Japan National Day

### Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



### Emergency

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



### Enquiry

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



### Hospitals

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



### Departments

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

### Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# Sustainable policies to promote investment in Pak – EU envoy

Dr Riina Kionka said that the EU is the biggest export destination for Pakistan and that Pakistani exporters should take full advantage of the EU's GSP Plus to further improve their exports. She said that the EU supports Pakistan's integration into the global economy by furthering bilateral trade, promoting direct investment, and supporting institution building. She said that the EU also supports Pakistan's ongoing economic reform agenda in consultation with the international financial institutions

## FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Dr Riina Kionka, Ambassador and Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Pakistan said that Pakistan is a potential market for business and investment activities and it should focus on sustainable economic policies to attract more foreign investment. She said this while talking to a delegation of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry that called on her, led by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President. Piotr BUSZTA, First Counsellor, Head of Political, Trade and Communication Section of EU to Pakistan was also present on the occasion. Dr Riina Kionka said that the EU is the biggest export destination for Pakistan and that Pakistani exporters should take full advantage of the EU's GSP Plus to further improve their exports. She said that the EU supports Pakistan's integration into the global economy by furthering bilateral trade, promoting direct investment, and supporting institution building. She said that the EU also supports Pakistan's ongoing economic reform agenda in consultation with the international financial institutions. The EU is planning to expand its dialogue and cooperation



with Pakistan in addressing its energy issues. Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that the EU's apparel import market was valued at over 191 billion in 2022 while Pakistan is a major exporter of apparel.

He stressed that the EU should import more textile products from Pakistan which would help boost industrialization in Pakistan and revive our economy. He thanked the EU parliament for extending the EU's GSP Plus scheme to Pakistan until 2027 and hoped that it would create new opportunities for

Pakistani exporters to enhance exports. He said that SIFC is working to create a conducive environment for foreign investors in Pakistan and stressed that more EU investors should explore Pakistan for business and investment. Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that the EU is

the world's largest trading bloc and Pakistan also wants to promote regional trade in South Asia. He said that the EU should share its experience with Pakistan in promoting a strong regional trading bloc in South Asia. Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary Gen-

eral UBG Pakistan said that the EU countries should start direct flights with Pakistan to facilitate the promotion of bilateral trade and exports. He said that both sides should explore opportunities to expand and enhance existing trade agreements or negotiate new ones to boost economic ties.

# HEC launches pre-service training

## MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE), Higher Education Commission (HEC), has started training of Cohort VIII of university faculty members inducted under the Interim Placement of the Fresh PhDs at the public sector HEIs of Pakistan. The faculty members are being trained under the HEC National Faculty Development Programme (NFDP) 2023. Addressing the in-

auguration ceremony participants, Managing Director NAHE Ms. Noor Amna Malik underlined that the fresh PhDs will undergo meticulous training with a focus shift from theory to practice. She emphasised the incorporation of innovative methodologies, such as Micro-Teaching, which encourages candidates to improve their teaching techniques through constructive feedback from resource persons, peers, and themselves. She also underscored the importance of

facilitating universities for their progression, in addition to established institutions. Ms. Malik extended her congratulations to the participants for their selection in the training programme. She drew attention to the challenges that Pakistan is currently facing and emphasised the role of educated professionals in contributing to the nation's prosperity. She encouraged the candidates to go beyond teaching and engage in meaningful research, fostering innovation, and critical

thinking. The pre-service NFDP has been designed to prepare and certify recently graduated PhD holders for their teaching roles within higher education institutions. This pre-service training imparts critical techniques and necessary skill sets that will enhance their teaching practices in the future. The programme ensures a seamless transition from theoretical knowledge to practical implementation, with special emphasis on effective andragogical methods.

# UAE Ambassador appreciates "CORT Education Complex"

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates in Islamabad His Excellency Hamad Obaid Al Zaabi, expressed his pride in the achievement of Sumiya Bibi, winner of the Global High Schools category - South Asia Region - for her project "CORT Education Complex" in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan at the Zayed Sustainability Prize. Attending the Conference of the Parties to the United

Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) hosted by the UAE at Expo City Dubai, Ambassador Al Zaabi said: "I am very proud that the CORT Education Complex won the Zayed Sustainability Prize and represented Pakistan in this prestigious award. He said that climbing the victory stage represents a dream come true for this pioneering educational complex, as this award gave students the opportunity to be positive members and positive contributors throughout Pa-

kistani society, so that they become responsible leaders in the future, through the project that revolves around mitigating climate change, which consists of two frameworks: the first is related to organic agriculture, and the second is related to water conservation. Ambassador Al Zaabi added: The idea of the project is to install equipment to conserve water, build an organic garden, develop a waste-to-fertilizer program, and organize community health awareness campaigns, and through



these campaigns, people will realize that they must engage in environmentally friendly practices because they are supposed to be part of sustainable practices, the Ambassador pointed out that the UAE Embassy in Islamabad will work to expand awareness campaigns to include other schools and the local community, noting that the project benefits the community, especially as Pakistan is one of the regions most affected by climate change.

# CCP approves merger UDL Int'l

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has granted approval for the merger of a listed company, M/s. First UDL Modaraba, with a public unlisted company, M/s. UDL International Limited. The merger approval will lead to the listing of the previously unlisted company on the Pakistan Stock Exchange. The merger reflects the growing confidence of the corporate sector in the Pakistan Stock Exchange. It also comes at a time when the KSE-100 index surpasses the 64,000-point mark. Established under the Modaraba Companies and Modaraba (Floatation and Control) Ordinance, 1980, First UDL Modaraba has a registered office located in Karachi. UDL International Limited, also headquartered in Karachi, engages in diverse activities such as sale, purchase, import and export, general trading, and the supply of general orders and commodity products. After merging, UDLIL shall transfer the Musharika portfolio of the FUDLM to its wholly owned subsidiary, M/s. UDL Financial Services Limited ("UDLFSL"). The phase 1 review of the merger application determined that the proposed transaction will not result in the dominance of UDL International Limited in the relevant market post-transaction. Therefore, the merger was officially authorized. This merger marks a positive step in the corporate landscape and is poised to contribute to the continued growth and stability of the entities involved.

# Drive launched against traffic rules violators

ISLAMABAD: A special campaign has been initiated in Islamabad against violators of traffic laws, including motorcyclists riding without helmets, overloading passengers, and those lacking number plates. During the last 24 hours, the Islamabad Capital Police teams have taken legal action against 259 motorcyclists riding without helmets, and 53 motorcycles were impounded across different police stations. Similarly, legal action was also taken against motorcyclists, and nine motorcycles were impounded across various police stations. Moreover, stringent action was taken against 25 motorcycles without number plates, with 21 motorcycles impounded across different police stations. Chief Traffic Officer (CEO) of Islamabad, Sarfraz Virk, has emphasized that a special drive is underway within the federal capital to ensure compliance with traffic laws. Citizens have been urged to ensure adherence to city traffic laws, including the use of helmets while riding motorcycles.—APP

# PSX 100-index hits new millstone, closes at all-time peak

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) Thursday witnessed an unprecedented surge, reaching new milestones and closing at the highest level in its history. The bullish momentum was evident as the market notched up an incredible 1000 points twice within the trading day. The KSE-100 index soared past the significant milestone of 64500 points for the first time where-in investors and market analysts alike celebrated the achievement over the robust performance of the country's financial markets. The day's success was further underscored by a substantial uptick in market activity, with over 1.2 billion shares changing hands in significant transactions. The total traded value reached an impressive 37 billion rupees, reflecting a surge in investor confidence and a renewed interest in the stock market. As the closing bell rang, the Karachi Stock Exchange 100 Index recorded a stellar rise of 800 points, concluding the day at an extraordinary 64718 points. The historic high not only marks a momentous day for the stock market but also signals a positive outlook for the economic landscape.

# Best paintings on mountain ecosystems awarded

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The six best paintings on mountain ecosystems and endangered species were awarded with certificates, shields and cash prizes here on Thursday. All the paintings were displayed for the review of the three-member jury and the visitors. These paintings were prepared in a live painting competition among the students from different universities and colleges of the twin-cities on the theme "Restoring the Mountain Ecosystems." The live painting competition was organized by Devcom-Pakistan in connection with its ongoing 10-day long 13th edition of Pakistan Mountain Festival (PMF). The Snow Leopard Foundation supported the event. Over twenty participants took part in the competi-



tion. They preferred oil on canvas and acrylics to reflect the mountain ecosystems. They especially highlighted the challenges confronting the endangered species including brown bear, snow leopard, markhor and several others. They also painted the struggle of communities in combating real-life challenges in the changing climate, women in mountain ecosystem conservation, and cultural heritage from the northern parts of Pakistan. They depicted the impact of climate change on life in mountains besides the aesthetic value. Hifza Shakeel from Vihar un Nina College for women Rawalpindi, Hamna from Islamabad College for Girls F-6/2, Ali Rehman from City school Sector H-8, Vihar un Nisa Noon Girls Higher Secondary Institute's student Haniya Ashfaq, the Roots Ivy student Zoha Khan and Zainab Rehman Butt from Rawalpindi

Women University won the first six positions respectively. Riffat Ara Baig was awarded for organizing a successful competition. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Director of Snow Leopard Foundation Jaffar uddin (PhD) said Mountain ecosystems provide vital services to human life. Mountains sequester CO2, clean water and the air and regulate floods. Worldwide, they provide for the livelihoods of more than half of human society. Climate change is particularly acute in mountains. He said: Snow leopards are an integral part of the mountain ecology. Despite the unprecedented role they play in keeping the mountain ecosystems intact, the population of snow leopards is dwindling across its range. The situation calls for multi-sector and multi-stakeholder coordination by promoting the public-private partnership to foster

snow leopard conservation at national, regional, and local levels. Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director and founder of Pakistan Mountain Festival Munir Ahmed said: "Mountains are the hub of valuable natural resources that are being compromised because of irrational practices. Different organizations with the participation of communities are playing their key role in environmental protection and socioeconomic development in the mountain areas. We need to put every effort into keeping the mountain ecosystems intact. The communities are often the primary managers of mountain resources, guardians of biodiversity, keepers of traditional knowledge, custodians of local culture and experts in traditional medicine. Somehow, mountain women's potential and contribution to conservation has been undermined."

