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President calls for unity under Quaid's guiding principles

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Peace deal with Armenia 'won't solve everything'

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PCB names Yasir Arafat coach for NZ tour

Detailed News On Page-06



Christmas Celebrations Enemies hell-bent on creating fissures using vulnerabilities: COAS

Islam teaches us the lesson of peace, friendship and encourages interfaith harmony which is the need of the hour"

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), joined the Christian community at Christ Church, Rawalpindi in Christmas celebrations. The congregation welcomed COAS and thanked him for sharing the festivity. COAS wished Merry Christmas to the entire Christian community in Pakistan. COAS expressed reverence for religious community and stressed upon the need for promoting greater interfaith harmony in society in order to follow Quaid's true vision of a united and progressive Pakistan. COAS noted that "Islam teaches us the lesson of peace, friendship and encourages interfaith harmony which is the need of the hour". COAS stressed upon the importance of having correct perspective, truth and knowledge based opinions about national issues rather than following rhetoric and propaganda, to address complex challenges and issues. "Enemies of Pakistan are hell-bent towards creating fissures using religious, ethnic and political vulnerabilities. We have to stand together & united to rise as a resolute and strong nation." COAS remarked. COAS while paying glowing tribute to Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's great vision and leadership on his 147th birthday, quoted Quaid's historical remarks made in his speech on 11 August 1947 while addressing the Constituent Assembly, (quote)"You are free. You are free to go to your temples. You are free to go to your mosques or to any other places of worship in this State of Pakistan." (Un-quote) At the end, COAS befittingly acknowledged the contributions and sacrifices made by the entire Christian community of Pakistan in all the fields and domains.

Solangi stresses on democratic means to tackle issues

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi Monday stressed on addressing the challenges being faced by the country through democratic means, negotiations, and adherence to the rule of law, as extra-constitutional measures could only lead to destruction. Speaking at a speech competition organized by the Directorate of Electronic Media and Production (DEMP) among the students of model schools and colleges affiliated with the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) to pay tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on his birth anniversary, he underscored that the pivotal solution to the country's urgent challenges laid in upholding democratic traditions. "Respecting the Constitution is crucial as progress rests in following the law. Deviating from this may lead to chaos and a breach of constitutional principles," the minister said. Solangi asserted that the country could overcome its prevailing challenges by wholeheartedly embracing the principles advocated by Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The Quaid, a proponent of the rule of law, advocated for its application impartially, regardless of right or wrong, he said, emphasizing the importance of respecting diverse opinions. The minister observed that despite acknowledging the oppressive nature of British laws, Jinnah was steadfast in preserving the integrity of the legal system. He held the firm belief that all citizens were equal, emphasizing that genuine value was found in one's character and dedication to peaceful political pursuits. Secretary Information &

Continued on Page 06



RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) along with others cutting Christmas cake at Christ Church, Rawalpindi in Christmas celebrations. – DNA

Govt releases all Baloch protestors

Every citizen has right to hold peaceful protest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The government has released all the remaining 290 Baloch protestors, in light of the deliberations of the committee formed by Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar. The decision to release the arrested protestors was taken in view of the directions of the honorable court, an Interior Ministry spokesperson said in a statement on Monday. He said that peaceful protest was the right of every citizen, but no one was allowed to take the law into their hands. The security of the Capital's Red Zone, where constitutional institutions and the Diplomatic Enclave were located, would be ensured at all costs, the spokesperson added. He said that a special assistance center

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Bilawal vows to abolish 17 federal ministries if PPP voted into power

PPP writes to CEC about violation of election Act 2017

NAZIR SIYAL

NAWABSHAH: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Monday vowed to abolish 17 federal ministries if his party elected into power following general elections to save taxpayers' "Rs300 billion". Addressing a public gathering in Nawabshah, Bilawal said the 17 federal ministries should have been devolved to provinces after the 18th Constitutional Amendment. The PPP chief said Rs300 billion was spent on the ministries and an Rs1,500 billion subsidy was given by the government to the "elites" in various sectors including energy, fertiliser and others. Bilawal said his party would end the subsidy for elites to provide funds to labourers and farmers through cards, he said. The 18th Constitutional Amendment was passed on April 8, 2010. It devolved multiple federal ministries and powers to provinces. It divested the president of all his executive authority and made him a ceremonial head of the state. Calling the youth the future of the country, the PPP chief said old politicians are a thing of the past. Bilawal said the country's issues could be resolved by burying the politics of "hatred and division". He highlighted that the country is facing enormous challenges related to the economy and climate change. Pledging to provide

Continued on Page 06

PM lauds Christian community's role

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar felicitated the Christian community on the occasion of Christmas and said the nation on this day should pledge to make Pakistan a model of religious tolerance and inter-faith harmony. In a message on the occasion of Christmas, he said, "The Christian community is celebrating Christmas in Pakistan and across the world and I and the whole nation felicitate the Christian brothers and sisters on the happy occasion of Christmas. Christmas is the name of love, brotherhood, patience and sacrifice." These values were critical in putting a society on the path of development, he added. The PM said the Prophet of Allah, Hazrat Essa (AS) healed the pain of

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Sheikh ready to fight against PDM

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Former interior minister and chief of Awami Muslim League Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has said that he will go to the public against the former ruling alliance, PDM. He was talking to media on Monday after his nomination papers were accepted after scrutiny. He said that his and Raashid Shafiq's papers have been approved in National Assembly constituency NA-56. Rashid said that 44 people have submitted nomination papers against him. "I have seen six or seven contestants, but never seen 44. By the grace of Allah, I will win constituency 56 and 57 as well," he added.

ECP starts scrutiny of nomination papers

Appeals can be filed against rejection or approval of documents on January 3

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: After completion of process of filing nomination papers, their scrutiny started on Monday (today) while the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has formed appellate tribunals to hear objections against nominations filed for February 8, 2024, general polls. A notification has been issued in this regard, according to which five judges of Peshawar High Court, two judges each of Islamabad and Balochistan High Courts, six of Sindh High Court and nine judges of Lahore High Court will hear objections on nomination papers as tribunal judges. According to the election schedule, the scrutiny of nomination papers will be held from December 25 to 30. The appellate tribunals will hear objections against the nominations from January 3 to 10. Appeals can be filed against rejection or approval of documents on January 3. The last date for decision on appeals by the ECP is January 10. Final list of candidates will be released on January 11,

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PTI to move PHC against ECP verdict

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: The PTI on Monday said it would challenge the Election Commission of Pakistan's decision to declare its intra-party polls as unconstitutional and revoke the iconic 'bat' symbol in the Peshawar High Court (PHC) tomorrow (Tuesday). The development comes after the electoral watchdog last week voided, for the second time in less than a month, PTI's internal elections in which Barrister Gohar Ali Khan was easily elected as the party's new chairman.

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ECP sets up online facilitation center

KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan has established online facilitation center at its Secretariat to facilitate Returning Officers in the scrutiny of nomination papers. According to ECP spokesman, round-the-clock online facility is supported by NADRA, National Accountability Bureau, Federal Investigation Agency, Federal Board of Revenue and State Bank of Pakistan. The data of candidates received by Returning Officers is being sent to these institutions for necessary action. The Election Commission has also informed concerned authorities including Chairman CDA to obtain the lists of candidates from the Returning Officers.

Refused to take 'bat' symbol

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Parliamentarian Chairman Pervez Khattak claimed on Monday that he "refused" to take the bat symbol. Expressing his thoughts in Peshawar, Khattak said: "I will continue to fight for the sake of the province [Khyber Pakhtunkhwa]. There is nothing wrong to change the political party as is the democratic process." "Many of our supporters will join us if they win the elections as independent candidates," the former KP chief minister maintained. Khattak said: "It is a weird to know that people deems me turncoat for leaving the PTI".

Christmas under the rubble, Israel continues aggression in Gaza

Gaza's Ministry of Health reports a revised death toll of 20,674 along with 54,536 people injured

NEWS DESK

GAZA: As the US-backed Israeli genocidal war on the Gaza Strip entered day 80 on Monday, massive aerial and artillery strikes continued to pound and level whole blocks and homes and massacre more civilians, mostly children and women. The Palestinian Information Center (PIC) said that the Israeli occupation army continued to attack different areas of Gaza last night and on Monday morning, targeting homes, civilian gatherings and shelter centers, and massacring dozens of citizens. Gaza's Ministry of Health reports a revised death toll of 20,674 along with 54,536 people injured as a result of Israeli air and ground attacks since October 7. The ministry also said 250 Palestinians were killed and 500 wounded in the past 24 hours alone. The Israeli occupation military confirmed that an officer and a soldier were, while another soldier was critically injured, in ongoing ground battles with Palestinian Resistance fighters in the northern Gaza Strip. The occupation army identified the killed troops as Master Sgt. (res.) Nitai Meisels, 30, of the 14th Armored Brigade, and Sgt. Rani Tamir, 20, of the 50th Battalion of the Nahal Brigade. The Israeli occupation military announced that with the killing of the Meisels and Tamir,

Continued on Page 06

Egypt sets out ambitious ceasefire plan

FOREIGN DESK

CAIRO: Egypt has presented what is described as an ambitious plan to end the war in Gaza with a ceasefire. The proposal, which was presented to Israel, Hamas, the United States and European governments on Monday would see Israel fully withdraw from the Gaza Strip, all captives held by Hamas, and many Palestinian prisoners, freed, and a united technocratic Palestinian government installed in the enclave. Izzat al-Risheq, a member of Hamas's political bureau, says in a statement that the group has "no knowledge" of the information published in a recent report from the Reuters news agency. Earlier, international media reported, quoting two Egyptian security sources, said that Hamas and the Islamic Jihad had rejected a proposal to give up control of the Gaza Strip in exchange for a permanent ceasefire.

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President urges children to adopt Quaid's principles

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday urged children to contribute to the country by achieving high standards in education and adopting the Quaid-e-Azam's principles of unity, faith, and discipline. In an event titled 'Quaid and Children', the president said adhering to the golden values of the founder of Pakistan would make the country prosper in the comity of nations. The colourful ceremony held here at the Presidency to celebrate the birth anniversary of the Quaid-e-Azam was attended by First Lady Samina Alvi, ministers, parliamentarians, and a large number of school children including the differently-abled ones. President Alvi recalled that during the Pakistan Movement, children were also among the population who loved their Quaid and steadfastly stood with him in his struggle for a separate

homeland. He read out a few passionate letters written by children to the Quaid-e-Azam where they penned their support to him besides sending him the money collected after savings. The president said Quaid-e-Azam was a strong believer in mainstreaming women and other marginalized segments of society to ensure economic prosperity. He emphasized providing equal opportunities to women and differently-abled people in the fields of education and employment. He said the Quaid-e-Azam created this country with utmost dedication and commitment and stressed that it was the responsibility of every citizen to play a part in its development. President Alvi mentioned that the people in Kashmir were suffering at the hands of Indian occupation forces while the religious minorities faced continued persecution. "The current situation in India reinforces the significance of the Two-Nation theory that necessitated

the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the Indian sub-continent," he said. He said Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was a great leader whose struggle led to bringing a change in the world. "This homeland was created after the sacrifices of thousands of people and it needs to be strengthened with hard work and commitment," he said. President Alvi and Samina Alvi cut the cake to celebrate the birthday of the Quaid-e-Azam among children. The children clad in traditional dresses danced to the tunes of folk songs depicting the rich culture of the four provinces and Kashmir. A group of differently-abled children including the visually-impaired presented a tableau on the song 'Dil Dil Pakistan', which was highly appreciated by the audience that waved national flags during the performance. The entire ceremony was simultaneously presented in sign language to facilitate the differently-abled children.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Provincial Ministers, Inspector General of Police, Archbishop Sebastian Francis Shaw along with Christmas at Sacred Heart Cathedral Church. Cutting the cake during the prayer ceremony. —DNA

