



Islamabad POST

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Ambassador Irfan meets PM

Pakistan keen to expand, diversify ties with Türkiye

The Prime Minister expressed gratitude for Türkiye's consistent support to Pakistan on Kashmir and said that Pakistan would also continue to lend its strong support to Türkiye on its core interests

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Pakistan H.E. Irfan Neziroglu called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister's House today. The Prime Minister welcomed Ambassador Neziroglu, who presented his credentials on October 28, 2024, and said he looked forward to working closely with the Ambassador to further strengthen bilateral relations between Pakistan and Türkiye. While recalling the historic, long standing and brotherly ties between Pakistan and Türkiye, the Prime Minister expressed gratitude for Türkiye's consistent support to Pakistan on Kashmir and said that Pakistan would also continue to lend its strong support to Türkiye on its core interests. The regional situation, particularly in Gaza and the Middle East also came under discussion. The Prime Minister conveyed his warm greetings and best wishes to President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and reiterated his invitation to the Turkish President to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience. He expressed satisfaction at the growing bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Türkiye and stressed on the need to further deepen cooperation in trade, investment, and defense. Ambassador Neziroglu thanked the Prime Minister for warmly receiving him and assured him of his full commitment and support to further strengthen the strong and historic bonds of friendship between both countries.

"Pakistan values friendly ties with Nepal"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan, Amb. Tapas Adhikari, paid a farewell call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister's House, today. The Prime Minister stressed that Pakistan valued its friendly relations with Nepal. While fondly recalling his meeting with Nepalese Prime Minister K. P. Sharma Oli on the margins of the UNGA in New York in September this year, the Prime Minister underscored the need to expand bilateral cooperation, particularly in trade and investment. The Prime Minister appreciated Ambassador Adhikari's efforts to strengthen bilateral ties between Pakistan and Nepal, while acknowledging his role in promoting people-to-people contacts and cultural exchange between the two countries. Ambassador Adhikari praised Pakistan's progress under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's leadership and expressed gratitude for the support extended to him during his tenure in Pakistan. The Prime Minister emphasized the need to enhance regional cooperation for peace and prosperity of the peoples of South Asia.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye H.E. Irfan Neziroglu calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on 7 November 2024. - DNA

Naqvi reaffirms commitment to Chinese security

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD, Federal minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi visited the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad following an incident in Karachi where two Chinese nationals were injured by gunfire from a security guard. Showing solidarity and diplomatic engagement during his meeting with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zedong, Minister Naqvi expressed regret over the incident and conveyed Pakistan's commitment to ensuring justice and enhancing security for Chinese nationals in the country. He conveyed heartfelt sympathy to the injured Chinese nationals and their families, underscoring that Pakistan places the utmost

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IMF team to arrive next week

Mission is not a part of first review under EFF, which will be no earlier than first quarter of 2025, say top sources

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has decided to send its SOS mission to Islamabad next week to hold talks with Pakistan in the aftermath of major "deviations" on performance targets and urge Islamabad to introduce a mini-budget for course correction. "IMF staff will travel to Pakistan between November 11 and 15 for a staff visit to discuss the recent developments and program performance to date. This mission is not a part of the first review under the EFF, which will be no earlier than the first quarter.

Kamala admits defeat

Trump team mulls schedule of his meeting with Biden

The Kremlin says it did not rule out the possibility that some form of contact could take place between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President-elect Donald Trump

DNA

WASHINGTON: The team of President-elect Donald Trump is mulling when he should visit Washington, DC and meet US President Joe Biden, CNN reported citing a source. According to the source, the date of the meeting was not final but could happen next week before Biden goes on a weeklong foreign trip. On November 14, Biden is scheduled to depart Washington for South America, with stops in Peru, Brazil, and the Amazon rainforest. On the trip, Biden will attend summits with leaders from the Asia-Pacific region and the Group of 20 nations. Understanding how Trump will approach relationships with those leaders in a second term will inform Biden's bilateral meetings with close allies, as well as interactions on the sidelines with US adversaries. Trump's team are

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Who is Donald Trump?

DNA

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump remains a significant figure in American politics. He served as the 45th president of the United States from January 20, 2017, to January 20, 2021. He secured this position after defeating Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election. According to the New York Times, he won the Electoral College with 304 votes, compared to 227 votes secured by Clinton. As per the BBC, he received the votes of more than 62 million Americans, the most for a Republican candidate. However, Joe Biden defeated him in the 2020 presidential election to end up in the Oval Office. The former president is aiming to make a comeback as a candidate for the 2024 elections.

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Four soldiers embrace shahadat in fight in Khwariji

DNA

RAWALPINDI: On 6 November 2024, fire exchange took place between the Security Forces and Khwariji in general area Karama, South Waziristan District. Resultantly, five Khwariji were sent to hell due to effective engagement by own troops. However, during the intense fire exchange, four brave sons of soil, Naib Subedar Taib Shah (age: 38 years, resident of District Tank), Lance Naik Gulab Zaman (age: 30 years, resident of District Karak), Lance Naik Muzammil Mehmood (age: 30 years, resident of District Karak) and Lance Naik Habibullah (age: 28 years, resident of District Orakzai), having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat. Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate



any other Kharji found in the area as Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe-out the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

Briefs

Govt declares public holiday on Nov 9

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Thursday announced that a public holiday will be observed on November 9 (Saturday) on account of Iqbal Day. The day marks the birth anniversary of Allama Iqbal, with this year being his 147th birth anniversary. Also known as "Poet of the East", he was one of the key figures who inspired millions of Muslims in the sub-continent to seek independence from British rule and establish their own homeland. Born in Sialkot in 1877, Allama Iqbal holds his own as an acclaimed poet and philosopher and is widely credited with using his poetry and political influence to demand the creation of a separate homeland for Muslims.

Joe Biden promises peaceful transfer of power

DNA

WASHINGTON: In a speech from the White House on Thursday, President Joe Biden said that he has spoken with President-elect Donald Trump to congratulate him on his election win and to ensure that a peaceful transfer of power will occur when he takes office on Jan. 20. "I assured him that I would direct my entire administration to work with his team to ensure a peaceful and orderly transition. That's what the American people deserve," Biden said. On Tuesday, Trump handily won the presidency with Wisconsin pushing him over 270 electoral vote threshold. Biden said in his speech that he also spoke with Harris after her defeat.

Imran sees 'positivity' in Trump victory

Trump's win will bring positivity and potential neutralisation of Biden-era "negativity", says Ali Muhammad Khan

KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Ali Muhammad Khan has stated that party founder Imran Khan expressed optimism following Donald Trump's victory over Kamala Harris in the recently concluded presidential elections of the United States. Imran believes Trump's return could alleviate the "negativity" towards Pakistan that, according to the former federal minister, intensified under the Biden administration. Trump's win will bring positivity and potential neutralisation of Biden-era "negativity", says Ali Muhammad Khan. Imran optimistic about Trump win, hopes US relations will improve. PTI claims Biden administration created "negativity" towards Pakistan. Overseas PTI sees Trump's return aiding Imran amid political tensions. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Ali Muhammad Khan has stated that party founder Imran Khan expressed optimism following Donald Trump's

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PTI condemns possible 'mini-budget'

"Government cannot meet IMF targets," says PTI's Ayub

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) politician Omar Ayub has strongly condemned the government's anticipated "mini-budget", asserting it will worsen the country's economic struggle. "This government cannot meet the IMF (International Monetary Fund) targets," Ayub, the leader of the opposition in the National Assembly, informed the media in Peshawar on Thursday. An urgent IMF mission is due in Islamabad next week to

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Trump finally succeeds in materialising his dreams

Compare to outgoing President Joe Biden, Donald Trump having a soft corner for Russian President Mr Putin

SHAMIM SHAHID

AT last former President Donald Trump succeeded in materialising his dreams of re entering into White House by defeating his staunch rival Democratic Party's Camilla Harrison in 47th Presidential polls. Preliminary results reveal that Donald Trump has won the polls with a landslide victory of 278 electorates compare to 238 of Camilla Harrison. Donald Trump returning to assume the most powerful and prestigious but globally important office on January 20th 2025 with stock of challenges and hopes of billions who wants to live with peace and tranquility throughout the world. Though Trump during his election campaign has time and again assured Americans of focusing on internal issues especially making secure the US geographical borders and addressing economic issues but he has to address and help in settling important global issues like fighting in Palestine, Ukraine and Afghanistan. In particular, people from Pakistan and Afghanistan who are ahead with

serious issues of terrorism and extremism from last four and half a decades. Compare to outgoing President Joe Biden, Donald Trump having a soft corner for Russian President Mr Putin. Ukraine war is now going to complete its second year and it has badly affected US led allies economic situation and its relations with Russia and several other countries. Mr Trump has time and again not only made reservations over Ukraine war but he also named Mr Putin as his friend. Now there are strong hopes if ending war in Ukraine whenever Donald Trump get reoccupation of powerful chair in White House. Similarly almost members of global community are unhappy with continuous Israeli aggression against Palestinians. No one can disagree with the fact that hardliners from Hamas and Hizb Ullah are responsible for commenting the war in Palestine and provoking the Jewish of targeting the innocent Palestinians but now the world is unhappy with Israeli brutalities against innocent and helpless Palestinians. It is also fact that who

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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

Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Azerbaijan united with full resilience to celebrate Victory Day

He wished that may our country continue to thrive, in peace, unity, and progress

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Khazar Farhadov has said that Azerbaijan is united with full resilience to celebrate November 8, the Victory Day of Azerbaijan. "We stood by our commitment to peace, but we made it clear: Azerbaijan would never accept the occupation of its lands, The " the Ambassador said. Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Khazar Farhadov said this while addressing the ceremony on the Victory Day of Azerbaijan here. He said that this day holds profound significance not only for the honor of our nation but also for the future we are building and it is a symbol of resilience, strength, and the unyielding spirit of Azerbaijan. "We are deeply grateful to the countries that stood with us, and today I must highlight the steadfast support of our brothers and sisters in Pakistan." The Ambassador of