## Briefs

MoIP  
conducts  
first meeting  
of IAC

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Industries and Production conducted a meeting of the Industrial Advisory Council (IAC) to address critical issues and propose actionable strategies for the enhancement of the country's industrial sector. Federal Minister for Industries and Production Dr. Gohar Ejaz presided over the meeting while Secretary of Industries and Production, Syed Asad Rehman Gilani was also present in the meeting, said a press release issued here. This meeting is a crucial step towards realizing Dr. Gohar Ejaz's ambitious "Vision Pakistan: Road to \$100 Billion Exports." During the meeting, each private sector member of the Industrial Advisory Council presented their perspectives and expertise. The presentations shed light on the challenges faced by the industrial sector and provided valuable, practical suggestions for its improvement. This gathering symbolized a collaborative effort to harness the vast potential of Pakistan's industrial landscape and it aligns with the national objective of achieving \$100 billion in exports. The Ministry anticipates that the outcomes of this meeting will pave the way for innovative solutions, policy recommendations, and collaborative initiatives that will contribute significantly to the growth and sustainability of the industrial sector.—APP

FPCCI Election  
2024-25, UBG  
Manifesto  
Committee

ISLAMABAD dna /United Business Group (UBG) Sindh Core Committee has appointed United Business Group (UBG) and Businessmen Panel Progressive (BMPP) to prepare and review the manifesto regarding FPCCI elections for 2024-2025. A joint committee consisting of members of UBG and BMPP Alliance has been formed. Secretary General UBG Southern Zone Hanif Gohar has issued a notification for the establishment of the committee. Senator Abdul Haseeb Khan, Khurram Ejaz, Alauddin Murri, Adeel Siddiqui and Syed Mazhar Ali Nasir are involved. The joint committee of UBG and BMPP will prepare a manifesto and present it to the Sindh Core Committee and later this manifesto will be presented to the Central Core Committee.—APP

SECP  
registered  
27,746 new  
companies

ISLAMABAD: The Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has successfully registered 27,746 new companies, reflecting a remarkable 4.7 per cent growth as compared to 3.8 per cent in the previous year. This brings the total number of registered companies to an impressive 196,805, according to an annual report issued here by SECP. The annual report said that the current financial year 2022-23, has witnessed significant progress in Pakistan's corporate sector landscape. The strategic use of automation and process optimisation has materialised, with over 99.8 per cent of enterprises registering online and 24 per cent completing registration on the same day, benefiting entrepreneurs, shortening business launch procedures, and demonstrating commitment to efficiency, the report added. The report said that among the companies registered during the financial year 2022-23, approximately 58 per cent were registered as private limited companies, 39 per cent as single-member companies, and the remaining three per cent were registered either as public unlisted, not-for-profit associations, trade organisations, foreign companies, or limited liability partnerships. Breaking down the figures further, out of the 27,746 companies registered in this period, 9,264 were registered in Islamabad, 10,904 in Punjab, 4,251 in Sindh, 2,136 in KPK, 538 in Baluchistan, and 653 in Gilgit Baltistan.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassadors of Kenya, Azerbaijan, Morocco and Editor Daily Islamabad POST posing for a picture on the occasion of the Independence Day of Finland.—DNA

Fiscal deficit reduced to 9%,  
primary balance stays positive

On the fiscal front, healthy growth in revenues outpaced the growth in expenditure during the first quarter of FY2024," the finance ministry said in a report

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Owing to healthy growth in revenues, the fiscal deficit during the first quarter (Q1) of the current fiscal (2023-24) declined to 0.9 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) compared to one percent shortfall during the same period of last year. "On the fiscal front, healthy growth in revenues outpaced the growth in expenditure during the first quarter of FY2024," the finance ministry said in a report. According to monthly Economic Update and Outlook for November 2023, both tax and non-tax collection attributed to a significant

rise in total revenues, however, a substantial increase in non-tax collection on the back of higher receipts from petroleum levy remained the major source of the increase. "Thus, with healthy growth in revenues relative to expenditures, the fiscal deficit reduced to 0.9 percent of GDP in July-September FY2024 from 1.0 percent of GDP last year" it added. According to breakup figures, during July-September FY2024, the fiscal deficit stood at Rs.962.8 billion Rs.819.3 billion last year. Meanwhile, the primary balances continued to be in surplus and improved to Rs.416.8 billion (0.4 percent of GDP) in 1st quarter of FY2024 from Rs.134.7 billion

(0.2 percent of GDP) last year. The revenues during the period registered a notable growth of 33.2 percent, reaching Rs.2685.8 billion from Rs. 2017.0 billion last year. Non-tax collection witnessed an impressive growth of 99.6 percent to Rs. 468.8 billion against Rs. 234.9 billion in the corresponding period last year. The substantial increase in non tax collection can be attributed to higher receipts from petroleum levy, passport fees, royalties on oil/gas, and mark-up (PSEs & others) etc, the report added. Tax collection on the other hand increased by 24.4 percent to Rs. 2216.9 billion against Rs. 1782.1 billion last year. According to the

latest available data, July-October FY2024, FBR tax collection grew by 27.9 percent and stood at Rs. 2748.4 billion against Rs.2149.0 billion last year. Encouragingly, the tax collection has surpassed the target by Rs.66 billion. Domestic tax collection grew by 30.2 percent to stand at Rs.2404.7 billion in July-October FY2024 against Rs.1847.5 billion last year. Within total tax collection, direct taxes grew by 38.4 percent while indirect taxes increased by 20.5 percent on the back of a sharp rise in revenues from FED. Total expenditure stood at Rs.3648.6 billion during the first quarter of FY2024 against Rs.2836.3 billion in the same period of last year,

thus growing by 28.6 percent. Current expenditures grew by 25.0 percent to reach Rs.3172.6 billion against Rs.2538.1 billion last year. Within total current, mark-up payments experienced a substantial surge of 44.6 percent, primarily attributable to a higher policy rate. Meanwhile, the growth in non-mark-up spending remained restricted to 13.2 percent. The expenditures under the running of civil government and pensions remained the major contributor in stimulating the growth of non-mark-up spending, while expenditures on subsidies and grants to others witnessed a substantial decline during the first quarter of the current fiscal year.

SMEDA to  
organize  
training on

ISLAMABAD: The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) will organize a one-day workshop on "Export Standards and Compliance for Wooden Furniture in Global Market" for profitable business growth on 18 December (Monday). The workshop will be held at the Chiniot Chamber of Commerce Industry (CCCI), according to sources in the authority informed on Thursday. The training program will provide information about understanding market entry, documentation requirements, tariff classification, non-tariff barriers, customs and import procedures, trade agreements and tariffs, and market access strategies. The session would be attended by small business owners and their staff, furniture makers, dealers, traders, CCCI members, professionals and executives in exports, logistics, supply chain, and all those desirous of improving knowledge on the subject.

Pakistan  
Railways  
extends  
journalists  
cards for two  
months

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has extended the validity date of the Journalists Concession Cards (JCC) for passenger trains upto February 29, 2024 which were going to expire on December 31, 2023. According to a notification issued here, the journalists could enjoy the facility of concession in fare of the trains on the card issued by the Pakistan Railways for 2023, which was going to expire on December 31, 2023. It is expected that issuing of new Accreditation Cards to the journalists by the Press Information Department (PID) and Director General Public Relations (DGPRs) would take some time.—APP

'Pakistan prepares  
to showcase talent  
at Expo in Riyadh'

The participation of the government in this significant event reflects its proactive approach towards creating pathways for employment and collaboration on a global scale

FAIAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD, Under the Chairmanship of Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Jawad Sohrab Malik, an important meeting on Thursday was convened to discuss the active participation of the Pakistan in the upcoming Human Resource and Labor Services Expo in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Through Expo which is scheduled to take place from December 24 to December 27, Pakistan aims to showcase its rich pool of talent and human resources on a global platform, said a press release issued here. Pakistan will host a dedicated pavilion, highlighting the skills and capabilities of

its workforce in that regard, the press release added. The said meeting was attended by Joint Secretary (Emigration), Managing Director, Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC), Director General (BE & OE), and Community Welfare Attachés in Saudi Arabia. The discussions centered around the meticulous arrangements required for the successful setup and operation of the Pakistani pavilion at the expo. The primary objective of Pakistan's pavilion and active participation in the expo is to amplify employment opportunities for the Pakistani workforce in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. By showcasing the diverse skills and talents of Pakistani professionals, the pavilion will aim to attract potential employers and collaborators, fostering

stronger economic ties between the two nations. The SAPM expressed his commitment to ensuring that the pavilion would serve as a strategic platform to connect Pakistani job seekers with opportunities in Saudi Arabia. The government's engagement in such expos underscored its dedication to enhancing the employment landscape for overseas Pakistanis, he added. As preparations are underway, the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis is optimistic about the positive impact, the expo will have on promoting Pakistan's human resources at an international level. The participation of the government in this significant event reflects its proactive approach towards creating pathways for employment and collaboration on a global scale.

