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Presentation on how Pak faring to global mega trends

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CJP, two senior judges oppose Constitutional bench at last with split vote

PTI's Shibli Faraz, Omar Ayub Khan oppose decision, say sources; Justice Amin Uddin to head the bench



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: In light of the 26th Amendment approved by parliament last month, the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) has constituted a seven-member constitutional bench under Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, sources told Geo News on Tuesday. Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridlied judicial commission constituted the bench in 7-5 split decision, with a majority of the members voting in favour of the constitutional bench. Sources claimed that CJP

Afridi, senior-most judges Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Muneeb Akhtar and opposition PTI members Omar Ayub and Shibli Faraz opposed the decision. The constitutional bench includes judges from all provinces; Justice Amin-ud-Din and Justice Ayesha Malik from Punjab, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi from Sindh, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan from Balochistan and Justice Musarrat Hilali from KP. The newly-appointed chief justice chaired the first meeting after the reconstitution of the top judicial body in line with the 26th

Amendment. The meeting was attended by senior puisne judge Justice Shah, Justice Akhtar, Justice Amin-Ud-din, Senator Farooq H Naek, MNA Sheikh Aftab Ahmad, MNA Omar Ayub, Roshan Khurshid Bharucha, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, Senator Shibli Faraz, Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan, and Pakistan Bar Council representative Akhtar Hussain. As per the 26th Constitutional Amendment, the strength of the Judicial Commission is 13 members. The judicial commission is mandated to appoint judges to the Supreme Court, high courts, and the Federal Shariat Court (FSC). As per the addition of Article 175-A in the Constitution through the 26th Amendment, the JCP will be headed by CJP and will also consist of two senators and two MNAs. The commission would also consist of three senior-most judges of the Supreme Court, most senior judge of the constitutional bench, the Federal Minister for Law and Justice, the Attorney General for Pakistan, an advocate not having experience of less than 15 years of practice in the Supreme Court to be nominated by the Pakistan Bar Council (for two years). A woman or non-Muslim member of parliament qualifies to be a parliamentarian to be nominated by the speaker for two years will also be part of the key panel.

Pak, China Indus Shield exercise ends

The successful execution of such a large-scale exercise demonstrates Pakistan Air Force's joint operational readiness

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Indus Shield-Chinese, a bilateral module of Exercise Indus Shield 2024, being conducted separately between Chinese and Pakistan Airforces has concluded at an operational air base of Pakistan Air Force. The exercise witnessed participation from People's Liberation Army Air Force of China, with its personnel and high-tech equipment comprising AESA Radar and Long Range BVR Equipped J-16 & J-10C fighter aircraft, Lethal HQ-22 Surface to Air Defence system, Potent Airborne Electronic Warfare YTG-9 Platform, alongside KJ-500 Airborne Early Warning system pitched against PAF's J-10C and JP-17 Block-III fighter jets simulating contemporary aerial combat scenarios. The successful execution of such a large-scale exercise demonstrates Pakistan Air Force's joint operational readiness among allied nations while addressing contemporary security challenges. Aimed at validating interoperability between China and Pakistan in the face of contemporary air combat challenges and by simulating various military tactics in near realistic multi domain operations training environment, Indus Shield-Chinese has maximized the war-fighting potential of both the participating air forces.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif being briefed on the construction of Jinnah Avenue-9th Avenue intersection. - DNA

Inaugurates mega projects

Rate reduction a pleasing move for economy: PM

The prime minister, in his opening remarks, while chairing the meeting of the federal cabinet, said a further two percent reduction of the policy rate was a pleasing development for business, agriculture, exports, and commerce sectors

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday lauding the policy rate reduction by the State Bank of Pakistan to 15%, said that the government's economic stability measures were coming to fruition. The prime minister, in his opening remarks, while chairing the meeting of the federal cabinet, said a further two percent reduction of the policy rate was a pleasing development for business, agriculture, exports, and commerce sectors. He said SBP had gradually reduced the policy rate from 22% to 15%, encouraging people to invest their money in the economy to create jobs, enhance production, and exports. Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the policy rate reduction would decrease the debt burden by Rs1.3 trillion providing huge relief and creating a great fiscal space for the country. He expressed the hope that the country's economy would strengthen if the indicators

continued to move positively. The prime minister told the cabinet members that in a follow-up of his recent visit to Saudi Arabia, a Pakistani delegation had left for the Kingdom to discuss cooperation in mining and minerals, solar energy and skilled IT workforce which was required by both Saudi Arabia and Qatar. He asked the IT ministry to give a presentation to explain their strategy to produce IT workforce of international standard to make them cope with the requirements of both the countries. Calling for swift action on B2B MoUs with Saudi Arabia, the prime minister said the Azerbaijan government had also given a green signal for the signing of \$2 billion MoUs to strengthen bilateral cooperation. "These are good signals. How we take advantage of these is up to us," he remarked. The prime minister hinted at announcing a power relief package for the winter season and emphasised facilitating

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Briefs

Two Chinese nationals injured

A clash broke out between the foreigners and security guards at a police station

BUREAU REPORT

KARACHI: Two Chinese nationals were injured in a shooting by a security guard, a police officer said, as the Sindh government reported a "clash" at a police station. Speaking to reporters at the site of the incident, Kemari Senior Superintendent of Police Faizan Ali said: "Two Chinese [nationals] have been injured due to a security guard's firing." According to a statement by the Sindh home department, a clash broke out between the foreigners and security guards at a police station in Karachi's Sindh Industrial Trading Estate (SITE) A area. Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar instructed authorities to arrest the security guard involved in the incident, the statement said. Lanjar sought details from the South deputy inspector general, stating that facts of the incident must be confirmed with a comprehensive inquiry and said, "[He] must be informed of the inquiry report and police action," it added. The home minister was further quoted as saying that companies providing security to Chinese experts/residents and foreigners should be audited and the audit report must be sent for review. Lanjar asserted that physical and mental fitness tests for the guards who were assigned to security duties must be ensured, adding that services should be taken from fully trained and fit security guards. He also ordered a crackdown on unregistered and illegal security companies, according to the statement.

Rejects opposition hue and cry over Amends

Legislation not carried out for single person: Tarar

"Extending tenure to five years will not affect institution's merit-based system," says information minister

RANA TAHIR SHAHBAZ

ISLAMABAD: In its bid to defend the passage of six amendment bills in the parliament, including one extending the fixed tenure of services chiefs up to five years and the other increasing number of judges in the apex and high courts, the government stood firm on the stance that the legislation was not carried out for a single person. Federal Minister for Information Attallah Tarar said that the tweaks were not introduced suddenly, as consultation was ongoing and Pakistan People's Party also taken into confidence. The opposition was not ready to discuss the legislation," he said, speaking during Geo News programme 'Aaj Shahzeb Khanzada Kay Sath' on Tuesday. Tarar's remarks came in the wake of the passage of the six bills approved by both the Senate and the National Assembly a day earlier, which turned into law after acting president Yusuf Raza Gilani signed them. Gilani signed all six bills including the Supreme Court Number of Judges (Amendment) Bill, 2024, the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure (Amendment)

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PTI's ruckus, leads to prorogation of NA session

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ruckus and sloganeering of members belonging to Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) on Tuesday led to the prorogation of the National Assembly session for indefinite period. Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, an independent member of the National Assembly was speaking on point of order when PTI lawmakers started sloganeering which compelled the Deputy Speaker to read the prorogation order signed by President. Earlier, speaking in the House, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi clarified that he did not receive a single penny from anyone. He claimed that the forward bloc was on the card in PTI on that day which he failed, and the time would prove it. He went on to

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26th Amendment Justices Shah, Akhtar request CJP to fix pleas

Two judges are members of committee formed under SC Practice and Procedure Act (2023) for fixing cases

STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court's Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Munib Akhtar have written to Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Khan Afridi seeking immediate fixation of the pleas challenging the recently adopted 26th Constitutional Amendment. The letter undersigned by the two judges, who are the members of the committee constituted under the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act (2023) for fixing cases and forming benches, stated that this committee decided that the "constitutional petitions" challenging the 26th Constitutional Amendment be fixed for hearing in full court on November 4. It stated that the decision made on October 31 was promptly communicated on the same day but no cause list was issued for the hearing on the said date. The decision of the committee continues to stand in terms of Section 2(3) of Practice and Procedure Act

and has to be given effect. Justices Shah, Akhtar request CJP to fix pleas challenging 26th Amendment in full court this week "We are therefore constrained to require the fixation of the aforementioned constitutional petitions before the full court positively during the current week, and for the cause list to be issued accordingly forthwith," the letter read. It further stated that the Supreme Court registrar is directed to upload the committee's decision of 31 October, 2024 on the official website of the top court. It may be noted that several pleas have been filed in the Supreme Court against the controversial judicial reforms recently introduced by the government, which remain a bone of contention despite their dramatic passage in the parliament consequent signing after multiple delays. These pleas have been submitted by Jamat-e-Islami (JI) and various lawyers' bodies including the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA),

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Pakistan, Iran discuss bilateral ties

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister /Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar received the Foreign Minister of Iran Seyed Abbas Araghchi @ araghchi and his delegation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The two Ministers noted the longstanding

PICTURE ON PAGE 2

ties between Pakistan and Iran and emphasized the need to strengthen these relations through increased trade, energy cooperation and enhanced border management. They expressed commitment to exploring avenues of enhancing trade, investment and people to people contacts. Deputy Prime Minister Dar and Foreign Minister Araghchi also discussed the situation in the Middle East. They strongly condemned Israeli aggression against Palestinians and expressed their common resolved in supporting the inalienable right to self determination of the Palestinian people.

