



Islamabad POST

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Indonesia preparing to challenge Israeli occupation at ICJ

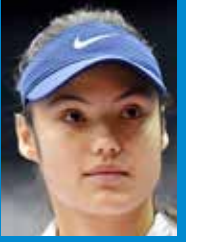
Detailed News On Page-07

Empowering LG system vital for development

Detailed News On Page-08

Emma breezes into Australian Open 2nd round

Detailed News On Page-06



Upbeat of winning election

Bilawal warns against politics of score-settling

“We thwarted the conspiracy to establish a one unit once again,” Bilawal says during rally in Naudero

NAZIR SIYAL

LARKANA: Taking a veiled jibe at Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Tuesday said the people will suffer if a “person is imposed” on them for the fourth time. “If a person is imposed for the fourth time, it will harm the people,” said the PPP chief. These comments by the young PPP politician – who is set to contest his second general elections on February 8 – came during his election campaign rally in Naudero, a town in Sindh’s Larkana district. With just a few weeks left in the country’s crucial general polls, Bilawal was addressing a charged crowd in his native town emphasising on the party’s belief in democracy. “We thwarted the conspiracy to establish a one unit once again, while the conspiracies to become Amirul Momineen also failed,” he said, hinting at the PML-N supremo’s plans to lead the country yet again. The former foreign minister, in his speech, said his party had fought against all the forces that wanted to attack the rights of the people. “You have to reach every door by becoming my voice and representative. Convey my message and manifesto. Help PPP succeed in forming a people’s government and not one of the old politics of politicians,” said Bilawal. The Bhutto scion said the PPP thinks, works and sacrifices for the nation, while other politicians only think for themselves. He added that there is an economic crisis on one hand, while a political one on the other. “The people of Pakistan are suffering from the impact of the situation in Afghanistan. No one cares about the suffering of the people. They do not know the effects of the decisions made in Islamabad and due to these decisions, Pakistan has historical inflation, unemployment and poverty.” Lamenting over the politics of hatred and division in society, Bilawal said:

Continued on Page 06

ECP ‘can delay polls in pockets’

Says ballot papers printing has already started

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is mulling over the prospects of delaying polls for some constituencies if high courts allow independent candidates to change their electoral symbols, citing people familiar with the matter a private news channel reported. Pakistan’s general elections have already been delayed by months, with some political actors demanding further postponements citing various reasons. However, the Supreme Court has directed officials to ensure polls take place on February 8. In a meeting headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja, the issue of appeals before high courts seeking changes in symbols was put forward, to which it was suggested that the dates could be amended for certain constituencies, the people said. Also, in a statement, the election commission said that the process of printing ballot papers for general polls has started. “It began a day earlier,” the statement noted. The body will be printing hundreds of thousands of ballot

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: US Ambassador to Pakistan, Donald Blome called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force. – DNA

Strategic ties

US envoy, Air Chief discuss air force collaboration

The visiting envoy lauded the commendable level of professionalism of Pakistan Air Force personnel and acknowledged the remarkable strides made by PAF through indigenization under the current leadership

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Donald Blome called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force in his office today. During the meeting, both dignitaries expressed their mutual desire to elevate the training momentum between the two sides through enhanced collaboration in air force to air force mutual exercises. Furthermore, they emphasized the importance of fostering a robust exchange of delegations and knowledge sharing to bolster the capabilities of both the PAF and the US Air Force. The discussion also centered around collaboration in the recently established techno parks, with a focus on leveraging technological advancements to enhance operational effectiveness and efficiency. The reorganization of mutual cooperation parameters was also deliberated upon, with an aim to fortify existing ties

and explore new avenues for joint ventures and strategic partnerships. The Air Chief accentuated the cordial relations that exist between the two nations while emphasizing his steadfast determination to elevate the existing synergistic partnership between the two key allies. Chief of the Air Staff further said, “Pakistan deeply values its robust diplomatic, economic and defence ties with the United States of America which are firmly rooted in mutual consensus concerning all important matters pertaining to regional peace, security and stability.” The visiting envoy lauded the commendable level of professionalism of Pakistan Air Force personnel and acknowledged the remarkable strides made by PAF through indigenization under the current leadership. The US Ambassador also expressed his admiration for Pakistan’s unwavering commitment to facilitate regional peace and stability. Both sides concurred to

Continued on Page 06

JIT to probe SM campaign against SC judges

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The caretaker government on Tuesday constituted a six-member joint investigation team (JIT) to “ascertain facts behind malicious social media campaign” against Supreme Court judges. According to a notification issued by the interior ministry, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com, the committee was formed under Section 30 (power to investigate) of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016. The JIT would be convened by the additional director general of the Federal Investigation Agency’s Cyber Crime Wing. It also comprises representatives of the Intelligence Bureau, Inter-Services

Continued on Page 06

KP: Police foil terror attacks

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: A terrorist attack on the Peezo police station was foiled by the police in Lakki Marwat district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The attack was foiled as the terrorists opened fire and attempted to hit the police station with hand grenades, the police mentioned. Following retaliatory fire by the police personnel, the assailants escaped, the police said, adding that there was no casualty. Meanwhile, an attempt to attack the 15 Police post at the Gundi Chowk was also thwarted in the morning, the police added. For the past few years, KP has yet again seen an alarming surge in

Continued on Page 06

Court drops illicit relations case

Court indicts Bushra, Imran Khan in 'un-Islamic' nikah case

Imran was present before judge; Bushra did not appear; case filed by Khawar Maneka

Maryam pledges to work 'day and night'

ABBAS HASHMI

LAHORE: Maryam Nawaz, Chief Organiser of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), on Wednesday declared that February 8 will resound with the roar of the “lion”, her party’s election symbol. Addressing a rally in Lahore’s Gajju Matta, Maryam expressed gratitude for the warm reception, stating, “Gajju Matta, I thank you wholeheartedly for your overwhelming welcome. You have chosen me, and in return, I promise to serve day and night for the welfare of the people if you help bring

Continued on Page 06



COURT REPORTER

RAWALPINDI: A local court Tuesday indicted Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, in a case of solemnising their marriage against Islamic laws. Imran, a former prime minister who was removed from power in April 2022, and his wife have denied all charges in the case registered by Bushra’s former husband, Khawar Maneka,

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Sh Rashid arrested in May 9 case

FAISAL SHEIKH

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid has been arrested from outside a courtroom after his bail was rejected in a case related to the May 9 riots, Geo News reported on Tuesday. A case was registered against Rashid for vandalism at the Metro bus station situated at Sixth Road in Rawalpindi. The former interior minister is being shifted to New Town Police Station. An ATC, which rejected his bail, later adjourned the hearing of the riots-related cases till January 25. The former interior minister, however, denies all allegations.

PTI rules out internal differences

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: PTI Spokesperson vehemently rejected the contents of the political press conference by the representatives of PBC and SCBA, which was part of the same scheme under which the door of free and fair elections have been closed by the court upon 12.5 million voters of the country. Strongly reacting to the press conference of PBC and SCBA’s representatives, PTI Spokesperson completely rejected the contents of the press conference and said that the decision of the top court stripping PTI of its electoral symbol “bat” was absolutely flawed and offensive, which opened the door of a very dangerous distortion in the constitutional and democratic scheme of the country.

Self-reliance, technology essential for defence: COAS

COAS witnessed wide range of POF Products including indigenously designed and manufactured new weapons and ammo under test & trials

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim

Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF) Wah. COAS was briefed about produc-



tion capabilities of POF, its contributions towards fulfilling the defence requirements of the Pakistan Armed Forces and export potential. COAS witnessed wide range of POF Products including indigenously designed and manufactured new weapons and ammo under test & trials. While addressing the POF officers and staff, COAS appreciated their contributions to the security and economy of the country by making POF the prime defence industry of Pakistan. “Path to national progress is defined by indigenously and local industries like POF Wah. We will continue to work for self reliance and latest technology which is essential towards ensuring reliability and strengthening the defence of Pakistan.” COAS remarked. Earlier on arrival, COAS was received by Chairman POF Wah.

TURKISH AIRLINES

BEST PART OF THE JOURNEY

Stopover IN ISTANBUL

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT: TURKISHAIRLINES.COM

Facebook: [/Turkishairlines](https://www.facebook.com/Turkishairlines) #paKistanbul

+92 21 306 02 333 | FREEHOTELQTRVY.COM

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Economy (ECONOMY CLASS PASSENGERS CAN ENJOY TRAVEL FOR FREE IN A 5 STAR HOTEL)

FREE ACCOMMODATION (FOR LIMITED KINGDOM, IRELAND, USA, ICELAND PASSENGERS)

Business (BUSINESS CLASS PASSENGERS CAN ENJOY 3 NIGHTS FOR FREE IN A 5 STAR HOTEL)

EASY VISA (FOR LIMITED KINGDOM, IRELAND, USA, ICELAND PASSENGERS)

Free medical camp established by PN in Kappar, Balochistan

The establishment of medical camp at Kappar is practical manifestation of Pakistan Navy's resolve for uplift of coastal belt

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI : In continuation to efforts for uplifting to provide standard health facilities along the Coastal areas of country, Pakistan Navy established free medical camp at Coastal village Kappar, Balochistan. Free medical camp was established by Pakistan Navy doctors, paramedic staff in collaboration with Sahil Welfare Associa-

tion. In this medical camp hundreds of patients including women and children were provided free medical treatment. A dedicated team of doctors and paramedic staff comprising of Medical, ENT, General Surgeon, Gynecologist, Skin Specialist and GDMO examined the patients and provided them with free consultation and medicines. The local populace of the area was also provided information about maternal health and nutritional requirements

of mother and children. The patients were enlightened about common infections, personal health, hygiene, child healthcare and prevention of diseases and sanitation of living areas. Pakistan Navy is committed to provide continued quality medical facility for the people settled along the Coastal belt. The establishment of medical camp at Kappar is practical manifestation of Pakistan Navy's resolve for uplift of coastal belt.



Ashrafi greets SA for initiating ICJ case on Palestine

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister's Special Representative for Religious Harmony and Pakistani Diaspora in the Middle East and Muslim Countries, Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Tuesday congratulated the people and the Government of South Africa for filing a case in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) concerning the Palestine issue. He was talking to South Africa's High Commissioner to Pakistan, Mthuzuzeli Madikiza during a meeting at the latter's office, a news release said. Ashrafi said both the people and the Government of Pakistan appreciated the initiative taken by South Africa. South Africa's High Mthuzuzeli Madikiza affirmed his country's solidarity with the Palestinian people in the face of oppression. —APP

Punjab introduces e-registry system to combat fraud

ATTOCK : Punjab Land Record Authority (PLRA) Chairman Shahid Hussain Janjua on Tuesday announced the implementation of an e-registry system across the province. According to Official Sources, in a move towards transparency and efficiency, the Punjab Land Record Authority (PLRA) is set to implement an e-registry system across the province. This groundbreaking system, announced by Chairman Shahid Hussain Janjua, aims to eliminate concerns of fraud and corruption in property transactions. —APP

LESCO recovers over Rs 24m from 904 defaulters

LAHORE : Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) in collaboration with Tehsildars (Recovery) has recovered Rs 24 million from 904 dead defaulters in all the five districts - Lahore, Sheikhpura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara - on the 124th day of its recovery campaign. LESCO spokesman told media here Tuesday that on the 124th day, Chief Engineer O&M (T&G) Zafar Iqbal with the support of Tehsildar City Mujahid Zia and Tehsildar Shalimar Noreez Humayun recovered outstanding dues of Rs 13.01 million from 375 defaulters in Northern Circle and Rs 2.95 million from 81 defaulters in Eastern Circle respectively. Similarly, LESCO Manager (Material Disposal) Engineer Anwar Watto along with Tehsildar Model Town Rana Ahsan and Tehsildar Cant. Sajjad Qureshi recovered Rs 3.04 million from 69 defaulters in Central Circle,

and Rs 1.27 million from 39 defaulters in South Circle; while Manager (Technical) Engineer Muhammad Farooq with the assistance of Tehsildar Nankana Sahib Muhammad Iqbal Rasheed and Tehsildar Sheikhpura Muhammad Aslam Gujjar recovered Rs 0.52 million from 47 defaulters in Nankana Sahib Circle and Rs 1.89 million from 86 defaulters in Sheikhpura Circle. He added that LESCO Manager E&S (PMU) Engineer Abbas Ali in collaboration with Naib Tehsildar Kasur and Okara Mirza Zahid Baig recovered outstanding dues of Rs 1.05 million from 118 defaulters in Okara Circle and Rs 1.20 million from 89 defaulters in Kasur Circle. Up till now during the recovery campaign, the LESCO with the help of Tehsildars (Recovery) recovered more than Rs 1.990 billion from 67,919 dead defaulters in its all circles of operation. He elaborated that LESCO recovered outstand-

ing dues of Rs 265.33 million from 9,280 defaulters in Northern Circle; Rs 489.19 million from 8,930 defaulters in Eastern Circle; Rs 255.84 million from 7,684 defaulters in Central Circle; Rs 109.15 million from 3,892 defaulters in South Circle, Rs 170.90 million from 6,192 defaulters in Nankana Sahib Circle; Rs 296.06 million from 8,258 defaulters in Sheikhpura Circle; Rs 126.38 million from 10,784 defaulters in Okara Circle and Rs 286.69 million from 12,899 defaulters in Kasur Circle. For the recovery campaign started on September 13, the Lahore Division's Commissioner had assigned additional charge of Tehsildar Recovery (from LESCO defaulters) to relevant Tehsildars, while LESCO Chief Executive Officer Engineer Shahid Haider has also designated four senior officers to assist them in the dues recovery from defaulters. —APP