MOITT  
implementing  
series of  
measures  
to expedite  
growth of ICT

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MOITT) is implementing a series of measures to expedite the growth of information and communication technology (ICT) in the country. An official from the IT ministry said that the rapidly developing IT sector holds immense growth potential and could play a significant role in stabilizing the country's economy. The official said that while the government is actively providing facilities, it is crucial for the industry to enhance its capabilities. Highlighting Pakistan's significant youth population, resources, skills, and determination, he noted the vast potential for growth in the ICT sector. With the right steps, the ICT sector has the potential to outpace traditional industries, he added. Foreign investment in startups has already surpassed the \$800 million mark, indicating the growing interest of global companies in Pakistan. The government is contemplating the introduction of a standardized test to facilitate graduating students in securing internship opportunities.—APP

Indian troops inflicting  
worst atrocities: APHC

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has said that Indian troops are inflicting the worst atrocities on unarmed people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. According to Kashmir Media Service, the APHC spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar said despite using every brutal tactic India has failed to suppress the freedom sentiment of the Kashmiris, who are determined to continue their struggle till it reaches its logical conclusion. He said that Indian troops were continuing an arrest spree across occupied Kashmir. He said in severe cold weather, Indian troops launch cordon and search operations in various areas every now and then, make people stand under open sky for hours and harass the inmates including women and children. The spokesman expressed serious concern over the plight of illegally detained Kashmiris languishing in different jails and appealed to the international human rights organizations to put pressure on India to release them immediately. He said the Kashmir dispute is a reality and India cannot escape from it. He maintained that lasting peace cannot be established in South Asia without resolving this lingering dispute in accordance with the Kashmiris' aspirations and the UN resolutions. The APHC said that Pakistan has always advocated settlement of the Kashmir dispute through peaceful means but India's intransigence has remained a big impediment in the way.—DNA

Director EPI urges parents  
to ensure the vaccination

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Director of Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) Punjab Dr Mukhtar Ahmed Thursday urged parents to get their children aged up to two years vaccinated against 12 deadly diseases and called upon society to shun propaganda of anti-polio vaccination to ensure safety of their children from being crippled by poliomyelitis. Talking to PTV news channel, he said, "Our goal is to ensure that more children were protected from vaccine-preventable diseases, allowing them to live happier and healthier lives in future." "After birth vaccination process for new

born children is a safe and effective way to help them survive, thrive and reach their full potential in life," he added. "Newborn babies are already protected against several diseases, such as measles, mumps and rubella, because antibodies have passed to them from their mothers via the placenta, he said, adding, this is called passive immunity, but usually only lasts for a few weeks or months." "Vaccinations provide long-term immunity to numerous diseases, which is why they are so important for the baby's health, his proper growth and development," he added. "Kids' immune systems were more vulnerable to illness and disease, and vaccination schedules were scientifically

designed by top infectious disease experts and doctors with this in mind, he said. "The goal is to protect kids from vaccine-preventable diseases as early and as safely as possible," he added. Replying a question, he also highlighting the importance of vaccine in Polio eradication that due to several refusal cases were reported in different localities of far flung areas of KPK, however, efforts were under way to convince the parents to administer anti-polio vaccine to their children. "Polio cases are fewer than they have ever been in past but yet the virus has shown up in sewage samples in several major areas of country this year, he said, adding, indicating that some population pockets

that have still missing out on the vaccine drives". "The Punjab has been free of polio cases for the last three years, but as long as polio exists anywhere, it is a threat to children everywhere", he expressed concern. "To end polio, we must reach every child in this challenging last mile of eradication, which is within our grasp. The government and health department are fully committed to winning this decisive round to ensure that our children will never again be afflicted by polio," he mentioned. He also hailed the leadership of all religious scholars, defence forces and security personnel for showing exemplary support to this national cause.—APP

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KORBOONG  
TAEKWONDO

## Flawed tax system of Pakistan

PAKISTAN'S tax system plays a crucial role in generating revenue for the government and financing public services. However, like many other countries, the Pakistani tax system is not without its flaws. One of the significant challenges faced by the Pakistani tax system is rampant tax evasion and a large informal economy. A significant portion of economic activities remains undocumented, leading to revenue leakage. The informal sector often escapes the tax net, contributing to the tax gap and hindering the government's ability to collect the rightful amount of revenue. The tax system in Pakistan is known for its complexity, with numerous taxes, levies, and exemptions. This complexity not only confuses taxpayers but also creates opportunities for evasion. The complicated tax structure also imposes a heavy compliance burden on businesses and individuals, discouraging voluntary tax compliance. Pakistan faces a persistent challenge of maintaining a low tax-to-GDP ratio. The country's tax revenue as a percentage of GDP is considerably lower. Improving a country's tax system is a complex task that involves multiple factors, including legal, economic, and administrative considerations. Here are some general recommendations to enhance Pakistan's tax system: Simplify the tax code to make it more understandable and user-friendly. Reducing complexity can help taxpayers comply with the law more easily. Expand the tax base by bringing more individuals and businesses into the tax net. This can be achieved by reducing exemptions and loopholes and ensuring that all income is subject to taxation. Implement or enhance progressive taxation, where individuals with higher incomes pay a higher percentage of their income in taxes. This can help address income inequality. Strengthen tax enforcement measures to combat tax evasion and improve compliance. This may involve investing in technology for better monitoring, conducting audits, and imposing strict penalties for non-compliance. Utilize technology to streamline tax administration processes, reduce corruption, and enhance transparency. Implementing digital systems for filing taxes and online payment can improve efficiency. Increase public awareness about the importance of paying taxes and how tax revenues are used to fund public services and infrastructure. An informed public is more likely to comply willingly. Provide incentives for compliance, such as reduced tax rates or other benefits for individuals and businesses that consistently meet their tax obligations. Stakeholder Consultation: Engage in consultation with various stakeholders, including businesses, tax experts, and the public, to gather input on proposed changes to the tax system. This can help ensure that reforms are well-designed and widely accepted. Strengthen tax administration by investing in training for tax officials, improving data collection and analysis capabilities, and ensuring that the tax collection process is fair and efficient. It's important to note that implementing tax reforms requires careful planning, political will, and a commitment to address the specific challenges within the country. Moreover, involving relevant stakeholders and obtaining their support is crucial for the success of any tax system improvement initiatives.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 05 Issue: 53

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## Boris Johnson's Covid apology

BORIS Johnson's testimony to the Covid inquiry began with an apology to victims of the pandemic and their relatives, but when pressed to specify what he was apologising for, the former prime minister could not say. That tension between affected sincerity and evasion of responsibility characterised Mr Johnson's appearance. The function of the inquiry is not to solicit contrition but to establish facts. That task is hampered in Mr Johnson's case by the disappearance of thousands of WhatsApp messages dating from the crucial period in early 2020 when vital decisions were being taken – or not taken. Mr Johnson's explanation for this gap in the record was too garbled to be convincing. There is enough material from other sources to assemble a picture of chaos and mistrust at the heart of government, aggravated by the then prime minister's absent leadership. This damning testimony from advisers and civil servants was dismissed by Mr Johnson as "a reflection of the agony the country was going through". On the question of whether poor administration cost lives, Mr Johnson insisted that his government performed no worse than other comparable countries. The essence of his defence is that, in the early weeks of 2020, the scale of the calamity about to hit the UK was unknown and unknowable, and that once the gravity of the situation was understood he acted on scientific advice expeditiously and in good faith. That is untrue. There are messages and accounts of conversations flagging a likely, severe emergency. There were several Cobra meetings dedicated to the issue, which Mr Johnson chose not to attend. When confronted with this evidence, he submerged his own responsibility in a collective failure to process the data. And so it went on: Hugo Keith KC, the inquiry's barrister, showed Mr Johnson proof that he had failed to handle the crisis professionally and was told that the government acted no differently to "any administration facing the same sort of challenges". Chronic equivocations were explained, implausibly, as "testing the arguments". Confronted with some of the most incriminating conversations – warnings that should have been heeded – Mr Johnson's memory failed him. Tactical forgetfulness is not the only reason Mr Johnson is an unreliable witness. He is the only prime minister in history to have been censured for contempt of parliament. He wilfully misled MPs multiple times regarding breaches of lockdown regulations in Downing Street. He is guilty of serious breaches of the code of conduct underpinning British democracy. Losing jobs through dishonesty has been a pattern in his career, first as a journalist, then as a politician. He is a liar. There is no reason to suppose that he would be bound by the oath he swore to tell the truth to the Covid inquiry more than by any of the other rules he has flouted in his life. Unsurprisingly, relatives of Covid victims reject Mr Johnson's non-apology. The account he has so far given of his actions during the pandemic is not merely short on candour. It lacked any discernible comprehension of what it would mean to take proper, moral responsibility for the fact that tens of thousands of people died because his government was unequal to the task it faced.

## Pakistan-Iran public diplomacy

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Benazir Bhutto was first female prime minister of an Islamic country. She was a great politician. Some people thought that they should make a movie about the life of Benazir Bhutto. It can be most important factor as a joint venture between Islamic countries like Iran and Pakistan. Bhutto was a great political leader who followed rules and regulations of Islam. She was murdered when she in political struggle of Pak

PAKISTAN and Iran have tied in all circumstances at political, historical, cultural and economic level. But mutual relations between different countries have lagged. Connection and relations between countries are essential to put all the capacities to work especially in cultural diplomacy with the virtue of public diplomacy. To achieve objectives of abroad, expanding communication technologies, diplomatic disorder from traditional to modern have given the concept of public diplomacy for government. Cultural diplomacy means exchange of ideas, information, art, technology and other aspects of culture among nations to promote mutual understanding. To achieve political goals, governments are making efforts to converge culture as part of public diplomacy to align public opinion. By making official relations with other countries, there can be interaction on political and cultural aspect of our country. Culture of soft diplomacy is the base of public diplomacy. Cinema, culture, theatre and literature of a country and its people are involved in cultural diplomacy. Films have played a great role not just becoming the source of entertainment but

also going beyond borders at different level. To promote relations with Iran and other countries like Pakistan, public and cultural diplomacy are the most important factors. Policy of relations with other countries can grow by cooperation among regional countries. Benazir Bhutto was the first female prime minister of an Islamic country. She was a great politician. Some people thought that they should make a movie about the life of Benazir Bhutto. It can be most important factor as a joint venture between Islamic countries like Iran and Pakistan. Bhutto was a great political leader who followed rules and regulations of Islam. She was murdered when she in political struggle of Pakistan. She was the fourth member of her family. She was executed at the age of 54. Her father was also a great political leader. He ruled over Pakistan during (1971-1977). He was the founder of Pakistan People Party (PPP). He was removed by General Zia Ul Haq as the chief of army staff. He was hanged in 1979. Shah Nawaz was died in 1985 who was the youngest brother. Murteza was also killed under mistrust circumstances. As the leader of Pakistan People Par-

ty, Bhutto was a great personality. She wanted to make country democratic and representative of democratic ideals. Mr. Bhutto was elected as a prime minister of Pakistan for two times. He was exiled for many years. Power was taken away for both times. Bhutto's thinking on Islam as a tolerant religion was quiet evident. She thought that many religions are mistreated by supremacist and fanatics. The making of movie about life of Bhutto as a contractual cooperation facilitates Pakistan and Iran to cooperate closely in cultural project. As Shahbaz Sharif was elected prime minister of Pakistan in 2022 because Imran Khan could not get vote of confidence in Parliament on April 2022. Bilawal Bhutto was appointed as foreign minister by Shahbaz Sharif. Many people believe that Shahbaz Sharif appointed Bilawal Bhutto to get high rank in country. Bilawal Bhutto was the youngest foreign minister whose age is 33. He is the son of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and former president Asif Ali Zardari. His grandfather was also a prime minister whose name is Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. We can consider it as the factor of progress above mentioned project.

