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Russian President Vladimir Putin says China is Russia's ally

Detailed News On Page-08

Romina for tackling climate issues

Detailed News On Page-04



Jannik Sinner ATP finals favourite

Detailed News On Page-06



Fake complaints to be checked

SJC to 'widen consultation' on IHC judges letter

CJP Afridi-led SJC takes decision "as the code applies to the heads of different institutions in addition to judges"

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) has decided to widen consultation on a letter written by six judges of Islamabad High Court (IHC), accusing the intelligence agencies of interference in judicial affairs. The decision was taken during the meeting of top judicial body under the chairmanship of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Yahya Afridi, said a press release issued by the Supreme Court. The meeting was attended by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Balochistan High Court Chief Justice Muhammad Hashim Kakar. According to the press release, the council discussed the agenda items regarding amendments to the code of conduct of judges under Article 209(8) of the Constitution and letter of six judges of Islamabad High Court. "The Council considered different options and modalities in this regard and decided to widen the consultation on the subject as the code applies to the heads of different institutions in addition to judges and decided to take up the matter in the next meeting once again," it stated. On March 25, a letter of six judges of the IHC came to surface wherein they had demanded former Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa to convene a Judicial Convention to consider the matter of interference in judicial functions, or intimidation of judges in a manner that undermines independence of the judiciary. (Clockwise) IHCs Justices Mohsin Akhtar Kiani, Tariq Mahmood Jehangiri, Babar Sattar, Ijaz Ishaq Khan, Arbab Muhammad Tahir and Saman Riffat.

Continued on Page 06

Megal, others challenge 26th Amendment

KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Several renowned former parliamentarians, as well as a former president of the Sindh High Court Bar Association, challenged the 26th Amendment in the Supreme Court on Friday in two separate but similar petitions, arguing that "a vote cast under coercion is no vote at all." Month-long political negotiations concluded on October 20 as the 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill, also known as the Constitutional Package, became law following approval from both houses of parliament. The newly enacted amendment has brought numerous changes to the judiciary — including taking away the Supreme Court's suo motu powers and empowering parliamentarians to nominate the next chief justice of Pakistan from among the three most senior SC judges. One of the petitions on Friday was jointly filed by Akhtar Mengal,

Continued on Page 06

Iranian Deputy Defence Minister calls on Asif

Pakistan was grateful for Supreme Leader strong support for Kashmir

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Brig General Hojjatollah Qoreishi, Deputy Minister for Defence of Islamic Republic of Iran called on Minister for Defence & Defence Production, Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Friday. The Minister expressed the views that both countries enjoyed cordial and fraternal ties, nourished by centuries-old religious and cultural affinities, said a press release. He stated that Pakistan was grateful for Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei's strong and unwavering support for the just struggle of people of Jammu & Kashmir. Both sides showed satisfaction over existing collaboration aimed at extensive cooperation in areas of common interest in future.

Winter package: Up to Rs 26 per unit relief

DNA

ISLAMABAD: This will allow industries, commercial, general services, and households to save significantly compared to prevailing tariffs in an effort to manage seasonal electricity demand and stimulate economic growth, the government on Friday announced the "Bijli Sahulat Package" for the winter months from December 2024 to February 2025. According to a statement issued by the Power Division, a flat rate of Rs26.07 per unit will be offered for any additional electricity demand above the benchmark historical average.

ATC extends interim bail of PTI leaders in May-9 cases

APP

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Friday extended the interim bail of Uzma Khan and Aleema Khan, sisters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder, along with Opposition Leader in the National Assembly, Omar Ayub, and other PTI leaders, until December 7 in connection with the May 9 cases. ATC Judge Arshad Javed conducted proceedings on the bail applications, during which former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry, Karamat Ali Khokhar, and other leaders appeared as their interim bail was expiring. However, Omar Ayub, Uzma Khan, and

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmad Babar Sidhu called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad. — DNA

Changes in regional politics

Trump to enter second term with more power, allies

Unlike with his victory in 2016, when Hillary Clinton won the popular vote, Trump will be able to claim greater legitimacy for pushing through his reformist agenda

DNA

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump will have almost complete control over the levers of government — with only limited checks on his power — if Republicans add the House of Representatives to their White House and Senate victories. He can rely on five key factors as he pushes through his populist America-First agenda: Holding a more than five-million ballot lead on Thursday, Trump is set to emerge with an overwhelming victory in the popular vote against Democratic rival Kamala Harris. He is on course to be the first Republican president in 20 years to achieve the feat. The 78-year-old has already secured a clear majority in the Electoral College, which decides

Continued on Page 06

President Xi to attend G20 Summit

DNA

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping will travel to Lima from November 13 to 17 to attend the 31st APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, Foreign Ministry spokesman Hua Chunying announced on Friday. He will pay a state visit to Peru at the invitation of Peruvian President Dina Ercilia Boluarte Zegarra, she said in a statement here. President Xi will then travel to Rio de Janeiro from November 17 to 21 to

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Judgment reserved on acquittal of PTI founder, Bushra

ISLAMABAD: A special court on Friday reserved its verdict on acquittal pleas of PTI founder and Bushra Bibi in Toshakhana II case. The decision would be announced on November 12. Special Court's Judge Shahrukh Arjamand heard the Toshakhana II case with regard to illegal attaining of a Bulgarian jewelry set by the accused. The court reserved the verdict on acquittal pleas after the two sides concluded their arguments. Earlier, the court postponed the indictment of the two accused in Toshakhana II case. The IHC has directed the trial court to re-decide the acquittal pleas of the two accused. — APP

Digitization, key for driving economic growth

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, on Friday described digitization of economy as a key requisite for driving economic growth and mobilizing ample resources for growing development requirements to end country's reliance on persistent financing. He made this statement during a meeting with a delegation of Veon Group at Finance Division, according to press release issued by finance ministry.

Holiday Notice

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday. — Editor

Solidarity with Gazans

France mulling new curbs on Israeli settlers

France has been a driving force to establish the first sanction regime at the European level

CENTRELINE REPORT

PARIS: France is mulling new sanctions on those enabling the expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, regarded as illegal under international law, Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot has said during a visit to the territory, AFP reports. "France has been a driving force to establish the first sanction regime at the European level targeting individuals or entities, either actors or accomplices of settlement activities", Barrot said after talks with Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas in Ramallah. "This regime has been activated two times already and we're working on a third batch of sanctions targeting these activities that again are illegal with respect to international law." Barrot renewed France's commitment to a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and warned settlement activities "threaten the political perspective that can ensure durable peace for Israel and Palestine". "These attacks from extremist and violent settlers are not only completely inexcusable, not only contrary to international law, but they weaken the perspective of a two-state solution," Barrot said.

Kyiv says Russia has returned bodies of 563 soldiers

APP

KYIV: Ukraine said on Friday it had received the bodies of 563 soldiers from Russian authorities, mainly troops that had died in combat in the eastern Donetsk region. The exchange of prisoners and bodies of killed military personnel remains one of the few areas of cooperation between Moscow and Kyiv since Russia invaded in 2022. "The bodies of 563 fallen Ukrainian defenders were returned to Ukraine," the Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War said in a statement on social media. The announcement represents one of the largest repatriations of killed Ukrainian servicemen since the beginning of the war. The statement said that 320 of the remains were returned from

Continued on Page 06

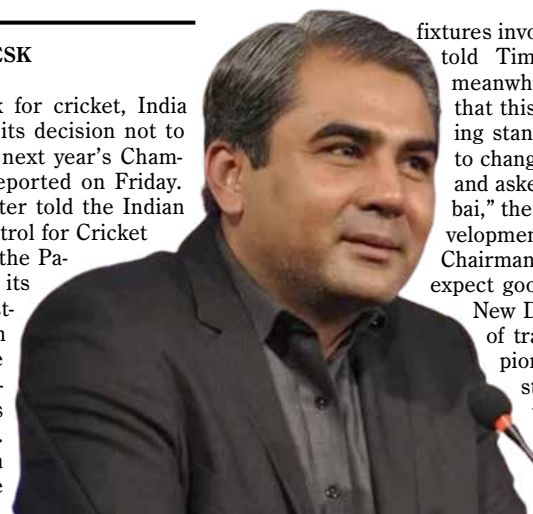
Don't always expect good gestures from us, PCB to India

Due to security concerns, BCCI tells PCB it wants matches in Dubai instead of Lahore, claims Indian media

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: In a major setback for cricket, India has decided to stand firm on its decision not to send its team to Pakistan for next year's Champions Trophy, Indian media reported on Friday. Sources familiar with the matter told the Indian Express that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has informed the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) of its security concerns and requested that its matches be held in Dubai instead of Lahore. "The BCCI has conveyed their concerns regarding Champions Trophy matches in Pakistan. They want to play matches at a neutral venue and Dubai is the strong candidate to host the

fixtures involving the Men in Blue," a source told Times of India. Another source, meanwhile, informed the Indian Express that this has been the BCCI's long-standing stance and that there was no reason to change that. "We have written to them and asked them to shift our games to Dubai," the source added. Reacting to the development, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi told India not to expect good gestures from Islamabad after New Delhi reportedly rejected the idea of travelling to Lahore for the Champions Trophy. "In recent years, Pakistan has shown a lot of good gestures. However, we hope that we are not expected to show good gestures always," Naqvi, who is also the interior minister, told reporters in Lahore.



