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Detailed News On Page-08

China calls for convening int'l peace conference

Detailed News On Page-08



Murray crashes out in Australian Open first round

Detailed News On Page-06



Others also to face similar consequences

PTI sidelined as per 'London Plan': Imran

PTI founder reiterates his imprisonment is a result of exposing individuals such as Donald Lu and General Bajwa

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

RAWALPINDI: Former prime minister and founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Imran Khan, asserted that the current developments in the country are part of what he refers to as the 'London Plan'. He claimed that this plan extends to the Supreme Court, suggesting that the court is operating under the covert agreement. Speaking informally with the media in Adiala Jail on Monday, Khan expressed his desire for Chief Justice of Pakistan, Qazi Faez Isa, to reflect on the 8th verse of the fifth chapter of the Holy Quran. According to Khan, this verse emphasises avoiding excessive hatred towards enemies to ensure the administration of justice. Khan contended that the recent decision by the apex court to set aside the January 10 order of the Peshawar High Court (PHC), which resulted in the PTI losing its iconic cricket bat symbol for the upcoming February 8 general elections, was a setback for the party. He said that there should have been a five-member bench to hear the party's electoral symbol case. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had earlier invalidated the PTI's intra-party polls on December 22, a decision contested by the party in the PHC. The PHC declared the ECP's decision illegal, prompting the ECP to approach the Supreme Court, which ultimately ruled against the PTI's symbol. During the media interaction, Khan reiterated his claim that all unfolding events are part of the 'London Plan'. He emphasised his incarceration, the dismantling of the PTI, and the resolution of Nawaz Sharif's case as components of this alleged plan. Khan maintained that these actions aim to portray that those in power are exempt from the law.

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Elections can't be postponed, ECP tells Senate

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has rejected a demand made in a Senate resolution seeking a delay in the February 8 polls, stating that all arrangements have been completed and it will not be "advisable" to put off the polls. The ECP statement comes in response to Senate's January 5 resolution moved by Senator Dilawar Khan and passed by the house amid thin attendance. The resolution had cited harsh weather conditions in hilly areas and the deteriorating security situation as reasons for delaying the polls. In the statement today, the ECP said it deliberated on the resolution in the meeting and observed that caretaker governments had been issued directions for "beefing up security matrix and provide congenial environment to the electorate" for peaceful elections. Moreover, the electoral body said it submitted commitment before the Supreme Court that for holding elections on Feb 8, 2024.

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ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchanging views with High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Pakistan, Admiral (R) Ravindra C Wijegunaratne at naval headquarters. - DNA

FM says Pakistan wants stable Afghanistan Ambassador Qomi also meets Asif Durrani



ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Foreign Minister Jaile Abbas Jilani on Monday underscored Pakistan's commitment to a peaceful and stable Afghanistan and emphasized the need for enhanced coordination for regional stability. He received Iran's Special Representative for Afghanistan Affairs Hassan Kazmi Qomi, Foreign Office Spokesperson posted on X account.

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AKF sends 3rd batch of aid to Gaza

The third shipment was sent from Nur Khan Air Base Rawalpindi

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan has dispatched its third batch of relief aid to Gaza, totaling 20 tons of essential medicines and food, to provide critical relief to the displaced and affected Gazan families. The ongoing conflict since October 06 2023 has triggered a dire humanitarian situation for over 2.2 million Palestinian brothers and sisters in Gaza, and

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No hope for justice PTI withdraws plea seeking level playing field

"You are destroying all the institutions of Pakistan," CJP Isa tells Latif Khosa during hearing; party to file review petition

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Monday withdrew its petition seeking contempt proceedings against the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) over its alleged failure to ensure a level-playing field ahead of the upcoming elections. PTI moved the Supreme Court on December 26 last year with the plea. However, the top court today disposed of the plea after the withdrawal of the petition. During the hearing today, PTI lawyer Latif Khosa told CJP Isa that his party will approach the people's court in this matter. "We do not want to fight this case in your [Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa's] court. Thank you very much," said Khosa.

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Qureshi demands live trial of cipher case from jail

COURT REPORTER

RAWALPINDI: Shah Mehmood Qureshi, the leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), had an informal interaction with the media in Adiala Jail, where he and PTI chief Imran Khan are being held on charges of treason and espionage. Qureshi said the cipher case, which accuses them of leaking sensitive information to foreign agencies, is a

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Briefs

Sheikh vows to contest at any cost

ADIL SHAHEEN

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League chief and former interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said on Monday that he would contest election from prison if he was arrested by police. Talking to media outside the anti-terrorism court here, he said went on meditation (chilla) for 40 days and rendered sacrifices but did not hold any press conference. He did not complain against anyone [for registration of cases against him] and left the matter to Allah, he added. Rashid said that if he was arrested, he and [his nephew] Raashid Shafiq would contest election from jail on the symbol of inkpot and pen.

Shehbaz urges unity for people

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: As the general elections draw nearer, PML-N President and former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif has called on all the political leaders to unite for the people of Pakistan. In a post uploaded on X platform on Monday, Shehbaz Sharif said the election day of February 8, 2024, is not just a day to exercise the democratic right to vote, but it is a day to prepare for the national mission. He said "So, it is also a day to pledge to work together once again to give the youth a brighter future."

Maryam kicks off election campaign with Okara rally

PTI ex-chairman, his facilitators caught red-handed, says Maryam

DNA

OKARA: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice President Maryam Nawaz on Monday kicked off her party's election campaign with a public rally in Okara. Addressing the rally, Maryam Nawaz said PML-N supremo and her father Nawaz Sharif had sent her to lead the Okara rally. She hurled an array of criticism at Imran Khan during the address and blamed him of orchestrating and carrying out May 9 violent attacks. She mocked the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder over snatching of his electoral symbol saying that his election symbol should not be bat but a "baton". The PML-N chief organiser also dubbed his party as a group of terrorists. "A terrorist group could not be given a political party's electoral symbol," she said. "Your electoral symbol should



be the watch that you stole or the petrol bomb that you hurled on police officials," she said, adding "what goes around comes around". "Your electoral symbol was not bat but baton with which you attacked military installments. The baton has been snatched from your hand," she maintained.

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Bilawal accuses PML-N of attempting to rig elections

Bilawal Bhutto warns against any bid to delay polls

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has accused the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) of resorting to rigging tactics ahead of the February 8 general elections. As both political bigwigs eyeing the office of the prime minister, the PPP chairman blamed the Nawaz Sharif-led party for gradually sidelining its political opponents in a bid to come into power without having any electoral competition. "Nawaz-league doesn't want to do fair politics but it wants to play alone by ousting all political opponents from the pitch," Bilawal said while addressing a press conference in Qambar Shahdadkot on Monday. He alleged that some PPP candidates had not been allotted 'arrow' electoral sign by the returning officer (RO) after being pressurised by the Nawaz-led party. The politico, who served as foreign minister in the former PML-N-led coalition government, announced to approach the election commission and courts to challenge the decisions. "In Punjab, PML-N is trying to



PTI raises alarms as 'horse-trading' feared after bat lost

MEHTAB PIRZADA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan has expressed fears that independent candidates could increase the chances of horse-trading as the Imran-led party going to contest the February 8 general elections sans a symbol. The former ruling party lost its legal battle last Saturday when the Supreme Court announced its verdict in the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) favour, depriving PTI of its 'bat' symbol just days ahead of the general elections. After losing its 'bat' sign, the party, which rose to power in 2018, held election authorities responsible for depriving it of hundreds of reserved seats by stripping

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FCCI organize Round Table on packaging sector

LAHORE : Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) will hold "Round Table Discussion" on the Packaging Sector: Challenges and Opportunities" here at its Regional Office on January 17, (Wednesday). The FCCCI spokesman told media here Monday that the packaging sector's "industry status" and issues will be discussed. All the stakeholders of the packaging sectors will attend the discussion. There will be five sessions in the Round Table Discussion. The first session will be introductory in which FCCCI Regional Chairman and Vice President Zaki Aijaz, Managing Director and CEO of Packages Limited, Syed Hyder Ali, Director & CEO of Century Paper & Board Mills Limited, Aftab Ahmed, CEO of Roshan Packages Limited, Tayyab Aijaz Qureshi and Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt will address. Round Table Discussion 2nd session on Flexible Packaging, 3rd Session on Printing and Graphics (Cardboard Paper), 4th Session on Corrugated Packaging, and 5th session will be closing session.—APP

Tank police register 2,572 cases, including 763 narcotics

PESHAWAR : The Tank Police highlighted their achievements in 2023, registered a total of 2,572 cases, including 763 related to narcotics, 516 involving illegal weapons, and 69 related to gunfire incidents. On the direction of Inspector General of Police for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Akhtar Hayat Khan, and Regional Police Officer Dera Nasir Mahmood Satti credited District Police Officer Tank, Ifthikar Ali Shah, for overseeing the successful operations last year. The report revealed that during the year, the police successfully restrained 2,486 individuals, including 646 wanted criminals, through strict control measures, resulting in the confiscation of a significant quantity of weapons, ammunition, and narcotics. The seized items included 35 Kalashnikovs, 397 pistols, 125 rifles, 23 hand grenades, 42 daggers, 1 rocket launcher, 1 Bren gun, 2 M4 rifles, 4 bombs/IEDs, 2 Kalakovs, and a staggering 11,044 cartridges. The Tank Police also intercepted 340,713 grams of cannabis, 34,698 grams of heroin, 16,636 grams of ice, and 3,735 grams of opium during operations against drug trafficking. In addition to law enforcement actions, the Tank Police addressed 87 cases of tenancy disputes, filed 17 cases against hoteliers, and dealt with 64 sensitive locations. The police responded to 2,000 clearance requests, 1,500 missing documentation reports, and 590 requests for weapon verification, demonstrating their commitment to public safety.—APP

Bosnian President to visit Pakistan, strengthen ties

The Ambassador said Bosnia and Herzegovina would organize a Sarajevo Business Forum from May 21-23, 2024. The President of Bosnia and Herzegovina would attend the Forum and the representatives of the Government of Pakistan would also be invited

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD : H.E. Emin Cohodarevic, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Pakistan said that the President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina leading a business delegation would visit Pakistan this year to strengthen further the bilateral trade and economic ties between the two countries. He said that the President of Bosnia gives special importance to Pakistan, Turkiye, and Azerbaijan for close relations as these countries always keep their doors open for Bosnia and Herzegovina. He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).

The Ambassador said Bosnia and Herzegovina would organize a Sarajevo Business Forum from May 21-23, 2024. The President of Bosnia and Herzegovina would attend the Forum and the representatives of the Government of Pakistan would also be invited. He said that ICCI should form a high-level business delegation to participate in it to exchange ideas, make connections, and realize



business opportunities. He said that Bosnia has signed an FTA with the European Free Trade Association and is also trying to get membership in the EU, therefore, close relations of Pakistan with Bosnia would provide it better market access to these countries. He said that Pakistan

is having US, EU, or Shenzhen visas can visit Bosnia without applying for a visa. He assured that he would work hard to improve bilateral trade and economic ties between Bosnia and Pakistan as both countries have good scope to cooperate in economic, cultural, science, education, and many

other sectors. Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that Pakistan and Bosnia are enjoying good bonds of friendship, which should be transformed into growing business relations. He said that both

countries have good potential to enhance cooperation in many fields including agriculture, textiles, automotive parts, hydropower, mines & minerals, and urged that both should encourage regular exchange of business delegations to transform this potential into reality. He assured that ICCI would try to form a business delegation to participate in the Sarajevo Business Forum.

Rizwana Asif, President, Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry stressed the need to promote connectivity between the women entrepreneurs of Pakistan and Bosnia for which they have great potential.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Turkiye, and Bosnia have many common things and they should sign a free trade agreement to establish a common market for promoting trade ties that would be very beneficial for their economies and people. He said that ICCI would be pleased to host the President of Bosnia and his delegation during his visit to Pakistan for B2B meetings. Raja Muhammad Imtiaz, Ameer Hamza, Babar Chaudhry, and others also spoke on the occasion.

One new dengue case reported in Punjab

LAHORE: A new dengue case was reported in the province, bringing the total to 17 new patients this year. The latest case hailed from Sargodha district as confirmed by Health Secretary Punjab Ali Jan Khan in a press statement issued here on Monday. As no dengue patients was under treatment in Punjab hospitals. Health Secretary Ali Jan Khan urged citizens to maintain clean and dry surroundings to prevent dengue. During the past month, Lahore recorded a total of 10 dengue cases while Rawalpindi and Faisalabad reported two cases each. In an effort to combat dengue, the secretary health advised collaboration with the health department teams. He emphasized the importance of citizens contacting the health department's free helpline at 1033 for information, complaints, or dengue-related medical assistance.—APP

Quetta Safe City Project to inaugurate officially by end of January

QUETTA: The Quetta Safe City Project has entered the final stage of completion which would be officially inaugurated by the end of January. According to the plan, over 1400 IP cameras have been installed at 225 locations in Quetta city and an effective monitoring system has been established to restore peace. Under the leadership of Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki, the caretaker provincial government has achieved another milestone of completion of the Quetta Safe City Project to provide security to the people. Quetta Safe City Project will play a key role in providing security to the citizens of the province. According to the Handouts issued here, the project consists of more than 1400 IP cameras at 255 key locations in Quetta City, with state-of-the-art surveillance systems. The state-of-the-art surveillance system will not only provide regional surveillance but also help law enforcement agencies in maintaining peace in the city. The officials of the Department of Science and Information Technology would provide assistance to make the project successful. The project is also equipped with excellent human resources and will be Pakistan's first indigenously designed operational project.—APP

BISP registration process continues smoothly

DNA

ISLAMABAD : The registration process in the National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER) Survey of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) is successfully continued across the country through the registration centers established by the Tehsil offices of the programme. This was stated by the Director General, National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER), BISP, Naveed Akbar in a video message released through a social media platform. The DG stated that the citizens, belonging to the low-income groups, can register with the Benazir Income Support Programme through visiting the registration centers

opened from Monday till Saturday. They are required to bring Computerized National Identity Cards, B-Forms of children for registration purpose. The citizens are required to bring electricity or gas bills, if have connections, so that we can enter these bills in the database to give any subsidy, if announced by the government in the future, he said.