## 52 years of heroic action of PNS Hangor

Ali Basit

HANGOR was ready and at 1957 hours on 9th of December 1971, the sharp command "Shoot" rang out and the first torpedo sped away. The torpedo was supposed to hit INS KIRPAN but passed under and did not explode. The element of surprise was lost as the enemy's warship crew suddenly woke up realizing that they were under attack. The advantage had now shifted completely in favor of the enemy and INS KUKRI homed onto the known direction of torpedo launch position. The HANGOR crew kept their cool and calmly shifted target to INS KUKRI, obtained a quick solution and fired the second torpedo at it. The torpedo exploded under the magazine of INS KHUKRI...

SUBMARINES have always been recognized as a key factor in maintaining a powerful military. Historically it has proved impossible for a country to keep global military status without dominance at sea. Since World War I, it has also been impossible for surface ships to hold dominance at sea without the use of submarines. Even before a conflict arises, a submarine's ability to deploy military strengths to an area without being detected is strategically invaluable. This cutting edge capability of submarine service was rightly recognized by the leadership of Pakistan Navy (PN) and thus, Pakistan became the first country in the Indian Ocean Region to operate submarine force. PN submarine force started with just a single submarine, commissioned as PNS/M GHAZI, purchased from US, previously known as USS DIABLO. PNS/M GHAZI participated in Rann of Kutch crisis and displayed her full potential in the 1965 war. Her deployment in 1965 war forestalled Indian naval forces from even leaving their bases. Realizing the value of a submarine force, Pakistan acquired three Daphne-class submarines from France, the heroic PNS/M HANGOR being one of them. During the war of 1971, the submarine force participated, once again, with utmost vigor. This time PNS/M HANGOR came forward to target Indian Navy ships, INS KUKRI and INS KIRPAN. It is important to realize that the HANGOR action did not develop overnight and the events in 1971 were shaping for such actions due to crisis in East Pakistan. As the hostilities broke out, the period of patience reached its climax on the evening of 9th Dec when the enemy came into effective weapon range of HANGOR as it identified two enemy Frigates some distance off "Diu Head". Action stations were sounded,

with all aboard eager to join the battle. The Commander of the submarine had no illusions about the risks involved in engaging "hunter-killer" Frigates, specially equipped for anti-submarine warfare. In spite of the risks involved, he moved close to the enemy, determined to inscribe the name "HANGOR in the annals of Pakistan's history. The Commanding Officer of HANGOR closed the two targets at shallow depth with caution, prudence and exercising all professionalism to avoid detection. The two contacts were appreciated to be two Indian Anti-Submarine Frigates (INS KUKRI and INS KIRPAN) engaged in Search and Attack Unit operations. HANGOR was waiting on the estimated track of the targets and "Action Stations" were, therefore, sounded that the "shark" had bared its teeth and its moment of reality had arrived. Although the enemy was operating sonar, HANGOR was not detected and therefore, still enjoyed the element of surprise. The conditions were not favorable for conducive submarine operations due to shallow depth (60-65 meters) in the area and the enemy surface fleet was in advantageous position due to limited maneuverability of submarine. HANGOR was ready and at 1957 hours on 9th of December 1971, the sharp command "Shoot" rang out and the first torpedo sped away. The torpedo was supposed to hit INS KIRPAN but passed under and did not explode. The element of surprise was lost as the enemy's warship crew suddenly woke up realizing that they were under attack. The advantage had now shifted completely in favor of the enemy and INS KUKRI homed onto the known direction of torpedo launch position. The HANGOR crew kept their cool and calmly shifted target to INS KUKRI, obtained a quick solution and fired the second

torpedo at it. The torpedo exploded under the magazine of INS KHUKRI and the huge explosion broke the ship into two pieces. With Squadron Commander, Captain Mohindra Nath Mulla onboard KHUKRI went down forever to the bottom of sea. Having achieved her spectacular success, "HANGOR" started evasive manoeuvres as the enemy was certainly going to react with the entire available resources. For the next three days, Indian warships combed the vicinity of the scene of action and HANGOR was subjected to extensive depth charge attacks. Someone in the crew kept the count and according to him it came to be 156 attacks during this period. An extensive air search combined with surface ships was conducted but with intelligent evasive action, the submarine managed to evade these attacks and arrived in Karachi safely after the ceasefire. Despite these potential hazards, the morale of men onboard HANGOR never wilted. As a member of the crew put it, "The crew always felt that death would not matter so long as they succeeded in destroying the enemy". The ship's crew was justifiably satisfied with their achievement under difficult conditions. For their act of courage and devotion to duty the officers and men of HANGOR were decorated with 06 x Sitara-e-Jurat, 07 x Tamgha-e-Jurat and 21 x Imtazi Sanads. This is the highest number of operational gallantry awards given to a single unit of Pakistan Navy. In order to pay tribute to high level professional crew of HANGOR and their victorious and valour act, 9th December is celebrated as HANGOR DAY each year. On 02 Jan 2006, HANGOR was converted to serve as a museum ship at Pakistan Maritime Museum as a symbol of courage and victory.

## Briefs

## Illegal foreigners...

FROM PAGE 01  
the province and developmental progress. "The resolute support of people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to Security Forces has resulted in stability in the province and materialisation of progress on projects of socio-economic development," he remarked. The ISPR added that the COAS, while linking the country's prosperity with KP, emphasised that nefarious designs of the forces inimical to the peace and stability of Pakistan are being foisted through a synergetic and comprehensive strategy. During his visit, General Asim also interacted with the officers and soldiers who have displayed gallant actions during different counter-terrorism operations, the statement read.

## Haqqani's Pakistani...

FROM PAGE 01  
one of whom had retired from service by the time the action was initiated against him. The issue around the minister using the Pakistani passport comes at a time when Pakistan continues to repatriate illegal foreigners, most of whom are undocumented Afghan migrants. Baloch also briefed the presser about top officials from the United States visiting Pakistan this week. "The focus of these visits is not only Afghanistan. These visits are related to the multifaceted aspects of Pakistan-US relations," she said, adding that Pakistan has decided to talk to America.

## PM Kakar urges...

FROM PAGE 01  
sentiments and propelling the Pakistan Stock Exchange by 33% in November to the historic 60,000-point mark, besides boosting investors' confidence. Welcoming the private sector to invest and take advantage of the government's measures, he called for building and rebranding Pakistan. He said the privatization process was underway that would also have positive impacts on the economy.

## ECP to announce...

FROM PAGE 01  
Pakistan (ECP) is well aware of all its constitutional and legal obligations and is committed to conducting transparent and peaceful elections. He said the printing and delivery of the final election lists has been completed, adding that the ECP is going to issue the notification of District Returning Officers, Returning Officers, and Assistant Officers in a few days. He said in a few days election schedule will be released.

## Elections to be held on...

FROM PAGE 01  
providing all possible support and facilitation to ECP in that regard, he remarked. Replying to a question, the minister said that caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar had visited Karachi several times in a short period of two months. Solangi said even today, the Prime Minister would visit Karachi to attend a function at the Stock Exchange. The minister said that caretaker prime minister had a good record of visiting provinces and different cities.

## Denmark passes...

FROM PAGE 01  
Justice Minister Peter Hummelgaard clarified that the intended placement of this law was within the existing regulations that already prohibit the desecration of foreign flags. Explained by Hummelgaard, the law would encompass the "improper handling of objects considered religiously significant to any religious community." The minister stated during a press conference that recent Quran burnings were "deliberate provocations" meant to incite "division and animosity," and that national security was the primary driving force behind the proposed ban.

## Pakistan triumphs over NZ Junior Hockey WC

Liaquat got on the scoresheet and completed his hat-trick in the 54th minute to keep the Green shirts in a commanding position

SPORTS DESK

KUALA LUMPUR: The Pakistan hockey team registered a thumping 4-0 victory over New Zealand courtesy of Arshad Liaquat's hat-trick in their second match in the ongoing Junior World Cup at Malaysia National Hockey Stadium. Pakistan started the game on high and earned an early advantage with a 19th-minute goal by Liaquat, who extended the lead further in the 30th minute. Pakistan captain Abdul Hanan Shahid then scored their third goal two minutes later with a goal from a penalty corner. Liaquat got on the scoresheet and completed his hat-trick in the 54th minute to keep the Green shirts in a commanding position until the final whistle. Pakistan will play their next Junior Hockey World Cup match against Belgium on 9th December. Yesterday, the Pakistan hockey team kicked off their Junior World Cup campaign with an impressive draw against the Netherlands 3-3. The Netherlands started the game on



high with two field goals in the 21st and 30th minutes by Boris Aardenburg and Casper van der Veen respectively to end the first half with a massive advantage over Pakistan. Pakistan then decreased the deficit by one goal in the third quarter courtesy of midfielder Arshad Liaquat's field goal to bring the scores down to 2-1. The Green Shirts then earned a penalty in the 36th minute of the third quarter, which was successfully converted by Sufian Khan to level the scores. However, the Netherlands did not slow down and took the lead again in the 47th minute with a field goal by Olivier Hortensius. Their lead did not last long as Pakistan's Arbaz Ahmed helped his side level the scores with an equalizing penalty corner. Pakistan won the inaugural Junior World Cup in 1979 and then claimed bronze medals in the next three editions before getting a silver in the 1993 edition. They have not been able to win any medal in the Junior World Cup since 1993 and finished at their lowest 11th position in the 2021 edition in Bhubaneswar, India.