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President FPCCI offers assistance, support to SC in tax cases

ISLAMABAD: President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries Atif Ikram Sheikh has said that we are thankful to the Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi for taking the business community on board regarding tax cases. Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries is ready to provide all possible support in tax cases, they will cooperate with the committee formed under the direction of the Chief Justice. Atif Ikram Sheikh said that FBR imposes a heavy burden of taxes on the taxpayers, it is necessary to increase the number of taxpayers to increase the tax net, tax collection can be increased through FBR reforms.—DNA

Rubina expresses pride in BISP's int'l recognition

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, expressed pride in BISP's recognition by international development organizations as a model for social protection. In a press conference at BISP headquarters, she noted that the program's scientific database has enabled timely identification and assistance of vulnerable populations during crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2022 floods in Pakistan. This capability has inspired other nations to consider adopting similar social protection models.

Senator Rubina Khalid highlighted that it is a matter of pride for Pakistan that BISP serves as a beacon for many countries worldwide. Speaking to media representatives, she shared that numerous foreign delegations regularly visit BISP for research and learning purposes. From November 11 to 14, 2024, delegations from West African countries will be on a study tour at BISP to learn from its experiences in social protection. Recently, a high-level 21-member Ugandan delegation, in partnership with the World Bank and the World Food Program, also visited BISP. The delegation commended BISP's initiatives, emphasizing its effectiveness as a model for social protection. Senator Rubina Khalid further appealed to media representatives to publicize these visits and BISP's achievements to elevate the program's global reputation.

In addition, Senator Rubina Khalid announced the forthcoming launch of the Benazir Hunarmand Program, aimed at providing skill development opportunities to deserving women and their families. This program seeks to enhance the economic conditions of eligible families while creating space for new beneficiaries. She also mentioned the Benazir Taleemi Wazaif, which support the children of deserving families, and the Benazir Nashonuma Program, which provides financial assistance and nutritious food to pregnant and lactating mothers and their children. Senator Khalid emphasized that BISP embodies the vision of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, brought to life by President Asif Ali Zardari.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi inaugurating Casade Facilitation Center in Diplomatic Enclave Islamabad.—DNA

Mushahid unveils 5-point action plan for ME peace

Senator Hussain's plan calls for an Arab and OIC Emergency Summit on November 11 to directly address Palestinian suffering and initiate a global delegation composed of leaders from the Global South and Europe

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed presented a comprehensive five-point action plan to address the crisis in Palestine and promote peace across the Middle East. In his keynote address at the International Peace Institute (IPI) conference in Islamabad, he highlighted the need for decisive international intervention and called on Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman (MBS) to emulate the legacy of King Faisal, who had boldly supported the Palestinian cause. Senator Hussain's plan calls for an Arab and OIC Emergency Summit on November 11 to directly address Palestinian suffering and initiate a global delegation composed of leaders from the Global South and Europe.

Proposed delegates include representatives from Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Turkey, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Africa, Algeria, Brazil, and Norway and Ireland, who have officially recognized Palestine. He urged these leaders to engage with US President-elect Donald Trump to advocate for a ceasefire, humanitarian assistance, and a commitment to establishing an independent Palestinian state. His second recommendation suggested forming a Joint Naval Humanitarian Flotilla,

with Turkey, Pakistan, and Indonesia deploying naval forces to help break the Israeli blockade of Gaza. This initiative, pending authorization from the UN General Assembly, would demonstrate that the Muslim Ummah is capable of taking concrete actions in the region, showcasing a united front with political resolve. Senator Hussain also emphasized the need for a global media initiative, inspired by a 2019 effort led by President Recep Tayyip Erdo an and former Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamad. This platform would present unbiased narratives from the Muslim perspective, offering accurate accounts on pressing issues such

as Palestine, Kashmir, Islamophobia, and the Rohingya crisis. He urged journalists, academics, and think tanks to mobilize in a "battle of ideas and narratives," particularly following what he described as biased Western media coverage of the Gaza conflict. As a fourth action, he proposed that the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) establish a "Palestine Reconstruction Fund" aimed at rebuilding war-torn areas in Gaza and Lebanon. Lastly, Senator Hussain advocated for a "Nuremberg-style" International War Crimes Tribunal to prosecute Israeli leaders for alleged crimes against humanity since October 7, 2023. The tribunal would es-

tablish a War Reparations Fund for victims in Palestine and Lebanon, marking a commitment to justice. In his closing remarks, Senator Hussain urged Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman to draw inspiration from his late uncle, King Faisal, who, during the 1973 Arab-Israeli War, imposed an oil embargo on Israel's allies and convened a historic OIC summit with Pakistan's Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, recognizing the Palestine Liberation Organization under Yasser Arafat as the legitimate representative of Palestinians. Senator Hussain described King Faisal as "a great leader of the Muslim world, bold and courageous, with the vision to act for Palestine."

Zafar urges youth to take inspiration from Iqbal's poetry

ISLAMABAD: United Business Group (FPCCI) Secretary-General and former ICCI President, Zafar Bakhtawari, said that Iqbal is the creator of the ideology of Pakistan. It is essential to convey his message of self-awareness to today's youth, encouraging them to recognize their potential and work towards making Pakistan an exemplary state. He expressed these views while addressing as the chief guest at an Iqbal Day event held at Islamabad Model College for Girls F-8/1. College Principal Professor Asia Rafiq Malik and other staff members were also present. In his speech, Bakhtawari elaborated on Iqbal's philosophy, emphasizing that the poet of the East always advocated for education, especially women's education. Iqbal understood that the key to any nation's development lies in educating its women because women play a vital role in social progress and reform. Educated women can not only improve their families but also contribute significantly to society's advancement. Through Iqbal's poetry, Bakhtawari highlighted that Iqbal always urged young people to move towards their goals. Iqbal's message to the youth was to elevate their thinking, recognize their values, and contribute to the nation's progress. According to him, Iqbal's vision of Pakistan was not just a geographical entity but an intellectual and ideological state where individual and societal moral and spiritual growth are valued.—APP

Governors of KP, Punjab meet, discusses key issues

LAHORE: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, and the Governor of Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider, held a meeting at the Governor House Lahore on Friday and agreed for inter-provincial relations. The two leaders discussed the current political situation in the country, security concerns in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and other matters of mutual interest. During the meeting, Governor Kundi emphasized the importance of strengthening inter-provincial relations and cooperation in addressing shared challenges. He highlighted the need for fostering better ties between the provinces and explored opportunities for joint efforts in areas of cultural, educational, and social development.—APP

CASS, NICAT sign joint synergy charter



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS) and the National Incubation Centre for Aerospace Technologies (NICAT) signed a Joint Synergy Charter in Islamabad, marking a new chapter in

Pakistan's aerospace innovation and security collaboration. Air Marshal Javid Ahmed (Retd), President of CASS, addressed the gathering, highlighting the importance of strategic partnerships in advancing research in the domains of Aerospace, Emerging

Technologies and Security. He was followed by Mr Ayub Ghauri, President of NICAT, who underscored the critical role of technological incubation in achieving self-reliance in the aerospace sector. The CASS-NICAT Joint Synergy Charter formalises a

collaborative framework for fostering aerospace innovation, research, and development, strengthening Pakistan's position in this critical field. It signifies a shared vision for enhancing Pakistan's aerospace capabilities through concerted Research and Development efforts.

Punjab shuts public spaces in smog-hit cities

LAHORE: Pakistan's most populated province of Punjab ordered public spaces closed in smog-hit main cities, authorities said Friday, as the country battles record air pollution. Access to parks, zoos, playgrounds, historic monuments, museums and recreational areas will be banned until November 17 due to poor air quality, according to a local government directive seen by foreign news agency. The concentration of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in Lahore's air was more than 20 times higher than the level deemed acceptable by the World Health Organization (WHO) in Multan, it was up to 48 times higher on Friday. Punjab residents have been trapped in thick smog for over a week ever since the air quality index (AQI), which measures a range of pollutants.—APP

Workshop on inception of enterprise formalization project held

LAHORE: Over 84 percent of Pakistan's workforce operates informally within SMEs and home-based working sector, which creates obstacles for businesses and workers alike, hindering access to critical markets, financing, social protections, and skill development. Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) Chief Executive Officer Socrat Aman Rana stated this while addressing a workshop jointly arranged by SMEDA and ILO for inception of the Enterprise formalization Project. The workshop was also addressed by Guillermo Montt, ILO CO for Pakistan, Shusuke Oyobe - Technical Specialist, Formalization (Geneva), Ms. Rabia Razzaque, Senior

Programme Officer ILO CO Pakistan, Ms. Nadia Jahangir Seth, General Manager Policy and Planning, SMEDA and Sheharyar Tahir, Head External Relations Department, SMEDA, according to SMEDA spokesman here Friday. SMEDA Chief highlighted key features and objectives of the project declaring the Enterprise Formalization Project, a pivotal step forward in shaping the future of Pakistan's small and medium enterprises (SMEs) for strengthening the national economy. He informed that the collaboration of MoIP with the ILO for Enterprise Formalization Project is an outcome of an earlier mapping study by ILO and SMEDA. This project aims to bridge gaps in formalization and ensure

that our SMEs can thrive within a formal, supportive economic framework, he said, adding that the project aligns with the MoIP's vision to create a modern, sustainable, and inclusive economy, one that builds upon Pakistan's SME Policy 2021, the ILO Decent Work Country Programme for Pakistan (2023-27) (DWCP IV), and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. He pointed out that the key objective of this project is to develop a national roadmap for formalizing SMEs and home-based workers, removing barriers to registration and simplifying processes, which would enable even the micro enterprises to benefit from various schemes that can aid in their development.

