



# Islamabad POST

Monday, January 08, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

**Jordan King presses Blinken to push for a ceasefire in Gaza**

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## Briefs

### Political behavior needs wisdom

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: PM Kakar on Sunday, said: "Political behaviour requires wisdom, which seems to be lacking." When asked if there had been any move to bring the PML-N into power, the premier replied: "To my knowledge, there is no such thing." He went on to say that the people would have known about the "decision" by the morning of February 9 – the next day of the general election. At the same time, the interim prime minister expressed hope that the election results would end the "uncertainty". Stressing the need to hold masterminds of the May 9 riots accountable, he said that the entire PTI should not be punished for the incident. The day when violence was triggered almost across the country soon after deposed prime minister Imran Khan's arrest in the £190 million settlement case. Hundreds of PTI workers and senior leaders were put behind bars for their involvement in violence and attacks on military installations.

### Feb 8 polls to bring prosperity

DNA

LAHORE: PML-N President and former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the Feb 8 elections will bring prosperity in Pakistan. He expressed these views during meetings with several party leaders and workers on Sunday. The preparations for general elections and other party issues were discussed in the meetings. Shehbaz Sharif lauded the workers for their commitment and loyalty with the party. Those who called on Shehbaz Sharif include party stalwart Khawaja Saad Rafique, Kh Salman Rafique, Mian Javed Latif, Mian Atta Maneeka, Malik Afzal Khokhar, Mohsin Shah Nawaz Ranjha, Sardar Irfan Dogar, Malik Saif Khokhar and others. "We'll take revolutionary steps to control inflation. It is evident that only Nawaz Sharif fulfilled the promises made with the public," said Shehbaz Sharif.

### Solangi affirms ECP fully functional

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Sunday reassured the general public that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is operating efficiently without any crisis. In a post on social media platform X, erstwhile Twitter, the minister urged the general public to dismiss rumours and confirmed ECP Secretary Omar Hamid Khan's illness, offering prayers for his swift and complete recovery. The minister also shared a press release from the Election Commission, which commended Omar Hamid Khan for his intelligence and hardworking approach in fulfilling his responsibilities.

## Spike in terrorist attacks

# Fazl in Kabul to discuss security issues

Fazlur Rehman's visit is part of efforts to defuse bilateral tensions amid a spike in terror incidents

SAID ALAM KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema Islam (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman met with Afghanistan Vice President Maulvi Abdul Kabir on Sunday. Both leaders discussed the overall regional situation as well as matters of mutual interests. Sources said the JUI-F chief would discuss matters of mutual interests besides the overall regional security situation with a particular focus on the resurgence of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Sunday arrived in Kabul to hold talks on regional and security issues with Afghan leaders. The Afghan interim government had extended an invitation to the JUI-F chief last month to visit the country. The trip will be Rehman's first visit to Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover in 2021. The JUI-F said that Fazl had arrived in Kabul alongside a delegation. It also said Fazl met Afghan Deputy Prime Minister Maulvi Abdul Kabir. Acting Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, Maulvi Abdul Latif Mansoor and others were also present on the occasion, it said. Tolo News also shared a video of Muttaqi saying he hoped Fazl's visit would have "a good impact on relations between the two countries". Earlier in the day, the JUI-F's media cell said a high-level delegation of party

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## Four dead in firing on two vehicles in KP

The dead included two security personnel, a driver and a woman, says DPO

STAFF REPORT

KURRAM: At least four people, including two security personnel, were martyred and three others wounded in a firing on a passenger bus and a car in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kurram District, Geo News reported Sunday. According to District Police Officer (DPO) Muhammad Imran, armed assailants opened fire on the bus and car in the Sadda area which resulted in the deaths of four people. The dead included two security personnel, a driver and a woman, said DPO Imran, adding that the police have launched a manhunt to

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## 'Internal differences'

# Omar Hamid Khan 'steps down as ECP secretary

CEC Sikandar Sultan has not yet accepted the secretary's resignation, say sources

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Secretary Omar Hamid Khan stepped down from his post citing health issues, sources told Geo News on Sunday. The sources revealed that Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan has not yet accepted Khan's resignation as the electoral body's secretary. The development comes just a few weeks before the general elections scheduled to take place on February 8 amid allegations of lack of level playing field by key political players including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). Earlier today, ECP Special

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## ECP spurns PTI's unfair treatment allegation

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Special Secretary Dr Syed Asif Hussain on Sunday rejected the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s allegation that it was not being provided level-playing field in the elections slated for February 8 and asked the apex court to "dismiss the contempt petition with a cost". The election commission said this in reply to the PTI's petition demanding the Supreme Court to begin

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KABUL: JUI chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman meets Deputy Prime Minister Maulana Abdul Kabir. Afghan Foreign Minister Maulvi Amir Muttaqi and others were also present in the meeting. – DNA

## Pakistan deploys warships in Arabian Sea

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Pakistan Navy has deployed its warships in the Arabian Sea following the "recent incidents of maritime security," a navy spokesperson said in a statement on Sunday. The spokesperson said Pakistan Navy ships are continuously patrolling the Arabian Sea to ensure the safety of Pakistan's trade routes. The development comes two days after India's navy said it rescued 21 crew members from a vessel in the Arabian Sea after a hijacking distress call, the latest attack on commercial shipping in the region.

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## Michel shakes up EU leadership landscape

DNA

BRUSSELS: Belgian politician Charles Michel has announced his early resignation as European Council president, revealing plans to run in the European Parliament elections scheduled for June 2024. In a statement to the Belgian media, Michel expressed his decision to stand as a candidate and highlighted the need to give an account of his work and propose a project for Europe's future. Michel, a former Belgian prime minister,

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## 'Lahore belongs to Bhutto' Bilawal Bhutto urges masses to bid farewell to veteran politicians

Chairman Bilawal addresses corner meetings in constituency NA-127 Lahore

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing corner meetings in constituency NA-127 in Lahore at Peco road Kot Lakhpat, Township and General Hospital Metro Chowk on Sunday said that he is delighted to be among the jiyalas. "You are my representative and ambassador in this constituency and you will deliver my message, PPP's message to every house in the area" Chairman Bilawal said to the jiyalas. He said that This city of Lahore does not belong to a business man or trader or a sportsman. This city belongs to Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. These people think that by martyring Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and their jiyalas, they can frighten us but this is their misperception.

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## Social media platforms across Pak face disruption

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Internet monitor Net-blocks reported a nationwide disruption of social media platforms on Sunday evening hours before the PTI was scheduled to hold a virtual fundraising telethon and launch its election manifesto. "Live metrics show a nation-scale disruption to social media platforms across Pakistan, including X/Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube," the internet tracking agency said. It added that the incident comes as "persecuted former PM Imran Khan's

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## Bangladesh elections Hasina claims victory amid opposition boycott

Counting is under way in polls held to pave the way for PM Sheikh Hasina and her Awami League to seize a fourth consecutive term

FOREIGN DESK

DHAKA: Polls have closed and counting is under way in Bangladesh's general elec-

tion, marked by a low voter turnout and a boycott by the opposition and its allies. Sunday's "one-sided" vote, as the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) put it, is set to keep Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in power for the fourth straight and overall fifth term. It was the 12th general election in the nation of 170 million people since it seceded from Pakistan and became an independent state in 1971.

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# Aesthetic Medicine getting popular in Pakistan

The commitment to sculpting an individual's appearance requires a blend of artistry, medical knowledge, and a nuanced understanding of each client's unique needs: Dr Shumaila

MUDASSAR RAJA

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Shumaila Khan is a well-known & energetic Aesthetic Physician, best Injector and Laser therapist. She has done her MBBS from Baqi Medical University, Karachi and started her career in Karachi. She further joined Dermatology department of PIMS Islamabad, wherein she worked under renowned Dermatologists of Pakistan. Later on, she went to Cardiff University Wales (UK) for post-graduation in Dermatology. She gave an exclusive interview to Daily Islamabad POST and CENTRELINE magazine. Here is the text of her interview.

**1: What are some of the most common skin conditions Pakistanis are faced with?**

Pakistan, like many other countries, has a diverse population with varying skin types and environmental factors that can contribute to a range of skin conditions. Some of the common skin conditions faced by Pakistanis include: **Acne:** Acne is a widespread skin condition affecting people of all ages. Factors such as hormonal changes, genetics, and environmental conditions can contribute to acne.

**Pigmentation Issues:** Hyperpigmentation (darkening of the skin) and hypopigmentation (lightening of the skin) are common concerns. These can be caused by sun exposure, inflammation, or skin injuries. **Eczema (Dermatitis):** Eczema is an inflammatory skin condition characterized by red, itchy, and dry skin. Environmental factors, genetics, and allergies can contribute to eczema. **Psoriasis:** Psoriasis is a chronic autoimmune condition that results in the rapid buildup of skin cells, leading to scaling on the skin's surface. It can be triggered by various factors, including genetics and stress. **Fungal Infections:** Fungal infections, such as ringworm and tinea versicolor,

are common in warm and humid climates. These infections can affect different parts of the body.

**Melasma:** Melasma is a condition characterized by dark patches on the skin, often on the face. Hormonal changes, sun exposure, and genetics can contribute to melasma.

**Urticaria (Hives):** Urticaria is characterized by raised, itchy welts on the skin. It can be triggered by various factors, including allergies, medications, and stress.

**Scabies:** Scabies is a contagious skin infestation caused by mites. It results in intense itching and a rash, often in the webs of fingers, wrists, elbows, and other body parts.

**Burns:** Accidental burns, whether from

hot surfaces, liquids, or other sources, can lead to various skin issues and scarring. **Skin Cancer:** Exposure to the sun's harmful UV rays increases the risk of skin cancer. Regular use of sunscreen and protective measures are essential in preventing skin cancer.

It's important to note that the prevalence of these conditions can vary among individuals, and seeking advice from healthcare professionals is crucial for accurate diagnosis and effective treatment. Additionally, cultural practices, lifestyle, and environmental factors can influence the prevalence of certain skin conditions in different regions of Pakistan.

**2: Why did you pursue a career as an Aesthetic medicine?**

When I decided to pursue a career in Aesthetic Medicine, there were only a handful of doctors dedicated to this field. It is inherent in every individual to harbor a desire to look and feel good. A pleasing appearance not only enhances one's outer allure but also boosts inner confidence. This natural inclination towards aesthetics led to a widespread interest in Aesthetic Medicine upon its introduction in Pakistan.

My profound interest in this field is rooted in a genuine passion for assisting those seeking to enhance their physical appearance, ultimately elevating their confidence levels.

