



# Islamabad POST

Monday, December 11, 2023

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

**Zelensky lands in Argentina hoping to win global south support**

Detailed News On Page-07

**Gaza cease-fire efforts still ongoing**

Detailed News On Page-08

**Abrar ruled out of Perth test against Australia**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

### Court hands over Fawad to ACE

FAISAL SHEIKH

RAWALPINDI: A duty judge on Sunday handed over former Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry to the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) on a one-day physical remand in a fraud case. The former federal minister will now be presented by an anti-corruption court on Monday, December 11. The counsel for ACE sought a five-day physical remand and alleged that Fawad, through his frontman Fouq Sherbaz, was paid Rs3.5 million for providing a no-objection certificate (NOC) by a private housing scheme and the amount needs to be recovered. The former minister was brought before the duty judge in an armoured vehicle from Adila jail. Fawad's counsel, Faisal Chaudhry, contended that the case was false and was driven by political motives. He argued that the housing society owners have no complaints, and false charges are being fabricated without valid reasons. He further prayed that Fawad be discharged from the case and be granted bail.

### Khattak set to testify against Imran

ABBAS HASHMI

LAHORE: Former prime minister Imran Khan's close confidant Pervez Khattak along with former PTI leader Nadeem Afzal Chan and one of his cabinet members, Zubaida Jalal, have been identified as witnesses for the NAB in the £190 million case. Azam Khan, the former premier's principal secretary, is also listed as one of NAB's witnesses. The roster includes bank officers, SECP representatives, a patwari, and the secretary and deputy secretary of the Assets Recovery Unit. The executive director and chief financial officer of Al-Qadir Trust, purportedly formed by Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi, are also set to testify for NAB. The case revolves around allegations of corruption and abuse of authority linked to a financial settlement during the PTI's tenure, which reportedly incurred a £190 million loss to the national exchequer.

### US varsity President steps down

DNA

WASHINGTON: The president of an Ivy League university stepped down in the wake of a firestorm of criticism after a congressional hearing on the rise of anti-Semitism on US campuses. University of Pennsylvania President Elizabeth Magill "voluntarily tendered her resignation," the chair of the university's board of trustees Scott Bok announced. Bok also stepped down himself, a university spokesman confirmed to media. Magill was among three presidents of elite universities who faced withering criticism following their testimony on Tuesday during a congressional hearing on campus anti-Semitism.

## Amid Israeli terrorism Gaza facing 'unprecedented human' disaster

Spokesman for Hamas's Al Qassam Brigades has said that Israeli captives will not be released by military force

NEWS DESK

GAZA: As the US-backed Israeli genocidal war on the Gaza Strip entered day 65 on Sunday, massive aerial and artillery strikes continued to pound and level whole blocks and homes and massacre more civilians, mostly children and women. According to local sources, the Israeli occupation army carried out hundreds of aerial and artillery attacks last night and in the morning on different areas of Gaza. Dozens of casualties were reported after an Israeli airstrike destroyed a house in Jabalia refugee camp, north of Gaza.

**Another News on Back Page**  
The Red Crescent said its ambulance crews evacuated 11 seriously wounded civilians from the Ahli Baptist Hospital in Gaza to the south, adding that one of the wounded died after the Israeli forces obstructed the movement of the convoy. Four civilians, including one with special needs, were martyred during Israeli attacks on different areas of Khan Yunis. The health ministry said that the director general of its pharmacy department was injured by Israeli sniper fire as he was trying to reach medicine warehouses in Gaza City. Dozens of civilians were also killed or injured during Israeli attacks on different areas. In a pre-recorded message, the spokesman for Hamas's Al Qassam Brigades has said that Israeli captives will not be

Continued on Page 06

## UN chief says he will not give up

DNA

DOHA: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Sunday he will not give up appealing for a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza, adding that the war undermined the credibility and authority of the Security Council. Guterres was speaking at the Doha Forum conference as Washington vetoed on Friday a proposed UN Security Council demand for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in the war between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas. "I urged the Security Council to press to avert a humanitarian catastrophe and I reiterated my appeal for a humanitarian ceasefire to be declared," Guterres said. "Regrettably, the Security Council failed to do it, but that does not make it less necessary," he said. "I will not give up," Guterres added. Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani told the gathering that Doha will

Continued on Page 06

## Transparency report released Police, judiciary ranked as most corrupt institutions

Corruption rampant in Baluchistan and KP provinces, claims TI report

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Transparency International Pakistan (TIP) Saturday released its National Corruption Perception Survey 2023 which shows the judiciary among the top three most corrupt institutions in Pakistan. Police are the most corrupt, followed by tendering and contracting and judiciary. Education and Health departments have been evaluated as the 4th and 5th most corrupt institutions. Local Government, Land Administration and Customs, Excise and Income Tax are assessed as 6th, 7th and 8th most corrupt. In terms of public service delivery, the average expenditure on bribery was the highest on judiciary (Rs25,846). In KP on average paid the highest bribe to access judiciary (Rs162,000), reveals the report. In Punjab, on an average citizens paid the highest bribe to access police (Rs21,186)

whereas in Balochistan on an average citizens paid the highest bribe to access health (Rs160,000). The NCPs 2023 has revealed that majority of Pakistanis (68%) at the national level believe that accountability institutions such as NAB, FIA and Anti-Corruption Establishments are used for political victimisation. The survey shows that 60% Pakistanis at national level feel that the accountability institutions (NAB, FIA, ACEs, office of the Ombudsman) should be abolished as they have failed to control corruption. At the national level (75%) citizens considered private sector to wield too much power and influence, which often leads to corruption. Majority of citizens (36%) considered anti-corruption institutions' role as "ineffective" in curbing corruption in Pakistan. At the national level, the major cause of corruption, according to NCPs 2023,

Continued on Page 06

## COAS Asim jets off to US on maiden visit

ISPR says Gen Asim Munir will meet military and government officials in US

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Army Staff General Asim Munir departed on Sunday for his first official visit to the United States, said a statement from the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). The military's media wing, in the brief statement, said General Munir is "scheduled to meet senior military and other government officials of USA". The visit comes after senior US officials visited Pakistan last week. A senior Biden administration official dealing with refugee issues conducted a four-day trip to Islamabad in the first of a series of visits by American officials amid deteriorating ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Julieta Valls Noyes, the US assistant secretary of state for the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration stayed in the

federal capital until Thursday. On conclusion of her visit on December 7, US Special Envoy for Afghanistan Tom West kicked off his trip to Islamabad. After his visit, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Elizabeth Horst, who is responsible for Pakistan, arrived here on December 9. The flurry of visits by American officials comes against the backdrop of Pakistan's move to evict all illegal Afghans, rising tensions with the Afghan Taliban over the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the upcoming general elections in February. "Pakistan and the United States continue to hold consultations on a range of issues. To advance these consultations, exchange of visits also takes place," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in a statement while giving context of the visits. Pakistan has launched a crackdown against the Afghans living in the country illegally,

Continued on P-6

## Naqvi orders early completion of projects

DNA

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi paid a detailed 3 hours visit to the three development projects. CM Mohsin Naqvi conducted a detailed inspection of the side roads of Shahdara flyovers, new Ravi Bridge and side roads of the Bedian underpass. CM was briefed about the construction of the side roads of Shahdara flyovers along with progress being made on the construction of drain and roundabouts. CM while ordering early completion of the side roads of Shahdara flyovers project asserted that no further delay should occur in the completion of the project keeping in view difficulties being faced by the people. Mohsin Naqvi monitored the piling process for the construction of a bridge at River Ravi. It was informed during the briefing that 52 piles for the Ravi bridge will be built. Piling process is being done with caution due to the river. CM also visited Bedian underpass project and reviewed the quality of construction work of the side roads. Mohsin Naqvi lauded the quality construction work of the Bedian underpass project and commended the whole LDA team. Provincial Ministers Amir Mir, Azfar Ali Nasir, Secretary Housing, Commissioner Lahore, Deputy Commissioner, DG LWMC, Chief Engineer LDA and other concerned officials were also present on the occasion.



LAHORE: Punjab CM Mohsin Naqvi inspecting the under-construction roads in Lahore. The CM ordered immediate completion. - DNA

## Says Nawaz being 'trapped' 'They're contesting Polls for personal gains', says Bilawal

"Neither any player nor anyone else can compete with me in politics," says PPP chief

SAID ALAM KHAN

KOHAT: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has said that he does not have any political rivals as "neither any player nor anyone else" can compete with him in politics. Addressing the party's rally in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kohat district on Sunday, the PPP chief took a veiled jibe at his political opponents, saying that they are contesting elections for their vested interests. On the other hand, the PPP chief said he is contesting polls against his rivals to resolve the issues of the masses. "Someone is fighting elections to get out of jail while someone is fighting to escape from jail," Bilawal said at the rally. He said the PPP does not represent the elite as it is "representative of the workers and poor of the country". "We will bury the traditional politics of division and initiate the politics that aims at serving the masses." The PPP chief also expressed hope that his

Continued on Page 06

## No seat adjustment or alliance in Punjab, says Javed Latif

STAFF REPORT

SHEIKHUPURA: Javed Latif - a die-hard PML-N leader - on Sunday said they had neither formed any alliance nor would go for seat adjustment with any other party in Punjab - a statement which follows reports of the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) finalising a long list of constituencies to get three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif's endorsement. Addressing a ceremony in his hometown, Latif said the PML-N hadn't enjoyed a level-playing field - a term which is part of political debate nowadays because of the PTI's narrative - so far and added that

Continued on Page 06

## Nawaz 'getting favours' before his return: Kaira

The PPP workers have proved that the party's entity is very much existing in KP

GULZAR NOSHI

LALAMUSA: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) senior leader Qamar Zaman Kaira claimed on Sunday that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif was "receiving favours" before his return from London. Speaking to media in Mandi Bahauddin, the PPP stalwart said that no political party should be debarred from politics "forcefully". "Every political party should get the right to stage politics. The PPP and others are complaining about the level-playing field," he added. Speaking about the possibility of seat adjustment with any political party, Kaira said: "The PPP is not going to opt for seat adjustment with any political party." Underscoring the importance of taking the masses on board, he

asserted, "The PPP has never taken anybody's support, but the masses." "It should be up to the courts to deliver verdicts. If anyone has violated the law, then that person should be held accountable in a transparent procedure," Kaira said. Bhutto-Zardari said today that his party was geared up for the upcoming elections, irrespective of whether other political parties were ready or not. Addressing the workers' convention in Kohat, the former foreign minister lashed out at the

Continued on Page 06

DECEMBER 2023

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:

www.centrelines.com.pk  
www.dnanews.com.pk  
www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@PostIslamabad / @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Islamabad POST

11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,  
G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan  
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165



# ICCI, EOI partner to boost SMEs and Start-Ups

ICCI President said that access to finance is a major hurdle for the growth of SMEs and start-ups in Pakistan

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and the Entrepreneurs Organization Islamabad (EOI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to forge a partnership for promoting SMEs and Start-Ups with joint efforts. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Taimur Adil, President, Entrepreneurs Organization Islamabad signed the MoU during a ceremony held at ICCI. Faad Waheed Senior Vice President, Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI, Ahmed Jalal Global Student Entrepreneurs Awards Chair at EO Islamabad Chapter, and others were present on the occasion. By signing the MoU, both organizations pledged to work together to promote the growth of SMEs and start-ups by helping them scale their businesses. Speaking on the

occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that access to finance is a major hurdle for the growth of SMEs and start-ups in Pakistan, therefore, ICCI and EOI would work together with the government authorities to ensure that SMEs and start-ups are ensured easy access to credit so that these businesses could flourish in the country and play an active role in the economic development of the country. He said that both sides would also work together to provide business development support to startups and SMEs including training, mentoring, and coaching on topics such as business planning, marketing, and financial management. It would help startups and SMEs to improve their operations and increase their chances of success. Taimur Adil, President, Entrepreneurs Organization Islamabad said that in the competitive global busi-

ness environment, networking is key for SMEs and startups to achieve better growth. He said that EOI in collaboration with ICCI would provide networking opportunities to startups and SMEs to meet and connect with other entrepreneurs, investors, and industry experts and build relationships for access to new markets. He said that efforts would also be made to provide access to SMEs and startups to innovation resources so that they could develop new products/services and adopt new technologies for better growth. Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that ICCI and EOI should also strongly advocate for policies and programs that support startups and SMEs. Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that easy access to markets can help SMEs and startups to connect with potential customers and both organizations should focus on this area as well.



LALAMUSA: Ch. Ilyas Dhakaranwali hosted a reception in hour of Ch. Shahzad Sarwar Khatana. Ch. Mazhar, Munib Ansari and others also attended the reception. —DNA

## Punjab CM orders crackdown on canal water theft

DNA

LAHORE : On the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, desilting of 1,112 canals of the province will be launched from December 26 which will last until January 20. In this regard all the divisional commissioners have been assigned the task of monitoring the desilting of canals which is being conducted after a gap of ten years.

The Chief Minister while chairing a meeting on Sunday in Lahore directed that the commissioners will remain in the field during the desilting and will supervise all other matters. He instructed that attention should also be paid to the repair of canals along with desilting. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi ordered to take effective measures to check canal water theft. The CM directed that administrative officers should take effective action in their respective districts to address water theft. In the meeting, measures to prevent water theft and desilting programs were reviewed. Additional Chief Secretary, Chairman Planning and Development Board, Secretaries Agriculture, Irrigation, Food, Information, Commissioner Lahore.