Exit polls show Trump leading in the elections Trump, Kamala confident about election victory

Five non-credible bomb threats were reported, leading to a temporary evacuation at two Fulton County locations

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: As the polling in the most states of the USA has completed both Donald Trump and Kamala Harris have claimed victory. The counting has already begun with both sides claiming that the voters have cast their votes for them. Donald Trump in his message said that he had 95 per cent chances of winning the election while Kamala vowed to put America on path to peace and progress after her success. Republican Vice-Presidential nominee and Donald Trump's running mate JD Vance cast his ballot in-person in the state of Ohio at the polling station in Cincinnati. Vance arrived at the St Anthony of Padua Church to vote with his wife, Usha and their children, Non-credible threats briefly



disrupted voting at two polling locations in Georgia Tuesday morning, according to local officials who say they will seek a court order to extend voting hours. Five non-credible bomb threats were reported, leading to a temporary evacuation at two Fulton County locations for about 30 minutes, Nadine Williams, the county's registration and elections director,

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24th Int'l Psychiatry Conference Islamabad

Turkey Republic Day Reception

Pakistan-Canada business ties in focus as FPCCI hosts Canadian investor

ISLAMABAD: A Canadian investor and associated with the mineral industry Luqman Ahmed visited the capital office of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Canadian investor Luqman Ahmed met the officials of FPCCI. Vice President of the Federation Tariq Jadoon and Incharge Capital Office Karim Aziz Malik, Chairman Coordination Capital Office Malik Sohail also attended the meeting. President FPCCI Atif Ikram Shaikh said on this occasion that there are investment opportunities in Pakistan, the business community is playing a role to restore the confidence of investors, trade and investment between Pakistan and Canada. want to promote, a delegation of Pakistani businessmen will visit Canada and America in March, a delegation of 25 to 30 people will visit. Speaking on this occasion, Canadian investor Luqman Ahmed said that hundreds of exploration companies are ready to come to Pakistan, there are opportunities for exploration in the field of mining and minerals in Pakistan, there is a need to improve the image of Pakistan in the outside world. Pakistani companies are also coming towards exploration, our two exploration projects have been successful in Peru, if the business environment in Pakistan's mining sector is improved, companies can come.—APP

Multi-faceted activities arranged for primary school students

PESHAWAR: The District Administration under the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa program Awami Agenda on Tuesday held a magnificent multi-faceted exhibition at the Kohat Sports Complex to create awareness among the primary school students of Kohat on environment, its protection, science and sports. Chairman DDAC Kohat Shafiqullah Jan MPA and Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah attended the said exhibition as chief guests. The students of government primary schools of Kohat set up beautiful display stalls and presented practical activities. Parents, teachers and people from different walks of life witnessed the activities in large numbers and highly appreciated the various activities. The audience highly appreciated the children's scientific experiments and environmental awareness. Chairman DDAC Kohat and Commissioner Kohat highly appreciated the Deputy Commissioner Kohat Abdul Akram and his team for organizing these useful activities for the primary school students. Commissioner Kohat announced that under the Chief Minister program Awami Agenda such useful activities will also be organized continuously in all the districts of Kohat Division.—APP

Japanese Ambassador's Commendations ceremony WADA confers award to Elli for contributing to Pak-Japan friendship

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan WADA Mitsuhiro conferred the "Japanese Ambassador's Commendations" to Ms. TAKAGAKI Elli at the ceremony held at his Official Residence in Islamabad. The Japanese Ambassador's Commendations are awarded to persons or organisations to commend their significant contributions or distinct service in accordance with the work of the Embassy of Japan. Ms. TAKAGAKI Elli, Founder of Paper Miracles, Sunny Miracles, Plastic Miracles, "Colors of Pakistan" and Jobs Intl Private Limited, has set up and involved in activities including "Paper Miracles" to support women's empowerment in Pakistan for many years. Ambassador WADA,



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan WADA Mitsuhiro and Ms. TAKAGAKI Elli with others at Japanese Ambassador's Commendations ceremony.

speaking on the occasion, praised and thanked her for dedication to the development of Pakistan and contribution to Pak-Japan relations. Ms. Takagaki, were presented the certificates of commendations as well as the memorial shield.

KP govt launches mega solarization project for sustainable energy

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the committee for the solarization of government buildings. The initiative is aimed at addressing power shortages and promoting sustainable energy solutions across the province. The meeting was attended by the Chief Minister's Advi-

son on Finance, Muzzammil Aslam, and other key committee members. The meeting focused on the proposed plan to solarize a wide range of government infrastructure across the province, including hospitals, schools, colleges, universities, police stations, jails, government offices, as well as tube wells and streetlights. The committee was briefed on the ongoing data collection process regarding the electricity needs of government buildings. So far, data for 13,000 units has been compiled. To solarize these buildings, approximately 73,000 megawatts of solar system capacity will be required, which will generate an estimated 92 million units of solar electricity annually.—APP

Concern expressed over impact of armed conflicts on environment

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Tuesday emphasized the need to address the environmental consequences of armed conflicts. He expressed these views in his message on the occasion of the "International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict", which was observed across the world on 6th November 2024 under the auspices of the United Nations. The Speaker stressed that armed conflicts not only bring widespread human suffering but also lead to severe environmental degradation and badly affect biodiversity. He highlighted the impact of war on natural resources and the ecosystems that sustain life, urging global collaboration to protect the environment in conflict zones. "The devastating effects of war on the environment extend beyond national borders and generations," Ayaz Sadiq said that armed conflicts and war destroy infrastructure as well as cause deforestation.—APP

Kundi chairs meeting on Cash-Free Digitalization for public sector universities

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi chaired a consultation meeting between public sector universities and JazzCash on the digitalization and cash-free transition of financial operations at Governor House on Tuesday. The meeting was attended by senior officials from JazzCash, including President Murtaza Ali, as well as registrars and finance officers from various public sector universities in the province. During the meeting, JazzCash representatives provided a comprehensive briefing on the nationwide initiative to promote cash-free digital transactions, highlighting the seamless 24/7 transfer and receipt of funds across the country, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. JazzCash officials also discussed the integration of university financial processes such as scholarship payments, exam fees, staff salaries, and other financial matters through the digital platform. The company outlined how universities could benefit from immediate digital fund transfers, simplifying financial management and ensuring transparency. Moreover, JazzCash proposed in-

cluding all universities in the JazzCash app, which would enable them to transfer and receive funds efficiently and in real time. The meeting also shed light on JazzCash's extensive network, with 19 million active users nationwide and 32,000 agents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa alone. University representatives expressed interest in learning more about the digitalization process, seeking clarity on fund transfers, charges, profits, and other related procedures. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi emphasized the importance of transparency and ease in financial matters, saying, "The world is rapidly transitioning to digitalization. The use of modern technology for fund transfers and payments has significantly simplified lives and created new opportunities for efficiency and transparency." The meeting concluded with an agreement to further explore and implement digital solutions that would streamline financial operations in the province's public sector universities. The session served as an advisory consultation aimed at facilitating the digital transition.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister /Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar receiving the Foreign Minister of Iran Seyed Abbas Araghchi at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ahsan, Munir discuss economic growth strategies

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal met with Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations (UN), and discussed the country's development agenda, COP29 preparations, and economic growth strategies. "Pakistan is aligned with the UN's development agenda. It will actively participate in the COP29 conference in Baku this month and discuss its strategic priorities about effectively tackling the confronted environmental challenges," he said in a recent meeting with the envoy, according to a news release on Tuesday. He said the Pakistani delegation would stress the need for strengthening regional cooperation to strengthen the environmental stance. During COP29, the minister said, there would be a significant international participation in the Round Table on Environment to be held in the Pakistan Pavilion. Talking about Pakistan's continuous efforts for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan was the first country to adopt the SDGs in the Parliament as soon as they were introduced and set. "All our development projects are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals," the minister said, adding that the SDG Unit was established in the Ministry of Planning following the announcement of the UNSDGs. "Today the unit is functioning as a regular department." He said as many as 17 task forces in the Ministry of Planning were being established on a fast-track basis, which would monitor projects at the national and provincial levels, ensuring their complete alignment with the objectives of the SDGs. The minister also commented on the stock market's improved situation in Pakistan and said that out of 530 companies; only 70 companies have exports of more than \$10,000. Ahsan Iqbal encouraged companies to increase exports and effectively use their potential in the global market, saying that "every enterprise in Pakistan should set an export target of more than \$10,000." He expressed satisfaction over the recent wave of investment under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and said the council was providing an enabling environment for promoting large investments and business opportunities. He expressed the hope that ongoing investment and economic reforms would lead Pakistan towards sustainable development.—DNA

PNS Zulfiqar commanding officer explores avenues for further collaboration

Visits port djibouti during deployment on regional maritime security patrol

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Navy ship Zulfiqar conducted Passage Exercise with Djibouti Coast Guards to enhance inter-operability upon its departure from the port city on Tuesday. "Pakistan Navy Ship Zulfiqar visited port Djibouti during deployment on regional maritime security patrol," a statement from the Directorate General Public Relations (NAVY) said. The Djibouti Navy officials received the ship at port. The PNS Zulfiqar commanding officer called on senior military leadership and explored avenues for further collaboration. "Navy to Navy engagements be-



tween Pakistan and Djibouti have been the cornerstone of diplomatic relations between both brotherly countries," it said. During the port call, the PNS Zulfiqar crew also had "professionally rewarding" interactions with the Djibouti Navy and the Coast Guards. "Pakistan and Djibouti enjoy close and cordial relations based on mutual respect and understanding. Both the countries also have numerous common interests in the maritime arena," according to the press release. Djibouti's ambassadors, defence attaches, senior government and military leadership and prominent members of local and Pakistani community also visited the ship. Last month, the PNS Zulfiqar while deployed on a regional maritime security patrol rescued an Iranian fishing dhow with 23 fishermen onboard.