Christmas celebrated in Dera

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Like the rest of the country, the Christian community in Dera Ismail Khan also celebrated its religious festival of Christmas enthusiastically here on Monday. The Christian community organized their religious ceremonies in churches located in different areas of the city, where the celebrations started at midnight. The children and elders of the Christian community actively participated in the worships, and at the beginning of the day, they greeted each other on Christmas. The cakes, drinks, and soups were arranged for them during worship. The district administration had also made special security arrangements to protect the worshippers of the Christian community. Superintendent of Police (SP) City Circle Muhammad Ishaq Khan, following the directions of District Police Officer Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani, visited various churches to review the security arrangements made by the district police. The district police also organized an event to celebrate the religious festival of the policemen belonging to the Christian community here at Ejaz Shaheed Police Lines the other day. The event was attended by SP City Muhammad Ishaq Khan, DSP Headquarters Asghar Ali Shah, Incharge Traffic Police Izzat Khan, and other officers, besides the police employees belonging to the Christian community. The SP City and DSP Headquarters, on this occasion, extended greetings on behalf of the district police chief to the Christian community on their religious festival. The officers also handed over the gifts, sweat, and bouquets to the Christian colleagues on behalf of the DPO. Speaking on this occasion, the SP City said the role of the Christian community has a key role in the development of the country and national institutions.—APP

RCCI Celebrates Quaid's 147th Birth Anniversary

RCCI President and Chairman RWMC, Saqib Rafiq said that the objective of inheriting a prosperous Pakistan to the next generation can only be possible by complying with Quaid's motto of Unity, Faith and Discipline

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A cake-cutting ceremony in connection with the 147th birth anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was held at Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) here on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, RCCI President and Chairman RWMC, Saqib Rafiq said that the objective of inheriting a prosperous Pakistan to the next generation can only

be possible by complying with Quaid's motto of Unity, Faith and Discipline. Saqib Rafiq emphasized the business community, youth and members of the RCCI to adopt Quaid's attributes of honesty, hard work, perseverance and dedication. "We have to work together and give a better and prosperous Pakistan for future generations". Group leader Sohail Altaf said that with the difficulties that Pakistan is facing today, it is the responsibility of every

individual to become sincere to his country and devote his services to the building of the country. Senior Vice President RCCI Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, Vice President Faisal Shahzad, Former Presidents Kashif Shabbir, Zahid Latif Khan, Executive Committee Members, representatives from the trade associations, Sheikh Hafeez, Arshad Awan, Chaudhry Akram and distinguished members of RCCI were also present on the occasion.

IG Punjab wishes Christian community a happy Christmas

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: On the occasion of Christmas and Quaid-e-Azam Day, IG Punjab Dr Usman Anwar, in his message, has said that he, as the Chief of Punjab Police, wishes the entire Christian community throughout the province a happy Christmas from the core of the heart. IG Punjab Dr Usman Anwar has also congratulated the Christian officers and officials serving in various departments of Punjab Police on Christmas. IG Punjab Dr Usman said that Christmas festival conveys

the message of promoting peace and security, love, brotherhood and mutual unity. He said that there is no doubt that Christian citizens have presented eternal and valuable sacrifices in the construction and development of Pakistan. All the minorities, including the Christian community, are actively participating in the progress, development and prosperity of the country. Afghan schoolgirls are finishing sixth grade in tears. Under Taliban rule, their education is over. It should be remembered that the only decisive vote of the Christian community in the formation of Pakistan made history. In Pakistan,

all minorities, including the Christian community, have full protection and freedom. Dr Usman Anwar said that the foolproof security arrangements have been ensured on the occasion of Christmas and Quaid-e-Azam Day throughout the province. Dr Usman Anwar added that the security of all minorities including the Christian community is the first responsibility of the state and the police. On the occasion of Christmas, more than 26,000 police officers and officials are on the security of important places including churches, Christian communities, Christmas markets, parks, parks and recreational places.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi, First Lady Begum Samina Arif Alvi and federal ministers cutting cake to celebrate the 147th birth anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.—DNA

CM Sindh declares Mirpurkhas as load-shedding free district

MIRPURKHAS: Sindh's Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqir on Monday declared Mirpurkhas load-shedding free on the occasion of Quaid's birthday. The announcement was made during a ceremony at the HESCO office in Mirpurkhas, attended by federal Minister for Power Muhammad Ali and Secretary Power Division Rashid Muhammad Langria, among others. In his address, Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqir emphasized the importance of timely bill payments and responsible electricity usage to sustain this load-shedding-free status. He highlighted the efforts of HESCO workers in securing meters, transformers, and conducting developmental work to reduce losses from 30% to 17%. The Caretaker CM praised the ongoing nationwide campaign against electricity theft and urged public cooperation. He commended the people of Mirpurkhas for their role in achieving the load-shedding-free status and expressed hope for similar initiatives in other cities. Federal Minister Muhammad Ali and Secretary Energy Rashid Muhammad Langria acknowledged the collaborative efforts that led to this achievement, thanking the district administration, police, business community, and journalists. CEO of HESCO, Bashir Ahmad Gujjar, provided details on the extensive work undertaken to secure Mirpurkhas against load shedding. He highlighted the expected annual savings of 364 million units due to these efforts.—APP

AIOU to hold convocation on January 31

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Convocation of Alama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) will be held on January 31, 2024, at the Jinnah Convention Center, Islamabad. According to the AIOU, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Dr Arif Alvi, who is also the Chancellor of the University, will be the chief guest at the event.

The ceremony will be hosted by the Vice Chancellor, of AIOU, Prof Dr Nasir Mahmood. Federal ministers, secretaries, senior officials of HEC, vice chancellors of various universities, rectors, renowned journalists, eminent social personalities, deans, professors, principal officers, faculty members, and students of

AIOU will participate in the convocation. Convocation is the most important event of the university, Vice Chancellor, Prof Dr Nasir Mahmood has directed students to register for convocation by January 5 to ensure maximum participation. Graduates who have secured 70% marks in all degree programs from the semester of Autumn 2004 to the semester of Spring 2022 are eligible for registration. Students are directed to visit the convocation website convocation.aiou.edu.pk for registration and more information. The administration of AIOU has completed preparations for the upcoming convocation ceremonies. The convocations will take place in Muzaffarabad and all the provincial capitals, including Karachi, Lahore, Quetta, and Peshawar. On January 31, 2024, students from Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Rawalpindi Division (Attack, Chaklala, Jhelum, and Rawalpindi) will participate in the convocation ceremony held at Jinnah Convention Center in Islamabad. The convocation for the Karachi chapter is scheduled for March 3, 2024, while Lahore's convocation will be held on March 28. Quetta will host its ceremony on May 19, and the convocations for the Peshawar and Muzaffarabad chapters are scheduled for June 9 and June 30, 2024, respectively. PhD graduates are required to register in Islamabad only. The students of MPhil programs will be awarded gold medals and degrees at the convocations held in their respective cities. For more details about the convocation, students can contact convocation@aiou.edu.pk or 051-9571717.

Crackdown against gas pilferers ongoing

LAHORE: Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) during its ongoing crackdown against gas pilferers in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad has disconnected another 238 connections and imposed a fine of Rs 3.41 million on pilferers. According to a press release issued here on Monday, in Lahore, the regional team disconnected 26 connections on illegal use of gas and 9 others on use of compressor and also imposed a fine of Rs 0.26 million against gas theft cases. In Rawalpindi the team disconnected 4 connection on illegal use of gas while another one on use of compressor. During the operation in Islamabad, the team disconnected eight connections on illegal use of gas. In Multan 3 connections were disconnected on illegal use of gas while another 10 on use of compressor. In Peshawar and Karak, the company disconnected 80 connections on account of direct use of gas and imposed fine of Rs 2.4 million against gas theft cases. The team also lodged two FIRs against gas pilferers. In Sahiwal, one connection was disconnected on illegal use of gas. In Sialkot the team disconnected two connections on illegal use of gas and fine of Rs 0.09 million had been imposed against gas theft cases. In Sheikhpura 35 connections were disconnected on illegal use of gas while another 2 on use of compressor and fine of Rs 0.03 million imposed against gas theft cases. The regional team of Sargodha disconnected 34 connections on illegal use of gas while another 20 on use of compressor and also imposed fine of Rs 0.3 million against gas theft cases. In Gujranwala the team disconnected 2 connections on illegal use of gas and also imposed fine of Rs 0.33 million against gas pilferers. The team of Gujrat disconnect one connection on illegal use of gas.—DNA

Fog decreases visibility by 10 meters in Bahawalpur

BAHAWALPUR: A very dense fog has decreased visibility by 10 meters in Bahawalpur, disrupting routine life activities on Monday morning. Smog started at night between Sunday and Monday and engulfed the entire region, decreasing visibility level by 10 meters. People were forced to live indoors. There was no more traffic on roads in Bahawalpur city on Monday morning as a low number of vehicles were seen on city arteries. The mist also disrupted routine business activities as a low number of customers were witnessed at markets.—APP

Muslims, minorities united for country's development

Ashrafi, who is also Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council, said the PUC and churches had always stood firm for peace in the country

NAZIR SIYAL

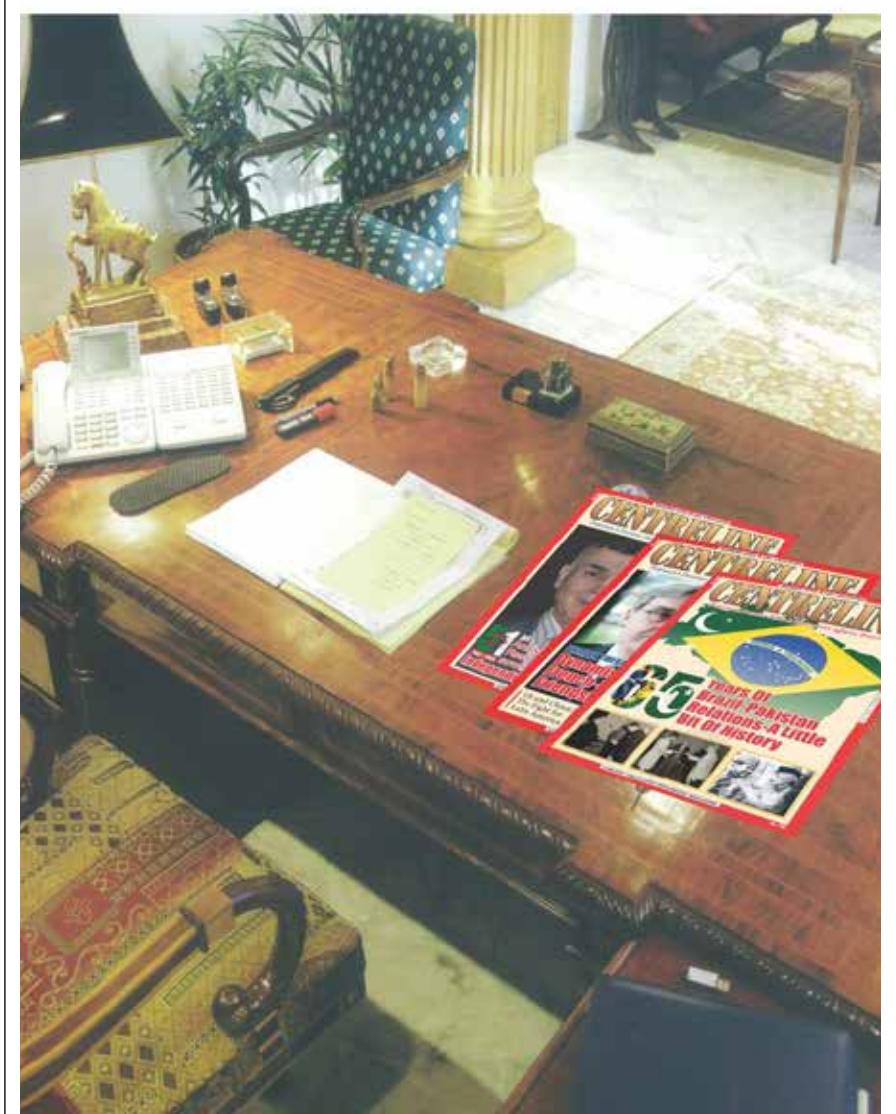
KARACH: Special Representative to the Caretaker Prime Minister on Religious Harmony & Islamic Countries Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Monday said that Ulema and minorities, including the Christian community, were united for the peace and development of the country. Ashrafi, who is also Chair-

man of the Pakistan Ulema Council, said the PUC and churches had always stood firm for peace in the country. He stated this during his visit to Holy Trinity Cathedral to celebrate Christmas with the Christian community. Ashrafi, felicitating the Christian community on the auspicious occasion, said that the Ulema believed in having respect for all religions.