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# CM orders early completion of hospital upgrade

CM directed to ensure quality along with undertaking preventive measures in the electricity and air conditioning wiring work

ABID RAZA

LAHORE : Child Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi paid a detailed visit to the Children Hospital in severe cold late at night. On the direction of CM, upgradation work in the emergency, main corridor and other wards of Children Hospital has been expedited. Mohsin Naqvi reviewed progress being made on the upgradation work of Children Hospital. He inspected the main corridor, reception counter and checked the quality of work. CM directed to ensure quality along with undertaking preventive measures in the electricity and air conditioning wiring work. He directed to complete the wiring work in coming three

days. CM directed early completion of tiles installation work in the main corridor. Mohsin Naqvi lauded the performance of Secretary C&W, Secretary Health and their team on undertaking swift work in the main corridor. He met with the labourers working late night and commended them for working with diligence. CM issued directions for early completion of the ongoing upgradation work. Mohsin Naqvi revealed that task for the provision of better facilities in more than 100 hospitals of Punjab will be completed by 31st January. The whole team is striving day and night to accomplish this task. The fruit of doing hard work with a noble intention will definitely be passed on to the people. Sec-

retary C&W and Secretary Health gave a briefing about the work being done under the upgradation project. It was informed during the briefing that installation of tiles and finishing work has been started under the upgradation project. Provincial Minister for Information Amir Mir, Secretary C&W, Secretary Health, Commissioner Lahore, Deputy Commissioner and concerned officials were also present on the occasion. Earlier on, CM MOHSIN pays a visit to the safe city and cpo office projects at Rawalpindi, Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited the Safe City and new CPO Office projects at Rawalpindi. CM reviewed progress being made on both the projects. Mohsin Naqvi while setting a deadline to complete the Rawalpindi Safe City and CPO Office projects by 31st January ordered to complete civil work of the projects at the earliest. He directed to undertake proper planning for the installation of cables and cameras from the onset adding that work should be launched immediately after the completion of civil work. CM conducted a detailed inspection of the construction activities of both the projects. Mohsin Naqvi reviewed pace of work on both the projects and directed to complete them swiftly. CM directed CPO Rawalpindi to undertake visit of the projects daily along with reviewing progress on them. He urged all concerned to work hard day and night adding that completion of the projects with a swift pace should be the foremost mission.



MULTAN: Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins visits MG Apparel's and lauds company for caring leaders in promoting women's inclusion in the workplace as part of the Australian initiative, Male Champions of Change. Amazing work.—DNA

## KP Governor stresses graduates' vital healthcare role

## No people exploitation allowed in developed nations

ADIL SHAHEN

PESHAWAR : Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali on Sunday recognized the important role of graduates in the ongoing development of healthcare and emphasized the importance of their contribution to the wider healthcare landscape. He said this while addressing the first annual convocation 2024 of Khyber Medical University (KMU)-IMS and Kohat Institute of Dental Sciences (KIDS). He said that the role of medical and dental graduates play in shaping the wider health landscape is commendable. Chief Guest Governor Haji Ghulam Ali congratulated the graduates of Medical and Dental Colleges and Gold Medalists. He appreciated their unwavering dedication to medical knowledge and their outstanding efforts. Highlighting the importance of the convocation, the Governor thanked VC KMU Prof. Dr. Ziaul Haq, Principals and all the attendees for making the event a memorable gathering for teachers, proud graduates, parents and distinguished guests. During the ceremony, Governor Haji Ghulam Ali announced that 286 students were awarded MBBS and BDS degrees. He termed awarding gold medals to 200 students as a great honor for colleges, KMU, and their parents.—APP

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Sunday that it is not acceptable to exploit others in developed nations. Still, business without exploitation is unthinkable in Pakistan. Key sectors and industries are operated without any regulatory oversight in Pakistan, allowing businessmen to rob the masses and promote poverty in the country, he added. Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that in developed countries, no business is allowed to exploit

the people and if it is done, it is made an example but the majority of businesses in Pakistan are milking the masses. He said that irresponsible and greedy people, whose only aim is to make money, exploit people in the name of business, as most of the big businesses are in their hands. The business leaders said that many sectors are operating without a regulator and many regulators have been hijacked by big businesses. For this reason, the wealth and influence of businessmen are continuously increasing while the country's population is getting poorer. He observed that weak oversight has allowed businesses to continuously seize the

rights of the people, while the compromised regulators of various sectors burden the national treasury. Many influential business groups have started exploiting the people by putting their favourite officers at the head of the regulatory bodies, which is sad. He said that presently, there is nobody to regulate FBR. The FBR officers also make decisions in case of dispute between the taxpayer and the tax collector and if the taxpayer does not agree with the decision, they appeal in the appellate forum, which takes years to get its result. Due to this setup, the expected revenue of trillions of rupees is also stuck due to delay, he said.

## Court Notice

In the Court of Naveed Abbas Mangat Civil Judge Gujrat Title: Muhammad Zaman. Versus Province of Punjab etc. Notice to: 7-Muhammad Tahir S/o. Muhammad Bota R/o. Mangowal Gharbi Tehsil and District Gujrat. Suit for Declaration Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 8-01-2024, otherwise case will be decided ex party.

## Anti-polio drive to start from January 08

LARKANA : A six-day National polio campaign will start from January 08 to January 14, 2024, in the Larkana district in which more than 306,950 children of the district up to the five years of age will be vaccinated with Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV). All-out arrangements have been finalized for the National Immunization Campaign of Polio to save the children from the crippling disease of Polio. This was disclosed by the District Health Officer (DHO) Larkana, Dr. Syed Attar Hussain Shah here on Sunday evening. He said the children up to

five years of age would be administered Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) during the seven-day campaign. He said 890 mobile teams have been constituted which would visit all the areas including the remote, far-flung areas and flood/rain-affected areas of the district to accomplish the task. He further said that three (5) Roaming polio teams have also been constituted in Larkana city to cover children during the day's campaign. DHO Larkana said that thirty 90 transit polio teams have also been constituted in the district in this regard

and they would be available at Railway Stations, Bus stops and various markets of the district during the 07-day anti-polio campaign. He exhorted the parents to be cooperative with the visiting mobile polio teams to make the national anti-polio campaign a complete success. He also urged the religious scholars, elected representatives, NGOs and local community to make this campaign successful by involving their all-possible efforts so that the children of the whole district could be immunized against this crippling disease.—APP

## Court Notice

In the Court of Naveed Abbas Mangat Civil Judge Gujrat Title: Muhamad Yaqoob. Versus District Excise etc. Notice to: 1- District Excise and Taxation Officer Gujrat, 4- Muhammad Ilyas s/o. Muhammad Sadiq cast Arain R/o. Mohallah Alipura Gujrat City. Suit for Declaration Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 17-01-2024, otherwise case will be decided ex party.

## Cantt SHO suspended for negligence, poor cleanliness

RAWALPINDI : The Station House Officer (SHO) Cantt Police Station has been suspended over negligence and poor cleanliness in Cantt Special Initiative Police Station. According to a police spokesman, SHO Cantt Ishaq Cheema had been suspended due to negligence and poor cleanliness of the Special Initiative Police Station. He said that the City Police Officer, Rawalpindi Syed Khalid Hamdani had warned that any kind of negligence would not be tolerated in the measures taken for the convenience of the citizens. Different police stations across the province were being upgraded and renovated under the Special Initiative Police Stations program and senior police officers

were also monitoring the performance of the police officers, he said. All the SHOs had been instructed that no negligence in the Special Initiative Police Stations program would be tolerated. The spokesman informed that Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab, Dr. Usman Anwar had recently inaugurated Special Initiative Police Stations of Saddar Baroni, Civil Lines and Cantt in Rawalpindi. The IGP had also inaugurated online one each Special Initiative Police Station in 36 districts across Punjab. The project of up-gradation of the police stations had been completed in a short period of one month. He said, the waiting rooms of the Police Stations were equipped with quality fur-

niture, front desk, information LCDs, and other modern facilities. The up-gradation is an important step towards changing thana culture and the IGP wants the citizens to feel safe in police stations. He informed that the crime rate in Rawalpindi had reduced by 34 percent and 80 percent of murder cases had been traced. All the cases of kidnapping for ransom had also been traced, he said adding, the authorities concerned had been ordered to complete the up-gradation work of all other police stations as soon as possible. One each modern police station was already inaugurated in 36 districts while 737 police stations had been up-graded in one month by spending Rs 2 billion, he informed.—APP

## Breaking shackles of poverty through welfare projects

FAKHAR-E-ALAM

PESHAWAR: In a foggy morning, Zakir Khan, an impoverished fruit seller, starts his rickshaw journey from his mud house in the outskirts of the provincial metropolitan to Peshawar's fruit market hoping to purchase apples, guavas, bananas, and other fruits on reasonable rate to support his eight-member family. Assisted by his son Asadullah Khan, the 65-year-old vendor, donned in traditional attire - woolen Chadar and Chitrali cap, starts his day with Fajr prayer and after having breakfast, rushes to Chamkani fruit market in Peshawar expecting to get fresh fruits through open auction on reasonable prices and anticipates a profita-

ble sale in the local market. After purchasing fruits, he unloads his fruits-packed rickshaw at his hand cart in Pabbi fruits market at Nowshera after covering 15-kilometer distance from Peshawar and working till night. "I have been associated with the painstaking fruit seller business since my childhood and recently my two sons Arnanullah Khan and Asadullah Khan have started assisting me to sell all stock before night," he said. "It is an extremely challenging business and sometimes he suffers financial losses in case fruits are not sold on time," he said, adding that due to exorbitant prices of the fruits many customers just ask about prices of different fruits and return empty handed. "Last year, citrus of Khanpur tehsil of Haripur and Manki Sharif of

Nowshera districts was available at Rs180 per dozen that has now jumped to Rs 250 per dozen in local market with start of new year while apples per kg were sold at Rs 200 per last year against Rs 250 this year making difficult to continue this hard earned business due to discouraging response of consumers and poverty," he said. "I have come to purchase fruits for birthday party of my granddaughter, but the prices were sky-high this morning and will come again at night hoping for reduction of prices of apple, guava and banana to celebrate the event with great pomp and show," said Riazul Haq, a retired teacher while talking to APP at Pabbi fruit market. Complaining about soaring prices of fruits and vegetables with the start of the new year in the local market, he

said that district administration failed to regularly check fruits prices at market and take strict action against price hikers and hoarders. "Poverty is the mother of all social ills including illiteracy, corruption, street crimes, drugs addiction and unemployment besides creating socio-economic imbalances in the society," said Professor Dr Muhammad Naem, former Chairman Economics Department, University of Peshawar. He said that thousands of youth were being graduated by the public and private sectors universities every year and could not find suitable jobs due to our outdated education system and lack of coordination between government departments, educational institutions and industries in terms of jobs creations.

## Government of Pakistan Ministry of Energy (Power Division)

### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES - FIRMS SELECTION)

Country: Pakistan  
Name of Project: Electricity Distribution Efficiency Improvement Project (EDEIP)  
Title: Engagement of Consultancy firm for Market Reforms  
Loan No. /Credit No. /Grant No.: IBRD-93180  
Reference No: PK-MOE-349844-CS-CQS

The Ministry of Energy (Power Division) has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Electricity Distribution Efficiency Improvement Project (EDEIP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services namely "ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANCY FIRM FOR COMPETITIVE WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY MARKET REFORMS".

The consulting services ("the Services") include key experts to undertake a variety of tasks pertinent to the "ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANCY FIRM FOR COMPETITIVE WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY MARKET REFORMS" in Pakistan as per the scope envisaged in the detailed TORs.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be downloaded from the following link: <https://power.gov.pk/>

The Ministry of Energy (Power Division) now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage. The shortlisting criteria are as below:

- The Consultants must have at least 10 years of experience working in power sector with expertise in key areas such as organizational restructuring; competitive electricity market design, development and operations; power sector financial and settlement systems; power trading regulations; system operations; market modeling; power sector legal and regulatory instruments [codes, regulations, rules, contracts/agreements etc.] change management would be valuable.
- The Consultants must have successfully carried out at least two similar assignments preferably in multiple countries. The Consultant shall furnish the details of the assignments including but not limited to name of Client, value of assignment, person months and information on deliverables.
- The Consultants shall furnish the information on technical and managerial capability of their firm for managing the subject consultancy assignment including information on ongoing assignments.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 [revised

November 2017, July 2018 & November 2020] ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. The Consultant shall clearly describe the anticipated role of each JV partner as well as Sub-Consultant within the association. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract whereas each partner within the JV shall meet the qualification and experience requirement for the assigned role, if selected.