## Peshawar welcomes UN Women's 'KoiJawaz Nahi' 16 days campaign

SAID ALAM KHAN

PESHAWAR: The KoiJawazNahi campaign reached Peshawar, bringing its impactful message to the heart of the city marking the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. The event underscored Peshawar's commitment to championing the cause and raising awareness against gender-based violence. Supported by the Government of Japan, this initiative aims to spotlight the persistent challenge of gender-based violence, fostering collective action for prevention and elimination. Muhammad Farooq, Additional Secretary Social Welfare Department, in his welcome speech said, "We are pleased to welcome you at this impactful gathering during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. Today, we stand united, declaring loudly and unequivocally that there is

no excuse for any form of violence. As we embark on this journey to raise awareness and foster change, let our actions become the catalyst for a world where equality and justice prevail". The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is an international civil society-led annual campaign. It commences from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and ends on 10 December, Human Rights Day, indicating that violence against women is the most pervasive breach of human rights worldwide. While addressing the audiences, Nabila Malik, Head of Communications, UN Women Pakistan, stated "Let us embody the spirit of #KoiJawazNahi - no room for silence, no space for excuses and let us remain steadfast in our commitment to creating a world where every woman and girl can live without the

fear of violence. By working together, we can bring a positive change and build a more inclusive and equitable society. I encourage everyone to actively participate, listen, and learn from these 16 Days of Activism". Asif Raza, Directorate of Archaeology & Museums, KP said, "It is both a privilege and a call to action to stand before you during this significant event marking the UN Women's 16 Days of Activism. Today we rally under the powerful hashtag KoiJawazNahi and raise voice against the insidious persistence of gender-based violence. The KoiJawazNahi campaign was launched at Mohenjodaro followed by Quetta and now in Peshawar before culminating in Islamabad. The primary concept behind this initiative involves illuminating historical structures in these cities with orange, accompanied by street theatre performances.

## Food officials recovered 1000 kg substandard meat

DNA

PESHAWAR : Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority raids continue in Peshawar even on a holiday on Sunday. Food safety team conducted operations at Bacha Khan Chowk, Kohat Road and Peshawar Motorway Toll Plaza, a Spokesman of Food Authority told media men here. The food safety team suddenly raided the butchers in Bacha Khan Chowk. The butchers flee from the sight of Butchery, Food Authority Officials, spokesperson said, adding, that the Butchers were selling substandard meat of young calves on the roadside in very poor sanitation conditions. The officials of the food authority recovered more than 1000 kg of meat caught and destroyed it with a case that has been registered against the accused, selling substandard meat. Food safety teams also blockaded Peshawar Toll Plaza and Kohat Road and searched out vehicles to find the culprits involved in selling substandard meat. The spokesman of the Food Authority said that they have inspected milk tankers, fish, honey, chickens and other food items vehicles at Motorway Toll Plaza. He said 100 litres of adulterated and non-standard milk was destroyed and heavy fines were also imposed. DG Halal Food Authority Shafiqullah Khan said they would ensure regular checking of milk tankers at entry points to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from other provinces.

## Punjab health department alerts Nipah virus concern

ABID RAZA

LAHORE : The threat of the onslaught of another dangerous virus called Nipah has started looming throughout Punjab including Lahore. In this regard, the Punjab Department of Health has issued a letter to all the provincial Chief Executive Officers (CEO) while issuing a high alert in view of the possible threat and spread of the Nipah virus and guidelines were also issued in the post.

According to the post of the health department, Nipah was declared as a dangerous virus, with a mortality rate of 74 percent. Nipah virus (NiV) infection is an emerging zoonosis that causes severe disease in both animals and humans and is

endemic in South-East Asia Region. It was initially isolated and identified in 1999 in Malaysia and Singapore during an outbreak of encephalitis and respiratory illness among pig farmers and people with close contact with pigs. In May 2018, confirmed cases of Nipah virus (NiV) infection including fatalities have been reported in the southern state of Kerala, India. As of 25 May 2018, a total of 36 cases including 11 confirmed deaths have been reported.

Infection with Nipah virus is associated with encephalitis. After exposure and an incubation period of 5 to 14 days, illness presents with 3-14 days of fever and headache, muscle pain, nausea and vomiting, followed by drowsiness, disorientation and mental confusion.

According to the WHO, Nipah virus infection in humans causes a range of clinical presentations, from asymptomatic infection (subclinical) to acute respiratory infection and fatal encephalitis. The case fatality rate is estimated at 40% to 75%. This rate can vary by outbreak depending on local capabilities for epidemiological surveillance and clinical management.

Nipah virus can be transmitted to humans from animals (such as bats or pigs), or contaminated foods and can also be transmitted directly from human-to-human. Fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family are the natural host of Nipah virus. There is no treatment or vaccine available for either people or animals. The primary treatment for humans is supportive care.

## CM KP prioritizes fast-track development in merged districts

PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (R) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah has termed the fast track development of newly merged tribal districts as the top most priority of his government, and said that despite financial issues, the caretaker provincial government is not only committed to bring the newly merged areas at par with other developed parts of the province but also taking practical measures to this effect. "The government will go all out to complete ongoing developmental projects and other public welfare activities in the merged areas within the stipulated time lines", he said and added that war against terrorism had badly affected the tribal belt further exacerbating their decades long deprivations; therefore, those people needed special attention for their development and redressal of their deprivations. He said that a complaint cell would soon be established at Chief Minister's House with the purpose to monitor the public services delivery as well as to receive the public complaints about the provincial government's departments and institutions; immediate action would be taken to redress the public grievances and negligent officials would be held accountable. Any negligence and inefficiency in the official duty especially in public service delivery will not be tolerated at any cost. These views, he expressed while addressing the 20th Annual Scholarships and Awards Distribution Ceremony organized by the WANA Welfare Association here at the Institute of Management Sciences, Peshawar on Saturday. He paid rich tribute to welfare activities of the association especially its efforts in promoting education in WANA and other parts of merged districts and said that undoubtedly, serving humanity was a noble deed, and the manner in which WANA Welfare Association has undertaken the welfare of the vulnerable segments of the society at its own expense, was truly admirable. The Chief Minister said that the provincial government was also fully committed to the wellbeing of the people of merged districts, and was working practically for this purpose. He made it clear that the provincial government was going to launch "Khushal Khyber Pakhtunkhwa" program very soon, under which special attention will be given to the merged districts. Similarly, under the provincial government's Human Resource Export Strategy, youth of the province especially of merged areas would be imparted with IT-based courses as per demands of the modern market so as to enable them to have better job opportunities abroad. Our ultimate goal is to empower the youth economically as well as enable them to play their role as responsible citizen in the national development and prosperity, he remarked. On this occasion, the Chief Minister expressed his commitment to take pragmatic steps to deal with the situation arising due to lowering of the underground water table in WANA, saying that he would personally visit WANA to review the situation. He directed the concerned government authorities to immediately start survey in order to determine the water issues in WANA so that practical steps could be initiated without any delay. On this occasion, the chief minister also appealed to the tribal people and social organizations to play their role in the anti-polio campaign in their respective areas. He regretted that unfortunately, some elements were trying to use polio as a tool against the government.—DNA

## Aesthetic association formally launched

The inauguration ceremony concluded with the presentation of commemorative shields to the esteemed guests

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Aesthetic Physicians Association of Pakistan (AAPP) marked its official inauguration at a local hotel in Rawalpindi. The ceremony was attended by chief guest Mishal Hussain Malik, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Human Rights, along with dignitaries including Shahzad Ali Khan from Vice Chancellor Health University, and Dr. Anis Ahmed from Vice Chancellor Riphah International University. The event also saw the presence of Dr. Samina Mohsin, President of the AAPP, and Dr. Shumaila A. Khan, General Secretary, along with numerous acclaimed aesthetic experts from across the country. During her welcome speech, Dr. Samina Mohsin introduced the distinguished

guests and showcased a documentary focusing on aesthetic physicians and medicine. Dr. Samina underscored the historical significance of beauty, highlighting that aesthetic medicine is gaining global recognition as a unique blend of art and

science, distinct from traditional beauty parlors and salons. She further noted that, over the past year, the Association, in collaboration with various vice-chancellors, has successfully introduced certification, diploma, and master's degree programs

in educational institutions. Dr. Samina emphasized the need for policymakers to prioritize the field and encouraged Pakistani youth to consider pursuing careers in aesthetic medicine. Addressing the audience, Mishal Hussain Malik ex-

pressed that this moment is a historic milestone for the intersection of aesthetics and medical science in Pakistan. She lauded the establishment of the first Aesthetic Association in Pakistan as a source of national pride, acknowledging the challenges inherent in aesthetic medicine and extending congratulations to the organizers. Shahzad Ali Khan, Vice-Chancellor of Health Services Academy, stressed the importance of aesthetic art and cautioned against blindly adopting Western ideals. Dr. Anis Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor of Riphah International University, emphasized the significance of aesthetic art, noting that everything created by Allah is inherently beautiful. The inauguration ceremony concluded with the presentation of commemorative shields to the esteemed guests.



ANYONE WHO'S SOMEONE...  
reads Centreline

MEMBERBAPS Monthly ABC CENTRELINE  
Largest Diplomatic Magazine

www.dnaneus.com.pk, www.centreline.com.pk

## 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

# Kenya, Pak enjoy excellent relations: HC

Bilateral relations between the two countries are largely dominated by Trade and Investment worth USD 768m of exports and imports traded between the two countries in 1022

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Kenya Ms. M Nyambura Kamau, has said Kenya and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan enjoy warm, cordial, and diplomatic relations dating back to 1964 when the Islamic Republic of Pakistan opened High Commission in Nairobi and the Republic of Kenya reciprocated by opening its High Commission in Islamabad In 1984. She expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of the National Day of Kenya. Bilateral relations between the two countries are largely dominated by Trade and Investment worth USD 768m of exports and imports traded between the two countries in 1022. The main products traded are Tea exports to Pakistan and Rice exports to Kenya. Kenya and Pakistan share more than



just Trade and investment but also collaborate in the multilateral arena, defense, technology, and education. However, there is significant progress in unlocking more trade goods and investment opportunities in the areas of health, manufacturing, Agriculture, Technology, education, and tourism among others. She said, Kenya is progressively working with the Government of Pakistan to explore possibilities of expanding the portfolio of

traded goods between the two countries. Kenya's top exports, other than tea, include cut flowers, horticultural products, coffee, fruits, and legumes among others. As we celebrate this significant milestone, we realize that the growth we have achieved over the years is owed to the cooperation with our friends globally including the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Kenya is a member of the East African Community which is a customs union of 7 member states including in Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Sudan, and Burundi with a population of about 300 million people. Kenya is also a member of the African Union with 54 Member states with a population of 1.4 billion people. Kenya strives to open its borders to other markets in Africa and beyond.

# Urea's disappearance from the market is unfortunate

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: FPCCI's presidential candidate, Atif Ikram Sheikh, said on Sunday it is regrettable that urea has vanished from the marketplace. The artificial scarcity of urea will affect millions of farmers and agricultural and industrial production. He said those pushing the nation toward a food security crisis for quick profit should be held

accountable as they play with the country's future. Atif Ikram Sheikh, who has also served as VP FPCCI, Chairman PVMA, and President ICCI, said that the hoarders are increasing the problems of millions of farmers for profit. He demanded that immediate action should be taken against the hoarders and profiteers to save millions of farmers. The business leader informed that every year, as soon as the wheat culti-

vation season begins, urea fertilizer disappears from the market, and the farmers have to buy it from the black market at high prices. He said that due to the high cost of urea, its use is reduced, which affects production, and the government has to spend a lot of foreign exchange to import wheat. Now, he warned that farmers are protesting all over the country, and the food security situation is feared to be affected.



ISLAMABAD: Santa Claus interacts with guests during the Christmas tree lighting ceremony at Islamabad Serena Hotel.—DNA

## COMSTECH-Mauritania S&T cooperation program announced

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH-the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation in collaboration with the National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation, Mauritania has announced COMSTECH-Mauritania Science and Technology Program to strengthen the ties and build scientific capacity in Mauritania. Since COMSTECH shares a long-standing brotherly relationship with Mauritania and this Joint Science and Technology Capacity Building Program will help further strengthen the ties with the country. Under the COMSTECH-Mauritania Program, Research Fellowships will be offered to young researchers and early stage scientists/engineers in Mauritania to enable them to spend six months at a relevant center of excellence in many listed institutions of OIC member states, especially Pakistan.—APP

## Action against illegal commercial use of residential buildings

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) is soon going to start action against unauthorized commercial use of residential buildings in Sectors G-13 and G-14 of the federal capital. "In this regard, the authority has already issued notices to the owners of illegal and unauthorized use of residential properties for commercial purposes in the sectors," sources in the FGEHA told APP. As per the Islamabad Capital Territory Building Control Regulation 2020, they said, "FGEHA has decided to take legal action against property owners involved in unlawful or unauthorized commercial use of residential buildings in the sectors." The sources said, "The relevant authority has issued formal show-cause notices and warnings to them to immediately cease non-conforming use of residential buildings." Moreover, they said, "The authority has cautioned the property owners that failure to comply the orders would result in a fine of Rs. 500,000 in addition to sealing such properties." They informed, "As many as 80 residential buildings in these sectors have been identified as in unauthorized and illegal commercial use, including various offices, schools, guest houses, beauty parlors, hostels, property offices, furniture showrooms, and others." "The authority had initially issued notices in March 2023 regarding illegal commercial use of residential buildings. However, another warning has now been issued, emphasizing the immediate halt of commercial use in residential areas," they added. The sources said, "The authority is set to initiate definitive actions against violators to ensure compliance with regulations.—APP

## Disbursement of quarterly tranche of BISP

ISLAMABAD: The disbursement of the quarterly tranche (October-December) of Benazir Kafalat cash assistance to beneficiaries is continuing smoothly across the country. According to an official source, the payment process has already commenced across the country, including Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan simultaneously. The payment of Rs 8,500 per household is being disbursed among around nine million registered beneficiary families. The beneficiaries, in case of any complaint, can approach the nearest BISP Tehsil offices or call the toll-free helpline number 080026477 of the Benazir Income Support Program. The special control room has been activated in the BISP headquarters to address the complaints of the beneficiaries promptly. Chairperson, BISP, Dr Muhammad Amjad Saqib, has directed the official to ensure the smooth disbursement of Kafalat payments to the women respectfully without any deductions.—APP

## Punctuality of trains reached 93 pc

ISLAMABAD: The overall punctuality ratio of trains has improved from 76 to 93 percent in three months owing to close monitoring and stern measures taken by Pakistan Railways at the divisional and ministry levels. "With the punctuality of trains and concrete measures taken by the department in last three months, the number of passengers has increased by over 20 million, which is ample proof of the department's achievement," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. He said, "Pakistan Railways is also set to introduce the 'Train Driver Assistant System' (TDAS) to help train drivers a clear view of the railway tracks up to an impressive distance of 700 meters."