Azerbaijan said that throughout the second Karabakh War, Pakistan's leaders voiced unequivocal support for Azerbaijan's just cause, strengthening our determination. He said that Pakistan has consistently honoured our friendship, even refusing to establish diplomatic relations with Armenia due to the occupation of our lands. In recent years, several agreements were signed during the high level visits of the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to Azerbaijan and the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev to Pakistan. Khazar Farhadov said that along with increased trade volume, the launch of direct flights, joint investment projects, and Pakistan's planned high-level participation at COP29, make a significant contribution to the growth of our multifaceted cooperation. Since our earliest days of independence, our nation has faced enormous challenges and the country was subjected to

military aggression, occupation, ethnic cleansing, and genocide by Armenia, he said. He said that nearly one million of our people became refugees and internally displaced persons, yet we never lost our resolve. On September 27, 2020, this resolve was tested again and Armenia launched attacks on Azerbaijani civilians and military positions from multiple directions, using heavy artillery and other weaponry, he said. The Ambassador said that in response to this provocation, Azerbaijan began a counter-offensive, a Patriotic War for the freedom and integrity of our homeland. Under the visionary and determined leadership of President Ilham Aliyev, the Victorious Army of Azerbaijan defended our people and the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, he said. Khazar Farhadov on September 19-20, 2023, we undertook local anti-terrorist measures to end the presence of illegal Armenian forces in Garabagh, restoring full sovereignty over our territories

within just 24 hours. He said this decisive action has created unprecedented opportunities for lasting peace and stability in the region and "we continue to call on Armenia to embrace a constructive approach to peace, recognizing the new realities of our region." He said that Azerbaijan upheld the principles of international law, reaffirmed our territorial integrity, and brought long-overdue justice by implementing United Nations Security Council resolutions that had been ignored for decades. The Ambassador of Azerbaijan said that this victory allowed us to fulfill our promise to return our internally displaced people to their rightful homes. "Our victory was not the end of the story; it was the beginning of a new chapter and true to our principles, Azerbaijan immediately launched peace initiatives and began large-scale restoration work in the liberated territories." "We introduced the Great Return Program, developing smart villages

with a green energy concept to allow our displaced citizens to return home with dignity," he said. The Ambassador said that environmental stewardship and the fight against climate change are also at the heart of our national agenda. He said that Azerbaijan is honoured to be hosting COP29 in 2024, one of the largest environmental conferences in the world, underscoring the global respect and trust our nation has earned. In a significant move demonstrating its commitment to environmental sustainability, Azerbaijan has declared 2024 as the "Green World Solidarity Year." He said that as we celebrate this day of triumph; let us honour with the deepest respect and gratitude our martyrs who sacrificed their lives for Azerbaijan's independence, territorial integrity, and sovereignty. Their courage and their love for Azerbaijan live on in each of us, inspiring us to carry forward their legacy, he said.

Students advised to develop future-ready skills

ISLAMABAD: President of Digital Platforms of Jazz Aamer Ejaz has urged students to stay adaptable, technologically fluent, and resilient to succeed in an evolving job market.

Speaking at the Institute of Space Technology (IST) on the theme Campus to Corporate - Steps to be Ready, he outlined how AI and emerging technologies are reshaping industries, advising students to leverage these advancements to maintain a competitive edge. The audience included final-year computer science students, IST faculty, and management. Describing AI as a collaborative tool he said, "AI isn't artificial intelligence; it's augmented intelligence. It complements your abilities while keeping you in the driver's seat." Citing Jazz's AI-driven products, like the SIMOSA chatbot, he emphasized how such technologies are enhancing user experiences. He warned that staying static in a rapidly advancing world is akin to falling behind. He also shared practical advice for bridging the gap between academia and industry, emphasizing skills like adaptability, resilience, and a business-oriented mindset as essential for professional growth. "There are no guaranteed jobs, job security, pensions, or seniority in the corporate world; success requires continuous learning and a proactive approach to career development," he stated. He further highlighted the challenge of retaining tech talent in Pakistan, noting that while skilled professionals often find better opportunities abroad, it's vital to create avenues for this talent to contribute to local innovation. "Our focus should be on nurturing homegrown talent to build indigenous products and services," he added. Commenting on the rapid pace of change, he encouraged students to view failure as a valuable learning opportunity. He shared an example of a discontinued Jazz product that led to valuable insights, ultimately resulting in successful platforms like Tamasha and SIMOSA. "Our goal shouldn't be unicorn startups alone but an enabling ecosystem that supports sustainable growth," he added. He underscored Jazz's transformation from a telco to a ServiceCo—a forward-looking digital conglomerate that encompasses platforms like JazzCash, Tamasha, SIMOSA, Bajao, Garaj, GAME-NOW, and ROX, cementing Jazz's position in the digital landscape.—APP



ISLAMABAD : The outgoing Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan Amb. Tapas Adhikari pays a farewell call to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

PTC concerns over increasing trade of illicit cigarettes

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tobacco Company (PTC) on Thursday expressed serious concern over the increasing illegal trade of cigarettes in the country that caused a severe dent to the industry bringing its sales down by 11.26 percent in the first quarter of the current fiscal year as compared to 2023-24. "The legitimate tobacco industry in Pakistan faces continued challenges as illicit cigarette sales have reached alarming levels," PTC's Senior Regulatory Affairs Manager, Qasim Tariq said in a media briefing here. During the period under review, he said the company sold 6.3 billion cigarette sticks against 7.1 billion of the last year. With illicit cigarette sales reaching alarming levels, he said the PTC noted a staggering decrease of nearly 0.8 billion cigarette sticks for Q1 of the current fiscal year, compared to the same period in the previous year. This shortfall, the official said, reflected the heavy toll that illicit trade was taking on legitimate businesses and government revenues, which were essential for funding projects critical to Pakistan's growth. "The economic fallout from the rise of illicit cigarette sales is multifaceted," he added. He also mentioned the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR)'s recent statement in the Senate Standing Committee which revealed 50 percent of cigarettes were being sold in Pakistan illegally. In February 2023, he said, an unprecedented Federal Excise Duty (FED) increase of more than 150% continued harming the legal sector as higher prices have inadvertently fuelled a shift from legal brands to cheaper, illegal alternatives. "As a result, there is an estimated Rs 300 billion loss to government revenue which is essential for public services, infrastructure and economic development initiatives," he remarked. Highlighting recent missed opportunities in the international market, Qasim Tariq, shared insights into a critical export loss for Pakistan. Earlier this year, he said that PTC secured an order to export cigarettes worth US \$20.5 million to Sudan, a deal that would have provided Pakistan with invaluable foreign exchange. However, Tariq said, despite support from the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and endorsement from the prime minister, the deal was lost due to delays in decision-making by officials in the Ministry of Health and propaganda from certain anti-tobacco groups. The order was subsequently awarded to a neighbouring country, costing Pakistan not only an economic opportunity but also valuable foreign reserves that were crucial to the country's fiscal health during challenging economic times. "Certain clauses of the World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) were misinterpreted and used as the basis to challenge this export order," Tariq explained. "Ironically, the neighbouring country that ultimately won the contract is also an FCTC signatory, like Pakistan and Sudan. This incident illustrates the harmful effects of misinformation and the economic harm that can arise from the unchecked influence of certain advocacy groups on public policy," he remarked. PTC acknowledged and commended the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for its recent enforcement efforts against illicit tobacco trade; however, Tariq emphasised that isolated enforcement measures would not be enough to address the problem. He was of the view that the market for illicit products remained strong due to limited resources of the FBR, and inconsistent enforcement at the retail level, where illicit cigarettes are widely accessible.—DNA

Goethe Institut's Regional Head visits NUML to strengthen collaboration

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Alexandra Mittler, Regional Head of the Goethe Institut, visited the National University of Modern Languages to further solidify the institute's longstanding partnership with NUML. She was accompanied by Mr. Jan Krausser, Cultural Attaché at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Islamabad, and Ms. Maha Jafarey, Head of the Goethe Institut in Karachi. The visit focused on enhancing collaborative ties between NUML and the Goethe Institut, particularly around Goethe exams conducted at NUML. The delegation aimed to assess the examination facilities, address any challenges in conducting exams and the registration process, and explore opportunities for expanding academic and cultural exchanges. This collaboration promises significant benefits for both NUML faculty and students, including scholarships for teacher training, online courses, workshops, and access to an extensive array of study materials. The visit began with briefings from the Registrar on NUML's academic initiatives, followed by an overview of the Faculty of Languages by Dr. Jami, who emphasized the department's diverse course offerings in German language studies and its



commitment to promoting German language education. Pro-Rector academics, Dr. Safer Awan also provided insights into the various international institutions established at NUML, highlighting the university's efforts to enhance global partnerships. In a subsequent meeting, Director General NUML, Brig Shahzad Munir expressed appreciation for the Goethe Institut's role in fostering cultural ties and urged further exploration of collaborative avenues, noting that NUML could play an integral role in strengthening cultural and academic connections. "NUML is

keen to facilitate initiatives that enhance both academic quality and intercultural understanding," he stated. He further added, "With shared resources and expertise, we can develop new programs that will foster deeper connections between our institutions and enrich student experiences." Discussions also included shared views on the philosophy of Allama Iqbal, emphasizing the cultural bridge between the two institutions. During the visit, the delegation explored areas to improve the examination process, with the Goethe Institut's regional head highlighting.—DNA

CDA begins work swiftly on Serena Chowk

The authority has pledged to keep the public informed about the project's progress and anticipated completion date

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) has swiftly commenced work on the Serena Chowk Interchange, just a day after the groundbreaking ceremony led by the Prime Minister. The ambitious infrastructure project is set to transform one of Islamabad's busiest intersections, improving traffic flow and marking a new era in the city's road network development. According to a CDA spokesperson, the project was prioritized due to the increasing traffic congestion in the area and the need for efficient urban connectivity. "The Serena Chowk Interchange is a pivotal part of our city's growth strategy. We are committed to completing this project with efficiency and minimal disruption to daily commuters," the spokesperson stated. On the first day of construction, contractors mobilized quickly, clearing initial pathways and setting up equipment to ensure work began without delay. The project is designed to ease bottlenecks on the busy Serena Chowk, which connects various major roads in the capital. "This interchange is just one component of our broader development agenda for Islamabad, addressing the critical need to modernize infrastructure in line with the city's growth," the spokesperson added. "It is our aim to create an accessible, efficient, and sustainable traffic system that aligns with Islamabad's unique urban landscape." The Serena Chowk Interchange is part of CDA's strategic initiatives to enhance Islamabad's transportation networks and support sustainable urban development. The authority has pledged to keep the public informed about the project's progress and anticipated completion date, signaling a commitment to transparency and proactive civic engagement. — DNA

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Briefs

ANF foils inter-provincial drug smuggling bid

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting an operation in Faisalabad managed to foil a drug smuggling bid and recovered 180 kg charras besides arresting a truck driver, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday. He informed that a major inter-provincial drug smuggling attempt had been foiled. Acting on a tip-off ANF conducted an operation near Motorway Interchange Sahianwala, Faisalabad. During the search, 150 packets of hashish weighing 1200 grams were recovered from the truck. A total 180 kg hashish was recovered from the truck, he added. During the operation, the truck driver, who is a key member of the inter-provincial drug trafficking gang was arrested on the spot. A case has been registered against the accused under the Anti-Narcotics Act and further investigation is under process.—APP

Call for action in CDA's maiden environmental 'E-Kachehri'