The Consultants will be selected in accordance with the "Consultants Quality & Cost based Selection (QCBS)" method set out in the Procurement Regulations of the World Bank for IPF Borrower July 2016 Revised November 2017, July 2018 & November 2020.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, 0900 to 1700 hours, Monday through Friday.

Expressions of Interest must be submitted to the undersigned electronically, via post or in person by February 15, 2024.

Procurement & Contract Specialist  
Project Implementation Unit (PIU)  
Electricity Distribution Efficiency Improvement Project (EDEIP),  
Ministry of Energy (Power Division)  
pcedaip@gmail.com  
Office No.112-First Floor, Evacuee Trust Complex  
Agha Khan Road, F-5/1,  
Islamabad

PID NO 4107/23

National Days and Armed Forces Days

- JANUARY
Jan 01 / CUBA Revolution Day
Jan 01 / Palestine Palestine Revolution Day
Jan 01 / Sudan National Day
Jan 04 / Myanmar Independence Day
Jan 06 / Iraq Armed Forces Day
Jan 12 / Tanzania Armed Forces Day
Jan 14 / Uzbekistan Armed Forces Day
Jan 15 / Nigeria Armed Forces Day
Jan 20 / Mali Armed Forces Day
Jan 20 / Laos Armed Forces Day
Jan 25 / Thailand Armed Forces Day
Jan 26 / Australia National Day
Jan 26 / India Republic Day

Hotels & Restaurants

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



Emergency

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

Enquiry

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

Hospitals

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

Departments

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

Water Tank

- Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Pakistan advances green transport with 160 high-end e-buses

The day before the ceremony, Pakistani side tested these buses, which performed perfectly in appearance, performance and all other aspects

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The delivery ceremony for 160 Suzhou Higer high-end pure electric buses exported to Pakistan was held in Suzhou Industrial Park, China. It is reported that the order value of the order exceeds RMB 150 million, which is the first time that Pakistan has introduced pure electric buses in large quantities. Honored guests including Mr. Rana, Director General of the Capital Development Bureau of Pakistan, Amer, General Manager of NTRC Commercial Projects, Mr. Amir, Chairman of Pakistan UAE Company, Huang Shuping, General Manager of Suzhou Higer, Qiu Yuan-

hong, Deputy General Manager, Xie Jianghong, Customer Service Director, Jiang Haifeng, General Manager of Overseas Sales attended the ceremony. Rana and Mr. Amer delivered speeches respectively, expressing high recognition for this batch of buses, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday. The day before the ceremony, Pakistani side tested these buses, which performed perfectly in appearance, performance and all other aspects. Currently, Higer's new energy buses have occupied the largest market share in Pakistan to contribute to Pakistan's green and low-carbon travel. Entered the Pakistani market in 2006, in response to the local dusty and congested

road traffic characteristics, Higer has continued to carry out technological innovation and customized high-quality buses for Pakistan that can calmly cope with the local climate environment and complex road conditions. The batch of pure electric buses exported this time have the advantages of zero emissions, low operating costs, and low noise pollution, which will greatly improve the efficiency of public transportation operations and the quality of residents' travel. In addition, the cruising range of the buses exceeds 250 kilometers and the entire vehicle uses the most advanced cathodic electrophoresis technology, through which own an anti-corrosion period of more

than ten years. In terms of software intelligence, 160 pure electric buses are equipped with the intelligent operation system TBOX, which can monitor driver behavior and vehicle operation data in real time to ensure operational safety and protect passenger travel. As an important part of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Belt and Road Initiative, the transportation field will continue to usher in more efficient and green reforms in the future. The arrival of 160 e-buses to Pakistan, as a new starting point, promoting the high-quality development of CPEC and BRI in the field of public transportation, according to Gwadar Pro.

GTR Celebrates 60 Years of Driving Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Ghandhara Tyre (GTR) recently celebrated its 60th anniversary, marking six decades of leadership and reliability with German-Engineered Technology, perfectly tailored for the roads of Pakistan. A grand event was organized in Lahore to commemorate this milestone, attended by more than 160 esteemed dealers of the company. The celebration was not just an acknowledgment of GTR's journey but also a tribute to the partnerships that have fueled its success. During the event, top dealers were honored. The event spotlighted GTR's remarkable achievements over the past 60 years, which have firmly established the company as the top tyre manufacturer in the country. GTR's commitment to using German technology, in collaboration with Continental Germany ensures adherence to international standards. All tyres undergo rigorous testing procedures abroad, exemplifying the brand's dedication to quality and reliability. Hussain Kuli Khan, CEO of GTR, reflected on the company's journey: "Today, GTR stands as the number one tyre manufacturer in Pakistan, serving all OEMs with our advanced technology, reliability, and commitment to safe and empowered driving in Pakistan. Our 60-year journey in Pakistan is a story of progress, vision, and unwavering commitment." He reminisced about the company's beginnings in 1963 and its rapid growth: "Driven by a vision of excellence, we doubled our capacity within just nine years, laying the foundation of a legacy built on quality, trust, and the pursuit of perfection." Highlighting the significance of the inauguration of the new plant in 1985 by the President of Pakistan, Hussain Kuli Khan described it as a testament to the company's growing impact and ambition. With six decades of expertise in the Pakistani market and road infrastructure, GTR continues to set international standards in quality, reliability, and durability.—DNA

Cut in key policy rate vital: APBF

FAISAL SHEIKH
ISLAMABAD: As the central bank is likely to announce the new monetary policy in the next meeting this month, the All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has called for a cut in the monetary policy rate to attain the high position in Ease of Doing Business ranking, amidst record high markup rate, hyperinflation and rising energy prices. The APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood said that already unprecedented inflation and high markup rate have drastically reduced private sector borrowings during the outgoing fiscal year, besides the country has been far behind in the ease of doing business ranking. So, further hike in discount rate will deteriorate the economic conditions, he added. The SBP has raised its key policy rate by 12.25 percentage points since April 2022, mainly to curb soaring inflation. However, it held rates steady in June saying inflation had peaked at 38pc in the preceding month.—APP

CDA to hold first auction of FY 2024 on January 10

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Nauman Khalid, Member Technical & Digitization, CDA along with his team visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and briefed the business community about the auction of CDA plots on January 10, 11 & 12, 2024 in F-9 Park, Islamabad. CDA would auction a total of 35 plots out of which 11 plots would be auctioned on the first day, 10 on the second day, and 14 on the third day. The categories of plots include Marakaz, Blue Area, Park Road, apartments, hotels, petrol pumps, hospitals, timber, agro farms, I&T Centers, Aabpara Market, Class-III shopping centers, and revision of deferred plots. Nauman Khalid said that CDA would give possession of auctioned plots on payment of 75% of the premium while a 10% rebate would be given on payment of the lumpsum amount. He also briefed the business community about various development initiatives of CDA including the development of a cycling lane in Islamabad to reduce traffic congestion, the introduction of more bus routes, digitization of land records, automation of approval of building plans and automated parking, etc. He said that ICCI should cooperate with CDA in making auction successful. He said that ICCI should give a list of prioritized issues of the business community and CDA would form a team to address them.

DNA

CG COMSTECH efforts to supervise 100 Ph.D. Dissertations

ISLAMABAD: The COMSTECH team has extended congratulations to the Co-ordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary for successfully supervising 100 Ph.D. Dissertations in Pakistan. Prof. Choudhary, a globally recognized medicinal chemist and Mustafa (PBUH) Prize laureate, has contributed immensely to the fields of organic and bioorganic chemistry with 1,175 research papers, 76 books, and 40 chapters in prestigious US and European publications. According to COMSTECH, Prof. Choudhary's groundbreaking work includes securing 40 US patents, earning him widespread recognition. Prof. Choudhary's impact is evident through 41,000 citations of his research globally, showcasing an impressive h-index of 81. His academic journey encompasses D.Sc., Ph.D., and Post-Doctorate Chem. qualifications. The distinguished professor has received accolades from the governments of Pakistan, including Hila-e-Intiaz, Sitara-e-Intiaz, and Tamgha-e-Intiaz.—APP



Advertisement for Pakistan Air Force recruitment. Title: 'پاکستان ایئر فورس میں بحیثیت ائیر مین شمولیت اختیار کریں'. It lists various job categories like Air Hostess, Cabin Crew, and others, along with their respective requirements and application details. It also includes contact information for recruitment offices in various cities.

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## Briefs

## Int'l workshop on Ethical Research next month

ISLAMABAD: Two-day international workshop on 'Ethical Research in Clinical Trials' will be held under the auspices of COMSTEC and UEARS in February to address the challenges of research integrity in clinical trials in low-middle-income countries and propose the best suitable guidelines to improve the quality of research in this domain. The workshop, scheduled to be held from February 07-09 in Cairo, Egypt, is aimed at imparting knowledge and training about research integrity and creating a network of professionals working in the field for continuous learning and exchanges. According to an official of COMSTEC, the meeting and its workshop will help devise solutions for the challenges faced in clinical trials by low-middle income country. Students, scientists, researchers, experts, healthcare managers, government officials, think tanks, health NGO's, policy makers from the domain of multicenter clinical trials research from across the world and global south countries can register for the workshop for physical or virtual participation. Globally the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge enjoys a place of distinction, and the public expects to reap considerable benefit from the creative and innovative contributions of scientists.—APP

## Mobile Registration Centers of BISP to be operational soon

ISLAMABAD: The Mobile Registration Vehicle Centers to facilitate the registration process for the intending beneficiaries of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), belonging to the remote areas of the country, are likely to be operational soon. The Mobile Registration Centers will enable the deserving women residing in the far-flung areas to access the registration facilities through mobile vehicles. According to an official source, the process of induction of Mobile Vans, which started in August, has entered into its last stages. A total of 25 Mobile Vans is being included to serve as Mobile Registration Centers of the National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER) which will facilitate those who were unable to access the registration facility. The source revealed that as many as 19 Mobile Registration Centers are being established in the remote areas of Balochistan, five in Sindh and one in Islamabad in this phase.—APP

## Winter camp concluded at AIOU

ISLAMABAD: The closing ceremony of a two-week winter camp for children and the graduation ceremony of a three-month Turkish language course was concluded here on Saturday. Addressing the closing ceremony, Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that parents should allow their children to do activities from an early age that will bring out their hidden talents. He said that to develop children's creativity, it is important to keep them in their imaginary world. Dr. Nasir said that we organize summer camp, winter camp and other educational activities for children in cooperation with Yunus Emre Institute of Turkey. The ceremony began with the national anthems of Pakistan and Turkey. The Education Attaché of Turkish Embassy, Dr. Mehmet Toyran and Director, Yunus Emre Institute, Dr. Hali Tokar were the guests of honour. Country Director, Red Crescent Turkey, Ergest Limka, Muhsin Balci, Turkish language teachers Mrs. Hali Tokar, Dr. Rashid and calligrapher, Wasil Shahid also participated in the event. The closing ceremony was hosted by Director of Academic Planning and Course Production, Dr. Zahid Majeed.—APP