Another key feature of the program, he said, will be a digital tool designed to support large enterprises in formalizing their supply chains, especially SMEs in the textile and automotive sector that will reduce the costs of compliance, making formalization not just feasible, but desirable, for businesses as well. Socrat Aman Rana further informed that the Enterprises Formalization was an important area that the Government of Pakistan had already considered because exports are directly linked with formalization and the Government has a special focus on export development. He said, this project will also provide training and support to help our SMEs adapt to sustainable production meth-

ods, equipping them for a just transition as climate resilience becomes an essential feature of business success. In this way, SMEs can meet evolving market demands and international standards, particularly in our export-driven industries, he added saying that the project will also support large formal, export-oriented enterprises in Textile and Automotive sectors in strengthening sub-contracting by developing tools and incentives to support the formalization of suppliers and their workers. He requested the government bodies, industry leaders, development partners, and business community members to join hands with SMEDA in realizing the MoIP vision of formalized economy.—APP

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

NOVEMBER

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

Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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

Enquiry

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



Hospitals

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

Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Pirzada for committee to resolve FGEHA plot disputes

The Board approved the revised brochure and auction terms, designed to be more investor-friendly by offering easier possession, rebates, installment plans, and streamlined approval for building plans and floor area ratios. The chair emphasized to mold the terms and conditions to attract overseas Pakistanis and foreign investors

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Housing and Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada on Friday directed the formation of a committee with members from FGEHA, CDA, Finance and Law division to resolve the longstanding FGEHA plot disputes through amicable negotiations. Chairing the 36th Executive Board Meeting of Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) at the Ministry of Housing & Works in Islamabad, the minister instructed that FGEHA's claims with Capital Development Authority (CDA) and other federal institutions be resolved through direct discussions, rather than engaging in costly litigation, in accordance with the Prime Minister's directives. The auction of commercial plots in sectors 24-B, 25-B, 19-C, and Scheme 33 at Gulzar-e-Hijri, Karachi, as well as the remaining plots to be allocated by CDA to FGEHA in sector I-8, and the 10% under the Islamabad Land Disposal Regulations, were also discussed. The Board approved the revised brochure and auction



terms, designed to be more investor-friendly by offering easier possession, rebates, installment plans, and streamlined approval for building plans and floor area ratios. The chair emphasized to mold the terms and conditions to attract overseas Pakistanis and foreign investors. The meeting agenda included the approval of the brochure and revised terms and conditions for the upcoming open auction of 24 commercial plots in sectors G-13 and G-14, Islamabad, scheduled for 13th and 14th November.

Meeting held on Pak-UK Education Gateway Phase-2

This next phase will drive further advancements in higher education research and development, enhancing the sector's productivity and its role in developing a skilled, ethical and globally competitive workforce

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Friday chaired a meeting on the "Framework for Processing Concept Proposals for New Projects under the Pakistan-UK Education Gateway Phase 2." The meeting was attended by Higher Education Commission (HEC) chairman Dr Mukhtar Ahmed, Member Secretary & Technology Dr Najeeb Ullah, and a senior representative from the British Council James Hampson, Country Director Pakistan, British Council and Sarah Parvez Head of Education, British Council, a news release said. During the meeting, officials from the relevant departments briefed participants on

the achievements of the Pakistan-UK Education Gateway Phase 1, highlighting that the British Council successfully facilitated 21 Research Travel Grants and eight large-scale Research Partnership Grant projects. In addition, research capacity-building training was provided to over 1,000 researchers and reviewers across Pakistan, and 51 universities received certification for their Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC). The officials further outlined that Phase 2 of the Pakistan-UK Education Gateway aimed to build on the partnerships and successes of Phase 1. This next phase will drive further advancements in higher education research and development, enhancing

the sector's productivity and its role in developing a skilled, ethical and globally competitive workforce. Phase 2 will provide structured fellowships for international faculty and students, focus on impactful and commercialized research, promote leadership and governance for high performance, and facilitate capacity development for inclusive, quality higher education. Additionally, it will encourage transnational education and mutual recognition of qualifications. Minister Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the need for a robust mechanism to assess the impact of grants, stressing that the outcomes of each project should be aligned with Pakistan's development priorities. "Despite significant investments in science

and technology, our output in terms of high-quality research professionals remains limited," he noted. "We need a focused approach to engage top-tier researchers who can make a meaningful impact on Pakistan's diverse sectors. This should include partnerships with high-ranking universities to elevate research standards," he remarked. The minister underscored the importance of ensuring that visits by Pakistani researchers to the UK served a clear purpose, contributing to institutional capacity-building and delivering tangible benefits upon their return. "Each visit should be impactful, with clear evaluations on what was achieved.—APP

CDA anti-encroachment drive continues

This proactive stance underscores CDA's commitment to preserving public spaces for Islamabad's residents

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) has conducted an anti-encroachment drive on multiple locations in the federal capital on Friday. The CDA's Enforcement team, supported by the ICT Magistrate, Directorate of Municipal Administration (DMA), and ICT Police reclaimed public spaces from unauthorized extensions and vendors. The operation led to the demolition of 16 illegal sheds in AH-Habib Market, Sector G-7, with materials seized by wheel dozer. Responding to public feedback, CDA further cleared unlawful vendor setups near Islamabad Model School in G-6/2, removed handcarts from Khanna Bridge, and inspected Park Road near Rawal Dam Colony, eliminating mobile encroachments. To prevent re-encroachment, CDA has enhanced patrols on major routes, including the stretch from Melody Chowk to Aabpara Market. A previously cleared green area along Lehtrar Road, near Dhokh Paracha and Tarlai, was also revisited to ensure it remained encroachment-free. Moreover, Potohar Avenue's New Taxi Stand was cleared of illegal setups, with ongoing surveillance to maintain public access. This proactive stance underscores CDA's commitment to preserving public spaces for Islamabad's residents, with continuous efforts to keep markets and roadsides free of unauthorized structures.—DNA

Jaun Elia remembered

ISLAMABAD: Renowned Urdu poet and scholar Jaun Elia was remembered on his 22nd death anniversary here on Friday. Born on December 14, 1931, in an illustrious family in Amroha, Uttar Pradesh, his real name was Syed Sibte-Asghar Naqvi and he was the youngest of his siblings. Famous poet Rais Amrohvi was his elder brother. His father Allama Shafiq Hasan Elia was deeply involved in art and literature and also an astrologer and a poet. This literary environment modelled him along the same lines and he wrote his first Urdu couplet when he was just 8. He was fluent in Arabic, English, Persian, Sanskrit and Hebrew. He migrated to Pakistan in 1957 and started living in Karachi. His first poetic collection Shayad was published in 1991, when he was 60. The second collection of his poetry Ya'ani was published posthumously in 2003. Later his companion, Khalid Ansari, compiled and published his three consecutive collections, Gumaan in 2004, Lekin in 2006 and Goya in 2008.—APP

Search operations in different areas, arrest 23

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi District Police here on Friday carried out search operations in the jurisdiction of different police stations and arrested 23 renting rules violators. According to a police spokesman, senior police officers and police personnel including women police took part in the search operations. Police checked houses, shops, hotels, tenants and a large number of individuals during the search operations. Police also arrested six suspects namely Muhammad Mehmood, Abdul Majeed, Gul Shah, Sultan, Sajawal, Ahsan, Zafar ul Haq, Habibur Rehman and others on renting rules violations. The spokesman said that police were fully prepared to shield the lives and property of the public and combing and search operations were being done to flush out the suspects and hardcore criminals. He said that police were more vigilant to keep an eye on suspects and maintain law and order in Rawalpindi. The spokesman said that the search operations were conducted in order to maintain law and order and flush out suspects following the directions of City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Hamdani.—APP

VC AIOU urges youth to embody Iqbal's philosophy

ISLAMABAD: Vice Chancellor Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood has urged the today's youth to embody Iqbal's philosophy of "selfhood" to achieve confidence, resilience, and a spirit of leadership. In an interview with state run news agency here on Friday, VC AIOU said that Iqbal's philosophy, centered on self-empowerment, strength, and societal harmony, is essential for building an ethical, peaceful society based on mutual respect and compassion. He also encouraged young people to integrate Iqbal's teachings into their lives. "Iqbal's poetry and philosophy offering guidance not only to Muslims but to all humanity. His message is as relevant today as it was in his era" he mentioned. In its commitment to Iqbal's vision, AIOU has laid a strong foundation for fostering knowledge and understanding of Iqbal's work, encouraging students to explore the thoughts of this universal philosopher who aspired to create a morally upright society grounded in Islamic values and human dignity. To a question, he informed that Allama Iqbal Open University has established the 'Iqbal Gallery,' a significant cultural space honoring the legacy of renowned poet-philosopher Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said this gallery serves as a testament to the university's commitment to promoting Iqbal's thought and philosophy among the youth. "We are proud to be associated with the name of Iqbal, our national poet and a mammoth in knowledge and wisdom," Dr. Mahmood remarked. Furthermore, Dr. Mahmood highlighted that the Iqbal Gallery houses over 3,288 volumes, including rare books, journals, sketches, paintings, stamps, and photographs. He said the collection also features preserved letters penned by Iqbal to others and those sent to him, alongside calligraphy of his poetry and iconic photographs capturing memorable moments of his life. To another query, Dr. Nasir noted, "This initiative reflects our deep affection for Iqbal and our commitment to preserving his legacy." The gallery, he said, has become a key research center on Iqbal studies in Pakistan, attracting scholars and educators nationally and internationally. The university's main library also includes an 'Iqbal Corner,' with approximately 5,000 Iqbal-related books benefiting hundreds of students daily, he mentioned. Dr. Mahmood emphasized that this gallery provides scholars, students, and researchers with valuable resources to delve into Iqbal's contributions. The Iqbal Studies Department at AIOU offers courses at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, including M.Phil and Ph.D. programs, he said and added, to till date, the department has graduated over 500 M.Phil and 120 Ph.D. students, many of whom serve in prestigious roles domestically and abroad. Highlighting the importance of Iqbal's teachings, VC AIOU noted that the university organizes annual seminars, poetry recitation contests, and visits to Iqbal's mausoleum, fostering a deep engagement with his work.—APP