The minorities including Christians, Sikhs and Hindus were free to go to their worship places in the country and their protection was the State's responsibility, he added. Ashrafi said that the Chief of Army Staff Syed Asim Munir also visited a Church today to join the Christian community in Christmas celebrations. Referring to the Palestine situation, he said that the

Christians opened doors of their Churches for the Muslims when the latter were attacked. He said that the Christians were also being targeted in Palestine along with the Muslims. "We want peace and do not want war," he added. Recalling the incident of Jaranwala, he said that no one had the right to destabilize peace in the country. "Islam does

not allow anyone to force for marriage as well as does not allow any act with force." Ashrafi said that due to the efforts of the caretaker prime minister and the COAS, activities had been restored in the Pakistan Stock Exchange and reduced Hajj expenses by Rs 0.1 million. He announced to hold an International Conference on Religions between January 15-20.



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National Days and Armed Forces Days

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- 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

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Motorway Police.....9270601-20
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Railway Exchange.....9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

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MH.....5611116
Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11
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TMA.....5770886
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Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Pak vibrant youth showcase theatrical talents at PNCA'

A Glimpse into the Festivities, the cultural extravaganza unfolded with Makhlef University's student groups presenting a delightful mix of stand-up comedy and Sufi dance. NUST Dramatic Club took center stage with a captivating play, while Quaid-e-Azam Dramatic Club infused humour through stand-up comedy, while BNU Lahore added a rhythmic touch with a mesmerizing dance performance, and Team Master delivered a compelling play

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The three-day Drama Festival wrapped up that showcased a tapestry of performances, highlighting the talent of diverse theatre groups that not only provided quality entertainment but also delivered powerful messages through impeccable acting, dialogue delivery, and script techniques at Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA). In a dazzling finale, the Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) concluded its three-day drama festival, a kaleidoscope of performances that left audiences enchanted. The event featured spirited presentations by student groups from Makhlef University, BNU Lahore, Nast Dramatic Club, Quaid-e-Azam Dramatic Club, and Team Master, Director PR Dr Bilal Karim said. A Glimpse into the Festivities, the cultural extravaganza unfolded with Makhlef University's student groups presenting a delightful mix of stand-up comedy and Sufi dance. NUST Dramatic Club took center stage with a captivating play, while Quaid-e-Azam Dramatic Club infused humour through stand-up comedy, while BNU Lahore added a rhythmic touch with a mesmerizing dance performance, and Team Master delivered a compelling play. The star-studded event was graced by Sadia Hayat Khan, a prominent television artist, model, compere, and producer, who adorned the role of the chief guest. With her seasoned presence, she added a touch of glamour and prestige to the festivities. The climax of the festival saw the distribution of prizes to the outstanding performers, marking their achievements in this artistic



spectacle. The first, second, and third-place winners were acknowledged and applauded by Sadia Hayat Khan, who recognized and admired the exceptional talent on display. The festival took a unique turn with students presenting spontaneous sketches on topics suggested by the audience, fostering an interactive and engaging atmosphere. This not only showcased the versatility of the partici-

pants but also kept the spectators on the edge of their seats. Tamasha, a collaborative effort between the Pakistan National Council of Arts and Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad, featured thought-provoking plays by 23 university students and theatre groups. The festival served as a melting pot for drama, acting, and cultural dances, with participants hailing from various universities and colleg-

es across Pakistan. Meanwhile, beyond entertainment, the festival aimed to promote healthy activities among the youth, reinvigorating the concept of theatre in the twin cities. With a theme centered around peace, love, and harmony, the event succeeded in bringing alive the cultural vibrancy of Pakistan's capital. In the grand finale, the three-day drama festival emerged as a theatrical triumph, leaving an indelible

mark on the cultural landscape of Pakistan. The vibrant performances, the star-studded presence, and the enthusiastic audience participation collectively painted a picture of artistic excellence and cultural celebration. As the curtains closed on this spectacular event, it left behind memories of laughter, contemplation, and a renewed appreciation for the rich tapestry of Pakistan's theatrical prowess.

Gas pipeline explosion in Rawalpindi

ISLAMABAD: A house collapsed after an alleged gas pipeline explosion which was reported in Dhamial a village of Rawalpindi district of Punjab on early Monday morning. According to details, rescue sources said the explosion occurred early this morning and soon after the explosion, three firefighter tenders and six emergency vehicles reached the site immediately. Private news channels reported. No casualties were reported so far in the incident, they said. The police also called the Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) to investigate the nature of the blast. However, the BDS officer reported that the explosion was caused by pressure in the gas pipe in the back lane of the affected house. Authorities were also called in to fix the damaged gas pipeline and police have filed a case to further investigate.—APP

Social media users celebrates 147th birth anniversary of 'Jinnah'

ISLAMABAD: On the 147th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the Pakistani nation shared Quaid's inspiring quotes and photos from his speeches on Monday to express their respect and love for Jinnah, who fought selflessly for the Muslims of undivided India and laid the foundations of a new country, Pakistan. "Social media users, while paying rich tributes, had posted messages on various platforms commemorating his sacrifices and struggles in achieving a separate homeland for the Muslim population," said a report aired by the PTV news channel. Social media is the best opportunity for students because it provides a good platform for learning and knowing about the historical struggle of the founder of the nation, said a teacher. Pakistanis, including various politicians and celebrities, also posted heartfelt messages for Mohammad Ali Jinnah on Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp groups, and Instagram posts, said a citizen. Thanks indeed, Sir, for your diligent efforts in making a beautiful and independent homeland for us, said a Facebook user while sharing the post. On his anniversary, we remember the founding father of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, with respect and gratitude, according to another post on Twitter. There is no power on Earth that can undo Pakistan," said a politician while sharing his views on Twitter. Let's pay real tribute to Quaid-e-Azam by making Pakistan as per his dream and vision, said an Instagram post shared by a celebrity.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Visitors reading books during Exhibition of Books and Photographs in connection with Quaid-i-Azam Day at Heritage Museum, Lok Virsa, in the Federal Capital.—ONLINE

Christmas bring people closer: Khalil George

The minister highly appreciated the services of the Christian community for the progress and development of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights, Khalil George here on Monday said that all minorities including the Christian community enjoyed complete religious freedom in Pakistan. In his message on Christmas Day, the minister said that Christmas bring people closer and the best way to celebrate it was to include the poor, orphans and needy in our happiness and share joys besides ending differences. "We all are Pakistani and united for the progress and prosperity of our country," he said while addressing the cake-cutting ceremony of Christmas during a function held here at a hotel. He said that all Prophets had come to this world for guidance of humanity, and delivered the universal message of peace, hope, brotherhood, love and mutual coexistence. Khalil George said that every challenge in life could be achieved through unity, believing in own abilities and national cohesion. Khalil George said interfaith harmony and mutual coexistence were imperative to achieve the heights of prosperity. The minister highly appreciated the services of the Christian community for the progress and development of Pakistan.—DNA

PRGMEA, Customs hold interactive session

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers & Exporters held an interactive session in collaboration with the Model Customs Collectorate to facilitate the exporters to enhance value-added textile exports, contributing in the economic uplift of the country. The interactive session was participated by a number of PRGMEA members. Customs Collector Ms. Azmat Tahira along with her team including Ms. Farah Farooq, Deputy Collector Customs Ms. Syeda Sidra, ADC Additional Deputy Collector Customs, briefed the exporters about various issues including Rebate Calculations, Pending DTRE Cases, Bonded Warehouse Soft Clearance, Vender Registration for EFS, HS Code Approval, Maintenance of Customs Record in Duplicate both in manual and electronic and Access of different Analysis Certificate etc. PRGMEA Central Chairman Mubashar Naseer Butt, addressing the meeting, said that enhancing exports is the only way for Pakistan to achieve sustainable growth, as Pakistan's balance of payment sustainability depends on innovation and diversity in the structure of the economy. We all need to penetrate in exports, as it is the only way for sustainable growth of Pakistan, he said. Mubashar Butt said that with a view to bring this fundamental shift, there is a need to remove anti-export bias, with the industry to anchor itself on competitive principles in support of the government, he added. PRGMEA North chairman Ahmed Hanif, addressing the meeting said the country needs to diversify its export market as more than 50 percent of our exports rely only on four markets i.e. USA, EU, China and Afghanistan, he said and added that the government should help the industry make a difference in diversifying the market. Ahmed Hanif thanked the Customs officials for taking their precious time and introducing.—DNA

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Briefs

Demand for 'cakes' goes

ISLAMABAD: As the Christian community across Pakistan was celebrating their grand festival of Christmas on Sunday, the bakeries have designed and displayed a variety of 'cakes' decorated with images of Santa Clause, a Christmas tree, and other related themes to attract buyers with high demand. A huge crowd was witnessed at the sweet shops and bakeries to place orders for the customized cakes and sweets, according to a report aired by a private news channel. "This Christmas season, people are mostly placing huge orders to send gifts as well to celebrate the occasion with zeal and enthusiasm," said a citizen. Various cakes, cupcakes, and other delights decorated with Santa, a Christmas tree, and other Christmas themes are the favourite choice of the people, especially children and we have displayed special designs which are highly appreciated by customers, said a famous bakery.—DNA

Abdullah rules out normalcy unless India addresses Kashmir's core issue

ISLAMABAD: National Conference President Farooq Abdullah has denounced the normalcy propaganda being paddled by the Modi-led Indian regime in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and asked for addressing the core issue of Kashmir through talks with Pakistan. According to Kashmir Media Service, talking in Srinagar, Farooq Abdullah said, militancy is alive in Jammu and Kashmir and it cannot be finished by the use of military or police, urging New Delhi to find ways to address its root cause. "Shouting normalcy or propagating tourist arrivals," he said adding that peace will not finish militancy which is still alive. Modi government, he said, is claiming that militancy has finished with the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, but four years down the line, it is still there and will not finish till we try to understand its root, a reference to the lingering Kashmir dispute. He was reacting to the killing of retired police officer who was shot dead at his Gantmulla village in Baramulla district. "Those who are claiming normalcy are silent... they tried to heal the wounds in a superficial manner rather than addressing the root cause," Abdullah said. He said the Modi government has to find ways in the right perspective to end bloodshed in Jammu and Kashmir, and advised New Delhi that if it really wants to end militancy, it will have to "look for ways rather than claiming normalcy or talking about tourism.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Members of the Christian community taking part in Christmas celebrations at Islamabad Serena Hotel.—Photo Mudassar Raja

New tactics adopted to rob electricity consumers

NEPRA has decided to increase the electricity rates by more than Rs 3 per unit as part of the October fuel adjustment that will be charged in December bills, which means that consumers will be charged despite lower electricity consumption in December

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Monday that the power sector has become a problem for the people and the business community.

The electricity price is increasing continuously, while new tactics are being adopted to rob consumers, which we strongly condemn, he said. Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today

that in the recent electricity bills, the due date has been changed from the 25th of the month to the 22nd, which will force millions of customers to pay a collective penalty of billions of rupees. He said that banks were closed on the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth of this month due to the holidays; therefore, the bill payment date should be extended to December 27 and penalties should be abolished. The business leader said that people are already worried about inflation, and the ever-increasing cost of electric-

ity is bankrupting them while businesses are facing a disaster. Production and exports of the country's largest textile industry are also continuously falling due to the wrong policy of increasing power tariffs, he said. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that by increasing the price of electricity continuously, its use is decreasing, but the government is forced to pay the power plants according to their production capacity. He noted that the entire burden of wrong policies will be put on the public as usual, which is unfortunate. Shahid Rashid

Butt said that people are not responsible for corruption and mismanagement in the power sector, but they are punished, which is sad. NEPRA has decided to increase the electricity rates by more than Rs 3 per unit as part of the October fuel adjustment that will be charged in December bills, which means that consumers will be charged despite lower electricity consumption in December. He said that the increase in electricity prices is being done at a time when there have been revelations of overbilling in electricity supply. Everyone is concerned

about household budgets and the current state of the economy, which is being affected by skyrocketing charges for utility services, especially electricity. The tough conditions have cast a looming shadow over the economy, underscoring the need to find a holistic solution, and, surprisingly, various government initiatives to address the pressing issues have been lacking in direction. The practice of robbing consumers should be stopped immediately, and instead of putting them in more trouble, they should be given relief, he demanded.