## Pindites desire permanent solution to water shortage

The WASA is sometimes felt helpless to meet the water needs of growing population even after receiving 13 million gallons water per day from Rawal Dam and six million gallons from Khanpur Dam

AZHAR SIDDIQUE

RAWALPINDI: With the population influx going unchecked and the water paucity aggravating, the residents of Rawalpindi have urged the civic authorities for timely steps to avert water shortage. As the residents especially in congested areas face this dilemma every summer, they have drawn attention of Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) to address this problem prior to the summer starts. People living in Dhoke Kala Khan, Qayyumabad, Muslim Town, Sadiqabad, Committee Chowk, Shah Khalid Colony, Bagh Sardaran, Adiala Road, Defence Road, New Lalazar, Morgah, Kalyal, Munawar Colony, Asghar Mall, City Saddar Road, Kohati Bazaar, Peoples Colony, Adiala Road and Dhoke Syedan Road are stated to be the worst hit communities during peak season every year. Although, in all 480 WASA tube wells are stated to be operating across the city, yet the Agency falls short of meeting water needs of the public as some of these tube wells need repair or face water sucking issues as water table downs to 400 to 600 feet in certain areas. The WASA is sometimes felt helpless to meet the water needs of growing population even after receiving 13 million gallons water per day from Rawal Dam and six million gallons from Khanpur Dam. This situation compels the consumers to buy

tanker water who in return are becoming a mafia to exploit consumers by charging extra money for water supply. "Every summer we face water shortage especially during peak season," said Amjad Ali, a resident of Muslim Town. "Although the authorities claim to supply water uninterrupted, yet our needs remain unmet." He mentioned to issues like ruptured pipelines, low capacity performing tube wells and wastage of water by residents. "We are not blaming WASA alone as water provision and its conservation is a shared responsibility." "But, it needs certain mechanism to address this issue. We desire civic agencies to address these issues prior to upcoming summer," Ali said. Residents of several other areas as Ariya Mohallah, Dhoke Munshi, Rehmatnagar, Nooran Mohallah, Banaris Colony Kachi Abadi, Dhoke Dalal Khan, Walyat Homes and Mumtaz Colony have also complained of same situation and urged a workable strategy to address this issue. "Every summer this phenomenon repeats. Despite claims of authorities many of us had to wait water for hours and even for days," said Naem Ahmed a resident of Ariya Mohallah. "Whether it is shortage of resources or the capacity issue, we are the ultimate victims," he said. "This situation compels residents to buy tanker water and we have to pay twice. Once to WASA and then to private tanker operators, who charge us

as per their will." Another resident Rashid Mahmood has specifically drawn the attention of district administration towards massively and unchecked charging by private water tanker operators. "These tanker operators take full advantage of water shortage during summer," he said and claimed that they charge Rs 3000 to Rs 5000 for each tanker during summer. Therefore, he said, the concerned authorities must not only enhance water supply capacity but also devise some mechanism to set the water tanker price. As the water shortage is becoming a country-wide issue, some efficient strategies and strict measures were urgently required for judicious water supply, its conservation and reigning in tanker mafia to bring some respite to the consumers. Although many residents resorted to digging wells or boring, yet others not having resources to spend on this activity are left on the mercy of WASA or the tanker operators. Commenting on this situation Managing Director Water and Sanitation Agency WASA Muhammad Tanveer claimed of making all out efforts to address this issue. "We are on it. We try to ensure uninterrupted water supply." "Even though, if there is shortage in any area, it is met by supplying water through WASA water tankers," Tanveer claimed. "In addition to ensuring timely supply of pipe water, we also ensure that

our staff fully cooperates with citizens." Assistant Director (Water Supply) WASA, Mohammad Ahmed and Sub Engineer Water Supply Mohammad Tufail have also claimed that there was no water supply issue in Rawalpindi. "We are cognizant of the situation and doing a lot to improve water supply. We assure that situation improves for Rawalpindi citizens during upcoming summer," they stated. Even if we agree with their claim of no water shortage in the city, then why we see a lot of private tankers roaming around to supply water in residential areas. Since, the Rawalpindi city's water shortage touches 60 million gallon a day (MGD) in peak summer season, the authorities believe that construction of Dadocha Dam, would help address this issue. Started after a delay of 13 years, on special directives of Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, the dam would cost Rs 14 billion and provide 35 MGD clean water to Residents. Since, water is a basic need of every citizen, therefore, the authorities must ponder on evolving a workable and multi-pronged strategy for addressing this issue. Checking water wastage would emerge as a major problem for the authorities during days ahead with the country already touching the international water scarcity benchmark



ISLAMABAD: Vendors are busy in their routine work at Oranges bidding point of the Fruit and Vegetables Market as the prices of fruits and vegetables are seems hike in the first week of the Year 2024 in Federal Capital.—ONLINE

## Freelancers to now receive their payments through PayPal: Minister

ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr Umar Saif on Sunday announced that freelancers would now receive their payments through PayPal. In a video message, he said that it had been a long-standing demand of freelancers to have access to PayPal for easier payment receipt in Pakistan. The minister clarified, "While PayPal itself is not coming to Pakistan, an agreement has been reached where remittances would be channeled through PayPal via a third party." "Under the newly devised program, freelancers will not need to open a PayPal account. Instead, individuals outside the country will make payments from their PayPal accounts, and the funds will be promptly deposited into the freelancers' accounts," the minister explained. He said that under the nation's first space policy approved

by the federal cabinet, international companies would be allowed to provide communication services through low-orbit communication satellites. Saif said that satellite communication technology was advancing rapidly and many private companies in the world wanted to provide communication services through low-orbit satellites. "Satellites used to be geostationary, far away from the land. They are useful for broadcasting TV signals but communicating is difficult because there is latency," he said. Saif said that communication services and internet services could be offered through low-orbit satellites, which were relatively closer. He said that there had been a lot of development in this regard in the private sector. "So now it has become possible for communication services in Pakistan to be provided through satellites and the private sector

has this technology," he said. He said the National Space Policy would enable private sector companies to "offer affordable internet services in Pakistan while enabling increased investment in our national space program". National Space Policy which will enable private-sector companies to offer affordable internet services in Pakistan, while enabling increased investment in the country's national space program. He expressed confidence that 5G services in the country would be launched by July this year and 300MHz spectrum would be offered for auction. He said that before the launch of 5G services, the optic fiber network had to be enhanced. Currently, only 6,000 mobile towers are connected with the optic fiber of around 56,000 towers across the country. Dr Saif said his ministry had taken a significant decision to revamp IT education in universities in collaboration with the High-

er Education Commission, National Computing Accreditation Council, Exami-nation Testing Council, Pakistan Software Export Board, and Pakistan Software Houses Association. "Under the program, around 31,000 students have registered themselves for the test so far, and successful among them will be offered jobs through the Industry Placement Programme." Dr Saif disclosed that the government would initiate a project to establish 10,000 e-Rozgar centers across the country that would be equipped with the latest facilities for freelancers and startups. The minister while highlighting the initiatives taken by the government to bolster exports of the IT and telecom sector, said, "The sector's official export is currently \$2.6 billion, but the actual figure is around \$5 billion as the industry parks a major portion outside the country to pay salaries of their international employees placed with foreign clients.—APP

## Transplant unit at RIUT to be fully functional by March

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaquat Ali Chatta has said that the transplant unit at Rawalpindi Institute of Urology and Transplantation (RIUT) would be fully functional by March. According to a Commissioner Office spokesperson, the Commissioner during a visit to RIUT, inspected the medical treatment facilities being provided to the patients. The Commissioner took notice of non-functional heating system in some wards of the Hospital due to technical fault in HVAC sensors. Liaquat Ali Chatta directed that HVAC sensors should be replaced immediately and the heating system should be made fully functional as the patients could not

bear this cold. He also visited Emergency, Operation Theater, Radiology, Dialysis Center and OPD of RIUT. The DMS briefed the Commissioner about the facilities being provided to the patients in the hospital while the Building Department representative also briefed about the repair work. The Commissioner was informed that in this state-of-the-art 250-bed hospital, more than 100 emergency patients are admitted and provided medical treatment daily while on an average, 250 to 300 patients visit the OPD of the hospital daily. Currently, five departments of the hospital are fully functional. So far, the patients are being provided surgery, dialysis, pathology, radiology and nephrology medical facilities at RIUT.

Apart from this, 13 departments of Holy Family Hospital are also temporarily providing services in this hospital. Medical facilities are also being provided at RIUT due to the rush of the patients and revamping project of the Holy Family Hospital. All encroachments from the service road were removed to provide the patients easy access to the hospital. The Commissioner said that the administration was striving to provide quality medical facilities to the residents of Rawalpindi. The RIUT is providing state-of-the-art medical facilities to the patients, he added. The Commissioner during the visit also talked to the patients and their families who expressed satisfaction on the medical facilities being provided in the hospital, the spokesperson informed.

## 02 injured in firing incident in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Two people were injured in a firing incident on Sunday when an unidentified motorcyclist opened fire on Dolphin Police personnel near PIMS Hospital in Islamabad. According to police spokesman, the assailants fired upon Dolphin Police, prompting a retaliatory response. In the exchange of gunfire, two suspects were injured and subsequently apprehended by Dolphin Police. The prompt response from Dolphin Police resulted in the arrest of the alleged gunmen, preventing further escalation of the situation. The police were actively investigating the incident, including checking the records of the arrested suspects. The motive behind the shooting remains unclear and authorities are working to gather more details to ascertain the circumstances leading to the incident.—APP

## Govt not using available legal options for Aafia release

ISLAMABAD: There are many political and legal options for seeking early release of Dr Aafia Siddiqui from the US prison, but sadly the government of Pakistan is simply not utilizing these options for the reasons better known to it, said Aafia Movement leader and noted neurophysician of the country Dr Fowzia Siddiqui, addressing an Aafia Siddiqui Conference here, organized by Team Aafia Pakistan. She said that the nations that don't respect their daughters would never grow and prosper. She said Pakistan is facing problems because our rulers sold the daughters of the nation. She said that the lawyer of Aafia Clive Smith was shocked to know about torture and sexual abuse meted out to Aafia. She asked the Pakistani youth if they would remain silent over these atrocities. Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) KP chapter ameer Senator Mushtaq Ahmed Khan said that Aafia is the most oppressed woman of this century. She is innocent and never ever involved in terrorism or money laundering. He said due to the laudable role of the Islamabad High Court there are some developments in the Aafia Siddiqui case. JI Azad Kashmir chapter ameer Dr Mushtaq Ahmed said that the illegal detention of Aafia Siddiqui is a great test for the Pakistani nation, as well as, the Ummah. He said all political parties should adopt a joint stance on the issue of Dr Aafia. Defense of Human Right Pakistan chairperson Amina Masood Janjua said that we fully support the struggle for release of Aafia. She asked the government of Pakistan to think about the options floated by Dr Fowzia to secure the release of Dr Aafia. The lawyer of Dr Aafia, Clive Stafford Smith said that Dr Aafia's release is possible if the government of Pakistan takes this issue with the US administration on an official basis. He said Aafia is braving torture and abuse in the US prison and this matter also need to be taken with the US administration by the Pakistani government. Aafia Foundation South Africa chapter leader Inayat Wadi said that Aafia Siddiqui is the victim of the war against terrorism.—DNA