## Inefficiencies in energy sector drive inflation: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Energy prices play a major role in determining the inflation level in Pakistan. However, rising inefficiencies in the energy sector are pushing up general prices, thereby underscoring the need for reforms in the sector. Talking to WealthPK, Liaqat Ali Shah, Executive Director of CPEC Centre of Excellence, Peshawar, said that the high expenses associated with energy production in the country due to inefficiencies were responsible for numerous economic challenges, notably inflation. As mentioned by the latest economic survey, the headline inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), was recorded at 28.2% during the July-April period of the financial year ending on June 30, 2023, as against 11% over the same period of the previous fiscal.—DNA

# پاکستان ایئر فورس

## میں بحیثیت سولین اسٹاف شمولیت اختیار کرنے کا سنہری موقع

### آن لائن رجسٹریشن 11 تا 15 دسمبر 2023

ٹیسٹ کمپیوٹرائزڈ ہونے کی وجہ سے امیدواران کو کمپیوٹر کا بنیادی استعمال جانتا ضروری ہے۔

www.joinpaf.gov.pk

مندرجہ ذیل خالی اسامیوں کے لیے پاکستانی قومیت کے حامل مرد متعلقہ پی ایس ایف انفارمیشن اینڈ سلیکشن سینٹر زاور ہماری ویب سائٹ www.joinpaf.gov.pk پر online گھرنیے رجسٹریشن کر سکتے ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	اسامیوں	پے سکیل	اسامیوں کی تعداد	تعلیمی قابلیت اور تجربہ	15 اپریل 2024
1.	خطیب	15	میٹ: 01 : پنجاب 01 : سندھ (رول) 01 : خیبر پختونخواہ	انٹرمیڈیٹ، کسی بھی رجسٹرڈ اور اعلیٰ سطح سے فاضل درس نظامی (شہادت العالیہ) اور حافظ قرآن	25 تا 18 سال
2.	مؤذن	07	میٹ: 01 : پنجاب 01 : سندھ (رول) 01 : خیبر پختونخواہ	مڈل پاس اور حافظ قرآن و قاری	30 تا 18 سال

**سلیکشن کا طریقہ کار**

- ✓ پی ایس ایف کی ویب سائٹ پر آن لائن رجسٹریشن۔
- ✓ سلیکشن سینٹر پر خطیب کیلئے کمپیوٹرائزڈ ڈیٹا کا استعمال اور مؤذن کیلئے ابتدائی انٹرویو۔
- ✓ اینٹری کارڈز پیشکش ہونے کے بعد رجسٹرڈ ہونے۔
- ✓ فائنل سلیکشن ہونے کے بعد رجسٹرڈ اور صوبائی کوئی بنیادی پیکر جانگی۔
- ✓ منتخب امیدواران کا خطی معاہدہ۔ فٹ اور کامیاب امیدواران کی ضرورت کے مطابق ٹک کے کسی بھی PAF میں رجسٹرڈ کیا جاسکتا ہے۔

**عمومی معلومات**

- ✓ تمام اسامیوں کیلئے عمر کی بالائی حد میں مزید پانچ سال کی رعایت دی جائیگی۔
- ✓ تمام سرکاری اور غیر سرکاری اداروں میں کام کرنے والے خواہشمند امیدواران اور مؤذنین کے رجسٹرڈ ڈیٹا میں اپنے منگے NOC اور چال چلن ٹھیکیت جو کہ موجودہ ہیڈ آف ڈیپارٹمنٹ سے حفظ شدہ ہو، لازماً ہمراہ لائیں۔
- ✓ پی ایس ایف ہاؤسنگ اور رجسٹرڈ ایڈمزیشن سروس کے لیے رجسٹریشن نوٹ: دو امیدواران کے کاغذات جملہ ہوں ان کو ٹیسٹ میں بیٹنے کے وقت اپنے والد کے ہاتھ کا امراء لائی کرنا ہے بعد میں امراء جانیں کیا جائیگی۔
- ✓ پی ایس ایف ہاؤسنگ کے لیے رجسٹرڈ ہونے والے امیدواران کو کسی بھی ایک ذریعہ کے ذریعے PAF رجسٹریشن اینڈ سلیکشن سینٹر میں رجسٹریشن کے لئے تشریف لائیں۔

081-9201753 : فون	☆ کونڈ : جموں، جناح روڈ	021-99240999 : فون	☆ کراچی : مین شاہراہ فیصل، نزدیکی ایس ایف	0992-385157 : فون	☆ ایبٹ آباد : 310 نزدیکی بی بی ٹی ٹیکسٹائل
0304-8220054 : فون	☆ سکھر : جنٹلمن روڈ، ہاتھ پائی اسلام آباد	021-34570222 : فون	☆ لاہور : 14- سیریز روڈ، پیمبر چوک، نزدیکی ایس ایف	0992-385166 : فون	☆ ہسٹورڈ : 310 نزدیکی بی بی ٹی ٹیکسٹائل
071-9310409 : فون	☆ فیصل آباد : فیصل آباد، ہاتھ پائی اسلام آباد	042-99220084 : فون	☆ سکس : 14- سیریز روڈ، پیمبر چوک، نزدیکی ایس ایف	041-9201199 : فون	☆ فیصل آباد : مین جیگ روڈ، نزدیکی ایئر پورٹ چوک
071-5624515 : فون	☆ فیصل آباد : فیصل آباد، ہاتھ پائی اسلام آباد	36671041-43 : فون	☆ سکس : 14- سیریز روڈ، پیمبر چوک، نزدیکی ایس ایف	022-9200936 : فون	☆ حیدرآباد : 49 صلاح اللہ، ریلوے روڈ، کینٹ
0969-9280311 : فون	☆ فیصل آباد : فیصل آباد، ہاتھ پائی اسلام آباد	061-9201183 : فون	☆ سکس : 14- سیریز روڈ، پیمبر چوک، نزدیکی ایس ایف	022-2780949 : فون	☆ راولپنڈی : 3 دی، مال روڈ، کینٹ
0459-350226 : فون	☆ فیصل آباد : فیصل آباد، ہاتھ پائی اسلام آباد	061-92017951 : فون	☆ سکس : 14- سیریز روڈ، پیمبر چوک، نزدیکی ایس ایف	051-5701143 : فون	☆ راولپنڈی : 3 دی، مال روڈ، کینٹ
05811-930088 : فون	☆ فیصل آباد : فیصل آباد، ہاتھ پائی اسلام آباد	091-9210829 : فون	☆ سکس : 14- سیریز روڈ، پیمبر چوک، نزدیکی ایس ایف	5701257-58 : فون	☆ فیصل آباد : AFIC
		0344-0969323 : فون	☆ سکس : 14- سیریز روڈ، پیمبر چوک، نزدیکی ایس ایف		

**پاکستان ایئر فورس قوم کا سرمایہ، افتخار**

www.joinpaf.gov.pk

## Briefs

**Documented economy imperative to curb Corruption: Dr. Ashfaq**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prominent economist and Director General of NUST Institute of Policy Studies (NIPS) Dr. Ashfaq Hasan said that documented economy is imperative to curb corruption. It is the responsibility of every citizen to get registered in the taxation system so that they can get welfare benefits from the State. He was speaking as a key-note speaker at a seminar held here at NAB Headquarters. Dr. Ashfaq Hasan stated that people within informal unregistered economy remain poor as they have no access to banking incentives including loans. He emphasized that incentivizing the tax system will yield more benefits than punitive measures. In the occasion, Chairman NAB, Lt. Gen. (R) Nazir Ahmed has said that a sole institution cannot eradicate corruption and this menace can only be defeated through collective efforts of all stakeholders. He reiterated that National Accountability Bureau (NAB) will ensure that every act of corruption is met with consequences. Chairman NAB stated that documentation of economy will most certainly help the country and will substantially curb corruption. He said that NAB remains committed to the obligations of United Nations' Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). Country Representative of United Nations' Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC) Pakistan Mr. Jeremy Milsom, attended the event as guest speaker. He read the message of the UN Secretary General. Earlier, Director General, Awareness & Prevention (A&P) Division, NAB Headquarters Mr. Nauman Aslam briefed about the importance of commemorating the Anti-Corruption Day and the role of A&P Division in creating awareness about adverse impacts of corruption.

**Int'l Human Rights Day being marked**

ISLAMABAD: World Human Rights Day is being observed in Pakistan on Sunday like other parts of the globe to highlight fundamental rights of all human beings. The theme for this year's day is 'freedom, equality and justice for all'. World Human Rights Day aims to raise awareness and encourage action to uphold human rights globally. It is observed annually to commemorate the adoption and proclamation of the universal declaration of human rights by the united nations general assembly on December 10, 1948. This year marks the 75th anniversary of one of the world's most groundbreaking global pledges: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). This landmark document enshrines the inalienable rights that everyone is entitled to as a human being - regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

**Commerce Minister's visit to foster Sino-Pak economic ties**

ISLAMABAD In a bid to enhance bilateral trade and economic cooperation, Federal Minister of Commerce Dr. Gohar Ejaz has embarked on a visit to China, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Sunday. The visit aims to foster stronger ties between the two nations and explore opportunities for mutual economic growth. During the visit, the Commerce Minister is expected to engage in high-level discussions with his Chinese counterparts, focusing on trade policies, investment opportunities, and collaborative initiatives. Both countries are keen on expanding their economic partnership, and this visit is anticipated to be a significant step towards achieving that goal.—DNA

# NAB working zealously to curb corruption: DG

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan said that one of the reasons for the spread of corruption is that people don't hate corruption

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) observed the International Anti-Corruption Day. DG NAB Mirza Muhammad Irfan Baig was the chief guest. Director NAB Capt. (Retd) Muhammad Faheem Qureshi and other officers were also present on the occasion. A large number of the business community attended the event. Speaking on the occasion, Mirza Muhammad Irfan Baig, Director General NAB said that his institution is working on a three-pronged strategy to curb corruption in Pakistan. It includes creating better awareness among the people about the harmful effects of corruption, taking preventive measures against corruption, and improving the NAB laws to ensure their strong enforcement. He said that the situation of corruption in Pakistan is not as bad as it is highlighted. The majority of officers in Pakistan want to avoid corruption, while a few officers benefit from it. As a whole, Pakistani society is not corrupt, which is promising. He said that the corruption of a Hindu Seth in the battle of Plassey enabled the British to rule over the sub-continent for 200 years, which shows the extent of its ill effects. He said that NAB is reaching out to the students, teachers, members of the business community, and civil society to sensitize them



about corruption. Messages on anti-corruption were delivered in the sermons of last Friday prayers across the country. He said that necessary amendments are being made to the Cooperative Act to eliminate corruption in private housing societies. He resolved that NAB will continue to work with all stakeholders to eliminate corruption from the society. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that corruption always keeps countries underdeveloped, so corruption

has to be eradicated to make Pakistan a developed, prosperous, and great country. He urged the business community to always discourage speed money. Societies invested in corruption cannot attract investment, so to make Pakistan an attractive country for investment, corruption must be eradicated. He said that together with NAB, ICCI is ready to start a campaign against corruption from Islamabad, which can be extended to other parts of the country later on. He assured that ICCI will cooperate with NAB to end corruption from society.

Capt. (Retd) Muhammad Faheem Qureshi, Director NAB said that it is easy to criticize NAB, but this agency has collected 600 to 800 billion rupees and deposited it in the national treasury. NAB will continue its efforts to eradicate corruption from society for which it needs the support of all stakeholders. Engr. Azharul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that if society boycotts corrupt people, it can be discouraged in the country. He said that more seminars and awareness programs should be organized to sensitize society about the harmful

consequences of corruption. Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan said that one of the reasons for the spread of corruption is that people don't hate corruption. He said that the development and prosperity of Pakistan is related to the elimination of corruption, so NAB should conduct awareness campaigns about corruption in collaboration with the important chambers of commerce of the country to eliminate it from society and put Pakistan on the path of rapid development.—DNA

**Stock market boom is pointing toward economic stability**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Sunday that the boom in the stock market is a good sign of the stability of the economy. He said that tax, energy, and agricultural sectors should be prioritized to increase the speed of economic stability. Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that incentives, government expenditure, and tax on the industrial sector should be reduced. In contrast, taxes on agricultural income and the wholesale, retail, and real estate sectors should be increased to improve the economy. The loss-making government institutions should be sold; taxes should be increased on the rich and reduced on the poor for an economic turnaround. The business leader noted that the government had taken several measures showing positive effects, including control of smuggling, speculation, and other shady businesses. However, he said, the fertilizer mafia's activities are on the rise, which amounts to playing with the lives of millions of farmers and the country's food security.