Weekly inflation up by 0.24%

ISLAMABAD: The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), went up by 0.24 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on November 7, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 320.17 points as compared to 319.40 points during the past week. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption

group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 13.89 per cent. The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. However, SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732 witnessed increase of 0.29 per cent and went up to 312.93 points from last week's 312.02 points. The SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,732 to 22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175, increased by 0.26 percent, 0.24 percent, 0.23 percent

and 0.24 percent respectively. During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 21 (41.18%) items increased, 10 (19.61%) items decreased and 20 (39.21%) items remained stable. The items, which recorded major decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week basis included bananas (2.63%), sugar (1.49%), chicken (1.23%), gur (0.99%), pulse mash (0.72%), pulse gram (0.60%), rice irri-6/9 (0.43%) and pulse masoor (0.27%). The commodities which recorded major increase in their average prices on week-on-week basis included LPG (3.37%), eggs

(2.70%), potatoes (2.63%), onions (2.61%), mustard oil (2.36%), tomatoes (1.67%), diesel (1.54%), vegetable ghee 1kg (1.49%), cooking oil 5 litre (1.35%), pulse moong (0.93%), petrol (0.56%) and washing soap (0.47%). On-year basis, the commodities that witnessed decrease included wheat flour (33.26%), tomatoes (28.98%), electricity charges for q1 (20.32%), chillies powder (20.00%), diesel (15.77%), petrol (12.28%), sugar (8.91%), rice basmati broken (7.98%), cooking oil 5 litre (6.08%), bread (5.55%) and tea pack (3.33%).—APP

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Briefs

Indian troops martyr two Kashmiri youth

ISLAMABAD: Indian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism martyred two Kashmiri youth in Baramulla district of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). According to Kashmir Media Service, the troops killed the youth during a cordon and search operation in the Sagipora, Sopore area of the district on Friday. The massive cordon and search operation was launched by Indian forces on Thursday in the area. The operation was continued till last reports came in.—APP

Industrial Area police arrest 2000 outlaws

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police, the Industrial Area Zone police teams, have conducted effective actions against criminal elements in the federal capital over the past 10 months to maintain peace and security which resulted in significant arrests and recoveries. A public relations officer told media on Friday that, during this period, the Industrial Area Zone police teams arrested 2,000 individuals involved in various criminal activities and recovered stolen items worth over 69 million rupees. Additionally, 340 suspects from 106 criminal gangs involved in robbery, theft, burglary, and vehicle and motorcycle theft were apprehended. Police teams also recovered cash. Over the past 10 months, the teams also seized a total of 176 valuable vehicles and motorcycles from the arrested suspects. As part of the ongoing "Nasha Ab Nahi" campaign in the federal capital Industrial Area Zone teams arrested 300 drug dealers and seized significant quantities of narcotics, including 100 kilograms of hashish, over 50 kilograms of heroin, more than 5 kilograms of ice, 1 kilogram of opium, 3,000 liters of alcohol, and numerous intoxicating pills.—APP

IRSA releases 116,800 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 116,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 53,000 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1520.31 feet and was 122.31 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 27,200 cusecs and 64,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1178.60 feet, which was 128.60 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 5,000 cusecs and 32,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 64,300, 45,700, 36,600 and 4,300 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 10,900 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 3,600 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

NUML hosts seminar on 'Paigham-e-Pakistan'

Director General NUML, Brig. Shahzad Munir, further underlined the importance of the "Paigham-e-Pakistan" message, stressing the need to fulfill the purpose of our creation by utilizing our potential for the betterment of the country.

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The National University of Modern Languages held a seminar today titled "Paigham-e-Pakistan," jointly organized by the Department of Islamic Thought and Culture and the Department of Pakistan Studies. The seminar highlighted the significance of unity, spiritual values, and dedication to Pakistan's progress. Renowned Qari Syed Sadaqat Ali and Dr. Musharrif Hussein, an author, translator of "The Majestic Quran," and Director of the Al-Karimia Institute, Retford, UK, were the chief guests. Director General NUML, Brig. Shahzad Munir also graced the occasion. The seminar began with a soulful recitation of Quranic verses and a Naat by Qari Syed Sadaqat Ali, captivating the audience with his melodious voice. Reflecting on Pakistan's history, he reminded participants of the immense sacrifices made for the nation's independence, emphasizing the role of the Armed Forces, civilians, Ulama, and students. He called upon the youth to cherish and uphold Pakistan's legacy, stressing that the foundation of the country is built upon the blood of martyrs and that each generation bears the responsibility to safeguard and contribute to its development. Dr. Musharrif Hussein delivered an insightful address on the "Paigham-e-Pakistan" narrative, underscoring Pakistan as a land of purity and goodness. He highlighted the importance of adhering to



moral, spiritual, and social values, and shared that the teachings of the Quran offer guidance and solutions for humanity's challenges. He urged the audience to recognize the timeless wisdom of the Quran as a source of strength

and direction. Director General NUML, Brig. Shahzad Munir, further underlined the importance of the "Paigham-e-Pakistan" message, stressing the need to fulfill the purpose of our creation by utilizing our potential for the betterment of the

country. He emphasized that Allah has blessed humanity with knowledge and resources, and it is the responsibility of Pakistanis to care for these blessings. DG NUML reiterated that the Quran's message is universal and everlasting, call-

ing upon Pakistanis to understand and embody this message as stewards (Khalifa) of Allah on earth. The seminar concluded with a presentation of tokens of appreciation to the distinguished guests, followed by a group photo.

ANF seizes over 558 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations, arrested four accused and recovered over 558 kg drugs worth over Rs 50 million, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Friday. He informed that 1.5 kg ice was recovered from a passenger going to Bahrain at Islamabad Airport. 400 kg hashish was seized near Baloch Chowk in Kech area and 58.800 kg hashish was recovered from an accused arrested near Ring Road, Peshawar. 7.2 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted on GT road Rawalpindi and an accused was arrested during the operation. Over 7.2 kg hashish was recovered from a drug dealer rounded up in Sheikhupora. Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused and further investigations are under process.—APP

Amir slams PTI's self-serving agenda

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Engr. Amir Muqam Friday strongly condemned Ali Amin Gandapur's statements as "irresponsible" and lambasted the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party for prioritizing Imran Khan's personal interests over the welfare of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa citizens. In an exclusive interview with a private news channel, Engr. Amir Muqam stated that PTI's sole agenda is to secure Imran Khan's release from jail, however, he emphasized that Pakistan is an independent nation with its own constitution and laws, where individuals like Imran Khan must face the courts and accept accountability for their actions. Ali Amin Gandapur is an irresponsible individual who has consistently demonstrated a habit of blaming and blackmailing others, he further added. His behavior is unacceptable and unbecoming of a public figure, particularly someone holding the office of Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he criticized. I urge Gandapur to reflect on his behavior and take corrective measures to address these concerns as people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa deserve better leadership and it is our collective responsibility to hold public figures accountable for their actions, he added. Amir Muqam emphasized that Ali Amin Gandapur should prioritize governing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa over criticizing others, stating that Gandapur's statements are not being taken seriously.—APP

Pakistan expects robust ties with China in animal husbandry

Dong'e County, famed as the hometown of Ejiao and Dong'e black donkeys, has developed a comprehensive industry model that integrates large-scale breeding, scientific reproduction, production and processing, specialty catering and wellness tourism

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "With China's support, Pakistan's donkey industry and animal husbandry have the potential to become competitive in the global market, bringing shared prosperity to the region." This was stated by Dr Muhammad Akram, animal husbandry commissioner at Pakistan's Ministry of National Food Security and Research, at an international donkey industry conference in Liaocheng, Shandong province, China. Donkey industry cooperation projects signing ceremony at the 9th Donkey Industry Development Conference [Photo provided by Pakistan's Ministry of National Food Security

and Research] Akram expressed optimism for a robust partnership with China to advance this vision. He noted that Shandong is a pioneer in innovative agriculture and animal husbandry, with the donkey industry being a crucial part of animal husbandry and a traditional strength of the province. Dong'e County, famed as the hometown of Ejiao and Dong'e black donkeys, has developed a comprehensive industry model that integrates large-scale breeding, scientific reproduction, production and processing, specialty catering and wellness tourism. The model has shown success, with Dong'e Ejiao Co Ltd, a leading industry player, reporting revenue of 4.329 billion yuan in the first three quarters of

this year, up 26.28 percent year-on-year, largely driven by the growing demand for ejiao, a traditional Chinese medicine made from donkey hide. With rising demand for donkey meat and hides in China, Pakistan plans to export both products to China by the end of this year, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday. According to the Shandong Ejiao Association, the annual production of ejiao exceeds 5,000 tons, requiring approximately 4 million donkey hides. While China faces a notable supply shortage, Pakistan, with its estimated 5.2 million donkeys and an expanding livestock sector, stands ready to tap into this profitable market. To facilitate such cooperation, a signing cer-

emony for international donkey industry cooperation projects was held during the conference. Notably, Dong'e Ejiao Co., Ltd. signed a letter of intent for cooperation in the donkey industry with Cholistan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences and Yuanhua Industrial Co., Ltd. The agreement aims to bolster the export capacity of Pakistan's donkey industry, ultimately elevating the quality and competitiveness of Pakistani donkey products within the global marketplace. Akram highlighted the importance of these partnerships, stating that they would help Pakistan achieve its goal of developing a sustainable, welfare-oriented and economically viable livestock industry.