Resilient youth to make prosperous Pakistan: Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Tuesday that Pakistan's youth with its hard work, resilience, and determination would make it a developed and prosperous country. Addressing the National Youth Summit as chief guest here, he said that Pakistan was founded on the dream of Allama Iqbal, which turned into reality under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The minister said that the youth of the subcontinent gained freedom by supporting the Quaid-e-Azam in the struggle for freedom. "Through the resolve and determination of the Muslim youth of the subcontinent we achieved the goal of freedom", he maintained. The youth carried the message of the Quaid-e-Azam to every nook and cranny of the subcontinent and helped create awareness among the Muslims about the importance of Pakistan. He said as an honour to address the best and most talented youth of Pakistan present at the event. He said Pakistan had abundance of talented youth who were playing an important role in the development of the country. Young people were representing Pakistan on every forum, he said adding that they could shape the world scenario in a unique way. He said there was a need for a lot of work as far as climate change was concerned. "We have suffered many losses due to adverse effects of climate change in the shape of floods and cyclones", he remarked. He expressed the hope that Pakistani youth would play their role in mitigating the effects of climate change. He said Pakistan's youth were striving for gender equality, better health facilities, and the overall well-being of the people of the country and region. He said local youth were working in the digital field and Pakistani start-ups were considered the best in the world. He said empowering the youth was the need of the hour and the government was taking various steps to empower the youth. He said that all over the world Pakistani youth was known for resilience and innovation. He said it was the youth of this country that created a separate state for Muslims and they will save this country and take it to great heights. Pakistani youth, he opined not only have the potential but can reshape the future of the world as we are moving towards a common shared future of humanity.—APP

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

NOVEMBER

- Nov 01/Algeria National Day
- Nov 04/Italy Armed Forces Day
- Nov 07/Russian Federation Socialist Revolution
- Nov 09/Cambodia National Day
- Nov 11/Poland Independence Day
- Nov 14/Jordan Birthday of King Hussein
- Nov 15/Belgium Kings Day
- Nov 15/Brazil Republic Day
- Nov 15/Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus National Day
- Nov 18/Oman National Day
- Nov 18/Morocco Independence Day
- Nov 21/Bangladesh Armed Forces Day
- Nov 22/Lebanon Independence Day
- Nov 25/Suriname National Day
- Nov 28/Mauritania National Day
- Nov 28/Albania Flags Day

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

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



Hospitals

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MH.....561116
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

Gilani for providing equitable public healthcare services

Highlighting a special focus on healthcare facilities in rural areas during his premiership, the acting president said the government was striving to uplift the health sector by promoting innovation, investment and research

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Tuesday emphasized the importance of collective efforts to ensure everyone has access to healthcare facilities, stressing that providing equitable, low-cost, and quality healthcare was among the government's priorities. The acting president, addressing the two-day 14th International Public Health Conference-2024, organised by the Health Services Academy, said the basic medical facilities must reach those in need and said that a healthy environment was also must for the citizens along with basic medical facilities. He lauded the Health Services Academy's role in improving public healthcare and skill training the new generation in the medical field that would extend its benefits to the national level by improving the facilities and skill training. Highlighting a special focus on healthcare facilities in rural areas during his premiership, the acting president said the government was striving to uplift the



health sector by promoting innovation, investment and research. He said the conference would prove to be an effective platform to address the challenges associated with the health sector. He appreciated the role of his former Principal Secretary Nargis Sethi in the establishment of the Academy and said that service delivery in the health sector could be improved by providing professional skills and resources to health professionals. "Healthcare is not just about treatment, it's about creating conditions that

help improve people's health," he said. He stressed the importance of necessary legislation, policy measures and measures to provide an enabling environment for health institutions and promote innovation, investment, and research. Acting President Gilani said that by understanding social and lifestyle factors, better policies and programs could be designed to address health issues. He said medical treatment facilities could be improved by combining research, innovation and practices, and assured that the issues

raised by the institution would be resolved through the Standing Committee on Health. Vice-Chancellor of Health Services Academy Professor Dr Shahzad Ali Khan said that the institution had provided an effective platform to the people associated with the health sector and that the conference was a constant feature to build the capacity of doctors and the supporting staff. He said that the institution was pursuing the mission of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Shaheed who had given the concept of health workforce in the

country. Zamurrud Khan, patron of Pakistan Sweet Home, said that the government was working on merging the Allied Health Professional Council and the Nursing Council. He called for reviewing the decision as both the entities had different working and the merger would create difficulties. Registrar of Health Services Academy Professor Dr Muhammad Abdullah Khan, Deputy Controller Examinations Dr Khalid Iqbal Malik and a huge number of stakeholders in the health sector attended the event.

Zero waste to be ensured under 'Suthra' Punjab

RAWALPINDI: Provincial Minister for Local Government and Community Development, Zeeshan Rafique here on Tuesday said that zero waste would be ensured in cities and villages through, 'Suthra' Punjab programme. Chairing a meeting held here in Commissioner Office regarding 'Suthra' Punjab the programme was launched on the directives of Chief Minister Punjab and it is a gift for the people. Members of National and Provincial Assemblies, divisional administration officers, contractors and others attended the meeting. The officers concerned gave a briefing on the steps being taken by Rawalpindi Waste Management Company regarding 'Suthra' Punjab. Zeeshan Rafiq said that environmental friendly sustainable measures are being taken under 'Suthra' Punjab programme. All the required resources are being provided by the Punjab Government, after which there should be no problem in ensuring 100 percent cleanliness. He said that outsourcing of cleanliness and sanitation system in rural areas would ensure manual, mechanical sweeping, waste collection, drain cleaning and waste disposal. Local government department would monitor the outsourcing system digitally, he said. The monitoring would include biometric attendance, vehicle tracking management system, vehicle weighing at dumping site, digital monitoring of the fleet and container clearance through geo-tagging and prompt resolution of the complaints, the minister informed. At district level, a control room under the supervision of Assistant Commissioners is being built in the Deputy Commissioners Office and in each Tehsil, Zeeshan Rafiq said adding, to ensure full participation of the public in the sanitation system, an App 'Saaf Rawalpindi' and a toll-free number 1139 have been launched. The citizens could get registered their complaints for which the contractor would be given two to three hours time to resolve them, he added. So far, 17 Union Councils (UCs) across the division have been outsourced for 'Suthra' Punjab programme. The outsourcing is in progress in four UCs and pre-qualification have been completed. The UCs which have completed the outsourcing process would enter the first operational phase before December 1, the minister was informed. The sanitation system would become operational in UCs where outsourcing is in process and a target of January 1, 2025 has been set in this regard.—DNA

Awareness campaign about approved housing schemes launched

RAWALPINDI: Director General (DG), Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA), Kinza Murtaza on Tuesday launched special awareness campaign regarding approved housing schemes and dengue disease in the city. The awareness campaign has been launched to educate the citizens about various housing schemes, emphasizing the importance of dengue prevention meas-

ures. Under the campaign, information regarding approved housing schemes including details about the residential units, plots and associated facilities would be provided to the citizens. Awareness would also be raised about dengue cases, its symptoms, and preventive steps to curb the spread of the disease. Kinza Murtaza, while launching the campaign said, RDA was committed to provide

accurate information about the housing schemes in order to help the residents to avoid financial risks. Under the campaign, efforts would also be made to prevent the spread of dengue, the DG RDA said and emphasized the need for collective efforts to combat the disease. She said, "Prevention of dengue is not just an individual responsibility; it requires concerted efforts from the entire community.

We are urging the citizens to take necessary actions, including cleanliness and removal of the stagnant water and elimination of mosquito larvae." The public engagement would be facilitated through the use of the SMD (Special Mobile Display) truck, which would travel across various areas of Rawalpindi, pamphlets, and providing expert advice on housing schemes and dengue prevention.—APP

President ICCI, Rector NUML for strengthening academia, industry linkage

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation from the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), led by its newly elected President, Nasir Muhammad Qureshi visited the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) today. The delegation met with NUML's Rector, Major General (Retd) Shahid Mehmood Kayani HI(M), in his office, where they discussed strategies to bridge the gap between academia and industry and equip students with critical professional skills. Director General/Pro-Rector Resources NUML Brig Shahzad Munir was also present during the meeting. Rector NUML congratulated Nasir Qureshi on his recent election as ICCI President and extended his best wishes for a successful tenure. Emphasizing the importance of academia-industry collaboration, Rector NUML highlighted the role of educational institutions in driving industrial and economic growth through partnerships with local industries. "Strong linkages between universities and industry are essential for

enhancing productivity, efficiency, and competitiveness. Universities can play a pivotal role in addressing industrial challenges and contributing to the country's economic development," he underscored. In the meeting, Rector NUML Maj Gen (r) Shahid Mehmood

their challenges so that academia could offer practical solutions. He stressed that such collaboration would provide students with hands-on experience, thereby enhancing their employability and contributing to national development. President ICCI assured of their

tion would foster industrial growth in the region and benefit both NUML students and local businesses. The collaboration between NUML and ICCI marks a significant step toward a mutually beneficial relationship aimed at bridging the gap between



Kayani underlined the need for greater coordination between researchers and the local industry, encouraging industry leaders to share

full support in building a strong and sustainable academia-industry partnership. They expressed hope that this coopera-

academic research and industry needs, ultimately contributing to the broader socio-economic landscape of Pakistan.

AIOU's exams from Nov 15

SLAMABAD: Final examinations of master programs of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), offered in spring 2024 semester, will begin across the country from November 15. According to date sheet released by the University, students of MA/M.Sc/M.Com/M.Ed and MBA programs will appear in these examinations. Roll number slips have been uploaded at CMS portals of the students. Date sheet has also been placed at the University's official website www.aiou.edu.pk. As per the instructions of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood exam centers have been set up at the nearest places of the students' residences. All possible efforts have been made to ensure transparency in the entire exams' process, said Controller exams. In line with these directives, special teams have been formed to conduct surprise visits to examination centers to prevent any malpractices during the examination.—APP

ENU awards Prof Iqbal honorary Professor title

ISLAMABAD: Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, a renowned scientist and researcher, has been awarded the prestigious title of Honorary Professor by the Rector of L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University (ENU) in Astana, Kazakhstan. This recognition honours his significant contributions to research and training Kazakh students over the past three decades. During the award ceremony, Prof. Choudhary's impact on the scientific community was highlighted, underscoring his ongoing dedication to fostering academic collaboration. Prof. Choudhary is also a distinguished recipient of the Doctor of Science degree from Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, further cementing his strong academic ties with Kazakhstan. During his recent visit to ENU, Prof. Choudhary engaged in productive discussions with the Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, along with the heads of the Departments of Chemistry, General Biology, Genomics, Biotechnology, and Microbiology. These meetings focused on advancing research collaborations between the university and international institutions. In addition, Prof. Choudhary delivered two highly impactful lectures on the discovery of new drugs.—APP

Ahsan terms FPCCI's offer to buy PIA step towards country uplift

Surely, this step will be a milestone for Pakistan's economic independence and public welfare