ISLAMABAD: In a first-of-its-kind online initiative, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) Environment Wing hosted an 'E-Kachehri' on Thursday, inviting Islamabad residents to voice concerns and provide feedback on the city's parks and environmental issues. The virtual session, held on the CDA's Facebook page, allowed citizens to interact directly with CDA officials, highlighting areas for improvement in the federal capital's recreational and green spaces. Director General of Environment Nazia Abrar Khan and her team engaged in lively discussions with participants, addressing various grievances and pledging swift action to enhance the city's natural beauty and infrastructure. The session also underscored CDA's commitment to transparency and accessibility, as citizens were encouraged to share their names, contact numbers, and specific concerns in the comments. A local resident Malik Khadim Awan raised alarm over the decline in facilities at Playland Park, noting, "We visit parks so that our children can enjoy, but CDA seems indifferent to restoring these amenities." Abdullah Khan suggested imposing heavy penalties on individuals discharging wastewater into natural streams, a move he believed could reduce pollution and control pest breeding grounds. Security concerns also emerged as another dweller Babar Husain appealed for evening patrols, saying that parks now feel unsafe after dark. Some participants lauded CDA's recent beautification efforts for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, urging the authority to apply similar beautification to other city areas, including local markets and sub-sector hubs. The CDA has promised to prioritize public feedback collected from these online forums, aiming to restore Islamabad's recreational spaces and preserve its environmental integrity. This 'E-Kachehri' is part of a broader series of online gatherings, a new initiative by the CDA to address citizens' issues directly and expedite improvements across the city.—APP

Call for efforts to improve law, order situation in KP

Both leaders also agreed on the need for collaborative efforts to improve the education system in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "The Federal Government is actively working on the establishment of Danish Schools and the promotion of quality education throughout the province," said Attaullah Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaullah Tarar, and Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, met on Thursday to call for joint efforts aimed at improving the law and order situation in the province. During the meeting at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, both leaders expressed concern over the deteriorating security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and criticized

the provincial government's apparent indifference. They discussed potential measures to address and improve the situation. The conversation also touched on the federal government's efforts to promote economic development and involve the youth in positive, constructive activities. Governor Faisal Kundi emphasized that steps would be taken in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to steer the youth away from anarchic politics and towards more productive

pursuits. In response, Minister Attaullah Tarar assured that the federal government was fully committed to providing all possible support to enhance security in the province. Both leaders also agreed on the need for collaborative efforts to improve the education system in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "The Federal Government is actively working on the establishment of Danish Schools and the promotion of quality education throughout the prov-

ince," said Attaullah Tarar. He also reaffirmed that restoring law and order in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was a top priority for the federal government. "The people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are our brothers, and their welfare is the first priority of the federation," Tarar remarked, adding that the people of the province would not be deprived of their rights. He further emphasized that cultural activities would be promoted across the region. The meeting also

discussed the creation of a media hub in Dera Ismail Khan, along with other facilities to support the region's development. Governor Faisal Kundi welcomed the innovations and positive changes taking place within the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and its affiliated departments. Additionally, several proposals related to the promotion of educational and cultural activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were discussed in the meeting.

Rana for boosting Pakistan-US partnership to promote regional peace

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan Thursday said by fostering a stronger partnership, Pakistan and the US can address pressing regional challenges and promote a more peaceful and prosperous future. He congratulated Donald Trump on his recent accomplishment and expressed optimism for enhanced government-to-government relations between Pakistan and the United States. In an interview with a private news channel, he said that the PML-N government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has been working to strengthen its relationships with neighboring countries, aiming for mutual understanding to collaboratively resolve the issues. Responding to a query, he said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party is preoccupied with propagating issues, which has ultimately damaged Pakistan's foreign relations.—APP

Two bike lifters held with seven motorcycles

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested two bike lifters and street criminals and recovered seven stolen motorcycles, cash, and other items from their possession, said a Police spokesman. He informed that a team under the supervision of SHO, R.A. Bazar Police Station managed to net two bike lifters, Imran and Amir, and recovered seven stolen motorcycles, cash, and other items from their possession. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is underway. Superintendent of Police, Potohar, Nasir Nawaz said the accomplices and facilitators of the accused would also be sent behind bars.—APP

IRSA releases 123,700 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 123,700 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 55,400 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1521.76 feet and was 123.76 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 28,500 cusecs and 64,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1179.65 feet, which was 129.65 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 5,200 cusecs and 38,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 63,900, 45,700, 35,100 and 4,300 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 11,500 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 3,500 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Ji Jiang Zaidong in Islamabad.—DNA

Pak welcomes UN rapporteur report calling out Israel's genocidal acts in Gaza

The spokesperson also apprised the media of the recent visit of Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi who met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar wherein two sides agreed to strengthen regular high-level exchanges

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday welcomed the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Francesca Albanese calling out Israel for pushing through a systematic agenda of forced displacement, annihilation, and genocide in Gaza and the West Bank. "Pakistan endorses Ms. Albanese's stance that Israel is obstructing international investigation efforts, including denying the entry of fact-finding teams from the United Nations. We support her call on the international community to act decisively in ending Israel's unbridled atrocities against Palestinians and to ensure unhindered humanitarian assistance to Gaza, as well as full financing and protection of UNRWA," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said at her weekly press briefing. The report

highlights how Israel has been committing genocide against the Palestinian people through acts of territorial expansion and ethnic cleansing. The spokesperson expressed concerns about Israeli actions against relief workers and agencies, including UNRWA, and its ongoing war on hospitals and vaccination centers. "After destroying Gaza's health infrastructure, Israeli occupation forces are now targeting hospitals in Lebanon. So far, 34 hospitals have been damaged, 111 emergency medical technicians killed, and 107 ambulances targeted in Lebanon," she said and reiterated Pakistan's call for an immediate cessation of hostilities in Gaza, Palestine, and Lebanon, the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, and unhindered humanitarian access and healthcare to those in urgent need. Referring to the reports of the deteriorating health of

Kashmiri leader Muhammad Yaseen Malik, who is on a hunger strike protesting poor conditions and insufficient medical care in New Delhi's Tihar Jail, she urged the Indian authorities to provide quality medical care and immediately release him. The spokesperson also apprised the media of the recent visit of Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi who met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar wherein two sides agreed to strengthen regular high-level exchanges, advance cooperation and dialogue on trade, energy, and security, and enhance border management and people-to-people contacts. The spokesperson announced that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif would visit Saudi Arabia to participate in the Second Joint Arab Islamic Summit being held in Riyadh on November 11. Being held at the initiative of the Saudi government to discuss the situation in the

Middle East, the summit will be a follow-up to the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit held last year on the subject. Heads of state and governments and senior officials from Arab League and OIC member countries are expected to participate in the Summit. The spokesperson said that at the summit, the prime minister would reiterate Pakistan's full support for the Palestinian cause and call for an immediate end to the genocide in Gaza, an urgent and unconditional ceasefire, and an immediate cessation of ongoing Israeli adventurism in the region that endangers the security of countries in the Middle East. He will also call for international protection for the Palestinian people and the establishment of an independent State of Palestine on the borders of 4 June 1967, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, besides holding bilateral meetings with participating leaders.

Machinery imports up by 21.68%

ISLAMABAD: The imports of the overall machinery group experienced a substantial increase of 21.68 percent during the first quarter of the current fiscal year (July-September) compared to 2023-24. The growth in machinery imports would help elevate productivity and spur technological advancements in essential sectors, leading to economic expansion and progress in infrastructure development. The total imports of the machinery group during the three months of the FY 2024-25 stood at \$2,014.339 million against the imports of \$1,655.55 million of the corresponding period the last year, according to official data of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). The import of agriculture sector machinery and equipment surged by 115.88 percent from \$13.757 million to \$29.699 million; textile machinery 39.82 percent from \$ 35.867 million to \$ 50.151 million; power-generating machinery 27.13 percent from \$ 106.624 million to \$ 135.551 million; construction and mining machinery 51.78 percent from \$19.532 million to \$ 29.645 million; electrical machinery and apparatus 77.85 percent from \$488.696 million to \$869.136 million; other apparatus 34.64 percent from \$22.475 million to \$ 38.083 million. However, during the period under review, the import of office machinery including data processing equipment declined by 21.44 percent from \$135.534 million to \$106.480 million; mobile phones 18.93 percent from \$304.029 million to \$246.472 million; telecoms-related equipment by 6.17 percent from \$399.048 million to \$374.410 million and other machinery by 8.14 percent from \$456.442 million to \$419.267 million.—DNA



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Geology training held to strengthen Sino-Pak resource education

The training enriched students' professional knowledge structures and enhanced their practical problem-solving abilities. It also exposed them to the current research challenges and bottlenecks in geological exploration, strengthening their knowledge and practical skills in geology

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Yunnan Land and Resources Vocational College, China, in collaboration with University of Baltistan, Pakistan conducted four online training sessions for over 300 attendees. It was held at the China-Pakistan Resource and Environmental International College, which is part of the joint

Sino-Pakistan dual-degree vocational education program. The training focused on geology-related topics, with sessions titled "Secrets of the Earth" and "Spatial and Temporal Distribution, Mineralization Mechanisms, and Prospecting Indicators of Magmatic Copper-Nickel Sulfide Orebodies." These sessions equipped Pakistani students to gain a deeper understanding of

the Earth's shape, composition, lithosphere, and plate tectonics, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday. They also covered essential knowledge on the spatial and temporal distribution of magmatic copper-nickel sulfides, the characteristics of magma, and the mechanisms of sulfide saturation, as well as key indicators for mineral exploration. The training

enriched students' professional knowledge structures and enhanced their practical problem-solving abilities. It also exposed them to the current research challenges and bottlenecks in geological exploration, strengthening their knowledge and practical skills in geology. Since its establishment in 2023, the China-Pakistan Resource and Environmental International

College has enrolled 24 Pakistani students. According to sources, this training marks an important step in deepening cooperation between Yunnan Land and Resources Vocational College and University of Baltistan. Leveraging an international cloud education platform, these programs are designed to cultivate local talents who are equipped with both theoretical and practical skills to serve international enterprises.

The Gaza war

IN a recent discussion about the ongoing Gaza conflict and the events unfolding in the devastated Strip, a curious metaphor caught my attention. My conversation partner, a Palestinian engineer long settled in the West, suggested that all parties to the war had fallen down a rabbit hole. When he noticed my puzzled silence, he referenced "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" and its famous opening chapter, "Down the Rabbit-Hole." I told him that, although I had read Lewis Carroll's masterpiece in my youth, I had naturally forgotten the specific chapter title and could not quite see how it related to the tragic situation in Gaza. Graciously, he explained how this phrase had taken on new meaning over time, spreading far beyond its literary origins. Intrigued, I delved deeper into the modern usage of the term. Further research revealed how this literary reference had evolved into a widely used metaphor describing situations where people become entangled in increasingly complex and confusing circumstances – much like the current state of the Gaza conflict. The metaphor proves remarkably apt. All key players find themselves trapped in this proverbial rabbit hole: Benjamin Netanyahu's government, Hamas and its primary ally Iran, other Israeli political factions, the Palestinian Authority and various Palestinian groups, along with interested international parties. Each party attempts to navigate an increasingly maze-like situation with no clear exit in sight. After more than a year of what has become Israel's longest military engagement since its founding, a crucial question emerges: Has finding even a temporary solution to stop the bloodshed and civilian suffering become truly impossible? However, this raises another critical question: Should the international community place equal responsibility on both the Israeli government and Hamas for prolonging this conflict? Again, the answer is no. This is not an emotional judgment but one echoed by hundreds, if not thousands, of journalists and politicians worldwide from across the political spectrum. Their reasoning is straightforward: Israel, as an internationally recognized state, bears a different level of responsibility. Its military actions, which have often violated international norms and laws, must be held to a higher standard. Had its political leaders acted more rationally, they might have avoided trapping their nation in this rabbit hole. Bakir Oweida is a Palestinian journalist who pursued a professional career in journalism in Libya in 1968, where he worked at Al-Haqiq newspaper in Benghazi, then Al-Balagh and Al-Jihad in Tripoli. He has written for several Arab publications in Britain since 1978. He worked at Al-Arab newspaper, Al-Thadamun magazine and the international Arabic newspaper Asharq Al-Awsat. He has also worked as a consultant at the online newspaper Elaph. This article first appeared in Asharq Al-Awsat.