Mayor orders removal of KMC land encroachments

DNA

KARACHI : The Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that the Land department should take immediate action to get rid of the encroachments of KMC lands, and ensure attending of pending cases related to KMC huts at Hawks Bay and other KMC lands. The Mayor Karachi said this while presiding over a meeting of the Land Department in his office. He said that the reduction in KMC's revenue will not be tolerated and a report related to revenue should be submitted

within 15 days. Municipal Commissioner Syed Afzal Zaidi, Mayor Karachi Special Representative for Political Affairs Karamullah Waqasi, Deputy Parliamentary Leader in the City Council Dil Muhammad, Financial Advisor Intiaz Abro, Director Land Sabah-ul-Islam and other officers were also present on the occasion. The Mayor Karachi said that due to the cases pending in the courts related to KMC land, recovery is decreasing and it would be better that people do not destroy institutions and the city for the sake of personal business, the officers of the Land De-

partment should formulate a strategy in consultation with the Law Department and the information and records required in various cases should be presented on the hearing of the cases, issue special instructions to the concerned staff for this. Barrister Murtaza Wahab directed the Director Land to improve the situation of recovery in land revenue, lease, mutation and other matters from KMC land at all costs, the money earned from KMC lands will be used for development of the city. No one should have any doubt in this regard, notices should be sent without delay to the institutions

or individuals for recovery of dues and a time frame should be fixed for recovery, he said. He said that KMC records in the land department should also be computerized as soon as possible, which will be uploaded on the official website of KMC. The performance Of the Land department and other revenue related departments of KMC is being constantly reviewed. KMC departments have to be activated so that every officer and subordinate staff discharge their professional responsibilities in a timely and excellent manner.



ISLAMABAD : leader of the house in the senate, Muhammad Ishaq Dar being welcomed by the Chinese ambassador Jiang Zaidong at Chinese Embassy.—DNA

IGP reviews up-gradation of civil lines police station

DNA

RAWALPINDI : Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr Usman Anwar here on Tuesday visited Special Initiative Police Station Civil Lines and reviewed its up-gradation work. He directed the officers concerned to complete all the projects within the stipulated time frame. Regional Police Officer Rawalpindi Syed Khurram Ali, City Police Officer, Rawalpindi Syed Khalid Hamdani and other senior officers were present on the occasion. The IGP inspected different parts of the police station and appreciated its up-gradation work in a short span of time.

Rawalpindi police officers briefed the IGP regarding ongoing projects. All projects should be completed as soon as possible, the IGP directed the authorities. He said Rawalpindi Safe City is a very important project and its completion would help improve policing in the city. Completion of Special Initiative Police Stations in record time is a major achievement, he appreciated. Special Initiative Police Stations were ensuring the best environment and better service delivery to the citizens, Dr Usman Anwar said adding.

Chinese envoy assures coop with next govt :Dar

DNA

ISLAMABAD : Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar—Leader of the House in the Senate—met with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zedong where both sides agreed that the Pakistan-China iron brotherhood was the axis of peace, stability, and common prosperity in the region and beyond. Senator Ishaq Dar said that Pakistan-China friendship and cooperation are very important for regional peace and development and Sin-Pak friendship has become

a comprehensive strategic partnership—equally important for the prosperity, well-being, peace, and stability of the entire region. Senator Ishaq Dar visited the Chinese Embassy on the invitation of Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zedong wherein both sides discussed in detail the strengthening of existing economic and strategic cooperation and investment opportunities in Pakistan. Senator Dar appreciated China's continuous support to Pakistan during all kinds of difficult and crises and natural calamities. He said: "There are vast

opportunities for further cooperation between the two countries in the fields of agriculture, trade, investment, IT and finance." The Chinese Ambassador welcomed Senator Ishaq Dar's sentiments of goodwill and friendship towards the Chinese people and government. The Chinese ambassador reiterated China's commitment to work closely with the next elected government of Pakistan after the February 2024 general elections. "The purpose of CPEC is to promote joint development in the region," Chinese ambassador.

Sindh, UNICEF partner to track out-of-school children

KARACHI : In a landmark decision, the School Education Department Sindh, in collaboration with UNICEF, has decided to establish a Dashboard to streamline the collection of information regarding out-of-school children from various sources. During a meeting with the Deputy Country Representative of UNICEF, Dr. Inoussa Kabore, led the delegation, Provincial Minister for Education and Women's Rights, Rana Hussein, reached a consensus on integrating data from three key sources within the department. The Data Board will incorporate the School Education Management Information System (SEMIS), Monitoring and Evaluation (DG M&E), and Human

Resource Management Information System (HRMIS) data to create a comprehensive platform. Speaking on the occasion caretaker Minister Education Rana Hussain said that this initiative aims to facilitate informed and data driven decision-making and actions based on accurate statistics. Secretary School Education Sindh, Shereen Mustafa Narejo, and other officials were present at the meeting. Minister Rana Hussein emphasized that the integration of data sources onto a single platform would simplify access to accurate information for students, teachers, schools, and other resources. She further highlighted its potential to address issues related to book

printing and distribution, furniture, and maintaining an appropriate student-teacher ratio. Dr. Inoussa Kabore, Deputy Country Representative of UNICEF, stressed the importance of accurate data collection for out-of-school children. He assured UNICEF's commitment to providing every possible assistance, stating that the ongoing Rolling Work Plan (RWP) in Sindh, with a budget of 7 million dollars, would prioritize the establishment of a Dashboard for the out-of-school children census. Additionally, various initiatives aimed at advancing education in Sindh will be implemented. The meeting also delved into discussions about new projects under the Global Partnership Grant for Education. —APP

Silent crisis: climate change and its impacts on Pakistan

RIDA SHAHZAD

Pakistan is geographically located in a region, where the impact of climate change has been strongly felt. Climate change is one of the most leading challenge faced by Pakistan today and Pakistan is not alone in this, many developed countries are facing the same issue, making it a global issue. Climate change has drastically affected our country leading to the issues of global warming, heatwaves, floods and an unprecedented rise in temperature. Many factors have contributed in this issue, those include; deforestation, air pollution and the government's negligence and mismanagement towards this issue. According to Inform Risk Index, Pakistan has some of the highest disaster risk levels in the world, ranked 18 out of 191 countries. Climate change is more than an environmental disaster, it is also a social and economic crisis that requires us to confront issues of inequality on many levels. Due to climate change in Pakistan, major

human health consequences occur such as starvation, vector-borne diseases like dengue fever and an increase in the burden of aquatic infections. Monsoon rains triggered Pakistan's most devastating floods in recent decades. Pakistan has been hit by a number of floods in the past as well but 2022, floods in Pakistan submerged one third of the country, affecting 33million people, half of them were children. As a result of those devastating floods many people lost their lives, went missing and many of them lost their houses as well. Some of the major factors that contributed to these floods were: the monsoon rains, intense heatwave as well as the melting of the glaciers, all of these factors are linked to the issue of climate change in one way or the other. As a result, the local people have urged the authorities to take more strict actions in order to combat this issue. UNICEF play a critical role along with other local NGOs in providing shelters, medicine's and education to children affected by 2022 floods were remarkable. But, here yet again the question rises that why does our government fails to provide these basic health and

educational facilities to the flood affected people every single time? The reason for this is their lack of concern, they are more interested in their political careers rather than actually doing something for the benefit of those people. Smog in Pakistan has become another alarming environmental concern, particularly in the urban areas like Lahore and Karachi. This hazardous blend of smoke and fog is primarily the result of vehicle's emissions, industrial pollution and crop residue burning. Every year during the winter months, the dense smog engulfs these cities, leading to health problems and reduced visibility. Salman Kazmi, a doctor at Lahore main Mayo Hospital, advised residents to wear masks and staying at home to avoid getting rushed to hospitals. Environmentalist Rafi Alam said that the government policies aimed at combating are made only in haste, which are of no use. Government should made efforts to combat issues like smog by take initiatives to improve air quality, promote cleaner energy sources and raise awareness about the harmful effects of smog on all levels. Former Foreign Minister and PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto

Zardari was at a seminar on "The Urgency OF Action: Climate Change and it's Implications on Human Rights in Pakistan said that Pakistan with it's vast landscape and rich history, was the epicenter of climate crisis and the evidence was clear and could not be ignored. He also noticed that access to clean air and safe drinking water were not luxuries, but basic human rights, which were as essential as freedom of speech, promise of good education and assurance of a fair trail. Other speakers including PPP Vice President Sherry Rehman also mentioned, that we are not the cause of global warming. She also added that rich countries and rich people are the least to be affected by the effects of climate change, but the developing countries and the poor are the first to be affected. Pakistan's former Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal also told reporters that "we want to showcase this to the developed world that the quality of life that people in the west are enjoying today, someone is paying the price for it in the developing world .



ANYONE WHO'S SOMEONE...
reads Centreline

MEMBER APRIS Monthly ABC CENTRELINE
CENTRELINE
Largest Diplomatic Magazine

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

National Days and Armed Forces Days

JANUARY

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

Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



Enquiry

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



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

PIDE moot held on discussion for a clear reform agenda

Dr. Haque underscored the crucial need to recognize the historically passive nature of the demand side for reforms throughout the country's history. Addressing this passivity, he argued, is pivotal in fostering a more engaged and participative society as the nation seeks a path towards sustainable and impactful reforms

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, once envisioned as the next Asian Tiger, finds itself grappling with persistent governance challenges since its inception into the League of Nations. Despite successive governments' promises of transformative change and substantial reforms, the efforts undertaken appear akin to attempting to bail out a sinking ship with a thimble. The enduring consequence is shouldered by the people of Pakistan, who continue to bear the brunt of these challenges. These sentiments were articulated by Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, Vice Chancellor of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), during the opening of the Third Think Tank Moot, a collaborative initiative by PIDE and its partners. Dr. Haque underscored the crucial need to recognize the historically passive nature of the demand side for reforms throughout the country's history. Addressing this passivity, he argued, is pivotal in fostering a more engaged and participative society as the nation seeks a path towards sustainable and impactful reforms. Dr. Haque further noted that political party manifestos often highlight broad policy directions and commitments. Ideally, these commitments should be thoroughly evaluated when a party assumes power. With the upcoming General Elections scheduled for the 8th of February 2024, it is disheartening to observe the absence of discussions among political parties regarding a clear reform agenda aligned with the country's pressing needs. PIDE



Pro VC Dr. Durre Nayab delivered a compelling address at a recent Think Tank Moot, highlighting crucial perspectives on urban development and governance. Dr. Nayab stressed the paramount importance of respecting the heterogeneity of cities, underlining the need for policies that cater to the unique characteristics of each urban center. A critical observation surfaced concerning the challenges faced by vibrant cities within the existing governing structure, prompting the call for transformative policies to unlock the full potential of urban areas. Emphasizing the instrumental role of local governments, Dr. Nayab asserted their key position in delivering essential services, advocating for a decentralized approach to address the specific needs of local communities. Notably, the Pro VC argued that true decentralization can only be achieved by granting au-

tonomy to locally elected councils in their spending and planning decisions. This perspective calls for a fundamental reevaluation of governance structures to empower local authorities and shape more responsive and vibrant urban environments. Dr. Durre Nayab's insights offer a compelling vision for a paradigm shift in urban policies, urging stakeholders to embrace diversity, overcome governance challenges, and empower local governments for effective decentralization. Dr. Shujaat Farooq, Chief Research PIDE, earlier, provided background on the Think Tank Moot, highlighting its role as a unique platform for esteemed partners and thought leaders to collectively address transformative and sustainable reforms. He said that the PIDE has formulated a reform agenda "Transforming Economy & Society" identifying ten priority themes i.e., political

stability, reforms in civil service, productivity and competition, fiscal management, building social infrastructure, market efficiency, etc. In this context, PIDE organized 4th moot with Think-Tanks and Partners to present its reform agenda. The idea is to have a collective intellectual capital and action, instead of working in silos, with minimum to zero influence over policy-making. During the Moot, speakers from different think tank underscored the significance of transforming the economy and society in Pakistan, emphasizing the multifaceted nature of this imperative endeavor. They stressed that addressing the challenges and opportunities faced by the nation requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach. There was a unanimous acknowledgment and praise for PIDE's Reform Agenda, recognizing it as the need of the hour for Pakistan.