ISLAMABAD: Former President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, a member of the Central Core Committee of the ruling group UBG in the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Pakistan said that FPCCI's offer to buy PIA is a commendable and revolutionary step to provide a strong base to the economy, this decision underlines the commitment and responsibility of Pakistan's business community to want to play a key role in the restoration of national institutions and the development of the economy. He said while discussing with various representative delegations of business organizations, he said that this initiative of FPCCI is not only the revival of a national airline, but the determination of the business community to make the economic structure of Pakistan stable and self-reliant. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that with this initiative, it will be possible to improve management, modernize and increase the quality of services in PIA, which will help in improving the reputation of Pakistan not only at the national but also at the international level. He said that through this bold initiative of FPCCI, other businesses will also be encouraged to play their positive role in the economic development of Pakistan. He said that the government should also accept this offer. Take it seriously and provide full support in implementing this commitment of businessmen. Surely, this step will be a milestone for Pakistan's economic independence and public welfare.—DNA

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Briefs

SECP
conducts
start up
summit 2024

ISLAMABAD: Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) held a press briefing at its Head Office in Islamabad on the upcoming Pakistan Start-up Summit. A press release issued here said the event, scheduled for November 11 and 12 in Karachi, is a transformative platform for Pakistan's entrepreneurial ecosystem. The technology has changed the way business is done. Innovative products, payment channels and modes of business have given birth FinTech, EdTech, HealthTech and InsureTech companies worldwide. In Pakistan technology-driven businesses are on the rise, however, the room for growth and potential opportunities it provides are manifold. The summit is designed to foster an environment of innovation and collaboration, providing stakeholders with an opportunity to explore cutting-edge solutions, examine the latest regulatory developments, and address pressing challenges and opportunities across key sectors, including finance, technology, education, and logistics. With a strong focus on sustainable, inclusive, and resilient business models, the summit will cover essential themes such as embedded finance, data protection, peer-to-peer lending, and digital financing solutions, all tailored to meet the unique needs of Pakistan's dynamic market landscape. "Pakistan's start-up ecosystem has immense potential, and this summit is an essential step toward realizing that potential," said the Chairman SECP.—APP

Pak varsities' pioneer in adopting HEC's 'Maktab' best tech solution

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Universities are pioneer in adopting Higher Education Commission (HEC's) 'Maktab' technology to automate operations as per global best practices. According to the details from official sources, HEC, via its Higher Education Development Program - HEDP will bring Maktab, the world's best technology solution, to Pakistani universities. By automating the entire student lifecycle, Maktab will not only reduce operational costs but also offer a state-of-the-art academic experience at significantly subsidised rates, the sources added. Muhammad Nawaz Shareef University of Agriculture, Multan; AROR University, Sukkur; Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design, Lahore; Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar; UET, Peshawar; and Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University, Quetta pioneered to digitise their operations from student admissions till graduation (ERP-SLC). The solution design signing event held last week demonstrates a commitment to digitising university operations tailored to specific needs.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Austria, Charge d Affaires of India, spouses of Malaysian and Indonesia envoys attending a diplomatic reception in Islamabad to bid farewell to the Nepalese ambassador Tapas Akhikari. —DNA

Pakistan's PV boom gains long-lasting momentum

Global and local analysts attribute Pakistan's rapid shift toward solar energy to a consumer-driven "solar boom", citing rising electricity costs, falling technology prices and strong import trends as the main reasons

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is undergoing a booming energy shift resulting in solar energy adoption among all orders of society. Pakistan imported around 15 GW (worth about USD 2.1 billion) of solar panels from China over the past fiscal year, newest industry research highlights. Contributing to this transition is the increased electricity tariffs-actuating high-energy-consuming households and industries to switch to solar solutions-which is not only cheap but also efficient. In the past year this has resulted in a 10.4% drop in grid electricity demand, thus decentralized energy generation has become a must for this South Asian country long plagued by power shortages. Global and local analysts attribute Pakistan's rapid shift toward solar energy to a consumer-driven "solar boom", citing rising electricity costs, falling technology prices and strong import trends as the main reasons. Not long ago, global photovoltaic provider giant LONGi held a press conference in Karachi to launch its new product Hi-MO X10, with a battery efficiency reached

26.6%. "Pakistan is ushering in a new energy transformation in full swing. In 2024, our shipments in Pakistan reached 3GW, and the total shipments since entering local market have reached 7GW," a person in charge of LONGi Pakistan pointed out. Pakistan's electricity prices were adjusted 14 times between July 2023 and August 2024, causing local consumers to spend more than Rs 455 billion on electricity bills. In March 2024, the highest increase was Rs 7.06 per unit. According to Bloomberg, some Pakistanis' electricity bills are even higher than their monthly house rent of USD 100-700. In contrast, installing solar PV can reduce the bill by at least 60% to 70%. "In the next five years, K-Electricity plans to add about 1,200MW of renewable energy projects and gradually phase out expensive energy sources such as liquefied natural gas and fuel oil," Shahab Qader Khan, Chief Strategy Officer of K-Electricity, Karachi's main power supply company, said in an interview. "If Pakistan continue to receive affordable Chinese solar systems, installed solar capacity is expected to grow from 1.41 gigawatts in 2024 to 9.53 gigawatts by 2029, at a compound annual

growth rate (CAGR) of 46.55%," a WAPDA official noted. "Obviously, the current general price of PV products may still be just at or just below the price range of local traditional energy, thus its attractiveness needs to be improved. As our products continue to reduce costs and increase efficiency, their attractiveness in Pakistan, South Asia and even the world will further increase," Liu Yiyang, Deputy Secretary General of China Photovoltaic Industry Association (CPIA), told Gwadar Pro. "In addition to some Chinese companies starting to build large-scale centralized projects in Pakistan, more local people are also turning to household photovoltaics due to rising electricity prices for traditional energy. The combination of these two will further boost the vigorous development of local PV demand," Liu added. "The global photovoltaic industry is developing in full swing. China-Pakistan cooperation in related industries can make due contributions to the global response to climate change," Ali Majid, Pakistan General Manager of LONGi, emphasized, "By providing high-quality solar panels and promoting sustainable energy

solutions, we are aiding the country in achieving its renewable energy goals." A solar energy revolution is taking place across Pakistan. Since July, Sindh Province has announced that it will promote 200,000 PV home systems across the province, and plans to build several large-scale photovoltaic projects, each with a capacity of 305 MW. Balochistan's PV conversion plan is proceeding in an orderly manner, which will help agricultural water wells switch from fossil fuel-driven to PV power generation, thereby reducing fuel costs and improving energy efficiency. Since August, Punjab Province has also introduced a policy of free supply of PV modules. For citizens with electricity consumption of no more than 200 units, the policy allows them to obtain photovoltaic modules for free from August 14, while citizens with electricity consumption of more than 200 but no more than 500 units will have to pay 10% of the cost, and the remaining 90% of the cost will be borne by the government. Under this policy, it is expected that the electricity cost burden of low-income households will be reduced by about 40%.

Kashmiris to observe Jammu Martyrs' Day

ISLAMABAD: Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and across the world will observe Jammu Martyrs' Day, tomorrow, to reiterate their resolve to carry on the martyrs' mission until they achieve their inalienable right to self-determination. According to Kashmir Media Service, hundreds of thousands of Kashmiris were martyred by the forces of Dogra Maharaja Hari Singh, the Indian Army, and Hindu fanatics in different parts of the Jammu region while migrating to Pakistan during the first week of November 1947. All arrangements have been finalized to commemorate the historic day on both sides of the LoC and worldwide. In Azad Jammu and Kashmir, anti-India demonstrations, seminars, and symposiums will be organized in towns across all districts and in various parts of Pakistan to pay homage to the Jammu martyrs. The day will begin with special prayers in mosques for the early liberation of Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir from Indian occupation and for the progress, prosperity, and stability of

Pakistan and AJK. Special prayer meetings will be held by various social, political, religious, and public representative organizations to honor the sacrifices of the Kashmiri martyrs. Quran Khawani will also be held at various locations under the auspices of these organizations. Meanwhile, All Parties Hurriyat Conference leaders, including Gulam Muhammad Khan Sopori, Zamrooda Habib, Syed Bashir Andrabi, Khawaja Firdous, Abdul Samad Inqilabi, Muhammad Yousuf Naqash, Fayaz Hussain Jafri, Syed Sibti Shabbir Qummi, Muhammad Haseeb Wani and Maulana Musaab Nadvi, have paid rich tribute to the Jammu martyrs. They said that Kashmiris have been sacrificing for a noble cause for several decades, and the day is not far when they will achieve their cherished goal. They urged the international community to pressure India to cease its brutalities in IIOJK and resolve the Kashmir dispute in accordance with Kashmiris' aspirations and relevant UN resolutions.—APP

IMF may not like significant revenue shortfall

DNA ISLAMABAD: Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, a prominent figure in the business world and a former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), stated on Tuesday that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) might not be pleased with a significant income shortfall of Rs 190 billion in a quarter. IMF is likely to disapprove of a major revenue gap, forcing Pakistan to apply new tax measures, he said. He added that these steps will have a devastating effect on the economy, which is already struggling with inflation, rising oil and gas costs, and unprecedented tax measures. According to a statement that was released here today, Shahid Rasheed Butt stated that the current economic scenario calls for tax reduction rather than placing further burdens on the general public and enterprises. He said that tax targets that are based on the expectations and wants of the International Monetary Fund rather than the realities of the ground can never be successful. The business community leader observed that we should focus on increasing the size of the economy instead of restricting it through stringent measures. If we don't address this issue, the revenue deficit will persist. According to Shahid Rasheed Butt, the existing tax rate, interest rates, and the prices of energy and gas have made it impossible for the masses and businesses to survive. Therefore, we should target the sectors that are paying no or very little tax. He warned that Pakistan cannot afford to suspend the tranche, which will make it difficult to address IMF discontent.—DNA

2 bike lifters arrested

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested two bike lifters and street criminals and recovered five stolen motorcycles, Rs 39,000 cash and other items from their possession, said a Police spokesman. He informed that a team under the supervision of SHO, Taxila Police Station managed to net two bike lifters, Hamza and Numan and recovered five stolen motorcycles, cash Rs 39,000 and other items from their possession. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is underway.—APP