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China will always be important opportunity for global development

THE 7th China International Import Expo (CIIE) kicked off at the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai) on Nov. 5. Running from Nov. 5 to 10, the 7th CIIE has attracted 3,496 exhibitors from 129 countries and regions. It also sets a new record with 297 Fortune Global 500 companies and industry leaders attending the event. Besides, it has brought together 77 countries and international organizations to participate in the Country Exhibition, with France, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Saudi Arabia, Tanzania and Uzbekistan serving as guest countries of honor. Photo shows the artificial intelligence section and the low-carbon energy and environmental protection technology section of the 7th China International Import Expo (CIIE), Nov. 3, 2024. (People's Daily Online/Weng Qiyu) Political and business leaders from 152 countries, regions and international organizations attended the opening ceremony. Around 3,800 Chinese and foreign journalists from more than 400 media outlets are participating in the coverage of this event. Additionally, the area dedicated to cultural exchanges exceeded 32,000 square meters, marking a new high in the history of the expo. Opening up is a defining feature of Chinese modernization and is also the core philosophy of the CIIE. Hosting the import expo is an important step for China to further open up and a concrete action China took to build an open world economy. In July this year, the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) concluded its third plenary session, drawing up a grand blueprint for further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization. The CPC noted that to further deepen reform comprehensively, it is a must to maintain a unified approach to reform and opening up. The deeper the reform goes, the higher the requirements for the level of opening up; the higher the level of opening up, the greater the boost to reform. As a significant economic diplomatic event held after the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the CPC, this year's CIIE highlights China's confidence, determination, and practical actions in further deepening reform comprehensively, promoting high-quality development, and advancing high-level opening up. Based on the super-sized Chinese market, the CIIE has enabled exhibits to become traded goods and exhibitors to spot more investment opportunities. It has become a catalyst for enhancing global consensus on open cooperation and pursuing an open world economy, creating new opportunities for the world through China's further development.

Modernizing global financial Governance

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The existing financial architecture, dominated by the IMF and the World Bank, reflects the geopolitical realities of the 1940s, when much of the world was under colonial rule or heavily influenced by Western powers. The governance structures of these institutions continue to privilege developed nations, particularly the United States and European countries. For example, voting power within the IMF and the World Bank is largely determined by financial contributions, meaning that the wealthiest countries exert the most influence over decision-making processes

THE current global financial architecture, crafted primarily by the United States and Europe in the mid-20th century, is widely criticized for being outdated and inadequate for addressing contemporary global challenges. Established during the Bretton Woods Conference of 1944, institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank were designed to support post-war economic reconstruction and foster economic stability. However, this framework is now seen as increasingly unfit for purpose, especially given the diversity and complexity of today's global economic landscape. According to United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, this architecture is "outdated, dysfunctional and unjust." His critique underscores the urgent need for reform, a sentiment echoed by many scholars and policymakers who contend that these institutions have struggled to achieve their original objectives, such as preventing financial crises and promoting equitable development.

The existing financial architecture, dominated by the IMF and the World Bank, reflects the geopolitical realities of the 1940s, when much of the world was under colonial rule or heavily influenced by Western powers. The governance structures of these institutions continue to privilege developed nations, particularly the United States and European countries. For example, voting power within the IMF and the World Bank is largely determined by financial contributions, meaning that the wealthiest countries exert the most influence over decision-making processes. Consequently, developing countries, which constitute the majority of the world's population and are often the most affected by global financial instability, have limited representation and voice within these institutions. This imbalance has led to criticisms that the IMF and World Bank are not only out of touch with the needs of developing nations but also that their policies often exacerbate inequalities. IMF loans, for example, are typically contingent upon the recipient country implementing austerity measures, which can lead to reductions in social services and economic hardships for the poorest populations. The conditionalities imposed by these institutions have led to accusations that they are more interested in serving the interests of wealthy donor countries than in fostering genuine economic development. One of the foundational aims of the Bretton Woods institutions was to prevent and mitigate global financial crises. However, the past few

decades have shown that the IMF and World Bank have often struggled to foresee or effectively address economic downturns, especially those affecting developing countries. The Asian Financial Crisis of 1997, the Global Financial Crisis of 2008 and the ongoing economic disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic reveal significant gaps in the current system's ability to ensure stability. In each of these crises, the IMF and World Bank were criticized for their responses, which many argue prioritized short-term financial stability over long-term economic growth and social welfare. For instance, during the Asian Financial Crisis, IMF-led austerity measures were seen as deepening the economic pain of affected countries, pushing them further into recession rather than facilitating a swift recovery. Similarly, during the 2008 financial crisis, developing countries were largely left out of the decision-making processes, even though they faced severe economic impacts from the downturn in advanced economies.

Another critique of the current financial architecture is its failure to mobilize adequate financing for internationally agreed development goals, such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The financing gap for achieving the SDGs is estimated to be in the trillions of dollars, yet the existing institutions have not been able to mobilize or direct sufficient resources to meet these targets. The IMF and World Bank's focus on debt repayment and fiscal discipline often means that they prioritize financial stability over investments in areas like health, education and infrastructure—investments that are crucial for sustainable development. Furthermore, the conditions attached to IMF and World Bank assistance programs frequently limit the policy options available to recipient countries, forcing them to prioritize debt repayment over critical investments in social services. This approach has been criticized for undermining the autonomy of developing nations and for prioritizing the repayment of loans to wealthy countries over the development needs of low- and middle-income populations. The result is a system that is seen as both inequitable and insufficient for supporting the global development agenda.

The need for reform of the international financial architecture has become a prominent topic on the global stage, with discussions taking place in multiple forums, including the United Nations, the G20 and the governance bodies of the IMF and World Bank. One of the most significant initiatives in

this regard is the United Nations' "Summit of the Future," which aims to promote global solidarity and support for fundamental reforms of international institutions. Additionally, the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development has emphasized the importance of restructuring global finance to better support sustainable development. One proposal for reform is to expand the representation of developing countries within the governance structures of the IMF and World Bank. This could involve recalibrating voting rights to better reflect the economic weight of emerging markets and developing economies, or creating new positions within the organizations' executive boards specifically for low-income countries.

Increased representation would not only improve the legitimacy of these institutions but also ensure that their policies are more attuned to the needs of the global South. Another proposed reform is to shift the focus of the IMF and World Bank from short-term crisis management to long-term developmental financing. This could involve creating dedicated funds for the achievement of the SDGs or establishing mechanisms to support debt restructuring and relief for heavily indebted countries. By prioritizing sustainable development, the IMF and World Bank could play a more constructive role in helping countries achieve economic resilience and social progress.

In recent years, regional financial institutions such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the New Development Bank (NDB) have emerged as potential alternatives or complements to the Bretton Woods institutions. These organizations are often viewed as more responsive to the needs of developing countries, in part because their governance structures are more inclusive and their policies less prescriptive. The AIIB, for example, has emphasized infrastructure investment without the strict conditionalities typically imposed by the IMF and World Bank, making it an attractive option for countries seeking to finance development projects without sacrificing economic autonomy. The rise of these regional institutions highlights the demand for a more diverse and multipolar financial system that allows countries to choose from a range of financing options. By fostering competition among lending institutions, the emergence of the AIIB, NDB and others could encourage the IMF and World Bank to adopt more flexible and equitable policies in order to retain their relevance in a rapidly changing global economy.

Asia must act decisively on climate change

Dr. Majid Rafizadeh

Asian governments ought to prioritize a transition to renewable energy to decrease reliance on fossil fuels. Investment in solar, wind and hydropower infrastructure will not only reduce emissions but also create millions of green jobs. The Asian Development Bank estimates that "aggressive decarbonization" could generate 1.5 million energy sector jobs by 2050. Nevertheless, this shift requires regional policies that incentivize renewables, eliminate fossil fuel subsidies and provide tax incentives...

COUNTRIES in Asia are set to experience some of the most severe consequences of the climate crisis and this unique vulnerability underscores the urgent need for proactive and collaborative climate action. Asia's rapid industrialization and reliance on fossil fuels have accelerated its contribution to global carbon emissions, while geographic and socioeconomic factors make the region especially susceptible to rising temperatures, sea level increases and extreme weather events.

According to a report released last week by the Asian Development Bank, Asian nations are significantly underfunded in their efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The annual financing requirement for climate adaptation across developing Asian countries ranges between \$102 billion and \$431 billion, yet they received only \$34 billion in 2021-2022. This funding gap reflects the challenge that Asia faces in both reducing emissions and preparing for the inevitable impacts of a warming world. Asia is the most populous continent, home to approximately 60 percent of the world's population. Countries like China, India, Bangladesh and Vietnam have high population densities, especially along coastlines, where communities face the dual threats of sea level rises and intensified storm surges. The report noted that, if Antarctic sea ice collapses, sea levels in Asia-Pacific could rise at twice the global average, putting 300 million people at risk. In addition, many of these populations lack the infrastructure to withstand extreme weather, leaving them highly vulnerable to both loss of life and economic disruption. Asia's economic structure still heavily depends on fossil fuels, with the Asian Development Bank report estimating that governments in the region provided nearly \$600 billion in subsidies for fossil fuels like oil, coal and gas in 2022. Many Asian countries lack the infrastructure to withstand extreme weather, leaving them highly vulnerable. The issue is that such subsidies make fossil fuels more affordable, providing less incentive to shift toward cleaner energy sources. Consequently, developing Asia reportedly contributes nearly half of global emissions, with China alone responsible for two-thirds of this total. This dependence not only hampers Asia's ability to reduce its carbon

output but also increases the risks associated with climate-related health impacts, such as respiratory illnesses from air pollution. This means that, without decisive intervention, the economic repercussions for Asian countries will be severe. If emissions continue to rise unchecked, regional economies may face a 17 percent gross domestic product decline by 2070. Higher temperatures are already reducing productivity, as heat stress makes working conditions unbearable, particularly in sectors like agriculture and construction. In addition, agricultural yields, fisheries and forestry – vital components of many Asian economies – will suffer, further threatening food security and livelihoods. Bangladesh, Vietnam, Indonesia and India could see the most drastic economic downturns.