Participants voiced a collective concern that if attention is not directed towards these critical issues now, the consequences may become insurmountable in the future. The urgency of embracing reform for the betterment of Pakistan was emphasized, with the consensus that proactive measures are essential to avoid reaching a point of no return. Representatives from various organizations convened, creating a diverse assembly that included Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University, National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), Pakistan Science Foundation, Quaid-i-Azam University, American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association (AFTMA), Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development (AHKNCRD), Centre for International Strategic Studies (CISS), National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS), Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), World Bank, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), COMSATS, Establishment Division, Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), Prime Consultant, IIIE Institute of Islamic Information and Education, National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), Population Council, Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Independent News Pakistan (INP) Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), NUML, Beijing Institute of Technology, and National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW). This gathering reflected a broad spectrum of expertise and perspectives across academia, research, policy, and international relations.

'PPP believes in transparent elections, sanctity of vote'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Shazia Marri Tuesday said that elections are part of democracy and PPP truly believed in the transparency of elections and the sanctity of public votes for the betterment of the country. Talking to a Private news channel, she said that equal opportunities to all political parties and every party had full right to participate in the elections, adding, polls would have no credibility if one party was kept away from the electoral process in the country. She expressed the hope that the poll organizing authority would conduct general elections on time as promised, adding that a level playing field for all political parties in the run-up to the general elections will ensure a free, fair and transparent electoral exercise. She also criticized PML-N's ill economic policies in the past and held them responsible for current inflation and other economic woes. Shazia Marri said that her party leadership always stands for democracy and wants to ensure the economic stability of the country.

Training workshop held for police investigation officers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police have organized a training workshop dedicated to enhancing the skills of Police Investigation officers and fostering a more professional approach to handling investigation cases. The initiative, driven by the directives of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, aimed to implement capacity-building programs for the force's investigation officers, emphasizing the need for a professional approach in dealing with various cases. The training workshop took place at the Police Lines Headquarters in Islamabad, attracting participation from investigation officers of the Islamabad Capital Police. As part of the program, esteemed judges and lawyers were invited as guest speakers to deliver lectures and provide insights on the improvements in investigations post the implementation of Police Order 2002, basic and advanced investigation techniques, the Pakistan Penal Code, and crime scene investigation. These workshops are designed to enhance the skills of police personnel, enabling them to effectively resolve cases. Such capacity-building programs are set to be an ongoing effort, ensuring the continuous professional development of policemen in the future.

PAF checkmates Pakistan's enemies

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PAF Checkmates Pakistan's Enemies while strategically outplaying adversaries under the visionary leadership of Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu. Pakistan Air Force has undertaken a transformative modernization initiative to counter evolving threats in the current geostrategic threat scenario, prioritizing the induction of modern systems through smart acquisitions and indigenization. Pakistan Air Force has adopted a comprehensive strategy to establish PAF as a potent force and to rebalance the power dynamics in the region. Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Pakistan Air Force has led the PAF on path to becoming a Next Generation Air Force with induction of



niche technologies, state-of-the-art equipment and human resource trained on modern standards with contemporary architecture for Full Spectrum Cross Domain Multi Arena warfare readiness in the fields of Aviation, Space, Cyber, Artificial Intelligence and Information Technology to address the modern aerial warfare challenges. The acquisition of J-10C fighter jets, Unmanned Aerial Systems, modern electronic warfare platforms, force multipliers, state-of-the-

art integrated air defence systems, air mobility platforms, HIMADS and hypersonic missile capabilities at an unprecedented pace has bolstered the PAF's war fighting capabilities. A key milestone in this strategic transformation has been the acquisition of Fifth Generation Stealth fighter jets, the foundation of whose induction into the PAF has already been laid which will ensure an impregnable defence of the country.

New plan launched to promote coop with Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Greenland Global Commodity Trade Hub, a permanent platform for China International Import Expo (CIIE), issued Shanghai's first enterprise-focused Silk Road e-commerce development plan, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday. This initiative, which is aimed at bolstering international trade, coincided with the unveiling of the Belt and Road country-specific live streaming platform "G-ONAIR", with the first batch of merchants signing agreements and the first set of partnerships with "Silk Road E-commerce" international partners. The head of the Nepalese pavilion, Frank, expressed his willingness to leverage the platform to establish a "Chinese Commodity Exhibition Hall" in Kathmandu and import Chinese electronics, electromechanical equipment, and medical devices to Nepal. Habib, head of the Pakistani pavilion, wanted to expand cooper-

ation with Chinese counterparts in importing new energy vehicles, automotive components, and photovoltaic products - which are in highly demand in Pakistan - from China to his country. To date, the hub has opened 63 national pavilions, 43 pavilions dedicated to BRI and 19 to Silk Road E-commerce. These pavilions feature unique products and cultural stories from partner countries and highlight the innovative potential of this e-commerce model. In addition to bringing Chinese products to the world, the concept of Silk Road E-commerce is committed to showcasing exot-

ic beauty from all around the globe to Chinese customers.

It is worth mentioning that during the recent New Year holiday, the Trade Port's various "Silk Road E-commerce" national pavilions organized a special live streaming event, namely "Explore the Silk Road, Welcome the New Year, Benefit the World," where foreign merchants showcased numerous exotic products from their countries to the Chinese. Goods such as Afghan lapis lazuli jewelry, Nepalese cashmere scarves, and Pakistani camel skin lamps gained immense popularity among Chinese buyers.



Pakistan, China getting closer: Envoy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, China are getting closer through province and sister city relationships as well, said Ambassador of Pakistan to China Khalil-ur-Rahman Hashmi during his visit to Sichuan province. The Ambassador undertook an orientation visit to Sichuan, the economic and cultural hub of Southwest China, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday. During the visit, he engaged the provincial leadership, business enterprises, academia, the Pakistani community, and Chinese media during this visit. Chinese officials, both sides expressed satisfaction over the robust nature of Pakistan-China relations. They discussed proposals to enhance Pakistan-China (Sichuan) cooperation and collaboration, especially in the economic and cultural fields including through sister province and sister city relationships that are already in place. The Ambassador met President of Sichuan University, highlighting the importance of academic research and scholarship in advancing bilateral relations.

Early detection can control 'diabetic disease'

He also said there was an urgent need to spread more awareness among healthcare professionals as well as common people so that diabetic foot ulcers

ISLAMABAD: Health expert Tuesday stressed public awareness for early detection and for adopting a healthy lifestyle to control Diabetic as reduced physical inactivity, sitting jobs, poor sleep patterns and unhealthy food habits are mostly responsible for the increasing prevalence of disease among youngsters. Talking to PTV news channel, Diabetologist & specialist family physician Dr. Shehzad Tahir said that diabetes can be eliminated by simple lifestyle modifications, adding that early screening is very important in stopping the disease from progressing and with early detection we can easily beat diabetes. He further said extreme temperatures can hurt both your body's capacity to make and use insulin. As the temperature decreases, many diabetics' blood sugar levels increase Every diabetic patient requires a little bit of extra care and attention when the seasons change, he suggested. "When the winter season arrives, people tend to skip their regular physical routines, such as yoga, exercise, and morning and evening walks, which correspond to increased blood sugar levels," expert added. He further stressed that by adhering to standard care for high sugar levels, cholesterol and blood pressure, many complications could be reduced or completely avoided. Replying a query, he described that improper diet, obesity, and poor lifestyle are the main causes of this disease, apart from this, if a person in the family is suffering from diabetes, such a person has a strong chance of suffering from other diseases. He also said there was an urgent need to spread more awareness among healthcare professionals as well as common people so that diabetic foot ulcers and other complications of diabetes could be prevented in Pakistan.

JANUARY 2024

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:
www.centrelines.com.pk
www.dnanews.com.pl
www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@PostIslamabad / @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Islamabad POST

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



Briefs

Tobacco Health Levy in Pakistan urged

ISLAMABAD: The health activists emphasized the urgent need for the implementation of the Tobacco Health Levy in Pakistan, a measure that has been pending since 2019 said in a Press Release issued here on Tuesday issued by the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC). The levy, if executed promptly, could have generated an additional revenue of 250 billion Pakistani Rupees for the national exchequer. This substantial amount could have been utilized to enhance health-care infrastructure and sustain efforts in tobacco control. Dr. Khalil Ahmad Dogar, Program Manager at SPARC, said that the Tobacco Health Levy, pending since 2019, presents a crucial opportunity for Pakistan to bolster its health-care infrastructure and fortify the ongoing efforts in tobacco control. The potential additional revenue of 250 billion Rupees could significantly contribute to the betterment of public health, particularly for our children.—APP

Railways earn Rs 41 bln in six months

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has earned an amount of Rs41 billion in the first six months of the current fiscal year 2023-24 despite facing the challenges of floods during monsoon season and financial crunch. During the first six months of the previous fiscal year (2022-23), the department had generated Rs28 billion which reflected 46 percent increase in the revenues during the same period in the current fiscal year (2023-24), an official in the Ministry told APP. As per the figures, he said that out of the revenue of Rs41 billion, earnings from passenger trains were recorded at Rs24 billion whereas the freight sector managed to earn Rs11 billion. The official said that other sectors of the department added around Rs5.5 billion to the total revenue generation. At present, he said that Pakistan Railways is operating 96 passenger trains, up from the previous year when 86 trains were running. Similarly, during the previous year, on average it operated 3.75 freight trains while the number reached seven freight trains this year. He said the department emphasized that the issue of delay in payment of salaries to employees has now been resolved and things will be more streamlined, once work on the Mainline-I (ML-I) project kicks off.—APP

COMSTEC to hold lecture on 'Game Changing Technologies' on Jan 18

ISLAMABAD: COMSTEC-the OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation will hold a public lecture on "Game Changing Technologies" on January 18. Prof. Dr. Javid Laghari will be the speaker of the lecture who is former Senator and Chairperson of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan (with the status of Federal Minister). He has served in six key positions in the last over 35 years. He was the Coordinator General of COMSTEC which is the organization of OIC comprising S&T Ministers of 57 Islamic Countries. He was also the founding President of a leading private university SZABIST, and was tenured full Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Director of Space Power Institute at SUNY Buffalo. He has also served as Commissioner at the Ministry of Education, UAE. He is currently the President of the Forum for Dialogue and Diplomacy, Houston, TX. The candidates seeking details of physical participation (Islamabad and Rawalpindi only) and virtual participation can visit the web link: <https://comstec.org/comstec-lecture-on-game-changing-technologies>.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: People getting fruits and vegetables on subsidized rates, in G 7.— Photo Mudassar Raja

IPO-Pak sensitizes SMEs about the importance of IPRs

Farukh Amil briefed the business community about the role of IPO-Pakistan in nurturing an enabling IP environment through its initiative to promote businesses, creativity, and innovation

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Farukh Amil, Chairman, Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan (IPO-Pakistan) said that SMEs should get better awareness about the protection and enforcement of patents, copyrights, and trademarks to avoid counterfeiting and piracy of their products and flourish their business at the national and international level. He said this while addressing an awareness session on intellectual property rights organized by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with IPO-Pakistan for the business community. Farukh Amil briefed the business community about the role of IPO-Pakistan in nurturing an enabling IP environment through its initiative to promote businesses, creativity, and innovation. He said that the lack of an IP culture and weak IP enforcement are major challenges that need to be overcome and added that IPO-Pakistan is working to place Pakistan on the global IP



map as a compliance and responsible country through increased public awareness, practice, and enforcement. He said that adherence to global standards on IP, through international treaties and

societal practices will enhance Pakistan's reputation as a business and investment-friendly country. He said that SMEs should benefit from the services of IPO-Pakistan for better protection of their pat-

ents, copyrights, and trademarks. Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that SMEs are the backbone of the economy and

IPO-Pakistan should further simplify the IP registration processes and procedures and introduce mobile apps to facilitate SMEs in online registration of their products and services for copyrights and trademarks. He said that in the global competitive business environment, the role of IPO-Pakistan is very important in promoting innovations and startups and ensuring better economic growth of the country through strict enforcement of IPRs. He assured that ICCI would work with IPO-Pakistan to raise more awareness in the business community about the importance of IPRs for better growth of their businesses. Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan needs to lay a strong foundation for a vibrant IP system to encourage innovations, business growth, and investment and hoped that IPO-Pakistan would contribute to making Pakistan a competitive economy. The business community members asked many questions about the IPRs and were given detailed answers.