## QAU moot highlights need to adopt Islamic economics

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: While Islamic finance has garnered attention in recent years, the true potential lies in developing a comprehensive Islamic economic framework that can uplift Pakistan's socio-economic landscape by nurturing Islamic social finance and fostering holistic growth. Islamic teachings, rooted in principles aligned with sustainable development goals (SDGs) such as poverty alleviation, equitable growth, and sustainable economic development, offer a comprehensive blueprint for progress. This was observed by eminent economics experts and practitioners who participated in the one-day hybrid '1st International Islamic Economics and Development Conference' organized by the School of Economics (SoE) De-

partment at Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) in collaboration with the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad with the theme 'From Islamic Finance to Islamic Economy.' A number of papers covering a diverse range of topics were also presented at the conference. The participants included Justice Dr Syed Muhammad Anwer, judge Federal Shariat Court, Dr Muhammad Amjad Saqib, founder, Akhuwat Foundation, Saleem Ahmad Ranjha, founding director Akhuwat Foundation, Zafar-ul-Hassan Almas, joint chief economist, Planning Commission, Dr Ridwan Bakar, chief executive officer, Yayasan Waqaf Malaysia, Dr Niaz Ahmad Akhtar, vice chancellor QAU, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, Dr Muhammad Idrees, dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, QAU, Dr Muham-

mad Tariq Majeed, conference chair and director, SoE, QAU, Dr Muhammad Salman Shaikh, associate professor, Szabist University, and Prof. Anwar Shah, SoE, QAU, among others. The speakers emphasized that transitioning to an Islamic economy requires a multidimensional approach. Incorporating elements from Islamic teachings and leveraging indigenous models is imperative for sustainable and inclusive development. The reorientation of the economy should extend beyond finance to encompass production, consumption, and distribution systems in resonance with Islamic principles. Justice Muhammad Anwer highlighted that Islamic social finance is a complete alternate economy, which is staggering in size. Regarding the transition from Islamic finance to an integrated Islamic economy,

he said it demands a paradigm shift in the mindset of stakeholders. This not only necessitates a focus on technicalities but must also overcome institutional inertia and reluctance. He said since 2013, the IMF has been inclusive towards Islamic banking and finance while China is also favorable in this regard. However, the relevant Pakistani institutions do not want to leave their comfort zone. He said that embracing Islamic economic principles, especially in sectors like banking, requires a gradual yet steadfast approach, and lessons can be drawn from successful models in countries like Malaysia and Indonesia. The speakers observed that Islamic teachings offer indigenous solutions that resonate with the country's socio-cultural fabric contrary to Western economic paradigms.

## Puppet shows "Bachpan Nagar ka Qissa" at PNCA

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) has organized two days special puppet show to create awareness on child protection, mental health and climate change. National Puppet Theatre is presenting message oriented puppet shows since last four decades to keep alive and promote traditional puppetry on one side and create awareness on various social issues and their solutions on the other side. Three new puppet stories with beautiful music, artistic set and props, animated colorful back projection on rod puppets have been presented by National Puppet Theatre & Children Art Workshop of Pakistan National Council of the Arts in collaboration with Secour Islamique France (S.I.F). Secour Islamique France (S.I.F) is working in Pakistan since 2010 in field of hygiene, sanitation, provision of clean water, food security and children's rights. S.I.F is working in less developed areas for orphan children and their mothers. Mr. Altaf Abro, Head of Mission of S.I.F. took initiative in 2021 to create awareness on social issues through puppetry in collaboration with PNCA. Since then PNCA and S.I.F has presented theme based puppet shows for children and elders to enlighten them over collective responsibility of financially sound families to help those who are deprived of financial and basic necessities of life, importance of education for girls and boys equally, ways to earn livelihood through small level business, skilled works and entrepreneurship. This year, PNCA and S.I.F have decided to present special stories on the current era's challenging issues which include alarming increase in child abduction, rape and killing cases, rise in mental diseases and climate change. Before presenting the puppet show, panel discussion on child protection were held wherein the guest speakers Muhammad Ayoub Jamali, Director General and Ms. Shabana Ashraf, Dy. Director PNCA discussed the role of PNCA in bringing awareness on social issues through various art forms including puppetry. Mr. Jamali suggested to work in close liaison with various government organizations, NGOs and INGOs established for child protection. He expressed his great concern over the rising ratio of child abuses and non reporting such cases by the parents and victims. Ms. Shabana Dy. Director, PNCA emphasized on need to realize effective role of art and culture in shaping the society, enlightening masses over the social issues and their solutions through puppetry, stage plays, exhibitions and workshops. Mr. Imtiaz Khalid Soomro, Guest Speaker from SAHIL has discussed the relevant law provisions for child protection and criminal clauses and sentences in laws for addressal of grievances of the victims. He informed even law provides remedy for bad touch. Ms. Rabia Haider, Director General of Child Protection Institute (CPI) discussed the ways to create awareness on the issue.

## Capital Police launches campaign to ensure pedestrians' rights

He said that this operation would be extended to the other areas of Islamabad and smooth traffic flow to be ensured

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police has launched a campaign against those involved in parking their vehicles wrongly and creating problems in smooth flow of traffic by occupying footpath areas. Following the directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Cap-

ital Police has launched this campaign and Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad is monitoring it. The CTO Islamabad has directed all Zonal DSPs to ensure implementation of traffic laws and take action against those involved in creating problems for traffic discipline in the city. The CTO Islamabad said that it is the right of pedestrians to use footpaths and no parking would be allowed there. He

said that vehicles should be parked at lots specified at shopping centers while awareness campaigns should be launched to educate citizens. Action was taken against showroom and shopping malls' administrators in G-11 Markaz, F-10, F-11, G-8, G-9, I-8 Markaz, Blue area, Bahria Town, Jinnah Super Market, F-6 Super Market, Aabpara and Bhara Kahu markets. Vehicles

were removed from footpath areas and they were warned to follow rules otherwise strict action would be initiated against them. During the ongoing Year, the Islamabad Capital Police also issued 12,819 fine tickets to those involved in wrong parking while several vehicles were impounded at police stations for not vacating footpath areas. The CTO Islamabad said that it is our top priority to ensure convenience for road users by maintaining traffic discipline and every possible effort would be made for the purpose. He said that squads have been constituted for the purpose of removing illegal parking and vacating footpaths while indiscriminate action would be taken against violators. He said that this operation would be extended to the other areas of Islamabad and smooth traffic flow to be ensured.



ISLAMABAD: Visitors taking interest in paintings on the occasion of 75 years of Netherlands - Pakistan relations.—DNA

**WHERE EACH STITCH IS WATCHED**

**MOST EXPERIENCED MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTERS OF MARTIAL ARTS UNIFORMS IN PAKISTAN**

JUDO  
KARATE  
KUNG-FU  
JU-JITSU  
TAEKWONDO  
UNIFORMS AND COLOURED BELTS

ASHRAF INDUSTRIES (PVT) LTD  
127 C, Industrial Estate  
Shahd-51340, Pakistan  
Phones: +92-51-3258000 / 3255788  
E-mail: info@ashraf.net.pk

**Ashraf**

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 05 Issue: 56

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off 11: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad

## Call election: Sunak's purpose questioned

Another week, another crisis in the Conservative party. This time, it was prompted by the resignation of the immigration minister, Robert Jenrick, who claimed that Rishi Sunak's emergency legislation to enact his plan to fly asylum seekers to Rwanda was a "triumph of hope over experience". Rival Tory factions reportedly spent the rest of the week plotting opposing amendments to the bill for when it is introduced to the Commons on Tuesday. It is the latest manifestation of the weakness of a government riven by internal division, led by a prime minister with no strategic purpose save holding his party and his premiership together. This is a crisis of Sunak's own making. He is an unelected prime minister with no mandate, no coherent agenda and no answer to the profound challenges facing the country, from sluggish productivity and poor growth, to the dire state of social care, to the climate crisis. Devoid of substance, and fearful of the country's likely verdict on his party's increasingly wretched period in office, he is determined to make reducing migration a key election battleground. There are two aspects to this: first, record net migration levels are the product of Sunak's own policies. Migration is high mainly because after Brexit, the government significantly liberalised the migration regime for people coming to work in the UK on skilled worker visas, reducing salary thresholds and skill requirements, particularly for shortage jobs such as care work. Four in 10 skilled worker visas now go to care workers; six in 10 to workers in the health sector more broadly. Instead of investing in the skills, qualification levels and pay of the domestic health and social care workforce to reduce staff shortages, the government is simply looking to reverse its own policy and make it harder for people to come here to fill those gaps; last week, the home secretary James Cleverly announced the government will significantly increase the minimum salary threshold for skilled worker visas, with the exemption of those for health and social care, prevent people coming to the UK to work in health and social care from bringing their children with them, and also, significantly, double the minimum income that British citizens need to earn in order to sponsor their spouses or children for family visas. These policies will depress net migration, but at what human cost? None of this gets to the heart of the British economy's fundamental problems: medium-term skill shortages but also an ageing population that, in the long run, creates a choice between higher tax rates for working-age citizens or expanding the working population through migration. This is a rotten government led by a prime minister wholly unsuited to confronting the huge challenges we face. The second thrust of Sunak's migration agenda addresses asylum seekers: Sunak has pledged to "stop" the small boats carrying people across the Channel to claim refuge in the UK. These movements are notoriously difficult to prevent; if he was really interested in reducing the tragic loss of life in the Channel, he could try to negotiate a returns agreement with France in exchange for taking an agreed number of their asylum seekers.



## Visit elevates neighbors' ties to new high

President Xi Jinping's visit to Vietnam from Tuesday to Wednesday is expected to further promote mutually beneficial cooperation between the two neighbors and strengthen the bond between them as they seek to cultivate and build on their traditional friendship of "comrades and brothers". Despite the United States' attempts to drive a wedge between the two countries, under the strategic guidance of their respective leaders, China and Vietnam are not only cherishing their traditional friendship but seeking to raise their relations to new heights. In doing so, they can help promote regional peace and stability, which are threatened by the disruptive attentions of the US and some of its allies. President Xi has repeatedly stressed the importance of not allowing any country to interfere with the cause of regional unity and pursuit of shared prosperity, and of not letting any force have a chance to sow discord in the region and sabotage the peace and stability that is essential for the region's continued dynamism. The development causes of both countries have entered a critical stage, and both countries are striving to achieve their respective modernization goals. By helping each other explore their respective modernization paths, they can continue to consolidate mutual trust and work together to share their development dividends. By continuously deepening their economic, trade, investment and infrastructure construction cooperation, the two countries have reaped mutual benefits. China has been Vietnam's largest trading partner for many consecutive years, and Vietnam is China's largest trading partner among the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. In 2022, the bilateral trade volume was \$234.92 billion. There is great potential to be tapped by promoting connectivity between the two countries, and giving full play to their geographical proximity and complementary industrial advantages to jointly establish a stable and resilient production and supply chain system. It is anticipated that President Xi's visit will help to further strengthen the alignment between the two countries' development projects, strategies and initiatives. The traditional friendship between the two countries has withstood the tests of history and the vicissitudes of the present day, providing inexhaustible impetus for the development of bilateral relations. The increasingly active and close exchanges between the two peoples have continuously strengthened the bonds of friendship, laying a solid foundation for the development of closer bilateral ties. This year marks the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the two countries' comprehensive strategic partnership, and the two neighbors are poised to open a new chapter in their relations.

## Is Israel losing the war against Hamas?

Qamar Bashir



This ongoing crisis is exacerbating the already dire humanitarian situation for the 2.3 million affected individuals.

But the question is how many Hamas, Hizb and Houthis fighters have been neutralized so far?. The answer is almost negligible, whereas an unprecedented 418 armed to the teeth Israeli soldiers have been killed by Hamas resistance.