The DG NSER has urged the citizens to provide their accurate data at the time of registration while those who will provide false information will never be allowed to become part of this programme. The citizens having any complaint about the programme can contact the toll-free number 0800-

26477 and official social media accounts of BISP. "We are ready to resolve the complaints of the citizens in a shortest possible time". The DG said, "We encourage not only the poor segments to participate in the survey but also middle class, lower and upper middle class for compilation of their data". "The compilation of their data will help the government provide them any subsidy or facility in the time of any emergency situation in future on the basis of their socio-economic data", he added. The objective behind this data compilation is not only to provide quarterly cash transfer of BISP but also accommodating the vulnerable population in other subsidy initiatives of the government.

CDA decides to build model village in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD : The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has decided to build a new model village in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). This model village will be built on 3621 kanal of land which will be completed within two years. The 4500 residential plots of 10-marla will be developed in this model village. A commercial center and three class 3 shopping centres will be built in this village. A Jamia mosque will be constructed and a health centre will also be established in this model village. CDA official said all the plots of this model village will be allotted to those affected people whose land was acquired by CDA for Park Enclave. The plots will be given to the affected people of Mauza Kurri and Rihara in this model village.—APP

Primary schools reopened after winter break

PESHAWAR : After an extended winter break until January 14, both the public and private primary schools reopened on Monday in winter zones of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa which had been in the grip of dense fog coupled with severe cold waves since early January. Keeping in view the harsh weather conditions and health concerns of the children, the provincial government extended the winter vacations for primary schools for a week in plain areas. In addition to this, the education department also adjusted the timings of middle, high and higher secondary schools for a week to ensure the safety of students as the temperatures were continuously dropping in the province. According to a notification from the Education department, all the primary, middle and high secondary schools would observe normal timings i.e. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. from now onward. It is pertinent to mention here that originally slated from December 23 to 31, the winter vacations have been extended for the last few years due to climate change and harsh weather conditions in January.—APP

Rs 8 billion allocates for expansion of Begum Nusrat Airport

SUKKUR : The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has fastened the process for the elevation of Sukkur Airport to International status, in this connection, a survey for the expansion of the airport has been completed. According to CAA officials on Monday, the survey for the expansion of Sukkur Airport to elevate its status to an international airport has been completed and its report has been submitted to CAA. A budget of Rs8 billion has been allocated for the expansion of the Begum Nusrat Bhutto Airport Sukkur.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice Retired Arshad Hussain Shah giving shield to Ambassador of Turkey Dr. Mehmet Pachaji.—DNA

CM inaugurates e-service mobile app at BISE Lahore

CM Naqvi commended the efficiency of degree verification for government institutions facilitated by the BISE e-app

ABID RAZA

LAHORE : Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, during his visit to the Lahore Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, inaugurated the e-service mobile application. Mohsin Naqvi also announced the launch of a mobile app designed to unify all education boards under a single platform, directing the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) to ensure its functionality across all boards within a week. Students can access the specific services of their respective boards by entering the board's name. The chief minister unveiled the plaque and initiated the BISE mobile app with a symbolic button press. Personally reviewing the application, he navigated through features such as e-payment, degree and result card verification, NOC issuance, and migration certificate issuance. He also observed the streamlined process for duplicate and triplicate degree issuance through the e-app. Chief Minister Naqvi commended the ef-

iciency of degree verification for government institutions facilitated by the BISE e-app. Speaking to the media post the app's inauguration, Mohsin Naqvi shared his concern for students during a surprise visit to the board's office 15 days ago. Promptly, a meeting was convened with the provincial minister and secretary to address the students' issues. The transition from a manual to an online system has now made board services accessible online. Expressing regret that this technological advancement should have occurred earlier, Chief Minister Naqvi assured that services for all education boards would be online in the coming days. Online applications for degree confirmation, NOC, migration certificates, and other documents, along with online fee payment, will be facilitated, enhancing accessibility for students. Acknowledging the critical need for reforms in the education sector, Chief Minister Punjab pledged to work towards betterment despite time constraints. He emphasized the significance of providing quality educa-

tion and health facilities to the public. Naqvi lauded the efforts of the entire team involved in launching the BISE Mobile App and expressed pride in the dedicated work of PITB, which is actively engaged in projects like Safe City and Hospital Information Management Systems (HIMS). Highlighting PITB's continuous efforts in digitizing various departments, he hinted at their involvement in international projects soon. Responding to concerns raised during the press briefing, Chief Minister Naqvi addressed issues such as the extension of license fee deadlines and the examination of smog causes by Chinese experts. He underscored that decisions regarding smog were taken in consultation with the Environment Department. The Chief Minister concluded by stating that strict actions were taken against complaints of money collection from guards in hospitals, expressing optimism about upcoming elections. Provincial Education Minister Mansoor Qadir, Secretaries of Higher Education, Information, Chairman PITB, Commis-

sioner Lahore, Chairman and Secretary BISE Lahore, CCPO, and other officials were present during the occasion. Meanwhile, CM'S intensive public service efforts amidst severe cold and fog in the midst of biting cold and thick fog, Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi embarked on an exhaustive six-hour nocturnal tour from 10 PM to 4 AM, accompanied by members of the cabinet, to assess the advancement of six development projects in the provincial metropolis. The landscaping, drainage, and roadwork around the Shahdra flyovers project have achieved a remarkable 100% completion rate. The CM commended the contractor, commissioner, and DG PHA for their efforts, praising the high-quality roads and landscaping that have significantly enhanced the aesthetics of Shahdra Chowk. During a media interaction, CM Naqvi acknowledged the challenges faced during the Band Road project, particularly in completing it within 120 days due to temperature constraints for asphalt laying.



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National Days and Armed Forces Days

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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

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Marriott.....051- 2826121
Monal.....0334-5421812



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



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PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange.....9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

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MH.....5611116
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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



ISLAMABAD: Despite the somber backdrop of the forced disappearance of their loved ones, resilient Baloch children find solace in engaging activities as their families persist in protesting outside the National Press Club. Captured in a poignant moment by photographer Mudassar Raja, this image not only portrays the heartbreaking struggle against forced disappearances but also highlights the strength and resilience of the Baloch community, particularly the younger generation who, in the face of adversity, manage to keep themselves occupied amidst the ongoing plight. The photograph serves as a powerful testament to the unwavering spirit of these families as they advocate for justice and the safe return of their missing relatives. —Photo Mudassar Raja

CPEC a key driver of all-round developments

The two-phase plan involves laying a 930-kilometer rail track from Karachi to Multan in the first phase, addressing infrastructure damaged by the 2022 floods. Subsequently, the second phase extends the rail track from Multan to Peshawar, aligning with future demands

DNA

ISLAMABAD : CPEC emerges as a key driver of transformative and all-round developments in Pakistan, with several groundbreaking initiatives poised to redefine fresh face of progress and growth in the year 2024.

A highlight among these is the Mainline-I (ML-I) project, set to commence early in the year, representing a monumental leap in rail infrastructure. The two-phase plan involves laying a 930-kilometer rail track from Karachi to Multan in the first phase, addressing infrastructure damaged by the 2022 floods. Subsequently, the second phase extends the rail track from Multan to Peshawar, aligning with future demands, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Monday. In parallel, the inauguration of

Gwadar International Airport is expected in mid 2024. Spanning 4,300 acres, this airport boasts a runway accommodating large aircraft and a modern terminal building. With an estimated cost of \$246 million, its completion will not only mark a new era for air travel in Pakistan but also solidifies the enduring partnership between China and Pakistan. In 2024, CPEC is set to achieve notable milestones other than the groundbreaking of ML-I in the realm of transportation infrastructure, contributing to enhanced connectivity and economic development. The completion or significant progress of several key projects is anticipated to reshape the region's transportation landscape. The Zhob-Quetta (Kuchlak) (N-50) project, spanning 305 km, promises to improve connectivity between Zhob and

Quetta, facilitating smoother movement of goods and people. Likewise, Khuzdar-Basima Road (N-30), covering a distance of 106 km, is expected to enhance accessibility and connectivity in Khuzdar. The Hoshab-Awaran Road Section (M-8) project, stretching over 146 km, will contribute to the development of infrastructure in Awaran, fostering economic growth. Additionally, KKH Alternate Route Shandur-Chitral Road, spanning 153 km, holds the promise of improved connectivity and accessibility to the picturesque Chitral region. The completion or progress of the Nokundi-Mashkhal Road, covering 103 km, will bolster transportation links in Nokundi and Mashkhal, promoting economic activities in these regions. As these projects advance, they not only signify improvements in

transportation but also reflect the broader impact of CPEC in fostering economic development, regional integration, and connectivity throughout Pakistan. CPEC has played a pivotal role in propelling social and economic development in Pakistan, and there are high expectations for significant advancements in various ongoing projects in the year of 2024. One noteworthy endeavor is China-Pakistan Joint Agricultural Technology Laboratory, poised to make strides in enhancing agricultural practices through collaborative research. The provision of agricultural equipment and tools is anticipated to witness notable progress, contributing to productivity in the agricultural sector. The commitment to advancing the country's academic infrastructure is exemplified by the establishment of smart classrooms

for higher education. Furthermore, the targeted maintenance and renovation efforts focusing on 50 schools in newly merged districts are expected to make substantial headway in improving educational facilities. The deployment of solar-powered lighting equipment aligns with sustainable energy goals, while the overseas student scholarship program signals continued dedication to human capital development. In the healthcare sector, the expected progress in providing medical equipment and materials, along with the ongoing Gwadar hospital project, underscores the focus on healthcare improvements. Initiatives like Brightness Journey in Pakistan, coupled with projects addressing drinking water equipment and Gwadar Desalination Plant, are poised to meet crucial needs of the population.

PTS announces its election manifesto

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Shad Bad (PTS) released its manifesto for the election on Monday, in which it accorded priority to health, education, and the provision of jobs. The people of the country are disillusioned, the economy is in ruins, and the mafia is in full control of everything, it said. Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek Shadbad, Dr. Hanif Mughal, while addressing a meeting at the party secretariat, said that ending unrest in the country and controlling inflation are also among the priorities. He said that there is political chaos in the country while the economy is on the verge of collapse. People are frustrated, and millions of skilled people are leaving the country to find a job. The chairman of the party noted that it has become difficult for the country to repay the loans or pay interest on the loans. —DNA

Posters urge people to voice for demand of UN resolutions

ISLAMABAD: Posters have appeared in parts of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir urging people to raise voices for the resolution of the Kashmir dispute based on the right to self-determination, pledged to the Kashmiris in its resolution passed on 5th January 1949. According to Kashmir Media Service, the posters, displayed in Islamabad district by pro-freedom organizations, said that the BJP government while continuing their atrocities and state terrorism is changing the demography of the territory keeping Kashmiris under military siege. —DNA

PID strives to foster electoral understanding among masses

Seminar titled 'Political Participation and Empowerment of Youth, Women, Transgenders, Cultural Minorities will be held on February 1

ISLAMABAD: The Press Information Department (PID) is committed to foster electoral understanding among the masses through awareness campaigns ahead of the general elections in 2024. The PID, in this regard, has already launched a series of seminars to ensure active civic engagement and participation in the electoral process and elections slated for February 8. According to the

PID, the stakeholders being invited to the seminars included representatives from mainstream political parties, the Election Commission of Pakistan, media, academia, civil society and the general public. It said these seminars would serve as a platform to educate citizens on the importance of voting, the electoral system, and the role of elected representatives. "By fostering public awareness, the seminars

seek to empower individuals to make informed decisions, ultimately contributing to a more robust and accountable democratic system," the PID added. On January 11, the PID organized its first seminar titled 'Pakistan elections 2024: The Economic Reforms Agenda of Political Parties' here at a local hotel in Islamabad which had across-the-board representation from the stakeholders. According

to the PID, the spotlight was on the economic reform agendas presented by political parties of Pakistan gearing up for the 2024 elections. "The electorate is keenly interested in the economic visions put forth by diverse political entities and this exploration aims to provide a concise overview of the economic landscapes envisioned by the key players in Pakistan's political arena." —DNA

PITB, Al-Khidmat Foundation sign MoU

ISLAMABAD: The Punjab Information Technology Board's e-filing and office automation system received a huge success at government level. Now the private sector also requested its services. The PITB and Al-Khidmat foundation signed an MOU here on Monday. Following the successful implementation of e-Foas at public sector under the direction of chairman PITB Faisal Yusuf and supervision of DG Government Digital Services Wing Muhammad Waseem Bhatti, private sector had also taken up the services. The MoU was signed between the Government Digital Services Wing of the PITB and Al-Khidmat Foundation. Director General Government Digital Services Wing Muhammad Waseem Bhatti and Vice President of Al-Khidmat Foundation Dr Muhammad Mushtaq Ahmed Mangat signed the MoU. DG Government Digital Services Wing Muhammad Waseem Bhatti said that after the acceptance of e-Foas in government departments, its implementation was now expanding to the private sector too. He said its implementation would help private institutions to improve their departmental affairs and service delivery. —APP

Mushaal distributes winter kits

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick, distributed winter kits among the refugees from Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) residing in Kashmiri Refugees Camp Muzaffarabad. She is accompanied by Focal Person to SAPM Ms. Sabien Hussein Mullick and DG Legal Aid and Justice Authority Dr. Raheem Awan on a 2 day visit to AJK. SAPM is leading an initiative to provide critical relief to refugees facing the challenges

of harsh weather conditions in AJK. The winter kits include essential items such as warm clothing, blankets, thermal socks, gloves, and other necessities to help vulnerable families in camp cope with the severe winter conditions. Special Assistant to Prime Minister personally mingled and engaged in conversations with the refugees. She said that in the face of adversity, it was our collective responsibility to extend a helping hand to those who needed it the most. She said that the winter kits were aimed to provide some comfort and relief to the brave individuals and families forced to live away from

their homeland due Indian atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Expressing unwavering solidarity, Special Assistant to Prime Minister assured refugees in Azad Jammu and Kashmir that they would not be left alone in their plight. She expressed the Government of Pakistan commitment to alleviate the pain of their forced eviction from homes in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). She said that apart from expending maximum public funds for AJK, the Government was also diverting private funding towards the region to ensure its uplift.