Shehbaz urges nation to follow teachings of Quaid

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz President Shehbaz Sharif on Monday urged the nation to follow the guiding principles of the father of the nation to ensure progress and prosperity in the country. In his message issued here on 147th birth anniversary of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, he said that separate homeland for the Muslims of sub-continent was created to ensure economic independence, besides providing education, health and social justice to all its citizens. He said, "the best way to pay tribute to Quaid-e-Azam is to make Pakistan an Islamic welfare state." Shehbaz Sharif said that Quaid-i-Azam struggled for free and independent country till his last breath. He said, "Vision behind creation of Pakistan has to be followed in letter and spirit to achieve real objective of making Pakistan." It was very essential to overcome economic instability, poverty, division and ignorance to protect country's freedom, he added.

HEC Chairman emphasize youth to follow Quaid vision

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed Monday paid eulogizing tributes to the Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, emphasized upon the youth to adopt Quaid's attributes of honesty, hard work, perseverance and dedication. Talking to PTV news channel, the Chairman said that the young population should follow the footsteps of Jinnah and would have to show dedication to develop Pakistan on the pattern as envisioned by its founder Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah as it is need of hour.

Pak-China building materials collaboration opportunities

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pak-China building materials collaboration opportunities flourished in Linqu, China's Shandong region. According to Gwadar Pro on Monday, Linqu Building Materials Special Session, as part of the 2023 Weifang International Procurement Festival, was held in Linqu, which provided a platform for international representatives to connect. Tahir Zaman Muhammad, the CEO of Eagle Star Supply Chain and a prominent Pakistani business representative, received significant attention during his participation in the event. "I am honored to have been

invited to participate in this prestigious event. The organization of procurement festivals within industrial clusters provides an excellent opportunity for me to connect with outstanding and reliable suppliers," said Tahir. He also highlighted the increasing interest and potential for collaboration between the building materials industries of China and Pakistan. Linqu City is renowned for its abundant resource base, advanced manufacturing capabilities, and comprehensive supply chain. Its products, including ceramics, glass, cement, and steel, enjoy high demand both domestically and internationally. "This event has given me valuable insights into the sig-

nificant influence of Linqu and has introduced me to several high-quality building material enterprises," expressed Tahir, impressed by the thriving building materials industry in Linqu. Pakistan is currently witnessing a growing demand for building materials due to rapid urbanization and infrastructure development initiatives. The country's expertise in areas such as marble, granite, and textiles presents promising opportunities for collaboration with Linqu's building materials sector. "I am determined to engage in further negotiations for future collaborations. I aim to introduce more potential partners to Linqu, fostering increased cooperation.

The Last resort...No, it isn't!

AROOJ FATIMA

Social media platforms Facebook and twitter are full of posts related to the tragic death of Bilal Pasha. Bilal Pasha was serving as Chief of Bannu Cantonment. He cleared the prestigious Central Superior Services exam in 2018 and got allocated in Military Land and Cantonment Group. He hailed from Khanewal and born in a very struggling family. However, now everything seemed to be working very well for this young officer. On 27th November 2023, he was found dead in his official residence. Initial police reports suggest that either he shot himself or was killed by someone. However, suicide is considered as the main reason behind his death. He was a public figure and thousands of young aspirants respected him because of his mentorship to the CSS aspirants. This is why his death is being widely discussed and many possible reasons for the suicide are making rounds on the internet. His possible suicide has raised many questions which should be discussed to understand the gravity of the matter. In our society, people assume that getting a job, finding true love, getting US visa, or making some fortune is the solution of all life problems. Since Bilal was an officer of Central Superior Services so most of people thought that he would be very happy and content in his life, sadly, which was not the case. There could be many reasons for his possible suicide but there are some common reasons which are nearly same for

every suicide. Firstly, People feel alienated from their surroundings. They do not feel any real connection to the society and lose sense of purpose in society. They tend to avoid family, friends, and people at large. This usually happens when they do not find their life interesting anymore. They wanted something, they achieved it; now, charm is over and they are considering everything meaningless. Secondly, people find themselves helpless and start believing that there is no solution to their problems. They do not discuss this with anyone because they think that people may judge them or make fun of their situation. They try to sort out tiny problems on their own and once they get trapped in the vicious cycle of overthinking, it leads to anxiety and depression. Now overthinking has made their tiny problems gigantic one. which leads to hopelessness and finally noose around their neck or a bullet straight through their temples. Thirdly, People start believing this world to be ideal. They think is absolute happiness is the final goal of life and in this process do not enjoy moments in their life. They give their 100 percent, they sacrifice their youth, they sacrifice their family, spouses, children, and friends to be somewhere but when they reach there, they still could not find that "idealistic absolute happiness"; that makes them so disappointed that they consider death as their last resort. Fourth and final reasons is trying to be the hero of everyone's story. We live in a society and it is natural that people expect from us; our family, friends, peers, and Boss-

es. The more we achieve greatness in any way the more people expect from us. But, as humans we cannot fulfill everyone's wish and or make everyone happy. This leads to mental agony and thought of not doing enough for others. It results in losing happiness and life and people. Which is again damaging the mental health of individuals. In order to cope with these situations which leads to depression and suicide, we need to re-educate ourselves. We have to unlearn some old and relearn some new life lessons. First of all, do not create hype of anything in your mind, be it a relationship, job, or business. Secondly, discuss your problems with your family and friends, if you do not find them then consult a counsellor or psychiatrist. Thirdly, understand that happiness and sadness are moments in our life. In a single day, we could be happy and sad many times. Do not think that happiness or sadness is a permanent thing; live your life in moments; do not ruin the beauty of a moment by thinking about something which has not happened yet. Finally, do not try to control everything. Our life has million parameters and we cannot control it. Sometimes people will even get unhappy because of our justified actions, this does not mean that you are responsible for their unhappiness. Just try to make right decisions and choices in your life and if you fail make them right. Life is full of opportunities; you only fail when you stop trying.

The writer is student of Media and Communication Studies. Semester: 4th, Email: urfatima745@gmail.com

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India turning into 'graveyard' for foreign firms

INDIA has been infamous in recent years for its poor business environment marked by opaque market regulations and capricious law enforcement targeting foreign, especially Chinese, businesses. In the latest example of the extent to which the country is ready to go in disregarding international law and business norms, its crime-fighting agency on Saturday arrested two senior employees of the India unit of Chinese smartphone maker Vivo on accusations of money laundering. Vivo has vehemently denied the charges. "We are deeply alarmed by the current action of the authorities. The recent arrests demonstrate continued harassment," a Vivo spokesperson said.

It is not the first time Vivo has faced such legal challenges in India. Just two months ago, India's Enforcement Directorate arrested four executives, including a Chinese national, from Vivo's Indian unit on similar charges.

India has made no secret of its targeting of Chinese businesses and investments following a deadly border clash in 2020. New Delhi subsequently banned TikTok and dozens of other Chinese-developed apps, on the spurious grounds they pose a threat to India's "security of state and public order".

That unwarranted move has been followed by continued onslaughts against major Chinese companies operating in India, which include a tax evasion investigation into telecommunications equipment giant Huawei and the seizure of \$725 million from smartphone company Xiaomi on the grounds of illegal foreign exchange transfers, both in 2022. It seems that New Delhi is determined to extend its border skirmishing to the business front.

Yet that would seem to be only part of its intent, for it is not only Chinese companies that have been made victims of the malevolent whims of the Indian government riding on the rise of populism. Multinationals such as Google, Amazon, Nokia and Samsung have all suffered billions of fines in India in recent years as New Delhi has doubled down on blackmailing foreign businesses with fabricated charges. No wonder India is becoming known as a "graveyard" for foreign companies. From 2014 to 2021, nearly 2,800 foreign companies registered in India had closed their operations, accounting for about one-sixth of the total number of multinational companies in the country, according to data from the Indian government. The World Bank's Global Doing Business report has ranked India as one of the worst countries in the world to start a business.

According to the World Food Program, one-fourth of the world's undernourished population lives in India, and it is an urgent task facing New Delhi to sustain its economic growth by opening wider to foreign investments, which bring with them technology, capital and job opportunities. Targeting foreign businesses out of political expediency will only serve to do it no good



Critical aid needed: hope fades without scale

A MID reports of a worsening humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, the United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution on Friday that calls for increased humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip. That it stopped short of calling for a cessation to the hostilities just serves to expose the complexity of the situation and the difficulty of realizing a cease-fire. The 15-member council adopted the resolution, which was proposed by the United Arab Emirates, 13 to 0, with the United States and Russia abstaining. The long-delayed vote on the watered-down resolution, which culminated a week and a half of intensive diplomacy involving the US, the UAE on behalf of Arab nations and others, was initially scheduled for Monday last week. The 'aza conflict has claimed more than 20,000 lives since Hamas' attack on Israel on Oct 7, and more than half of the 1 million civilians in the Palestinian enclave are suffering from hunger and a grave shortage of medicines and other life necessities.

Russia's UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia called the resolution "entirely toothless" and accused the US of "shameful, cynical and irresponsible conduct" and resorting to tactics "of gross pressure, blackmail and twisting arms". He pointed out that the resolution essentially gives the Israeli armed forces "complete freedom of movement for the clearing of the Gaza Strip". That Israel's military on Friday ordered residents of Al-Bureij in central Gaza to move south immediately, indicating a new focus of the ground assault that has devastated much of the Strip, highlighted Nebenzia had hit the nail on the head.

The US has also helped Israel to defend the "defined redlines", including that Israel continuously maintain its authority to inspect aid entering Gaza, as Tel Aviv suspects the aid of containing military support to Hamas. No wonder, despite his predictable unhappiness over the resolution failing to condemn Hamas, Israeli Ambassador to the UN Gilad Erdan thanked the US immediately following its adoption, for "standing on Israel's side". US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield hailed the US' abstaining as a stone killing three birds – easing the US' pressure by avoiding the third US veto of a UNSC resolution on Gaza, comforting the Arab states by showing Washington's "care" for the Palestinian civilians, and helping Israel by removing the call for a cease-fire. The resolution will be nothing but a face-saving compromise if the conflicting parties do not "allow, facilitate and enable" the immediate, safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance at scale directly to the Palestinian civilian population throughout the Gaza Strip. And that won't happen unless there is a cease-fire.

Two trajectories

Luay Shabaneh

The presentations by these amazing young females reminded me of the trajectory of the 10-year-old girl introduced in 2014.

The model assumes two trajectories for the girl; the first is what I called at the time 'shining', and the alternative is 'down-nosing'.

The shining trajectory starts by keeping the girl at school, protecting her from child marriage, in fact, delaying her marriage until she completes her education and is equipped with skills and confidence, provided a decent job opportunity and empowered to enjoy her rights. This leads to better health for the girl, a smaller family, lifelong education, and economic independence. Ultimately, she will be better equipped to make decisions about her own reproductive health and raise healthy...

LAST summer, I had the privilege of joining a Canadian delegation on a field mission to monitor a UNFPA-Canada-supported initiative – the Sihat Mand Khaandaan (SMK) programme – focused on promoting 'healthy families'. Our journey led us to the heart of Memon Gi Wasi village in Matiari district, Sindh, where we were welcomed to an "adolescent and youth-friendly space". A few dozen young people and some delegation members sat on the sand under an old wooden roof, where we were briefed by the youth about their hopes and challenges and how their engagement with SMK activities had improved their lives. I eagerly absorbed the valuable insights of young women who had managed to discover hope amidst adversity and daunting circumstances. They were brilliantly drawing roadmaps and shaping their dreams, while benefiting from their participation in youth activities and methods they employed to help their communities.