Asian governments ought to prioritize a transition to renewable energy to decrease reliance on fossil fuels. Investment in solar, wind and hydropower infrastructure will not only reduce emissions but also create millions of green jobs. The Asian Development Bank estimates that "aggressive decarbonization" could generate 1.5 million energy sector jobs by 2050. Nevertheless, this shift requires regional policies that incentivize renewables, eliminate fossil fuel subsidies and provide tax incentives or subsidies for green energy adoption. In addition, Asian countries need to invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, particularly in coastal cities and rural areas vulnerable to flooding and storms. Constructing flood barriers, creating mangrove forests to buffer against storm surges and developing robust urban drainage systems could significantly reduce the loss of life and property. Bangladesh's investment in flood shelters that have drastically reduced storm-related fatalities serves as a model for other nations.

Furthermore, in order to bridge the financing gap, Asian nations must advocate for more substantial international support and create partnerships with multilateral institutions like the World Bank. Given the scale of the crisis, both private and public sector investments are crucial. Asian countries can explore green bonds and international carbon markets to attract the necessary funds for adaptation and mitigation projects. If emissions continue to rise unchecked, regional economies may face a 17

percent GDP decline by 2070. Effective climate action demands transparent and accountable governance. It is critical to develop comprehensive frameworks that align with Asian countries' commitments under international climate treaties. This involves setting clear roadmaps toward net-zero emissions, enforcing environmental regulations and integrating climate considerations into all sectors of national policy. Such governance reforms are essential to ensure that actions are consistent, measurable and enforceable.

It is worth noting that, although Asia-Pacific is currently the largest emitter, historically, the US and Europe have contributed the most atmospheric carbon. This shared responsibility highlights the need for Western nations to support Asian countries in their climate efforts. Increased financial aid, technology transfer and expertise from the West can accelerate Asia's transition to sustainable development. Providing these resources would also foster cooperation and goodwill in addressing a challenge that transcends borders. Any economic downturn in Asia due to climate change would reverberate worldwide, given the interconnectedness of global supply chains and financial markets. Europe and the US rely on Asian economies for manufacturing, resources and labor. By supporting climate resilience in Asia, Western nations can mitigate risks to their own economies. Additionally, as climate change fuels migration, political instability and resource scarcity, assisting Asia would reduce the potential for conflicts and humanitarian crises that could impact the West.

In a nutshell, the climate crisis in Asia is no longer a distant threat but a present reality with wide-reaching implications. Immediate action is essential to limit and adapt to its impacts. Asian countries need both domestic reform and international support to bridge the financial gap, transform their energy landscapes and prepare for the worst-case scenarios. The cost of inaction far exceeds the cost of proactive measures. By acting decisively now, Asian countries, with support from the global community, can protect their people, economies and natural environments from the worst impacts of climate change.

Briefs

Trump finally succeeds in materialising his dreams

FROM PAGE 01
ever is occupant of White House in United State is definitely supporting and helping Israel. On such grounds, continuous violence against Palestinians is also damaging reputation of the Americans. On such grounds, Donald Trump is expected to play a role. Trump has already declared no to wars in his election campaign. No one can ignore the fact that it was Trump who in his previous period instructed his aide Zalmay Khalilzad for ending the conflict in Afghanistan. For the purposes zalmay Khalilzad had not only made shuttles visits to Pakistan, Afghanistan and several other countries of the region but he had got the credentials for signing of Doha Qatar accord on February 29th 2020 last. People from war devastated Afghanistan have attached great hopes with this internationally recognised agreement but unfortunately its outcomes remain the same like of Geneva 2010 accord, when like of Pakistan patronised Mujahideen have refused to let the UN peace maker Benon Seven to transfer power from Dr. Najib Ullah to Broad based representative government in Kabul. Now despite making commitments and signing the historic documents in Doha, the Taliban leaders are reluctant to go for an inclusive government and honour the human and women rights. At the moment, Afghanistan looks like a Big Prison where the inmates are living with peace but they lives like slaves and hostages. They are deprived of their basic human rights. Even lives of people both men and women are at mercy of gun totting, illiterate and uncivilised Taliban militants.

Imran sees 'positivity' in Trump...

FROM PAGE 01
victory over Kamala Harris in the recently concluded presidential elections of the United States. Imran believes Trump's return could alleviate the "negativity" towards Pakistan that, according to the former federal minister, intensified under the Biden administration.. Ali revealed that when informed of Trump's win, the party's incarcerated founder noted the positive relations they shared during his own tenure as prime minister, contrasting it with what he described as interference and hostility from the government led by Joe Biden. The PTI has long alleged US interference in Imran's ouster as the prime minister in April 2022. "He [Imran] emphasised that under the Biden administration, there was interference in Pakistan's [domestic] affairs; there was negativity." Trump recaptured the White House with a sweeping victory on Wednesday as tens of millions of Americans looked past his criminal charges and divisive rhetoric to embrace the Republican leader.

PTI condemns possible...

FROM PAGE 01
push Pakistani authorities to introduce a mini-budget for "course correction" in the aftermath of major "deviations" on performance targets, The News reported on Thursday quoting sources. According to the sources, this decision of the Fund's abrupt visit has been triggered primarily because the Pakistani authorities failed to convince it about their intention of "course correction" through virtual meetings in recent days. Criticising the government for its failure to stop the masses' affordability from eroding further, the PTI stalwart said that the nation was swept by a "flood of inflation", as he lamented the utter lack of constitutional and legal order across the country. Pakistan's average inflation rate stands at 8.7% in the current fiscal year, according to the Statistics Bureau, with the IMF predicting an average 9.5% inflation rate for the year ending June.

Pakistan-England Test series

ICC rates Multan, Pindi pitches satisfactory

The surrender allowed Pakistan to change its preparation of pitches dramatically. The new selection committee chose to resurface the same one that is to be used in the second Test in Multan with giant fans to dry it out

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The pitches used in the Multan and Rawalpindi during the recently concluded Test series between Pakistan and England have been rated "satisfactory" by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Thursday. The first Test was played on a flat pitch in Multan, which saw Pakistan post 556 runs in the first innings, however, England racked up a humongous total of 823/7d, courtesy of Harry Brook's triple century and Joe Root's double-century. Pakistan were bundled for 220 in the second innings, succumbing to an innings and 47 runs defeat. The under-fire hosts needed a miracle to fight for the series glory and they made four massive changes to their squad for the remaining two Tests, which marked the ouster of big names like Babar Azam, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah. Consistent domestic performer Kamran Ghulam replaced Babar, while the dynamic spin duo of Sajid Khan and Noman Ali came in as Shaheen and Naseem's replacement. The hosts not only



reshuffled their squad but also revamped their pitch preparation methods for the remaining two matches. The newly formed selection committee, featuring Azhar Ali, Aleem Dar and Aqib Javed, instructed the groundsmen to make dry pitches to support spin

bowlers in the remaining. For the second Test in Multan, the hosts reused the first Test's pitch, which underwent a rigorous drying process, utilizing massive industrial fans that whirled at full force, all aimed at crafting a surface that would favour spin bowlers.

Meanwhile, for the third Test in Rawalpindi, where the pitch is traditionally flat, the hosts used a similar strategy of using large fans and heaters, accompanied by windbreaks to dry the pitch. The changes worked wonders as Pakistan recovered from 0-1 down to

beat England 2-1 and seal their first Test series victory at home since 2021. The spin duo of Sajid and Noman dismantled England in the last two Tests and picked up 39 out of their 40 wickets, while another late entrant Zahid Mahmood bagged the solitary wicket. The ICC conducted a thorough evaluation of the pitches used in the series between Pakistan and England, resulting in each venue receiving a rating of "satisfactory." This rating represents the lowest acceptable standard that does not incur a penalty, indicating that while the pitches may not have been ideal, they were deemed adequate for play. The ICC employs a comprehensive four-tier rating system to assess pitch quality, which includes the categories of very good, satisfactory, unsatisfactory, and unfit. In this system, a pitch marked as unsatisfactory is assigned a demerit point, while a score of unfit incurs a more severe penalty of three demerit points. Venues that accumulate five or more demerit points within a rolling five-year timeframe face significant consequences: they are prohibited from hosting international cricket matches for a period of 12 months.

PSG fans display 'Free Palestine' banner during match

While the banners were met with applause from some, PSG was quick to distance itself from the political protest. In a statement issued shortly after the match, the French club stressed that it had not been informed about the display in advance



PARIS: Fans of Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) made a bold political statement ahead of their Champions League match against Atletico Madrid, unveiling a massive "Free Palestine" banner at the Parc des Princes stadium. The display, which was organised

by the club's Boulogne Kop supporters, also featured another banner that asked, "Does a child's life in Gaza mean less than another?" Israel has been conducting a relentless offensive against the Gaza Strip since the October 7, 2023. The ongoing assault has claimed

nearly 43,400 lives and left the enclave nearly uninhabitable. Israel is now facing a genocide case at the International Court of Justice for its actions in the besieged territory. As PSG prepared for their European fixture, the fans also added a powerful message reading, "War

on the pitch, but peace in the world," alongside an image of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Lebanese flag.

The latter reference highlighted the ongoing violence between Israel and Hezbollah, which has claimed lives in Lebanon in recent days. While the banners were met with applause from some, PSG was quick to distance itself from the political protest. In a statement issued shortly after the match, the French club stressed that it had not been informed about the display in advance. PSG reiterated its commitment to keeping the Parc des Princes a place for football fans to unite around their shared passion, and confirmed its opposition to any political messages being displayed in the stadium. "The Parc des Princes is and must remain a place of communion around a common passion for soccer," the statement read. - Agencies

Former cricketer labels two players as 'burden' on squad

Bakht went on to say that despite their seniority, Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan have not consistently stepped up in challenging situations, raising questions about their leadership on the field

KARACHI: Former Pakistan cricketer Sikandar Bakht has expressed concerns about Pakistan's performance in the ongoing ODI series against Australia, criticising the form of both senior and younger players. In a recent interview, Bakht singled out young batsmen Abdullah Shafique and Saim Ayub as "burdens" on the squad, sparking debate on Pakistan's team selection and strategy. Bakht went on to say that despite their seniority, Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan have not consistently stepped up in challenging situations, raising questions about their leadership on the field. "Babar and Rizwan are the team's most experienced players, yet they don't anchor the team during tough times," Bakht stated, adding that he believes Pakistan's only true match-winner in ODIs, Fakhar Zaman, was unjustly dropped. Bakht also praised Naseem Shah for his resilience, noting that the young fast bowler demonstrated bravery at the crease in the first ODI, where Pakistan struggled to build partnerships and posted a modest total of 203 runs. Mohammad Rizwan was Pakistan's top scorer with 44 off 71 balls, while Naseem added a valuable 40 runs off 39 balls to bring Pakistan closer to a competitive score. Australia chased down the 204-run target in 33.3 overs, winning by two wickets. Pat Cummins' composed batting guided Australia to victory, despite solid bowling performances from Haris Rauf (3 wickets) and Shaheen Afridi (2 wickets). Pakistan's fielding and discipline with the ball, however, came under scrutiny, as 21 runs were conceded in extras, including 17 wides. As Australia leads the series 1-0, Pakistan will look to bounce back in the second ODI on November 8 in Adelaide. - Agencies

Asim Khan begins London Open journey on high note

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan's Asim Khan has begun his campaign at the London Open squash tournament with a solid victory, defeating New Zealand's Temwa Chilеше in the opening round. Khan took the match in straight games with scores of 11-9, 11-6, and 11-15. Asim displayed strong form throughout the game, maintaining control and swiftly responding to Chilеше's tactics. After winning the first two games comfortably, Asim had to battle hard in the third game, which he won after a tough contest. His commanding performance marks a promising start to his run in this Professional Squash Association (PSA) World Tour Copper event. In the tournament's second round, Asim faces a tougher challenge against top seed Auguste Dussourd of France. The London Open carries a prize pool of \$33,000. Asim, currently placed at 60th position in the PSA ranking, is the highest-ranked Pakistani player in international squash rankings, and at the London Open, he aims to further improve his position.