ANF seizes 211 kg drugs in seven operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations across the country managed to recover 211 kg of drugs and arrested nine accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that 2.5 kg hashish was recovered from a passenger going to Sharjah by Flight PK-181 at Islamabad Airport. Five hashish-filled capsules were recovered at Bacha Khan Airport from the possession of a Abu Dhabi-bound passenger going on flight PK-217. In the third operation, 200.4 kg of hashish was seized near Kohi Chowk Khyber and two suspects were arrested. Six kg hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused rounded up near Airport Road Quetta. 1.180 kg hashish was recovered from an accused near Lakeview Park Islamabad. The spokesman informed that 900 grams of weed was recovered from an accused nabbed near Cantt Station Karachi. 50 ecstasy tablets were recovered from the possession of an accused arrested near Pak-Afghan Chaman border.—APP

Islamabad Airport records highest passenger flow ever in 2023

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad International Airport (IIAP) recorded its highest passenger flow ever in the year 2023 with a whopping six million people passing through. According to the spokesperson Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), out of this number, domestic flights saw about 11,000 trips transporting approximately 1.5 million passengers. Similarly, international ones served around four and a half million individuals. The airport noted an exceptional figure of flight operations which sums up to about thirty-one thousand movements all reflecting the day-to-day busy status it keeps running with diverse connections. He said that the surge in passenger volume underlines IIAP's pivotal role as an extensively used aviation gateway too.

Dr. Saif discusses digital collaboration with international organizations

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister of Information Technology and Telecommunication, Dr Umar Saif, discussed digital collaboration aimed to enhance Pakistan's global image through the "Digital Pakistan" initiative during sideline meetings with international organizations and global leaders. The minister is currently participating in the World Economic Forum held in Davos, Switzerland, from January 15 to 19, according to a news release. Accompanying the minister is a delegation, including the Chairman of the Pakistan Software Houses Association (P@SHA) Zohaib Khan and representatives from the Special Investment Facilitation Center (SIFC). The IT delegation's focus is to showcase the progress

made by SIFC, including the 50% dollar retention policy for IT companies, the activation of the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) through the appointment of its board of governors, and the introduction of Pakistan's First Space Policy, opening up new opportunities in the country's space sector. The delegation primarily engages in bilateral meetings with representatives from various countries on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum. Global leaders, including Pakistan's Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and other prominent figures, are expected to attend the event. During these meetings, Dr Umar Saif highlighted efforts to introduce the "Digital Paki-

stan" brand at an international level and expressed the desire to foster collaboration between Pakistan and various international entities. In a meeting with the Secretary-General of the Digital Cooperation Organization, Deemah Al Yahya, discussions centred on digital cooperation, emphasizing the potential benefits of such collaborations. Bilateral talks with Qatar's IT Minister, Mohammed bin Ali bin Mohammed Al Mannai, and Rwanda's Minister of Communication, Paula Ingabire, explored opportunities for mutual cooperation. A significant development is the expected collaboration between Pakistan's Startups Fund and counterparts in various countries, focusing on joint initiatives in cloud services.

ICCPO holds meeting with foreign diplomats and regional security officers

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan held meetings with foreign diplomats and regional security officers of embassies at Diplomatic Enclave, a public relations officer said. He said that the CPO Security Division, SSP Security Division and officials from other law enforcement departments were also present during the occasion. During the meeting, the ICCPO wished a Happy New Year to the meeting participants and briefed the foreign diplomats and embassies regional security officers about the steps taken by Islamabad Capital Police to ensure foolproof security arrangements around the diplomatic enclave.—APP

ECP adjourns the contempt case hearing till Jan 24

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) adjourned the hearing of a contempt case against the founder of PTI

and former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry until January 24. A four-member panel of the Election Commission of Pakistan

(ECP) headed by ECP's Sindh member conducted a hearing on a case involving insults to the ECP chief and others.—APP

Troubled year in store for the world's children: UNICEF warns

DNA

ISLAMABAD: World's children in 2024 are likely to see increased exposure to violence and war as well as economic hardship, the UN children's agency (UNICEF), warned in a flagship study released Tuesday. At the beginning of each year, UNICEF said it looks ahead to the risks that children are likely to face, and suggests ways to reduce the potential harm. The latest report, Prospects for Children 2024: Cooperation in a Fragmented World, paints a picture of a short-term future characterized by continued conflict and economic uncertainty. The prospects

of conflict, says the report, will be driven by escalating competition among world powers, threatening the rights and lives of children. As well as the immediate harm to children's lives, violence and war affect children by diverting resources from education, health care and nutrition. Turgid economic growth is undermining years of progress on child poverty reduction, making it difficult for young people to access global job markets. If international trade is stymied by distrust and tit-for-tat tariffs, food prices could increase, and child nutrition could suffer. The way to safeguard children, says the report, is economic solidarity, market collaboration, and investment in future skills. The

report expresses concern that a fragmented multilateral system is not delivering on key issues for children. This can limit efforts to address grave violations of child rights; hinder global efforts to address risks, including the climate crisis; and inhibit the collective action needed to prevent and end conflicts. The multilateral system has a chance to reset its course in 2024 through stronger collective action, global governance, and financing reforms. Developing economies still face fiscal structural inequities, the report said. This means that resources, opportunities, and power are not distributed equally, limiting a country's ability to invest in children. As a result, many citizens are reliant on remit-

ances to cover their health and education costs. New technologies and reforms to lending could offer hope for a more egalitarian future. Dozens of elections will take place in 2024, and global democracy will face unprecedented risks, presented by disinformation and political violence, threatening the rights and services of children, the report noted. Children and young people can be particularly vulnerable to this violence, which may result in death, physical or emotional harm, disruption of public services, and school closures. Young people are expressing dissatisfaction in democracy, but they are channeling their energy into constructive civic action, and online activism.

WHERE EACH STITCH IS WATCHED

MOST EXPERIENCED MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTERS OF MARTIAL ARTS UNIFORMS IN PAKISTAN

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

Ashraf

ASHRAF INDUSTRIES (PVT) LTD
127 C, Industrial Estate
Sector-5/1340, Pakistan
Phones: +92-51-3258000 / 3255788
E-mail: info@ashraf.net.pk

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 05 Issue: 92

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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

India's attitude to blame for Maldives' demand

INDIA has always regarded the Indian Ocean region as its backyard, and, as a result, it has treated the Maldives like it is its colonial overlord, considering the country to be subject to New Delhi's authority, politically, economically and culturally. Not surprisingly, the Maldives does not share that view, and to demonstrate its autonomy it has demanded that India withdraw its military presence from the country. But with Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu making the demand on Sunday that India must withdraw all troops stationed in his nation by March 15, shortly after concluding a productive visit to China, it has stirred up something of a hornets' nest in India, with some speculating that the demand has come at the urging of Beijing. New Delhi-based NDTV said in an "explainer" article that "the number of troops – 88 – is too few to be a threat", and intimated that it is an outcome of Beijing wooing Male away from New Delhi so China can have a military presence in the country. But those making such a claim should note that Muizzu became president vowing to ensure that the country had no foreign military presence on its soil. They should also look at the recent social media posts by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi showing him enjoying a vacation on India's Lakshadweep Islands, which was widely interpreted as a bid to lure Indian tourists to the islands at the expense of the Maldives' tourism industry. The timing of the announcement may be related to the fact that Male is not worried about losing Indian tourists by making the demand, as one of the outcomes of his recent state visit to China was his hosts expressing the country's readiness to provide support in areas that the Maldives deems priorities, including strengthening people-to-people exchanges and tourism cooperation. Indian officials justify the continued presence of the Indian troops, a legacy of the 1980s when it sent troops to help the then Maldivian government thwart an attempted coup, by claiming that they are there as part of the two nations' Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief mechanism. But the Maldives' dependence on India for humanitarian assistance and essentials such as rice, vegetables and medicines has fueled India's colonialist mentality toward the island country, which in turn has led to the rising wave of "India out" sentiment in the country, which Muizzu rode to victory in the November election. With the country's cooperation with China improving the Maldivian people's livelihoods and that cooperation set to deepen after his visit, it is natural that Muizzu should seek to use it as a leverage to reduce New Delhi's influence so that the country can exercise greater autonomy.



The view on Germany's far right

THE growing popularity of Germany's far-right Alternative für Deutschland party (AfD) has become an unpalatable feature of Europe's political landscape. Last summer it won a district election outright for the first time since being founded in 2013. On a virulently xenophobic platform, it now lies second in national polls and leads in three eastern states that will hold elections in the autumn. As chancellor Olaf Scholz's coalition government has struggled to navigate the multiple challenges of Covid, Ukraine, the cost of living crisis and the green transition, the AfD has exploited widespread insecurity and hardship for its own unpleasant ends. Concern has been compounded by renewed fears that the party represents a material threat to Germany's postwar constitution. On Sunday, Mr Scholz and his foreign minister, Annalena Baerbock, joined thousands of marchers participating in a demonstration in Potsdam to "defend democracy". The catalyst was the revelation that in November, senior AfD figures joined with other prominent far-right extremists to discuss a plan for forced mass deportations of migrants. Those discussed as problematic allegedly included German citizens with migrant roots, if it was judged they did "not adapt to the majority society". Among those present was an adviser to the AfD's co-leader, Alice Weidel. Such ideas are flagrantly at odds with the constitution, which outlaws discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity. The AfD's leadership has distanced itself from the meeting, but failed to condemn those who attended. According to the investigative website that broke the story, the so-called "re-migration" plan was agreed in principle by participants, though there were doubts over its feasibility. This alarming episode serves as another wake-up call regarding the dark forces that are finding their way into the mainstream via the success of the AfD. Germany's domestic intelligence agency has previously classified party organisations in eight of the country's 16 federal states as either "proven to be right-wing extremist" or "suspected to be right-wing extremist". The shocking nature of the latest disclosures has led to calls for the party to be banned by the federal constitutional court. Given a high legal bar, that might be very difficult to achieve. Perhaps more importantly, the process would also run the risk of being counterproductive, reinforcing the AfD's anti-establishment credentials at a time when it has acquired significant political momentum. Nevertheless, it is an option that need not be ruled out, and may serve to concentrate the minds of the party's more moderate elements. At a minimum, the Potsdam affair underlines the vital importance of maintaining the political cordon sanitaire at a federal level, designed to keep the AfD out of any governing coalition. The centre-right Christian Democratic Union bears a special responsibility here. Ultimately, a party that began life as a German variant of Euroscepticism, before pivoting to an extreme anti-immigration agenda, needs to be defeated through a battle for hearts and minds. As the German-British historian Katja Hoyer has written, the AfD has become a populist "vent" for a widespread sense of crisis.

Israel's war on Gaza and the West's credibility crisis

Hina Rabbani Khar

Wars leave behind devastation that persists long after the fighting and funding for "reconstruction" end and long after the media spotlight, the fervent hashtags and impassioned posts move on, as the world's collective conscience loses interest. The aftershocks are felt in the geography where the wars are conducted for generations, as people continue to experience a conflict's intended and unintended consequences. I was in office when the Russian war on Ukraine started and I experienced firsthand how the US, the EU, the UK and other Western countries tried to convince many in the developing world that they must not stand on the side of aggression, that they must not be "on the wrong...