JANUARY 2024

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Briefs

SMEDA to
organize
training

ISLAMABAD: The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) will organize a one-day workshop on "Export Marketing and International Trade Analysis" for profitable business growth on January 16. The workshop will be held at Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce Industry (RCCI), according to sources in the authority informed on Monday. The training program will provide information about international market intelligence, accessing and using the world's largest trade databases, smart techniques for effective presentation of businesses, working with social media to maintain business existence digitally, and smart techniques of social media business profiling. The workshop will also highlight market dynamics, effective market penetration, use of ITC market intelligence tools, and the use of LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TDAP exporter directories for business profiling. APP

FGEHA
continues
operation
against illegal
encroachments

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) has continued a targeted operation against illegal encroachments in the Green Belt area between Sector G-13 and G-12, as well as in G-15/3 in Islamabad. The encroachment operation was launched in collaboration Encroachment Wing, Islamabad Police, and ICT Administration which aimed to address unauthorized constructions and encroachments in the specified areas. During the operation, illegal structures and encroachments in the Green Belt between Sector G-13 and G-12, as well as in G-15/3, were demolished. The FGEHA's administrative body expressed a firm commitment to continue such operations in the future to curb illegal encroachments and maintain the sanctity of designated zones. The Housing Authority issued a stern warning to land grabbers, cautioning them to refrain from engaging in illegal activities. It was emphasized that the FGEHA possesses the authority to take strict action against those involved in encroachments. —APP

China's
reopening
border
reflection of
Pakistan's good
economy

ISLAMABAD: China's reopening its border reflection of Pakistan's good economy. Looking back on the past year, one of the good things for Pakistan's economy was that China reopened its border, which is good not only for Pakistan's



economy, but also for the global economy. This was stated by Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, executive director of Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan and member of the Pakistan Climate Change Council said in an exclusive interview with China Economic Net (CEN). "Take Pakistan as an example, as a close trade partner of China, Pakistan was able to increase its exports to China", he added. In the 1st half of FY 2023-24 (July-December), Pakistan's exports to China surged by 66.4%, reaching US\$1.5458 billion, attesting to the tremendous potential of China as the second largest consumer market in the world. "I'm quite optimistic about China's economy. The way it handles the risks in real estate has shown resilience. And the demand is there. As the Chinese economy is taking up, Pakistan, as with many other countries that are economically interrelated with China.—DNA

First anti-rape crises
centre established in PIMS

The UK is proud to partner with Pakistan in advancing such important innovations for tackling violence, said British HC

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: As a step towards ensuring an expeditious and effective redressal mechanism, an Anti-Rape Crisis Centre is established at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) in Islamabad for survivors of sexual violence. The centre is established by the Ministry of Law and Justice and the Ministry of Health with support from the UK Government, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Legal Aid Society. Survivors of sexual violence including rape suffer tremendously from physical impacts, emotional trauma and social stigmatization. Therefore, confidential, comprehensive and timely medico-legal services and psychosocial support must be available to help them. This step is part of the implementation of the Anti-Rape (Trial and Investigation) Act, 2021 which ensures justice for survivors of sexual offences and the provision of services and support they may need before, during and after a trial. The law necessitated the establishment of Anti-Rape Crisis Centers (ARCCs) at the district level within DHQ hospital to provide survivors with access to multiple services including FIR registration, collection of evi-



dence and a medical examination. Addressing the audience, chief guest Ms. Jane Marriot, UK's High Commissioner, said "Anti-rape crisis cell in PIMS Islamabad is a significant milestone in addressing gender-based violence in Pakistan. This new anti-rape crisis facility will ensure that gender-based violence survivors are provided with quicker response services under one roof. The UK is proud to partner with Pakistan in advancing such important in-

novations for tackling violence." Speaking at the occasion, Mr Raja Naeem Akbar, Secretary, of the Ministry of Law and Justice appreciated the support of all partners in establishing the centre. He stated that 'the centre will help address the critical issues of gender-based violence'. He further emphasized the establishment of Anti-Rape Crisis Centres at the provincial level and the importance of the availability of functional ARCCs throughout

Pakistan to ensure timely and effective assistance to survivors of rape'. Speaking at the occasion, Mr Iftikhar Ali Shallwani, Secretary MoNHSRC said 'We must also ensure the access of this crucial service to communities living in the outskirts of Islamabad. Due to stigma, many survivors hesitate to report or to walk to the centre. As a solution, we can tap into technology and enable people's access to services through technology-based solutions.

He stated that there should be a round-the-clock helpline or an app that can help survivors access these services and centres.' He also emphasized the need for self-defence training for girls in schools, and the public. During her remarks, Ms Ayesha Raza Farooq, Chairperson for the Special Committee on Anti-Rape Law and National Commission on Rights of Child, said 'the anti-rape committee has framed comprehensive rules to usher in a new jurisprudence ready to combat sexual violence. The purpose of the Crisis cells is to provide timely response and expedite justice. It provides victim-centric support round the clock. Looking ahead, the goal is to allow every citizen, especially women and children to claim public spaces and travel on public routes without any fear and vulnerability of sexual violence.' Addressing the audience, Dr. Luay Shabaneh, UNFPA Representative said 'Rape is an ugly crime which causes lifelong pain and psychological trauma to those who face it. By all means, rape is a crisis which needs a collective response. We should start with prevention and awareness raising but we should also ensure a comprehensive response to help those in need.

PSDP 2023-24: Rs 305.957 bln
funds released in six months

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government has authorized the utilization of development funds amounting to Rs 305.957 billion, out of a total allocation of Rs 940 billion, for various ongoing and new social sector uplift projects of the federal ministries and divisions during the first six months (July-December) of the fiscal year 2023-24 under its Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP). Out of the total authorized/distributed amount, the total amount spent so far on the development projects during the corresponding period stood at Rs 149.670 billion, according to the latest data released by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives. According to the disbursement mechanism of the Planning Division, the development

funds allocated in the federal budget are released at the rate of 20% in the first quarter (July-September), followed by 30% each in the second and third quarters, and the remaining 20% in the last quarter (April-June) of a fiscal year. The detail shows that Rs 61.344 billion out of a total allocated amount of Rs 211.777 billion has been disbursed to corporations including National Highway Authority (NHA), National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) and Pakistan Electric Power Company (PEPCO). For the Aviation Division, funds amounting to Rs 1.907 billion have been disbursed and Rs 390.17 million for the Board of Investment. Similarly, the government authorized Rs 61.282 billion to the Cabinet Division, Rs 1.417 billion to the Ministry of Climate Change, Rs 385 million to the Commerce Division, Rs 126 million to the Ministry

of Communications (other than NHA), Rs 1.120 billion to the Defence Division, Rs 560 million to the Defence Production Division, Rs 294 million for the Establishment Division, Rs 2.975 billion to the Federal Education & Professional Training Division, Rs 1.127 billion to the Finance Division, Rs 43.265 billion to Provinces and Special Areas (Previously Under FD/KA&GB), Rs 20.895 billion to the Higher Education Commission, Rs 14.238 billion to the Housing and Works Division, Rs 284.90 million to the Human Rights Division, Rs 1.050 billion to the Industries and Production Division, Rs 700 million to the Information and Broadcasting Division, Rs 2.100 billion to the Information Technology and Telecom Division, Rs 665 million to Inter Provincial Coordination Division, Rs 3.482 billion to the Interior Division, Rs 490 million to the Law and Justice Division, Rs 1.705 million

to the Maritime Affairs Division, Rs 52.50 million to the Narcotics Division, Rs 3.097 billion to the National Food Security and Research Division, Rs 3.177 billion to the National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Division, Rs 250 million to the National Heritage and Culture Division, Rs 52.50 million to the Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority, Rs 777.73 million to Petroleum Division, Rs 7.345 billion to the Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Division, Rs 175 million to the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division, Rs 11.557 billion to the Railway Division, Rs 280 million to the Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Division, Rs 1.120 billion to the Revenue Division, Rs 2.800 billion to the Science & Technological Research, Rs 337.48 to the States and Frontier Regions Division and Rs 38.675 billion.

Al-Shifa Trust steps up
efforts to prevent blindness

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Al-Shifa Trust has been extending its reach into the nation's outlying regions to combat the rising prevalence of eye diseases, many of which lead to irreversible blindness. In the past year, the trust has set up 500 camps in remote areas of the nation, a thirty per cent rise over the same period the year before, said Major General (Retd) Rehmat Khan, President of the Al-Shifa Trust. During a media briefing, he said there had been 400 general eye screening camps, 40 school screening camps, and 55 surgical eye camps all over Pakistan during the outgoing year. The primary sponsors of these camps included Qatar Charity, OGDCL, PPL, AFNA, and the Pakistan Army, while

the Rupani Foundation has also funded two eye camps, he added. He said that the trust is conducting the largest outreach programme in the country, reaching out to the far-flung regions of Gawadar and Pasni as well as the impoverished districts of Gilgit-Baltistan. He said that over a year, 550,000 patients were treated in these camps, and thousands of the poor had their vision restored. A sizable number of these patients lacked the means to reach a hospital for treatment, he added. He noted that the Army's cooperation with the trust was highly commendable; in numerous regions of South and North Waziristan, they established food and lodging facilities and provided other essentials, enabling the locals to

receive general eye care and surgical facilities. He stressed that the trust is dedicated to battling blindness even though establishing surgical eye camps in certain rural places is a tough job due to a range of issues. Major General (Retd) Rehmat Khan informed that more than 125,000 schoolchildren had their eyes screened for various eye conditions, and 6,000 of them received free glasses and that we consider a thirty per cent rise in the number of eye camps a great success. Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital in Rawalpindi, Kohat, Sukkar, and Muzaffarabad received complex cases from the far-off areas, he said, adding that the trust began an outreach project in 1992 and that its free eye camps are established all over Pakistan.

Business
community
calls for
maximum
cooperation
with China

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan can strengthen agricultural and food cooperation with China to maximize its export contribution. These collaborations can focus on niche products, partner on climate-resilient crops and drought-resistant technology, agritourism, private sector collaboration, which will deepen ties, diversify exports, and ensure long-term food security for both nations. This was stated by Rafique Suleman, Convener FPCCI Rice Export Committee 2022-2023 and Ex Chairman, Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan.

ADB's food
security forum
scheduled in April

These interactions aim to build robust partnerships in the realms of policies, project implementation, and research

ISLAMABAD: The Asia and the Pacific Food Security Forum 2024 is set to take center stage from April 8 to 12, 2024, in Manila, Philippines to discuss actions for easing a worsening food crisis in the region. This pivotal event, announced by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), aims to facilitate discussions on immediate actions to alleviate the worsening food crisis and strategize for long-term food security against the adverse impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss. The forum would serve as an opportunity to evaluate the interim performance of ADB's commitment to allocate a minimum of \$14 billion of its own resources to support food security between 2022 and 2025. Additionally, it will outline ADB's forward program on food security, forging partnerships with a diverse array of stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region. According to the ADB announcement, the Asia and the Pacific Food Security Forum 2024 will act as a platform for both public and private sector partners to showcase their thought leadership and innovative initiatives. Participants will delve into discussions focused on constructing more sustainable and resilient food systems, essential for navigating the challenges of climate, food, and nature in the region. The significance of the forum extends beyond showcasing initiatives; it is poised to foster engagement with policymakers, government officials, development practitioners, food system and climate change experts, as well as ADB staff. These interactions aim to build robust partnerships in the realms of policies, project implementation, and research, ultimately accelerating the transformation of food systems in Asia and the Pacific.—DNA

NASTP park
aims to
transform
country

ISLAMABAD: Director General National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP) Air Vice Marshal (RETD) Asad Ikram said on Monday that the 'Digital Science Park' was established in Karachi to transform the country into a knowledge-based economy and provide employment opportunities for the youth. Talking to PTV news channel, he said that it was part of a strategic initiative designed to benefit the country in numerous ways, adding, that these parks will serve as a launchpad for the country's leading researchers, innovators, and entrepreneurs.