Algerian boxer Imane Khelif initiates legal action over gender allegations

The IOC confirmed that Khelif has long competed in the women's division, including at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, IBA world championships, and other IBA-sanctioned events

PARIS: Imane Khelif, the Algerian Olympic gold medalist, is pursuing legal action regarding media coverage on alleged leaked medical records, as stated by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), media reported. French media reports this week claimed Khelif, 25, has XY, or male, chromosomes. The gender debate erupted during the Paris Games in August, after Khelif's rapid victory over Angela Carini, who withdrew in tears from their bout. The incident sparked a public dispute, drawing reactions from high-profile figures including Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and "Harry Potter" author JK Rowling. "We understand that Imane Khelif has taken legal action against individuals who commented on her situation during the Olympic Games Paris 2024, and is also preparing a lawsuit in response to the latest reporting,"



the IOC stated, adding that it would refrain from commenting further while legal proceedings are underway. The IOC confirmed that Khelif has long competed in the women's division, including at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, IBA world championships, and other IBA-sanctioned events. The organisation also expressed concern, stating it was "saddened by the abuse that Imane Khelif is currently receiving." Following her Olympic success, Khelif was celebrated upon her return to Algeria and has since lodged a complaint in France for online harassment. - Agencies

Women's One-Day Tournament to start today

DNA

KARACHI: The National Women's One-Day Tournament 2024-25 will take place from 8 to 30 November in Karachi, featuring five teams - Challengers, Conquerors, Invincibles, Stars and Strikers. Each participating team will play a total of eight matches in a double-league format before two sides advancing for the final, scheduled on November 30. Two matches will be played on each day of the tournament, with HPC Oval Ground and UBL Sports Complex hosting them. The prize pot for the 21-match tournament is PKR 3.3 million, with the winning side bagging a prize money of PKR 1.5 million and runners-up getting PKR 1 million. The matches will begin at 9.30am, with the toss taking place at 9am. Also, the five mentors who worked in the Bahria Town Champions One-Day Tournament 2024 will be involved with the teams



in the tournament. Challengers will have the services of Waqar Younis, while Conquerors will be mentored by Misbah ul Haq. Sarfaraz Ahmed will be available to Invincibles, while Stars and Strikers will have the mentorship of Shoaib Malik and Saqlain Mushtaq, respectively. However, Mushtaq will not be available to the Strikers during the early phase of the tournament. According to the details, after a two-day camp here, Mushtaq will leave for the United States of America (USA) on vacation and thus will miss the first four matches of the Strikers. He will rejoin the side on November 18. Additionally, the Pakistan Cricket Board today confirms the 16-member squad of each participating team. Challengers will be led by all-rounder Aliya Riaz, while Conquerors will be captained by national women's team captain Fatima Sana. Wicketkeeper-batter Muneeba Ali will lead Invincibles, while Sidra Amin and former captain Nida Dar will lead Stars and Strikers, respectively.

Who is Donald Trump?

FROM PAGE 01

Early Days: Trump is the fourth child of New York real estate tycoon Fred Trump. Despite his family's wealth, he used to work the lowest-tier jobs within his father's company. Later his father enrolled him in the military academy at the age of 13. He earned his bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. The former president managed his father's residential projects across NYC before renaming the company the Trump Organisation in 1971. He described his father, who passed away in 1999, as his main inspiration. Trump also ventured into entertainment, owning beauty pageants and creating/hosting NBC's The Apprentice, popularising the catchphrase "You're fired!" He authored books, appeared in films and wrestling shows, and sold various products. Despite a Forbes-estimated net worth of \$7.5 billion, he faced six business bankruptcies, including Trump Steaks and Trump University. The candidate of the Republican Party is famous for his three marriages. His first wife, Ivana Zelnickova, was a Czech athlete and model and he had three children with her. They, however, divorced in 1990. He married actor Marla Maples in 1993, two months after the birth of their only child, Tiffany. After divorcing Maples in 1999, he married former Slovenian model Melania Knauss in 2005. Their marriage endures to this day, and they share a son, Barron William Trump. Political Career: The former president started his political career in 2000 by entering as a candidate for the Reform Party, and later with the Republican Party in 2012.

Naqvi reaffirms commitment to Chinese...

FROM PAGE 01

priority on the well-being and security of Chinese citizens, particularly those working on projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He briefed Ambassador Jiang on the incident's details and assured him of a swift, transparent investigation to bring those responsible to justice. Naqvi highlighted Pakistan's commitment to aligning its developmental goals with robust security measures, referencing China's own model of integrated development and security. Naqvi stated, "We fully agree with the Chinese approach of combining development with security, and we will ensure the safety of Chinese nationals and projects as a top priority." Addressing concerns surrounding the security of CPEC projects, Naqvi affirmed that Pakistan is taking "all possible measures" to protect Chinese citizens and assets linked to CPEC. He revealed that additional security protocols are being implemented to create a safe and stable environment, especially in regions where Chinese nationals reside or work. Security forces are actively working to bolster protective measures, particularly in Karachi, to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future. Naqvi further assured that Pakistan's law enforcement agencies are coordinating to enhance security at all CPEC project sites, with a focus on strengthening communication, surveillance, and emergency response capabilities. Ambassador Jiang expressed China's appreciation for Pakistan's quick response to the Karachi incident and its dedication to securing Chinese interests in the region.

Trump team mulls schedule...

FROM PAGE 01

hoping he goes to Washington, DC, on the earlier side, with the source saying it could even be next week. The Kremlin said on Thursday it did not rule out the possibility that some form of contact could take place between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President-elect Donald Trump before the latter's inauguration in January, Interfax news agency reported.

Briefs

Gold price decreases by Rs.5,400 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased by Rs.5,400 and was sold at Rs.276,800 on Thursday compared to its sale at Rs.282,200 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.4,630 to Rs.237,311 from Rs. 241,941 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs. 217,535 from Rs. 221,780, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola decreased by Rs.130 to Rs.3,300 whereas that of ten gram silver went down by Rs.111.46 to Rs.2,829.21. The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$65 to \$2,662 from \$2,727 last day, the Association reported.—APP

PSX turns around to bullish trend, gains 499 points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 499.05 points, a positive change of 0.54 percent, closing at 92,520.49 points as compared to 92,021.44 points on the last trading day. A total of 678,788,064 shares were traded during the day as compared to 889,166,479 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 24.827 billion against Rs. 30.474 billion on the last trading day. As many as 449 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 257 of them recorded gains and 145 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 47 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Bank of Punjab with 62,920,538 shares at Rs 6.57 per share, Kohinoor Spinning with 46,527,930 shares at Rs 7.83 per share and KElectric Limited with 34,718,470 shares at Rs.4.80 per share.—APP

Gazans want Donald Trump to end war

GAZA, JERUSALEM: Palestinians in Gaza want Donald Trump, who won the US election, to end the war between Israel and Hamas that has devastated their territory. "We were displaced, killed ... there's nothing left for us, we want peace," Mamdouh Al-Jadba, who was displaced to Gaza City from Jabalia, said. "I hope Trump finds a solution, we need someone strong like Trump to end the war and save us, enough, God, this is enough," said the 60-year-old. "I was displaced three times, my house was destroyed, my children are homeless in the south ... There's nothing left, Gaza is finished." Umm Ahmed Harb, from the Al-Shaaf area east of Gaza City, was also counting on Trump to "stand by our side" and end the territory's suffering. "God willing the war will end, not for our sake but for the sake of our young children who are innocent, they were martyred and are dying of hunger," she said.—APP



ISLAMABAD: A worker is busy in preparing Punjab province traditional hut in connection with Lok Mela title "Focusing on the Youth of Pakistan" start on 8 November at Lok Virsa, in the Federal Capital.

4th cut in interest rates beneficial but insufficient:Zahid

Mian Zahid Hussain said the interest rate should have been reduced to 5% instead of 2.5% to encourage the private sector. Still, this time, the central bank again acted with unnecessary caution

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, the President of the Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, the President of All Karachi Industrial Alliance, the Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board, and the President and former provincial minister, Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Thursday that the fourth reduction in interest rates since June is welcome. However, he said the move fell short of the business communi-

ty's expectations. Mian Zahid Hussain said the interest rate should have been reduced to 5% instead of 2.5% to encourage the private sector. Still, this time, the central bank again acted with unnecessary caution. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the country's economy has come out of danger. Apart from IPPs, tax issues, and energy prices, many serious problems are being solved, and indicators are rapidly improving. He observed that the rupee's value against the dollar has been stable for a year and a half due to the control of dollar smuggling

and exchange companies, but the central bank's caution remains beyond comprehension. Mian Zahid Hussain said that according to the central bank, inflation is decreasing faster than expected. Many economic critics believe that this is more a result of the people's reduced purchasing power than government measures, but this idea is not correct. He noted that a seven percent reduction in interest rates over four months is positive but still too high compared to neighbouring countries. If inflation is in the single digits, the interest rate needs to be reduced by the same ratio so that economic affairs improve, business-

es can run, and people can get jobs. Mian Zahid Hussain said that as long as the interest rate remains high, the private sector cannot take loans, resulting in reduced production, exports, employment, and revenue. At present, he said, no comparison is possible between government loans and private sector loans. In the last financial year, the private sector took only Rs 106 billion from banks, while the federal government took Rs 8564 billion. Unless the government reduces borrowing from local banks, the private sector will not be able to grow as banks also prefer to lend to

the government. Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the decrease in inflation is visible in the data, while nothing is becoming cheaper due to market profiteering, which is unfortunate. Consumer goods continue to be expensive, with prices skyrocketing for many items and testing the patience of people with low incomes. He said that per capita income in the country has decreased compared to last year. The people are facing the wrath of inflation, and something should be done to relieve the masses so that the country can progress in real terms.