The presentations by these amazing young females reminded me of the UNFPA model for the trajectory of the 10-year-old girl introduced in 2014. The model assumes two trajectories for the girl; the first is what I called at the time 'shining', and the alternative is 'down-nosing'. The shining trajectory starts by keeping the girl at school, protecting her from child marriage, in fact, delaying her marriage until she completes her education and is equipped with skills and confidence, provided a decent job opportunity and empowered to enjoy her rights. This leads to better health for the girl, a smaller family, lifelong education, and economic independence. Ultimately, she will be

better equipped to make decisions about her own reproductive health and raise healthy, happy children, making her a woman leader in her family, community, and larger society, one who is fit to participate in politics and contribute to her nation's prosperity.

On the flip side, the downward trajectory starts with a 10-year-old girl discontinuing her education, leading to early or child marriage, early pregnancy, a growing number of children, health challenges, lack of skills, difficulty in securing stable employment, limited access to education, and heightened vulnerability to gender-based violence (GBV).

The accelerators to lift the girl from the down-nosing to shining trajectory were identified by strengthened systems (education, sexual and reproductive health, GBV prevention and response), programmes (population and youth policies, capacity building for quality service provision, laws and policies upholding SRH rights, criminalising violence against women and ending discrimination), and individual capabilities (lifelong education, enabling work environment, knowledge, skills, opportunities and income-generating activities). Government spending on a 10-year-old on the down-nosing trajectory is far higher than the cost of investing in her education, skills, and opportunities in the shining trajectory.

Although investing in women is a human right, governments, too, can gain multiple benefits from such investment. Cultural barriers and discriminatory social norms are often guarded by community gatekeepers, including women who enable the reinforcement of discriminatory value systems and myths within the household and

family structure. Women with a high level of human capital are the natural agents of change in social norms that prevent socio-economic progress.

Research shows that people live in cycles, and socioeconomic and demographic cycles are interlinked with strong association. Poor families are trapped because they have a bigger family size, a higher dependency on breadwinners, are uneducated and unhealthy, and have fewer chances of getting high-income jobs because of their economic burden. Breaking out of this vicious cycle and transitioning to a more prosperous path requires a change in family demographics, and this usually requires investments in women's human capital and opportunities.

Discussions at a recent population conference highlighted the experience of Bangladesh, Iran, Indonesia, Tunisia, and Turkey, which showed that investing in women's human capital, skills, rights, and opportunities comprise a multiplying factor in calibrating population with resources. Pakistan lags behind countries such as Bangladesh and Malaysia, which have achieved remarkable progress in recent years in terms of economic growth and empowering women and integrating them as productive members of society. For example, the female labour force participation rate in Pakistan is 24 per cent compared with 43pc in Bangladesh and 55pc in Malaysia. Pakistan has no choice but to allocate substantial funds and design long-term programmes to invest in women and girls to shift the nation's trajectory from 'down-nosing' to the 'shining' approach.

– The writer is the representative of the UN Population Fund in Pakistan.

Pakistan's struggle for sustainable growth

Minahil Manzoor



In Pakistan, rapid population growth poses challenges such as increased pressure on resources, inadequate healthcare, and strain on education systems. There's a demand for more food, water, housing, and energy, leading to scarcity and environmental problems. Maternal and child mortality rates remain high, and the healthcare system struggles to provide quality services to the growing population

PAKISTAN is the fifth most populated country globally, with over 240 million people and a high annual population growth rate of 2%. This rapid growth is causing significant problems for the country in terms of its economy, society, and politics. It's affecting things like food and housing shortages, overcrowded cities, and low investment. The text discusses that having a large population can be an asset for a country, but it becomes a burden when it grows uncontrollably. Pakistan, like many other places, faces issues such as poverty, unemployment, and corruption, and overpopulation is making these problems worse. The consequences include a lack of resources like food and housing, crowded cities, and low investment.

To address this, the text suggests that controlling population growth is essential for economic growth and reducing poverty. It emphasizes the need for efforts from both the government and the general public. The current population of Pakistan is around 208 million, growing at a rate of 2.4% per year. The definition of overpopulation, according to the United Nations, is when the number of people exceeds the Earth's carrying capacity. The causes of overpopulation include high birth rates, improved healthcare leading to lower mortality rates, and cultural and religious beliefs that discourage birth control. The text mentions that Pakistan's population growth is influenced by factors like high birth rates, limited access to family planning, cultural norms, and religious beliefs. If the current trend continues,

Pakistan's population is projected to reach 403 million by 2050, according to the UN. The text also highlights a success story in Bangladesh, where efforts to control population growth have been effective. Bangladesh focused on empowering women, improving healthcare, and reducing child mortality, leading to informed family planning decisions and lower birth rates.

In Pakistan, rapid population growth poses challenges such as increased pressure on resources, inadequate healthcare, and strain on education systems. There's a demand for more food, water, housing, and energy, leading to scarcity and environmental problems. Maternal and child mortality rates remain high, and the healthcare system struggles to provide quality services to the growing population. More people in Pakistan is causing some big problems. There's too much pressure on things like water, food, and energy because more people need them. This is making it hard for the country because there are not enough of these things to go around. More people also means more jobless and poor people. The country can't make enough jobs for everyone; so many people don't have work and struggle to live a good life. This leads to a cycle of not having enough money and being stuck in poverty. Having more people is also making it tough for the healthcare and education systems. There are not enough resources to take care of everyone's health, especially in faraway places. Schools and colleges are also having a hard time keeping up with the large number of students,

and this affects the quality of education. To fix these problems, Pakistan needs to focus on family planning. This means helping people choose when and how many children they want. Education campaigns about family planning, contraception, and health should be done through media and local programs. Religious leaders can help dispel wrong ideas about family planning. Empowering women is also important. When women are educated, can support themselves financially, and have access to healthcare, they can make good choices about when to have children. It's crucial to give women the right to decide how many children they want, which helps them break free from old traditions.

People in Pakistan are causing serious problems. To fix this, the country needs to focus on education, healthcare, and helping families plan when to have children. It's a big challenge that needs everyone - governments, organizations, and people - to work together. By doing this, we can create a balance between the number of people and what the planet can handle. This will ensure a good life for both current and future generations. I thank full to Sir Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer for his invaluable assistance in helping me to write an article. His expertise, guidance and unwavering support throughout the entire process have been instrumental in shaping the article into its final form. His deep knowledge and insightful feedback not only enriched the content but also improved my overall understanding of the subject matter.

– Email: minahilmanzoor2500@gmail.com

Briefs

Solangi stresses on democratic...

FROM PAGE 01
Broadcasting Ms Shahera Shahid, in her vote of thanks speech, commended the students for their insightful vision which they expressed through speeches. They were a guarantee for the country's bright future, she said, expressing satisfaction on the growing number of girls excelling in different fields of life. The DEMP organized a series of speech competitions in connection with the Quaid's Day, which began in Karachi and then in Lahore, and finally at Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). The 10 students, who delivered speeches today, were the winners of the competition among the students of ICT model schools and colleges under the FDE. Aimen Farhan was stood first while Sundas Farooq and Feroza Bibi claimed second and third positions among the 10 students, and received cash prizes of Rs 20,000, Rs 15,000, and Rs 10,000 respectively, along with published books from DEMP.

Christmas under the rubble...

FROM PAGE 01
The number of soldiers killed since the start of the ground invasion into the Gaza Strip has risen to 156, while the number of those killed since October 7 stood at 489. According to local sources, Israeli warplanes bombed last night a block of houses in the Maghazi refugee camp in central Gaza, killing at least 70 Palestinians and injuring more, mostly children and women. People have been digging through the rubble of destroyed homes in the bombed area of al-Maghazi since last night in the hope of finding survivors and victims. Four martyrs and a number of wounded citizens were evacuated to Nasser Hospital from Khan Yunis following intensive Israeli attacks, while reporters said in the morning that the attacks on Khan Yunis did not stop.

Egypt sets out ambitious...

FROM PAGE 01
"We reiterate that there are no negotiations without a comprehensive cessation of aggression," al-Risheq said. "The leadership of the movement seeks with all force to stop the aggression and massacres against our people completely and not temporarily. Our people want to stop the aggression, and do not wait for temporary truces and a partial truce for a short period, after which the aggression and terrorism will continue." The proposal, developed with the Gulf state of Qatar, includes several rounds of captive and prisoner exchanges, reports Al Jazeera's Bernard Smith from Tel Aviv. In the first phase, Hamas would free all civilian captives in return for the release of Palestinian prisoners over a truce of 7-10 days.

ECP starts scrutiny...

FROM PAGE 01
while January 12 is the last date for withdrawal of nomination papers. The ECP will allot symbols to candidates on January 13. According to the ECP, tribunal comprising Justice Faisal Zaman Khan will hear objections against women and minorities in the National and provincial assembly of the Punjab. Justice Risal Hasan Syed will hear the objections of all national and provincial general seats of Lahore divisions and Okara district. Justice Asjad Javed Gharal will hear objections of all national and provincial general seats from Faisalabad and Sargodha divisions. Justice Raheel Kamran Sheikh will hear objections against national and provincial general seats of Gujranwala and Gujarat divisions, whereas Justice Sultan Tanveer Ahmed in Bahawalpur division and Lodhran district.



ISLAMABAD: Group photo of Senator Farhatullah Babar and Senator Taj Haider along with the winner of Benazir Bhutto Shaheed National Tennis Championship organised by Sindh Government at Islamabad Tennis Complex. - DNA

PCB hosts Christmas dinner at Gaddafi Stadium

Mr Ashraf said, I extend my heartfelt greetings to all those celebrating Christmas in Pakistan and around the world

SPORTS DESKS

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) hosted a Christmas dinner at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore, attended by the Chairman Management Committee Mr Zaka Ashraf along with top PCB officials and Christian employees. Addressing the guests on this occasion, Chairman PCB Management Committee Mr Zaka Ashraf said, "I extend my heartfelt greetings to all those celebrating Christmas in Pakistan and around the world. We are delighted that you are part of the Pakistan Cricket Board. "You have served Pakistan cricket with utmost dedication and the PCB appreciates your efforts. I hope that you and your families celebrate with joy and I wish you well." On the other hand, the Pakistan Men's cricket team took the internet by storm with their kind gesture as they presented Christmas gifts to the Australian players on the sidelines of the training session. The home side was participating in an indoor practice session for the Boxing Day Test when the Pakistan players including



captain Shan Masood and coaching staff surprised the rival team with Christmas gifts. Taking to X, formerly Twitter, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) shared the wholesome interaction of the two rival teams. In the video, the Pakistan team can be seen presenting the Australian players

and their families with gifts and sweets. Australia captain Pat Cummins, who appeared emotionally touched in the shared video also expressed his emotions and termed it a great gesture by the touring side. "That was just great. Just Merry Christmas gifts and lollipops for the kids.

So that was great," stated Cummins. "We've got a good relationship with the Pakistan side. That tour a couple of years ago was really special as well. So really kind and thoughtful of their group to think of us," he added. Earlier today, the PCB unveiled a 12-member squad for the upcoming Boxing Day Test against Australia with wicketkeeper batter Mohammad Rizwan replacing his counterpart Sarfaraz Ahmed.

Wicketkeeper batter Sarfaraz Ahmed had a forgetful outing in the Perth Test where he only managed to score seven runs and fell victim to left-arm pacer Mitchell Starc in each of the innings. The 36-year-old also missed a number of chances behind the stumps which drew massive criticism from the fans. Besides this, fast-bowling all-rounder Faheem Ashraf also failed to retain his spot in Pakistan's Playing XI, whereas, pacers Mir Hamza and Hasan Ali were named in the 12-member squad.

Pakistan squad for second Test: Imam-ul-Haq, Abdullah Shafique, Shan Masood ©, Babar Azam, Saud Shakeel, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Salman Ali Agha, Shaheen Afridi (vc), Hasan Ali, Mir Hamza, Aamir Jamal, Sajid Khan.