He added that NASTP is a project of national and strategic significance that would yield manifold benefits for the country, adding, that it would spur technological progress and foster self-reliance by offering a platform to the youth. He said that under this project we will set a model for the whole nation, adding, that the 'Digital Science Park' would conceived as a world-class facility that will promote multidisciplinary innovations. The government will give special emphasis to science and technology education to enable the youth to reach their potential, he further mentioned.—DNA

ANF recovers
417 kg drugs
in seven
operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations across the country managed to recover 417 kg of drugs and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that 156 kg hashish and 48 kg opium were recovered near Mandra Toll Plaza Rawalpindi and two suspects were arrested. 52 kg hashish, 41 kg opium and 21 kg morphine were recovered from the Nokandi area. In the third operation, 85.2 kg of hashish was recovered near Western Bypass Quetta and an accused was arrested.—APP

Court Notice

In the Court of Mr. Ch. Muhammad Anis Mayo ASL, Wazirabad Sub for: Appel Civil Title: Munawar Sultana etc Vs Muhammad Saleem etc. Notice To: Zaher Rauf, Shaid Rauf, Aftab Rauf, Shahid Rauf, Sons, Humira Azeem Didi, Abdul Rauf, Ali Raza House, Kareem Manzil, Galhar Dun Market Near Bus Stop G1, Road Galhar City Tehsil Wazirabad District Gujranwala, Present Address out of Country, Whereas service of Respondents is not going to be effected through ordinary means. So, service of Respondents is effected through publication in the newspaper Daily Islamabad Post International. you Respondents are directed to appear in court in person or through counsel on 16-01-2024 at 9:00 AM, failing which ex parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. Additional District Judge Wazirabad.

Global education monitoring report
launched in Capital

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training in collaboration with UNESCO, EdTech Hub, and IITA hosted the national launch of the 2023 Global Education Monitoring Report on January 15, 2024, in Islamabad. Federal Minister Madad Ali Sindh chaired the event. Madad while addressing the event said that the topic of this years GEM Report is extremely pertinent. He said that it is vital to evaluate technology's role in imparting education. He said that Pakistan has recently given high importance to the use of technology in imparting education. Madad Ali Sindh said that his top priority have been to reduce the Out



of School Children. He said that the role of technology in bringing that number down is also pivotal. Madad Ali said that today's problem require smart solutions. He said that it is time that Pakistan matches the pace of the developed countries of the world. He said that quality of education is another challenge that has been giv-

en the highest priority under his command. He said that he has placed special emphasis in ensuring that the schools in the federal have the basic necessities available in order to provide a safe, secure and enabling environment to students. Madad Ali said that the Ministry of education was adept in making sure that technol-

ogy's benefits can be passed on to the masses in the COVID 19 era. He highlighted the development and launch of tele school and educational radio channels in the Covid Era by MOFEPT. Madad Ali highlighted the findings of the report which point out that technology can also leave behind under privileged students.

MOST EXPERIENCED
MANUFACTURERS &
EXPORTERS OF
MARTIAL ARTS UNIFORMS
IN
PAKISTAN

WHERE EACH STITCH IS WATCHED

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TAEKWONDO

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

Gaza spillover-sparks risk igniting wider war

THE Red Sea tensions have escalated rapidly since the United States and the United Kingdom launched air strikes against Houthi military targets in Yemen on Thursday. In light of this, Sunday's joint statement issued by China and the Secretariat General of the Arab League was a sharp rebuke of their actions even if the two sides did not say so directly. The statement, issued in Cairo during Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to Egypt, expressed the two sides' "deep concern" over the recent escalation of the situation in the Red Sea and stressed the need to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Yemen while ensuring the safety of international commercial shipping in the Red Sea. The Red Sea crisis is clearly a spillover consequence of the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict, and China and Egypt called for an immediate and comprehensive cease-fire and the cessation of all violence against civilians and violations of international law and international humanitarian norms. They called on the members of the UN Security Council to heed the call of Arab, Islamic and other countries that oppose Israel's ongoing war against civilians in Gaza, and to earnestly shoulder their responsibility to take actions to fully and effectively implement the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly on the situation in Gaza and the Palestine-Israel conflict. Indeed, allowing the situation to escalate further will only exacerbate the crisis. Since last month, the Red Sea as an important international trade route for goods and energy has been under constant threat as the Houthi militia has intensified its attacks on "Israel-linked" ships using the waterway, demanding an end to Israel's military actions in Gaza. While the Houthi militia must stop targeting commercial ships in the Red Sea, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Yemen must be respected. The US-led attacks on Houthi targets have only complicated the situation and ratcheted up tensions in the region. The UNSC has never authorized any country to use force against Yemen, a move that will obviously "add fuel to the fire" in the Red Sea and raise the overall security risks in the region. The flare-up of the Red Sea tensions reinforces the urgency for the world community to step up efforts to put an end to the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict, which has now been raging for 100 days. Both restraint and diplomatic efforts are needed to bring an end to the conflict as soon as possible to prevent the humanitarian crisis in Gaza from worsening and the conflict from escalating further.



Resetting crucial state-voluntary sector relationship

Cheap, efficient and entrepreneurial: these were the characteristics that politicians hoped the voluntary and private sectors would bring to the provision of public services. First under New Labour, then under the Conservatives during a period when councils and government departments had far less money, a radical reshaping of the state's role also led to a reshaping of charities. In 2009, under Gordon Brown, charities received 37% of their income from the government. Austerity, particularly cuts to local government, has seen that figure shrink to a quarter. While charities became dependent on government money, there was a parallel marketisation of public services, with state contracts handed out in competitive tendering exercises. This saw the traditional division between the welfare state and civil society blurred as charities (though not all of them) drifted away from their former role in prevention and became enmeshed in the delivery of services. Encouraging charities to compete against each other for contracts was the wrong way to stimulate innovation. Precious resources were diverted to winning tenders. Even so, charities increasingly lost out to private sector outsourcing specialists. They ended up subsidising public services when the value of contracts did not cover costs. Drawing on their reserves, supported by staff and volunteers and determined not to fail the people they exist to help, most carried on regardless. High prices now threaten to tip some over the edge, as rising bills combine with falling donations to put pressure on bottom lines. What happens next? The immediate risk is job losses, closures and sales of assets including buildings, which will be repurposed for private gain. Looking ahead, efforts at strengthening the sector's position in policy terms have begun. The National Council for Voluntary Organisations is consulting on a manifesto. Next week, senior Labour figures will explain their vision of civil society. Meanwhile, research from the Institute for Public Policy Research proposed devolution as an alternative frame for public service reform – but did not specify the role of non-profit organisations in this configuration. Charities do innovate. At a recent event to mark the closure of Children England (a small 80-year-old charity), its chief executive, Kathy Evans, described them as the mechanism whereby people's ideas about how to improve the world are turned into action. Many of what are now public services were invented by philanthropists before the state took them on. But the sham of Lord Cameron's "big society" – window-dressing for austerity – undermined what ought to be, in a thriving civil society, a creative partnership with the state. Unintended but predictable consequences of an outsourcing model relentlessly focused on value have included the relocation of children's homes to the poorest pockets of the country. While recognition of this model's shortcomings has grown, fixing it is another matter. Some councils, such as Plymouth's, are experimenting with alternative systems that promote collaboration. But localism is not a panacea, and meaningful change will be impossible without investment. Working with small, community-based groups brings new challenges about governance and accountability (though history shows that these are issues for big organisations too). Charities as well as public authorities should reflect on, and communicate with supporters, what they think their role should be in the years ahead.

PTI to seek justice from people?

Qamar Bashir



PTI seems well aware of the challenges of a disrupted playing field, marked by the hassle of numerous symbols, but expresses confidence that their voters will bravely navigate these difficulties. The party commits to extensive efforts to guide, educate, and provide clear instructions to their supporters, especially through social media, ensuring they vote for PTI-nominated candidates across the nation. However, While the task is acknowledged as challenging, the party...

JUST a few days ago, I penned an article titled "PTI sans BAT and Playground," a prediction crafted from my analysis of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pakistan's mindset. Despite my assessment, I fervently hoped that my predictions would not materialize. I wished for the Chief Justice to exhibit generosity, rise above personal grievances, and avoid succumbing to the instinct of seeking revenge for the presidential reference filed against him. My hope rested on the belief that he would embrace a magnanimous approach, considering the broader perspective and refraining from exploiting any errors or omissions on PTI's defense team. My prayer was for the Chief Justice to safeguard the fundamental rights of citizens – the right to vote for the political party of their choice – and to ensure a party's right to obtain an election symbol, facilitating voters without inconvenience, hassle, or confusion. However, my optimism and the hopes of millions of PTI supporters were dashed when the Supreme Court adopted a narrow and parochial approach, opting for a whimsical decision. Based on errors and omissions by the PTI lawyers' team and irregularities in intra-party elections, the court chose to mete out punishment not only to party leaders but also to their millions of voters. These voters, who were innocent of any wrongdoing, were deprived of the convenience of voting for their chosen party, facing instead hassle, confusion, and chaos. The Supreme Court's decision appeared to disregard the broader ramifications—a political party denied a level playing field and stripped of its iconic election symbol poses severe threats to the democratic process. The repercussions include unequal access to resources, campaign limitations, diminished electoral support, and potential voter suppression. It is an established legal norm that the primary duty of the Supreme Court is to safeguard and uphold the fundamental rights of individuals enshrined in the constitution. The role of the Supreme Court requires a delicate balance: on one hand, it protects fundamental rights by ensuring the fairness of legal processes, and on the other hand, it may examine technicalities to maintain the integrity of legal proceedings and uphold the rule of law. Ultimately, the Supreme Court aims to dispense justice while respecting the legal principles and constitutional rights that constitute the foundation of the legal system. There is a prevailing sentiment in various circles that, despite the merit in PTI's plea, the Supreme Court ruled against them due to the perceived inadequacy of PTI's legal team. Critics argue that the legal team was unprepared, lacked articulation, and failed to support arguments with sufficient documentary evidence, leading to PTI's loss in the case. Conversely, this suggests that had PTI's legal team presented a more effective case, the party could have secured victories in both the

level playing field and election symbol matters. If this argument holds, it implies that the Supreme Court did not deliver justice solely because of the legal team's inadequacy. However, globally, it is an accepted legal norm that if a court recognizes the potential punishment of an innocent petitioner due to the incompetence of their legal team, the court's duty is to adjudicate cases impartially and ensure justice prevails. Even if a petitioner has a weak defense, the court is obligated to evaluate the case based on presented arguments, apply the law, and make a fair decision. In instances where the court perceives the petitioner's weakness is due to legal team incompetence, in such situations, the court may even consider appointing legal representation for the petitioner, particularly when the weak defense stems from a lack of legal expertise. Ultimately, the Supreme Court's overarching responsibility is to uphold justice, fairness, and the rule of law. The court should diligently strive to ensure all parties receive a fair hearing and that legal proceedings are conducted with due respect to the rights of those involved. Expressing deep disappointment with the Chief Justice's behavior, tenor, and evident bias against PTI, citing his perceived animosity towards Imran Khan and President Alvi, the party has declared its intention to bypass seeking justice from a figure they believe will deny it. Instead, they have opted to directly appeal to the people for justice, but it is easier said than done. The loss of an election symbol poses significant challenges for a political party, transcending beyond mere visual identity. Without a recognizable symbol, the party grapples with difficulties in establishing a distinctive image, effectively communicating with voters, and navigating a campaign landscape where symbols hold pivotal roles. The resulting confusion among voters has the potential to undermine the party's electoral support and is likely to give rise to a complex interplay of practical, legal, and strategic challenges requiring adept navigation. PTI seems well aware of the challenges of a disrupted playing field, marked by the hassle of numerous symbols, but expresses confidence that their voters will bravely navigate these difficulties. The party commits to extensive efforts to guide, educate, and provide clear instructions to their supporters, especially through social media, ensuring they vote for PTI-nominated candidates across the nation. However, While the task is acknowledged as challenging, the party remains resolute in its determination to empower and mobilize its supporters for the upcoming elections. However, the party must employ effective, result-oriented tactics and meticulously crafted plans to enhance its chances of success. Central to the campaign theme should be the emphasis on key issues and prac-

tical solutions, capturing voter attention and mitigating the absence of a visual symbol. The party needs to articulate a compelling narrative that resonates with voters, placing a strong emphasis on clear messaging that highlights core values, vision, and policy proposals. Proactive communication with voters about the change in the election symbol and the reasons behind it is paramount. Ensuring that information reaches voters through diverse channels is crucial for their awareness and the ability to easily identify the party on the ballot. Cultivating adaptability and resilience within the party's leadership and campaign team is equally vital. The willingness to adjust strategies based on feedback, changing circumstances, and emerging trends is essential to overcoming challenges and maintaining competitiveness in the electoral arena, even in the absence of the traditional symbol. Moreover, developing alternative symbols or branding elements that preserve visual recognition can mitigate the impact of losing the iconic election symbol. Initiating distinctive branding, such as a unique logo or color scheme, serves as an alternative visual identifier, encapsulating the party's identity and resonating effectively with voters. Leveraging recognizable party figures who can act as symbols themselves proves to be an effective strategy for seeking endorsements from respected individuals and organizations. Personalities within the party who are well-known and respected can become powerful symbols in the absence of the traditional election symbol. Exploring innovative campaign strategies that do not overly rely on visual symbols is key. Utilizing technology, such as social media campaigns, FM Radio, virtual town halls, and podcasts, facilitates connection with a diverse audience and effectively conveys the party's message. While capitalizing on complaints of lack of level playing field by other two major parties such as JUI and PPP, and complaining by PPP of allotment of different symbols to its candidates, PTI should seek forming alliances with disgruntled political entities and present a unified front to voters. In the midst of this politically turbulent atmosphere, a silver lining emerges as politicians, with the exception of JUI, unite in their resolute stance against delaying or boycotting elections. Their collective realization that even the flaws of democracy surpass the perils of an outstanding dictatorship is not just pragmatic but commendable. The readiness of all political parties to confront any challenge, face potential electoral losses, and stand firm against the looming specter of martial law, a dark echo from the past, speaks volumes. This shared determination is poised to become the bedrock for fostering growth and development in the country, demonstrating a unified commitment to the democratic values that will shape its future.