## Shan moves to Karachi Kings, Faisal joins Multan Sultans



ISLAMABAD: Karachi Kings, the winners of Pakistan Super League's (PSL) season five, have made a major trade with Multan Sultans ahead of the draft on December 13. In this trade, Pakistan's current Test captain, Shan Masood, will join the Karachi Kings' squad. In exchange, Karachi Kings bid farewell to left-arm

wrist spinner Faisal Akram along with their first pick in the diamond round and first pick in the silver round. Masood initially joined the Sultans during the 2018 season and made his PSL debut in 2019 against the Kings. He also led the Sultans to top the league stage in the 2020 season and qualify for the playoffs for the first time in franchise history. Masood has amassed 1,318 runs in 42 matches and

his presence also played a pivotal role in Sultans' title win in 2021. Karachi Kings, Multan Sultans strike major deal Sultans Chief Executive Ali Khan Tareen said: "I want to thank Shan Masood who has been the longest-serving member of the Sultans family. He has been our captain and a huge part of our success. We will definitely miss him and wish him the best in his new team." Earlier, the Kings traded their last edition's skipper Imad Wasim to Islamabad United in place of Hasan Ali. The draft of PSL season nine will take place at the National Cricket Academy in Lahore on Wednesday, December 13. PSL 9 is tentatively scheduled from 8 February to 24 March 2024. Earlier, it was reported that two countries are in the running to host some matches of the PSL 9. According to sources, UAE and South Africa could host the initial matches of PSL due to elections in Pakistan. However, sources added that the majority of the franchisees are insisting that the entire event should take place in Pakistan.

## PCB announces complete list of retentions

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Thursday announced the list of players retained by all six franchises of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) as the ninth edition of the league is set to begin in February 2024. Defending champions Lahore Qalandars retained their skipper Shaheen Afridi in the Platinum category. Islamabad United successfully retained their captain Shadab Khan alongside their top-trade Naseem Shah. "Following the finalisation of all trades and retentions, Multan Sultans will now have the first pick in the first round of the Platinum category, after Multan and Quetta traded Ifthikhar Ahmed and Rilee Rossouw between them," the PCB said in a press release. "Naseem Shah's move to Islamabad United also saw their first round Platinum pick exchanged with Quetta Gladiators' third-round Platinum pick. "Following Shan Masood's move to Karachi Kings, their first-round Silver pick was exchanged for Multan Sultans' fourth-round Silver pick. Owing to Imad Wasim's move to Islamabad United, Islamabad's first-round Silver pick has been exchanged with Karachi's second-round Silver pick. "Furthermore, Karachi Kings and Quetta Gladiators will be required to pick a local player in the Platinum category. "As per the precedent, each of the six sides will have the Right to Match Card that will allow them to pick any player released from their roster during the draft." **Full retentions:** Lahore Qalandars (8): Shaheen Shah Afridi (Platinum), Haris Rauf (Brand Ambassador) and David Wiese (both Diamond), Sikandar Raza, Abdullah Shafique and Zaman Khan (all Gold), Mirza Tahir Baig (Successful relegation request) and Rashid Khan (both Silver). **Islamabad United (8):** Shadab Khan and Naseem Shah (both Platinum), Imad Wasim (Mentor) and Azam Khan (both Diamond), Faheem Ashraf (Brand Ambassador), Alex Hales and Colin Munro (all Gold), Rumman Raees (Successful relegation request in Silver). - DNA

## FIFA contemplated penalties for Rubiales' conduct

PARIS: The FIFA disciplinary committee, which handed down a three-year ban to former Spanish Football Federation president Luis Rubiales for his controversial conduct during the Women's World Cup final, admitted to being tempted to impose an even harsher penalty. The ban was imposed on Oct. 30, stemming from Rubiales' actions after the Spain-England final match on Aug. 20 in Sydney. During the intense moments of celebration after Spain's victory, Rubiales shocked onlookers by grabbing his genitals in the VIP area. The controversy escalated when he proceeded to kiss midfielder Jennifer Hermoso on the lips during the medal presentation, a kiss that Hermoso later clarified was without her consent. The committee, in its written decision, expressed deep concern over Rubiales' "sense of complete impunity" within the football environment. Despite the emotional context of the match, the committee emphasized that Rubiales. - Agencies



ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Bangladesh, H.E. Syed Ahmed Maroof today presented his credentials to the honorable President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Shahabuddin, in an elegant ceremony at the Presidential Palace Bangabhaban. - DNA

## Pak house seminar unveils impact of Fake News

The speakers gave thought-provoking talks at the event. Each one brought a different view to the important topic of fake news and how it affects society

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An enlightening seminar on "Fake News: Negative Influences of Social and Digital Media on Human Behaviour" was put together by Pakistan House and Bahria University Islamabad, experts from different fields talked about how fake news is becoming a bigger problem in the digital age. The speakers gave thought-provoking talks at the event. Each one brought a different view to the important topic of fake news and how it affects society. Dr. Adam, who is the Principal Dean of the Humanities and Social Sciences Department, started the conver-

sation by talking about how false information has been spread in the past. He said that fake news has always been a problem, but it has changed with the times to become even more dangerous in the digital age. After him, the well-known psychologist Ms. Semra Salik, discussed the psychological impact of fake news on individuals. She explained how false information could lead to fear, anxiety, and even detrimental actions among the public, stressing the need for awareness and education to combat these effects. The talk by Muhammad Athar Javed, Director General of Pakistan House, was one of the most important parts of the seminar. Mr. Javed

stressed that fake news is not a new thing; it has been a part of human history for hundreds of years. He used examples from different times, like the Roman Empire's use of false information campaigns, to show how fake news has been used to control and influence people. Mr. Javed strongly argued that Pakistan, like many other countries, has to deal with a constant stream of false



information that often taints the country's image in other countries. He said that Pakistan is often shown in a bad light in foreign media, especially by some Indian outlets. This made it clear that there is a need of a strong system to counter these lies. Mr. Javed wanted a comprehensive plan to fight fake news that included teaching people how to use the media better, enforcing journalistic ethics, and encouraging countries to work together to stop cross-border misinformation. Along with these ideas, Dr. Djazair Ziberi, a German expert on fake news, Dr. Mohsin Hassan Khan, Senior Assistant Professor at the Media Studies Department,

and Dr. Saima Kulsum, Principal of Psychology, talked about the effects of fake news on a society as a whole. They talked about how constant exposure to false information leads to broken patterns of behavior, which results in lack of trust in institutions and the media. The seminar, which was praised for being in-depth and useful, showed that Pakistan House is dedicated to tackling modern societal problems. Today, false information can spread very quickly. Projects like these are very important for giving people the tools and information required to differentiate between truth and falsehood, which will ultimately make society stronger.

## Bilawal says he is unaware...

FROM PAGE 01  
and that there is no other politician in any other political party who has the same clean slate as him. With the February 8, 2024, elections a few months away, parties are holding rallies and meetings, and bringing prominent politicians to their hold to solidify their positions. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) - a former ally of the PPP and now its foe seemingly - has presented Nawaz Sharif as their premiership candidate, while the PPP has insisted that Bilawal will be their choice for the top slot. Although Asif Ali Zardari, Bilawal's father, said in a recent interview that his son was "inexperienced", the party backed the chairman as its choice for the prime minister's position - come what may.

## IHC decides to hear...

FORM PAGE 01  
the former premier's appeal. During the case hearing, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) implored the IHC to remand back the appeal to the accountability court. However, the bench rejected the NAB's appeal and decided to hear the matter on merit. The PML-N supreme along with his legal team appeared in the court. On December 24, 2018, the accountability court sentenced the former prime minister to seven years in jail and imposed a fine of 2.5 million pounds in the Al-Azizia Steel Mills reference.

## Israeli aggression...

FORM PAGE 01  
the Israeli aircraft, artillery, and naval forces have carried out hundreds of airstrikes and shelling operations across various areas of the Gaza Strip, resulting in hundreds of martyrs and injuries. The occupation forces continue to focus their intense shelling on Khan Yunis, northern Gaza, and its eastern areas, while expanding their ground incursion, which is met with strong resistance. Dozens of martyrs were killed in an Israeli airstrike that targeted the Turk family's house near Al-Nour Stadium in the Sabra neighborhood, southeast of Gaza. Eight martyrs were killed and others were injured as a result of the IOF shelling of the Abu Taha family's house in the Amal neighborhood, west of Khan Yunis.

## UN Chief invokes...

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was the first time Guterres had felt compelled to invoke the article since taking office in 2017. In his letter, Guterres said the more than eight weeks of fighting had "created appalling human suffering, physical destruction and collective trauma across Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory." He added: "Since the start of Israel's military operation, more than 15,000 people have reportedly been killed, over 40 per cent of whom were children. Thousands of others have been injured. More than half of all homes have been destroyed." He said: "Some 80 per cent of the population of 2.2 million has been forcibly displaced, into increasingly smaller areas. More than 1.1 million people have sought refuge in UNRWA facilities across Gaza, creating overcrowded, undignified and unhygienic conditions. Others have nowhere to shelter and find themselves on the streets."

## Afghanistan a strong...

FROM PAGE 01  
organizations are leading among the organizations spreading terrorism from Afghanistan to Pakistan. From Afghanistan, al-Qaeda targets Europe and America. Tehreek-e-Islami Turkmenistan targets China, IMU targets Uzbekistan, Jundallah spreads terrorism in Iran, ISIS in Europe and America, while Hizb-ul-Tahrir and Jamaat-ul-Ahrar spread terrorism in Pakistan. There is no doubt that Afghanistan is regularly providing financial support to terrorist organizations in the region. TTP and Afghan support played a central role in the rising tide of terrorism in Pakistan last year.