## Pakistan's sesame export to China registers 117.85pc increase in last year

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan registered a remarkable growth of 117.85 percent in Sesame seed export to China last year as sesame seeds amounting to \$250 million was shipped to China from January to November 2023. This unprecedented growth has positioned Pakistan as a major player in the global Sesame seed market, with Chinese consumers increasingly embracing the quality and flavor of Pakistani sesame, according to a senior official at Pakistan Embassy Beijing. Pakistan's export of sesame seeds to China was \$250.85 million from January to November 2023, compared to \$117.85 million in the same period last year. This marks an increase of more than 112 percent. Overall, Pakistan's export of sesame seeds to China in 2022 was \$128.44 million, while it was \$120.44 million in 2021. According to details, Pakistan exported 143,527.875 tons of sesame seeds to China from January to November 2023, whereas in 2022, it was 84,985.321 tons. China imported 92,516.55 tons in 2021 and was one of the key destinations for sesame seeds exports from Pakistan," he added. The official said that the sesame seed industry continues to thrive and added, experts attribute this remarkable achievement to a combination of favorable climatic conditions, strategic agricultural policies, and adept market positioning.—APP

## Power suspension schedules

ISLAMABAD: According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance/Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule: On Dated 08 January 2024, 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM, Islamabad Circle, Bani Gala, G-6/3, Supermarket, ISI, Burma, Khanna Dak, Kirpa, Chatta Bakhtawar, F Nine Park, G-10/1, I-8/1, 1-10/1, PHA 2, Shahullah Dutta, Rahara, CM Pak Zong,, Curry, Isolation Hospital, Sunny Bank, Sissal, Kohala, P. Kuntrela, TDCP , PAF, Parihuhawa, Curry Road, Scheme 2, Rahara, Azad Shaheed, Lahtrar Road, Tamri, ISI, Khanna 2, Al Noor Colony, New Wahidabad, Kohala, Murt, Chakri, SPD Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle , 4th Road, A Block, Sadiqabad, National Market.—APP

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## US should not mistake restraint for weakness

ALTHOUGH the sanctions the United States has imposed on Chinese entities citing baseless "national security" concerns have had a substantial impact on China's high-tech research and industry, Beijing has shown restraint with its countermeasures, both in terms of their number and the damage they can do to the US. On Sunday, Beijing announced sanctions on five US defense-related companies – BAE Systems Land and Armaments, Alliant Techsystems Operations, AeroVironment, Viasat, and Data Link Solutions – in response to the US' recent unwarranted sanctions on several Chinese companies and individuals and its \$300-million arms sales to the Taiwan island in December. The US' arms sales to the Chinese island are in blatant violation of the one-China principle and the stipulations of the three China-US joint communiques that are the foundation for Sino-US ties, and the illegal unilateral sanctions the US has imposed on Chinese entities under various false pretexts seriously harm China's sovereignty and security interests. China's sanction measures consist of freezing the properties of the five companies in China, including their movable and immovable property, and prohibiting organizations and individuals in China from having transactions and cooperation with them, according to a statement of the Foreign Ministry. However, like those it has announced before, the Chinese sanctions are mostly symbolic, as the US defense contractors have few deals related to or partnership with the Chinese mainland. But this should not be misunderstood as China not having the capability to inflict damage on the US side, it does. However, in responding to the US' provocations, Beijing always bears the bigger picture in mind. As Foreign Minister Wang Yi stressed on Friday at a ceremony in Beijing marking the 45th anniversary of the founding of Sino-US relations, the most essential feature of China-US exchanges is they are mutually beneficial. That means that if China responded to the US' sanctions and provocations by adopting an equivalence approach, the two countries would be swiftly dragged into a dog-eat-dog regression of history. The rest of the world would soon follow. The US' long-term "strategic ambiguity" on the Taiwan question does not give it an upper hand in playing the so-called Taiwan card with Beijing. Instead, it puts the US at grave risk of an open conflict with China. Taiwan is a dispensable piece on Washington's board but an inalienable part of the country to Beijing, whose resolve to realize national reunification, at all cost, should never be underestimated. That is something the secessionist-minded Democratic Progressive Party politicians of Taiwan taking part in the local election on the island later this month should bear in mind. They should not harbor the illusion that the US will "protect" Taiwan in case of an "emergency". The mutual benefits reaped over the past 45 years show that disagreements and differences should not be allowed to dominate or interfere with Sino-US ties. The potential of their cooperative relations continues to expand, and their differences were even more prominent 45 years ago than they are today.

## Biden strikes blow against Trump, fight continues

JOE Biden, as US president, likes to stand above the fray, conscious of the dignity of his office and the awesome power he wields. Joe Biden, as Democratic party presidential candidate, running for a second term and determined to prove the doubters wrong, is happy to wade right in. It was this second, combative incarnation that was on display at George Washington's war of independence base in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, on Friday. Biden came out punching. His target was Donald Trump, the almost certain Republican choice to challenge him in November's election. His theme was the threat that the former president, who continues to falsely claim that he won the 2020 contest, poses to the post-independence democratic tradition. "Today we're here to answer the most important of questions: is democracy still America's sacred cause?" Biden said. "America, as we begin this election year, we must be clear: democracy is on the ballot." Rhetoric aside, Biden and the Democrats do not lack facts to fortify their arguments. Trump applauded as "patriots" the rioters who attacked Capitol Hill and tried to overthrow the election in January 2021. He has spoken of abolishing the US constitution, assuming dictatorial powers and vengefully pursuing retribution against those who call him to account. They include federal judges who will oversee the nearly 100 criminal felony charges he faces this year. Biden's insistence that Trump is a 'loser', while accurate in retrospect, looks highly questionable going forward. The first votes in the Republican and Democrat 2024 election primaries and caucuses are due to be cast in Iowa (or, in the Democrats' case, mailed) in the coming days. Biden and Democrats running for Congress are highlighting issues such as abortion rights wrecked in 2022 by Trump-appointed supreme court justices, minority rights, the climate crisis and the post-pandemic recovery that has brought a return to growth and new jobs – for which the White House claims credit. Yet Biden's Valley Forge insistence that Trump is a "loser", while accurate in retrospect, looks highly questionable going forward. American voters, on the whole, do not give their current president much credit for his domestic achievements, including the Inflation Reduction Act that boosted clean energy and cut healthcare costs. Biden's national approval rating hovers around 40%. Biden's feisty performance at Valley Forge, kicking off a busy schedule of campaign events, was partly designed to dispel such misgivings. Yet there are 10 months to go. Many wonder openly whether he will stand the pace. It is almost certainly too late to replace him as Democratic nominee – although vice-president Kamala Harris and California governor Gavin Newsom are often mentioned. And all the time Trump and the Republicans will be pounding him hard. Trump, unabashed by all the scandals, lies and pending court cases, is intent on dividing Americans into warring camps. In some ways, Biden has been remarkably unlucky. He inherited huge damage caused by the Covid pandemic, a losing hand in Afghanistan and an extremely hostile China. Then came the biggest war in Europe since 1945, the cost of living crisis and raging inflation.



# The Gaza war is set to spill onto the streets of Western cities

James Dorsey

Mr. Al-Ansari issued the call a day after the group claimed responsibility for two explosions in the Iranian city of Kerman that killed at least 89 people.

Mr. Al-Ansari appeared to justify the bombings by denouncing Hamas' alliance with Iran as a "sin" and denouncing the 1979 Iranian revolution as an "apostate revolution." The Sunni Muslim Islamic State has made attacks on Shiites, who it views as polytheists, one of its hallmarks. In addition, the group is angered by Iranian suggestions that the Islamic Republic will accept a two-state resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict if that was the Palestinians' choice.

Mr. Al-Ansari accused Hamas and its archrival, President Mahmoud Abba's Palestine Authority and Al Fatah movement, as well as a United Arab Emirates-backed former Gaza security chief, Mohammed Dahlan...

ADDDING to the increased threat of Gaza-related violence spilling into other parts of or beyond the Middle East, Hezbollah leader Hasan Nasrallah, warned for the second time in a week that Hezbollah would retaliate. "We'll choose the right place and the right time, but the field will respond," Mr. Nasrallah said in his second response to the Al-Arouri killing in Hezbollah's stronghold in southern Beirut in as many days. Hezbollah has vowed to retaliate for the killing in Lebanon of any representative of the Iranian-backed Axis of Resistance that includes Hamas, the Yemeni Houthis, and Iraqi militias alongside the Lebanese Shiite militia and the Islamic Republic. Restrained by not wanting to drag bankrupt Lebanon into a full-fledged war, Hezbollah could opt for a retaliation far from the Israeli-Lebanese border. That response was not precluded by the firing on Saturday of 62 rockets at an Israeli observation post in what Hezbollah called a "preliminary response" to the Al-Arouri killing. The attack appeared calibrated to keep hostilities with Israelis contained. This photograph taken on January 5, 2024 from the southern Lebanese village of Dhayra along the Israeli border, shows buildings in the Lebanese town of Tair Harfa as smoke billows over northern Israel. Photo: AFP However, in a possible indication of further things to come, Mr. Nasrallah's representative to Iraq, Mohammad Hussein Al-Kawtharani, returned to Baghdad reportedly to coordinate attacks on US targets in Iraq with Iranian-backed Iraqi militias. A US Treasury-designated global terrorist, Mr. Al-Kawtharani has a US\$10 million bounty on his head. Mr. Al-Kawtharani's return coincided with the US killing of an Iranian-backed Iraqi militia leader in retaliation for recent attacks on American personnel and Iraqi steps to remove the U.S.-led international military coalition against the Islamic State from the country. Sheikh Mohammad al-Kawtharani, a senior military commander of the Hezbollah in Iraq group. Photo: File Photo Widely viewed as a hardliner within Hamas, Mr. Al-Arouri grew close to Mr. Nasrallah after the Hamas official arrived in Lebanon at a time when the group's relations with Hezbollah were strained because of Lebanese Shiite support for President Bashar al-Assad in the Syrian civil war. Mr. Nasrallah "turned (Mr. Al-Arouri) into a power card within Hamas but in Nasrallah's hand... Some even say that Arouri was a Hezbollah hawk within Hamas," said a source close to Hezbollah. Addressing Israelis directly in a speech earlier this week, Mr. Nasrallah, was unequivocal in his call for replacing Israel with a Palestinian state rather than an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel. "Here you (Israelis) don't have a future. The land of Palestine is for the Palestinians," Mr. Nasrallah said. From Hamas' perspective, responding to Mr. Al-Arouri's killing by striking abroad at Israeli embassies, diplomatic facilities and representatives is its best option. Hamas is unlikely to see a rocket barrage fired

from Gaza toward Israeli towns and cities, most of which are intercepted by Israeli air defense, as a sufficient response. Similarly, Hamas, three months into the war, is not well positioned to successfully target Israeli government offices and officials in Israel. Raising the stakes, the Islamic State this week called for lone wolf attacks on civilian targets in Europe and the United States, including churches and synagogues. Islamic State militants parade. Photo: Yaser Al-Khodor/Reuters Referring to past Islamic State operations and lone wolf attacks in multiple European cities, the group's spokesman, Abu udhayfah Al-Ansari, called on Muslims in the West in a 67-minute audio message "to renew your activity and revive your blessed operations in the heart of the homes of Jews and Christians.... Chase your prey from Jews, Christians, and their allies, in the streets and the roads of America, Europe, and the world. Raid their homes, kill them, and torture them by every means you can."