The future of UK-US relations

Mohammad Ramzan



The roots of this historical alliance run deep forged in the crucible of World War II, where the British-American collaboration played a pivotal role in shaping the course of history. At the heart of the UK-US alliance during World War II lays the monumental Lend-Lease Act, a legislative landmark that epitomized the depth of their cooperation

IN an era defined by interconnectedness and global challenges, the relationship between nations holds immense significance. The United Kingdom and the United States with their historical ties and shared values stand at the forefront of international cooperation. Some alliances have survived the test of time and adversity as the steadfast partnership between the United Kingdom and the United States. The roots of this historical alliance run deep forged in the crucible of World War II, where the British-American collaboration played a pivotal role in shaping the course of history. At the heart of the UK-US alliance during World War II lays the monumental Lend-Lease Act, a legislative landmark that epitomized the depth of their cooperation. Enacted in 1941, this crucial piece of legislation was a lifeline for the United Kingdom, providing essential military aid that amounted to over \$31 billion in assistance. The scale of this support was unprecedented and underscored the commitment of the United States to stand shoulder to shoulder with its British counterparts in the face of global conflict. The Lend-Lease Act was more than just a financial transaction; it symbolized the shared sacrifice and determination of two nations bound by a common cause. As the war raged on, the United States supplied the UK with a wide array of military equipment, ranging from aircraft and tanks to ammunition and food supplies. This collaborative effort not only bolstered the British war effort but also laid the foundation for a post-war world order built on the principles of unity and cooperation. Beyond the material support provided through the Lend-Lease Act, the UK and the US engaged in extensive strategic planning and coordination. Military leaders from both nations collaborated closely on operations and shared intelligence, ensuring a synchronized approach to the challeng-

es posed by the Axis powers. From the beaches of Normandy to the skies over London, the British-American alliance stood as a formidable force, ultimately turning the tide of the war in favor of the Allies. The legacy of the UK-US alliance during World War II extends far beyond the battlefield. It laid the groundwork for the formation of the United Nations, an institution designed to prevent future global conflicts and promote international cooperation. The enduring friendship forged in the crucible of war has since evolved into a close diplomatic, economic, and cultural partnership, showcasing the resilience and adaptability of the historic alliance. The historical alliance between the United Kingdom and the United States during World War II is a testament to the power of collaboration in the face of adversity. The Lend-Lease Act, with its staggering financial commitment, serves as a symbol of the unwavering support that the United States provided to its British allies. Beyond the battlefield, the strategic planning and coordination between the two nations set the stage for a post-war world order that prioritized unity and cooperation. As we reflect on this chapter in history, it is evident that the UK-US alliance is not merely a historical footnote but a living testament to the enduring strength of shared values and common goals. As a student of Political Science I suggest a set of few comprehensive recommendations to further enhance and solidify this relationship. Both the countries should address various aspects of diplomatic engagement. Expand cultural exchange programs to further enhance soft power and mutual understanding. Increased cultural diplomacy can contribute to fostering positive perceptions and deeper connections between the two nations. Implement targeted public diplomacy campaigns to inform and engage citizens on the benefits of international collaboration. Informed and supportive public opinion can positively influence policymakers and

strengthen the legitimacy of global engagements. Foster joint research and innovation initiatives to address global challenges, especially in areas like healthcare, climate change, and technology. Collaborative scientific endeavors can not only yield practical solutions but also strengthen the narrative of shared progress. Strengthen intelligence-sharing mechanisms to address evolving security threats. Enhanced collaboration in intelligence can bolster both nations' capabilities in countering common security challenges. Jointly invest in sustainable development projects to address global inequalities and contribute to shared prosperity. Economic collaboration in sustainable development can align both nations with global priorities, showcasing responsible leadership. Actively participate in and support multilateral institutions, fostering inclusive global governance. Continued commitment to multilateralism can strengthen the collective response to global challenges and enhance global leadership credibility. Align strategies in emerging technologies to collectively address ethical, security and regulatory considerations. A unified approach in technology governance can set standards and contribute to global stability in the digital age. Collaborate on crisis preparedness and response mechanisms for unforeseen global events. A coordinated response to crises, such as pandemics or natural disasters, can demonstrate global leadership and resilience. Establish regular high-level bilateral consultations to address evolving geopolitical dynamics. Ongoing diplomatic dialogues can foster trust, prevent misunderstandings, and enhance strategic coordination. Expand programs facilitating youth and academic exchanges to nurture future leaders with a deep understanding of each other's societies. Investing in the next generation of leaders can solidify long-term diplomatic ties and promote a shared vision of global leadership.

—The writer is Student of BS Political Science University of Okara092janirai@gmail.com

Briefs

PTI sidelined
as per 'London
Plan': Imran

FROM PAGE 01
Khan reiterated his accusations that his imprisonment is a result of exposing individuals such as Donald Lu and General Bajwa. Dismissing the possibility of an electoral alliance with the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), he specifically ruled out an alliance with PPP Chairman Bilawal. The PTI founder criticised Nawaz Sharif, stating that Sharif never played a match without biased umpires. "Two of his umpires are still active... one of whom has given a no ball," he said using a cricketing analogy. Khan asserted that there is documented evidence of financial irregularities by Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz, citing the acquisition of luxury cars at exceptionally low prices from Toshakhana - the state's gift depository. He lamented the closure of cases against PML-N members while expressing frustration that new cases keep emerging for the PTI.

Elections
can't be...

FROM PAGE 01
Similarly, the ECP said it would not be out of place to mention that in the past general elections and local government polls have been held in winter season. Earlier today, Independent lawmaker Dilawar Khan urged Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani to ensure implementation of his resolution - recently adopted by the upper house of parliament - seeking a delay in the February 8 polls. To the surprise and disbelief of many, on January 5, the Senate unanimously passed a resolution to postpone the February 8 general elections in the country. In a letter sent to the Senate chairman, Senator Dilawar said despite the House's explicit urging and the subsequent dispatch of a copy of the resolution to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), "it is disconcerting that no tangible steps have been taken by the ECP to postpone the General Elections scheduled for February 8, 2024". As mover of the resolution, Senator Dilawar said he firmly believed that the concerns articulated in the resolution must be promptly addressed.

Bilawal
accuses...

FROM PAGE 01
take benefit of recent developments against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)," Bilawal said, while referring to the Supreme Court's verdict that cost the Imran-led party 'bat' symbol. He said that there is now a contest between 'lion' and 'arrow', the electoral signs of PML-N and PPP respectively, in upcoming elections. Prior to his media talk, Bilawal asked PPP workers to strongly resist and thwart conspiracies being hatched by PML-N. He reiterated his opinion against any further delay in the organisation of nationwide polls and said: "If some people are still thinking to see a delay in the conduct of polls or try to run away from the electoral battle then they would face a big loss." The PPP chairman backed the top court verdict which went against the former ruling party which rose to power in 2018.

PTI raises
alarms as...

FROM PAGE 01
the party of its electoral symbol. Speaking to reporters in Rawalpindi on Monday, the politico, however, hoped that even PTI-backed candidates would still follow party directions when it comes to voting following the formation of the next assemblies. In the PTI's bid to get 'justice', the party will also be filing a review petition against the top court's verdict which "deprived nationals of their due rights and dented democracy", he said. Gohar, however, clarified that his party would formulate its strategy in compliance with the apex court's judgment. "PTI leaders, workers, and candidates should not get disappointed and stay peaceful besides expediting efforts to protect their votes," the ex-PTI chairman added.

Zaka meets IG Sindh to
ensure PSL 9 security

IG Sindh mentioned that the Sindh Police has always maintained high alertness and security in every important event at the National Stadium

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI: IG Sindh Riffat Mukhtar Raja met with PCB Management Committee Chairman Zaka Ashraf at the Central Police Office in Karachi for discussing security measures and other essential matters during various matches, of the upcoming ninth season of Pakistan Super League (PSL), starting from February 17, 2024. On this occasion, IG Sindh stated that full-proof security arrangements would be ensured during PSL 9, and a contingency plan would be established in this regard. IG Sindh mentioned that the Sindh Police has always maintained high alertness and security in every important event at the National Stadium. "Security matters will be handled with full professionalism and extraordinary measures in all aspects," Riffat said. Meanwhile, Ashraf expressed his complete satisfaction with the approved contingency plans for the PSL matches and his preferences. While extending gratitude to the Sindh IG, he ensured assurance and confirmed the commitment of cooperation from both himself and the PCB administration towards every possible collaboration. Remember, PSL 9 will start at PCB's headquarters in Lahore. The opening match will feature the two-time champions and current titleholders, Lahore Qalandars, facing off against Islamabad United, winners of the 2016 and 2018 editions. Karachi will host 11 matches, including the Qualifier, two Eliminator, and the final. **Schedule of Matches:**
February 17, 2024 Lahore Qalandars v Islamabad United, Gaddafi Stadium Lahore



February 18, 2024 Quetta Gladiators v Peshawar Zalmi, Gaddafi Stadium Lahore; February 20, 2024 Multan Sultans v Karachi Kings, Multan Cricket Stadium; February 19, 2024 Lahore Qalandars v Quetta Gladiators, Gaddafi Stadium Lahore; February 20, 2024 Multan Sultans v Islamabad United, Multan Cricket Stadium; February 21, 2024 Peshawar Zalmi v Karachi Kings, Gaddafi Stadium Lahore; Multan Sultans v Lahore Qalandars, Multan Cricket Stadium; February 22, 2024 Quetta Gladiators v Islamabad United, Gaddafi Stadium Lahore

February 23, 2024 Multan Sultans v Peshawar Zalmi, Multan Cricket Stadium; February 24, 2024 Lahore Qalandars v Karachi Kings, Gaddafi Stadium Lahore; February 25, 2024 Multan Sultans v Quetta Gladiators, Multan Cricket Stadium; Lahore Qalandars v Peshawar Zalmi, Gaddafi Stadium Lahore; February 26, 2024 Peshawar Zalmi v Islamabad United, Gaddafi Stadium Lahore; February 27, 2024 Lahore Qalandars v Multan Sultans, Gaddafi Stadium Lahore; February 28, 2024 Karachi Kings v Islamabad United, National Bank Stadium

Rauf considered
int'l retirement
amid criticism

KARACHI: Fast bowler Haris Rauf had contemplated retiring from international cricket due to unwarranted criticism for opting out of the Test series in Australia, Geo News reported on Monday. Chief Selector Wahab Riaz and Team Director Mohammad Hafeez consistently criticised Rauf for his choice to withdraw from Test series. The criticism left Rauf disheartened, and he briefly pondered international retirement. But, after seeking advice from friends, he reconsidered his decision and redirected his focus towards his cricketing career. Former director Mickey Arthur, recognising Rauf's exceptional pace, actively pushed him to join the Australia tour during the 2023 World Cup. Arthur emphasised Rauf's importance as a key asset, expressing a keen desire to see him in action against Australia in Test matches. Despite Arthur's efforts, Rauf consistently turned down the suggestions, citing his limited exposure to first-class cricket and concerns about potential injuries. During the World Cup, the 30-year-old fast bowler had told team management about his fitness concerns. Rauf expressed reservations about his current fitness level, foreseeing difficulties in Test matches and underlining the necessity for thoughtful consideration. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Aviation, Air Marshal (ret) Farhat Hussain Khan meets with Ambassador of Iraq in Pakistan, H.E. Hamid Abbas Lafta to discuss issues of mutual interest at Embassy of Iraq in Islamabad. - DNA

Pakistan's Arslan Ash bags
TWT Finals 2023 in US

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's finest Tekken star Arslan Ash won the Tekken World Tour Finals 2023 (TWT 23) in New Orleans, United States with a remarkable display throughout the campaign. Arslan overpowered CherryBerryMango (CBM) in the final 3-1 with a dominating display that saw him clinch the title. Arslan, often regarded as the Greatest of All Time (GOAT) in Tekken, start-

ed his top-eight campaign with a thumping win over LowHigh 2-1 in the winners' semi-final to make it to the winners' final. In the winners' final, Arslan's toughest challenge came against Ulsan, who the Pakistani overcame after a five-game battle that the 28-year-old won 3-2. After which, Arslan's final test of the night came against CBM who he easily defeated in the final. Af-

ter winning Evo Japan and Evo Vegas earlier, Arslan's win on Sunday night in the TWT 23 final saw him completing the treble 2023. It must be noted in August, Arslan became a four-time EVO champion after winning the title in Las Vegas. The 27-year-old impressed one and all with his skills and tracks and defeated Japan's AO 3-0 in the grand final. Arslan became the only player in the world to win the prestigious event four times in Tekken 7. He won the title in Japan and Las Vegas in 2019 and repeated the same feat this year as well. Arslan is considered by many as the greatest Tekken player of all time. He was also awarded the best E-Player of 2019 by EPSN. Arslan is also a CEO 2021 Champion and the 2022 Combo Breaker Tekken 7 tournament winner, where he grabbed the title after defeating all of his 10 opponents. - DNA

Murray
crashes out
in Australian
Open first
round

MELBOURNE: Five-time finalist Andy Murray slumped out of the Australian Open at the first hurdle Monday, with the British veteran outplayed by Argentine Tomas Martin Etcheverry. What they witnessed, though, was a sad shadow of that player in the final stages of his career as Murray was dismantled 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 by Etcheverry, the 30th seed, in one of his most crushing losses of the past four years. One year on from the unforgettable sight of Murray dragging himself back from the brink of defeat through two marathon five set matches to reach the first round, Murray departed Melbourne Park having offered minimal resistance, a defeat that will only elicit further questions about his future. Murray has now lost seven of his last eight matches and he has started the season with a 0-2 record. - Agencies