In fact, laden with protective gears, having the world's finest and most powerful airforce at their beck and call, world's most feared spies

The situation in the conflict between Israel and Palestinians has resulted in a tragic loss of life and a humanitarian crisis. The violence has led to the deaths of 17500 and wounding of 46,000 innocent civilians, including children, elderly individuals, women, and unarmed young people. A significant number of Palestinians have been displaced, lacking access to essential necessities like food, water, medical assistance, fuel, and secure shelter. This ongoing crisis is exacerbating the already dire humanitarian situation for the 2.3 million affected individuals. But the question is how many Hamas, Hizb and Houthis fighters have been neutralized so far?. The answer is almost negligible, whereas an unprecedented 418 armed to the teeth Israeli soldiers have been killed by Hamas resistance. In fact, laden with protective gears, having the world's finest and most powerful airforce at their beck and call, world's most feared spies agencies on their back, the world's most sophisticated military technology at their disposal have failed to make any dent into the prowess of Hamas, Hezbollah or Houthis which prompted the French President Emmanuel Macron to say that if Israel continue to pursue its war mongering policies in Palestine, the war would go as far as for ten years without any end in sight and added that Israel has erred to set the target to continue war until Hamas's military capabilities are eliminated, and said that it will take longer than Western societies are prepared to accept, longer than what their leaders, and above all U.S. President Joe Biden, a close friend of Israel, is willing to tolerate it. Did Israel achieve its prime objective of securing the release of hostages?. Answer is a big No. Israel has miserably failed to liberate even a single hostage by the combined forces and might of world dreaded Israeli Mossad, USA's CIA and UK IM-6 and India infamous Raw agencies. They failed to get even a slightest trail of the whereabouts of the hostages and all their reconnaissance apparatus were blunted completely. Instead the indiscriminate aerial bombing by Israeli air force, guns and tanks on the civilian targets put the lives of the hostages in greater danger than the threat imposed by Hamas. Has Israel succeeded in stopping the missiles attack by Hamas, Hezbollah attacks from the north and Houthis attack from the south on Israeli cities and settlements?. The reply is a big No. Have Israel neutralized the threat of full scale attacks from Iran?. The answer is a big No. Hezbollah's arsenal includes roughly 150,000 offensive rockets and missiles, including ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and drones. Its weapons have been employed to a limited degree since Oct. 7, but in full force they could be catastrophic. Direct conflict with Iran would be equally or more catastrophic for Israel. Iran has a highly sophisticated stockpile of short-, medium-, and long-range missiles capable of delivering nuclear warheads to Israel and beyond. Its program poses a threat to both Israel and other American allies. The new kinds of indigenous missiles used by the Hizb and

Hamas have broken the formidable "Iron Dome" air defense system and have successfully been hitting the intended targets. Have Israel won the media war?. A big No. Even Israel's own media, US, UK and the media of almost the entire world disapproved of the senseless, brute inhumane and insensitive killing spree by the Israeli air force which completely dominates the skies of Gaza and West Bank without any resistance. Even the obvious, highly calibrated and biased coverage and reporting by US and European media could not stop the turning of the public opinions in US and European countries against Israel's insensible war crimes against unarmed civilians. The demonstrators in huge numbers around the world are expressing their solidarity with the Palestinian People and condemning Israel's war on Gaza and calling for a permanent ceasefire. Large scale protests were held New York, London, Paris, Manila, Tunis, Tehran, Karachi, Beirut, Harare, Tokyo, Stockholm, Johannesburg, Quezon City, Milan and elsewhere putting pressure on their respective government to change their rhetoric and condemn Israel's senseless killing spree and support and aid of Palestinians stressed civilians, and to pursue permanent peace by implementing UN Resolution 181, passed by the UN General Assembly in 1947 calling for partition of Palestine into two states. The world leaders with a view to pacify their agitated publics which are appalled by the horrific images and videos coming out of Gaza in large number depicting the horror inflicted upon civilians especially children are now calling upon Israel to offer a political horizon for the end of the military campaign, announce the beginning of talks with the Palestinian Authority based on a two-state solution-offering stability, cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians, and cooperation between Israel and the moderate Arab states within the framework of the Arab League peace initiative. Did Israeli justification for attacking hospitals, refugee camps, offices and storage facilities of international organizations as hideouts of Hamas proven right?. The Big reply is No. The Israeli occupying soldiers had nothing to offer after the capturing of Al Shifa Hospital but to stage only a few army boots, a few rounds of ammunition and some outdated rifles of almost no significance as a proof of using hospitals as hideouts by Hamas. This proved Israel and its master US wrong in the same manner as the narrative injected by the USA in the media to wage war in the middle east was proven baseless, immoral, excessive and false. Did Israel win the diplomatic successes? The big question is No. Since the start of the israel genocide in Gaza, at least nine countries, including Jordan, Bahrain, Turkey, Colombia, Honduras, Chile, Belize, South Africa and Chad, have recalled their ambassadors to Israel or severed ties altogether. Several South American countries filed diplomatic protests against Israel in response to the conflict with Hamas. Bolivia severed all diplomatic ties with Israel, attributing its decision to alleged war crimes

and human rights violations in the Gaza Strip. Chile and Colombia also recalled their ambassadors. Belize suspended diplomatic relations with Israel. The Honduran President Xiomara Castro announced the recall of its ambassador while condemning the genocide and serious violations of international humanitarian law. The United Nation Secretary General in his many statements condemned the Hamas attack in Israel, but was appalled by the killing of civilians in Gaza especially women and children. He mourned and honored the United Nations colleagues who were killed in the bombardment of Gaza. He was dismayed by the break of International humanitarian laws and called on all parties to abide by it, including the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution. Once again the role of the USA and its willing partnership to kill the children, women and armedless civilians has endorsed the USA's position as a characterless, immoral and brute military power. All the Muslim countries and those countries and leaders who respect the international humanitarian law have once again awakened to the reality that for USA leadership there is no rule of law or respect for people of any other countries except their own of their stooges. The Trigger happy USA has been destroying societies after societies and countries after countries mostly by developing a wrong, misconceived and deceptive narrative around it. Now the countries in large numbers are turning to other powers and urging them to play a much larger role in resolving the conflicts which have been purposefully ignited and willfully prolonged to keep the world and region of their choice in constant state of turmoil. One such power which has made its niche in resolving the conflicts between states and societies in an logical, peaceful and dignified manner is China. China is perhaps the only super power which lately has no ambition to exploit one nation and against the other to establish its hegemony but it lately and willfully is sharing the prosperity and development achieved by it during the last three decades with other countries without asking anything in return. Militarily unipower world has played havoc on the peace and development of the weaker countries creating the gap and space for another superpower, which in the current parlance is only China capable of filling this gap. All peace loving countries of the world should double up their efforts with China in the lead to support complete ceasefire in Israel Hamas conflict, and to start of negotiation process to determine and settle the modus operandi to convince all parties in the conflict to agree for a two states solution as promised by the United Nation Resolution 181 adopted in 1947.

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

## 75 years of human rights and struggle for rights in Kashmir

Dr. Gul.i.Ayesha Bhatti



Within this framework, freedom, independence, and the entitlement to self-determination are fundamental ethical, legal, and universally acknowledged values and norms that states endeavor to attain and uphold as inherent rights of every human being. On this day of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights(UDHR), the Indian government

International conventions impact inter and intra-state relations by establishing universal principles to govern and control the interactions among states. Within this framework, freedom, independence, and the entitlement to self-determination are fundamental ethical, legal, and universally acknowledged values and norms that states endeavor to attain and uphold as inherent rights of every human being. On this day of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights(UDHR), the Indian government has regrettably refused the fundamental rights of the people residing in Indian Illegal Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) for the past seven decades. The Kashmir conflict is a territorial dispute between India and Pakistan, which also serves as a prominent illustration of human rights violations perpetrated by the Indian government. This longstanding issue has intensified significantly following Articles 370 and 35 (A) revocation from the Indian constitution in August 2019. UDHR is universally acknowledged and embraced by states that have incorporated its principles into their constitutions to ensure its implementation. The declaration consists of thirty articles that guarantee inalienable rights, encompassing a wide range of fundamental rights such as survival, movement, free speech, as well as rights to liberty, security, and protection under the law. The UN released its 2018 report on Kashmir, highlighting that the state of Jammu and Kashmir has significant human rights issues, specifically about impunity for human rights abuses and limited access to justice. The implementation of specific laws, including the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act (1978) and the Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir) Special Powers Act (1990), has established structures that hinder the administration of justice, undermine accountability, and compromise the right to redress for individuals who have been subjected to human rights violations. The UN report 2019 on Kashmir has shown similar observations. UN Resolution No. 47 on Kashmir has employed the term 'dispute' to refer to the status of the Kashmir area. It should be noted that the Line of Control (LOC) is not acknowledged as an international border. Instead, this 450-mile-long demarcation is regarded as a military boundary that separates IIOJK from Azad Kashmir. UNSCR 47

has provided Kashmir with the right of self-determination in 1948 that has been confiscated by India till date and violates UDHR article one related to freedom of all people at all times and in all places. A significant number of casualties is indicative of the utilization of force, aggression, and coercion by the Indian forces towards the local people in the Valley. Media reports indicate that the number of fatalities in IIOJK stands at over 68,000. According to a recent report by a Kashmiri activist, the number of civilian deaths has risen by 200 percent between 2018 and 2022. Moreover, the Valley has been plagued by a long-standing history of extensively documented cases of torture, detention, and degrading treatment. Article 5 of UDHR prohibits the infliction of cruel treatment, torture, humiliation, and violence against individuals' lives and personal well-being. In 2010, WikiLeaks disclosed the Red Cross's briefings regarding incidences of torture inflicted upon captives. Kashmiris arrested by the Indian army are subjected to various types of torture, such as electric shocks, suspension from the ceiling, and the use of GPS anklets if given bail. Presently, around 900,000 Indian army soldiers have deployed in IIOJK nonetheless, they have been unable to garner any local support and political standing among the inhabitants of Kashmir. This illegal occupation consistently infringe upon the principles outlined in articles 1, 2, 12, and 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantee freedom from discrimination, the right to life, freedom of movement, and privacy. On October 27, 2020, the Indian government enacted two orders that modified 14 statutes and revoked 12 provisions about the regulations of property acquisition in IIOJK. This notification permits non-residents of IIOJK to purchase property and agricultural land. After that over 25,000 outsiders are awarded domiciles by the Indian government. The action of granting domicile certificates to non-Kashmiris is an attempt to shift the demographic status of IIOJK by bringing the settlers in, without the consent of Kashmiris, thus, violating Article 17, notably connected to property and land owning rights. Kashmiris have been suffering to access the court system, and thousands of individuals are arrested without any charge. According to Human Rights Watch, around 4000 Kashmiris have been detained. Several individu-

als are prohibited from reuniting with their families or communicating with their legal representatives. The Indian government is breaching Article 7, Article 10, and Article 11 of UDHR, which grants the individual a lawful entitlement to submit witnesses and evidence in their defense. Alongside, The people of IIOJK have been deprived of freedom to practice and observe their religious customs. This not only violates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) but also contravenes other international instruments safeguarding human rights. UDHR places significant importance on the rights to life and access to healthcare facilities. However, we see that Mental health difficulties are on the rise in IIOJK. In 2015, Médecins Sans Frontiers in a report noted that 1.8 million (45 percent) adults in IIOJK are suffering from mental distress, 26 percent from anxiety, 41 percent exhibit probable depression and 19 percent suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The arrest of seven Kashmiri students on celebrating Australia's victory over India in Men's cricket world cup is another example of depriving the basic rights related to article 19, 20 of UDHR on freedom of expression and Assembly. Article 26 of UDHR addresses the rights to education and literacy, which the Indian government has greatly violated for students in Kashmir. The lack of adequate educational institutions such as schools, colleges, and universities is hindering the ability of Kashmiri students to access high-quality education. Modi government is imposing insurmountable obstacles for students seeking to pursue higher education in a country where they feel secure by denying their NOC requests. An in-depth examination of the Kashmir issue reveals a correlation between the actions of the Indian government and the violation of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The conspicuous silence of the United Nations and the International Community on this matter underscores a discernible inconsistency in their approach to resolving international disputes. This is particularly evident when contrasting their proactive stance in providing military and economic aids during crises in Ukraine and Israel with their passive response to Indian actions that adversely impact the fundamental rights of innocent Kashmiris, evoking a sense of disappointment.

—The writer is Current affairs analyst guleayeshbhatti@gmail.com

## Briefs

## Gaza facing 'unprecedented...'

FROM PAGE 01 released by military force. "We tell Israelis that Netanyahu, Gallant and others in the war cabinet cannot bring back their captives without negotiations. The latest killing of a captive that they tried to take back by force proves that." The spokesman for the group's armed wing was referring to an Israeli man held captive, whom Israeli special forces in the Gaza Strip tried to rescue. Al Qassam, Abu Obaida said, repelled their attempt, inflicting several military casualties, and that the captive also died in the incident. Abu Obaida also said that in ten days fighters from Beit Hanoun to Khan Younis "managed to destroy more than 180 military vehicles APCs, tanks and bulldozers partially and totally. Our fighters carried out operations that included attacking foot soldiers from zero distance, and carried out tens of sniper attacks and used anti-personnel weaponry."