CIIE showcases China's commitment to further opening up

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "The China International Import Expo (CIIE) is not just an exhibition; it's a declaration of China's unwavering commitment to further opening up its economy," said Shehzad Ahmad Khan, Pakistani Consul General in Shanghai. The 7th CIIE, being held in Shanghai from Nov 5 to 10, attracts a diverse range of participants, underscoring China's policy of openness and inclusiveness. China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday. With 152 countries, regions, and international organizations participating in both the national and corporate pavilions, the overall exhibition area exceeds 420,000 square meters. This annual event sees a record number of participating companies this year, with 3,496 exhibi-

tors from 129 countries and regions, including 297 Fortune Global 500 companies and industry leaders. More than 400 representative new products, technologies and services will be showcased. "The growing number of participating countries serves as a significant sign that China is committed to its opening-up policy," the consul general noted. The array of forums and sideline events further underscores China's message of openness and innovation, signaling a new paradigm for the world that emphasizes not only openness but also inclusiveness," he added. The 7th CIIE National Pavilion Zone has secured participation from 77 countries and international organizations, serving as a bridge for high-quality, distinctive products from 19 least developed countries to access the Chinese market and connect with the global

market. "China's emphasis on growing together is evident here," remarked the consul general. "There is a constant discourse on how China will facilitate the collective development of other nations. This exhibition aims to generate opportunities for all," he added. The exhibits at CIIE span high-end equipment, new materials, marine engineering equipment, biotechnology, advanced agricultural technology and many other cutting-edge fields of science and technology. The consul general highlighted that most of the sectors represented at CIIE are those where China and Pakistan seek to grow together. In a joint statement, China welcomes Pakistani enterprises to expand bilateral trade through platforms like CIIE and supports Pakistan in expanding exports to China. This year, Pakistan has achieved its largest-ever

participation in CIIE. "Our participation spans two distinct pavilions," he elaborated. "One is the national pavilion, where we are focusing on building our country's image. The other is the corporate pavilion." The Pakistani delegation featured approximately 29 companies in the consumer hall, presenting a diverse range of products from carpets and handicrafts to onyx and wooden works. Furthermore, Pakistani exhibitors were also present in the food hall and the surgical sector. In total, the number of Pakistani exhibitors exceeded 50, including private participants from Pakistani businesses already registered in China. For Pakistani participants, CIIE offers a unique platform to connect with the rest of the world. "The reach our exhibitors will gain here is unmatched by any other expo.

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Pakistan's exports to UK increase by 8.39%

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's export of goods and services to the United Kingdom (UK) witnessed an increase of 8.39 percent during the first quarter of the current fiscal year (2024-25) as compared to the exports of the corresponding quarter of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported. The overall exports to the UK were recorded at US \$562.749 million during July-September (2024-25) against exports of US \$519.142 million during July-September (2023-24), SBP data revealed. On a year-to-year basis, the exports to the UK also surged to \$196.379 million in September 2024 against the export of \$167.869 million in September 2023. Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to the UK witnessed an increase of 7.27 percent during September 2024 as compared to the exports of \$183.066 million in August 2024, the SBP data revealed. Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed an increase of 7.82 percent in the first three months, from US \$6.952 billion to US \$7.495 billion, the SBP data revealed.

ANF arrests 7 drug dealers

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 10 operations across the country managed to arrest 7 accused and recovered over 396 kg drugs worth over Rs 120 million, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman. He informed that 460 grams ice was recovered from an accused arrested on M-1, Islamabad. 5 kg hashish was recovered from a drug dealer netted in Tandojam, Hyderabad. 8 kg hashish and 160 grams weed were recovered from two suspects nabbed near a university on Munir Ahmad Road, Quetta. 1.6 kg ice and 400 intoxicated tablets were recovered from an accused held near another university in Quetta. The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to the students of educational institutions. He informed that in another operation, 280 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted near Indus Chowk, Karachi.—APP

Lebanese cities reduced to ashes as Qassem talks of 'victory'

In a speech that monotonously and mindlessly emphasized the word "victory," new Hezbollah leader Naim Qassem declared last week: "As we won in July 2006, we will win today." But Lebanon never won in 2006 and there is no victory to be obtained for the Lebanese people in 2024. Qassem was unable to cite a single benefit that might accrue to Lebanon as a result of the current carnage. He boasted about the ability of the "resistance" to strike at an expanded range of Israeli cities, but for every building Hezbollah rockets hit, Israel destroys another dozen Lebanese villages: about a quarter of those in the south have already been razed to the ground and the destruction is spreading northward. As in Gaza, civilians have been forced to move numerous times, with thousands of people displaced every day as Israel incessantly widens the number of communities subjected to relentless bombing. What victory awaits these poor families who have lost everything, including their children under the debris? Contrary to Qassem's boast that Hezbollah would impose its own terms for peace, Israel has strengthened its demands: it insists that the smoking remains of the south remain under some kind of occupation, while American diplomats shuttle uselessly around the region. Who does Qassem expect will rush in and bankroll the rebuilding of Lebanon? As winter brings colder, wetter weather, who will offer shelter, clothing and succor to the hundreds of thousands of forcibly displaced citizens, about a quarter of the population? There was a time when many Lebanese would ridicule Hezbollah's self-aggrandizing, bellicose rhetoric, but nobody was laughing when Qassem last week declared: "If the Israelis want to stop, it will be on our terms," and Hezbollah "will come out of this even stronger." Such nonsensical language left the Lebanese physically repulsed, after so much of the country had been left homeless and destitute. The soaring death toll and widening devastation are bad enough, but Israel and Hezbollah are also jointly working to erase Lebanon's history and cultural heritage. Last week, parts of Baalbek city, the site of one of humankind's oldest habitations, was reduced to rubble.

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Erdogan ally floats Turkiye constitutional amendment

THE main political ally of longstanding Turkish leader Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday said that a constitutional amendment should be considered to allow the president to run again in elections set for 2028. After his re-election last year, Erdogan is serving his last term as president unless parliament calls an early election, according to the constitution. He has ruled Turkiye for more than 21 years, first as prime minister and then as president. "Wouldn't it be a natural and right choice to have our president elected once again if terror is eradicated, and if a heavy blow is dealt to inflation and Turkiye secures political and economic stability," said Devlet Bahçeli, leader of the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), which is allied with Erdogan's ruling AK Party (AKP). A constitutional amendment to secure Erdogan's ability to re-run in the presidential elections should be considered, he said in a parliamentary speech to MHP lawmakers. Bahçeli, a staunch nationalist, rattled Turkish politics last month by suggesting that the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) could be allowed to speak in parliament if he announces an end to the group's insurgency. Some analysts said the shock suggestion might be motivated by an AKP-MHP desire to win the support of the pro-Kurdish DEM Party, parliament's third-biggest, for a constitutional change that could boost Erdogan's prospects in 2028 elections. A constitutional change can be put to a referendum if 360 lawmakers in the 600-seat parliament back it. An early election also needs the support of 360 MPs. AKP and its allies have 321 seats while DEM has 57. — (Contributed)

EU's Strategic Shift and Ukraine

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The challenges faced in 2023 have sparked renewed discussions about reforming the EPF to enhance its effectiveness, predictability and ability to respond swiftly to security needs. Key areas of reform include streamlining decision-making processes, ensuring equitable burden-sharing among member states and making the facility more adaptable to specific regional requirements, particularly in conflict zones like Ukraine. Proponents of reform argue that by addressing these structural issues, the EPF can better serve as...

THE European Union (EU) member states have agreed to allocate an additional €5 billion (\$5.4 billion) to the European Peace Facility (EPF) by the end of the year. This decision follows Brussels' pledge of €6.1 billion since the beginning of 2022, highlighting the EU's ongoing commitment to supporting peace and stability within and beyond its borders. The EPF serves as a crucial tool in the EU's foreign policy, aimed at providing financial assistance to partner countries, supporting military and defense-related activities and addressing security challenges. In 2023, the EPF's momentum declined primarily due to the preference of EU member states to support Ukraine bilaterally rather than through the collective framework of the EPF. This shift occurred against the backdrop of Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine, where many EU nations felt compelled to provide direct military, in addition, humanitarian aid to Kyiv. Bilateral support was seen as more expedient in meeting Ukraine's urgent needs, thereby reducing the emphasis on the EPF. While the mechanism was intended to streamline EU efforts, the bilateral approach led to a disjointed and fragmented response, highlighting the limitations of the current EPF framework. Another significant challenge arose when Hungary imposed a veto on EPF funding. The decision came after Ukraine classified one of Hungary's banks as an "international sponsor of war," triggering a diplomatic dispute between Budapest and Kyiv. Although Hungary eventually rescinded the veto, the episode exposed the vulnerability of the EPF to political disruptions. It also illustrated how national interests could interfere with collective European actions, thereby questioning the robustness of the EPF as a reliable funding mechanism. These events, coupled with the varying levels of commitment among EU member

states, underscored the need to reform the facility to better suit the geopolitical realities and demands, particularly in supporting Ukraine. The challenges faced in 2023 have sparked renewed discussions about reforming the EPF to enhance its effectiveness, predictability and ability to respond swiftly to security needs. Key areas of reform include streamlining decision-making processes, ensuring equitable burden-sharing among member states and making the facility more adaptable to specific regional requirements, particularly in conflict zones like Ukraine. Proponents of reform argue that by addressing these structural issues, the EPF can better serve as a cohesive framework for collective European defense initiatives. The debate over reform has also gained traction due to the broader political landscape within the EU. With elections approaching, discussions on European defense and security have become increasingly prominent. Political leaders across the bloc are aware that issues surrounding defense funding and collective security arrangements will be central to electoral debates. For some member states, enhancing the EPF's capabilities is seen as a step toward fostering greater European strategic autonomy, reducing dependency on external actors like the United States and reinforcing the EU's role as a global security actor. The debate over the future of the EPF is not occurring in isolation; it is also being influenced by developments across the Atlantic. The upcoming U.S. elections are a critical factor shaping the discourse on European defense. Historically, the EU has relied heavily on the U.S. for security through NATO, but recent geopolitical shifts have led to calls for Europe to assume a more independent defense posture. The uncertainty surrounding U.S. foreign policy post-elections, especially concerning support for Ukraine, has intensified

discussions within Europe about the need for stronger, self-sufficient security mechanisms. If there is a shift in U.S. policy towards a more isolationist stance, it could necessitate a more robust and independent European defense strategy, thereby underscoring the importance of reforming the EPF. Moreover, the geopolitical environment, marked by increasing tensions with Russia and the need to secure the EU's eastern borders, has elevated the urgency of having a predictable and reliable funding mechanism like the EPF. Enhancing the EPF would not only allow for a more coordinated response to crises but would also send a message of solidarity and commitment to member states and partners under threat. Despite the evident need for reform, political factors could delay or even derail the process. Differences in national priorities, economic constraints and divergent views on European strategic autonomy may hinder consensus. Countries such as Germany and France, which have been proponents of a stronger EU defense capability, may push for extensive reforms, while others may resist changes that could increase financial burdens or compromise national sovereignty. Additionally, political leaders will have to navigate these discussions carefully, especially as defense and security funding become critical issues in the upcoming electoral campaigns. Hungary's actions in 2023 serve as a reminder of how individual member states can exercise veto power, thereby stalling collective initiatives. To address this, there is a need for discussions on decision-making mechanisms within the EPF that could prevent single states from obstructing vital security funding. A shift toward qualified majority voting for specific decisions could be one way to mitigate such risks, although this would require amendments to existing agreements and might be a contentious issue among member states.