OVER the past decade and a half, I have attended many meetings and conferences, and met many people in Western governments, think tanks and academia who have been concerned about the rise of autocracies across the world. Many of them believe that authoritarian tendencies are the biggest threat to the liberal world order and rules-based system. But I beg to differ. I believe the biggest threat to the liberal world order comes from liberal democracies and not their autocratic nemeses. That is because there is a widening chasm between the values Western governments proclaim to uphold and their actual conduct. That has triggered a credibility crisis that threatens to unravel the liberal world order. What we say about our value system and how we project our foreign policy objectives in our statements is important, but even more important is what we do afterwards. People have eyes and ears, and when what they see is the opposite of what they hear, they lose trust. This is what is happening now with Western rhetoric and actions in relation to Israel and Palestine. This mismatch between what is said and what is being done is, of course, nothing new. I come from a region where we have suffered immensely as a result of the great liberal promise of the West; our neighbour Afghanistan faced disaster not once, but twice because of it. As we moved from one war to another after the 9/11 attacks in the US, the Western-made liberal order started to lose its credibility faster than the West had time to realise. It left behind a debris of chaos, bloodshed and broken promises of "democratisation" and "emancipation". The "others" started questioning the Western narrative and its legitimacy. Wars leave behind devastation that persists long after the fighting and funding for "reconstruction" end and long after the media spotlight, the fervent hashtags and impassioned posts move on, as the world's collective conscience loses interest. The aftershocks are felt in the geography where the wars are conducted for generations, as people continue to experience a conflict's intended and unintended consequences. I was in office when the Russian war on Ukraine started and I experienced firsthand how the US, the EU, the UK and other Western countries tried to convince many in the developing world that they must not stand

on the side of aggression, that they must not be "on the wrong side of history". As the UN Security Council could not pass any resolution because of Russia's veto, the West expended a great deal of political capital to bring resolution after resolution in the General Assembly in support of Ukraine. It aimed to show the world that Russia was using its veto power against the global consensus and was in fact isolated on the world stage. And then came the war in Gaza. I watched with incredulity when pleas echoed from Gaza in the form of resolutions brought forward to the UN Security Council urging an end to the bloodshed and asking for a humanitarian ceasefire only to be vetoed by the US. As the UN pleaded for action – calling Gaza a "graveyard for children" and reporting that more UN aid workers had died in the last few months in Gaza than in any other conflict – the West, which had historically been a champion of multilateralism, did nothing. In fact, it came in the way of those who were trying to stop the indiscriminate killing of civilians. This forced UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to invoke in early December Article 99 – used only at times when international peace and security are threatened. Even then, the West took no action; the US vetoed a subsequent resolution for a humanitarian ceasefire at the UNSC and then voted against a nonbinding resolution at the General Assembly supported by 153 countries. The UK abstained in both votes. Let that sink in. What makes this more unpalatable than Russia's veto at the Security Council is that unlike Russia, the US and UK sanction people and countries on human rights violations and call for interventions on human rights grounds. How can the rest of the world have trust in the West's self-declared "value-based leadership" when countries like the US and UK abdicate their responsibility and side with the aggressor? This obvious hypocrisy is reminiscent of the tale of the emperor's new clothes: Everyone can see Western rhetoric is naked. The West talks about commitment to human rights and democratic values, while at the same time offering full diplomatic cover to the state of Israel and ensuring its impunity in massacring as many Palestinians as it desires in the pursuit of its official, declared goal of complete extermination of the Palestinian people. In supporting Israel and enabling it to kill tens of thousands of civilians, the majority of them women

and children in the name of "self-defence", Western countries are putting themselves at the opposite end of the values and principles of multilateralism and respect for human rights they have put mammoth effort in promoting in the past. They are going against the very fundamentals on which the United Nations was built. I believe in the commonality of our values, I believe that the West has much to celebrate in its human rights and development records, but I also know that the West has shown glaring disregard for these principles outside of its own geography. Anyone concerned with the US's global leadership or retention of its status as the leader of "the free world" should certainly be asking themselves why it has decided to isolate itself on the world stage and why it is willing to pay such a high diplomatic price that will have reputational and credibility repercussions for decades. Washington's stance today would not only undermine efforts to promote it as the only reliable world power, but would also sabotage its ability to play the role of a peace builder in the future. If the US wants to save its global reputation, it should first and foremost stop standing in the way of Security Council resolutions demanding a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza. It should also stop opposing General Assembly resolutions that commit to a two-state solution and condemn Israeli settlements; both of these elements are already part of US-stated policy. Finally, it needs to respond to the appeals of UN institutions and stop obstructing its actions. Those who claim the UN has failed in the wake of this crisis are grotesquely wrong. The UN continues to unambiguously report what is happening on the ground and call for global action. Whether it is the UNGA, the voice of the collective conscience of the world, or the secretary-general, or the WHO chief or the UNICEF chief – they have all made incredible efforts to get the world to act and stop the violence. I have served in government long enough to know that as officials, we often make the mistake of thinking our job is to maintain positions on certain issues that our countries have historically held. But this is the wrong way to go about building policy. Our job should be to hold principles not positions. Leadership requires strength to stand on the side of what is right not on the side of historical positions.

– Sourced by Al Jazeera's

AUKUS Challenges to China's Dominance

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



As the AUKUS alliance progresses, its impact on the regional balance of power will become more evident. The geopolitical chessboard in the Indo-Pacific is intricate, with multiple actors vying for influence and navigating a complex web of alliances and rivalries. AUKUS, by design or consequence, has injected a new level of uncertainty into this dynamic. The challenge for policymakers in the region is to calibrate their...

THE AUKUS partnership is a special alliance involving the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia. It is a significant collaboration that could have a big impact on the world in 2024. These three countries have a history of fighting together in various wars, and AUKUS can be seen as a continuation of their close relationship. Think of AUKUS as a "child" of the Five Eyes, which is a group formed after World War II for intelligence-sharing. The Five Eyes includes the U.S., the U.K., Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, and it is still active today. AUKUS shares similarities with what Winston Churchill had in mind when he wrote about the English-speaking nations in "A History of the English-Speaking Peoples." The Five Eyes was built on the idea that its members could trust each other with their secrets. This trust is based not only on their shared strategic interests as maritime powers but also on cultural, political, and commercial similarities. Even though the Five Eyes is mainly a military alliance, its members together contribute to almost 30 percent of the world's gross domestic product. AUKUS is a group formed to help Australia get nuclear-powered submarines. But it's not just about submarines; it's also about sharing intelligence, improving military capabilities, tightening security, and creating new weapons together. The main goal is to stop China's navy from taking control of the Pacific. Although the focus is on the Pacific, AUKUS is also thinking about the Atlantic. Even though there's no immediate threat there, they believe the sea could become a big concern in the future. All the AUKUS members are islands, including the United States, which needs to protect the seas around it. The U.K. is the example for AUKUS, but the U.S. has become the most important country in the world and needs to support its allies. While alliances can have tensions, AUKUS expects to become stronger in 2024, with New Zealand likely joining and Canada thinking about it. This is important globally because, besides being a military alliance, AUKUS has a strong economic influence, especially against China. It reflects the natural outcome of global culture and national interests. As China's economy faces challenges, AUKUS will play a more significant role, incorporating all aspects of power, not just military, on a global scale. The focus in the coming year will be on aligning and using this power with New Zealand and Canada joining.

The geopolitical implications of AUKUS extend beyond the immediate military focus, encompassing economic, technological and diplomatic dimensions. The alliance highlights the interconnectedness of security and economic interests, as well as the role of advanced technologies in shaping the geopolitical landscape. The collaboration on nuclear-powered submarines not only underscores the strategic importance of the Indo-Pacific but also signifies a shared commitment among AUKUS members to maintain a rules-based international order. However, the alliance's exclusion of other key regional players, such as France, has led to questions about its inclusivity and the potential for further fragmentation in international relations. AUKUS has triggered a reassessment of alliances and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific, with countries weighing the benefits and risks of aligning themselves with either the alliance or China. The diplomatic fallout from the abrupt cancellation of Australia's submarine deal with France, which preceded the announcement of AUKUS, has strained relations between Western and European nations. The move has highlighted the complex interplay of interests and the challenges of balancing regional security concerns with global diplomatic relationships. One of the central challenges for AUKUS is navigating the delicate balance between containing China's assertiveness and avoiding a full-scale confrontation. The alliance's leaders have emphasized that AUKUS is not aimed at containing or isolating China, but rather at ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific. However, perceptions matter in geopolitics and the onus is on the member countries to demonstrate the alliance's constructive intentions and commitment to regional stability. The delicate dance between competition and cooperation will require nuanced diplomatic efforts to prevent further escalation and foster a conducive environment for dialogue. The technological dimension of AUKUS introduces a new frontier in the global competition for strategic dominance. The collaboration on nuclear-powered submarines represents a leap forward in military capabilities and underscores the critical role of cutting-edge technologies in modern warfare. The alliance seeks to harness the scientific and technological prowess of its member countries to maintain a military edge in the Indo-Pacific. This has sparked concerns in China which perceives AUKUS as a challenge to its technological ambitions

and a potential disruption to its efforts to become a global leader in areas such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing and advanced manufacturing. As the AUKUS alliance progresses, its impact on the regional balance of power will become more evident. The geopolitical chessboard in the Indo-Pacific is intricate, with multiple actors vying for influence and navigating a complex web of alliances and rivalries. AUKUS, by design or consequence, has injected a new level of uncertainty into this dynamic. The challenge for policymakers in the region is to calibrate their responses, ensuring that the pursuit of security does not come at the cost of exacerbating tensions or triggering a destabilizing arms race. The economic implications of AUKUS also merit attention, as they intertwine with broader trade and investment dynamics in the Indo-Pacific. The alliance's emphasis on advanced technologies and defense capabilities raises questions about the potential impact on economic cooperation and competition. China has positioned itself as a key player in the region's economic development through initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). AUKUS, with its focus on security and military capabilities, may influence the economic calculus of countries in the region, leading them to reassess their economic partnerships and alignments. Furthermore, AUKUS has sparked discussions about the future of multilateralism and the efficacy of regional security architectures. The alliance's formation, outside the traditional frameworks of organizations like the United Nations or regional groupings, raises questions about the evolving nature of global governance. Some argue that AUKUS represents a pragmatic response to the limitations of existing institutions in addressing contemporary security challenges. The emergence of the AUKUS alliance presents a multifaceted challenge to China's dominance in the Indo-Pacific. The alliance's focus on advanced military technologies, strategic partnerships, and the recalibration of regional dynamics underscores the complexity of contemporary geopolitics. As AUKUS moves from announcement to implementation, its impact on regional stability, economic dynamics and global governance will become increasingly apparent. The challenge for the international community lies in managing these complexities, fostering open dialogue and pursuing a balance between competition and cooperation to ensure a peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

Briefs

Bilawal warns against politics...

FROM PAGE 01
"They have reached the politics of personal enmity after starting from the politics of verbal abuse." The young politico insisted that his party would pull the country out of the constitutional and political crisis. Bilawal maintained that the PPP is not competing with any political party or politician but with poverty, unemployment and inflation.

ECP 'can delay polls in pockets'

FROM PAGE 01
papers for the elections, and if there are changes, they could delay the entire schedule. The development comes after Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders moved the Peshawar High Court (PHC) against the allotment of their symbols, stating that the election commission was in violation of the law. However, the high court dismissed the petitions of the PTI leaders, including Shehryar Afridi, Asif Khan, Kamran Bangash, and Aftab Alam, who are contesting the elections as independent candidates following their party losing the 'bat' symbol. Electoral symbols — unique pictorial identifiers — are handed out by the ECP to political parties and candidates. Parties usually have long-standing symbols, which, for the PTI, was the cricket bat, referencing party founder Imran Khan being a celebrated former captain of the national cricket team.

Court indicts Bushra, Imran...

FROM PAGE 01
last month. Senior Civil Judge Qudratullah read out the charges in the court set up in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail, with the PTI founder in presence. However, his wife did not appear, which annoyed the judge as previous indictments were postponed because of her absence. During today's hearing the court expressed displeasure about the former first lady's absence and questioned how she could leave without the court's permission. To this, her lawyer Usman Gill said that his client had left for the hospital owing to her ill health. Meanwhile, the prosecution objected to Bushra's medical report saying that it fails to mention any particular treatment — that the accused has gone through. "You are repeatedly seeking exemption [from appearing before the court] by submitting medical reports," the court said while addressing Bushra's counsel, adding that exemption is sought by one who is not present in court. Additionally, the PTI chief was also called on to the rostrum upon which the former premier expressed a lack of understanding of the legal terms, saying that he would sign the charge sheet after his lawyer briefed him on it. However, he did sign the charge sheet following consultations with his lawyers. The development comes a day after the Islamabad High Court (IHC) reserved its verdict on Bushra's plea seeking dismissal of Maneka's case.

US envoy, Air Chief discuss air force collaboration

FROM PAGE 01
further optimize the existing military-to-military relationship between the two countries with specific focus on enriching training and bolstering operational competencies. The meeting between the US Ambassador and Chief of the Air Staff manifests the deep interest and willingness on both sides to further consolidate the longstanding bilateral strategic ties into concrete and mutually rewarding defence partnership.