"Blow them up with explosives, burn them with incendiary bombs, shoot them with bullets, slaughter their necks with knives, and run them over with buses... Do not differentiate between an infidel civilian or military, as they are all infidels, and they should be judged the same way... Aim for an easy target before the difficult ones, and for civilian targets before military ones, and religious sites such as synagogues and churches, before anything else," Mr. Al-Ansari said.

Mr. Al-Ansari issued the call a day after the group claimed responsibility for two explosions in the Iranian city of Kerman that killed at least 89 people.

Mr. Al-Ansari appeared to justify the bombings by denouncing Hamas' alliance with Iran as a "sin" and denouncing the 1979 Iranian revolution as an "apostate revolution." The Sunni Muslim Islamic State has made attacks on Shiites, who it views as polytheists, one of its hallmarks. In addition, the group is angered by Iranian suggestions that the Islamic Republic will accept a two-state resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict if that was the Palestinians' choice. Mr. Al-Ansari accused Hamas and its archrival, President Mahmoud Abba's Palestine Authority and Al Fatah movement, as well as a United Arab Emirates-backed former Gaza security chief, Mohammed Dahlan, of being US and/or Iranian proxies. The spokesman insisted that "the battle with the Jews is not a religious patriotic or nationalistic battle. It is a battle not because of the land, soil, or borders. Rather, it is a battle that derives its legitimacy from the Quran and Sunnah," Prophet Mohammed's deeds and sayings, Mr. Al-Ansari said. An expanded spree of tit-for-tat Israeli Palestinian targeted killings in third countries is likely to resemble a similar spree in the 1960s, 70s, and 80s, with one caveat. Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) representatives targeted by Israel and hardline Palestinians, like

Abu Nidal, a renegade PLO official, were proponents of compromise with Israel. Sabri Khalil al-Banna, known as Abu Nidal, whose terrorist group was said to be behind an attack on Paris's Jewish quarter in 1982. Photo: AP However, this time round, Israel is likely to go for Hamas officials irrespective of where they stand within Hamas' political spectrum. In a potential tit-for-tat, Israel could prioritise Hamas representatives in countries like Turkey, home among others to the group's 'chief financial officer,' Lebanon which hosts other senior Hamas officials beyond Mr. Al-Arouri, and Malaysia which allows Hamas to operate in the country and raise funds, even though it recently cracked down on one of Hamas's local funding channels. By the same token, Israel will likely refrain from striking in Qatar at senior officials like Ismail Haniyeh and Khaled Mishal, who are resident in Doha, as long as Hamas holds hostages in Gaza kidnapped during the group's October 7 attack on Israel. Qatar is the main mediator, attempting to negotiate further prisoner exchanges between Israel and Hamas. In November, Qatar facilitated a one-week truce in Gaza during which Hamas released more than 100 hostages in exchange for 240 Palestinians incarcerated in Israeli prisons. Hamas still holds 129 hostages, including bodies of captives killed in the hostilities in Gaza.

A tit-for-tat assassination spree could play into the hands of Hamas, a movement proven capable of surviving the killing by Israel of its successive leaders over the past two decades. It could also serve Hamas' strategy articulated in 2007 by Mr. Al-Arouri in an interview with Middle East scholar Bronwen Maddox. "Our job is to keep the Palestinians radicalized. Most of them would settle in a moment for peace, some deal that will let them get on with their lives. We need to keep them angry," Mr. Al-Arouri said.

The jury is out on whether Hamas overshot its goal by provoking the devastation and carnage rained on Gaza by Israel's sledgehammer response to the October 7 attack. Irrespective of what Gazan attitudes towards Hamas will be once the guns fall silent, Mr. Al-Arouri put his finger on what remains the group's Achilles Heel. Rather than exploiting it, Israel has focused on security and humiliating control and subjugation of Palestinians in its zeal to thwart the establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel at the expense of socio-economic development. Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant's recent proposal for post-war governance of Gaza suggests that Israel will continue to refrain from playing what could be its trump card. Reconstruction and development of Gaza, managed by a compliant Palestinian authority that would lack credibility, is in Mr. Gallant's mind an afterthought that is the international community rather than Israel's responsibility.

# Iranian Strategy and Militarization in Eastern Syria

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The U.S. military conducted airstrikes against Iranian militias in Deir ez-Zor on Oct. 26, Nov. 9, and precision strikes on Nov. 12 in Abu Kamal and al-Mayadin. The Pentagon states that these actions are in self-defense to protect U.S. forces and not intended to escalate...

IN the past three weeks, there has been a significant increase in attacks on international coalition bases in northeastern Syria. These attacks are carried out by militias supported by Iran, operating in both Iraq and Syria. There are reports suggesting the establishment of centers to coordinate these strikes. The goal seems to be exploiting the discontent with the United States and Israel, aiming to expand Iranian influence in Syria. This tension coincides with the ongoing conflict in Gaza between Israel and Palestinian factions, particularly Hamas. In the last two weeks, there have been frequent assaults on American forces' bases in eastern Syria. These attacks target various locations, including the al-Omar Field, Conoco plant bases, Kharab al-Jir base, Tal Beydar, al-Shaddadi, and the al-Tanf base near the Syria-Iraq-Jordan border. The attacks involve different methods, such as drone strikes, improvised missiles, and mortar shells. Similar activities have also been reported in Iraq, with threats of further escalation.

The U.S. military conducted airstrikes against Iranian militias in Deir ez-Zor on Oct. 26, Nov. 9, and precision strikes on Nov. 12 in Abu Kamal and al-Mayadin. The Pentagon states that these actions are in self-defense to protect U.S. forces and not intended to escalate the conflict. Groups claiming responsibility for the attacks on American forces in Syria identify themselves as "The Islamic Resistance in Iraq." This choice of name, similar to Lebanese Hezbollah's designation, appears to avoid implicating specific Iraqi or Syrian factions, preventing political pressure on their governments. A meeting in al-Bukamal aimed at coordinating the activities of the Islamic Resistance in Iraq involved various militia factions, including Popular Mobilization Forces in Iraq, Fatemiyoun and Zainabiyyoun militias, Lebanese Hezbollah, the 47th Regiment, Saraya al-Khorasani, and local factions. The operations center coordinates activities along three strategic axes involving missile and

drone strikes, focusing on coalition bases, particularly in the eastern bank of the Euphrates River and the al-Tanf base. Elite forces trained in Dimas Camp near Damascus and training camps near al-Mayadin city carry out these operations. The goal is a calculated escalation against American bases, coordinating attacks effectively while avoiding substantial U.S. retaliation. The strategy resembles Hezbollah's approach in southern Lebanon against Israel. The threat of further escalation depends on the international coalition forces' response to current attacks and leverages American reluctance to widen the conflict.

In recent months, more weapons have been brought into the Qamishli countryside and al-Hasakah city. Every week, supplies arrive from Damascus to Qamishli Airport using Ilyushin aircraft. This is part of a plan to strengthen the military forces in Qamishli and the surrounding areas. The shipments mostly include accurate sniper rifles, night vision gear, small drones, explosive devices, medium-sized machine guns, and mortar guns. Local groups are also getting intensive training, and some are sent to Damascus and Deir ez-Zor. Additionally, members of the Saraya al-Khorasani militia have been moving to the Deir ez-Zor countryside, and security units are now near al-Shaddadi and Tal Hamis, keeping an eye on coalition forces at the al-Shaddadi and Kharab al-Jir bases in the al-Hasakah countryside. The recent increase in Iranian attacks was expected. Reports from the Middle East Institute last year talked about Iran's efforts to strengthen its influence in eastern Syria. This involves plans to target international coalition bases by using "popular resistance" and security operations against American forces. The goal is to make them leave and create more room for Iranian presence. The Saraya al-Khorasani militia, connected to the IRGC and active in al-Hasakah city, and Hezbollah's Task Force militia in the southern countryside of Qamishli, are crucial to

these efforts. Iran is also trying to gain support by supporting Arab tribal leaders, tapping into tribal dissatisfaction with the Syrian Democratic Forces' actions and the coalition's seeming indifference.

Recent events suggest that Iran, through its proxies in eastern Syria, is getting ready to keep attacking international coalition bases. They seem to be choosing the right times to make more impactful attacks causing significant losses. This strategy might take advantage of the coalition's slow response to these attacks. According to sources, these militias might be preparing for larger attacks from areas controlled by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), near the American bases. This escalation is dangerous, putting both coalition forces and local people at risk. As these militias try to turn the local population against American forces, linking them to the Israeli offensive in Gaza, they create a widespread sense of popular resistance. This growing resistance might force coalition forces to think about leaving the region or staying within their bases. If this happens, it could give Iranian-backed militias the chance to make the region less secure and increase their influence, to the disadvantage of the SDF. The coalition's long silence on the issue of Iranian reinforcements, along with Washington ignoring Tehran's efforts to expand its influence in the eastern Euphrates region, has brought us to a critical point. It might be too late to change things now, and there's a risk that the region could become a hotspot for an international conflict, with the local population caught in the middle. Through recent actions, Iran is trying to show the extent of its influence and its control over operations from southern Lebanon through eastern Syria to Iraq and even reaching the Houthis in Yemen. This strategic positioning could give Iran an advantage in any future political negotiations, making it the main beneficiary of the ongoing troubles in the region, to the detriment of the local people.

Briefs

Faz in Kabul to discuss...

FROM PAGE 01
leaders, including Maulana Abdul Wasi, Maulana Salamuddin, Maulana Jamaluddin, Maulana Salimuddin Shamzai, Aslam Ghauri and others would be accompanying Fazl on his trip. During the visit, Fazl will hold meetings with the Afghan Taliban leaders and discuss the regional and security situation, the JUIF statement added. The visit comes at a time when relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have suffered due to a spike in terrorist attacks, mostly claimed by the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban.

Four dead in firing...

FROM PAGE 01
arrest the attackers while security has been beefed up in the area. "The armed attackers targeted two vehicles going from Parachinar to Peshawar," said the DPO. Last week, six barbers were kidnapped and murdered after which their bodies were dumped in a field in Mir Ali tehsil in North Waziristan tribal. Local and official sources said that the bullet-riddled bodies of six men were found in the field in Muski village located in Mir Ali. They said that the initial investigation suggested that the victims had been shot dead after being kidnapped. The slain persons, the sources added, were all barbers, stated to be non-locals and had recently shifted to North Waziristan. They were running barber shops in Mir Ali Bazaar.

Bilawal Bhutto...

FROM PAGE 01
Ha has come to his own city from where Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto contested the elections and now he is contesting election from this city. Chairman PPP said that they ask us that why we have come to Lahore. We asked them why they had come here. They were imposed by General Zia ul Haq. They were imposed by General Hameed Gul in Punjab and they were imposed on Punjab by General Faiz Hameed. We are doing politics in the city because of jiyalas. We are doing politics for the poor people, laborers and white-collar people. We are doing politics for the hard-working people of this city. We are looking for support from the people and we only need their support.

Social media...