A Legacy beyond tenure: The lasting impact of reputation and honor

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



Honors earned during a person's tenure do not merely serve as personal achievements; they are symbols of collective pride. When a leader or official accomplishes something of great value, it becomes a shared honor for the entire community or nation they represent. Their achievements resonate with the values, strengths, and aspirations...

THE tenure of a leader or an official is marked not only by the responsibilities they shoulder but also by the legacy they leave behind. Reputation and the honors earned during these years hold an enduring value, often transcending the boundaries of time and geographical borders. In any field—be it politics, bureaucracy, academia, or business—individuals who exhibit integrity, dedication, and remarkable achievements earn a place in history. Their contributions become points of reference, inspiring generations long after they have stepped down from their roles. This phenomenon is particularly evident in public service, where a leader's vision and decisions can influence the lives of millions, shaping the destiny of nations and communities. Reputation, a fragile yet invaluable asset, is built over time and can be dismantled in a moment. It is the cumulative result of consistent actions, ethical conduct, and commitment to a cause. A person who diligently serves with sincerity and responsibility gains respect, not only from colleagues and peers but from society as a whole. This respect and admiration endure, becoming a form of unofficial honor. While many may view honors as medals, awards, or ceremonial recognitions, the true honor often lies in how people remember a person's contributions. These memories, passed down through narratives, shape an individual's legacy, influencing perceptions and establishing benchmarks for future generations. In countries like Pakistan, where political and bureaucratic figures have played crucial roles in shaping the nation's identity, the legacies of certain leaders remain vivid. Figures like Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah are celebrated for their foresight and unwavering commitment to Pakistan's creation. His tenure as the leader of the freedom movement, his speeches, and his decisions have become iconic, remembered not just for what they achieved in the moment, but for the foundation they laid for an independent, sovereign state. Similarly, figures in the bureaucracy Mr. Shahab ud Din, often revered as one of Pakistan's most esteemed bureaucrats, stands out for his reputation and honor in the country's civil service. His legacy is beautifully captured in his autobiographical work, Shahabnama, which offers readers a unique glimpse into both his personal life and professional experiences. Honors earned during a person's tenure do not merely serve as personal achievements; they are symbols of collective pride. When a leader or official accomplishes something of great value, it becomes a shared honor for the entire community or nation they represent. Their achievements resonate with the values, strengths, and aspirations of the people, becoming a source of inspiration. In the international arena, these honors contribute to a country's image and credibility. Leaders who leave office with an untainted reputation add to their nation's soft power, creating goodwill that benefits future generations. A country known for its dignified and accomplished leaders is more likely to be respected and trusted on global platforms, and this trust can translate into diplomatic, economic, and social advantages. However, the reputation and honors of a tenure must be nurtured through a constant commitment to ethical standards and principles. One mistake, if severe enough, can overshadow years of dedicated service, leading to a tarnished legacy. This is why public figures are often under intense scrutiny, with their actions and words dissected by the media and the public. In this age of digital information, where news spreads rapidly, maintaining a good reputation has become even more challenging. Yet, those who successfully navigate these challenges, staying true to their principles and goals, emerge with a legacy that few can dispute. The memories of a reputable tenure can also serve as a form of guidance for those who follow. When a respected figure leaves office, their

successors often look back at their accomplishments, failures, and decisions to draw lessons. These historical insights provide a blueprint for the future, offering examples of what can be achieved through determination and vision. For instance, young politicians may study the tenure of celebrated leaders to understand how they managed crises, made tough decisions, and maintained the trust of the people. Similarly, in the bureaucracy, officers may look to the examples set by renowned quality of administrator to guide their conduct and strategy. The continuity of these values ensures that the honorable legacy of a tenure is not only remembered but also emulated. In essence, the reputation and honors earned during a tenure serve as a testament to an individual's impact on their community or nation. They embody the ideals of responsibility, dedication, and integrity, qualities that are cherished and valued across cultures and generations. The memories of such tenures are often immortalized in the stories told, in the admiration expressed by others, and in the standards set for future leaders. People are drawn to these stories, not just because they celebrate an individual but because they reflect the human potential for greatness. For a leader or official, knowing that their actions will be remembered can serve as a powerful motivator, encouraging them to pursue excellence with sincerity and accountability. Eventually, while positions of authority may be temporary, the influence of a commendable tenure is long-lasting. It reminds us of the importance of integrity and the impact one individual can have on society. In a world where trust in leadership is increasingly questioned, these enduring reputations provide hope, offering proof that honorable service is not only possible but profoundly impactful. Thus, the honors and reputation earned during a tenure become more than memories; they become a part of the collective consciousness, shaping the path forward for generations to come.

Briefs

Over 100 patients to be evacuated from Gaza

GENEVA: More than 100 patients including children suffering from trauma injuries and chronic diseases will be evacuated from Gaza on Wednesday in a rare transfer out of the war-ravaged enclave, a World Health Organization official said.

"These are ad hoc measures. What we have requested repeatedly is a sustained medevac (medical evacuation) outside of Gaza," said Rik Peepkorn, WHO representative for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, adding that 12,000 people were awaiting transfer.

The patients will travel in a large convoy on Wednesday via the Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel before flying to the United Arab Emirates, he added, and then a portion will travel to Romania.—APP

PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 366 points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 366.32 points, a positive change of 0.40 per cent, closing at 92,304.32 points as compared to 91,938.01 points on the last trading day. A total of 752,664,527 shares were traded during the day as compared to 589,546,678 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 32.827 billion against Rs.29.959 billion on the last trading day. As many as 452 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 223 of them recorded gains and 169 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 60 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Power Cement with 66,262,505 shares at Rs 7.79 per share, Sui South Gas with 51,962,511 shares at Rs 16.68 per share and Fauji Foods Limited with 32,398,093 shares at Rs.10.57 per share.—APP

Rupee sheds 05 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Tuesday depreciated by 05 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.83 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.78. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.35 and Rs 278.90 respectively. The price of Euro decreased by 11 paise to close at Rs 302.52 against the last day's closing of Rs 302.63, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs1.82, whereas an increase of 20 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs360.50 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 360.30. The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham increased by 02 paise to close at Rs 75.64 and the Saudi Riyal remained stagnant and closed at 73.96.—APP

Gold prices decrease by Rs 500 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased by Rs.500 and was sold at Rs.283,200 on Tuesday compared to its sale at Rs.283,700 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.429 to Rs.242,798 from Rs. 243,227 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs. 222,565 from Rs. 222,958, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs. 3,430 and Rs. 2,940.67, respectively. The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$5 to \$2,736, the Association reported.—APP



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Republic of Turkiye, Mr. Irfan Neziroglu, called on the Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Delhi wants artificial rain to tackle air pollution

Rising air pollution can cut the life expectancy of each person in South Asia by more than five years, the University of Chicago's Energy Policy Institute (EPIC) said in its Air Quality Life Index last year

DELHI: India's capital territory of Delhi is keen to use artificial rain to fight air pollution this year, its Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Tuesday, as deteriorating air quality in the region led to an increase in respiratory illnesses. Large swathes of north India battle pollution each winter as cold air traps dust, vehicle emissions and smoke from farm fires in the breadbasket states of Punjab and Haryana, shrouding the national capital and its suburbs in a toxic haze. Cloud-seeding — the method of triggering rain by seeding

clouds with salts — was considered to curb pollution in 2023 too but the plan did not materialise due to unfavourable weather conditions. "I appeal to the federal environment minister... now in Delhi and north India, the pollution has reached the border of 400," Rai told reporters, referring to the air quality index (AQI) score on Tuesday. "The next 10 days are quite crucial...help us get permission for artificial rain, call a meeting," he said. About a third of Delhi's 39 monitoring stations showed a severe AQI score

of more than 400 on Tuesday, a level which affects healthy people but is more serious for those fighting disease. An air quality score of zero to 50 is considered good. Doctors at private hospitals in Delhi and its suburbs said they had seen a spike in patients with respiratory illnesses since Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights celebrated last week, when revellers violated a ban on firecrackers. "We are seeing more patients due to pollution related flare up of asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and bronchitis.