Aisam-ul-Haq hopes India will come to Pakistan



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's tennis sensation, Aisam ul-Haq, recently engaged in an exclusive interview with media reporters, shedding light on the upcoming match against

India, preparations for the Davis Cup, and the potential impact on sports diplomacy between the two nations. The 43-year-old voiced his opinion that India should come to Pakistan as the match between the two rivals would be historic. He also expressed that India not coming to his country would be a significant mistake as it would cost them as the home side would get a walkover. "Preparations have begun to play against India. I am pleased that the International Tennis Federation has made a decision in favour of Pakistan. Although India appealed against Pakistan's participation, the Independent Tribunal stated that there is no reason for Pakistan not to participate," he began. "India's visit to Pakistan will be historic, creating enthusiasm among fans. If they do not come, we will advance to the next round by a walkover. Tennis can help bring the two countries together. "If India does not come, it will be a significant mistake. Teams from all countries, except India, are coming to play various sports in Pakistan. We are a peaceful country, and hosting international matches is essential for the promotion of sports." He praised the way Pakistan managed the security and all the important matters that were needed to host a tournament successfully. The 43-year-old then revealed that the tennis federation aims to send players abroad to participate in practice matches. "In the Davis Cup, Pakistan hosted teams from multiple countries, and all expressed positive experiences. We maintained excellent security arrangements during the hosting of the Davis Cup. We will be playing against India in the Davis Cup which will be historic as they will be coming here for the first time for the cup. "In January, the plan is to go to Thailand for match practice. The Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) also plans to send other players for match practice. Despite facing a strong opponent, they are determined to compete. There has always been a mindset that sports should be kept away from politics. "If the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) officials can come to Pakistan, then why their team cannot come? India has played in Pakistan several times, but now visa issues have arisen," Aisam added. - DNA

PCB names Yasir high-performance coach for NZ tour

KARACHI: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is set to appoint former pacer Yasir Arafat as the high-performance coach ahead of the five-match T20I series against New Zealand. Arafat, who represented Pakistan in 27 international matches, will replace Australian coach Simon Helmot with Arafat after Pakistan's Test series Down Under. He will travel to New Zealand's Auckland with the T20 team on January 3 for the team's T20I series against New Zealand which is slated to begin on January 12, while the last game of the series will be played on January 21. ESPN Cricinfo reported that Arafat has been appointed to the team for just one series at the moment. Helmot, it added, is still a part of the coaching staff for the ongoing Test series in Australia, but he later has "personal commitments", as per the PCB. The cricket board will also apply for a New Zealand visa for three more players including two bowlers and one batter, as several players are unfit, the sources added. As per the sources, the former all-rounder's appointment has been done on the recommendation of the team's director Mohammad Hafeez and Arafat has reached Islamabad from London. Arafat was initially appointed as the Pakistan Under-19 bowling coach in South Africa and has played club cricket in New Zealand. The former Pakistan athlete has played 27 international matches which include 13 T20 matches. He was also a part of the Green Shirts' squad that won the 2009 T20 World Cup. But he just played one match in the major tournament. Remember, the Pakistan cricket team is currently in Australia to play a three-match Test series in the ongoing World Test Championship (WTC) 2023-25 cycle which will conclude on January 7. Just five days after the conclusion of the Test series, Pakistan is scheduled to play their first T20I match against New Zealand on January 12. **Pakistan's squad:** Shaheen Afridi (c), Aamir Jamal, Abbas Afridi, Abrar Ahmed, Azam Khan (wk), Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah (wk), Iftikhar Ahmed, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Mojammas Wasim Jnr, Sahibzada Farhan, Saim Ayub, Usama Mir, Zaman Khan. - DNA

Pak announce 12-member squad for 2nd Australia Test

Sarfaraz Ahmed, who could only score seven runs in the first Test, has been replaced by M. Rizwan

OUR CORRESPONDENTS

KARACHI: Pakistan announced 12 players for the second Test Against Australia, which will take place in Melbourne from December 26. Pakistan, who are 1-0 down in the three-Test series, will announce their final XI tomorrow. Sarfaraz Ahmed, who could only score seven runs in the first Test, has been replaced by Mohammad Rizwan. Prior to the Melbourne Test, Sarfaraz played innings of 35 and 10 runs in a two-day match. In contrast, wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan demonstrated his batting skills by scoring an impressive 50 runs in the first innings of the two-day match. All-rounder Faheem Ashraf has also been dropped, meanwhile pacers Mir Hamza and Hasan Ali have been included in the squad. Pakistan squad for second Test Imam-ul-Haq, Abdullah Shafique, Shan Masood (c), Babar Azam, Saud

Shakeel, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Salman Ali Agha, Shaheen Afridi (vc), Hasan Ali, Mir Hamza, Aamir Jamal, Sajid Khan Remember, Pakistan were facing a selection dilemma in the bowling department. Spinner Noman Ali was ruled out of the three-Test match series after being diagnosed with acute appendicitis. The national selection committee, led by Wahab Riaz, named all-rounder Mohammad Nawaz as the replacement. Earlier, pacer Khuram Shahzad was also ruled out of the remaining Tests of the series due to a stress fracture in his left 10th rib, as well as an abdominal muscle tear. The right-arter made his debut during the Perth Test and claimed five wickets during the match. PCB also confirmed mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed will not participate in the Melbourne Test. 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. Off-spinner Sajid Khan was called up as Abrar's replacement before the first Test, which Pakistan lost. Earlier on , Captain Pat Cummins' decision to field the same Playing XI that won the Perth Test by 360 runs meant hometown hero Scott Boland will miss a Boxing Day recall. Cummins, however, called him unlucky to miss out and remained hopeful that he may, at some point, play a part for the team. "We're a huge fan of Scotty, I don't think that's a secret," Cummins told reporters on Boxing Day eve. "It's very rare that you're going to get through seven Test matches with the same (fast) bowling line-up, there's always niggles or things that pop up. "He's ready to go if anything happens, so I'm sure he'll play a part at some point. "The message (to Boland) is always 'we love what you're bringing, unfortunately you miss out.



PTI to move PHC against ECP verdict

FROM PAGE 01
The verdict came following a first-of-its-kind microscopic examination of the inner workings of a political party and declared the party ineligible to obtain an election symbol to contest the upcoming general elections. "It is held that PTI has not complied with our directions rendered therein order dated 23rd November 2023 and failed to hold intra-party election in accordance with PTI prevailing Constitution, 2019 and Election Rules, 2017," the ECP had said in its 11-page order. The party had termed the decision part of the "famous London Plan" and a "disgusting and shameful attempt to stop PTI from [participating in the] election". It had also claimed that the party would still win the general elections, maintaining that it would appeal the decision at every forum. It asserted that its candidates would indeed contest the polls with the 'bat' symbol, come what may. Speaking to media, PTI lawyer and central information secretary Mohammad Muazzam Butt said the party had decided to approach the high court and would file a writ petition on Dec 26.

Bilawal vows to abolish...

FROM PAGE 01
Pakistani youth employment opportunities abroad, the PPP chief said as a foreign minister he took measures to provide youth with overseas jobs. Referring to the PPP's slogan of "roti, kapra aur maqaan" (bread, clothes, and house), Bilawal said that the people in the past may not have needed these basic necessities as much as they needed them today. "10 years ago a family could make both ends meet in Rs35,000 salary, but in the current economic situation a family needs Rs70,000 salary [per month]," he added. Meanwhile, In-charge central election monitoring cell of Pakistan Peoples Party, Taj Haider in a letter addressed to the Chief Election Commissioner has said that the permission of reshuffling of senior police officers in Sindh is in violation of the section 230 (f) of the Election Act 2017. He wrote that there was no obvious reason or any kind of emergency or expediency which may have warranted the wholesale transfer of senior police officers.

PM lauds Christian community's role

FROM PAGE 01
humanity and took the message of God to the whole humanity. Hazrat Essa (AS) reformed humanity with teachings of peace, brotherhood, tolerance and forbearance which led to the success of humans. The moral teachings and the guidance of the Prophet were a beacon for humanity for all times to come, he continued. He said in the present age there was an acute need to follow Hazrat Essa's message of human compassion, affection, tolerance and fraternity. In the last few years at the international level, human society had been facing an adverse situation due to a wave of religious intolerance, he observed. "To reverse this negative trend we have to spread Hazrat Essa's message of brotherhood and religious tolerance and follow his teachings to make the world a cradle of peace. In this way we can forever end hatred from the world," he remarked.

Govt releases all Baloch protestors

FROM PAGE 01
was set up by the Islamabad Police, which could be contacted at telephone numbers 0519001534 and 03459600622 or email address assistance.ictp@gmail.com.

Briefs

16 people
killed in an
attack in
Nigeria

JOS : Sixteen people have been killed in an attack in northcentral Nigeria, where clashes between herders and farmers are common, the army said Sunday. The attack occurred around midnight Saturday in the village of Mushu in the Plateau State, Captain Oya James told AFP. The region is on the dividing line between Nigeria's mostly Muslim north and mainly Christian south and has for years struggled with ethnic and religious tensions. It was not immediately clear what sparked the latest attack and who was responsible. Security personnel were deployed to prevent any more clashes in the area, while tit-for-tat killings between herders, who are most often Muslim, and farmers, who are generally Christian, often spiral into village raids by heavily armed gangs. State Governor Caleb Mutfwang condemned the latest attack as "barbaric, brutal and uncalled for" and vowed to bring the perpetrators to justice, his spokesman, Gyang Bere, told reporters. "Proactive measures will be taken by government to curb the ongoing attacks on innocent citizens," the governor said.—APP

Western
Australia
braces for
heatwave,
bushfire
threat

SYDNEY : Large parts of Australia have sweated through heatwave conditions as authorities warned of a high bushfire risk in many parts of the country's vast Western Australia state. The nation's weather forecaster on Sunday issued heatwave alerts for the western state, the neighbouring Northern Territory and the eastern Queensland state, warning temperatures in some regions could hit around 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit). In Perth, the capital of Western Australia, the nation's largest state, a maximum temperature of 35 C (95 F) was forecast for Sunday, more than five degrees above the December mean, forecaster data showed. Australia's east was this month scorched due to El Nino, a climate pattern in which unusually warm Pacific Ocean temperatures cause heatwaves, cyclones, droughts and wildfires. In Western Australia, more than 20 bushfires were burning on Sunday, the state's emergency services agency said on its website, including an uncontrolled one near Pemberton, a town of a round 5,000 residents, about 320 km (198 miles) south of the state capital Perth. A Department of Fire and Emergency Services spokesperson said in a statement the agency was expecting "more difficult fire weather" from Sunday afternoon as hot, dry and windy conditions hit a large section of the state, including Perth. The agency warned of a high fire danger for many areas of Western Australia and said more than 1,000 firefighters had been fighting blazes statewide over the past five days.—APP

China
Launched 105
online games

BEIJING : China's press and publications authority has approved 105 new online games saying it fully supports the industry following proposed restrictions that caused significant losses for investors in major games makers last week. The National Press and Publication Administration issued a statement on its WeChat social media account on Monday saying the approvals by the Game Working Committee of China Music and Digital Association were "positive signals that support the prosperity and healthy development of the online game industry." Draft guidelines for curbs on online gaming had caused share prices of video game makers like Tencent and NetEase to plunge on Friday, causing losses of tens of billions of dollars and dragging Chinese benchmarks lower.—DNA

Turkiye will not be daunted by terrorism: President Erdogan

Erdogan vowed to escalate the fight against terrorism and highlighted that Turkiye would not succumb to the plot of terrorists to destabilize it after 12 soldiers were killed last week by the PKK in Iraq