## UN chief says he...

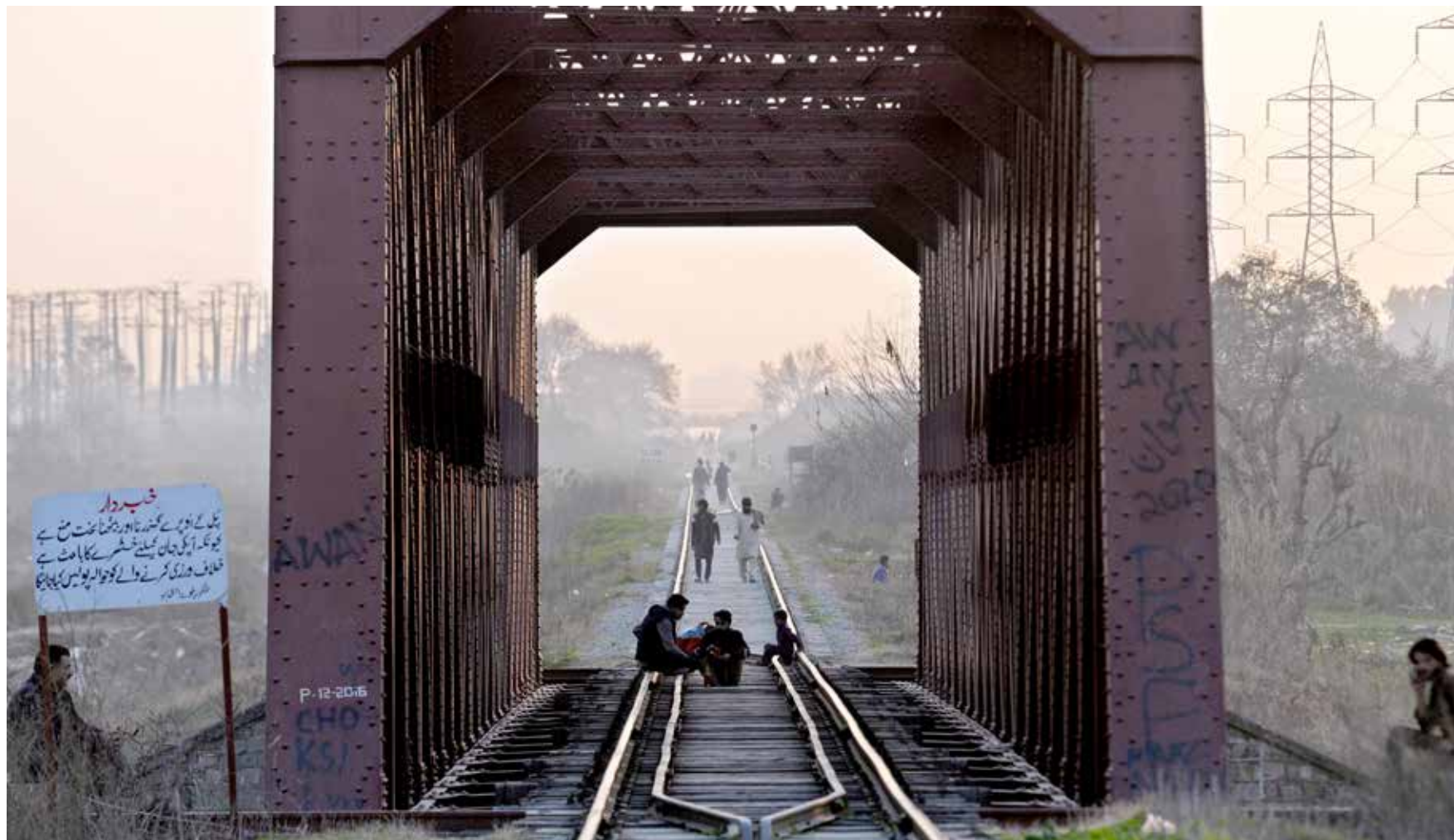
FROM PAGE 01 continue to pressure Israel and Hamas for a truce despite "narrowing" chances. Qatar, where several political leaders of Hamas are based, has been leading negotiations between the group and Israel. Sheikh Mohammed said hostages were released from Gaza because of negotiations and not because of Israel's military actions. The head of UNRWA, the UN aid agency for Palestinians, said the dehumanization of Palestinians has allowed the international community to tolerate Israel's continued attacks on Gaza. "There is no doubt that a humanitarian ceasefire is needed if we want to put an end to hell on earth right now in Gaza," UNRWA chief Philippe Lazarini said. The United States and Israel oppose a ceasefire because they believe it would only benefit Hamas. Washington instead supports pauses in fighting to protect civilians and allow the release of hostages taken by Hamas in a deadly Oct. 7 attack on Israel.

## COAS Asim jets off to...

FROM PAGE 01 following the expiry of the October 31 deadline. Since then, the US has been in touch with Pakistan to ensure that Afghans, who were illegible for immigration to the US were spared. There are about 25,000 Afghans, who according to Washington, are in Pakistan and waiting for their immigration to the US. Those Afghans worked with the US during its military campaign in Afghanistan. But after the US withdrawal, they are stuck in Pakistan, awaiting the completion of the immigration process. The US has been working with Pakistan to find a workable solution to avoid such Afghans being deported to Afghans. There are also concerned that other than such Afghans, there are individuals such as musicians, artists, journalists and others who may be evicted. The US is keen that such vulnerable Afghans are not touched either. Pakistani officials have said that their cases will be scrutinised accordingly and made it clear that in the first phase, those Afghans are being sent back who don't have any legal status. Tension between Pakistan and the Taliban government has been running high as Kabul refused to take decisive action against the TTP. The US is believed to have been worried that any escalation in tensions between Pakistan and the Taliban government would destabilise Afghanistan.

## Police, judiciary...

FROM PAGE 01 is the Lack of Merit (40%). At the provincial level, in Sindh (42%), KP (43%) and Balochistan (47%) consider lack of merit as a potent cause of corruption in Pakistan. In Punjab (47%) consider use of state institutions by bureaucracy for personal gains as the main cause of corruption in Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: People pay no heed to the warning installed by the railway administration prohibiting walking and sitting on the track in H-10. Islamabad. A number of fatal accidents have been reported on this track. — Mudassar Raja

## ACC U-19 Asia Cup

## Pakistan outclass India by eight wickets

The Boys in Green chased down the 260-run target on the last bowl of the 47th over

## SPORTS DESK

DUBAI: Pakistan U19 have outclassed India by eight wickets in the fifth match of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Under-19s Asia Cup at the ICC Academy Ground in Dubai on Sunday. Awan Awan was Pakistan's hero of the day as the left-handed batter remained unbeaten with a spectacular 105 off 130 with 10 boundaries and propelled the Green Shirts to a comfortable win. Pakistan didn't have the greatest start as Shamyil Hussain was removed for just 8 runs in the fifth over leaving his side 28-1. However, Shahzaib Khan's 110-run stand with Awan provided Pakistan security. Shahzaib departed after playing a fantastic innings of 63 runs. After his departure, Awan and skipper Saad Baig partnered for 125 runs which ultimately won the game. Baig was Pakistan's second top-scorer of the day with a rapid 68 off 51 deliveries courtesy of



eight fours and a six. This is Pakistan's highest-ever successful chase against India in U19. Earlier, India set a 260-run target for Pakistan, courtesy of Sachin Dhas' late runs down the order. The Green Shirts started on a

high note as Amir Hassan and Mohammad Zeeshan had taken two early wickets, leaving the Blues 46-2 in just 11.2 overs. However, opener Adarsh Singh formed a much-needed 93-run stand with middle-order batter

and skipper Uday Saharan as the former scored 62 off 81 before becoming the victim of Arafat Minhas. After Singh's wicket, India lost two more wickets in quick succession, but Saharan stayed on the pitch and kept on contributing

crucial runs. He was eventually removed by Ubaid Shah for 60 runs, leaving India 206-6 in 42.5 overs. It looked like the Men in Green would restrict the Blues within 230 runs but Sachin Dhas continued to charge against the Green Shirts and eventually took his side to a competitive 260-run target by scoring a quick 58 off 32 with two fours and three sixes. Zeeshan starred for Pakistan with four wickets to his name while Amir and Ubaid bagged two each. Earlier, Pakistan won the toss and opted to bowl first. Playing XI: India U19: Adarsh Singh, Arshin Kulkarni, Rudra Patel, Uday Saharan (c), Musheer Khan, Sachin Dhas, Aravelly Avanish (wk), Saamy Pandey, Murugan Abhishek, Raj Limbani, Naman Tiwari. Pakistan U19: Shamyil Hussain, Shahzaib Khan, Awan Awan, Saad Baig (c & wk), Mohammad Zeeshan, Mohammad Riazullah, Tayyab Arif, Arafat Minhas, Ali Asfand, Amir Hassan, Ubaid Shah.

## Bayern thrashed by Frankfurt in Bundesliga

BERLIN: Bayern Munich suffered a jolt to their title defence, losing their first league game of the season 5-1 in Frankfurt, while RB Leipzig triumphed 3-2 at 10-men Borussia Dortmund. In a wet and wild contest in Frankfurt, the hosts raced into an extraordinary 3-0 first-half lead, with Omar Marmoush, Junior Dina Ebimbe, and Hugo Larsson scoring the goals as Dino Toppmoller's side outmuscled a timid Bayern. Joshua Kimmich dragged Bayern back into the match just before half-time but French midfielder Ebimbe had other ideas, capping a scintillating counter-attack after a mistake by Dayot Upamecano to make it four. Ansgar Knauff added a fifth to put the game out of reach for Thomas Tuchel's side to complete a memorable performance for Frankfurt, who

became the first team to score five goals against Bayern in the first 60 minutes of a league game since Frankfurt themselves, in 1975. A stunned Tuchel said after the game that his side were punished by a Frankfurt team who were callous in front of goal. "We didn't defend consistently and were punished mercilessly today," Tuchel told German broadcaster ARD. "That's why this result is very difficult to digest on the scoreboard. We deserved to lose. Not 5-1, but we deserved to lose. That is the bottom line." Leaders Bayer Leverkusen retain their three-point cushion and travel to third-place Stuttgart on Sunday on a weekend when six of the Bundesliga's top seven face each other. In a game contested between two sides in the chasing pack, Leipzig beat Dortmund in

an absorbing contest at Signal Iduna Park. Dortmund were dealt an early blow with Mats Hummels' red card, which denied the visitors a penalty but they went on to take the lead in the 32nd minute through a Ramy Bensebaini own goal. Ten-man Dortmund clawed their way back into the contest through Niklas Sule's close-range finish on the stroke of half-time - but Leipzig's Austrian forward Christoph Baumgartner tapped in to put Leipzig back in front early in the second half. Yussuf Poulsen struck as the clock ticked into injury time to make it three goals and three points, keeping Leipzig fourth and opening a gap of four points to fifth-placed Dortmund, despite Niclas Füllkrug's late header briefly giving Dortmund hope. — Agencies

## Abrar Ahmed ruled out of Perth Test

SYDNEY: Pakistan cricket team suffered a huge blow on Sunday as mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed was ruled out of the first Test against Australia which is scheduled to take place in Perth from December 14. Abrar bowled a total of 27 overs during the four-day practice match against the PM XI where he also picked up a wicket. At the end of the third day, he complained about feeling some discomfort in his right leg for which the MRI was done. "During an assessment by the medical team, a provisional diagnosis was made - justifying an MRI scan, which was done on the same day," the PCB said in a brief press release. "Abrar will undergo an intervention in Perth on Monday, after which conservative rehabilitation under the supervision of the team's medical staff, will continue his road to recovery." — Agencies

## Djokovic expresses desire to become friends with Nadal, Federer

PARIS: Novak Djokovic expressed his desire to become friends with his ex-rivals Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer after competing with the two for over 15 years. While Nadal and Federer became really good friends after the latter's career ended, the same cannot be said about Djokovic. However, as Nadal enters his retirement year and Federer already being retired, Djokovic, 36, is open to a potential friendship with the tennis greats. The 24-time Grand Slam winner reiterated that he is not friends with the two and also explained his reasons. Djokovic gave an example that his secrets could've been used against him if he were close. "I would like to. I would really like to. Personally, I would like to. I mean, I know that obviously (laughs) we didn't get along so well throughout our careers in, like, off court. And we are not friends because, you know, we're rivals and it's difficult as competitors to be very close and kind of share and give insights to you know, to your life or to how you feel because, you know, it could be used against you," said Djokovic. "But we have shared the stage for so many years. And I think the greatest respect is always there, at least from my side, towards them. So yeah, I hope that one day, when the curtains are slightly more closed, that we are, yeah, able to sit down and, and reflect. It would be, it would be amazing." Djokovic leads the Grand Slam race with a whopping 24 titles to his name, he is followed closely by Nadal who has 22, while Federer retired with 20 Majors. The Serb also dominated the 2023 tennis season where he won the Australian Open, French Open, and the US Open. — DNA

## Diamond Paints-Platinum Homes wins Allama Iqbal Polo title

## AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Team Diamond Paints-Platinum Homes won the title in the 4th Allama Iqbal Polo Cup 2023 Tournament that concluded here at the Jinnah Polo Fields Lahore on Sunday. After an exciting contest in the final, FG/Din Polo lost by half a goal handicap. A large number of spectators were present at the Jinnah Polo Fields to watch the final match. DG Rangers Punjab Maj Gen Mohammad Atif bin Akram was the chief guest on this occasion. A large number of club executive committee members, players and their families were also present on this occasion. The match between the teams of Diamond Paints/Platinum Homes and FG/Din Polo proved an enthralling and exciting contest. The final saw a great number of ups and downs during the match till the fourth chukker. FG/Din Polo team played well in the first two chukkers to take the lead but the Diamond Paints/FG Din Polo team bounced



After an exciting contest in the final, FG/Din Polo lost by half a goal handicap. A large number of spectators were present at the Jinnah Polo Fields to watch the final match

back in the third and fourth chukkers and won the thrilling encounter by 8.5-8. Raja Temur Nadeem smashed in superb seven goals while Mir Huzaifa Ahmed scored one goal for Diamond Paints/Platinum Homes, which had a handicap advantage of a half goal. Juan Cruz scored five goals, Bilal Haye two goals and Mian Abbas Mukhtar one goal for FG/Din Polo. Earlier, Master Paints defeated Barry's Polo Team by 6-4 in the subsidiary final. Amir Raza Behboudi scored all the six goals from Master Paints, while Raja Jalal Arslan hammered three goals and Meesam Haider hit one goal for Barry's. The best mare award of the final was clinched by PM, the more of Diamond Paints CEO Mir Shoab Ahmed. Speaking to the media at the closing ceremony, Diamond Paints team captain Mir Huzaifa Ahmed said that the team worked hard and won the tournament by playing brilliantly in the closing stages. "We are well prepared for the tournament ahead and keen to win more titles in this polo season."

## Police officer martyred, 2 injured

FROM PAGE 01

Bugti, while speaking to Geo News following the incident, said that the whole nation has to fight the war against terrorism as it is becoming a great challenge. "The war against terrorism is not just CTDs but of the entire nation," he added. In October, two people were martyred and three were wounded in a roadside explosion in Balochistan's Chaghi area. According to the Levies force, the blast took place in Chaghi bazaar - at a distance of 60 kilometres from Dalbandin near the Pak-Afghan border - when a security forces vehicle was passing by. The attack came days after more than 60 people died in two separate suicide attacks in Balochistan's Mastung and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Hangu city on September 29. Pakistan has witnessed a significant spike in the form of the recent wave of terrorist attacks across the country. According to a statistical report released by the independent think tank Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS), at least 271 militant attacks took place during the first half of 2023, resulting in the loss of 389 lives and injuring 656 individuals. Terror activities in the country soared by 79% during the period.