Hafeez and Pak
players clash over
several issues

KARACHI: The relationship between the Pakistan men's cricket team Director Mohammad Hafeez and senior players is less than ideal amid the ongoing tour of New Zealand. According to sources, the players are unhappy with the long meetings conducted by Hafeez as well as the latter's stern approach with regards to the management of the team. Additionally, No Objection Certificates (NOCs) were issued to star cricketers, Shaheen Afridi, Shadab Khan, Azam Khan and others, for their participation in the upcoming season of T20. However, when players asked for NOCs for the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), Hafeez hesitated, putting their contracts in jeopardy. The report indicates that during team meetings, the extended discussions and lengthy sessions led by Mohammad Hafeez are not well-received by senior players. The players express dissatisfaction, asserting that Hafeez's unnecessary interventions and prolonged talks are disrupting the team environment. Team sources added that it is possible that the relationship between Hafeez and the players could worsen if there is no change in the way both parties are handling things at the moment. Earlier, pace bowler Adam Milne claimed four wickets as New Zealand beat Pakistan by 21 runs in the second Twenty20 international Sunday to take a 2-0 series lead. The tourists threw away a strong position in their run chase after Babar Azam and Fakhar Zaman scored half-centuries as they were dismissed for 173 in the final over, in response to New Zealand's 194-8. Victory came at a cost for the Black Caps, whose captain Kane Williamson retired hurt with a hamstring injury while batting. Williamson won't take any further part in the series, coach Gary Stead said Monday. - Agencies

Quetta, Lahore, Rawalpindi triumph in women's T20

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: The opening day of National Women's T20 Tournament 2023-24 saw action unfold at three venues across Rawalpindi and Islamabad under the supervision of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). Quetta edged over strong Karachi in a final-over finish with the wonderful half century of Fareeha Mahmood at Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium, registering a win by six wickets. Karachi posted 119-6 in 20 overs after being invited to bat first by Quetta's captain Saima Malik. Anam Amin struck in the first over to take out Muneeba Ali for a second-ball duck. Then, right-arm pacer Khairun Nisa removed Yusra Amir

on the last ball of the second over. In her subsequent over, she bowled a double wicket maiden to reduce Karachi to nine for four in four overs. Javeria Khan stitched two important partnerships to bring a semblance of stability in the innings; a 31-run sixth-wicket stand with her captain Rameen Shamim followed by an unbeaten 60-run stand with Maham Tariq. Javeria's unbeaten half-century (74, 57b, 11x4s) allowed Karachi to get to a fighting total. In turn, Rameen ran out opening batter Dua Majid, who walked back for a duck in the second over. The next batter in, Khadija Chishty (8, 15b), also fell to Rameen in the eighth over after building a 35-run partnership with Fareeha

Mahmood. Fareeha went on to score a half-century (63, 61b, 10x4s) before she was dismissed by Maham. Jannat Rashid (10, 24b, 1x4) fell to Maham Manzoor as troubled deepened for Quetta. Tuba Hassan (34, 17b, 3x4s, 2x6s), the fifth batter in, salvaged the game for Quetta. She hit a four and a six in the final over to take Quetta over the line. At Ayub Park Ground, Lahore dominated over Multan with a 10-wicket win after the latter were bowled out for 69 while Rawalpindi cruised to a comfortable victory by seven wickets against Peshawar at the Diamond Club Ground. **Scores in brief:** Quetta beat Karachi by six wickets: Karachi 119-6, 20 overs (Javeria Khan 74 not

out, Maham Manzoor 17 not out, Syeda Aroob Shah 13; Khairun Nisa 3-14); Quetta 121-4, 19.5 overs (Fareeha Mahmood 63, Tuba Hassan 34 not out; Rameen Shamim 1-16, Maham Manzoor 1-19, Maham Tariq 1-26) Lahore beat Multan by 10 wickets: Multan 69 all out, 19.1 overs (Umm-e-Hani 20, Saqia Riaz 14 not out, Gull Rukh 14; Ghulam Fatima 3-13, Nashra Sandhu 2-1); Lahore 73-0, 8.4 overs (Sadaf Shams 35 not out, Sidra Amin 31 not out) Rawalpindi beat Peshawar seven wickets: Peshawar 51 all out, 12 overs (Raahima Syed 13, Aleena Shah 13; Tania Saeed 3-4, Waheeda Akhtar 2-1, Aliya Riaz 2-13); Rawalpindi 52-3, 6.2 overs (Aliya Riaz 23, Natalia Parvaiz 10 not out; Tehzeeb Shah 1-11, Momina Riyasat 1-21)

Maryam
kicks off...

FROM PAGE 01
Maryam said the PTI was facing a result of what they sowed against others. Imran was used to being a blue-eyed boy, she said. She said neither the PML-N nor Nawaz were taking revenge from the PTI, she said. The one who used to call others thieves himself stole watches from the Toshakhana, she said. "The facility to get (desired) verdicts by calling (judge's) mother-in-law is not available anymore," Maryam claimed, adding that they should ask their lawyers to appear in court fully prepared. Maryam said they would have thought they could win an election like 2018 by shutting down the RTS button. The facility was no longer available, she said. She said his umpires and forgery both were exposed. Luring the rally's participants to vote for the PML-N, she said the faster and more you vote for the party the sooner you will become prosperous, inflation will drop and utility bills will be deflated.

PTI
withdraws...

FROM PAGE 01
He said that the Supreme Court's January 13 verdict - which deprived the former ruling party of its 'bat' symbol - forced the party to not contest on more than 230 seats. "Do you want to continue this case or not?" asked CJP Isa. At this, Khosa replied that he had been directed to withdraw the plea. "We came to your court to get a level-playing field. The verdict that was announced on January 13 at 11:30pm shattered the PTI," he said, adding that "you snatched PTI's field". Khosa argued that the ECP can only withdraw the election symbol, however, one of the parties is being banned from the parliament. "All of the PTI candidates will now contest as independent candidates which will spread confusion."

Qureshi
demands...

FROM PAGE 01
global case and the world media should be allowed to attend the hearing. He requested that the trial of the cipher case be shown live, so that everyone can know who is loyal and who is disloyal to the country. Qureshi also said that Imran Khan is only demanding transparent elections, and that the election commission has snatched the PTI's iconic symbol of bat from them, which has damaged the credibility of the election. He said that Imran Khan will fight till the last ball, and that he would not have become a turncoat even if he had been offered incentives.

Pak wants
stable...

FROM PAGE 01
The foreign minister also underlined the critical role of the neighbouring countries of Afghanistan to achieve the vision of a peaceful and stable region. Earlier, Ambassador Qomi held extensive talks with Pakistan's Special Representative on Afghanistan Asif Durrani over the situation in Afghanistan and the regional processes for peace and dialogue.

AKF sends
3rd batch...

FROM PAE 01
Alkhidmat Foundation remains committed to alleviating the suffering of those affected. The third shipment was sent from Nur Khan Air Base Rawalpindi, where dignitaries including caretaker Federal Foreign Minister Mr. Jalil Abbas Jilani, Ambassador of Palestine to Pakistan Mr. Ahmad Rabiee, Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik, Vice President Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan Air Marshal (R) Farooq Habib, Secretary-General Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan Syed Waqas Jafari, National Director of Aghosh Homes Air Marshal (Rd) Arshad Malik, and Sr. Manager Mr. Shoaib Hashmi were also present on the occasion.

Briefs

UK mulls further strikes against Houthis

LONDON: Britain will "wait and see" before deciding to launch fresh military strikes against the Iran-aligned Houthis in Yemen in order to protect international shipping, Defence Secretary Grant Shapps said on Monday. "Let's wait and see what happens, because it's not that we want to be involved in action in the Red Sea. But ultimately freedom of navigation is an international right that must be protected," Shapps told Sky News, when asked if Britain would carry out more strikes. Britain last week participated in US-led air strikes across Yemen against Houthi forces in retaliation for months of attacks on Red Sea shipping, but was not involved the following day when US forces conducted a further strike. Since those strikes, Houthi on Sunday fired an anti-ship cruise missile towards a US destroyer in the Southern Red Sea. China calls for Gaza peace conference; Hamas to disclose fate of Israeli hostages. It was shot down by a US fighter jet. Shapps said that Britain was keeping the Houthi situation under review.—APP

Dendias laments Türkiye outdoing Athens in defense

ATHENS: Greek Defense Minister Nikos Dendias raved how Türkiye took leaps in the defense industry while his country did not "produce a single thing." Dendias, who took the step for a rare thaw in Turkish-Greek relations by visiting the neighboring country as foreign minister following the 2023 earthquakes in southern Türkiye, also expressed concerns about the state of ties "after Erdoğan." On Dec. 7, 2023, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan paid a landmark visit to Greece after the two neighboring countries experienced a tumultuous relationship in recent years. Erdoğan said in a news conference with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis in Athens that there is no issue between Türkiye and Greece that cannot be resolved and that they want to "turn the Aegean into a sea of peace and cooperation." Türkiye and Greece announced the Athens Declaration on Friendly Relations and Good-Neighbourliness, in which they stressed that they are committed to fostering friendly relations, mutual respect, peaceful co-existence and understanding and seeking resolution to any dispute between in line with international law. But Dendias said there was "decades-long dysfunction" in Greece's aerospace industry and the air force lacked transport planes.—DNA

Colombia landslide death toll rises to 36

CARMEN DE ATRATO: The death toll from recent landslides in northwestern Colombia rose to 36, according to an official tally Sunday, as rescuers continued to look for at least seven people. Earlier, officials had put the toll from Friday's landslides, which hit a road linking the cities of Medellín and Quibdó, at 23 dead. "To all the families of the victims, my heartfelt condolences," said President Gustavo Petro. Pope Francis also offered prayers for the victims from the Vatican. Rescuers, using sniffer dogs and bulldozers, have been racing against the clock to find survivors. Videos shared on social media showed part of a mountain breaking loose and crashing down onto a line of cars, as screams broke out. The landslides in Colombia's Chocó department, which lies on the Pacific Ocean, followed more than 24 hours of intense rain. The Ombudsman's Office warned of "high risk of new landslides." More than 21 miners killed in Tanzania landslide "We call for all necessary actions to be taken in order to safeguard the lives of people who are at risk in the area.—Agencies

Russia hosts N.Korean FM to strengthen bilateral ties

Moscow and Pyongyang have denied arms deals but have vowed to deepen cooperation across the board and have staged a series of high-level meetings since last year

NEWS DESK

SEOUL: North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui is due in Russia on Monday for talks with her counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, as the two countries deepen economic, political, and military ties. As Russia's international isolation has grown over its war in Ukraine, analysts say Moscow has seen increasing value in its ties with North Korea. For North Korea's part, relations with Russia have not always been as warm as they were at the height of the Soviet Union, but the country is reaping benefits from Moscow's need for friends. North Korea on Sunday tested a new solid-fuel hypersonic missile with intermediate range, state news agency KCNA reported, in a move that was condemned by the United States, South Korea and Japan. Choe and her delegation departed Pyongyang for Russia the same day, KCNA said. Her three-day visit comes as the United States and its allies accused Russia of firing North Korean-made ballistic missiles and other weapons against targets in



Ukraine. Moscow and Pyongyang have denied arms deals but have vowed to deepen cooperation across the board and have staged a series of high-level meetings since last year, including a summit between Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim

Jong Un in Russia. "Given that the Russia-North Korea relationship is shaping up to be quite multi-faceted, all kinds of issues can be discussed between Lavrov and Choe," said Artemy Lukin, at Russia's Far Eastern Federal University. "If she meets the Russian president, this may be

another indication Putin will visit Pyongyang this year." Lukin said given the high number of North Korean missile launches, the latest test was likely unrelated to Choe's trip. A striking sign of deepening ties came in July, when Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu visited Pyongyang and toured a weapons exhibit that included the North's banned ballistic missiles. That was followed by Kim's trip to Russia, his first foreign visit since the COVID-19 pandemic began. "In a nutshell, North Korea feels increasingly insecure and vulnerable vis-a-vis South Korea," Lukin said. "Russia is currently the only power that can help enhance Pyongyang's military-strategic security." Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said the visit would include negotiations, but did not elaborate. She also predicted the trip would spark speculation by the West. North Korean foreign minister to visit Russia: KCNA "Westerners are constantly throwing in the story that Russia is somehow

behaving differently again, has no right to communicate with North Korea," Zakharova said on state TV channel Rossiya-1 on Sunday. "We have the right to do whatever we consider necessary, taking into account the fact that we constantly declare respect for international law." Choe said in October that criticism by the United States and its allies of North Korea's suspected arms deliveries to Russia was politicized and distorted, while vowing ties between Moscow and Pyongyang would reach a "new higher phase." Russia and North Korea have not commented specifically on the allegations of Moscow using North Korean missiles in Ukraine. "Russia has been more openly willing to flaunt sanctions against Pyongyang, and appears increasingly less interested in multilateral efforts to curb North Korean provocations, especially since the Kremlin does not view North Korea as a direct threat to Russia," said Anthony Rinna, a specialist in Korea-Russia relations at Sino-NK, a website that analyses the region.