NEWS DESK

ANKARA : Turkiye is no longer a country where terrorism shapes the politics," President Recep Tayyip Erdo said Monday, two days after authorities announced 12 Turkish soldiers were killed by the PKK terrorist group in Iraq's north. The president stated that Turkiye would not be deterred by acts of terrorism on its path to the future. The attack, one of the deadliest targeting Turkish troops abroad in recent memory, stirred up emotions in Turkiye, which has battled the PKK since the 1980s. The Turkish army was quick to retaliate while the political scene was mired in a debate over the attack. On Monday, the Ministry of National Defense disclosed the death toll that Turkish airstrikes inflicted upon the terrorist group. The ministry said the airstrikes targeted "terrorist targets" and "neutralized" at least 26 terrorists, a term used to describe terrorists captured alive or dead. The strikes were carried out in the regions immediately across the Turkish border with Iraq and Syria. Border regions in both countries are favored

hideouts of the terrorist group, which has been targeting Turkiye for more than 40 years. The statement said the work to assess the total body count is still underway. Defense Minister Yaşar Güler announced on Sunday that 30 terrorists were eliminated since the deaths of 12 soldiers on Friday and Saturday. Thus, the total number of PKK casualties reached at least 56. Following the attack that targeted a Turkish military outpost in a mountainous region of Iraq, authorities vowed to retaliate against the killings, and the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) announced a series of airstrikes and operations to destroy PKK targets in Iraq and Syria. In a press release on its website on Saturday, the ministry said, "29 targets, including caves, bunkers, shelters, oil installations and warehouses, were destroyed" during the operation carried out at 10 p.m. (7 p.m. GMT). Güler oversaw the airstrikes at the Command Center of Air Forces. He congratulated the pilots who took part in the operation, along with senior commanders of the Turkish Armed Forces. More than 2,150 PKK terrorists have been "neutralized" since Jan. 1, Güler

said Sunday. Erdogan, who was speaking at an event at Istanbul's Sabiha Gökçen



airport on Monday, said plans to divide Turkiye through terrorism cannot "work anymore." "We don't allow the fraternity between 85 million people to be hurt. Whoever attacks our unity through the actions of those traitors serves the purpose of terrorism. I call upon our youth not to fall for traps of provocateurs," Erdogan said. "I warn those looking to daunt us through terrorism. You tried everything in the past 21 years, but you could not hinder our sacred journey," Erdogan said, referring to the winning streak of the Justice and Development Party (AK Party) and his own suc-

cessful tenure as prime minister and president. "You cannot thwart the building of 'Century of Türkiye,'" Erdogan added, referring to his ambitious vision for a series of reforms to improve Turkiye's economy and social life. "You lost repeatedly and you will lose again. We know your plots. As long as our revered nation supports us, we will continue our fight (against terrorism)," he said. The president also lashed out at politicians siding with the terrorist group and those "collaborating" with them. "We are determined to unmask political chameleons doing everything they can to avoid defining terrorists as terrorists," he said, in a pointed reference to the Green Left Party (YSP), informally known as the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party). The YSP was among those not joining the AK Party and three other parties in Parliament, which issued a joint declaration last week to condemn the PKK over the killing of 12 soldiers. The main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), which sought an alliance with the YSP in upcoming municipal and past presidential elections, also abstained from joining the decla-

ration because it said it was insufficient to eradicate terrorism. The CHP, however, faced a barrage of criticism for not openly naming the PKK as the group responsible for the killings of soldiers in a separate statement it issued later. Party Chairperson Özgür Özel was confronted by an angry crowd asking him to leave while he was attending the funeral of one of the martyred soldiers on Sunday. "Someone showed up in Manisa, but the nation knew well who he was," Erdogan said on Monday about the funeral where Özel was booed. Political opponents of the YSP have repeatedly called for the closure of the party for its links to terrorism. The Constitutional Court still did not decide on the closure of the HDP, the previous incarnation of YSP, whose entire cadres switched to the new party. Devlet Bahçeli, chair of government ally Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), expressed his discontent with the YSP and its partner CHP on Monday as he left Parliament when lawmakers of the YSP took to the pulpit. "I am doing what Constitutional Court should do," Bahçeli told reporters as he left the Parliament.

Kiev claims
destroying
28 Russian
drones

MOSCOW : Russia launched 31 drones and 2 missiles at Ukraine overnight, mostly targeting the south of the country, with air defences destroying 28 drones and both missiles, the Ukrainian military said. "As a result of air combat, the Ukrainian Air Force and defence forces destroyed 28 Shahed attack drones in Odesa, Kherston, Mykolaiv, Donetsk, Kirovohrad and Khmelnytskyi regions," Ukraine's Air Forces said on the Telegram messaging app. The drones were launched from Russian-annexed Crimea, it said. The military said debris from the downed drones damaged technical facilities in the Odesa port as well as "an inoperable administrative building and a warehouse." Russia has the upper hand in weapons production over the West and intends to keep the rate of growth high, a top Russian minister said after both the West and Russia ramped up arms production for the Ukraine war. Russia started a full-scale offensive on Ukraine in February 2022, triggering the biggest conflict in Europe since World War Two and the deepest confrontation between Russia and the West since the depths of the Cold War. Ukraine and its Western backers ramped up arms production in an attempt to defeat Russian forces on the battlefields of Ukraine. Russia also hiked production but says the West is to blame for the war which Moscow dates to 2014. "I don't want to boast, but I can say that we began to gain and picked up the pace of production earlier than Western countries," Denis Manturov, the deputy prime minister who oversees arms production, told the RIA news agency. "Another question is how long this race will last," Manturov said, adding that a 2025-2034 armament plan was due to be approved next year.—Agencies

James faces backlash over controversial remark

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON : British Home Secretary James Cleverly was under fire Sunday for joking about date rape just hours after announcing plans to crack down on what he had dubbed a "perverse" offense. Cleverly, who oversees national security and law enforcement in England and Wales, faced a call to step down after he reportedly joked at an event at the prime minister's home about drugging his wife. He told women guests at a Dec. 18 reception that the secret to a long marriage was having a spouse who "is always mildly sedated so she can never realize

there are better men out there," the Sunday Mirror newspaper reported. Cleverly said "a little bit of Rohypnol" — the so-called date rape drug — "in her drink every night" was "not really illegal if it's only a little bit." The drug, colloquially known as a roofie when it is crushed and put into someone's beverage without their knowledge, makes the subject drowsy and can lead to unconsciousness and memory loss. Cleverly apologized through a spokesperson for what he called an "ironic joke" after he had announced the Conservative government planned to update legislation to make clear that such drink spiking is illegal. He described the practice as

a "perverse" crime. The comments were made during a drinks reception at 10 Downing Street where political journalists mingled with political aides, ministers and Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. Conversations at such events are typically off the record, but the Sunday Mirror said it decided to report the news because of Cleverly's position and the subject matter. "In what was always understood as a private conversation, James, the home secretary tackling spiking, made what was clearly meant to be an ironic joke — for which he apologized," his spokesperson said. Jemima Olchawski, chief executive of the women's rights group the Fawcett Society said the remarks were

"sickening," and she called on Cleverly to resign. "How can we trust him to seriously address violence against women and girls?" Olchawski said in a statement. "It's sickening that the senior minister in charge of keeping women safe thinks that something as terrifying as drugging women is a laughing matter." Cleverly, 54, who met his wife in college and has two children, previously described tackling violence against women and girls as a personal priority. Senior members of the opposition Labour Party condemned the "appalling" comments. "It is truly unbelievable that the home secretary made such appalling jokes on the very same day the government announced new policy on spiking.

Serbian opposition
supporters storm Belgrade
assembly in protest

BELGRADE : Hundreds of residents of Serbia's capital tried to break into the Belgrade City Assembly building as they gathered to protest the results of snap general and local elections that took place last weekend. The protest rally was organised by the Serbia Against Violence (SPN) coalition, which said the elections were marred by irregularities. Protesters managed to breach security fences put up by police, broke windows and doors and attempted to enter the building, according to an Anadolu cameraman who was at the scene. Two SPN leaders, Srđjan Milivojević and Vladimir Obradović, tried to open the door to the building but failed to do so. "Go in!, Go in!" A police officer appeared at the entrance to the assembly and warned them that forced entry is a "criminal offense." "We broke the door! They're holding the door with their backs," Milivojević was heard telling supporters in front of the assembly. The crowd shouted: "Go in!, Go in!" to Milivojević, according to the Anadolu cameraman. Police used pepper spray to disperse the crowd. Reacting to the situation, President Aleksandar Vučić said in an address to the nation: "There is no 'color revolution' going on. We are trying not to injure any of the demonstrators and are attempting to resolve everything peacefully." According to the preliminary results of elections for the Belgrade City Assembly, the ruling Serbian Progressive Party won 39.34 percent of the vote and secured 49 seats, while Serbia Against Violence coalition won 34.27 percent, getting 42 seats.—APP

UK to send
naval ship to
Guyana

LONDON : Britain will deploy a naval ship off Guyana later this month, its ministry of defence said, as the South American nation faces a border dispute with neighbour Venezuela over the oil-rich Essequibo region. The deployment follows a visit by a British junior foreign minister to Guyana earlier this month, intended to offer the UK's support for the country, an ally and former British colony. Guyana and Venezuela agreed earlier this month to avoid any use of force and not to escalate tensions in the long-running dispute. Venezuelan Defence Minister Vladimir Padrino said in a social media post on Sunday that his country would remain "on alert following provocations that put at risk the peace and stability of the Caribbean and our America."—APP

Foreign
shareholders
halt participation in
Russia's LNG
project

LONDON : Foreign shareholders suspended participation in Russia's Arctic LNG 2 project due to sanctions, giving up their obligations for financing and offtake contracts for the liquefied natural gas plant, according to a report from daily Kommersant on Monday. The project, seen as a key element in Russia's drive to boost its LNG global market share to 20% by 2030 from 8%, was already facing difficulties due to U.S. sanctions over the conflict in Ukraine and a lack of gas carriers. China's state oil majors, CNOC and China National Petroleum Corp. (CNPC), each have a 10% stake in the project, which is controlled by Novatek, Russia's largest LNG producer and owner of a 60% stake in the project. Kommersant, citing unnamed sources in the Russian government, said both Chinese companies, together with France's TotalEnergies and a consortium of Japan's Mitsui and Co. and JOCMEC — which also have a 10% stake each — declared force majeure on participation in the project.—APP

Ukraine received
\$1.34 bln under
WB project

KYIV : Ukraine received \$1.34 billion under the World Bank's public expenditures for administrative capacity endurance in Ukraine, the Ukrainian finance ministry said on Monday. The cash boost will be welcomed by Kyiv, which warns that its ability to defend against the Russian invasion could soon be impacted by delays in funding from the United States and the European Union. In a statement, the ministry noted that the financing, which is the Sixth Additional Financing under its Public Expenditures for Administrative Capacity Endurance in Ukraine (PEACE) project, consisted of a \$1.086bn loan from the World Bank, a \$190m grant from Norway, a \$50m grant from the United States and a \$20m grant from Switzerland. The funds are expected to be used to partially compensate for non-security and defence-related expenditures of the Ukrainian state budget, including old-age social payments and payments to employees of the state emergency service, the ministry added. "International financial assistance is a significant contribution to maintaining Ukraine's financial and economic stability and allows us to provide priority social expenditures during the war," said Ukrainian Finance Minister Serhiy Marchenko. "Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, the governments of Japan, the United States, Norway and Switzerland have repeatedly demonstrated their unwavering support and solidarity for Ukraine. I am grateful to our partners for their willingness to cooperate and help us at a crucial time for Ukraine." Funding difficulties for Ukraine t has been nearly two years since Russia invaded Ukraine, and as the war continues to rage uncertainty is growing over.—DNA



ISLAMABAD : Girls from Christen Community are greeting after Christmas mass at Fatima church at Sector F-8 during the Federal Capital. — ONLINE

Azerbaijan : Peace deal with Armenia 'won't solve everything'

Peace process continuing, face-to-face meetings important, according to Foreign Minister Bayramov