Hockey Olympic qualifiers

Pakistan beat China by 2-0 in second match

After winning this match, Pak has moved to the third position in their group with 3 points while Great Britain is on first position in Group A

SPORTS DESK

MUSCAT: Pakistan Men's Hockey Team endured a significant comeback victory against China by 2-0, after losing against their inaugural match of the Paris Olympics Qualifiers against Great Britain, succumbing to a resounding 6-1 defeat in Muscat, Oman. Neither team scored any goal in the first three quarters of the match, but the Pakistani team strengthened its position in the match by scoring one goal in the third quarter. Pakistan team maintained their position in the last quarter of the game by scoring one more goal and won the match. After winning this match, Pakistan team has moved to the third position in their group with 3 points while Great Britain is on the first position in Group A. Meanwhile,

Pakistan began their bid to qualify for a first Olympics in 12 years with a 6-1 loss against Great Britain on Monday in Oman, the Pakistan Hockey Federation said in a statement ahead of Pakistan's game against China today, Tuesday. Pakistan, three-time Olympic champions, have failed to qualify for the last two editions of the Games. GB's men have not won an Olympic medal since 1988 and missed out on a semi-final spot to India at Tokyo 2020. "In the ongoing Olympic qualifier event in Muscat, Oman, Pakistan lost to England by six goals to one in their first pool match," PHF said. "Abdul Hanan Shahid scored the only goal for Pakistan." Pakistan could not take advantage of the four penalty corners received during the match, while the England hockey team received 12 penalty corners. In Group A, Pakistan are

placed with England, China, and Malaysia. They will next face China later today, while they will lock horns with Malaysia on January 18. Pakistan will have to finish in the top three in Oman to secure a place at Paris this summer. "The England hockey team established the lead from the beginning of the match and played with a better strategy, scoring two penalty corners, one penalty stroke and three field goals, while the only goal from Pakistan was scored by Abdul Hanan Shahid through a field goal," PHF said. Last year, the International Hockey Federation stripped Pakistan of hosting rights for the Olympic Qualifier tournament due to "non-cooperation and interference in the PHF's affairs" by the government, marking a setback for the South Asian country which was once counted among the global powerhouses of the sport.



Emmys 2024: Succession, The Bear and Beef among winners



LOS ANGELES: Succession, Beef and The Bear were the big winners at the Emmy Awards, which took place on Monday. Sarah Snook, Kieran Culkin and Matthew Macfadyen all took home acting prizes for Succession, while the show also won best drama series overall. Creator Jesse Armstrong said it was "a great sadness to end the show, but it was a great pleasure to do it". Also at the ceremony, Sir Elton John won his first Emmy Award, finally giving him EGOT status. That means he has joined an exclusive club of performers who have won an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony award. Elton John performs "Bennie and the Jets"

as he wraps up the U.S. leg of his "Yellow Brick Road" tour at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, California, U.S. November 20, 2022. Elton Live: Farewell From Dodger Stadium won best live variety special, marking the British singer-songwriter's first Emmy nomination and award. However, Sir Elton could not pick up the honour after having a knee operation. He wrote on Instagram that he was "on cloud nine" after the win and joked that his knee problem was "a gentle reminder, perhaps, of a lifetime spent jumping off pianos". He added: "Honoured to have joined the hallowed ranks of EGOT winners, here's

to the joy of music and the magic it brings to our lives!" Succession, the critically acclaimed drama about a media mogul and the power struggles between his dysfunctional family, concluded last year after four seasons. It was rewarded generously at the Emmys, winning best drama series and prizes for writing and directing, while Snook and Culkin won best leading drama actress and actor for playing Shiv and Roman Roy respectively. "The bar was set so high and that was what spurred us on," Snook said of Succession's success. She also thanked her parents, telling them: "Mum and dad - thank you for having a dress-up

box when I was a kid, this is where it gets you!" Snook dedicated the award to her daughter, commenting: "The biggest thank you I think though is to someone who won't understand anything that I'm saying at the moment, but I carried her with me in this last season and really it was her who carried me. It's very easy to act when you're pregnant because you've got hormones raging and it was more that the proximity of her life growing inside me gave me the strength to do this and this performance." Co-star Culkin paid tribute to Armstrong "for being a brilliant writer, showrunner and gentleman". — Agencies

Pak make 3 changes for third NZ T20I

OUR CORRESPONDENTS

AUCKLAND: Pakistan have made three changes for the third T20I against New Zealand. Leg-spinner Usama Mir and all-rounder Aamer Jamal have been excluded from the lineup, while pacer Abbas Afridi is out due to a low grade abdominal wall muscle strain. His exclusion would be a big loss to the team as Afridi was the leading wicket taker, 5, for the team along with Haris Rauf even though they have been in lost causes. Mohammad Wasim Jr, Mohammad Nawaz and Zaman Khan have replaced the aforementioned trio for Pakistan. 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. Williamson was already set to miss the third game on Wednesday, and with the first Test against South Africa less than three weeks away, Stead said his star batter would sit out the final two games as well.

Messi, Bonmati scoop awards for FIFA's best players in 2023

LONDON: Lionel Messi was crowned as FIFA's best men's player for 2023, while Aitana Bonmati added to her collection of individual accolades at the awards ceremony in London. Messi claimed the award for the third time, but the 36-year-old was a surprise victor ahead of Erling Haaland on an otherwise glorious night for Manchester City. The award only covered the period after Messi had led Argentina to World Cup glory from December 2022 to August 2023. During that time the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner had a subdued end to his career at Paris Saint-Germain, despite winning the Ligue 1 title, before joining MLS side Inter Miami in June. Messi quickly made his mark in the United States as he helped the franchise, part-owned by David Beckham, to their first trophy by winning the Leagues Cup in August. Haaland was favourite to win after scoring 52 times in his debut season with City as the English side won a treble of Champions League, Premier League and FA Cup. After receiving the same number of points from a scoring system based on votes from national team captains, coaches, journalists and fans, Messi was crowned victor thanks to more first-choice nominations. Messi's former club teammate Kylian Mbappe was third.



However, all three of the men's finalists did not attend the ceremony leaving Arsenal and France legend Thierry Henry, who was co-hosting the event, to pick up the award in Messi's absence. Bonmati's selection as the best women's player was never in doubt as she completed a clean sweep of personal awards after helping Spain to win World Cup and Barcelona to Champions League glory in 2023. — DNA

Kazakhstan Ambassador calls on Jamal Shah

Kazakhstan Ambassador meets Pakistan Minister for culture Ambassador of Kazakhstan emphasized the importance of fostering cultural collaboration particularly with Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin had a meeting with Pakistan's Federal Minister of National Heritage and Culture, Mr. Jamal Shah. In the context of the tasks set by the President of Kazakhstan to develop "... constructive and good neighborly relations with the countries of South Asia," the Ambassador emphasized the importance of fostering cultural collaboration particularly with Pakistan. Ambassador Y.Kistafin also commended the recent success of the 12th Kazakh-Pakistan Intergovernmental Commission meeting on December 20-21, 2023, and congratulated Minister Shah on



the signed Memorandum of Understanding in the cultural domain. Minister Jamal Shah expressed a keen interest in fortifying cultural ties between Kazakhstan and Pakistan, spanning institutions like museums, libraries, theatres, and the film industry. During the negotiations, both sides agreed to jointly organize various events throughout the year. Minister Shah invited Kazakh cultural figures and artists to participate in Pakistan's cultural festivals in 2024. Ambassador Y.Kistafin presented Minister Jamal Shah with poetry of Abai translated into Punjabi, Balochi, Sindi, and Pashto language. Additionally, he gifted the first Kazakh-English-Urdu phrasebook, underscoring plans for further cooperation in this linguistic domain.

Maryam pledges to work 'day and night'

FROM PAGE 01
victory to the lion." She highlighted the infrastructure developments in Lahore by PML-N, particularly the sight of Speedo Bus service on Ferozpur Road and the Orange Line train, attributing them as symbols of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's dedicated service to the people of Lahore. "We want to tell Lahore that when the opponents sat idle, the PML-N established records of service. The Orange Line could not become operational earlier due to [former Chief Justice] Saqib Nisar," she remarked. The PML-N leader said that there was no one to even pick up trash in Lahore during the tenure of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). "On February 8, we will lift the downtrodden and throw the intruders out of Lahore," she added. Maryam declared that PML-N would change the destiny of Pakistan and Lahore. "Only the lion will roar in Lahore on February 8. Congratulations in advance to all of you." She also urged people to not sit at home on election day, urging them to vote for PML-N to make Pakistan a prosperous country.

JIT to probe SM campaign...

FROM PAGE 01
Intelligence, the deputy inspector general of Islamabad police, representative of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority and any other co-opted member. The notification highlighted that the terms of reference of the JIT would be to "ascertain facts behind malicious social media campaign attempting to malign the image of the honourable judges of the Supreme Court". The committee would also be responsible for identifying and bringing culprits to book in accordance with relevant laws, presenting challans in relevant courts and recommending measures to prevent such incidents in future. "The JIT shall submit a preliminary report to the Ministry of Interior within a fortnight," the notification said, adding that the FIA headquarters would provide support to the panel during the investigation. The authorities did not identify any social media posts they deem to be part of the campaign. After marathon hearings last week, a three-member bench of the apex court — headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa — had upheld the Election Commission of Pakistan's decision to revoke the PTI's iconic electoral symbol 'bat' and declare its intra-party polls as "unconstitutional". The verdict was criticised by legal eagles and political experts. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan had also expressed concern over the judgment.

KP: Police foil terror attacks

FROM PAGE 01
terror attacks with several major attacks leaving the province riddled with terrorism and violence, particularly since the Taliban-led administration took over Afghanistan in 2021. The law and order situation has worsened in several parts of KP, especially southern districts, with an increase in attacks on police, security forces and civilians. In the past few months, some political figures and gatherings have also been targeted by terrorists in certain parts of the province, while security personnel including the military and police have also been attacked. Senior police officials have said that the situation had improved in other parts of the province while efforts were being made to improve law and order in the southern districts of KP. As the country moves towards a crucial general election, set to take place on February 8, the military has been busy conducting operations against terror outfits and terrorists, particularly in KP. Last week, four terrorists were killed by security forces in two operations in the province during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted in Mir Ali, North Waziristan district.

Briefs

'Europe must up its game' on AI: von der Leyen

DAVOS: EU chief Ursula von der Leyen told Davos on Tuesday that "Europe must up its game" on artificial intelligence, as the bloc readies landmark legislation to curb possible AI abuse. "Our future competitiveness depends on AI adoption in our daily business. And Europe must up its game and show the way to responsible use of AI," von der Leyen said in the ritzy Swiss resort hosting the World Economic Forum. The European Union is currently working on a draft AI Act that it views as a possible template for regulation in other parts of the world for the fast-moving technology. In December, its member countries and EU lawmakers reached agreement on the text which seeks to rein in potential AI misuse – such as its use for biometric surveillance and manipulation of behaviour – while fostering innovation in the sector. China premier says "red line" needed in AI development. Von der Leyen said she was a "tech-optimist" and said "AI is also a very significant opportunity, if used in a responsible way," with its projected ability to boost productivity and economic growth. AI breakthroughs are currently being led by the United States, home to ChatGPT-maker OpenAI, with China close behind.

Rwanda says it kills Congolese soldier

KIGALI : Rwanda said on Tuesday it had killed a soldier from Democratic Republic of Congo and captured two others on its territory in the latest friction on their border. The Rwanda Defence Forces (RDF) said in a statement the Congolese soldiers crossed at Rubuvu town, with one shot dead when he fired at a patrol and the other two arrested. The soldiers had an AK-47 gun, four magazines with 105 rounds, a protective vest and sachets of cannabis, the RDF said. Congolese military spokesperson Sylvain Ekenge said he was unaware of the incident. Kinshasa has long accused Kigali of backing M23 rebels, led by members of the Tutsi ethnic group, in eastern Congo, who last year launched a fresh offensive in an area near Uganda, forcing more than 1 million people to flee.—APP

Japan doubles emergency funds after quake

TOKYO : Japan doubled a fund used for disaster relief and other contingencies to \$6.8 billion after a devastating New Year's Day earthquake, the government said Tuesday, as snow worsened conditions for survivors. The 7.5-magnitude quake and powerful aftershocks killed at least 222 people in central Japan, laying waste to houses and infrastructure. In the Ishikawa region on the Sea of Japan coast, about 16,700 people were still stuck in limbo in shelters, many without running water. "It is important to take all possible financial measures to enable a seamless response to rebuild the livelihoods of quake victims, as well as the restoration of the affected areas," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi told reporters. In the fiscal year from April, the government will raise its reserve fund – used for emergencies from disasters to economic downturns – from 500 billion yen (\$3.4 billion) to one trillion yen (\$6.8 billion). The revised draft budget, approved by ministers on Tuesday, will now be submitted to parliament for enactment. Separately, around 100 billion yen (\$680 million) from the current fiscal year's reserve fund was set to be earmarked for a relief package for the New Year's Day quake. Fears are rising of further deaths due to worsening health conditions in shelters as a cold front blankets the coast in snow. TV footage showed a long line of evacuees with heavy coats and umbrellas waiting for food rations, while others sifted through donated winter clothing.—Agencies

PODA unveils report on 16th rural women conference

The report launch ended on musical performance of Dr. Nagina Sadaf

DNA

ISLAMABAD : Reiterating its commitment for the uplift of the rural women, PODA launched the report of the last year's annual rural women conference today (Tuesday) here in Islamabad. The launching ceremony was attended by a visible number of representatives from the government departments, development sector, lawyers, media, rural women leaders, transgender persons, donor community and youth. The conference was attended by 2285 persons including 1826 women. The 3-Day, 16th Annual Rural Women Conference was held from October 15 to 17, 2023, in Islamabad, marked a significant occasion in the advocacy for rural women's rights and empowerment. Speaking on the occasion, CEO and the Founder, PODA, Ms. Sameena Nazir appreciated the efforts of the rural women farmers who being the backbone of the agriculture are still not acknowledged for their contributions. She also appreciated the donor community who showed commitment for the protection and promotion of human rights and specially of rural women farmers who need dire attention of the government for their inclusion in the



policies addressing their needs and priorities. Applauding the efforts of PODA for organizing the conference every year since 2009, Senator Farhatullah Babar termed

the conference resolution a timely measure as he was succeeded in accommodating some recommendations in his party's manifesto. "PODA conference opened new

vistas for me to understand new dimensions of the work done by PODA every year in the form of the conference which provides a rich opportunity to around 2000

rural women who travel across the country and interact with each other on issues following their priorities," said Farhatullah Babar. Riffat Inam Butt, Secretary Law

and Justice Commission of Pakistan, said that "usually organizations work on an issue for a limited period of time and then those are dropped in the middle of nowhere. However, PODA stands for a social cause like ending child marriages whole heartedly and owns the issue holistically leading towards a pragmatic way forward," she said. Sharing her views, Sameena Nazir, said that it has been PODA's signature event for the past 16 years, an annual celebration dedicated to honoring and commemorating the resilience, struggles, and triumphs of Pakistani women, particularly from rural communities. From highlighting challenges faced by rural women to celebrating their resilience and achievements, the report will serve as a valuable resource for policymakers, NGOs, and individuals committed to promoting gender equality and rural development. The audience also approved the theme for the next conference which would be focused on different dimensions to stop child marriages. Former Federal Minister, J. Salik also addressed on the occasion and appreciated the efforts of PODA for the protection of the rights of women, minorities and person-with-disabilities. The report launch ended on musical performance of Dr. Nagina Sadaf.