There is an approximately 20 per cent-30pc increase in patients," said Prashant Saxena, senior director for pulmonology at Fortis Hospital. At C K Birla Hospital in industrial hub Gurugram, doctors are seeing more than 50 patients with pulmonary complaints every day, some of whom also need hospitalisation, said Kuldeep Kumar, head of critical care and pulmonology. Rising air pollution can cut the life expectancy of each person in South Asia by more than five years, the Uni-

versity of Chicago's Energy Policy Institute (EPIC) said in its Air Quality Life Index last year. Swiss group IQAir rated Delhi the world's second most polluted city on Tuesday, after Lahore in Pakistan, where authorities also took emergency measures following Sunday's unprecedented pollution levels. The Punjab government has blamed deteriorating air quality on pollution wafting in from India, an issue it has vowed to take up with its neighbour through the foreign ministry.—DNA

Iranian female student who stripped in public is troubled

TEHRAN :A female student who stripped to her underwear at an Iranian university does not represent a security issue but is a "troubled individual" who is receiving treatment, a government spokesperson said. The young woman undressed on Saturday at the Islamic Azad University in Tehran, an act that was widely perceived on social media as a protest against Iran's strict Islamic dress code. "Instead of viewing this issue under a security lens, we are rather looking at it with a social lens and seek to solve the problems of this student as a troubled individual," government spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani said on Tuesday in the first official reaction to the event. She said that the young woman, named Ahoor Daryaei on social media, had been transferred from a police station to a treatment centre, but did not say what treatment she would receive. Media could not identify the young woman independently. "It is yet too soon to speak of this student's return to university. According to a video published by her husband, she needs treatment and that needs to be completed before taking the next steps," Mohajerani added on the government's website. The woman was detained by security guards at the university. A university spokesperson, Amir Mahjob, said on X on Saturday "At the police station, ... it was found that she was under severe mental pressure and had a mental disorder." Growing numbers of Iranian women have defied authorities by discarding their veils after nationwide protests that followed the death in September 2022 of a young Iranian Kurdish woman, Mahsa Amini. She died while in the custody of the morality police for allegedly violating hijab rules. Security forces violently put down the revolt. Amnesty International said on X a young woman was "violently arrested on 2 Nov after she removed her clothes in protest against abusive enforcement of compulsory veiling by security officials at Tehran's —DNA

Thousands protest alleged election fraud in Georgia

TBILISI: Several thousand Georgians protested in Tbilisi over alleged election rigging by the governing party and Russian interference in last month's parliament election, which the opposition denounced as "stolen." The pro-Western opposition has refused to recognize the ruling Georgian Dream party's win in the October 26 election or to enter the newly elected parliament, which it calls "illegitimate." The European Union and the United States blasted "irregularities" in the vote, while Georgian Dream's opponents have accused it of putting the Caucasus country on a pro-Kremlin track. Protesters gathered outside Georgia's parliament on Monday evening, blocking traffic on Tbilisi's main road, after opposition groups called on supporters to take to the streets. "The Georgian people will never accept falsified election results, an invincible protest movement is rising up and it will sweep away the regime, which has stolen our votes," the leader of the Akhali party, Nika Melia, told the crowd. He vowed daily protests, with the next rally set for Tuesday. Mamuka Khazaradze, leader of the Coalition for Change, said: "We demand a fresh vote, an international investigation into election falsification, and we will not surrender until our objectives are met." President Salome Zurbishvili — who is at loggerheads with the governing party — also called the vote "illegitimate" and accused Russia of interference. Moscow has denied meddling. "We have no choice but to take to the streets every day to show our government and the world that Georgians will never put up with rigged elections," one of the demonstrators, 25-year-old shop assistant Lidia Kirtadze, told media. Protesters have accused Georgian Dream of derailing the country's goal of joining the European Union. "Russia and its stooges in our government want to steal not only the choice of the Georgian people but also our European future," said Leo Grigalashvili, a 49-year-old winemaker. "We will never accept this." Ahead of the election, Brussels had warned it would determine Georgia's chances of joining the bloc. "The situation following the elections remains concerning," EU chief Ursula von der Leyen told Zurbishvili during a phone call on Monday. "If Georgia wants to keep a strategic orientation toward the EU, we need concrete actions from the leadership," she said on X. On Monday, a court in Georgia's southern town of Tretskaro ordered the annulment of election results from several precincts over violations of ballot secrecy. Georgian rights groups said the ruling sets an important judicial precedent as the same violation had been observed at around 70 percent of polling stations. A group of Georgia's leading election monitors said earlier that they had uncovered evidence of a complex scheme of large-scale electoral fraud that swayed results in favor of Georgian Dream. Prosecutors have opened an investigation into the alleged fraud. Monday's protest came after tens of thousands gathered in a demonstration in the capital city last week. Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze has said the elections were "entirely fair." But critics have blamed his increasingly conservative Georgian Dream for bringing Tbilisi back into Moscow's orbit.—DNA

Over 1,800 Palestinians killed in Israel's month-long attacks

UNITED NATIONS: Over 1,800 Palestinians have been killed since Israel launched its offensive in northern Gaza last month, according to media reports. In a statement released on Monday, Gaza's media office said the number of the injured stands at around 4,000, while hundreds have gone missing. Since October 6, Israel has imposed a tightened siege northern Gaza, particularly around the area of Jabalia. Israel prevented ambulances and humanitarian aid convoys from entering northern Gaza. It is using starvation as a method of warfare in the occupied Gaza Strip, the media office stated. Israel has prevented "3,800 aid trucks from going into northern Gaza." The regime has "deliberately starved nearly 400,000 people there, including more than 100,000 children," the statement said. "It also destroyed dozens of displacement and shelter centers that house tens of thousands of displaced people who fled their homes in search of safety and security." Gaza's Government Media Office says more than 40 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli attacks on hundreds of residential buildings in the northern part of the coastal sliver.—APP

Need to develop definitive accounts of novel economic technologies

President of CASS urged young Pakistanis to remain abreast of economic technologies and to make contributions to their advancement

DNA

ISLAMABAD: 'We must develop definitive accounts of novel economic technologies.' This was the core message of a book launch for the edited volume titled 'Decentralized Autonomous Organizations: Innovation and Vulnerability in the Digital Economy,' held at the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad. Dr Usman W. Chohan, Advisor for Economic Affairs and National Development at CASS presented key findings of the co-edited volume and urged all stakeholders in Pakistani society to be aware of emerging economic technologies for Pakistan's development.



Focused on the blockchain-based technology known as 'Decentralized Autonomous Organizations' (DAOs), the edited volume brought together 11 renowned authors from eight countries spanning seven academic disciplines, including economics, technology, mathematics, law, and sociology, among others. Dr Chohan's presentation covered the preparation, vision, and structure of the book, which aims to serve as a definitive account of DAO technologies from a multidisciplinary perspective. President of CASS, Islamabad, Air Marshal Javed Ahmed (Retd) delivered concluding remarks and congratulated Dr Chohan on this eighth book in his six years

at CASS and emphasised the role of innovation and technology in economic development. He urged young Pakistanis to remain abreast of economic technologies and to make contributions to their advancement. Given the scope and detail covered in the collective research endeavor, he lauded the comprehensiveness of the book and expressed hope that the co-edited volume would serve as a valuable resource on DAOs internationally for many years to come. The launch was followed by inauguration of the 'Dr Usman W Chohan Book Corner' in the Centre's library showcasing his books written and edited over the past few years at CASS, Islamabad.

Explosion at Turkish oil refinery injures 12

ANKARA: An explosion at an oil refinery in northwestern Turkey on Tuesday left at least 12 employees slightly injured, the company said. A fire at the facility was quickly brought under control. The Turkish Petroleum Refineries company, TUPRAS, said a fire broke out at its facilities in Izmit, in Kocaeli province, during maintenance work on a compressor. The company's emergency teams responded immediately to the incident, it said in a statement. The 12 employees sustained slight injuries and were taken to a hospital for examinations, the company said. The company said the unit where the incident occurred "was deactivated in a controlled manner" and that other operations at the refinery were "continuing as normal." Earlier, Tahir Buyukakim, the mayor for Kocaeli told private NTV television that the blast occurred during a drill. The fire was quickly brought under control by the company's own crews and no request for help was made, he said. Video footage from the site showed smoke rising from the refinery, which is one of Turkey's largest. Izmit is about 100 kilometers (62 miles) east of Istanbul. The Bursa Istanbul stock exchange temporarily halted trading of TUPRAS shares, until the company provides a detailed explanation of the incident.—APP

Israeli strikes hit south of Beirut, Lebanon's Bekaa region

BEIRUT: At least one Israeli airstrike hit an apartment building in a beach town south of Beirut on Tuesday, Lebanese state media said, as other deadly strikes hit scattered locations across the country and armed group Hezbollah launched rockets into Israel.

The attack on the beach town of Jiyeh left a massive smoke column billowing out of an apartment building. It was not immediately clear if the strike was an assassination attempt, and no evacuation warning was given before it was carried out. The Israeli military and Iran-backed Hezbollah have been exchanging fire for over a year in parallel with the Gaza war, but hostilities have escalated over the last six weeks. More than 3,000 people have been killed in Lebanon, most of them since late September, according to health authorities. Israeli strikes on Tuesday also killed five people near the city of Baalbek in the Bekaa Valley, including two killed in a strike on a car, according to Lebanon's health ministry. Lebanon's state news agency said on Tuesday that it estimated Israeli air strikes and widespread detonation of homes had destroyed more than 40,000 housing units in the country's border region.—APP

Migrant arrivals rising in south-east islands

ATHENS: Some islands in the southeast of the Aegean sea, including Rhodes, are seeing an increase in migrants arriving by boat from Turkey, Greek migration and asylum minister Nikos Panagiotopoulos said Tuesday. "The southeast of the Aegean and the island of Rhodes are experiencing migratory pressure right now," he said on public television station ERT, though he said the increase does not appear to be linked to rising tensions in the Middle East. At the end of October, several hundred migrants set up tents and cardboard houses outside the local government offices of the city of Rhodes, sparking anger among residents and local authorities. According to local media Rodiki, more than 700 migrants arrived during the last week of October. Rhodes mayor Alexandros Koliadis told Rodiki that the island lacks the personnel, police officers and coast guard needed to register the arrivals before transferring them to camps on the mainland or in other islands. Previously, Aegean islands further north such as Lesbos and Samos had received the brunt of migrants crossing from Turkish shores.—APP

Briefs

President hears reps against Ombudsmen orders

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Acting President of Pakistan, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, today, in Islamabad heard representations against the orders of Ombudsmen at the federal level. Justice (R) Irfan Qadir, the nominee of the President of Pakistan to process and decide these representations, was also present on the occasion. These representations included matters pertaining to Wafaqi Mohtasib, Federal Ombudsman for Protection Against Harassment at Workplace (FOSPAH) and Federal Insurance Ombudsman. After the hearings, the Acting President said that in the last six months, the President of Pakistan through his nominee has decided hundreds of cases, providing relief to the downtrodden, widows, persons with disabilities, including persons belonging to minorities and backward areas against the maladministration of the executive. "Such prompt disposal of cases in recent times is unprecedented", he said. The Acting President stated that large scale relief was also provided to citizens and overseas Pakistanis in the taxation and banking sector. He remarked that the institution of Ombudsmen at the Federal level, inclusive of the Apex forum of the President's nominee.