Romina for tackling climate change challenges

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam Friday emphasized the critical need for collective ambition to tackle climate change, stressing a holistic approach and societal cooperation are vital. Talking to a private news channel, Romina Khurshid Alam stressed that addressing climate change's far-reaching consequences demands a profound transformation across all sectors, encompassing environmental, economic and social dimensions. This sweeping change requires bold action from governments, businesses and individuals to mitigate the devastating impacts of climate change, she added. Alam also emphasized the critical role of youth in tackling climate change, stating that recognizing their potential is crucial for shaping a sustainable future. By empowering youth, we can unlock innovative solutions, advocacy and community involvement that drive climate action, she said, adding, the government has already taken steps to address climate change, including promoting gender equity and population management to boost climate resilience. Responding to a question, she said continuing on the path to green growth is vital, and it is equally important to strengthen existing partnerships and form new ones to share knowledge and achieve shared objectives. This collaborative approach will enable us to tackle climate change effectively, promote sustainable development and ensure a resilient future, she added. Government is taking bold steps to combat plastic pollution, reaffirming its commitment to protecting the health and well-being of its citizens.—DNA

Dealing with IMF review will be challenge

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Business leader and former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Friday that the decision to increase taxes on salaried

employees and industries after failing to achieve tax targets is wrong. Similarly, he said that proposing a mini-budget is also against the public interest because the masses have lost load-bearing capacity. Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that instead of punishing the peo-

ple, non-tax paying or nominally paying sectors should be targeted, and pressure should be increased on the provinces to increase their revenue. He said that after the failure of tax targets, the IMF might recommend more unpopular measures for the current quarter as FBR tax recovery, produc-

tion of major industries, and import targets have not been achieved. The business leader said that the federal government's failure to transfer certain expenses to the provinces has also made matters worrisome. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the government had assured the IMF that the expenditure on the Benazir Income Support Programme, fertilizer subsidy and the provincial development projects under PSDP will be transferred to the provinces.

Chinese, Pakistani firms sign \$156m MoUs in leather, footwear

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A dozen memorandums of understanding (MoUs) totaling \$156 million were signed between Chinese and Pakistani enterprises at the Pakistan-China B2B Investment Conference on Leather and Footwear held in Guangzhou, China. In his opening remarks, Acting Consul General of Pakistan in Guangzhou, Sardar Muhammad, welcomed participants, emphasising Pakistan's potential for joint ventures and investment. According to China Economic Net, he encouraged attendees to capitalise on the investment opportunities and incentives offered by Pakistan. He highlighted that seven Pakistani and 46 Chinese companies participated in over 150 business meetings, resulting in the signing of more than 12 MoUs and one letter of intent (LoI) valued at \$15 million, contributing to the overall commitment of \$156 million. Rahim Hayat Qureshi, Secretary of the Board of Investment Pakistan, provided an in-depth overview of Pakistan's investment policies and extended an



invitation to Chinese enterprises to consider Pakistan as a prime destination for investment in the leather and footwear sector. Suilong Liu,

Vice Director of the China Leather Industry Association, underscored China's status as a significant importer of raw leather and a top exporter

of leather and footwear products. He also highlighted Pakistan's potential as an attractive location for investment in this sector.

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Smog taking heavy toll on Punjab people

THE smog crisis in Pakistan's Punjab province is taking a severe toll on public health, daily life, and the environment, particularly in its major cities such as Lahore and Multan. In response to unprecedented levels of air pollution, the provincial government has issued emergency measures, closing public spaces like parks, zoos, playgrounds, and museums until at least November 17. This restriction highlights the urgent health risk posed by the smog, which has been fueled by a combination of industrial emissions, vehicle exhaust, and seasonal crop burning. Air quality readings in Punjab have reached critical levels, with Lahore's PM2.5 concentration reportedly over 20 times the safe limit set by the World Health Organization (WHO). In Multan, this figure has soared to nearly 48 times the acceptable threshold, pushing the Air Quality Index (AQI) to well above the "hazardous" level of 300, with some readings surpassing 1,000. Prolonged exposure to these pollutants, particularly PM2.5 particles, is associated with severe respiratory and cardiovascular conditions, increasing the risk of strokes, heart disease, lung cancer, and other life-threatening ailments. The WHO links this kind of air quality to a reduction in life expectancy; for Lahore residents, it could mean losing an average of 7.5 years from their lives. Schools in Punjab's major cities were closed last Tuesday, an order later extended to additional smog-stricken cities. The government is also implementing long-term measures to curb emissions, banning high-polluting tuk-tuks and unfiltered barbecues in "hot spot" zones in Lahore. Agricultural crop burning, a major contributor to the smog, remains a persistent challenge, as many farmers rely on this traditional method to clear their fields. The smog's impact is especially pronounced on children, who are among the most vulnerable to air pollution's health effects. UNICEF estimates that almost 600 million children across South Asia are exposed to similar high pollution levels, which are linked to half of all childhood pneumonia deaths. As Punjab continues to grapple with this crisis, it reflects the broader issue of air pollution that plagues the region, with devastating consequences for public health, longevity, and quality of life.

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Turkish foreign minister in Athens to mend fences

TURKISH Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan's visit to Athens marks a significant step in a diplomatic push to improve relations between Greece and Türkiye, two countries that, despite being NATO allies, have often found themselves at odds over various issues. These tensions include disputes over maritime boundaries, airspace, energy exploration rights, and the status of certain Aegean islands. Their conflicting claims in the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean seas have brought them to the brink of war twice in recent decades. However, both countries have recently shown a commitment to mending ties, a process accelerated in 2023 with high-profile meetings between Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. These discussions have aimed to build mutual trust and to establish a foundation for more open and crisis-preventive dialogue. Greek Foreign Minister George Gerapetritis emphasized this sentiment, noting a "step-by-step" progression toward trust, allowing both sides to address difficult issues openly. In this latest round of talks, officials are expected to address not only longstanding territorial disputes but also pressing contemporary challenges. One of these is the rise in illegal migration to Greece, which Athens attributes, in part, to Türkiye's lax border controls. Despite divergent views on issues like the conflict in the Middle East—where Greece and Türkiye have supported different sides in regional crises—the foreign ministers will likely seek common ground on promoting stability in the region. These discussions are paving the way for a significant bilateral meeting: the Greece-Türkiye High-Level Cooperation Council, scheduled for early 2025 in Ankara. This council could mark a milestone in a historically fraught relationship, potentially laying the groundwork for sustained cooperation and peace between the two neighbors.

From Khudi to Crisis: How Pakistan Strayed from Iqbal's Philosophy?

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



Another significant issue is the misuse and misinterpretation of Iqbal's philosophy. Speakers often invoke his name and poetry to lend legitimacy to their agendas, yet their actions frequently contradict the values Iqbal stood for. This superficial engagement with his work has reduced Iqbal's transformative ideas to mere slogans, stripping them of their deeper meaning and potential to guide meaningful reform. To bring Pakistan closer to Iqbal's vision, there must be a fundamental shift in both leadership and national consciousness

HAKEEM ul Ummat Allama Muhammad Iqbal, often regarded as the "Spiritual Father of Pakistan," envisioned a nation where justice, equality, and self-awareness would be the cornerstones of society. His vision went far beyond the mere establishment of a state; it was about building a community where Islamic values could flourish, guiding not only personal life but also social, political, and economic development. Allama Iqbal's idea of Pakistan was founded on the belief that Islam was not just a religion but a complete code of life. He sought to create a nation that would demonstrate how Islamic principles could be harmonized with modernity. His philosophy of "Khudi," or selfhood, emphasized the importance of self-realization, not only for personal growth but also for the betterment of society. He urged individuals to awaken their sense of responsibility and strive toward collective well-being. Allama Iqbal envisioned Pakistan as a model for the rest of the Muslim world—a place where Islamic principles of justice, equality, and freedom would be reflected in governance, law, and daily life. He believed that a nation built on these values would be capable of overcoming challenges and achieving moral and material progress. However, the Pakistan of today, more than seven decades after its creation, presents a stark contrast to Iqbal's ideals. The country is mired in political instability, economic disparity, and social fragmentation. Corruption and nepotism have seemed to be polluted the responsible that are meant to uphold justice and equality. A small group of leading class enjoys immense wealth and power, while a vast portion of the population struggles to meet their basic needs. These issues are not only political and economic but also moral, revealing a deep disconnect between the principles Iqbal advocated and the current reality. One significant factor in the unfulfilled realization of Iqbal's vision is the absence of robust morals and integrity. Since Pakistan's inception, the nation has been ensnared in a continuous cycle of crises. Iqbal posited that a nation's prosperity hinges on the moral fortitude