Indonesia to highlight Israel's violations at world court

The ICJ will eventually issue a non-binding advisory opinion for the UN General Assembly, which adopted a resolution for the request in December 2022

WEB DESK

JAKARTA: Indonesia is preparing legal arguments for an International Court of Justice hearing to challenge Israel's occupation of Palestine, Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said on Tuesday. The ICJ, which is also known as the World Court, will hold public hearings on Feb. 19 at The Hague, where parties are scheduled to give their views on the legal consequences of Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories. The ICJ will eventually issue a non-binding advisory opinion for the UN General Assembly, which adopted a resolution for the request in December 2022, before the latest Israeli escalation that has killed over 24,000 Palestinians and displaced about 1.9 million. "Indonesia supports the General

Assembly's effort in requesting an advisory opinion from the ICJ, because international law must be upheld," Marsudi said ahead of a discussion with international law experts in Jakarta. She said it was necessary to build a comprehensive legal opinion "to show the world Israel's blatant violation of international law against Palestine." She described as illegal Tel Aviv's annexation of Palestinian territories, its settlements in the West Bank and decision to change the status of Jerusalem. "Our deliberations today will not only support Indonesia's diplomacy, but to support the enforcement of world order according to international law and to support our Palestinian brothers and sisters to achieve their independence." Indonesia is a staunch supporter of Palestine, with its people and government seeing Palestin-

ian statehood as mandated by the nation's constitution, which calls for the abolition of colonialism. The February hearing at the ICJ is separate from the case South Africa launched late last year, which accuses Israel of engaging in "genocidal acts" in Gaza. Jakarta has not joined the recent case at The Hague as Indonesia is not party to the Genocide Convention. "Even though we are not party to the Genocide Convention, Indonesia has expressed its support for South Africa to report Israel's violations of the Genocide Convention to the ICJ," Marsudi said. "The main point of all Indonesia's efforts is to look for all possible ways to continue supporting the Palestinian struggle." Meanwhile, The public hearing at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague next month that will decide on "legal

consequences arising from the ongoing violation by Israel" could fuel the international community's support for Palestine. But analysts remain unsure whether the outcome will be immune to what has been widely described as Western double standards. Yet Indonesia will not back down from its support for the Palestinian cause, Foreign Minister Retno LP Marsudi emphasized during her annual speech on Monday, saying that Jakarta would seek to corner the UN into action at the advisory proceedings at The Hague, as the crisis in Gaza enters its fourth month. "I will be delivering an oral statement at the court to strengthen Palestine's legal standing," Retno said. "At the core of my message will be the fact that the UN cannot neglect the Palestinian struggle, politically or legally."

UK PM defends strikes on Houthis as self-defense

LONDON : British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak defended last week's airstrikes on targets linked to Yemen's Houthi group, saying they were "proportionate" and in "self-defense." In a statement in parliament, Sunak recalled the Iran-backed group's recent targeting of commercial shipping in the Red Sea, saying they also carried out attacks against British and American warships. "They fired on our ships and our sailors. It was the biggest attack on the Royal Navy for decades, and so we acted," he noted. His statement was the first since last week's strikes were carried out following criticism that parliament was not consulted beforehand. Defending the strikes, Sunak said they were carried out along with the US with support from Australia, Bahrain, Canada and the Netherlands in "self-defense consistent with the UN Charter." "I want to be clear that these were limited strikes. They were carefully targeted at launch sites for drones and ballistic missiles...I can tell the House today that our initial assessment is that all 13 planned targets were destroyed." "We have seen no evidence thus far of civilian casualties, which we took great care to avoid." He reiterated that it was "limited, not escalatory," and claimed that it was a "necessary and proportionate response to a direct threat to UK vessels and therefore to the UK itself." Sunak said the Royal Navy is in the Red Sea as part of Operation Prosperity Guardian, a US-led military operation by a multinational coalition formed last month in response to Houthi attacks on shipping in the Red Sea. Rejecting Houthi statements that the targeting of ships is only in connection with Israel's war on Gaza, Sunak said the group targets ships from around the world. "We should not fall for the Houthis' malign narrative that this is about Israel and Gaza—they target ships from around the world.—DNA

Turkish FM warns of Gaza war escalation

ISTANBUL : Current events in the Middle East point to the three-month-old Gaza war widening into something broader, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said on Tuesday. "It should not be misleading to see that what happened in the Red Sea, Syria, and Iraq foreshadows that the spiral of war in Gaza will gradually turn into a bigger maelstrom," Fidan told a joint press conference with his Croatian counterpart Gordan Grlic-Radman in the capital Ankara. Türkiye has said on relevant platforms that there can be no lasting peace in the region without equal security and sovereignty for the Palestinians, Fidan added. Israel has launched relentless air and ground attacks on the Gaza Strip since a cross-border attack by Hamas which Tel Aviv says killed 1,200 people. At least 24,285 Palestinians have since been killed, mostly women and children, and 61,154 injured, according to Palestinian health authorities. According to the UN, 85% of the population of Gaza is already internally displaced amid acute shortages of food, clean water and medicine, while 60% of the enclave's infrastructure is damaged or destroyed.—APP

Polish truckers suspend Ukraine border blockade

WARSAW: Polish truckers will suspend their long-standing blockade of the Ukrainian border following an agreement with the government, authorities said Tuesday, in a move that could resolve a source of friction between the allies. The hauliers confirmed the suspension until March but warned that they would return to the border if their demands were not met. Kyiv said previously that the fallout from the protest had been "catastrophic" and that Ukrainian drivers stuck at the border were facing "dire" conditions. Ukraine relies heavily on road transport with EU member Poland for its exports and imports, particularly since the Russian invasion nearly two years ago. "The protest will be suspended until March 1," Polish Infrastructure Minister Dariusz Klimczak told reporters alongside representatives of the hauliers. "We have an agreement. An agreement that was long-awaited not just by Polish hauliers, but also by many entrepreneurs in Poland, by the European Commission, by Ukraine," he added. The Polish hauliers have been blocking the border since November to demand the reintroduction of restrictions to enter the European Union for their Ukrainian competitors. The bloc had waived the permits system after Russia invaded Ukraine.—APP

Palestinian envoy urges NAM to pressure for ceasefire

KAMPALA: Uganda: The Palestinian ambassador to the UN called on the members of the Non-Aligned Movement in Kampala, Uganda, to put pressure on Israel to implement a ceasefire in Gaza after 100 days of war with militant Palestinian group Hamas. Rayid Mansour addressed in his opening speech the 120 members, convening throughout this week, that despite the UN General Assembly and the Security Council's resolutions, a ceasefire remained elusive. The Non-Aligned Movement, formed during the collapse of the colonial systems and at the height of the Cold War, has played a key part in decolonization processes, according to its website. Mansour claimed that Israel was leading an apartheid of the Palestinians in the ongoing war that broke out on Oct.7 when Hamas suddenly attacked the south of Israel, killing some 1,200 people, and taking 250 others hostage. Israel retaliated by pounding the Gaza Strip, killing nearly 24,000 people and displacing about 80 percent of the population. "We are still under this colonial occupation by Israel and we see genocide committed on our people, particularly in the Gaza Strip," he said. He said the Palestinians were grateful to South Africa for launching a case against Israel at the International Court for Justice. "We are the last kids around the block. All of you accomplished your national independence and you put an end to colonialism." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has previously said Israel will pursue its war against Hamas until victory and will not be stopped by anyone, including the ICJ.—APP



ISLAMABAD : FPCI executive committee member Nadeem Kushti wala presenting flowers to the President Federation Chamber of Commerce Atif Ikram Shaikh, Khalid Tawab, Sheikh Umar Rehan and Shahid Javed Qureshi are also present.—DNA

Iran leader applauds Yemenis' support for Palestinians

NEWS DESK

TEHRAN : Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has hailed the Yemenis' anti-Israel naval operations in the Red Sea, saying they did a "great job" in defiance of US threats. Speaking during a meeting with Friday Prayer leaders on Tuesday, Ayatollah Khamenei said that the Yemeni maritime campaign in support of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip "deserves admiration and appreciation." "The Yemeni nation and the Ansarullah government did a great job... They damaged the vital channels of the Zionist regime. The United States threatened [them], but they were not afraid of the US," he stated. "Their job is rightly and fairly an example of jihad (endeavor for the sake of God). We hope that these efforts, acts of

resistance and activities will continue until victory." The Leader also said the people of the world acknowledge that the Gazans are "innocent and victorious" while the usurping regime is "cruel and blood-thirsty" as well as "defeated and disintegrated." "The innocent and powerful people of Gaza were able to influence the world with their struggles, and today the world views these people, fighters and their resistance group as hero," he noted. Through their resilience, the Gazans promoted the holy faith of Islam and popularized the Qur'an, the Leader said, wishing pride for resistance fighters, especially the Gaza people and fighters. Referring to Iran's parliamentary and Assembly of Experts elections scheduled for March 1, Ayatollah Khamenei said, "Participation in elections is not just a duty, but it is the right of the people."

IRGC showers Mossad, Daesh bases with barrage of missiles

TEHRAN : The IRGC announced in a statement on Tuesday the first missile strike smashed the gathering places of commanders and main elements of recent terrorist attacks in the Iranian cities of Kerman and Rask. It added that the strike came after gathering points of the Daesh Takfiri terror group were identified in the occupied territories of Syria and destroyed with a number of ballistic missiles. The IRGC assured the Iranian nation that it will find "the malicious terrorist groups" that are active against Tehran "wherever they are and will punish them for their shameful deeds". The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, ISIS or Daesh) terrorist group has claimed responsibility for the fatal explosions in Kerman in early January which martyred more than 90 civilians, including several children and women. Last month, another terrorist attack hit a police headquarters in the Southeastern city of Rask, martyring 11 police officers. The IRGC announced in a later statement that another missile strike has been launched at a main espionage center of the Israeli regime's Mossad spy agency in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. It said the strike was a sign of the IRGC's full intelligence superiority over the Zionist regime's bases and activities in the region. The IRGC added that its missile strike on the Iraqi Kurdistan Region has totally destroyed the Mossad center there. It noted that the Mossad center was used "to develop espionage operations and plan acts of terrorism" across the region, especially in Iran. The missile strike against the Mossad center was in retaliation for the recent assassinations of the resistance front's commanders, especially those of the IRGC, by the Zionist regime, the statement read, referring to Israel's assassination of Iran's senior military adviser Brigadier General Seyed Razi Mousavi, Deputy Chief of the Political Bureau of Hamas Saleh Al-Arouri and top Hezbollah Commander Wissam Hassan Al-Tawil.—Agencies

Briefs

JUI-S parts ways with PTI

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Jamiat-ul-Ulema-e-Islam Shirani (JUI-S) has announced to part ways with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). The split in the alliance is the result of the JUI-S statement on the Supreme Court decision regarding the PTI's intra-party elections and electoral symbol. Maulana Gul Naseeb had declared the return of the bat symbol as a legal decision. He had said that it was the failure of the PTI's lawyers who could not plead their case before the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court decision is in accordance with the constitution and the law, he had added. PTI leader Sher Afzal Marwat confirmed the split between the parties.