## Nawaz 'getting...'

FROM PAGE 01

political opponents, saying, "One person is desperate to contest elections in a bid to get rid of jail. Another person wants to take part in polls to avert arrest." Bhutto-Zardari ensured that his party will serve the people if voted into power. "We will ensure to create employment opportunities for our people worldwide. We will make all-out efforts to provide the masses with their fundamental rights," he said. He claimed that the masses were still standing by the PPP, adding that the party leadership will continue to maintain its connection with the people. Bhutto-Zardari asserted, "The PPP represents the people in general, not the elites."

## 'They're contesting...'

FROM PAGE 01

party would form the government after the upcoming general elections and ensure that the masses would get their rights. The PPP chief said he was warned against holding party conventions in KP amid security threat alerts. "But [...] our workers say they are neither scared nor they would surrender before terrorism." Bilawal said Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) wanted to roll back the 18th Amendment in a bid to curtail the autonomy of the provinces.

## No seat adjustment...'

FROM PAGE 01

the party supremo was getting justice at a snail's pace. Anyone creating doubts about general elections wasn't sincere to Pakistan, he remarked and stressed that Nawaz was the last ray of hope for the people of Pakistan. He said every party deserved level-playing field, but not the one attacking sensitive installations. "The party targeting sensitive installations is a terrorist [group], not political [entity]." "We do not take the assertions made by Bilawal [Bhutto Zardari] seriously," said Latif, who is considered a close aide of Nawaz and believed to be regularly explaining his viewpoint on different issues. Why they should take Bilawal's statements when even his father [Asif Ali Zardari] didn't do so, he remarked - a reference to the interview in which the former president had told a private TV channel that his son [the PPP chairman] was inexperienced. These remarks were in complete contrast to the speeches delivered by Bilawal who has been presenting himself as a prime minister material. "We will reply when Mr Zardari speaks up," he told the gathering, adding that Zardari was used to refute Bilawal regularly.

## Briefs

## Voting begins for presidential election in Egypt

ANKAR : Voting for Egypt's presidential election, a contest between four candidates including the incumbent President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, began on Sunday. The electoral process will take place over three days from 9 a.m. (0700 GMT) until 9 p.m. (1900 GMT) local time, with results due to be announced on Dec. 18. While President el-Sisi is poised to win a third term, his opponents are Farid Zahran, head of the Egyptian Social Democratic Party, Abdel-Samad Yamama, leader of the Egyptian Wafd party, and Hazem Omar, head of the Republican People's Party. In Egypt's 27 governorates, voting began in 11,631 polling stations in 9,376 main electoral centers, according to national news agency MENA. About 67 million voters are entitled to vote. —Agencies

## Italy welcomes Azerbaijan-Armenia peace agreement statement

ROME : Italy's deputy prime minister and foreign minister Antonio Tajani said Saturday that his country welcomed a statement by Azerbaijan and Armenia on the path toward a peace agreement. "Azerbaijan and Armenia decided to open a new chapter in their relations. Italy will stand by these two friendly nations," according to a statement from the Foreign Ministry. "With an agreement that Italy has warmly endorsed, the two countries, long in dispute, are decisively embarking on a path we hope will soon lead to a comprehensive and final resolution, bringing peace. —APP

## Canada's rising cost of living drives reverse immigration

OTTAWA : The dream of making it big in Canada is becoming a struggle for survival for many immigrants due to the high cost of living and rental shortages, as rising emigration figures suggest that newcomers may be compelled to turn their back on a country that they chose to make their adopted home. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has made immigration his main weapon to blunt Canada's big challenge of an aging and slowing population, and it has also helped fuel economic growth. That drove Canada's population up at its fastest clip in more than six decades this year, Statistics Canada said. But now a reversal of that trend is gradually taking hold. In the first six months of 2023 some 42,000 individuals departed Canada, adding to 93,818 people who left in 2022 and 85,927 exits in 2021, official data show. The rate of immigrants departing from Canada struck a two-decade high in 2019, according to a recent report from the Institute for Canadian Citizenship (ICC), an immigration advocacy group. —APP

## Mitsotakis, Erdogan sign Athens declaration promoting ties

Mitsotakis and Erdogan signed a joint declaration pledging to maintain good and friendly neighborly relations at the fifth meeting of the High-Level Cooperation Council held in Athens

DNA

ATHENS: Greek Premier Kyriakos Mitsotakis and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan signed a joint declaration pledging to maintain good and friendly neighborly relations at the fifth meeting of the High-Level Cooperation Council held in Athens on Thursday afternoon. The full text of the declaration is the following: "The President of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Mr Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and the Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic, H.E. Mr Kyriakos Mitsotakis, representing their respective Governments (jointly referred to as 'the Parties'), having chaired the 5th meeting of the High-Level Cooperation Council between the Republic of Turkey and the Hellenic Republic on

December 7th, 2023, in Athens, in a spirit of goodwill and cooperation, PP1. Recognizing the renewed will for cooperation between the Governments of the two countries; PP2. Underlining that the bonds between the two neighboring nations harbor the potential to markedly increase the region's prosperity and dynamism; PP3. Emphasizing the need to continue jointly working for the benefit of both societies in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual trust; PP4. Seeking to intensify the bilateral relations through existing institutional mechanisms; PP5. Underscoring that in order to enhance the good-neighborly relations, both Parties will cultivate a spirit of solidarity in the face of current and future challenges without any prejudice to each other's legal positions; PP6. Under-

lining that to promote the said positive atmosphere and agenda, both Parties will encourage exchange of visits at every level with a result-oriented approach; PP7. Recalling that among the fundamental objectives of the Charter of the United Nations and the universally acknowledged principles of international law are the maintenance of international peace and friendly cooperation among states; PP8. Determined to foster friendly relations, mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and understanding, and to resolve any dispute among them by peaceful means and in accordance with international law; PP9. Underscoring the importance of effective communication channels and mechanisms at every level for the successful management of their bilateral relations, with particular emphasis

on avoiding conflictual situations and potential escalation; PP10. Emphasizing that both Parties will approach their relations with the objective of increasing economic cooperation and deepening of people-to-people ties, thus contributing to the prosperity and peaceful coexistence of their two neighboring peoples, further stressing that to this end, in view of the significant progress made in fostering the positive agenda on economic and commercial affairs through the Joint Action Plan, the two sides will explore additional items of cooperation; Have agreed on the following: OP1. The Parties agree to engage in continuing, constructive and meaningful consultations based on the following pillars: (a) Political Dialogue: — On issues of mutual interest, — Exploratory/Con-

sultative talks; (b) Positive Agenda, within the scope of the enhanced Joint Action Plan, involving measures of common interest in the fields of business-economy, tourism, transportation, energy, innovation, science and technology, agriculture, environmental protection, social security and health, youth, education and sports or any other field to be jointly decided, with the aim of attaining significant and concrete deliverables, streamlining and continually updating the agenda in a structured fashion with new items; (c) Confidence Building Measures, involving measures in the military field, which would contribute to the elimination of unwarranted sources of tension and the risks thereof; OP2. The Parties are committed to refrain from any statement, initiative or act likely to undermine

or discredit the letter and spirit of this Declaration or endanger the maintenance of peace and stability in their region. OP3. The Parties will endeavor to resolve any dispute arising between them in an amicable manner through direct consultations between them or through other means as provided for in the United Nations Charter. This Declaration does not constitute an international agreement binding upon the Parties under international law. No provision of this Declaration shall be interpreted as creating legal rights or obligations for the Parties. Done in Athens, on the 7th of December 2023, in two copies, each in the Greek, Turkish and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail."

## Over 300 Rohingya refugees stranded on Indonesian beaches

BANDA ACEH : More than 300 Rohingya refugees, mostly women and children, were stranded on the coast of western Indonesia Sunday after being adrift at sea for weeks, the latest in the biggest wave of arrivals since 2015. A group of 180 refugees from the persecuted Myanmar minority arrived by boat at 3:00 am local time (2000 GMT Saturday) on a beach in the Pidie regency of Aceh province. Another boat carrying 135 refugees landed in neighbouring Aceh Besar regency hours later after being adrift at sea for more than a month. The mostly Muslim Rohingya were the target of a 2017 crackdown by Myanmar's military that is the subject of a UN genocide probe. Around a million have fled to Bangladesh, and from there thousands risk their lives each year on long and expensive sea journeys to reach Malaysia or Indonesia. —APP



MINSK: The Embassy of Pakistan Minsk participated in the Annual Charity Bazaar of the Minsk International Women's Club held on 9 December 2023 in Minsk. Several other embassies and private sector organisations also took part in the event. —DNA

## Japan industry minister investigates finances amid funds scandal

TOKYO: Under-fire Japanese industry minister Yasutoshi Nishimura said he would continue in his cabinet duties and will fully disclose his finances at an appropriate time, local media reported on Sunday (Dec 10), amid allegations of undeclared funding that has embroiled several top lawmakers. "I have not been told anything to the contrary at this time, so I would like to continue with my duties," Nishimura told reporters on Sunday at a news conference in Ibaraki Prefecture, north of Tokyo, according to the Nikkei newspaper and Kyodo. "I am closely examining my own political financing report, and would like to provide a thorough explanation at the appropriate time," the news outlets reported him as saying. The Asahi and Mainichi newspapers reported earlier on Sunday that Nishimura, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno. —APP

## Gaza dominates agenda as Turkish FM visits Canada, US

NEWS DESK

ANKARA : Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan's globetrotting mission with a delegation of fellow diplomats from Muslim and Arab countries continued in Canada and the United States. The Turkish minister is a member of the delegation formed after an extraordinary summit of the Arab League and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) pushing for a lasting solution to the Palestine-Israel conflict. The delegation was in Canada where they were received by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in Ottawa and met Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly. On Friday, the delegation was in the U.S. to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, think tanks and media organizations. The extraordinary joint summit mandated the foreign ministers of Türkiye, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Egypt, Jordan, Qatar and Nigeria to take international action to stop the war in Gaza and achieve lasting peace.



The group has held meetings in Beijing, Moscow, London, Paris, Barcelona, New York and Washington D.C. over the last three weeks. In its contacts so far, the delegation gave the message of starting a solution process — that will be carried out through U.N. parameters — for a permanent and fair peace after the ceasefire in Gaza. They also called for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, based on the 1967 borders. Blinken on Saturday said he discussed the Gaza conflict with Fidan on Friday. "We talked about efforts to ensure the conflict in Gaza does not spread fur-

ther and the provision of humanitarian aid. Emphasized the importance of ratifying Sweden's NATO accession without delay," Blinken said on X. After meeting with Blinken, Fidan on Friday told Anadolu Agency (AA) and Turkish national broadcaster TRT that Türkiye brought up its position regarding the situation in Gaza "very clearly" with the U.S. "We express to them very clearly the seriousness of the situation here, that there is no more tolerance, and our stance on what steps need to be taken in this regard," he added. Fidan also added that they discussed Sweden's NATO membership process and normalization process between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The situation in Gaza was also the theme of Fidan's message on the occasion of Dec. 10 World Human Rights Day. Shared by the Foreign Ministry on Sunday, the message says ongoing inhumane attacks in Gaza were dealing a huge blow not only to the rights of Palestinian people but also to "common values of

humanity." Fidan said in his message that they marked the day with increased responsibility for establishing lasting peace and stability in the region and the world and standing against human rights violations in the world.

## W.African leaders convene in Abuja amidst regional turmoil

ABUJA : West African leaders meet for talks with the region in deepening crisis, after four countries fell under military rule and with risks growing from Sahel conflicts. After coups in Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea and Niger since 2020, the Economic Community of West African States bloc also saw member states Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau claim attempted coups in recent weeks. "These military coups are not only based on fake narrative and false justifications; they are also a driver of insecurity in the region," ECOWAS commission president Omar Toure said in a meeting before the summit. ECOWAS leaders will meet in Nigeria's capital Abuja on Sunday for an ordinary summit where they will discuss delayed transitions back to civilian rule for Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea and Niger. Nigeria's President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is current chair of ECOWAS and US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Molly Phee will also be at the meeting to discuss how to support Niger's return to democratic rule and Sahel security. Niger — a key Western partner in the fight against Sahel militants — has demanded French troops based there leave, while the US still has military personnel in the country. ECOWAS members have imposed tough economic sanctions on the military regime in Niger, whose troops ousted President Mohamed Bazoum in July. ECOWAS has demanded Bazoum's immediate return to the presidency, but the junta has kept him in detention and says it may need up to three years for a return to civilian rule. Earlier this month, Nigeria said it was asking the Niger regime to free Bazoum and allow him to fly to a third country, as a step to opening talks on lifting sanctions. But Niger's military leaders rejected that option and have asked Togo's President Faure Gnassingbe to act as a mediator. Before Sunday's ECOWAS meeting, Niger's military leader General Abdourahmane Tiani visited Togo on Friday with some of his ministers. ECOWAS has also left on the table the last option of a military intervention in Niger though analysts say that appears increasingly unlikely. Transitions back to democracy and elections have also been stalled or left uncertain in Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea. After French troops began leaving the region, military regimes in Niger, Mali and Burkina, struggling with militant violence, hardened their positions and joined forces in an Alliance of Sahel States. —DNA

## Zelensky seeks support in Argentina and developing nations

Ukrainian leader's first-ever trip to Latin America as Kyiv continues to court support among developing nations for its 21-month-old fight against Russia's invading forces