## Briefs

## 3 killed in Las Vegas university shooting

LAS VEGAS: Three people were killed and another critically injured in a shooting at a Las Vegas university on Wednesday, police said, with the suspect also dead. The incident at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, a short distance from the gambling hub's tourist-packed Las Vegas Strip, was the latest in the United States, where gun violence is a part of the fabric of daily life. "According to our investigators at the scene, we have three deceased victims and one additional victim in critical condition at a local hospital," the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department wrote on social media. "The suspect in this #ActiveShooter incident is also deceased." Police said they had responded to calls around midday (2000 GMT) and indicated that officers had engaged a suspect on the campus, where gunshots rang out in at least two locations. Television footage showed police military-style vehicles moving near containment lines, as well as dozens of young people being escorted through them. One woman told local broadcaster KVVU that she had heard a series of loud noises and fled into a building on the campus, from which she was later evacuated by police. "I was just having breakfast and then I heard three, like, loud booms," she told the station.—DNA

## Turkiye becomes world's most cyber targeted region

ANKARA : Throughout 2023, Türkiye has emerged as one of the most targeted regions for cybercrime globally, according to findings released by Kaspersky, underscoring the nation's increased vulnerability to cyber threats as digitalization efforts persist among institutions. As the digital landscape continues to expand, Türkiye has remained a focal point for cybercrime activities. Kaspersky's insights and statistics from the third quarter of 2023 reveal a concerning trend in the regional threat landscape. Moreover, the report offers predictions on how the cyber threat landscape might evolve in the coming year, highlighting the need for proactive measures. Cyberattacks, particularly phishing attempts, have seen a notable surge in Türkiye. The third quarter of 2023 witnessed a 20% increase in phishing attacks compared to the previous quarter and a staggering 47% rise compared to the same period in 2022. These attacks, characterized by deceptive tactics, aim to illicitly acquire users' personal information such as passwords, credit card numbers and sensitive banking details. Moreover, Türkiye is among the prominent regions targeted for attacks on industrial control systems (ICS computers). These systems play a pivotal role across various industries including energy, mining, automotive manufacturing and building automation. ICS computers support a range of operational technology functions, from engineers' workstations to supervisory control and data acquisition servers, making them a lucrative target for cyber threats seeking to disrupt critical infrastructure.—Agencies

## Earthquake rattles Azerbaijan

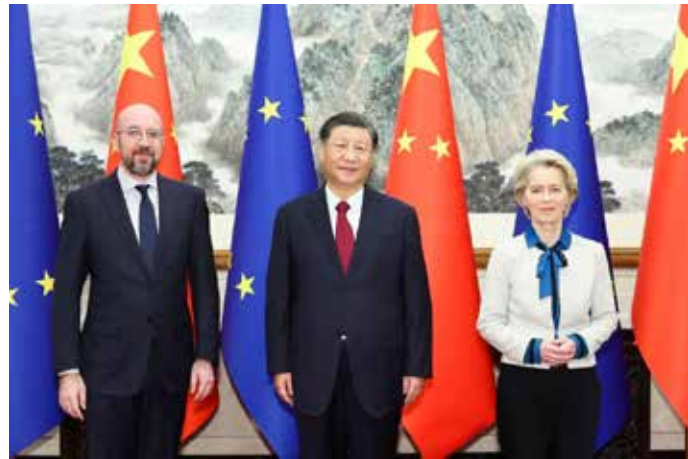
BAKU : An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.6 shook the southern Caucasus nation of Azerbaijan early Thursday. The epicentre of the quake, which took place at 8.16 am (0416GMT), was reported to be the Caspian Sea, according to Azerbaijan Seismological Service Center statement. The statement said the earthquake took place at a depth of 68 kilometres (42.3 miles). The earthquake was also felt in the capital, Baku. So far there is no word on damage or casualties from the quake.—APP

## Xi urges enhanced China-EU political mutual trust

They also said managing and growing EU-China relations has a direct bearing on the interests of the people of both sides, and also concerns global prosperity and security

DNA

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday called on China and the European Union (EU) to be partners for mutually beneficial cooperation, strengthen two-way political trust, build strategic consensus, cement the bonds of shared interest, steer clear of various kinds of interference, and step up dialogue and cooperation for the good of their people. Xi made the remarks when meeting with President of the European Council Charles Michel and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, who are in China for the 24th China-EU Summit at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing. Xi said that since the end of last year, the China-EU relationship has shown a good momentum of consolidation and growth, and the China-EU high-level dialogues in the strategic, economic and trade, green, and digital fields have produced rich outcomes, adding this serves the interests of both sides and meets the expectations of their people. Noting China and the EU are two major forces advancing multipolarity, two major markets in support of



globalization, and two major civilizations championing diversity, Xi said that amid the increasingly turbulent international situation, the China-EU relationship has strategic significance and implications for global peace, stability and prosperity. "It is incumbent on both sides to provide greater stability for the world and stronger impetus for development." Stressing that this year marks the 20th anniversary of the China-EU comprehensive strategic partnership, Xi said the two sides need to take stock of history, navigate the trend of the world, and uphold the

apt description of the China-EU relationship as a comprehensive strategic partnership. The two sides need to consolidate the political foundation, view each other from a strategic perspective, fully leverage the guiding role of the China-EU Summit and the five high-level dialogues, strengthen strategic communication, and increase understanding and properly handle differences through constructive dialogue, Xi said. He urged the two sides to develop a right perception of each other, promote mutual understanding and trust, honor commitments, do the

right thing and be wholehearted in developing China-EU relations. "We should not view each other as rivals just because our systems are different, reduce cooperation because competition exists, or engage in confrontation because there are disagreements." There is a high degree of complementarity between the Chinese and EU economies, Xi said, adding the two sides should do more to increase the breadth and depth of cooperation and tighten the bond of shared interests. Noting the Chinese economy enjoys a good momentum of steady growth, Xi said that as China pursues high-quality development and high-standard opening up, it sees the EU as a key partner for economic and trade cooperation, a preferred partner for scientific and technological cooperation, and a trustworthy partner for industrial and supply chain cooperation. "China is ready to work with the EU for mutual benefit and common development," said Xi, urging the two sides to leverage their complementary strengths in terms of market, capital and technology to upgrade traditional industries and foster emerging ones, explore new modes of cooperation, foster new areas of growth, and jointly im-

prove industrial and supply chains. The two sides should also bolster people-to-people exchanges and facilitate personnel interflows, he added. Xi underscored that Chinese modernization and European integration are strategic choices that China and Europe have made respectively with the future in mind. The two sides should respect and support each other, and leverage the complementarity of their development strategies for common progress. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is an inclusive platform that has brought real benefits to over 150 countries and their peoples, Xi said. "As the saying goes, when you give roses to others, the fragrance lingers on your hand." China will continue to promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, including by creating synergy between the BRI and the EU's Global Gateway to help developing countries grow faster, he added. The two sides should strengthen communication and coordination in multilateral frameworks including the UN and the G20, uphold multilateralism, oppose camp-based confrontation, and promote the political settlement of international and regional hotspots, Xi said, adding the two sides should conduct dialogue and cooperation on artificial intelligence (AI).

## Sunak's Rwanda asylum plan sparks UK party revolt

NEWS DESK

LONDON: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was battling to keep his party together on Thursday a day after unveiling a plan to disregard some human rights law to send migrants to Rwanda, bringing back to the fore deep divisions in his party. Facing the biggest challenge to his year-long tenure, Sunak is trying to stop lawmakers on the Conservative Party's right wing from rebelling over their demand that Britain should quit international treaties to set its own migration policy. His immigration minister quit on Wednesday and he is facing questions as to whether he can get his key policy through a vote in parliament. Some Conservative

lawmakers said on Thursday that Sunak could face a leadership challenge. The prime minister was due to hold a press conference. One Conservative politician, who reluctantly supports the Rwanda plan, said the last year had shown that his colleagues can be ruthless in removing a struggling prime minister. "I have a feeling of déjà vu," he said. The draft legislation comes three weeks after Britain's Supreme Court ruled that Rwanda was not a safe place to send those arriving in small boats on the southern coast of England, and that the plan would breach British and international law. The Rwanda scheme is at the center of the government's strategy to stop illegal migration. The court's decision was a setback for Sunak

who is struggling to revive a weak economy and is heavily trailing the main opposition party ahead of an election expected next year. Sunak could make the vote in parliament on the new legislation next week a confidence vote — meaning that if he loses, it could trigger a national election — in an attempt to shore up party support. So far only one Conservative lawmaker has publicly called for a no confidence vote, but she said six of her colleagues have done so privately. To trigger a leadership challenge, 53 of the 350 Conservative lawmakers in parliament must write letters of no confidence to the chairman of the 1922 Committee. Sunak suffered his first parliamentary defeat this week as members of parliament vot-

ed to establish a compensatory body for victims of the infected blood scandal. The prime minister has pleaded with his party to get behind the legislation as the best chance to get flights to Rwanda leaving before the next election. 'IT WON'T WORK' A poll last month showed immigration was one of the three biggest issues facing the country. Only the economy and National Health Service were seen as more important. Last year net legal migration hit a record of 745,000 people and around 45,000 arrived illegally. Rwanda currently only has the capacity to accept a few hundred migrants from Britain, but ministers say the plan will act as a vital deterrent to discourage people from making the crossings.