Massive protest in Paris over controversial immigration law

PARIS: Thousands of demonstrators took to the streets of the French capital Paris on Sunday to protest against the government's contentious immigration law, which was recently passed with the support of far-right lawmakers in parliament. Responding to a call from more than 400 associations, unions and political parties, they braved the cold weather to express their opposition to the law. Gathering at Republic Square, they marched towards Clichy Square, expressing their disapproval of the government's decision to push through the law with the backing of the far-right National Rally (RN) party. Critics of the law argue that it will lead to discrimination against foreigners in the country and are demanding the abandonment of what they consider to be a "racist" policy.—APP

Turkish intelligence destroys PKK targets

ANKARA: Türkiye's National Intelligence Organization (MIT) destroyed 23 strategically critical targets belonging to the PKK terrorist group and its United States-backed offshoot YPG in Syria, according to information from security sources on Sunday. The strikes were against energy and infrastructure as well as so-called military and intelligence facilities, including ammunition depots and high-ranking terrorists. These included five critical infrastructure sites used for terror purposes by the PKK/YPG, three checkpoints, eight so-called military facilities, two ammunition depots, two logistics depots and two technical vehicle depots. The agency also struck high-ranking members of the organization in the region, which security sources said would continue until the planned targets were achieved. The operations came after nine Turkish soldiers were killed in a clash on Friday with PKK terrorists in northern Iraq, where Türkiye has been conducting Operation Claw-Lock against the terrorists.—APP

China arrests Everbright chairman for corruption

BEIJING: The former chairman of state-owned Chinese banking giant Everbright Group has been arrested on suspicion of corruption and bribery, prosecutors said. The national corruption authority had "concluded its investigation into the suspected corruption and bribery case of Tang Shuangning, former party secretary and chairman of China Everbright Group," the prosecutor's office said in a statement on Monday. The case has been transferred "to the procuratorate for review and prosecution". Communist Party's anti-graft agency said earlier this month that it was kicking Tang out of the party.—DNA

AI threatens jobs, but boosts productivity: IMF Chief

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: Artificial intelligence poses risks to job security around the world but also offers a "tremendous opportunity" to boost flagging productivity levels and fuel global growth, the IMF chief told media reporters. AI will affect 60 percent of jobs in advanced economies, the International Monetary Fund's managing director, Kristalina Georgieva, said in an interview in Washington, shortly before departing for the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. With AI expected to have less effect in developing countries, around "40 percent of jobs globally are likely to be impacted," she said, citing a new IMF report. "And the more you have higher skilled jobs, the higher the impact," she added. However, the



IMF report published Sunday evening notes that only half of the jobs impacted by AI will be negatively affected; the rest may actually benefit from enhanced productivity gains due to AI. "Your job may disappear altogether — not good — or artificial intelligence may enhance your job, so you actually will be more productive and your income level may go up," Georgieva said. The IMF report predicted that, while labor markets in emerging markets and developing economies

will see a smaller initial impact from AI, they are also less likely to benefit from the enhanced productivity that will arise through its integration in the workplace. Google faces multibillion-dollar US patent trial over AI technology "We must focus on helping low income countries in particular to move faster to be able to catch the opportunities that artificial intelligence will present," Georgieva told AFP. "So artificial intelligence, yes, a little scary. But it is also a tremendous opportunity for everyone," she said. The IMF is due to publish updated economic forecasts later this month which will show the global economy is broadly on track to meet its previous forecasts, she said. It is "poised for a soft landing," she said, adding that "monetary policy is doing a good job, inflation is

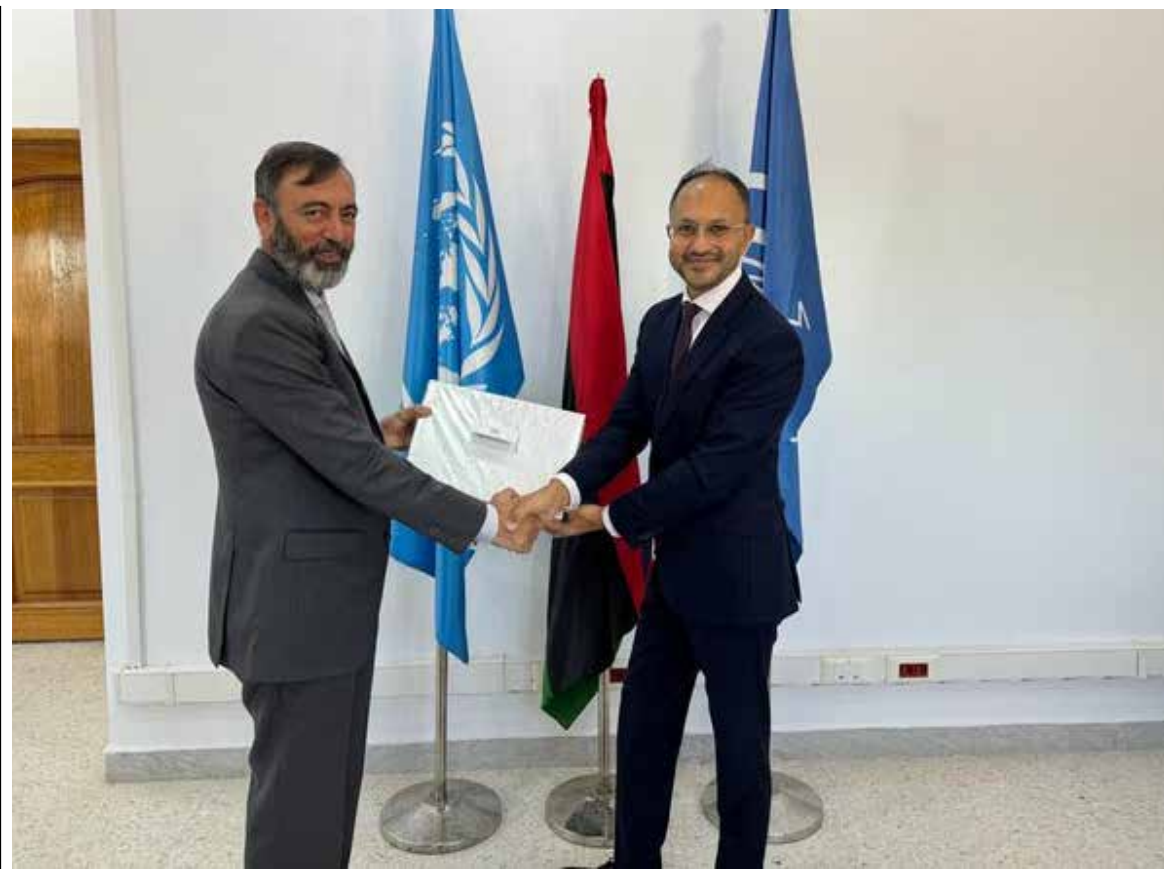
going down, but the job is not quite done." "So we are in this trickiest place of not easing too fast or too slow," she said. The global economy could use an AI-related productivity boost, as the IMF predicts it will continue growing at historically muted levels over the medium term. "God, how much we need it," Georgieva said. "Unless we figure out a way to unlock productivity, we as the world are not for a great story," Georgieva said 2024 is likely to be "a very tough year" for fiscal policy worldwide, as countries look to tackle debt burdens accumulated during the COVID-19 pandemic, and rebuild depleted buffers. Billions of people are also due to go to the polls this year, putting additional pressure on governments to either raise spending or cut taxes to win popular support.

UN seeks \$4.2b to tackle Ukraine's humanitarian crisis

GENEVA: The United Nations and its partners on Monday appealed for a combined \$4.2 billion from donors to support war-ravaged communities in Ukraine as well as Ukrainian refugees in 2024. "Hundreds of thousands of children live in communities on the front lines of the war, terrified, traumatized and deprived of their basic needs," said UN aid chief Martin Griffiths. "That fact alone should compel us to do everything we can to bring more humanitarian assistance to Ukraine." The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said that more than 14.6 million people, or 40 percent of Ukraine's population, will need humanitarian assistance this year due to Russia's full-scale invasion. More than 3.3 million of the people in need live in front-line communities in the east and the south of the country, including in territories occupied by Russia, access to which remains "significantly impeded," according to OCHA. As part of the appeal, OCHA is asking for \$3.1 billion to help 8.5 million people in dire need of humanitarian aid in 2024. The UN refugee agency is seeking \$1.1 billion to support 2.3 million Ukrainian refugees and their host communities. Russia's invasion, launched in February 2022, has forced some 6.3 million people to flee abroad. Four million people, including nearly one million children, remain displaced within the country, according to OCHA.—Agencies

DR Congo's ruling party secures majority in legislative elections

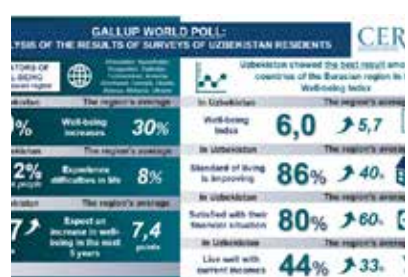
KIGALI: The Democratic Republic of Congo's ruling Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS) party of President Félix Tshisekedi won the majority of seats in December parliamentary elections, the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI). UDPS won 69 seats in the 500-member National Assembly ahead of 44 other parties, according to the results. This was followed by the Union for the Congolese Nation (UNC) party led by Tshisekedi's ally, Economy Minister Vital Kamerhe, with 36 seats. Other parties led by Tshisekedi's allies such as Senate President Modeste Bahati Lukwebo and Defense Minister Jean Pierre Bemba won 35 and 17 seats respectively. Observers say the results give Tshisekedi a comfortable majority needed to name a new government. Most of the president's allies, including National Assembly President Christophe Mboso, Senate President Modeste Bahati Lukwebo and Prime Minister Sama Lukonde, as well as deputy prime ministers such as Vital Kamerhe, Jean-Pierre Lihau and Christophe Lutundula were elected. Opposition leader Moïse Katumbi's Together for the Republic party meanwhile emerged as the main opposition force with 22 seats, despite the fact that some of its main cadres, including spokesman Herve Diakiese, failed to sail through. The UDPS and its coalition controlled over 390 seats in the outgoing assembly. The results were announced days after the Constitutional Court confirmed Tshisekedi's re-election in the December general election. Tshisekedi, 60, took office in 2019 and is expected to be sworn in on Jan. 20 for a second five-year term to lead sub-Saharan Africa's largest country.—DNA



TRIPOLI: Ambassador Anjum Enayat, met with Mr. Tauhid Pasha, Deputy Chief of IOM Libya. During the meeting, IOM Libya assured early repatriation of stranded Pakistani migrants from Libya to Pakistan.—DNA

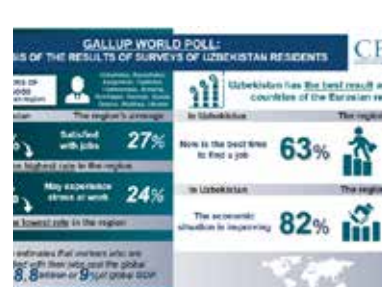
Gallup World Poll 2022: Analysis of the results of surveys of Uzbekistan residents

TASHKENT: The Center for Economic Research and Reforms (CERR) analyzed the annual Gallup World Poll, which is being prepared based on the study of public opinion. Since 2005, Gallup has been conducting an annual World Poll among 160 countries (1 thousand people per country), which accounts for 98% of the world's adult population. The Gallup World Poll consists of 100 questions and includes indexes: Law and order; Food and accommodation;



Institutes and infrastructure; Good jobs; Well-being. Gallup's study compares Uzbekistan with the countries of the post-Soviet Eurasian region. Indicators

of Well-being In 2022, the Well-being Index (from 0 to 10 points) was 6.0 points, while the region's average is estimated at 5.7 points. Consequently, Uzbekistan has shown one of the best results among the countries of the post-Soviet Eurasian region. The region of post-Soviet Eurasia includes such countries as Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Russia, Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine. According to the results of the survey in 2022, 39% of Uzbek people indicated that their well-being is currently increasing, which is significantly higher than the region's average of 30%. To evaluate life satisfaction, the results of a survey called the Cantril ladder scale are used. Respondents are asked to imagine a ladder from 0 to 10, where step 0 means the worst possible life, and step 10 means the best possible life. Only 2% of Uzbek people reported experiencing difficulties in their lives, which is 6% lower than the region's average result. Uzbekistan showed the best result among the countries of the region in the Well-being Index. At the same



time, Gallup estimated that Uzbekistan has become the fastest recovering country after the pandemic. Uzbek people rated their well-being in the next 5 years at 8.7 points. In particular, regarding expectations of future well-being, Uzbekistan showed the highest result in the region, while the region's average score was 7.4. 86% of respondents stated that standard of living is currently improving, and the average for this indicator in the region was 40%. 80% of the surveyed residents of Uzbekistan expressed their satisfaction with their current financial situation, which is also a high indicator for the region, where the average score was 60%. 44% of Uzbek people believed

that they live well with current incomes, whereas the average for the region was 33%. Indicators of good jobs 34% of workers in Uzbekistan stated they were satisfied with their jobs. This, in turn, is the highest rate in the region, where the average score was 27%. According to Gallup estimates, workers who are dissatisfied with their jobs cost the global economy \$8.8 trillion, or 9% of global GDP. 15% of workers in Uzbekistan reported that they may experience stress at work, 24% in the region. Since 2020, the share of those who believe that now is the best time to find a job has increased by 17% and amounted to 63% which is one of the highest rates in the region, where the average score was 38%. In two years,

the confidence of Uzbek people in the improvement of the country's economy has increased by 7%, reaching 82%. This indicator averaged 51% in the region. Institutions and infrastructure The confidence of Uzbek people in their government has improved and amounted to 92% in 2022, which is one of the best results among the countries of the region, where the average score was 68%. At the same time, the share of those who have confidence in judicial systems in Uzbekistan has increased by 10% in two years and amounted to 74% in 2022. This indicator is noticeably lower in the region, about 45%. On average, 55% of the region's residents have confidence in the financial sector. 82% of Uzbek people expressed "quite high" confidence in the banking and financial system. 94% of Uzbek people note "great" attention to children and youth, which is also a high indicator relative to the region's average of 76%. 93% of Uzbek respondents reported having all the opportunities for education and growth in the country, compared to 68% in the region.—DNA

Briefs

Bushra again given exemption from hearing

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A lower court in Islamabad adjourned the hearing on Monday of a petition challenging the alleged 'illegitimate' marriage between the PTI founder and Bushra Bibi. District and Sessions Courts judge Qudratullah conducted the proceedings at Adiala Jail. During the hearing, the PTI founder's presence was noted, while Bushra Bibi couldn't appear before judge. A request for exemption from the hearing, based on medical grounds, was submitted by Bushra Bibi's lawyer, a move opposed by Raja Rizwan Abbasi, the plaintiff's counsel. Abbasi argued that no medical report was presented during either the last hearing or the ongoing one. He stated that the seriousness of the charges was not being acknowledged by Bushra Bibi, and requested the court to issue her arrest warrant. In response, Bushra Bibi's counsel, Usman Gul, stated that a medical report could be submitted if the court ordered. The court, while accepting Bushra Bibi's request for exemption from the hearing, instructed Gul to ensure his client's presence on the next hearing on January 16, Tuesday. In the petition, the petitioner has asserted that Bushra Bibi had entered into a marriage with the former PTI chief before completing the 'iddah', a specified waiting period required for a Muslim widow or divorcee to legitimately remarry under Islamic jurisprudence.