and foresight of its decision makers. Regrettably, there have been accusations that many leaders have placed personal benefits above the nation's welfare, cultivating an environment of short-term gains and opportunistic behavior. Rather than steering the nation toward the principles of justice and equality, they have frequently acted out of self-interest. Although Iqbal is frequently cited in speeches and national ceremonies, his teachings have not been genuinely integrated into the country's policies or governance. His philosophy is often reduced to symbolic references, with little effort to apply his ideas in practical ways. The educational system, which Iqbal believed to be the foundation of moral and intellectual development, has also suffered from neglect. Rather than nurturing thinkers and leaders who can address the nation's challenges, the education system tends to focus on rote learning, producing individuals who are ill-equipped to think critically or engage with the complexities of the modern world. Moreover, the pervasive influence of external powers has diverted Pakistan from the path of self-reliance that Iqbal advocated. Geopolitical pressures have led to decisions that prioritize interest of others over national priorities. Iqbal emphasized the importance of self-reliance, both for individuals and the nation, but Pakistan has become increasingly dependent on foreign aid and loans, which has undermined its sovereignty and ability to implement policies that reflect its own values. Another significant issue is the misuse and misinterpretation of Iqbal's philosophy. Speakers often invoke his name and poetry to lend legitimacy to their agendas, yet their actions frequently contradict the values Iqbal stood for. This superficial engagement with his work has reduced Iqbal's transformative ideas to mere slogans, stripping them of their deeper meaning and potential to guide meaningful reform. To bring Pakistan closer to Iqbal's vision, there must be a fundamental shift in both leadership and national consciousness. A serious re-engagement with Iqbal's ideas is needed, not merely as

part of intellectual discussions but as a practical framework for addressing the country's challenges. His concept of "Khudi" must be revived, encouraging individuals to take responsibility for their own growth and the collective good of society. This involves promoting a culture of self-reliance, hard work, and moral accountability. The educational system must also be reformed to reflect Iqbal's emphasis on intellectual and moral development. Schools and universities should not only teach Iqbal's works as part of the curriculum but should also encourage students to think critically, engage with contemporary challenges, and apply Iqbal's teachings to real-world problems. By producing a new generation of thinkers and leaders, Pakistan can move closer to realizing Iqbal's vision. In addition, political leadership must embody the values of integrity, selflessness, and moral responsibility that Iqbal championed. It is not enough to merely invoke Iqbal's name for political purposes; leaders must commit to building a society that reflects the principles of justice, equality, and self-reliance that he advocated. This requires a shift from short-term political gains to a long-term vision for national progress. Finally, Pakistan must reduce its dependency on external powers and focus on building a self-sufficient economy. Iqbal envisioned a nation that could stand on its own, free from the constraints of foreign interference. By prioritizing economic independence, technological advancement, and social justice, Pakistan can begin to fulfill the promise of becoming the just and prosperous nation that Iqbal dreamed of. In conclusion, while Pakistan has strayed far from Iqbal's vision, it is not too late to return to the path he outlined. By sincerely embracing his teachings and applying them to the realities of today, Pakistan can still achieve the dream of becoming a nation that is not only free and independent but also just, moral, and self-reliant. Iqbal's vision is not a relic of the past but a living philosophy that holds the potential to guide Pakistan toward a brighter future.

The future is artificial, but ethical decisions remain human

Rafael Hernandez de Santiago

"Hey, buddy, did you really think that chip bag belonged in the cave?" the AI could say, followed by an awkward silence, a pause for reflection, and maybe a robotic sigh. Ah, ethics in the age of machines. But as we know, the irony of our digital age is that while technology advances, human behavior often lags behind. The ancient philosopher Aristotle wisely declared: "Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom." In Techville, knowing yourself seems to include knowing which trash can is closest — often leading to the conclusion that "the nearest bush" is an acceptable disposal method

IN a world where artificial intelligence is poised to rule our lives, one man stands at the intersection of technological advancement and ethical oversight: Mr. Gus. With a flair for irony and a heart of gold (somewhere beneath the layers of skepticism), Gus is on a mission to restore dignity to our historical sites and water caves — places that have suffered under the relentless assault of plastic and human negligence. As Techville embraces its reputation as a hub of innovation, it is hard to ignore the plastic pollution that silently chokes our beloved natural wonders. Socrates McHipster, a local philosopher, once said: "The unexamined life is not worth living." Yet, in Techville, it seems the unexamined rubbish is here to stay. Gus, a self-proclaimed environmentalist with a PhD in sarcasm from the University of Everyday Life, has taken it upon himself to lead the charge against this growing crisis. "You'd think with all the AI we have, we could program people to not throw their trash everywhere," Gus mused, surveying the remnants of last weekend's picnic at Crystal Water Cave. "But here we are, drowning in a sea of plastic straws and forgotten snack wrappers, like a bad dream brought to life by a malfunctioning AI." As AI continues to revolutionize industries from healthcare to dog grooming, it raises a compelling question: Can AI teach us ethical behavior? Perhaps a robotic conscience could be the answer. Picture this: an AI system programmed to chastise litterbugs, reminding them of their moral obligations with an eerie yet oddly endearing voice. "Hey, buddy, did you really think that chip bag belonged in the cave?" the AI could say, followed

by an awkward silence, a pause for reflection, and maybe a robotic sigh. Ah, ethics in the age of machines. But as we know, the irony of our digital age is that while technology advances, human behavior often lags behind. The ancient philosopher Aristotle wisely declared: "Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom." In Techville, knowing yourself seems to include knowing which trash can is closest — often leading to the conclusion that "the nearest bush" is an acceptable disposal method. Gus, armed with a recycled clipboard and an unyielding spirit, has assembled a motley crew of fellow Techville residents, including techies, environmentalists, and those who just really love wearing matching T-shirts. Together, they're committed to cleaning up their city, but not without a good dose of irony. "Some say we should harness AI to manage waste," Gus said while deftly dodging a half-buried plastic bottle at the cave entrance. "But I'd settle for teaching people to manage their own waste first. Maybe AI can help us learn to remember basic concepts like 'don't litter' and 'we don't live in a dumpster.'" As AI continues to revolutionize industries from healthcare to dog grooming, it raises a compelling question: Can AI teach us ethical behavior? His team, known as "The Green Guardians of Techville," have made it their mission to not only clean up but also educate the community on ethical behavior in our increasingly plastic-laden society. They've even created a catchy slogan: "Trash it, and you'll crash it!" As the Guardians tackle the plastic plague, they often find themselves reflecting on history. Techville, known for its innovation, is also home to historical sites that deserve better than to be adorned

with plastic. "It's like putting a clown wig on the Mona Lisa," Gus said. "You wouldn't do that to a masterpiece, so why do it to our natural wonders?" Philosopher Immanuel Kant once stated: "Act only according to that maxim whereby you can, at the same time, will that it should become a universal law." If only everyone could adopt this principle when reaching for a snack. If we all acted with the consideration that our actions have broader implications, perhaps Gus wouldn't have to remind us that a water cave is not a rubbish bin. Yet, as Gus and his crew dive into the depths of this ethical quagmire, they encounter the undeniable truth: the challenge is not simply to remove the rubbish; it's to address the human condition itself. The ethical conundrum isn't just about plastic, it's about our capacity for change. "Maybe we need AI to give us the moral pep talk we've been avoiding," Gus mused. "Something like, 'Hey, remember that time you threw your trash on the ground? How did that work out for you?'" As Techville prepares for the upcoming "Clean Up the Cave" event, Mr. Gus reminds us that while technology can help, it's ultimately our responsibility to change. "AI might be the future," he said, "but the real question is: Are we ready to evolve alongside it?" With a wink and a wave, he added: "Now if only we could program it to make a decent cup of coffee while we ponder our ethical dilemmas." In a city grappling with its own contradictions, Mr. Gus stands as a beacon of hope, reminding us that while the future may be artificial, our ethical decisions remain very much human. And as we look ahead, perhaps we'll find that it's not just about cleaning up our caves, but also cleaning up our act.

Briefs

SJC to 'widen consultation' on IHC judges letter

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IHC website/file (Clockwise) IHC's Justices Mohsin Akhtar Kiani, Tariq Mahmood Jahangiri, Babar Sattar, Ijaz Ishaq Khan, Arbab Muhammad Tahir and Saman Riffat. — IHC website/file The IHC judges — who wrote the letter to the SJC — include Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani, Justice Tariq Mahmood Jahangiri, Justice Babar Sattar, Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan, Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir, and Justice Saman Fafat Imtiaz. The letter emerged days after the Supreme Court declared the removal of former IHC Justice Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui illegal, directing that he may now be considered as a retired judge. The verdict noted that the SJC proceeded against Justice Siddiqui on the "assumption that the truth or falseness of the allegations levelled" by the former judge was "irrelevant". On Nov 2, The News reported that the IHC judges held a meeting with CJP Afridi and expressed their reservations over the problems they face while discharging judicial functions. Although, there was no official confirmation regarding the development, however, it was learnt that CJP Afridi, after taking oath of his office, had held a meeting with IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, who is also the chairman of the high court's administrative committee. Meanwhile, the top judicial body — in today's meeting — also examined ten complaints against the judges under Article 209 of the Constitution filed by different people and held that "no substantial evidence has been adduced by the complainants, therefore the Council has filed those complaints." The Council also discussed in detail the issue of rule-making of the council and establishment of its secretariat. It agreed to the proposal of registrar and decided that rule making process of the council should be undertaken and draft should be placed before the council in the next meeting. The JCP authorised CJP Afridi to hire the services of a competent individual with proven ability to work as secretary of the council for a period of 3 months who would be tasked to assist the council in conducting its meetings, oversee rule making exercise, and firm up infrastructure and human resource requirements of the Council's secretariat. Furthermore, the SJC decided to hold regular meetings on monthly basis in future to clear the backlog on fast track.