## Australia, PNG ink defense deal to bolster security

SYDNEY : Australia and neighbouring Papua New Guinea have signed a bilateral security agreement that Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and counterpart James Marape said showed the closeness of the two nations. The deal signed on Thursday is designed to bolster Papua New Guinea's internal security through more assistance in policing, defence and the judiciary as the Pacific Islands' largest nation seeks to develop its economy. Amid strategic competition between China and the United States in the region, PNG signed a defence deal with the United States in May to upgrade its military bases, and is boosting trade ties with China. "Brother and Sister Nations" PNG's judiciary, public service and borders were established by Australia before PNG became an independent nation 48 years ago, Marape said. Marape told reporters on Thursday the security agreement with Australia showed they were "brother and sister nations", but added PNG would not pick sides and had a foreign policy of "friends to all". "This is a comprehensive and historic agreement. It will make it easier for Australia to help PNG address its internal security needs," Albanese told a news conference in Canberra. He paid tribute to the support PNG's population gave to Australian service members during World War Two, and said it was a defence relationship forged through sacrifice.—DNA

## Azerbaijan urges US review in Armenia peace talks

BAKU : Azerbaijan said that the U.S. could contribute to the peace process with archival Armenia by considering "new realities" in the region. The South Caucasus neighbors have been locked in a decades-long conflict over the control of the Karabakh region, which Azerbaijan reclaimed after a lightning operation against illegal separatists in September. Both countries have said a peace agreement could be signed by the end of the year, but peace talks — mediated separately by the European Union, the U.S. and Russia — have seen little progress. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said Wednesday that the U.S. had "nullified" strategic ties between Washington and Baku, adding: "We don't know why." "If the U.S. says our relationship will no longer be the same, that means Washington is pulling out from mediating the Azerbaijani-Armenian peace process," he added, saying a change in posture from Washington would mean Baku could "restore" U.S.-led talks. The comments came as Assistant Secretary of State James O'Brien, also the special envoy for European and Eurasian Affairs, was expected in Baku for talks aimed at "strengthening ties" and "supporting the peace between Azerbaijan and Armenia." During their meeting, Aliyev told O'Brien that "historic opportunities had arisen for the establishment of peace" after the end of the second Karabakh war in the fall of 2020, according to a statement by his office. Azerbaijan liberated most of the Karabakh region from Armenian occupation during 44 days of clashes in the fall of 2020, which ended with a Russian-brokered peace agreement, opening the door to normalization.—APP



OTTAWA: Pakistan Ambassador to Canada Zaeem Ahmed Janjua met with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.—DNA

## Purpose of teaching and the responsibility of teachers

GHAZALA ANBREEN

Teaching is a very sacred profession. But unfortunately in the present realm it has acquired mercenary proportions in our country. The curriculum development needs a drastic revamp. In foreign books there are around 80 to 85 percent numericals and conceptual questions. But we are still limited to the definitions, statements and explanations only. There is a less emphasis on making the syllabus realistic and involving practical applications. Analysis of new challenges can only be made if the syllabus is updated and modernized. The realization of sacrifice and knowledge about past history and the heroes is a must so that the youth may be able to prepare themselves to meet the future challenges. If we are unaware of our history then it is very difficult that we are able to mobilize our youth. It is not only the rote learning of certain facts and statistical figures and then getting through the exams with flying colours. The students must be trained how to deal with the different situations. They must be made aware of the life history

and struggle of our heroes. If we do not make them aware then these students will make role models as some other heroes as theirs is an essentially vulnerable and impressionable age. The seerat of Holy Prophet (PBUH) and the thought of Iqbal and Quaid, their diplomacy and the approaches they held fast must be communicated to the students so that they can be motivated and inspired. These visionaries must be the guiding sources. Their struggle and non violent approach, integrity of character all must serve as the inspirations for the students of today. The teachers must acquaint their students with the morality, consolidatory approach, principles, devotion to religion, and commitment with the work which these heroes espoused throughout their lives. Then the inculcation of thinking abilities in a student is a must. Unfortunately our students are not compelled to think. Again it is due to incomplete syllabus. They are limited to know the facts only. No learning in real sense is there. The syllabus is only information oriented not learning oriented. The impact of all this results in such a situation that if at all we wish to make the student move in a direction by which

he can become creative, he is unable to do so, as he is bound to remain in the confined perimeters. Cramming certain facts by heart and then getting marks is the target which he sets to achieve. If he does not adopt the policy of concept clearing, he would be discredited in the form of low scores. The syllabus should be inspirational and according to the needs. It should be objective and research-oriented and contemporary needs fulfilling. It should be according to the demands of the modern times and the students must not focus only on numbers. The purpose must be the enriching and grooming of minds. Syllabus should compel the students to give opinions. If only we take the example of syllabus of Physics at schools, we would know that there is a huge focus on certain aspects only. The students since many years are asked objective questions as what is a crest, trough or wavelength. Define uniform velocity etc. On the contrary if you rely only on statements and definitions then it is of no worth. You should know how to apply the theories in real life. This practice would lead to opening of minds. There ought to be many applications and examples

from daily life. However, there needs to be a correlation of these concepts with the real life examples as for example, law of conservation of momentum can be explained as when two billiard balls will collide then the students must be able to predict what would happen after collision and in which direction they would move. Likewise, the students must know whatever may happen when any collisions take place. What would happen when a rocket goes upward or a bullet is fired? Students should use their minds and just not only focus on numbers. If the students are assigned certain projects, they hesitate and take it as a burden. This tells a lot how creative trends are not accepted by the students of Pakistan. The final words remain that alongwith the explanation of the text books the teachers are also supposed to infuse in the students the qualities of consistency, hard work, perseverance and ability to work in a composed way in the unbecoming situations. Apart from that the following aspects must also be kept in mind. Thinking habit must be evolved. Energy, zest and passion in youth must be focused. Pointing of the potential and then polishing and motivating students is the responsibility of the teachers. If

a particular student feels weak in a peculiar subject then the teacher must try his best to convert the weakness into strength. This is possible if he subjects the student to repetitive tests and practice. I will like to narrate the example of a good school where the authorities took personal interest towards the consistently declining grades of a student who earlier showed very good results. They established a committee for this purpose which scrutinized in detail and came out with the reasons. They invited the parents of the kid and informed them about the reasons of his low scores and also offered a solution for making him competent as earlier. The purpose of narrating this incidence is to lay emphasis on the fact that the teachers must not only think it sufficient to enable the students learn some theories and their postulates. Their duty is to ensure the overall grooming of students. They must make the students bold enough to discuss with them any problem which they face whether related to studies or else. They must be able to get rid of their intrinsic shyness and become confident. So that they are ready to face the world and tread with a confident pace.

## Dengue fever kills 21 people in Mali

BAMAKO : Authorities have said dengue fever is on the rise in Mali, posing a new threat to the West African nation struggling with extremist attacks and political turbulence. The director general of health and public hygiene, Dr Cheick Amadou Tidiane Traore, told media reports in an interview that his department had counted 21 deaths and 600 cases of the disease as of Monday. Mali's government has not officially released any figures on the disease to the public, nor has it announced whether it has requested aid from the WHO. With the country in political transition and facing the threat of militants linked to Al Qaeda and the Daesh terror group, a new epidemic of dengue fever risks worsening the humanitarian situation, especially among the large population of displaced people. "Dengue fever is also present in Burkina Faso and Senegal, and we need to raise public awareness," Traore said.

No specific treatment Dengue is a viral infection spread by mosquitoes that mostly causes flu-like illness. In severe cases, it can cause joint pain, swollen glands, bleeding and death. There is no specific treatment, but two vaccines have been recommended by the World Health Organization for countries that suffer regular outbreaks. The virus typically emerges in more tropical environments but was first detected in comparatively arid Mali in 2008. Reports of the virus reemerged in 2017 and 2019. There is little long-term data on its prevalence. In August, the government of Chad reported the country's first-ever outbreak of dengue, with dozens of confirmed cases in the nation that, like Mali, is located in the vast Sahel region south of the Sahara desert.

## Tokyo stocks end lower

TOKYO :Tokyo stocks ended lower on Thursday after Wall Street fell as the US job market cooled further and oil prices tumbled. The benchmark Nikkei 225 index lost 1.76 percent, or 587.59 points, to end at 32,858.31, while the broader Topix index slid 1.14 percent, or 27.29 points, to 2,359.91. The dollar fetched 146.43 yen, against 147.35 yen on Wednesday in New York. The Tokyo market "was in a wait-and-see mood ahead of the November US jobs data," IwaiCosmo Securities said. "Partly prompted by a reaction to sharp rallies yesterday, selling on profit-taking was also prominent," the brokerage added. Overnight in Wall Street, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.2 percent, while the broad-based S&P 500 shed 0.4 percent. US crude oil prices fell more than four percent to finish below \$70 a barrel for the first time in five months, denting petroleum-linked shares. Traders in Japan took cues from the US falls, and "the risk-averse sentiment also prevailed after major Asian markets experienced falls", Daiwa Securities said. Among major shares in Tokyo, SoftBank Group slid 1.67 percent to 5,692 yen, Sony Group lost 1.63 percent to 12,915 yen and Toyota was off 1.14 percent to 2,794.5 yen. UniQo operator Fast Retailing trimmed 2.05 percent to 36,200 yen.—APP

## Briefs

### UK PM Sunak faces party revolt

DNA

LONDON: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was battling to keep his party together on Thursday a day after unveiling a plan to disregard some human rights law to send migrants to Rwanda, bringing back to the fore deep divisions in his party. Facing the biggest challenge to his year-long tenure, Sunak is trying to stop lawmakers on the Conservative Party's right wing from rebelling over their demand that Britain should quit international treaties to set its own migration policy. His immigration minister quit on Wednesday and he is facing questions as to whether he can get his key policy through a vote in parliament. Some Conservative lawmakers said on Thursday that Sunak could face a leadership challenge. The prime minister was due to hold a press conference at 11:00 GMT. One Conservative politician, who reluctantly supports the Rwanda plan, said the last year had shown that his colleagues can be ruthless in removing a struggling prime minister. "I have a feeling of déjà vu," he said. The draft legislation comes three weeks after Britain's Supreme Court ruled that Rwanda was not a safe place to send those arriving in small boats on the southern coast of England, and that the plan would breach British and international law.

### SC fixes petition of Siddiqui

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A five-judge larger bench of the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, will take up former Islamabad High Court (IHC) judge Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui's constitutional petition against his removal on December 14. The members of the bench included Justice Aminud Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi and Justice Irfan Saadat Khan. The Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) had found Siddiqui guilty of misconduct over a speech he delivered in July 2018 before the Rawalpindi District Bar Association. Siddiqui had hurled allegations against personnel of a security agency, claiming that they manipulated the judicial proceedings. Last month, he had filed a miscellaneous application with the apex court for early hearing of his petition against the SJC's decision. The plea requested the court to declare his removal notification null and void. The former judge in his application adopted the stance that his case was pending since October 2018, adding that the last hearing on it was conducted on June 2022.