FROM PAGE 01
party, PTI, launches its election fundraising telethon". In a similar incident last month, internet outages were also reported during a PTI virtual power show. Earlier today, the PTI had announced that it would hold a virtual fundraising telethon and manifesto launch at 9pm. Users reported having difficulty accessing social media platforms in several areas of the country shortly after 6pm. They also complained about internet services being slow. Meanwhile, PTI's Zulfi Bukhari said the internet shutdown was aimed at stopping the party's fundraiser.

Omar Hamid...

FROM PAGE 01
Secretary Dr Syed Asif Husain rejected the PTI's allegation that it was not being provided a level playing field to partake in election-related activities. In a written response submitted to the Supreme Court on PTI's plea seeking contempt proceedings against the electoral body, the ECP asked the apex court to "dismiss the contempt petition with a cost". The PTI's petition sought contempt of court proceedings against the ECP secretary, inspector generals of police (IGPs), chief secretaries of the four provinces and secretary of interior ministry for "non-compliance" of SC order passed on December 22, 2023. With rumour mills continuously churning to create doubts regarding the timely conduct of February 8 polls, the election commission issued a clarification for the sudden development.



RAWALPINDI: Rising Stars Hockey Club players strike a powerful pose alongside High Commissioner Kamal Ahmad of Brunei, capturing the spirit of camaraderie during a dedicated practice session at the Shehnaz Sheikh Hockey Ground in Rawalpindi. - DNA

Rafael Nadal pulls out of AO with muscle tear

The Spaniard suffered a minor muscle injury during his last match at Brisbane International

SPORTS DESK

BRISBANE: Spanish superstar Rafael Nadal on Sunday pulled out of the Australian Open with a "micro tear on a muscle" barely a week after making his comeback from a year-long injury absence, but said he remained positive. The 37-year-old had been out of the game since injuring his hip at the 2023 Australian Open, undergoing surgery before making his comeback at the Brisbane International. He won his opening two matches but needed a medical timeout towards the end of his quarter-final loss to Jordan Thompson after feeling pain in his upper left thigh. "During my last match in Brisbane I had a small problem on a muscle that as you know made me worried," Rafael Nadal posted on his official X, formerly known as Twitter. "Once I got to Melbourne I have had micro tear on a muscle, not in the same part where I had the injury and that's good news. "Right now I am not ready to compete at the maximum level of five-set



matches. I'm flying back to Spain to see my doctor, get some treatment and rest." Injuries have been a recurring theme of Nadal's record-breaking career, a painful by-product of his all-action, brutal-hitting

that the Australian Open was coming too soon for him. "I have worked very hard during the year for this comeback and as I always mentioned my goal is to be at my best level in three months," he said. "Within the sad news for me for not being able to play in front of the amazing Melbourne crowds, this is not very bad news and we all remain positive with the evolution for the season. "I really wanted to play here in Australia and I have had the chance to play a few matches that made me very happy and positive. Thanks all for the support and see you soon." During his career, Nadal dominated the French Open, where he won 14 of his majors, his first arriving just days after his 19th birthday in 2005, his last in 2022 making him the event's oldest champion. Rafael Nadal is a four-time champion at the US Open, won Wimbledon in 2008 and 2010, and is a two-time winner at the Australian Open - with 13 years spanning his first triumph at Melbourne Park in 2009 and his second in 2022. The injury absence saw Nadal's ranking slip to 672 while rival Novak Djokovic has passed him in the Grand Slam title count with 24.



ISLAMABAD: Additional Chief Secretary, Gilgit-Baltistan Captain Retd Mushtaq Ahmed addressing a press conference at a local hotel in the Federal Capital. - DNA

Real Madrid advances to Copa del Rey last 16

DNA
PARIS: Reigning champions Real Madrid secured their place in the Copa del Rey last 16 with a 3-1 win at fourth-tier Arandina. Atletico Madrid progressed with a 3-1 win at third-tier Lugo after Memphis Depay struck twice, while Real Betis were knocked out in a 1-0 defeat by Alaves. Surprise La Liga title challengers Girona beat second-division side Elche 2-0. Minnows Arandina fought gamely in the first half but Joselu put Madrid ahead with a penalty early in the second, with Brahim Diaz and Rodrygo Goes expanding Madrid's lead. Madrid defender Nacho Fernandez put through his own net in stoppage time to give Arandina a consolation goal which delighted supporters at their packed 6,000 capacity El Montecillo stadium.

ECP spurns PTI's...

FROM PAGE 01
contempt of court proceedings against the ECP secretary, inspector generals of police (IGPs), chief secretaries of the four provinces and secretary of interior ministry for non-compliance of SC order passed on December 22, 2023. The ECP's special secretary said that on the SC order, the commission held a meeting with the PTI delegation and heard their grievances. He said their complaints were addressed and they were assured that a level playing field would be provided to all the parties and candidates without discrimination.

Hasina claims...

FROM PAGE 01
The opposition announced its boycott of the vote last year after Hasina refused to step down and make way for a neutral caretaker government to conduct the election. There was a similar boycott by the opposition in 2014. The turnout was about 40 percent, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awad said, almost half of the more than 80 percent in the 2018 election. Initial results are expected early on Monday. Rights groups have warned the country of 170 million is headed for virtual one-party rule after the boycott by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and some smaller allies.

Pakistan deploys...

FROM PAGE 01
Last month, the Indian navy deployed several warships into the sea to "maintain a deterrent presence" after a string of recent shipping attacks, including a drone strike near India's coast which the United States has blamed on Iran. Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi militia had claimed responsibility for a missile attack on a Pakistan-bound container ship in the Red Sea in an attempt to attack Israel with drones. MSC Mediterranean Shipping had said there were no injuries to its crew from the attack on its ship, the United VIII, en route from King Abdullah Port, Saudi Arabia to Karachi.

Michel shakes...

FROM PAGE 01
specified that he would lead the list of the liberal Reformist Movement (MR) party in the European Parliament elections and step down as Council president in July. He intends to continue his role until he is sworn in as a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) on July 16. The unexpected move has triggered speculation about the future leadership of the European Union, especially as negotiations for new top positions are set to begin in November, when Michel's official mandate concludes. While EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has not yet revealed her intentions regarding a second term, Michel's decision adds uncertainty to the upcoming leadership discussions.

Court Notice

بدرت جناب تیمور افضل صاحب سول جج
راولپنڈی
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نومیت درخواست زبردستی 25 گاڑیوں اینڈ وارڈا
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کاٹھنی لی بی ججزائل دیو سائن مکان
نمبر 3936-ZB گلی نمبر 27 محلہ ڈوبی کالونی
بیروڈ پٹی راولپنڈی کی سٹریٹ ڈیڑھ پانچ ماہر پیشکش
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Germany beat Poland to claim United Cup 2024

Alexander Zverev and Laura Siegemund showcased their abilities in the final

OUR CORRESPONDENTS

SYDNEY :Reigning Olympic champion Alexander Zverev saved two match points in a remarkable comeback to win his singles tie in an epic three-setter and then helped clinch the United Cup final for Germany in the deciding mixed doubles match on Sunday. The sixth-ranked Zverev showed plenty of stamina in returning from the previous night's early morning finish to rally from a set down and two match points and defeat the No. 9-ranked Hurkacz 6-7 (3-7), 7-6 (8-6), 6-4 in a three-hour epic at Ken Rosewall Arena in Sydney. Then playing his sixth match in three days, including a 2.20 a.m. local time finish on Sunday in Germany's marathon semifinal victory over Australia, Zverev partnered with Laura Siegemund to win the mixed doubles 6-4, 5-7, 10-4 in a super tiebreaker against Iga Swiatek and Hurkacz. Fittingly, the winning shot was off Zverev's racket as his backhand volley winner clinched for Germany what had appeared an unlikely United Cup title after nail-biting victories in the semifinal and in Sunday's final. Earlier, top-ranked woman Swiatek had given Poland an early lead with a straight-sets win against Angelique Kerber.

The 22-year-old Swiatek beat Kerber 6-3, 6-0 in 70 minutes to stretch her win-streak to 16 matches, after the four-time major winner finished 2023 with title wins at the China Open and the WTA Finals in Mexico. Swiatek's victory meant Poland needed just one more win from the remaining mens singles or mixed doubles match to claim the United Cup. Hurkacz appeared to have Poland well on the way for its maiden team title as he led Zverev by a set and 6-4 in the



second set tiebreaker. Somehow Zverev found the energy and a superb running cross-court forehand that clipped the line to keep Germany in the tie. He then served out the second set to level the match and clinched the deciding set with a break in the third game to close out a thrilling contest in just under three hours. "I mean, also I saved a match for hitting a passing shot this much on the line," Zverev said. "So this is how tennis goes sometimes. You win and lose by millimetres sometimes. Earlier, Kerber, who saved two match points against Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic in the semifinal on the way to her first singles win since returning from the birth of her first child, provided a stern test for Swiatek in a tight opening set. The former top-ranked player had break point opportunities on Swiatek's serve in the fourth and sixth games but was unable to convert as the Polish player scrambled through to hold. The 22-year-old Swiatek took her opportunity to seize the advantage in the seventh game and clinched the set in 48 minutes. Swiatek stepped up a gear in the second as she broke the three-time major winner three times to close out her fifth consecutive win this week and leave Poland just one win away from a maiden team event title. "I'm really proud of myself that I could win all my singles," Swiatek said post-match. "(Kerber) was really picking the right spot to play and she surprised me sometimes at the beginning of the set with her decision making and choices. "I knew that she could play like that, but I didn't have much time to get into the rhythm because she was really aiming for, sometimes, these balls inside-out, and it was pretty hard."



## Briefs

### Sanam Javaid out of election race

DNA

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) Appellate Tribunal on Sunday dismissed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activist Sanam Javaid's appeal against the rejection of her nomination papers. The tribunal upheld the returning officer (RO) decision to reject incarcerated Sanam's nomination papers submitted from two National Assembly seats and one provincial assembly seat - NA-120, NA-119 and PP-150. Justice Tariq Nadeem announced the verdict on her appeals. On December 19, Sanam submitted her nomination papers announcing to contest elections against Maryam Nawaz from Lahore's provincial assembly seat, PP-150. Sanam is among dozens of PTI workers and leaders who are in custody in connection with the May 9 riots that broke out following the arrest of PTI founder Imran Khan in a graft case. She was booked in multiple cases including an attack on the Corps Commander House in Lahore and torching of police vehicles in the Cantonment area during the violent protests earlier this year.

### PayPal will soon launch services in Pakistan

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: The government has given the green signal to the longstanding demand of freelancers to receive remittances in Pakistan through PayPal, caretaker Minister for Information Technology and Communication Dr Umar Saif announced on Sunday. In a video statement, the minister mentioned that the international company, PayPal, would provide freelancers with the facility to receive remittances directly into their accounts through digital communication. Saif highlighted that the government had approved the National Space Policy, allowing private sector companies to utilise low orbit satellites for communication services in Pakistan. The minister also announced the upcoming launch of a substantial Pakistan Startup Fund with an allocation of Rs2 billion, aiming to encourage the youth to contribute to a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem.