Megal, others challenge 26th Amendment

FROM PAGE 01
president of Balochistan National Party—Mengal (BNP-M) and former chief minister of Balochistan; former speaker of the National Assembly Fahmida Mirza; former MNA Mohsin Dawar, who is also chairman of the National Democratic Movement (NDM); and Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar, a former senator and advisor to the prime minister on human rights. The other petition was filed by Salauddin Ahmed, a lawyer and former president of the Sindh High Court Bar Association. Both petitions assailed the 26th Constitutional Amendment on two counts — notably the manner in which it was passed, and that "certain provisions of the said Act fundamentally undermine essential features of the Constitution relating to [the] independence of the judiciary and trichotomy of powers."

Kyiv says Russia has returned...

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the Donetsk region and that 89 of the soldiers had been killed near Bakmut, a town captured by Russia in May last year after a costly battle. Another 154 of the bodies were returned from morgues inside Russia, the statement added.

Haris, Shafique, Ayub take Pak to victory over Australia

Pak comfortably chase down modest 164-run target for loss of just one wicket

DNA

MELBOURN: Pakistan's opening pair, Saim Ayub and Abdullah Shafique, along with pacer Haris Rauf, outshone Australia to lead their team to victory in the second ODI of the three-match series at Adelaide Oval on Friday. This win, powered by Ayub's 82, Shafique's unbeaten 64, and Rauf's five-wicket haul, propelled Pakistan to level the series 1-1, and helped secure their first victory over Australia at their home ground since 2017. Pakistan comfortably chased down the modest 164-run target for a loss of just one wicket with 141 balls remaining. Openers Saim and Abdullah gave the visitors a flamboyant start to the run chase, putting a marathon 137-run stand. Saim, who was the core aggressor of the stand, fell just 18 runs from a well-deserved maiden half-century, before being dismissed. The left-handed opener top-scored for Pakistan with a well-crafted 82 off



just 71 balls with the help of five fours and six sixes. His opening partner Abdullah, however, carried his bat all the way through with an unbeaten 64 off 69 deliveries, laced with four fours and three sixes. Abdullah was supported by star batter Babar Azam, who scored a sensible 15 not out from 20 deliveries. For Australia, Adam Zampa picked the solitary wicket of Ayub. Put into bat first, the strong Australian batting unit struggled against a disciplined

Pakistan's bowling attack and was consequently swept away in 35 overs. Australia's new opening pair of Jake Fraser-McGurk (13) and Matthew Short (19) once again failed to provide its side a steady start. The duo, after making

modest contributions, fell victim to Shaheen Shah Afridi, who went on to register brilliant bowling figures of 3/26. Following the early hiccup, experienced batter Steve Smith was joined by wicketkeeper batter Josh Inglis and together they launched a recovering partnership. But the pair could only add 38 runs to their third-wicket partnership as Haris got Inglis (18) caught behind in the 14th over. He struck again in his next over to get rid of Marnus Labuschagne, who made a scratchy six off 11 deliveries. Mohammad Haseeb then added further to the misery of the home side by dismissing set batter Smith, reducing Australia to 101/5 in 20.5 overs. Smith remained the top-scorer for Australia with a gutsy 35 off 48 deliveries, hitting six boundaries including a six. Meanwhile, Haris, fuelled with momentum, took two more wickets — Aaron Hardie (13) and Glenn Maxwell (16) — in successive overs before rounding up his second ODI five-wicket haul by dismissing Australian captain Pat Cummins (13).

Pakistan defeat Bangladesh in Baseball

KARACHI: Pakistan made a strong start in the Baseball United Arab Classic, defeating Bangladesh 10-0 in their opening group match in Dubai. Pitcher Jibrin Murtaza delivered an outstanding performance, while Mohammad Hussain, Zain, and Waseem contributed significantly to the win. Hussain also hit a rare ballpark home run, boosting Pakistan's lead. Pakistan, ranked 38th in the global baseball ranking, are set to play their second group match tonight at 9:30pm (PKT) against the newly formed baseball team of the UAE. Pakistan are placed in group A in this nine-team tournament, alongside India, Bangladesh, UAE, and Afghanistan. The blockbuster Pakistan vs India game will be played on Friday evening. Pakistan's squad for the tournament includes Sameer Ahmed Khatri, Zan Shariff Von Schlegel, Amar Bilal Mahmood, Iyad Ansari, Pierce Romail Khan, Moosa Nonomiya (Khizer Hayat). — DNA

Rana congratulates Asif on Snooker title win

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanaullah has extended heartfelt congratulations to Pakistan's ace cueist Muhammad Asif, on clinching the World Snooker Championship title. In his message, Sanaullah, who also holds the portfolio of the Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC), praised Asif's exceptional skill, and said his brilliant performance in the snooker final earned him the coveted title for the third time. "Asif's achievement is an honor for the entire Pakistani nation," he said. He also congratulated Asif's family and the nation, acknowledging the significance of this triumph in the realm of sports. Furthermore, he attributed Pakistan's continued success in sports to Prime Minister's special focus on promoting and encouraging games. — DNA

Quaid-e-Azam Trophy Ashir's hits maiden first-class ton, bowlers dominate day 1

ISLAMABAD: Sialkot's Ashir Mehmood hit maiden first-class century (112 not out, 158b, 18x4s, 1x6) while Mohammad Adil, Ahmed Bashir, Test spinner Sajid Khan and Nisar Ahmed's five-fers made headlines on the opening day of the third round of Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2024-25. Ashir stitched an unbeaten 200-run opening partnership with Azan Awais, who hit his third-consecutive half-century as the stumps were drawn after 51 overs due to bad light at the Rana Naved ul Hasan Academy, Sheikhpura. Mohammad Adil's seven-fer routed Larkana, who were bowled out for 63 in 23.2 overs while Abbottabad finished the truncated opening day with 81-2 in 25 overs with an 18-run first innings lead at the National Ground in Islamabad. At the Marghzar ground, Lahore Whites' Ahmed Bashir wreaked havoc with 7-31 to take his tournament tally to 22, as Islamabad were bowled out for 167 in 47.4 overs. Arsal Sheikh resisted the onslaught with a gritty unbeaten half-century (63 not out, 106b, 8x4s) while he was supported by Shayan Sheikh who contributed 43 off 40. In turn, Lahore Whites were 90-3 in

32 overs with a 77-run deficit. Test spinner Sajid Khan bagged his 15th first-class five-wicket haul as AJK were bundled out for 171 in 53.4 overs. Sajid was backed up by Mohammad Imran Jr and Mohammad Amir Khan who bagged two wickets each. At the close of play, Peshawar were 74-2 in 23.1 overs at the Ashfaq Cricket Ground Sirdheri, Charsadda. Nisar Ahmed (5-25) and Test fast bowler Mohammad Abbas (3-36) helped Lahore Blues to decimate Quetta for a meagre 101 in 45.4 overs at the Saeed Sports City Bedian, Lahore. In turn, Quetta reduced Lahore Blues to 36-5 in 18.3 overs to share the honors on day one before the stumps were drawn due to bad light. Karachi Blues had a fruitful day against FATA at the Multan Cricket Stadium as they finished the day's proceedings with 221-5 on the board thanks to Abdullah Fazal's unbeaten 96. FATA's Asif Afridi returned figures of 3-32. At Diamond Cricket Ground, Islamabad, Hyderabad were bundled out for a mere 96 as Faisalabad searched for their maiden win of the tournament. Shahid Ali (4-24) and Asad Raza (4-36) shared eight wickets among them. — DNA

Joseph suspended after storming off field

BRIDGETOWN: West Indies fast bowler Alzarri Joseph was hit with a two-match suspension on Thursday after storming off the field during the series-clinching ODI win over England. Cricket West Indies (CWI) said Joseph had been sanctioned for "conduct falling short of CWI's standards of professionalism." Joseph marched off the pitch during Wednesday's game at Kensington Oval in Barbados shortly after taking the wicket of Jordan Cox in the fourth over, in an apparent protest at the field set by West Indies skipper Shai Hope. That left West Indies briefly down to 10 players before Joseph then returned for the sixth over. — Agencies

Asian Hockey Federation hosts successful congress in Muscat

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) successfully held its congress in Muscat, Oman, bringing together delegates from across Asia. According to an AHF statement, the prestigious event, held on November 7, was attended by esteemed representatives from Asian hockey federations. AHF President Fumio Ogura led the congress, overseeing discussions and decisions shaping the future of Asian hockey. International Hockey Federation (FIH) President, Dato' Tayyab Ikram attended the event as the guest of honour. The congress provided a platform for delegates to share ideas, address challenges, and outline strategies for hockey development in Asia. The gathering reinforced the AHF's commitment to promote unity, growth, and excellence in Asian hockey. AHF President Fumio Ogura expressed gratitude to the delegates, saying, "This congress demonstrates our collective passion for Asian hockey. We will continue to work together, driving growth and success for our sport." Dato' Tayyab Ikram commended the AHF's efforts, stating, "The Asian Hockey Federation plays a vital role in hockey's global landscape. I commend your dedication to developing the sport and fostering unity among Asian nations." The congress marked a significant step forward for Asian hockey. With renewed commitment and unity, the AHF is poised to elevate the sport's profile and achievements in the region. — DNA

SL prepare for rain-soaked T20 showdown with NZ

Several key players from that series including Blundell, Tom Latham, Ravindra and Tim Southee have returned home to rest ahead of their upcoming three-match Test series against England

DAMBULLA: Sri Lanka hope to maintain their purple patch at home with a two-match Twenty20 series against New Zealand starting Saturday — but rains may force the hosts to restrict their formidable spin attack on standby. Charith Asalanka's men are riding high with victories in 11 of their 14 bilateral series this year — including nine out of the last 10 on home soil. This year's home success has hinged on Sri Lanka's spinners, but Asalanka said forecast rains in Dambulla could force a strategic rethink. "The rain will likely come into play," Asalanka told reporters on Friday. "Our strength has always been spin, but if this weather sticks around, we might

have to bring in an extra seamer instead." Sri Lanka has seen ferocious rains in recent weeks, bringing floods that forced school closures in the capital Colombo and also disrupting all three one-day matches against the West Indies last month in Pallekele. Relentless downpours washed out Sri Lanka's training session on Friday and New Zealand's evening practice also looked in doubt, with the ground completely under covers. Dambulla will host two T20 matches on Saturday and Sunday before a three-match ODI series beginning in the same city next Wednesday. New Zealand were routed 2-0 in the Test leg of their Sri Lankan

tour last month. But they bounced back in style, making history by sweeping a

three-match Test series in India that gave the hosts their first series loss at



home in more than a decade. Several key players from that series including Tom Blundell, Tom Latham, Rachin Ravindra and Tim Southee have returned home to rest ahead of their upcoming three-match Test series against England. Also missing is former captain Kane Williamson, who skipped the India Tests due to injury. Mitchell Santner will captain a refreshed New Zealand side in their absence. "With the packed schedule, some of the boys felt it was best to head home and prepare for the England series," Santner said. "We have plenty of white-ball cricket ahead, and it's a chance to give some fresh faces a go."