WEB DESK

BAKU : Signing a peace treaty with Armenia doesn't mean every problem will be resolved, Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov said Monday as the South Caucasus rivals struggle to thrash out an agreement for their decadeslong dispute. "The peace process does not depend on the wishes of one party. It is important that both parties take corresponding steps here," Bayramov told a television interview in his country, local media reported. After the restoration of full sovereignty of Azerbaijan, we are closely following the messages of the political leadership of Armenia," Bayramov noted. Acknowledging "positive signs" from Yerevan in recent months, he said Baku expects "concrete steps" toward peace. According to the minister, Azerbaijan is the party behind all important initiatives related to the peace treaty, which will be based on mutual recognition of territori-

ality. Bayramov informed that Baku had received Armenia's next package of proposals for the peace treaty in November and sent back its response to Yerevan after working on it for a month. He believes the respective meetings will take place in 2024 as the process continues. "Azerbaijan has a realistic and optimistic outlook on this issue. But when we talk about the peace treaty, we must understand that it will not resolve everything 100%," Bayramov said. "Such a document will constitute a foundation and minimum conditions in future negotiations for normal neighborly relations between two nations." Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan recently said it was possible to sign a peace agreement with Azerbaijan in the near future if Baku approves the principles agreed between the leaders of the two countries. Earlier this month, Baku and Yerevan said in a joint statement they had struck an agreement on taking



confidence-building measures and normalizing relations following bilateral talks. As a sign of goodwill, the pair agreed on a prisoner swap, as well. Azerbaijan released 32 Armenians, mostly captured in late 2020, while Armenia handed over two Azerbaijani soldiers held since April 2023. The pair also discussed the withdrawal of troops from their shared border but no concrete decision followed. The South Caucasus neighbors have been locked in a decadeslong conflict over the control of the Karabakh region, which Azerbaijan reclaimed after a light-

ning operation against illegal separatists in September. Azerbaijan, with Turkiye lending its support, liberated most of the Karabakh region from Armenian occupation during 44 days of clashes in the fall of 2020, which ended with a Russian-brokered peace agreement, opening the door to normalization. Azerbaijan sent troops to Karabakh on Sept. 19, and after just one day of fighting, Armenian separatist forces aided down arms and agreed to reintegrate with Baku. Since peace talks — mediated separately by the European Union, the United States and Russia — have seen little progress, the neighbors have been focusing on their bilateral efforts for a treaty. Earlier on, Azerbaijan sees no major obstacles to securing a lasting peace treaty with its neighbour Armenia and believes the question of defining their borders can be resolved separately, a senior Azerbaijani official said on Tuesday. Azerbaijani President İlham Aliyev's forces mounted a lightning offensive in September to retake control of Azerbaijan's

Karabakh region, whose ethnic Armenian population had broken away in a war in the 1990s. Aliyev said his "iron fist" had restored his country's sovereignty. "The 35-year-long conflict is now over," Hikmet Hajiyev, a top foreign policy adviser to Aliyev, told reporters in London. "The strategy for Azerbaijan now is to win peace. (This) requires action from both sides. "A peace treaty is not rocket science," Hajiyev said. "For Azerbaijan there are no longer obstacles on the way to a peace agenda." The South Caucasus neighbours have fought two wars in the past 30 years over Nagorno-Karabakh, but staged a prisoner exchange this month and issued a joint statement saying they want to normalise relations and reach a peace deal. The United States, the European Union and Russia have all tried for decades to mediate between the two sides, but Hajiyev stressed the importance of direct bilateral talks which he said would continue next year. Since its recapture of Karabakh.

Briefs

Afghanistan needs to take 'practical' actions: Iran FM

FOREIGN DESK

IRANIAN Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian says Afghanistan should take "practical" actions to resolve the existing issues between the two countries, including border security and water share. Amir-Abdollahian made the remark in a meeting with Taliban's caretaker foreign minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, in Tehran on Sunday. He said Tehran and Kabul have important relations in various aspects and expressed hope that Afghanistan's acting Taliban government would cooperate in practice to resolve some existing problems. The top Iranian diplomat further pointed to a recent conference held in Tehran in support of Palestine and hailed the active participation of the Afghan delegation, led by Muttaqi, in the confab. He also outlined the latest developments in Gaza amid Israel's war on the besieged strip and urged all Muslim and freedom-seeking countries to help the Palestinian people in the face of the occupying regime's genocidal crimes. The Taliban's caretaker foreign minister, for his part, lauded Iran's move to hold the Tehran conference on Palestine at a time when the United Nations Security Council as well as other world organizations and countries remain silent about Israel's war crimes in Gaza.

MEP brands EU chief 'Frau Genocide'

WEB DESK

BRUSSELS: Irish MEP Clare Daly has called European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen "Frau Genocide" over the EU's stance on Israel's military operation in Gaza. She went on to claim that contrary to its professed adherence to democracy, the bloc tramples on the will of the people when it runs counter to its own agenda. Daly, a left-wing politician representing Ireland's Independents 4 Change political party, said from the European Parliament podium on Sunday that von der Leyen was "elevated to power without a single vote from the citizens." She went on to accuse the EU Commission president of "swooping in and overriding the foreign policies of elected governments" in recent months, while cheerleading a "brutal apartheid regime that she calls a 'vibrant democracy.'" The lawmaker concluded: "With defenders of democracy like that, I think I speak for many, many citizens of Europe, when I say: 'Nein, danke! No, thanks, Frau Genocide!'"

Balochistan marks birth Qaid day

DNA

QUETTA: The birth anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah was marked in Balochistan on Monday, paying rich tribute to the late father of the nation. The main ceremony, in this connection was organized at the Qaid Residency Ziarat, attended by the Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki, as the Chief Guest and Corps Commander 12 Corps Lt Gen Rahat Naseem Khan, IGFC North Chaudhry Amir Ajmal, caretaker provincial ministers, and other notables in attendance. Addressing the ceremony, the Chief Minister Balochistan underlined the significance of adherence to the golden principles of Qaid-Azam underscored the steadfast commitment to eliminate terrorism. We as a nation are united and the conspiracies of the enemies to create anarchy in Balochistan would be spoiled with government determination.

President calls for unity under Quaid's principles

The president said as a leader of the All-India Muslim League, Muhammad Ali Jinnah advocated for the rights and interests of the Muslim community in British India and firmly believed in the idea of a separate homeland for Muslims, where they could freely practice their religion and have just political representation

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday extended his heartfelt greetings to the nation on the occasion of the 147th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Quaid-e-Azam was the great benefactor of the nation whose tireless efforts led to the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the Sub-continent, President Alvi said in a message issued by the President House Press Wing. The president said as a leader of the All-India Muslim League, Muhammad Ali Jinnah advocated for the rights and interests of the Muslim community in British India and firmly believed in the idea of a separate homeland for Muslims, where they could freely practice their religion and have just political representation. Through his eloquent speech and tireless effort, Jinnah successfully mobilized support for the demand for a separate nation. "This day reminds us to adopt the ideals and vision of Quaid-e-Azam and continue our efforts to make Pakistan a prosperous and



stronger country. Today, we pay homage to the resilience, wisdom, vision, and foresight of Father of the Nation who laid the groundwork for a nation where diversity is celebrated and faith is a unifying force," he said. He added, "I feel proud to say that the people of Pakistan have shown great resilience in the face of multiple challenges during the last several decades".

It is a matter of greater satisfaction that Pakistan has achieved remarkable success in various fields despite the challenges. "Today, as we stand on the cusp of commemorating this momentous occasion, it is imperative to reflect on the remarkable journey we have undertaken since the birth of our nation, the president remarked. He said decades have passed, each chapter

marked by trials, triumphs, and the unyielding spirit of our people as we journey toward the vision of our Founding Father. His leadership and statesmanship laid the foundation for a democratic and inclusive Pakistan, where people of all religions and backgrounds could coexist, he said. As regards the achievements and personality of Jinnah, President Alvi quoted the words of Stanley Wolpert from his famous book "Jinnah of Pakistan," as "Few individuals significantly alter the course of history. Fewer still modify the map of the world. Hardly anyone can be credited with creating a nation-state. Muhammad Ali Jinnah did all three." "Together, we envision a Pakistan that stands tall as a beacon of hope, resilience, and justice—a nation that holds firm on the promise of a democratic, just, and free society," he added. The president also resolved to work for the promotion of Islamic ideals, moral values, unity and brotherhood. He said the current situation demanded following the vision of the Father of the Nation and his guiding principles in letter and spirit to promote unity and democratic values as well as overcome the challenges being faced by the country.

China earthquake death toll rises to 149

DNA

BEIJING: One of China's most powerful earthquakes in recent years killed at least 149 people in a remote northwestern region, according to state media, with two people still missing after the magnitude 6.2 temblor hit a week ago. The epicentre of the quake straddled the provinces of Gansu and Qinghai in an area where many of China's Hui people, a tight-knit ethnic minority characterised by its distinctive Muslim identity, are found. Gansu bore the brunt of the quake's wrath. More than 200,000 homes were wrecked and 15,000 were on the brink of collapse, Chinese state media reported. Displacing 145,000 people, the powerful tremors killed 117 people in the province as of Dec. 22, with 781 wounded. In Qinghai west of Gansu, 32 people died and two remained missing as of 11 p.m. (1500 GMT) on Sunday, according to state media. Local authorities attributed the severity of the damage to the shallowness of the quake.

Islamabad IG, deputy commissioner removed to ensure fair election

Islamabad's top officers removed over complaints from political parties



MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: In line with the directions of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), the Establishment Division Monday removed Islamabad Inspector General of Police (IGP) Dr Akbar Nisar Khan and Deputy Commissioner Irfan Nawaz Memon from their posts with immediate effect. It is pertinent to mention here that then-DIG (grade-20) Nasir was appointed as the top cop in the federal capital in May 2022, by the former Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)-led coalition government. In October, the ECP had asked the interior ministry to transfer the officers after different political parties filed complaints against them fearing they may influence the outcome of the upcoming elections. In November, the interior ministry asked the Establishment Division to transfer the

Islamabad IG and the deputy commissioner without further delay in light of the directives issued by the ECP. However, the division turned a deaf ear towards the directives. Last week, the ECP summoned the Establishment Division secretary, seeking an explanation for not removing the officers. The ECP directed the secretary to appear before it on December 26. In a bid to avoid any departmental action or punishment, the authorities removed the officers from their posts just a day before the Establishment Division secretary was to appear before the electoral watchdog. Interim Prime Minister Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar has asked the Establishment Division to propose a panel of officers to fill the vacant posts. "The prime minister has seen and is pleased to desire that with regard to replacement of deputy commissioner Islamabad and inspector general of police Islamabad, Establishment Division shall propose a panel of officers for his perusal/orders," read a letter issued by the Prime Minister's Office. Earlier, Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja had warned the government officials of strict action if they neglect their duties in the election process and show "political bias", saying free, fair, and impartial conduct of elections is essential for a thriving democracy.

IRGC's veteran martyred in Israeli strike

DNA

TEHRAAN: A veteran member of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), who was serving as a military advisor in Syria, has been martyred in an Israeli airstrike in the Sayyeda Zeinab neighborhood of Damascus. The senior IRGC commander, Seyyed Razi Mousavi, was martyred by the Israeli regime on Monday while on an advisory mission. Mousavi was one of the companions of Iran's top anti-terror commander, Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, who was assassinated by the US in Iraq four years ago.

CM removes CIA DIG for torturing doctors

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Taking notice of alleged police highhandedness, Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi removed CIA DIG Malik Liaquat from his post and ordered registration of a case against those involved in vandalising in Doctors' Hospital and torturing journalists. The S&GAD on Monday issued a notification of Malik Liaquat's removal. He has been made OSD. CIA police raided Doctors' Hospital

and subjected journalists, including 'Dunya News' reporters, to severe torture when they reached there on information that the police took duty doctors, paramedical staff and patients hostage. Malik Liaquat reportedly led the "police operation". Police officials in plain clothes assaulted and abused the hospital staff and their vandalism hindered service to patients. Police tortured 'Dunya News' reporters and cameraman in the presence of Malik Liaquat, who went there to cover the hostage taking incident late night.

France completes military withdrawal from Niger

ABUJA: France completed the withdrawal of its troops after they were asked to leave Niger by the country's new junta, ending years of on-the-ground military support and raising concerns from analysts about a gap in the fight against jihadi violence across the Sahel region of Africa. The last French military aircraft and troops departed Niger by the Dec. 22 deadline set by the junta which severed ties with Paris after the coup in July, the French Army General Staff told The Associated Press by email. France already announced this week that it would close its diplomatic mission in Niger for "an indefinite period." However, the country would continue to be involved in the Sahel — the vast expanse south of the Sahara Desert which has been a hot spot for violent

extremism — although differently, President Emmanuel Macron said Thursday during a visit to a base in Jordan. "I decided on some important reconfigurations," Macron said. "We will continue to protect our interests over there but our armies won't be as present permanently, will be less stationary and also less exposed," he said. Niger's junta described the end of the military cooperation with France as the start of "a new era" for Nigeriens. "Niger stands tall, and the security of our homeland will no longer depend on a foreign presence," it said via X, formerly known as Twitter. "We are determined to meet the challenges before us, by consolidating our national military and strategic capabilities." — APP



ISLAMABAD: Military Attache of Iraq Brig. Gen. Masood Zakhoy pays tributes to the Founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam on his birth anniversary during his recent visit to Karachi. — DNA

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