Ch Shujaat moves court over family property issue

DNA

GUJRAT: Former prime minister and PML-Q leader Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain has moved to a court over property issue in Gujrat. The court on Monday stayed any new construction or changing in the current state of the Zahoor Palace in Gujrat. The court summoned Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi, Kaisera Elahi, Sumera Elahi and Kishwar Sultana on January 19. Petitioner Ch Shujaat Hussain said that his three sisters in collaboration with Pervaiz Elahi want to give their share to Pervaiz and thus want to deprive him of his share illegally. He requested the court to order the parties involved to divide the property and distribute the share among the heirs. In the case, late Zahoor Elahi's sons Wajahat Hussain and Shafat Hussain, and daughters Shehla Nayyar and Naz Zahoor are also complainants. The petition was filed by Ch Shujaat's son Salik Hussain on his father's behalf through his secretary Hafiz Aqeel Jalil.

Israeli aggression continues amid deepening Red Sea crisis

Meanwhile, Hordes of extremist Jewish settlers desecrated the Aqsa Mosque in Occupied Jerusalem morning and later in the afternoon

NEWS DESK

GAZA: The Ministry of Health in Gaza reported on Monday that the death toll resulting from the Israeli genocidal war on the Strip has reached 24,100 martyrs and 60,834 injuries after 101 days of war. This death toll, however, remains provisional, as thousands of Palestinians remain missing or under the rubble since October 7. The health ministry in Gaza said on Monday that the Israeli occupation army committed, over the past 24 hours, 12 massacres in the Gaza Strip, which resulted in the martyrdom of at least 132 civilians and the injury of 252 others. In a brief statement, the health ministry said that the death toll from the ongoing Israeli bombardments, which started on October 7, climbed to 24,100 martyrs and the number of the wounded surged to 60,834 people. Every day, the Israeli army escalates its air and ground attacks on the Gaza Strip, which has been under relentless bombardment since a cross-border operation was launched by Hamas's armed wing, al-Qasam Brigades, on October 7. Besides the large number of casualties and the huge displacement of people, basic food, fuel, water and medical supplies

have run out for the 2.3 million residents in Gaza due to the tight Israeli blockade and the massive destruction of infrastructure and facilities. Meanwhile, Hordes of extremist Jewish settlers desecrated the Aqsa Mosque in Occupied Jerusalem on Monday morning and later in the afternoon. According to local sources, dozens of settlers entered the Mosque in groups through its Maghariba Gate and toured its courtyards under tight police guard. A number of settlers escorted by police officers also gathered in the eastern area of the Mosque and embarked on performing Talmudic prayers. Meanwhile, the Israeli occupation police prevented Muslim worshippers from entering the Islamic holy site during the settler tours. Meanwhile, The official spokesman for Hamas Movement, Sami Abu Zuhri, stressed the strength of the Palestinian resistance and its ability to withstand and continue the battle (against the Israeli aggression), no matter how long it lasts. Speaking to Al-Araby Al-Jadeed, at the Tunisian Forum organized by the People's Movement, Abu Zuhri explained that "Palestine is part of the Muslim and Arab nation; therefore, whoever wants to eliminate Palestine has to eliminate the entire nation." He pointed out that "South Africa has succeeded in bringing the Israeli occupation to International Court

of Justice (ICJ), for the first time in the occupation's history," saying that "the mere convening of ICJ is 'a slap in the face of Israel.'" Leaders of various Palestinian resistance factions participated in the Tunisian Forum, that was held on Saturday and Sunday. It recommended the formation of a committee to follow up on its outcomes. A member of the Executive Office of the Islamic Jihad Movement, Ihsan Ataya, welcomed the forum and called it fruitful and unconventional, asserting that the Palestinian resistance will definitely triumph. The Secretary-General of the People's Movement in Tunisia, Zuhair Al-Maghzawi, stressed the demand to open Rafah border crossing to put an end to the grave humanitarian tragedy in Gaza. For his part, the Hamas official Bassem Naim explained that the Israeli occupation failed to achieve its goals after 100 days of its ongoing aggression on the besieged Gaza Strip. Hussein Ghabris, member of the Association of Muslim Scholars in Lebanon, opined that "the victory of the Palestinians is so imminent despite Israel's threats and unsupportive official and popular Arabic positions." Meanwhile, The Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research has said that the war also led to a significant decline in the standing of the Palestinian Authority's

leadership. "Support for Hamas in the West Bank increased considerably by more than three times to 44 percent but increased slightly in the Gaza Strip to 42 percent. Support for Fatah [a secular political party that dominates in the government of the Palestinian Authority] dropped considerably to 17 percent only (16 in the West Bank and 18 in the Gaza Strip)," according to the findings. The poll also found that the October 7 war also led to a significant rise in support for armed struggle in the occupied West Bank. Meanwhile, After a visit, the World Health Organization (WHO) has provided a more detailed picture of the situation inside two major Gaza health facilities, including Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital. It said after a withdrawal this month by Doctors Without Borders (Medecins Sans Frontieres, or MSF) and two other aid organisations, the hospital is even more short-staffed with only 12 health workers remaining, which is 10 percent of its total workforce. "Only two doctors are available to treat the wounded in the emergency department, and maternity services have shut down," it said, adding food, water and fuel are scarce. The WHO also reported the 360-bed Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis remains overstretched with 700 patients, double its normal capacity.

NP delegates call on Nawaz

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) top leader Nawaz Sharif has met a delegation of the National Party (NP). The NP 6-member delegation was led by party president Dr Abdul Malik Baloch. Nawaz paid tribute to late Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo for his service for the national cause while Baloch greeted Nawaz for his acquittals of various cases. The leaders deliberated on political collaboration and upcoming election on Feb 8. The NP president paid homage to the PML-N supremo for his vision of Balochistan and agreed upon enhancing political cooperation between the two parties. PML-N's Shehbaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz and Balochistan PML-N president Jaffar Khan Mandokhail Khail and others were present on occasion.

Nauru cuts diplomatic ties with Taiwan

DNA

BEIJING: One of Taiwan's last diplomatic allies has cut ties with the island in favour of Beijing, just days after a new president was voted in in Taipei. Nauru, a tiny Micronesian island, was just one of 12 countries that kept diplomatic ties with Taipei. But in recent years, Beijing - which insists Taiwan is part of China - has been poaching its diplomatic allies. Taiwan suggests this latest loss is related to the weekend's election results, which angered China. The election saw voters pick pro-sovereignty candidate William Lai as their next president, a man Beijing has labelled a "troublemaker" over remarks he made in the past supporting Taiwanese independence, which it sees as a red line. "This timing is not only China's retaliation against our democratic elections but also a direct challenge to the international order," Taiwanese officials said after Nauru's government announced it would "no longer recognise [Taiwan] as a separate country but rather as an inalienable part of China's territory". In a media conference on Monday, Taipei's deputy foreign minister Tien Chung-kwang accused China of taking advantage of recent "political fluctuations" in Nauru to "buy over" the country with financial aid.



ISLAMABAD: General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman JCSC, meets with Qatar's ambassador, Al bin Mubarak Al Khater where bilateral relations between the two countries were discussed. - DNA

Women contesting polls 2024 on general seats

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) issued 'record' National Assembly tickets to 21 women

MONITORING DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's elections in 2024 are around the corner and political parties have fielded their candidates for respective constituencies as ECP allotted electoral symbols as well. Meanwhile, women candidates are also contesting in the male-dominated electoral competition. The total number of registered voters in the country reached 127m from the erstwhile 106m, with an addition of 11.74 million women, compared to 9.28m male voters, to the electoral rolls since the 2018 general elections. Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PMLN) has allotted six general seats tickets to female candidates including PML-N chief organizer Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Saira Afzal Tarar, Nosheen Iftikhar, Shazra Mansab Ali, Tehmina Daultana and Syeda Shehbanu Bukhari. Pakistan People's Party (PPP) fielded Nafisa Shah and Shazia Marri as ticket holders in National Assembly general seats. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) issued 'record' National Assembly tickets to 21 women. In Punjab, former MNA Iman Tahir Sadiq from Attock, former MPA Seemabia Tahir from Rawalpindi, former adviser to Prime Minister Usman Dar from Sialkot Rehana Imtiaz Dar, former MNA from Lahore Alia Hamza Malik, former provincial minister Dr. Yasmin Rashid, Sidra Faisal from Kasur, MehrBano Qureshi daughter of Shah Mahmood Qureshi from Multan, Ayesha Nazir Jatt daughter of former MNA Nazir Jatt from Vehari, Mrs. Talat Basra wife of Shaikat Basra from Bahawalnagar, former MNA Kanwal Shuzab from Bahawalpur. PTI allotted National Assembly tickets to Mrs. Qamar Javed Waraich from Rahim Yar Khan (RYK), Mrs. Humira Ahmad Khan from Muzaffargarh, Mrs. Anbar Majeed Niazi, wife of ex-MNA Majeed Niazi from Layyah, former minister Zartaj Gul Wazir from Dera Ghazi Khan (D.I. Khan). Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) issued National Assembly tickets to Umbreen Malik from Khairpur, Hamida Masood Shah from Sanghar, Maherul Nasa Baloch from Tharparkar, Nazish Fatima Bhatti from Matiari, Rozeena Bhutto from Tando Ulyar, Shabana Nawab-Bajarani from Dadu and former MNA Shandana Gulzar was given ticket from Peshawar in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa NA-30 Peshawar. IPP Firdous Ashiq Awan has been contesting elections from NA-130 of Sialkot.

'US can't call for restraint while backing Israel'

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian cautioned that Washington and London are fanning the flames of tensions in West Asia by striking war-torn Yemen, and further said Sana'a has informed Tehran over its determination to continue targeting Israeli-bound vessels in the Red Sea as long as the regime's war against the Gaza Strip has not come to a complete end. During a joint press conference with his Indian counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaishankar in Tehran on Monday, Amir Abdollahian stated that Sana'a has assured Tehran that Yemenis won't endanger maritime navigation, but "they maintain that they will act against the Israeli ships as long as the war on Gaza persists". The Iranian diplomat expressed Tehran's support for the security of the shipping industry in the region, adding his country insists on the avoidance of expansion of war. The US and UK, supported by several other countries, carried out a series of missile strikes on several Yemeni targets in the early hours of Friday in response to the country's armed forces targeting shipping routes in the Red Sea. Following the raids, Yemen announced that Washington and London interests are "legitimate targets" for the country's armed forces. Yemen has pledged solidarity with the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip which has been under Israel's relentless bombardment since early October, and vowed not to stop attacking Israeli-owned and -bound merchant vessels in the strategic maritime route until the Zionist regime ends its ongoing war in the besieged territory. The country's army has warned that the American and British naval fleet will be a "legitimate" target for the following air strikes. Amir Abdollahian warned Washington and London to stop their military actions against Yemen as well as the war on Gaza which has so far claimed the lives of 24,000 Palestinians, mainly children and women.

Palestinian PM stresses urgent ICJ decision to stop Israel's aggression

The Premiere demanded that the aggression against Palestinian people must be stopped, sufficient quantities of food and humanitarian aid be brought in, and the power station and water network be restarted

DNA

RAMALLAH: Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayeh stressed the necessity of issuing an urgent decision from the International Court of Justice to stop the ongoing aggression for the 101st day in a row against the Gaza Strip, which is exposed to the hellish catastrophes such as ethnic cleansing, genocide, starvation, abuse, torture, and daily killing that has so far claimed many victims, whereas nearly 100,000 people

are killed, wounded, and missing. This came during the weekly Cabinet session held in the city of Ramallah, the Prime Minister expressed his hope that the court's decision will be professional and legal, based on international law and international humanitarian law, and that the initial decision will be about stopping the aggression before the judges are replaced by the end of this month. He pointed out that 101 days have passed since the Gaza Strip was in darkness without electricity, cutting off water, preventing medicine and communications, and

slow and rapid death that claimed the lives of children, women and the elderly, in addition to those who were displaced from their destroyed homes, estimated at about 1.7 million people. The Premiere demanded that the aggression against Palestinian people must be stopped, sufficient quantities of food and humanitarian aid be brought in, and the power station and water network be restarted. Regarding Israel's deduction of funds from Palestinian clearing fund, he said that what is required is "to transfer our funds, from which Israel is still deducting what we spend on the Gaza Strip, and to the families of slain Palestinians and prisoners, and thus we have refused to receive these deficient funds." Shtayeh added that the United States, Europe, and Israel's sponsors are required to stop the crimes of Israel as it does not listen to anyone, and that they must move from political pampering to sanctions against this criminal state. "We will demand that Israel in international courts bear the full costs of everything it destroyed in the Gaza Strip, and bear full responsibility for the lives of our people it has committed crimes against," he added. He expressed his hope that the international press would be allowed to reach the Gaza Strip, so that the crimes committed there would be documented as Israel prevents the international press from accessing.



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e-mail: abrar_associates@yahoo.com | www.drabrarassociates.com
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