Israel signs \$5.2b deal to acquire 25 F-15 fighter jets from Boeing

JERUSALEM: The Israeli defense ministry said on Thursday it had signed an agreement to acquire 25 next generation F-15 fighter jets from Boeing Co. It said the \$5.2 billion agreement was part of a broader package of US aid approved by the US administration and Congress earlier this year and included an option for 25 additional aircraft. Delivery of the new F-15IA aircraft will begin in 2031, with 4-6 aircraft to be supplied annually, it said. The aircraft will be equipped with weapons systems integrated with existing Israeli weapons as well as having increased range and payloads. "These advantages will enable the Israeli Air Force to maintain its strategic superiority in addressing current and future challenges in the Middle East," the ministry said in a statement. "This F-15 squadron, alongside the third F-35 squadron procured earlier this year, represents a historic enhancement of our air power and strategic reach — capabilities that proved crucial during the current war," the director general of the defense ministry, Eyal Zamir, said in the statement. Zamir said that the government has secured procurement agreements worth nearly \$40 billion since the onset of the war in Gaza that began Oct. 7, 2023. "While focusing on immediate needs for advanced weaponry and ammunition at unprecedented levels, we're simultaneously investing in long-term strategic capabilities," he said.—APP

Israeli strike hits area near Beirut airport

JERUSALEM: Lebanon's transport minister said Thursday the country's only international airport was operating normally, after Israeli strikes on the southern suburbs of the capital Beirut, including one on an area near the hub. Minister Ali Hamie told AFP that planes were taking off and landing without any issue. A heater factory next to the airport's perimeter wall had been badly damaged in a strike, according to an AFP photographer at the scene. Israel has been at war with Lebanon's Hezbollah since late September when it broadened its focus from fighting Hamas in the Gaza Strip to securing its northern border. The strike near the airport came after Hezbollah announced on Wednesday that it had targeted a military base close Ben Gurion Airport, Israel's main international transport hub. The overnight strike in Beirut caused "minor damage" to some buildings but "not inside the terminal building", an airport official told AFP on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak to media. He said the strike had affected a maintenance building belonging to a subsidiary of Middle East Airlines, Lebanon's national carrier and practically the only airline still operating flights there.—APP

France sees 'window' to end Gaza, Lebanon wars after Trump win

JERUSALEM: French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said Thursday in Jerusalem he saw prospects for ending Israel's wars in Gaza and Lebanon after Donald Trump was elected US president. "I believe a window has opened for putting an end to the tragedy in which Israelis, Palestinians and the entire region have been immersed since October 7" last year, Barrot told reporters in Jerusalem. Speaking alongside outgoing Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz, Barrot cited Trump's "wish to see the end of the Middle East's endless wars" as well as Israel's recent "tactical successes." Barrot said he hoped a "diplomatic solution" would emerge "in the coming weeks." "Force alone will not be enough to guarantee Israel's security," he said, adding that "military success could not be a substitute for a political perspective." "It is time to move toward a deal that would allow for the liberation of all hostages, a ceasefire and the mass entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza, and to prepare for the day after." Barrot said "Israel has the right to defend itself" but pointed to "colonization," "humanitarian aid restrictions" and "the continuation of air strikes in north Gaza" as risk factors for Israel's security. Barrot is expected to speak with Palestinian Authority president Mahmud Abbas and his prime minister, Muhammad Mustafa.—APP

Vatican hopes for 'wisdom' from Trump

VATICAN CITY: The Vatican's secretary of state congratulated US president-elect Donald Trump Thursday, while expressing doubt that the Republican had a "magic wand" to end conflicts quickly as promised during the campaign. "We wish him a lot of wisdom because that is the main virtue of leaders according to the Bible," Italian Cardinal Pietro Parolin told reporters on the sidelines of a conference in Rome. Asked about Trump's promise to end the war in Ukraine "within 24 hours," Parolin replied: "Let's hope, let's hope. I believe that not even he has a magic wand." "To end wars, a lot of humility is needed, a lot of willingness is needed, it really is necessary to seek the general interests of humanity rather than concentrate on particular interests," he said. To overcome divisions in American society, Parolin said he hoped Trump would be "the president of the whole country." He also hoped he would be "a factor that reduces tension... in the current conflicts that are bloodying the world." Parolin's comments were the first diplomatic reaction from the Holy See to Trump's win for the White House against Democrat Kamala Harris. Pope Francis has not reacted. In September, the Argentine pope criticized both candidates, accusing them of being "against life" in different ways: for Harris' support of abortion, and for Trump's anti-migrant policies. During his first term in the White House, in May 2017, Trump was received by the Pope at the Vatican for a half-hour meeting. EAST FLORES, Indonesia: A volcano in eastern Indonesia erupted more than half a dozen times on Thursday, catapulting a colossal ash tower five miles into the sky against a backdrop of lightning as nearby residents fled in panic. Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki erupted on Monday and Tuesday, killing nine people and forcing the relocation of residents from a 7-kilometer (4.3-mile) exclusion zone. The country's volcanology agency reported seven eruptions on Thursday, the biggest of which belched an ash tower five miles (eight kilometers) high, according to an observation post. Some said it was the biggest eruption they had ever seen from Lewotobi Laki-Laki. "This is the first time I saw this big eruption since I've been living in Lewolaga village," said Anastasia Adriyani, 41, who lives outside the exclusion zone. "I was cooking at the community kitchen (for evacuees) and when it happened, I ran back home. I was very scared." Officials have raised the alert level for the 1,703-meter (5,587-foot) twin-peaked volcano on the tourist island of Flores to the highest level. There were no immediate reports of damage to nearby villages from Thursday's fresh eruptions. But residents and schoolchildren were seen running from their homes, according to an AFP journalist, who added volcanic lightning was also seen. Locals at a temporary shelter were anxious as the latest eruptions rumbled on Thursday morning. "It is sad to think of our village, and we are also panicked seeing the continuous eruptions. Since last night and this morning, we're still worried," said evacuee Antonius Puka, 56. Laki-Laki, which means "man" in Indonesian, is twinned with a calmer volcano named after the Indonesian word for "woman." Indonesia, a vast archipelago nation, experiences frequent seismic and volcanic activity due to its position on the Pacific "Ring of Fire.—DNA

Shahid Zaman real warrior against global warming's negative effects

Shahid has introduced cash rewards as a form of appreciation for exemplary work, fostering motivation & morale among his team

MUMTAZ AHMED BHATTI



PAKISTAN, like much of the world, is grappling with the severe consequences of climate change. The country has seen an escalation in extreme weather patterns, glacial melting, and deforestation, leading to floods, landslides, and a diminishing biodiversity. The fight against these pressing environmental issues requires commitment, action, and leadership from policymakers and bureaucrats. Among the individuals rising to this challenge is Shahid Zaman, currently serving as the Secretary of Forests, Climate Change, and Environment in Khyber Pa-

khtunkhwa (KP). Shahid Zaman's approach to his roles in the Forest Departments of Gilgit-Baltistan, Punjab, and now in KP stands out in a field often burdened by traditional bureaucratic limitations. His efforts have gained recognition as effective in tackling climate challenges, focusing on the preservation and expansion of forest cover, promoting native species, and encouraging accountability within field staff. Before discussing Shahid Zaman's contributions, it is crucial to understand the environmental challenges facing Pakistan. The country is highly vulnerable to climate change, ranking among the top ten nations most affected by climate-induced disasters. Pakistan's glaciers, located in the northern regions, are one of its most crucial natural resources, acting as a source for freshwater rivers. These glaciers are rapidly melting due to rising global temperatures, threatening Pakistan's water security and leading to devastating floods in downstream regions. Shahid Zaman's work in forestry and environmental conservation assumes great significance. As the Secretary of Forests, Climate Change, and Environment in KP, Zaman's initiatives

in forest restoration and climate resilience offer a beacon of hope in a challenging landscape. Shahid Zaman's career in public service spans several provincial roles, particularly in the field of forestry and environmental management. His assignments in Gilgit-Baltistan, Punjab, and KP have been marked by his consistent dedication to preserving and expanding forest resources. Shahid's motto, "Save forests and grow forests," captures his mission to safeguard Pakistan's forest ecosystems as a primary defense against climate change. What sets Zaman apart is his rejection of a conventional, bureaucratic approach. Instead, he focuses on on-ground, practical efforts, making regular field visits and maintaining a close relationship with field staff. His commitment to accountability and transparency has made him a respected figure within the departments he has served, with a reputation for rewarding good performance and actively addressing inefficiencies. One of Shahid Zaman's core principles is the prioritization of native species. Native species, having evolved in specific environmental conditions, are more resilient and sustainable than exotic species,

which often disrupt local ecosystems. By promoting the growth of indigenous trees, Zaman's initiatives help restore ecological balance, support biodiversity, and prevent soil degradation. This approach not only aids in carbon sequestration but also creates habitats for wildlife and protects water sources. Shahid Zaman's focus on native species is a significant step toward establishing resilient forests that are better equipped to survive in changing climatic conditions. It sets a precedent for future reforestation projects, underlining the importance of choosing species that will sustain Pakistan's unique ecosystems. Un-



Shahid Zaman

like many bureaucrats, who often remain confined to administrative offices. Shahid believes in regular field engagement. His frequent visits to forests and conservation sites keep him informed about the on-ground realities and challenges faced by field staff. This approach allows him to understand the practical aspects of forestry management, assess the success of reforestation projects firsthand, and make informed decisions based on real-time data. Through his field visits, Shahid has also cultivated a culture of accountability. Field staff are encouraged to perform their duties with diligence, as their efforts are regularly monitored and recognized. Shahid has introduced cash rewards as a form of appreciation for exemplary work, fostering motivation and morale among his team. This system not only ensures that projects are executed efficiently but also builds a committed workforce aligned with the mission of environmental preservation. Shahid Zaman's work goes beyond local forestry projects; he is acutely aware of the global implications of climate change and how they intersect with Pakistan's environmental challenges. In each of his roles,

Shahid has emphasized the importance of proactive climate action to mitigate the escalating effects of global warming. His passion for forests and wildlife stems from a deep understanding of their role in climate resilience, particularly in a country as ecologically diverse as Pakistan. Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change makes Shahid's work especially relevant. His efforts in reforestation and ecosystem restoration contribute not only to local environmental stability but also to global climate goals. Through these initiatives, Shahid exemplifies the role that local officers can play in addressing global issues. By focusing on sustainable practices and conservation, Shahid's contributions are a testament to how regional action can have a broader, international impact. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is one of Pakistan's most forested provinces, making it a focal point for national reforestation efforts. Shahid Zaman's approach to forestry and climate action offers a model for other provinces in Pakistan. His focus on hands-on leadership, accountability, and environmental sustainability has the potential to reshape Pakistan's approach to climate resilience. If secretaries

in Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan adopt similar practices, a coordinated, nationwide strategy could emerge to counter the effects of climate change. The benefits of Zaman's model extend beyond immediate environmental gains. By fostering a culture of accountability and transparency, Shahid's approach addresses the challenges of bureaucratic inefficiency and corruption, which often impede the success of environmental initiatives. His model also emphasizes community involvement, as reforestation and conservation efforts require the cooperation of local communities to be truly effective. Incorporating Shahid Zaman's methods into a national framework would entail training other provincial secretaries and their teams to prioritize field engagement, reward exceptional performance, and develop policies that emphasize native species and sustainability. Such a collaborative approach would allow Pakistan to build a resilient network of forests, mitigating the impacts of climate change and contributing to a healthier ecosystem for future generations.