Aseefa kicks off Bilawal's campaign in Karachi

DNA

KARACHI: Aseefa Bhutto Zardari urged the public to support her brother Bilawal Bhutto Zardari during the upcoming elections slated to be held on Feb 8. Addressing the public gathering in Karachi's Ibrahim Haidari, she highlighted that voting for the arrow symbol on Feb 8 is crucial for their brighter future, promising health cards, free electricity up to 300 units per month, doubled salaries, and quality healthcare under the PPP leadership. Aseefa Bhutto Zardari asked the voters to be the voice of Bilawal and ensure his success. Earlier, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said "we didn't think [about the consequences] when we were having a cup of tea in Kabul - an obvious reference to former spymaster Lt-Gen Faiz Hameed who had visited the Afghan capital after the Taliban takeover in August 2021. "We invited the terrorists to live in Karachi and Fata [the erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Area]," Bilawal said about the PTI government's decision to hold peace talks with the Taliban [TTP] and allow them to resettle in Pakistan - a move that has proved to be a disaster for the country. Addressing a rally in Ratoero town of Larkana, Bilawal warned that the people and the police had eliminated the terrorists through sacrifices, but they were again gaining strength. The weapons employed by the United States in Afghanistan against the terrorists were being used in Pakistan, he added.

NZ MP resigns following shoplifting allegations

DNA

AUCKLAND: A New Zealand MP has resigned following multiple allegations of shoplifting, which police are investigating. Golriz Ghahraman, of the Green Party, is alleged to have stolen three times from two clothing stores - one in Auckland and the other in Wellington. The former UN human rights lawyer made history in 2017 as the first refugee in the country's government. She once held her party's justice portfolio. Work-related stress made her behave completely out of character, she said. "I have let down a lot of people and I am very sorry," she added. Ms Ghahraman fled Iran as a child with her family, who were all granted political asylum in New Zealand. Her resignation on Tuesday comes after CCTV footage emerged showing her allegedly taking a designer handbag from an Auckland boutique. The 42-year-old, who has not been charged with any crime, said in a statement her actions had "fallen short" of the high standards of behaviour the public expected from elected representatives. "It's not a behaviour I can explain because it's not rational in any way, and after medical evaluation, I understand I'm not well," she said, adding that she did not want to make excuses for herself.

President for sharing scientific knowledge to benefit humanity

Pakistan could also become one of the world's leading nutrition-supplying countries by working on modern scientific lines



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday while alluding to the significance of the technological advancement and innovations in diverse fields and the availability of knowledge, stressed the need to share the latest scientific breakthroughs, experiences and achievements for the greater benefits of entire humanity. The president said that the availability of knowledge should not be contained under the mere tag of 'copyrights' as greater accessibility could help humanity to move through the current economic, social and global challenges. The president was speaking as a chief guest at a ceremony to mark the 29th-anniversary celebration of the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. The event was attended by members of the diplomatic corps, former diplomats, members of academia and the media.

The president said that scientific knowledge should be shared among the nations without any hindrance by resetting the priorities which were focused somewhat elsewhere. "Open knowledge resources should be utilized and the world should work for the mutual transfer of knowledge. The injustices should be addressed," he emphasised. The president further said that transformation in the world could take place in the presence of 'ethics or humanity-based order', adding the new world would be dependent upon these shifts. While the rules-based world order was dominated by material-driven priorities, he opined. He regretted that contrary to the requirements of the world, the prevalent tendency was towards the ultra-rich who had been becoming richer while the poor of the world were mired in poverty and deprivation. He stressed that just and equitable distribution of wealth in the world could alleviate the sufferings of humanity. "The world is not ready to change the

exploitative attitude and end exploitation," he said and referred to a recent report of OXFAM which said that billionaires had doubled their income while about 5 billion people in the world witnessed shrinkage in their earnings. President Alvi said that genome sequencing was one of the major breakthroughs in the scientific world which had become more accessible to people due to the exponential pace of scientific developments. The world is heading towards exponential development as the technology will no longer remain static," he added. In future, he said, quantum computing could handle the data of billions of humans with regard to their health, besides opening up 'tremendous possibilities in the agriculture sector'. The president cited the agri-advancement of the Netherlands, which though a smaller country, became the second largest exporter of agri-products in the world, adding the country had tapped the water resources by conservation methods and promoting plant science.

He said Pakistan could also become one of the world's leading nutrition-supplying countries by working on modern scientific lines. Citing costly power production, he said the advancement in solar technology could address the issue. The president also expressed his satisfaction that the world including Pakistan had raised awareness about carbon emissions which still required wider co-operation among the nations. The president also lauded the contributions of the COMSATS in the realms of science and technology among its 27 members. The president also cut a cake along with the envoys of member states of COMSATS to celebrate the occasion. Executive Director COMSATS Dr Nafees Zakaria, in his speech, said that in today's rapidly evolving world, science and technology stood as the bedrock of progress and the key to unlocking solutions for pressing global challenges. He also highlighted a series of new initiatives by COMSATS pertaining to information technology and its applications,

artificial intelligence, genomic sequencing, renewable energy, electric vehicles, precision agriculture, industrial biotechnology and climate change. Prof. Dr. Lin Zhaohui, Director, the International Center for Climate and Environment Sciences (ICCES), China, on the occasion, said the milestone in the journey of COMSATS needed to be cherished for the organization's continued commitment to promoting South-South and triangular Cooperation in the realm of science, technology and innovation. He also highlighted the issue of climate change as one of the imminent threats to the planet and appreciated COMSATS for being at the forefront of promoting sustainable solutions and environmental stewardship. COMSATS an intergovernmental organization of 27 member states, has its Secretariat hosted by the Government of Pakistan, in Islamabad since 1994. Nobel Laureate and world-renowned scientist Prof. Abdus Salam was the brain behind COMSATS' creation.



DAVOS: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar met US Presidential special envoy on Climate, John Kerry on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum. - DNA

South Korea 'number one hostile state': Kim

PYONGYANG: North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un has said he no longer believed unification with South Korea was possible and called for constitutional change to identify the south as "number one hostile state." In a speech to the Supreme People's Assembly, North Korea's parliament, Kim said he had concluded that unification with the South was no longer possible, and that Seoul is seeking regime change and unification by absorption. The two Koreas ended their 1950-53 war with a truce but not a peace treaty, however, ties seem to be deteriorating. "We don't want war, but we have no intention of avoiding it," Kim was quoted as saying by KCNA news agency.

"In the event of war on the Korean peninsula, I think it is also important to reflect on the issue of completely occupying, suppressing, and reclaiming (South Korea) and incorporating it into the territory of our Republic," Kim added KCNA said on Tuesday that North Korea would close three agencies that oversee unification and inter-Korean tourism: the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification, the National Economic Cooperation Bureau and the Mount Kumgang International Tourism Administration. "The two most hostile states, which are at war, are now in acute confrontation on the Korean peninsula," a decision adopted by the assembly said, according to KCNA. - Agencies

Donald Trump wins landslide in Iowa

FOREIGN DESK

IOWA: Donald Trump won the Iowa caucuses in a landslide on Monday, giving the former president his first victory in the contest for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination and solidifying his status as the race's clear frontrunner. With most of the votes counted from precincts across the Midwestern state, Trump was on course to win more than 51 per cent, with Ron DeSantis narrowly beating Nikki Haley to secure a distant second place, with just over 21 per cent support. Haley came in third, with around 19 per cent. "I really think this is time now for everybody, our country, to come together," Trump said in front of his supporters at a post-caucus party in downtown Des Moines. Instead of attacking DeSantis and Haley as he had repeatedly done

throughout the campaign, Trump held out an olive branch, describing his Republican rivals as "very smart people, very capable people". Trump's victory was the largest ever vote share in a contested Iowa caucus, beating the 41 per cent won by George W Bush in 2000. It showed his continued grip on the Republican party, with voters backing a man facing dozens of federal criminal charges. The result left DeSantis and Haley each claiming to be in a head-to-head contest with Trump. Both candidates had hoped to emerge from Iowa as the most plausible challenger to Trump for the party's nomination. The Iowa votes determine the state's 40 delegates to July's Republican National Convention, at which delegates from across the US select the party's presidential nominee. In his speech to supporters DeSantis, the governor of Florida, made clear he would continue.

Empowering LG system vital for development



ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Federal Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Tuesday that all those countries which had touched the zenith of development had done so by empowering local government. "Throughout my own experiences and understandings there is no democracy without local government", he said while delivering his speech at a two-day Conference for the Civic Hackathon "Problem Identification". The minister opined that probably lack of a strong local government system was probably one of the major problems in Pakistan's political history. Terming the conference for the civic hackathon problem identification as a very interesting initiative, he said it aimed to bring together experts from the public, private sector and civil society to collectively identify the most pressing civic issues in the country - in order attempt to later develop a digital solution for it. He said that in Pakistan, there was a lot of potential to focus on developing innovative local solutions. However, he said that the problems were often identified in isolation by the public sector and in his opinion this more participatory approach of conducting a problem identification conference and later a civic hackathon would provide more sustainable results. Solangi said that the government of Pakistan now recognized the increasing need and advantage of a culture of evidence-based decision-making that is participatory - meaning that it engaged citizens and that was need-based so to ensure the effective allocation of resources. He said that during the 18th Amendment, Article 140 was amended by adding sub article called 140-A reading: "Each province shall by law establish a local government system and devolve political, administrative and financial responsibility and authority to elected representatives of the local govt".

OEC to export workforce to Romania

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC), an attached department of the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HD) is set to export workforce to Romania in the different fields. An official source told APP here on Tuesday, that Pakistan and Romania have strong ties in the different fields and working for mutual prosperity and development. Acknowledging Ro-

mania's dynamic sectors and welcoming environment, he underlined the positive impact of the collaboration, providing not only employment opportunities but also fostering cultural exchange and understanding of each other. Highlighting the achievements in this regard, he mentioned that 8,912 Pakistani workers have been employed in various sectors in Romania over the last five years. To a question, he highlighted the proactive role of the Bureau of Emigration & Overseas Employment in exploring job opportunities for Pakistani workers in Romania. He reaffirmed the Government of Pakistan's commitment to enhance cooperation and stated that the government aims to sign a MoU on labor migration with Romania. This MoU will create a structured framework to facilitate safe, orderly, and regular labor migration and will address the impediments that may arise in the process.

Israeli aggression continues as Gaza death tops 24,000

Seven displaced children and women suffering from injuries were also evacuated to Mohammed Yousef el-Najar Hospital after an Israeli warplane bombed the beach of Rafah, south of Gaza

CENTRELINE REPORT

GAZA: As the US-backed Israeli genocidal war on the Gaza Strip entered day 102 on Tuesday, massive aerial and artillery strikes continued to pound neighborhoods and homes and massacre more civilians, mostly children and women. The health ministry in Gaza said on Tuesday that the Israeli occupation army committed 15 massacres in different areas of the Gaza Strip during the past 24 hours, killing at least 158 civilians and injuring over 320 others, while a large number of victims are still under the rubble of bombed buildings or lying on roads. In a statement, the health ministry added that the death toll from the ongoing Israeli bombardments, which started on October 7, climbed to 24,285 martyrs and the number of the wounded surged to 61,154 people. Every day, the Israeli army carries out deadly 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,

China warns Philippines not to play with fire

Marcos had greeted Lai on winning the election

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: China has issued a warning to the Philippines over Manila's recent remarks after Chinese Taipei elected a new president. Beijing summoned its ambassador in Manila on Tuesday and warned the Philippines "not to play with fire" after President Ferdinand Marcos Jr congratulated Taiwan's president-elect Lai Ching-te on his election victory. China was "strongly dissatisfied with and resolutely opposes these remarks," Beijing's Foreign Ministry spokesperson said, referring to Marcos congratulating Lai on Monday for winning the election and referring to him as its next president.

al-Qassam 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. PIC said that the Israeli occupation army continued to attack different areas of Gaza last night and on Tuesday morning, killing and injuring dozens of citizens. According to local sources, two civilians were martyred and others were injured when the Israeli army bombed a group of fishermen and citizens in Gaza port. Seven displaced children and women suffering from injuries were also evacuated to the Mohammed Yousef el-Najar Hospital after an Israeli warplane bombed the beach of Rafah, south of Gaza. The Israeli army also bombed homes in Abasan al-Kabira town, east of Khan Yunis, with no information about casualties. Meanwhile, three civilians were killed and others were wounded following an Israeli attack on UNRWA's al-Daraj Clinic and School, which houses displaced families, in the east of Gaza City.