# Italian ambassador gets a resounding farewell

Ambassador Ferrarese's time in Pakistan has been characterized by remarkable contributions to the enhancement of bilateral relations, leaving an indelible mark on the diplomatic landscape



ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: In a dignified farewell ceremony orchestrated by the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Islamabad Mohammad Karmoune Ambassador of Morocco, esteemed members of the diplomatic community gathered to bid adieu to His

Excellency Andreas Ferrarese, the accomplished Ambassador of Italy, marking the conclusion of his tenure in Pakistan. Ambassador Ferrarese's time in Pakistan has been characterized by remarkable contributions to the enhancement of bilateral relations, leaving an indelible mark on the diplomatic landscape. His eventful tenure has been a testament to

his dedication and commitment, fostering stronger ties between Italy and Pakistan. One of the noteworthy achievements during Ambassador Ferrarese's tenure is the construction of the state-of-the-art premises for the Italian embassy. This monumental project stands as a symbol of his relentless efforts and vision for diplomatic excellence. Thanks to his unwavering commitment,

the embassy's new facility is poised to be completed on schedule, reflecting the Ambassador's steadfast determination and leadership. As we bid farewell to Ambassador Andreas Ferrarese, we acknowledge and celebrate his significant contributions to the diplomatic community and express gratitude for his role in furthering the friendship between Italy and Pakistan.

## Blinken in Jordan as part of a Middle East tour

DNA

RIYADH: Secretary of State Antony Blinken met Sunday with Jordan's king and foreign minister and visited a World Food Program warehouse in Amman as he pressed ahead with an urgent Middle East diplomatic mission to prevent Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza from spreading. Blinken, during his meeting with Blinken, Ayman Safadi, deputy prime minister, minister of foreign affairs and expatriates, discussed the humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip and the need for an immediate halt to the aggression to ensure the protection of civilians. Safadi also stressed the need to remove obstacles placed by Israel to block the access of adequate and sustained humanitarian and medical aid to all areas of Gaza. He reaffirmed Jordan's position in rejecting the displacement of Palestinians inside or outside their land, condemning it as a war crime and a dangerous escalation of the conflict. On his fourth visit to the region in three months, Blinken stressed the need for Israel to adjust its military operations to reduce civilian casualties and significantly boost the amount of humanitarian aid reaching Gaza while highlighting the importance of preparing detailed plans for the post-conflict future of the territory, which has been decimated by intensive Israeli airstrikes and ground offensives.

# Israeli war crimes continue as death toll nears 23,000

NEWS DESK

GAZA: As the US-backed Israeli genocidal war on the Gaza Strip entered day 93 on Sunday, massive aerial and artillery strikes continued to pound and level whole blocks and homes and massacre more civilians, mostly children and women. Jordan's King Abdullah warned the US secretary of state of "catastrophic repercussions" from the continuation of Israel's military campaign in Gaza and Washington has a major role to play. In a meeting with Antony Blinken, Ayman Safadi, Jordan's foreign minister, emphasised the "necessity of the immediate end to the aggression, of the protection of civilians in the Gaza Strip, and delivering adequate and lasting humanitarian and medical aid to all the areas of Gaza". Inside a World Food Pro-

gramme warehouse stocked with pallets of aid, the senior UN official in Jordan Sheri Ritsema-Anderson described the situation in Gaza as unlike anything she'd seen during 15 years in the Middle East. "[It is] catastrophic. This is epic," she told reporters. At least 22,835 Palestinians, including over 9,600 children, have been killed by the Israeli army since the start of the war, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. It said at least 113 Palestinians were killed and another 250 injured in the past 24 hours. Real numbers are believed to be much higher as the authorities in Gaza have been unable to regularly update casualty numbers since last November amid a collapse of the enclave's health system. Palestinian Information Center (PIC) said that the Israeli occupation army continued to attack different areas of Gaza

last night and on Sunday morning, killing and injuring dozens of citizens. According to local sources, 13 citizens were martyred and others were injured following Israeli attacks on a house in Deir al-Balah City and a school sheltering families in al-Maghazi refugee camp in central Gaza. At least seven civilians were also killed and many others were wounded when the Israeli army bombed two apartment buildings housing displaced families in Rafah, south of Gaza. The Hamas movement's Al-Qassam Brigades destroyed an Israeli armored personnel carrier in al-Maghazi refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, on Sunday morning. The blow marks yet another monumental achievement for the Resistance's locally produced tandem charged 67/105 mm rocket-propelled grenade. Known as al-Yassin, the RPG has been a

mainstay for al-Qassam fighters, who are engaging a greatly superior military force all over the Gaza Strip. Israel's military says it has "dismantled" Hamas in the besieged territory's northern region, indicating major combat operations there could be winding down. Israeli forces have now completely destroyed Hamas's "military framework" in northern Gaza after killing about 8,000 fighters, an army spokesman says. Scattered fighting is to be expected along with rockets sporadically being launched towards Israel, but Hamas no longer operates in an organised manner there, Rear-Admiral Daniel Hagari said on Saturday. The Palestinian Ministry of Health reported the martyrdom of six Palestinians early Sunday in an Israeli drone attack on al-Shouhada Roundabout south of Jenin following an Israeli raid.

## China sanctions 5 US defense companies

BEIJING: China announced sanctions Sunday on five American defense-related companies in response to US arms sales to Taiwan and US sanctions on Chinese companies and individuals. The sanctions will freeze any property the companies have in China and prohibit organizations and individuals in China from doing business with them, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement posted online. The companies are BAE Systems Land and Armament, Alliant Techsystems Operation, AeroVironment, ViaSat and Data Link Solutions. The Foreign Ministry said the US moves harmed China's sovereignty and security interests, undermined peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, and violated the rights and interests of Chinese companies and individuals. "The Chinese government remains unwavering in our resolve to safeguard national sovereignty, security and territorial integrity and protect the lawful rights and interests of Chinese companies and citizens," the ministry statement said. The US last month approved the sale of about \$300 million in communications and other defense-related equipment to Taiwan. At the time, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin warned that China would take countermeasures against companies involved in arms sales to Taiwan. Taiwan is a major flashpoint in US-China relations that analysts worry could explode into military conflict between the two powers. China regards Taiwan, a self-governing island off its east coast, as a renegade province that must come under Beijing's control at some point in the future. It views US arms sales to Taiwan as interference in its domestic affairs. The Chinese military regularly sends fighter planes and ships into and over the waters around Taiwan, in part to deter the island's government from declaring formal independence. An invasion doesn't appear imminent, but the constant military activity serves as a reminder that the threat is ever present. The US switched diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to China in 1971, but it is bound by its own laws to ensure that Taiwan has the ability to defend itself. - DNA

# Aesthetic Medicine getting popular in Pakistan

FROM PAGE 01

My primary goal is to contribute to the well-being of individuals by helping them cultivate presentable and confident personalities. I take immense satisfaction in knowing that my work has brought joy and improved the lives of many.

**3: What are your strengths as an Aesthetic medicine?**  
As an Aesthetic medicine physician, cultivating a diverse set of strengths is essential for achieving success in a dynamic and competitive field. Beyond mastering technical skills, your success hinges on a combination of interpersonal finesse and business acumen. Here are some key strengths to elevate your profile as an aesthetician:

**Comprehensive Expertise:** Master a broad spectrum of skincare and beauty treatments, showcasing your versatility. This not only enhances your service offerings but also positions you as a well-rounded professional capable of addressing various client needs.

**Continuous Learning:** Stay abreast of the latest industry trends and technological advancements. This commitment to ongoing education demonstrates your dedication to providing cutting-edge services, keeping you ahead in the rapidly evolving world of beauty and skincare.

**Effective Communication:** Possess excellent communication skills to discern and comprehend clients' unique needs and preferences. The ability to convey information clearly and concisely fosters a positive client experience and ensures that their expectations are met.

**Rapport Building:** Establish a strong rapport with clients by creating a welcoming and comfortable atmosphere. Building a connection goes beyond just the technical aspects of your job; it involves making clients feel at ease,

enhancing their overall satisfaction with your services.

**Active Listening:** Actively listen to clients to identify their concerns, preferences, and expectations. This not only helps customize treatments to individual needs but also fosters trust, as clients appreciate being heard and valued.

**Feedback Responsiveness:** Respond thoughtfully to client feedback during and after treatments. Addressing concerns promptly and professionally not only resolves issues but also showcases your commitment to continuous improvement and client satisfaction.

By prioritizing and honing these strengths, one can not only enhance her effectiveness as an aesthetician but also position herself for long-term success in the competitive beauty and skincare industry. Embrace a holistic approach that combines technical prowess with excellent interpersonal and business-related qualities to create a fulfilling and prosperous career.

**4: People often complain that some of the treatments especially fillers may have side effects also. What is your opinion?**



Complaints about fillers are virtually nonexistent when the procedure is carried out by highly skilled and well-trained medical professionals. Enhancing the perfection of fillers is intricately linked to the choice of products utilized throughout the procedure. Opting for premium-quality products, particularly those manufactured in Europe and other reputable countries, plays a pivotal role in achieving exceptional results. The efficacy and aesthetic outcomes of the procedure are significantly heightened when employing top-tier products, as they are designed with advanced formulations and adhere to stringent quality standards. Therefore, the selection of high-quality fillers sourced from reputable regions becomes a crucial factor in maximizing the perfection and overall success of the procedure.

**5: Anything you would like to add.**  
Aesthetic medicine stands as a burgeoning and specialized field, uniquely positioned at the intersection of health and beauty. Given its focus on the physical appearances of individuals and the universal desire for self-improvement, this field operates under a zero-tolerance policy for imperfections. The pursuit of enhancing one's aesthetic appeal is a delicate and intricate process, making it one of the most challenging vocations. Achieving perfection in this realm necessitates the expertise of a seasoned and well-trained staff. The commitment to sculpting an individual's appearance requires a blend of artistry, medical knowledge, and a nuanced understanding of each client's unique needs. In this realm, the margin for error is razor-thin, demanding a level of precision that can only be attained through the hands of professionals with a wealth of experience. As the demand for aesthetic enhancements continues to rise, the importance of a highly skilled and adept workforce in this field becomes increasingly evident.

# Decision reserved on Imran's disqualification appeal

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Lahore High Court's Rawalpindi Bench reserved on Sunday its decision on the disqualification appeal by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan Justice Chaudhry Abdul Aziz presided over the election tribunal and Barrister Ali Zafar represented the PTI chief. Imran's counsel prayed to the tribunal to annul the decision made by the returning officer on

Imran's nomination papers. Zafar argued that the RO lacks the authority to determine moral turpitude or eligibility without proper evidence. He also referred to a similar case of PML-N's Khawaja Asif before the 2018 general elections. The tribunal stated that in the case of the PML-N leader, contention was on the issue of salary. The judge then asked if the items taken from the Toshakhana were mentioned or not. Justice Aziz then stated that they were not debating the

merits of the Toshakhana case, however, the court was trying to determine if the funds from the sale of Toshakhana items were declared or not. Director-general law, who was also present, asserted that the RO was obligated to conduct a summary hearing. He maintained that if an accused is convicted, the individual is disqualified from contesting the polls. He further added that the Islamabad High Court (IHC) has disqualified Imran and it remains in effect. The senior

law officer further stated that the RO rejected the papers in accordance with the law, and therefore, it is requested that Imran's appeal be dismissed. Imran's nomination papers were rejected for both NA-89 Mianwali and NA-122, Lahore. "The candidate is convicted by the court of law and he has been disqualified under Article 63 (1)(h) of the Constitution ... read with section 232 of the Election Act 2017," the RO in NA-122 said in his order.

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