Norway speeds ahead of EU in race for fossil-free roads

OSLO: On the quiet streets of an Oslo suburb, electric vehicles are parked in nearly every other driveway as Norway speeds towards its goal of becoming the first country free of fossil fuel-powered cars. Electric cars make up 43 percent of all cars in Baerum, with resident Baard Gundersen making the switch in 2016. Now on his second fully electric car, the CEO of a coffee company described his decision as a "no-brainer". "It was much cheaper to buy a car like this than a traditional car, almost half price," he said at the wheel of his BMW iX SUV. Despite being a major oil and gas producer, Norway has adopted the most ambitious electric vehicle (EV) objective in the world: only zero-emission private new cars will be sold from next year. While not a European Union member, Norway would beat the bloc's deadline to phase out the sale of fossil fuel-burning cars by 2035 by a decade.

Indonesian President Prabowo to visit China

BEIJING: Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto will visit China this week, Beijing's foreign ministry said Tuesday, on his first foreign tour as he seeks a more prominent position for Jakarta on the world stage. The 73-year-old ex-general's state visit will take place from Friday to Sunday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said in a statement. Prabowo was sworn in on October 20, pledging to stick to Jakarta's traditionally non-aligned foreign policy while making the world's fourth-most populous nation more active abroad. Beijing and Jakarta are key economic allies, but the world's largest archipelago nation is trying to stop foreign vessels from fishing in its waters, saying it costs the economy billions of dollars annually. Last month, Indonesia drove a Chinese coast guard ship from contested waters in the South China Sea three times. Chinese vessels have occasionally entered Indonesia-claimed areas of the North Natuna Sea at the southern edge of the South China Sea, drawing protests from Jakarta. - APP

Presentation on how Pak faring to global mega trends

The Ipsos Global Trends (IGT) 2024 survey themed "In search of a new consensus: from tension to intention", analyzed societal trends and public opinion, drawing on insights from over 50,000 individuals across 50 countries including Pakistan



ISLAMABAD: Simon Atkinson, Ipsos Global Chief Knowledge Officer delivering a talk at the French residence. - DNA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ipsos, a global leader in market research, launched its flagship survey "Ipsos Global Trends" at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCI). The session featured key values and beliefs of Pakistanis, comparing them to global trends and suggesting a roadmap for the future. Based on 50,000 interviews across 50 countries representing 90% of global GDP and 75% of the global population.

The event, attended by prominent business leaders, policymakers, marketers, and academics, featured presentations by distinguished speakers. Mr. Zubair Ahmed Malik, former President of FPCCI and ICCI, opened the session, followed by Mr. Abdul Sattar Babar, CEO and MD of Ipsos in Pakistan, who introduced the Global Trends study. Simon Atkinson, Global Chief Knowledge Officer at Ipsos, then delved into the study's findings, exploring the similarities, differences, and potential pathways forward. During the session the study revealed distinct characteristics that set Pakistan apart: Pakistanis exhibit a unique blend of traditionalism (emphasis on family, religion), nostalgia (longing for the past), and status-consciousness (valuing material goods, global brands, career success). They are technologically optimistic, anticipate long lifespans, and prioritize physical over mental health. While concerned about discrimination, they are generally more optimistic and happier than the global average. Despite these distinct traits, they share global concerns about wealth inequality, appreciate quality customer experiences, value individual autonomy, and embrace a present-focused mindset due to an uncertain future. A key takeaway is the need to leverage technology, social media, youth, and women, build brand trust, and capitalize on the nation's optimism to address societal divisions, economic disparities, and climate change. These survey findings revealed during the session offered invaluable insights, guiding policymakers, businesses, and educational institutions to drive positive change for Pakistan and future prospects.

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SBP chief underscores over Rs 1 trillion savings due to rate cut

Jameel Ahmad says country's foreign exchange reserves could reach \$13 billion by June 2025

DNA

KARACHI: State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Governor Jameel Ahmad has said that the reduction in the government's interest expense leads to total savings of Rs1.3 trillion which amounts to around 1% of gross domestic product (GDP). The News reported on Tuesday. Speaking at an analyst briefing, the SBP governor noted that the government's total interest expense for the fiscal year 2025 is now estimated to be Rs8.5 trillion, compared with Rs9.8 trillion projected in the budget for the current fiscal year and that savings will aid in controlling the fiscal deficit for FY25. His remarks come after the central bank, on Monday, slashed the key policy rate by 250 basis points (bps) to 15%, at least 0.5% more than the market expectations, marking its fourth consecutive cut as inflation remains in single digits through October. Noting that the current monetary policy has sufficient flexibility to manage fluctuations of 10-15% in oil prices and other commodities, Ahmad said that the reduction in interest rates and the timely use of surplus funds for debt profiling is expected to significantly lower the government's debt servicing costs in FY25. He further said that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) was likely to disburse around \$500 million to Pakistan soon, which will increase the forex reserves to more than \$11.5 billion. He also projected that the reserves could reach \$13 billion by June 2025. Pakistan is expected to receive \$500 million in loans from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in the coming weeks, which will help boost the country's foreign exchange reserves, said the central bank's governor.

Polio cripples another child in Pakistan, bringing tally to 46

Latest case reported in Balochistan's Qila Saifullah district

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The number of children affected by polio in Pakistan has risen to 46, with the latest case reported in Balochistan's Qila Saifullah district. Authorities confirmed that a months-old child had been diagnosed with the virus, marking the 23rd polio case in Balochistan this year. This is the second polio case reported from Qila Saifullah in 2024. Officials further report that environmental samples from 76 districts across the country have tested positive for the virus, underscoring its spread nationwide. Pakistan is one of the only two countries in the world, alongside Afghanistan, where polio remains endemic. Since its launch in 1994, the country's polio eradication programme has largely contained the virus by holding frequent vaccination drives. The country was close to completely wiping out the disease until this year as only six cases had been reported in 2023. However, the experts point to misinformation about the polio vaccine as a significant obstacle to eradication efforts. The southwestern province has emerged as an area of intense polio transmission this year as 23 of the 41 cases in the country. Apart from Balochistan, Sindh has reported 12 cases, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa nine, while Punjab and Islamabad have recorded one case each. Polio is a highly infectious disease caused by a virus mainly affecting children under the age of five years, who are malnourished or have weak immunity because of being under-vaccinated or not vaccinated for polio and other childhood diseases.

Police rearrest PTI's Azam Swati

Taxila police arrest Swati as soon as he steps out of the jail premises in early hours

MEHTAB PIRZADA

RAWALPINDI: Police rearrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Azam Swati on Tuesday from outside Attock jail soon after his being released. Taxila police arrested Swati as soon as he stepped out of the jail premises in early hours today. Sources said an anti-terrorism court had approved bail of the PTI leader a day ago in multiple cases related to his party's protest on October 4. PTI founder Imran Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, Swati and others were booked on October 8 in different cases including one linked to the death of an Islamabad policeman during the party's protest in the federal capital. The PTI leaders were charged under 12 sections including attempted murder, arson, attack on the state and violence against police personnel. Other party politicians nominated in the case include, Omar Ayub, Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif, PTI Islamabad President Amir Mughal, Malik Hafeez Ur Rehman Tipu and 400 other unidentified individuals.

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue meets Ambassador Munir

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, who called on the Finance Minister at Finance Division today. During the meeting, matters related to follow-up and progress on meetings, consultations and discussions held between the Finance and Revenue Minister and stakeholders, including heads of leading financial institutions, commercial and investment banks, bilateral partners, think tanks and government officials came under discussion. Ambassador Munir Akram highlighted Pakistan's efforts for underscoring the need for climate justice, scaling up climate

finance and trade reforms to supporting developing countries, early operationalization of the Loss & Damage Fund, implementation of the agreement to re-channel 50% of the 2021 SDR (Special Drawing Rights) allocation to development, and putting Secretary-General's SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Stimulus proposal into action through an inter-governmental process at the UN. Ambassador Munir Akram also dilated upon Pakistan's efforts for advocating a concrete time-bound roadmap for the fulfillment of the developed countries' 0.7% of GNI ODA (Gross National Income, Official Development Assistance) commitment, establishment of a UN mechanism to facilitate public and private investment in sustainable infrastructure in developing countries, and a fair and fast debt relief and restructuring for countries in debt distress.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, called on the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, at the Finance Division. - DNA

AIIB to support Pak in meeting development goals

ISLAMABAD: Terming Pakistan as an important partner country, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) on Tuesday reiterated commitment to supporting the country in meeting development goals and overcoming climate-related challenges through policy and budgetary support. The reiteration was made by AIIB delegation led by its Vice President Client Region and Project Finance Global, Konstantin Limitovskiy that called on finance minister here, according to press release issued by finance ministry. During the meeting, the AIIB team briefed the Minister about the Bank's portfolio investment in Pakistan, including projects initiated in the hydro power generation, building road and transport sector, urban infrastructure development, building climate resilience and dealing with adverse impacts of pandemics, conflicts and climate-induced flood disasters. The status of ongoing projects and the need for diverting the Bank's financing from power generation to the transmission and distribution system in view of surplus capacity requiring evacuation were also discussed. - Agencies

Lahore suffocates in thick smog

DNA

LAHORE: Residents in Lahore continued to struggle under "hazardous" air quality, with the city retaining its title as the most polluted in the world as its air quality index (AQI) reached 666 on Tuesday morning. According to IQAir, a Swiss air quality monitor, the level of deadly particulate matter (PM2.5) pollutants - the fine particulate matter in the air that causes the most damage to health - reached 376 around 10am, which is 75.2 times more than the level recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Meanwhile, the AQI, which measures a range of pollutants, spiked to a whopping 666 early morning, as shown in the list of world's most polluted cities. Later, the AQI dipped to 609 before dropping further to 601. However, these levels did not make much difference to the smog situation in Lahore as these levels are still considered hazardous.

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