Briefs

CJP initiates diagnostic study to deal backlog

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Chief Justice of Pakistan has initiated diagnostic study for design and execution of short and medium-term strategic interventions following his commitment to improve deliver and access to justice. A dedicated team of professionals from various fields, with passion to work pro bono, has undertaken functional assessment of the available resources, effectiveness of existing court processes and systems and the challenges and opportunities. This exercise will be followed by finalization of a workable reform plan with time-lines and impact assessment mechanism, said a press release. The proposed reform interventions focus on reduction of cases backlog, improved accessibility and transparency through simplification of processes, technological integration and public-centric approach, by exploiting the available resources and the existing legal framework. Prioritization of cases involving marginalized segments of the society and high impact cases would be the key feature of the reform interventions. Stakeholders' engagement, throughout the design and implementation process is being taken care of. Initially, professionals from diverse backgrounds, court staff and other key players of justice sector, including Bar, are being involved for meaningful input. The draft strategic plan would be put to public debate and feedback before its finalization.

Advisory Board meets to review overall sugar stock

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Sugar Advisory Board was held on Thursday to review the overall situation of sugar stocks across the country. The meeting was chaired by Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, and was also attended by Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, said a news release. The board reviewed the estimates for the sugarcane crop and the overall stock position of sugar for the upcoming crushing season. The board expressed satisfaction with the current sugar prices in the local market. Rana Tanveer highlighted the declining trend of sugar prices in the local market. It was decided that all sugar mills will begin crushing from November 21, and action will be taken against mills that fail to start crushing by the 21st. The minister said that all payments to farmers will be made before the start of the crushing season. He added that if mills do not pay the dues to farmers, their export licenses will be revoked. - APP

Timely completion of Jinnah Medical Complex urged

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday directed the quarters concerned to ensure completion of the Jinnah Medical Complex, a state-of-the-art healthcare facility designed to revolutionize healthcare standards in Islamabad, within the given time-frame of three years. He passed these directives while chairing a meeting to review the progress of the Rs120 billion project, which attended by Minister for NHS-RC Dr Nadeem Jan, Health Coordinator Dr Mukhtar, Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Chief Health, DC Health, senior officers from CDA, and officials from the departments concerned, a news release said. The master plan for this landmark Rs120 billion project includes a Center of Excellence, Diagnostic and Treatment Podium, Student Housing, Academic Podium, Academic and Research Towers - APP

The Graduation Ceremony of 150th GD(P) at Risalpur

A total of 139 Aviation Cadets, 08 Gentleman Cadets and 02 Naval Cadets graduated during the ceremony



DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Graduation Ceremony of 150th GD(P), 96th Engineering, 106th Air Defence, 26th A&SD, 9th Logistics and 132nd Combat Support Courses was held today at PAF Academy Asghar Khan, Risalpur. General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, was the Chief Guest at the occasion. Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber

Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force was also in presence. A total of 139 Aviation Cadets, 08 Gentleman Cadets and 02 Naval Cadets graduated during the ceremony. Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Trophy for the overall best performance in General Service Training was awarded to Aviation Cadet Sports Sergeant Imran Raza, whereas, Trophy for the overall best performance in Combat Support Course was won by Aviation Cadet Usman Rasheed. Chief

of the Air Staff Trophy for the best performance in the Air Defence Course was received by Aviation Cadet Sergeant Haseeb Abdul Malik. Pakistan Naval Cadet Sergeant Hafiz Ali Asad, was awarded the coveted Sword of Honour for the overall best performance at the College of Aeronautical Engineering. Sword of Honour for overall best performance in College of Flying Training was received by Aviation Cadet, Academy Under Officer Abdullah Saad Ali. While addressing the graduating

cadets, the Chief Guest congratulated the graduating cadets and their families. The ceremony was followed by a thrilling aerial display by PAF Academy Aerobatics team "Sherdils". Afterwards, a formation flying display by PAF Mirage, F-16, JF-17 and J-10C fighter jets enthralled the audience by showcasing PAF's professional prowess. The Graduation Parade was witnessed by high-ranking military and civil dignitaries as well as the parents of the graduating cadets.

Smog continues to paralyse life in Lahore

City's hazardous air makes breathing difficult, leaving citizens prone to respiratory illnesses

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Life in Punjab's capital remains severely impacted by rising smog levels, with air quality hovering in the hazardous zone for weeks. Early Thursday morning, Lahore sat atop the Air Quality Index (AQI) ranking with level exceeding 800 and has consistently reigned the list even until after 9am with 784, as per data from Swiss air quality monitor IQAir. Lahore's atmosphere has remained dangerous for its residents for weeks following its position as being one of the cities with the world's highest AQI, with levels consistently exceeding 1,000 due to winds carrying pollution from neighbouring India, Punjab's Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb noted on Wednesday. Smog continues to paralyse life in Lahore as city sits atop AQI ranking. This prolonged exposure has increased hospital admissions for respiratory issues, with Lahore and other cities like Multan, Kasur, Sheikhupura, and Gujranwala severely affected. The persistent dangerous atmosphere has made it difficult for citizens to breathe, leaving them vulnerable to respiratory diseases, as they struggle to continue with their daily activities. Doctors have advised the residents of Lahore to wear masks when stepping outside their homes. On the other hand, private and government educational institutions, teaching up to the higher secondary level, in the city as well as other Punjab districts have also been closed by the government till November 17, as per notification. Meanwhile, Punjab education department has ordered to keep tuition centers and academies closed. "All educational institutions will shift to online classes," the notification read. The notification was issued after Aurangzeb, a day earlier, announced the closure in a presser at the Chief Minister's House. She confirmed that schools in Lahore, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, and Multan divisions will transition to online classes until 17 November, prioritising public health amidst rising pollution levels.

Pak welcomes report of UN Rapporteur on Palestine

Islamabad has also backed Albanese's call on the international community in acting decisively to end Israel atrocities against Palestinians, ensure unhindered humanitarian assistance to Gaza, and full financing and protection of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (Unrwa)

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan welcomed the latest report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Palestine, Francesca Albanese, calling out Israel for pushing through a systemic agenda of forced displacement and inhalation and genocide in Gaza and the West Bank. Responding to a question at her weekly news briefing in Islamabad today, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said the report highlights how Israel has been committing genocide against the Palestinian people through acts of territorial expansion and ethnic cleansing. "Pakistan endorses the stance of the UN Special Rapporteur on Palestine that Israel is obstructing international investigation efforts including denying the entry of fact finding teams from the United Nations," she added. Islamabad has also backed Albanese's call on the international community in acting decisively to end Israel atrocities against Palestinians, ensure unhindered humanitarian assistance to Gaza, and full financing and protection of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (Unrwa). Meanwhile, French Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau criticised the unfurling of a giant "Free Palestine" banner at a Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) soccer match, saying it was "unacceptable". However, European soccer's governing body UEFA said the club would not face sanctions. Retailleau, asked if he would seek sanctions against PSG, told Sud Radio: "I am not ruling out anything. I will demand explanations from PSG." On Wednesday night, fans from Paris Saint-Germain's Auteuil Kop group displayed a huge "Free Palestine" banner before their Champions League game against Atletico Madrid, eight days before France play Israel in Paris in a Nations League game.

Discos seek Nepra's approval to recover Rs 8.7 billion

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Power distribution companies have requested the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) to approve the recovery of Rs8.7 billion from power consumers across the country. According to the publication, the recovery is related to the different adjustments for the first quarter of the fiscal year 2024-25, spanning July to September 2024, and majority of its chunk of more than Rs8 billion are capacity charges that power consumers are to pay to private power generators. After Nepra determines the per unit additional charges for Discos, the same would also apply to K-Electric following the issuance of the federal government's police guidelines on the uniform applicability. The power regulator has decided to hold a public hearing on the petition on 20 November, 2024. Discos in their petition had demanded an increase in tariff on account of capacity charges, transmission charges, market operation fees, use of system charges, impact of transmission and distribution (T&D) losses on Fuel Charges Adjustment (FCA) and other variable operation and maintenance charges for the quarter. As per the petition, Islamabad Electric Company (Iesco) had sought additional adjustment of Rs1.746 billion, Gujranwala Electric Power Company (Gepco) Rs2.66 billion, Multan Electric Company (Mepco) Rs14.884 billion, Peshawar Electric Supply Company (Pesco) Rs4.02 billion, Quetta Electric Supply Company (Qesco) Rs2.155 billion and Sukkur Electric Power Company (Sepco) Rs539 million.

Bank of England cuts rates

DNA

LONDON: The Bank of England cut interest rates on Thursday for only the second time since 2020 and said future reductions were likely to be gradual, seeing higher inflation and growth after the new government's first budget. The Monetary Policy Committee voted 8-1 to cut interest rates to 4.75% from 5%, a stronger majority than expectations in a Reuters poll for a 7-2 vote in favour of a cut. Catherine Mann dissented, preferring to keep rates on hold. "We need to make sure inflation stays close to target, so we can't cut interest rates too quickly or by too much," BoE Governor Andrew Bailey said in a statement. "But if the economy evolves as we expect it's likely that interest rates will continue to fall gradually from here," he added, broadly echoing his language after September's meeting. The BoE predicted that finance minister Rachel Reeves' budget last week - which entails big increases in tax, spending and borrowing - would boost the size of Britain's economy by around 0.75% next year but barely improve annual growth rates in two or three years' time.

Saudi Arabia leads Arab world in congratulating Trump

NEWS DESK

RIYADH: Arab leaders congratulated Donald Trump on Wednesday after his comprehensive victory in the US presidential election. Saudi Arabia's King Salman sent a cable of congratulations to Trump, wishing him success and the "American people further progress and prosperity." The king praised the strong historical ties between the two nations, "emphasizing the shared desire to further strengthen these bonds in all areas." Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman also sent a cable to congratulate Trump. In a phone call later on Wednesday, the crown prince expressed the Kingdom's aspiration to strengthen Saudi-US relations. He wished the American people progress and prosperity under Trump's leadership. The Republican made Saudi Arabia his first foreign visit after he took office for his first term as president in 2017.

First-ever model police stations in merged districts inaugurated

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, the Government of Japan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pakistan jointly inaugurated newly constructed model police stations in the merged districts of Bajaur, Kurram, Mohmand, North Waziristan, and Orakzai. This marked the successful completion of a project funded by the Government of Japan and implemented by UNDP in partnership with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, for improved policing services in the merged districts. Established by UNDP Pakistan's flagship Rule of Law Programme, these Model Police Stations provide a range of new facilities to better serve the people of merged districts, including well-equipped and furnished working spaces and reception

areas to accommodate women and men police officers and visitors, a gender-responsive desk to address cases of gender-based violence, a hall to convene joint community and police meetings, residential facilities for 50 police officers with separate living quarters for 10 women police officers, security posts, and separate holding rooms for men and women. Mr Awal Khan, Additional Inspector General of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, thanked UNDP Pakistan and the Government of Japan for their support in improving police infrastructure facilities to serve the people of the merged districts. "The Government of Japan and UNDP provided invaluable support in advancing the Rule of Law Roadmap, which strengthens justice and democracy in our region. The initiatives, including Gender Desks and Model Police Stations, play a crucial role in enhancing public safety and empowering marginalized communities."



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