FOREIGN DESK

KYIV : Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is heading to Buenos Aires to witness the swearing-in on Sunday of Argentina's new president, Javier Milei, Zelensky's office said. It is the Ukrainian leader's first-ever trip to Latin America as Kyiv continues to court support among developing nations for its 21-month-old fight against Russia's invading forces. A political outsider who has railed against what he calls entrenched official corruption in Argentina and promised to uproot the political establishment, Milei ran on a pro-Western foreign

policy platform, repeatedly expressing distrust of Moscow and Beijing. Zelensky phoned Milei shortly after the Argentinian's electoral victory, thanking him for his "clear support for Ukraine" which he described in social media posts as "well-noticed and appreciated by Ukrainians." Director General of the Foreign Ministry's European Department Wang Lutong speaks during a press conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs office after a meeting between the leaders of China and the European Union in Beijing, Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023. (AP Photo/Andy Wong) Post-summit news conferences highlight the divide between China and

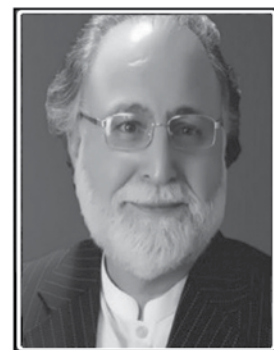


the EU in its readout of the call published shortly later, Milei's office said he had offered to host a summit between Ukraine and Latin American states, a potential boon to Kyiv's monthslong effort to strengthen its relationships with countries of the global south. Zelensky and other senior Ukrainian

officials have repeatedly presented Ukraine's war against Russia as resistance against colonial aggression, hoping to win support from Asian, African and Latin American states that in the past struggled to free themselves from foreign domination, sometimes turning to Moscow for support against

Western powers. According to Zelensky's official website, he broke his journey to Argentina to meet with the prime minister of the West African country of Cape Verde, Ulisses Correia e Silva, thanking him for his support for Kyiv's diplomatic initiatives and discussing efforts to boost Ukrainian grain exports to Africa. It was not immediately clear where the meeting took place. Zelensky expressed his appreciation for Cape Verde's backing of U.N. resolutions supporting Ukraine's territorial integrity and calling for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukrainian territory before peace talks can begin.

## CONDOLENCE



APNS expresses profound grief over the sad demise of veteran publisher and senior colleague

**Mr. Rehmat Shah Afridi**

Founder of

**Daily Frontier Post.**

May Allah the Almighty rest his soul in eternal peace

and grant courage to the family to bear the loss.



All Pakistan Newspapers Society

**Briefs**

**Imran' dragged country into economic quagmire**

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Ahsan Iqbal asserted on Sunday that the former Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief had dragged the country into an economic quagmire due to his incompetency. Addressing a corner meeting, the former planning minister said: "Everybody had witnessed that the inept leader, who had harmed the country, is now in Adiala Jail." Recounting the tenure of former president Pervez Musharraf, Iqbal said: "We had to face many cases during the regime of Pervez Musharraf." Iqbal lavished his praise on PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif, saying, "Nawaz Sharif has always steered the country to development. He [Nawaz Sharif] had also addressed the problems in line with the power outages." Few days back, the former planning minister asserted on Wednesday that the country had to face the consequences following the deposed premier's "statements" against China. Speaking to the media in Lahore, the former planning minister recounted the contributions made by his party in Balochistan. "We have established the universities to a record level in Balochistan between 2013 and 2018." He vowed that it was the part of the PML-N's plan to alleviate poverty in Balochistan. Iqbal asserted that PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif is the "ray of hope" for the people of Balochistan.

**Sirajul Haq vows ethical social media engagement**

DNA

PESHAWAR: Jamaat-e-Islami chief Sirajul Haq, while emphasising the significance of social media during the party's social media convention on Sunday, asserted that his workers would utilise social media for campaigning, but would not engage in false propaganda against anyone. Siraj stated that the purpose of JI's social media efforts was to identify the leadership of the new generation. "Our goal is to light the candle of hope for the people of Pakistan." The JI chief mentioned that the Islamabad High Court had examined the social media departments of all parties and found that the JI's social media wing was free of lies and propaganda. Siraj said that his party would use social media for the sake of Allah's religion. "We will also employ the power of social media against corruption." Siraj emphasised that until February 8, the power of social media should be harnessed for the bright future of the country. He added that the future government would be formed with the power of people's votes.

# IFWA President lauds artistic work of women entrepreneurs

Mrs. Albana Ferrarese opens crafts festival; CEO Serena Hotels (Global) Aziz Boolani vows to continue supporting women artisans



ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: Presenting a captivating cultural affair, Serena Hotels partnered with Nomad Art Gallery to host an unforgettable crafts festival. The festival was inaugurated by the president of IFWA Mrs. Albana Ferrarese. During her address, she commended the collaborative initiatives of Serena Hotels and Nomad Art Gallery in establishing a platform for artists to exhibit their creations. She also discussed the event's theme, 'Women Empowerment and Celebrating Human Rights,' expressing appreciation for the united efforts of various partners. The theme resonates deeply with everyone, and the collective commitment to this cause is truly inspiring. Nomad Gallery, with its extensive history of promoting Pakistan's cultural wealth, deserves praise for its ongoing dedication to women's empowerment, particularly focusing on the youth. The innovative approach of fostering art and culture through inclusive craft development has proven to be beneficial for society. The bazar highlighted a thoughtfully chosen array of superb handmade crafts including embroidered and woven shawls, pottery and accessories from

Swat, Phulkari's from Hazara, home decor items, printed fabrics, exclusive collection of apparel to highlight indigenous to contemporary textiles, hand crafted toys, honey and jewelry crafted by talented artisans offering a glimpse into the region's rich cultural heritage and traditions. Nageen Hayat, the director of Nomad Art Gallery, in her address stated that the "Nomad is always dedicated to advancing human rights, peace, crafts development, and the arts and culture. Nomad, which keeps a collection that is consistently represented, has hosted exhibitions by numerous well-known and up-and-coming national and international artists. To display a wide variety of products, they collaborate with home-based artisans and diverse populations from all of Pakistan's provinces. Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO Serena Hotels said, "we dedicated our time and effort to ensure that we support local people, local community, talented artisans, and we need partners like Nomad Art Gallery who can bring the artists on our platform so they can excel from here and connect to the right audience. We firmly believe this country is full of talent, the only thing is that we need it to connect the talent with the people who appreciate it, and I am so happy that this institution has been playing its part in a very humble manner



to help the community". Serena Hotels is committed to fostering arts and promoting artists as ambassadors of cultural expression. Through a dedicated commitment to showcasing diverse artistic expressions, Serena Hotels plays a pivotal role in developing the voices of creatives and raising cultural exchange. This untiring support reflects Serena Hotels' dedication to bridging cultures and enriching the global dialogue through the universal language of art.

## Philippine, Chinese vessels collide in contested waters

BEIJING: A Philippine boat and Chinese ship have collided near a contested reef, in the latest territorial dispute between the two countries in the South China Sea. The Philippines said China had "harassed, blocked, and executed dangerous manoeuvres". It comes a day after the Philippines accused China of using water cannons to obstruct three of its vessels. The South China Sea is at the centre of a territorial dispute between China, the Philippines and other countries. The Philippines said on Sunday that China had targeted Philippine civilian supply vessels in the Second Thomas Shoal in the Spratly Islands, a flashpoint between the two countries. One of two boats carrying provisions was "rammed" by a Chinese coast guard ship, the National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea said in a statement. It also accused China of causing "severe damage" to the engine of one boat after using water cannon. But the China Coast Guard accused the Philippine boat of "deliberately colliding" with the Chinese vessel after "disregarding our multiple stern warnings". Separately, a convoy of civilian boats planning to deliver Christmas presents and provisions to Filipino fishermen and troops

in the South China Sea aborted the trip due to "constant shadowing" by Chinese vessels, the organiser said. Chinese ships "fire water at Philippine vessels" It comes after the Philippines accused China of using water cannons to obstruct three of its vessels on Saturday, in what it called "illegal and aggressive" actions. Beijing said it had used what it called "control measures" on ships that had intruded into its waters. Earlier this week, the Philippines accused China of "swarming" a reef off its coast after more than 135 military boats were spotted in the South China Sea. Friction between the two countries over competing sovereignty claims has increased since Ferdinand Marcos Jr became Philippine president last year. Last month, the Philippines carried out two separate joint air and sea patrols with the US, and with Australia a few days earlier. An international tribunal invalidated China's claim to 90% of the South China Sea in 2016, but Beijing does not recognise the ruling and has been building islands in the disputed waters in recent years. The contested waters have also become a naval flashpoint for China-US relations, and in October US President Joe Biden warned that the US will defend the Philippines in case of any attack. - Agencies

## French frigate downs drones over Red Sea

PARIS: A French frigate shot down two drones in the Red Sea that were heading toward it from the coast of Yemen, the French military said on Sunday. "The interception and destruction of these two identified threats" were carried out late Saturday by the frigate Languedoc, which operates in the Red Sea, the general staff said in a press release. The interceptions happened at 2030 GMT and 2230 GMT, it

added, and were 110 km (68 miles) from the Yemeni coast. Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi militia on Saturday threatened to attack any vessels heading to Israeli ports unless food and medicine were allowed into the besieged Gaza Strip. The latest warning comes amid heightened tensions in the Red Sea and surrounding waters following a series of maritime attacks by Houthi militia since the start of the Israel-Hamas war on October 7. In a statement posted on social media, the Houthis said they "will prevent the passage of ships heading to the Zionist entity" if humanitarian aid is not allowed into Hamas-ruled Gaza. The Houthis have recently attacked ships they claim have direct links to Israel, but their latest threat expands the scope of their targets. An American destroyer shot down three drones last week while providing assistance to commercial ships in the Red Sea targeted by attacks from Yemen, according to Washington, which denounced "a direct threat" to maritime security. -Agencies

## Arab, Turkish FMs call for urgent Gaza ceasefire during Canada visit

NEWS DESK

LONDON: A delegation of Arab and Turkish foreign ministers reiterated the importance of an immediate ceasefire to return security and stability to the Gaza Strip during a visit to the Canadian capital. The delegation, headed by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, was received by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in Ottawa, before beginning an official round of talks with Foreign Minister Melanie Joly, the Kingdom's Foreign Ministry said. The talks were also attended by Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad Al-Maliki and Turkish counterpart Hakan Fidan. The officials discussed developments in Gaza and their repercussions, as well as Israel's military escalation against Palestinian civilians, the ministry said in a statement. The delegation urged the international community to quickly assume its responsibility to protect civilians, adding that discussions around Gaza's future and the Palestinian issue "must come after an immediate ceasefire and a calming of the unjustified military escalation." The delegation stressed the importance of taking serious steps to ensure the securing of relief corridors for the delivery of urgent humanitarian, food and medical aid to Gaza. It also stressed the importance of creating political conditions for the establishment of a Palestinian state, and rejected discussing Gaza's future separately from the wider Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The ministers said they were dissatisfied with the blocking of a UN Security Council calling for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, and expressed their concern about the expanding scope of blatant attacks carried out by Israeli forces against civilians, and the repeated violations of international law.

## Cease-fire efforts still ongoing: Qatar

DOHA: Qatar's efforts to achieve a cease-fire in the Gaza Strip are still in progress, as dialogue is the best way to handle the most complex conflicts, said the country's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, criticizing the international community's double standards for failing to stop Israel's onslaught on the besieged enclave, which has also widened the gap between the West and the East. "The current crisis in Gaza clearly demonstrated the size of the gap between East and West, and between successive generations, and the double standards in the international community," Al Thani said during his speech at the opening of the 21st edition of the Doha Forum in the Qatari capital, according to the official news agency QNA. "History has taught us that dialogue is the best way to confront the most complex conflicts if there is will and wise political leadership," he said, stressing that "this is the basis of the State of Qatar's belief in the importance of mediation in resolving conflicts and its efforts to achieve a cease-fire." Qatar, along with Egypt and the US, led mediation during the Israeli war, which broke out on Oct. 7, resulting in a humanitarian pause that lasted for one week until Dec. 1. At least 17,700 Palestinians have been killed and more than 48,780 others injured in relentless air and ground attacks by Israeli forces on the enclave since Oct. 7 following the cross-border attack by Hamas. -Agencies

## Iran unveils drones armed with air-to-air missiles

TEHRAN: Dozens of home-grown Karrar drones, equipped with air-to-air Majid missiles, have joined Iran Army's Air Defense Force. The unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) was unveiled during a ceremony at Khatam Al-Anbia Air Defense Academy in Tehran on Sunday in the presence of a group of military commanders and officials. The Karrar drones armed with Majid missiles are capable of intercepting and engaging any flying objects and hostile targets. They successfully performed operations during a large-scale drone drill by the Islamic Republic of Iran Army in October. Speaking at the event, Chief Commander of the Iranian Army Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi said that the development demonstrated "another stage [in the process] of upgrading the power of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Defense Force." "Today, the [Iranian] Army meets its own needs through the cooperation of its scientists with the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade, and knowledge-based cores. This is because strengthening the defense power across land, sea and air borders is an inseparable principle of the Army," he added. Mousavi also advised the enemies to reconsider their air-to-air combat strategies, especially in the field of UAVs, noting that Iran Army's Air Defense Force has the upper hand in aerial combats. - Agencies

**MURREE SPARKLETTS**  
Bottled Drinking Water

**WATER TASTES BEST IN GLASS!!**

CARBONATED WATER ALSO AVAILABLE IN GLASS BOTTLE

330ml, 750ml

For Sales & Supply Contact:

Rizi Abbas 03325599169	Kaiser Waheed 03325808422	Riaz Muhammad 0335 5111043
---------------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------