# Ethiopia, Pak faced with similar challenges: Ambassador Jemal

## Ethiopia embassy celebrates Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Day

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) in Islamabad has celebrated its 18th Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Day here on Thursday in esteemed presence of a large number of Ethiopian Diaspora in Pakistan, media, civil society and friends of Ethiopia. The day was celebrated colorfully at the Embassy of FDRE Ethiopia in Islamabad with a national zeal and fervour. Cultural performances and Ethiopian coffee ceremony were put on the display to promote diverse culture of the FDR Ethiopia. Speaking on the occasion, H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the FDR Ethiopia to Pakistan, said the people of Ethiopia were celebrating the 18th Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Day of Ethiopia. To this end, a strong foundation was laid by Nations, nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia that ratified Ethiopia's Constitution on 8 December 1994 that recognized and transformed diversity into strength and wealth while guaranteeing democratic order, lasting peace, and advancing political, economic and social matters based on equality and justice that ensures fraternity and national unity among Ethiopians, he added. On this auspicious day, the ambassador said a seed of harmony was planted in



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Ethiopia Jemal Beker along with the Ethiopian Diaspora, cutting the cake to celebrate the Ethiopian Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Day. - DNA

the diverse soil of Ethiopia that today has been transformed into a majestic tree blossoming with the spirit of unity, tolerance, compassion and above all, Ethiopianism. "Our diversity is our strength and what we all must do is to contribute in this cause, show compassion to each other, live in harmony and promote peace and prosperity to build an ideal and strong nations for the coming generations," he said, while describing the current generation as "Medemer" that is destined to leave a strong legacy for the next generation. He said understanding each other, strengthening fraternity and living in harmony and fighting the challenges together to achieve strong, resilient and prosperous Ethiopia should be the priority for all the nations. As a matter of fact, H.E. Jemal

Beker said both Ethiopia and Pakistan faced the challenge of hybrid warfare. There is a strong need for initiating bilateral cooperation between the two countries to deal with this challenge. "False narratives are being peddled to mislead the youth to see decay of a society. We all must be wary of this challenge which is not only faced by Ethiopia but Pakistan as well." "We have already initiated a bilateral cooperation in the area of climate change by launching the Green Legacy Initiative of our Prime Minister His Excellency Dr Abiy Ahmed here in Pakistan and we are currently working to fight the challenge of climate change," he stressed. He said the government FDR Ethiopia was committed to defend its sovereignty, diversity and aspiration of its nations. "Today, Ethiopia is a symbol of peace and stability in the Horn of Africa and our Prime Minister is leading the efforts to promote national unity in Ethiopia," he added. The ambassador said H.E. Dr. PM Abiy Ahmed is a Nobel Peace Prize and brought peace, prosperity and unity to the next level in Ethiopia by preserving and balancing ethnic and national identities while promoting civic culture and deepening democracy. He urged all the people of Ethiopia to learn from their past, harness their current potential and worked towards a strong legacy that would ultimately build robust and vibrant nation for all Ethiopians.

### Imran Khan challenges ECP verdict in LHC

DNA

LAHORE: The founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has moved the Lahore High Court (LHC) against his disqualification for five years by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) following his conviction in the Toshakhana case. Justice Shujaat Ali Khan will take up the former PTI chairman's plea on Friday. Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and Ali Zafar - the former prime minister's counsels - filed the petition with the high court on behalf of their client on Thursday. The petitioner has made the ECP party in the case. In his petition, the former PTI chairman states that the ECP had on August 8, 2023, disqualified him as a member of the National Assembly, arguing that the ECP had, in a bid to keep him out of politics, acted in haste, making an unlawful action. The petitioner claims that the allegations levelled against him were all baseless, adding that he desires to participate in next general elections for which the date has already been notified [by the ECP] on orders of the Supreme Court. The former premier has requested the court to void ECP's decision of his disqualification for five years and stay the notification till this court takes a decision on his petition.

### ATC sends Pashteen on physical remand

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad on Thursday handed over PTM chief Manzoor Pashteen in police custody for seven days. Pashteen was arrested in Balochistan's Chaman on December 4 by Levies and police personnel from the Gudhama area on disputed claims of firing by his party and local police. Police claimed the PTM chief was arrested after gunshots were fired at police from his vehicle, while Pashteen's party had alleged that law enforcement agencies fired at his vehicle when he was on his way from Chaman to Turbat. Last week, Pashteen had announced joining the protest against the alleged extrajudicial killing of Balaach Mola Bakhsh in Turbat



RAWALPINDI: Ambassador of Jordan Dr. Maen Khreasat in a meeting with Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, at the Joint Headquarters. - DNA

### DG ISI directed to probe Bushra-Khosa alleged audio call

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court Thursday ordered the Director-General of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Lieutenant General Nadeem Anjum to submit a report on who was behind the alleged leaked audio of a call between Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) former chairman Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi and her lawyer, Latif Khosa. The court also asked the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to conduct audio forensics of the leaked call between the former first lady and her counsel to probe the origins of its release. The orders, issued by IHC's Justice Babar Sattar, came during the hearing of a petition filed by Khosa against the leaked audio between him and his client. Justice Sattar also directed for a copy of the plea to be sent to DG ISI, seeking a report with findings detailing who was behind the audio leak. The court also issued notices to FIA, Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pema) and Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), seeking their response on the matter. The IHC adjourned the hearing of the case till December 11 (Monday). During the proceedings today, Justice Sattar questioned how private conversations of people were being broadcast on television channels. He also overruled the objections to the application. "What is the registrar's office's objection to the application?" he asked. Khosa, in his reply to the judge, said the objection is on filing a miscellaneous application and not a separate plea. "A miscellaneous petition can be filed in the audio leaks case." The lawyer said that counsel-client conversations are privileged. "Big Boss is listening to everything, you must know this," Justice Sattar quipped, leaving the courtroom echo with laughter. He then went on to ask who was recording the audio, in reply to which Khosa said, "Everyone knows who records."

### Ukraine aid from US in doubt after failed Senate vote

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: Senate Republicans have blocked a move to pass an aid bill for Ukraine after failing to secure border compromises they sought in exchange. The \$110bn (£87.3bn) package included \$61bn for Ukraine, as well as funds for Israel and aid for Gaza. The White House has warned that US funds for Ukraine could soon run out. A Ukrainian official said that failure to secure more US aid would mean a "very high possibility" that the war will be lost to Russia. While Republican members are generally in favour of aid to Ukraine, some have sought to use the issue as a way to address mounting domestic concerns over the US southern border. Senators - including every single Republican - voted 51 to 49 against advancing the bill, with 60 votes needed. The vote throws uncertainty into the future of aid for Ukraine and sends lawmakers back to the negotiating table just days before Congress has scheduled its winter break. Republicans are insisting that any aid to Ukraine be tied to sweeping US immigration and asylum reforms. Earlier on Wednesday, US President Joe Biden said he was "willing to make significant compromises on the border" in order to get the aid bill passed.

### SC fixes Justice Naqvi's petition

Meanwhile, Supreme Court will take up on Dec 12, the presidential reference seeking to revisit the trial of ZAB case

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan (SCP) fixed on Thursday Justice Mazahar Naqvi's petition challenging allegations of financial misconduct for the hearing next week. Sources divulged that a hearing on Justice Naqvi's plea will be held in the open court. The SC committee had decided to fix the hearing next week. Few days back, Justice Naqvi approached the SC to challenge two show cause notices issued by the SJC concerning allegations of financial misconduct. The apex court judge had argued in his petition that the complaints filed against him with the SJC were politically motivated. He asserted that he was fulfilling his duty to protect and safeguard the Constitution, which he believed was being violated by delaying the general elections in the provincial assembly of Punjab. The SJC, vested with the constitutional authority to hold judges of the superior court accountable, reviewed 29 complaints against various judges.

# Türkiye, Greece seek to turn Aegean into 'sea of peace', sign Athens declaration

## The historic rivals renewed their will for coop during Erdogan's landmark visit to Athens

DNA

ATHENS: Türkiye wants to turn the Aegean into a sea of peace and friendship, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Thursday alongside Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis as the pair met in Athens to build on the positive momentum after years of tension. "There is no problem that cannot be solved between us," Erdogan told reporters, adding that it was "natural of two neighbors who share the same landscape to have differences of opinion." Ankara has the will to resolve all outstanding disputes with its neighbor, Erdogan said,

adding that convening the fifth round of high-level cooperation council which was halted six years ago, was a sign of "our good intentions." "Türkiye and Greece aspire to set an example to the world with the steps we will take," he noted. Along with a large delegation, Erdogan was in Athens for the first time since 2017 after a long period of tension marked by spats over migration, energy exploration in the Aegean and territorial sovereignty. Earlier, he met his Greek counterpart, Katerina Sakellariopoulou, who expressed hope for relations to develop on "a firm ground, which would help both sides." He and Mitsotakis agreed to advance relations on the "highest level" while

emphasizing the importance of key projects like building a second bridge along their land border and boosting tourism. "Our foreign ministers will lead determined efforts on our respective viewpoints on the Aegean and the Mediterranean," Erdogan informed. "It's our genuine desire to settle our disputes with constructive dialogue." The Turkish leader further welcomed the closure of the notorious Lavrion camp near Athens earlier this summer, which was often described as a hotbed of terrorism by Türkiye. "We have underscored Greece must be cautious in preventing the formation of similar shelters for terrorists," he added. Erdogan also said he urged Mitsotakis to adhere to international law on the issue of improving conditions for the Muslim Turkish minority in Greece's Western Thrace region. The Turkish minority's rights have deteriorated under Mitsotakis' rule as they faced restrictions on exercising their Turkish identity. Markedly, at the end of the conference, Mitsotakis called out to his "Muslim citizens" and said, "Thrace means for us the desire of Muslims and Christians to live side by side in peace and the Greek government will continue working in line with postwar treaties that designate minorities' status." The pair also analyzed events unfolding in the region and were of the opinion that "all extremist attitudes must be avoided, all humanitarian values must be respected and unarmed civilians must be protected," Mitsotakis noted. But Erdogan reiterated Ankara's disapproval of Israel's consistent targeting of Palestinian civilians in Gaza, stressing, "The international community must not remain silent in the face of crimes committed against humanity."



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