Sri Lanka Squad: Charith Asalanka (capt), Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Mendis (wk), Kusal Perera, Kamindu Mendis, Dinesh Chandimal, Avishka Fernando, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Wanindu Hasaranga, Maheesh Theekshana, Dunith Welalage, Jeffrey Vandersay, Chamindu Wickramasinghe, Nuwan Thushara, Matheesha Pathirana, Binura Fernando, Asitha Fernando. New Zealand Squad: Mitchell Santner (capt), Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Josh Clarkson, Jacob Duffy, Lockie Ferguson, Zak Foulkes, Dean Foxcroft, Mitch Hay (wk), Henry Nicholls, Glenn Phillips, Tim Robinson, Nathan Smith, Ish Sodhi, Will Young. — Agencies

Trump to enter second term with more...

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the president, with a margin that could still grow once the results in Arizona and Nevada are finalized. If declared the winner in these two states, Donald Trump will have completed a clean sweep of the seven key battleground states. Unlike with his victory in 2016, when Hillary Clinton won the popular vote, Trump will be able to claim greater legitimacy for pushing through his reformist agenda. "America has given us a powerful and unprecedented mandate," he declared on Wednesday. Mid-term elections in two years will be the next opportunity for Democrats to check Trump's power. With counting still ongoing for about 30 out of the 435 seats, Republicans are leading the race to keep their slim majority in the House of Representatives. Trump's camp has already regained control of the Senate, with a few seats left to decide how large their upper chamber margin will be. With a simple majority, Senate Republicans can confirm key executive figures and federal judges nominated by the president, as well as pass some reforms — such as tax cuts. Having successfully purged the Republican Party of members not aligned with his "Make America Great Again" agenda, the president-elect is not expected to face significant internal resistance from skeptical lawmakers. Most legislation however requires a supermajority of 60 votes to progress in the Senate — a figure Republicans will not reach. As a political novice when he took office in 2017, Trump's personnel choices largely consisted of seasoned Republican officials and military leaders. Given his unpredictable behavior, such moderating figures were dubbed by critics in the party and media as the "adults in the room." For his second term, the billionaire real estate mogul has made no secret of his intention to surround himself with loyalists. He is widely expected to reward those who helped him campaign, including fellow billionaire Elon Musk and vaccine skeptic Robert F. Kennedy Jr., among others. Having also repeatedly clashed with the US Federal Reserve during his first term, Trump will have the opportunity in 2026 to appoint the successor to the current central bank chairman, Jerome Powell.

ATC extends interim bail of PTI leaders...

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Aleema Khan did not appear before the court. Their counsel submitted exemption applications, requesting a one-day exemption from personal appearance, which the court accepted. During the hearing, the court emphasized that the investigations were complete and urged the counsel to conclude arguments on the bail applications. In response, the defence counsel requested additional time to present their final arguments in the matter. At this stage, a prosecutor submitted a report from the joint investigation team (JIT) and stated that, according to the JIT investigation report, all accused on pre-arrest bail — Omar Ayub, Fawad Chaudhry, Aleema Khan, Uzma Khan, and others — were found guilty. The accused fall into two categories: those who were present at the scene and those involved in planning, he added. Subsequently, the court adjourned further proceedings until December 7 and sought final arguments from the parties on the bail applications at the next hearing date. The accused had filed bail applications fearing arrest in the May 9 cases, which include the torching of the PML-N office in Model Town.

President Xi to attend G20 Summit

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attend the 19th G20 Summit and will pay a state visit to Brazil at the invitation of Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Hua said.

Briefs

Gold prices increase by Rs.2,000 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs.2,000 and was sold at Rs.278,800 on Friday compared to its sale at Rs. 276,800 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.1,715 to Rs.239,026 from Rs. 237,311 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs. 219,107 from Rs. 217,535, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.3,300 and Rs.2,829.21 respectively. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$21 to \$2,683 from \$2,662 last day, the Association reported.—APP

Rupee strengthens against US dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani rupee strengthened against the US dollar, appreciating 0.08% in the inter-bank market on Friday. At close, the currency settled at 277.74, a gain of Re0.21 against the greenback. On Thursday, the rupee had settled at 277.95, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). Globally, the US dollar took a breather on Friday, on track to cap off a wild week with a slight gain as markets weighed the impact of Donald Trump's impending return to the White House and what that would mean for the US economy and its rate outlook. The dollar further unwound some of its sharp gains from earlier in the week as traders closed out profitable bets on a Trump presidency after his election victory. That helped lift sterling back toward the \$1.30 mark, while the yen similarly got some respite and hovered closer to the 153 per dollar level. The Federal Reserve cut interest rates by a quarter of a percentage point on Thursday as its policymakers began taking stock of what could become a more complex economic landscape when President-elect Donald Trump takes office next year. Fed Chair Jerome Powell said the results of Tuesday's presidential election, which paved the way for a US chief executive who has pledged widespread deportation of immigrants, broad-based tariffs, and tax cuts, would have no "near-term" impact on US monetary policy.—APP

Indian capital plans drone flights to combat smog crisis

NEW DELHI: India's capital unveiled plans Friday to fly special drones to clear pollution from its smog-choked skies — a plan derided by experts as another "band-aid" solution to a public health crisis. New Delhi and the surrounding metropolitan area, home to more than 30 million people, consistently tops world rankings for air pollution in winter. The smog is blamed for thousands of premature deaths each year and is an annual source of misery for the capital's residents, with various piecemeal government initiatives failing to measurably address the problem. Friday marked the start of a trial for an aerial drone tasked with flying around the city's pollution hotspots to spray water mist in an effort to clear dust and harmful particulate matter from the air. "We have been examining different technological solutions and best practices from across the world," Delhi environment minister Gopal Rai said after launching the initiative. "This one drone is part of a pilot project by a company. We will study, and if it succeeds, we will take this forward." Rai said that once the trial was over, the Delhi government would issue a tender to purchase two more drones. If implemented, the three drones would be responsible for mitigating air pollution across a city that stretches across 1,500 square kilometres (580 square miles) — around the same size as greater London.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnessing exchange of MoUs between Pakistan and Abu Dhabi Ports.

Putin praises Trump, says Russia ready for dialogue

Putin said remarks Trump had made during the election campaign about Ukraine and restoring relations with Russia deserved attention. "What was said about the desire to restore relations with Russia, to bring about the end of the Ukrainian crisis, in my opinion this deserves attention at least," said Putin

SOCHI: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday congratulated Donald Trump on winning the U.S. election, praised him for showing courage when a gunman tried to assassinate him, and said Moscow was ready for dialogue with the Republican president-elect. In his first public remarks since Trump's win, Putin said Trump had acted like a real man during an assassination attempt on him while he was speaking at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania in July. "He behaved, in my opinion, in a very correct way, courageously, like a real man," Putin said at the Valdai discussion club in the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi. "I take this opportunity to congratulate him on his election." Putin said remarks Trump had made during the election campaign about Ukraine and restoring relations

with Russia deserved attention. "What was said about the desire to restore relations with Russia, to bring about the end of the Ukrainian crisis, in my opinion this deserves attention at least," said Putin. Trump said during campaigning that he could bring peace in Ukraine within 24 hours if elected, but has given few details on how he would seek to end the biggest land war in Europe since World War Two. The 72-year-old Kremlin chief gave just one note of caution: "I do not know what is going to happen now. I have no clue." When pressed by a questioner what he would do if Trump called to suggest a meeting, Putin said he was ready to resume contacts if a Trump administration wanted that, and was ready for discussions with Trump. Russia and Trump have repeatedly

dismissed as nonsense some claims in Western media that Trump was a sort of Russian agent of influence. Russian officials say that during his first term, from 2017 to 2021, Trump was tough on Russia. U.S. Special Counsel Robert Mueller investigated allegations of collusion between Trump's campaign and Russia in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, but said in a 2019 report that he found no evidence of conspiracy. Moscow has also repeatedly denied U.S. assertions that Russia meddled in the 2024 and other presidential elections and had spread disinformation in an attempt to sow chaos. The 2-1/2-year-old war in Ukraine is entering what some Russian and Western officials say could be its final - most dangerous - phase after Moscow's forces advance

at their fastest pace since the early weeks of the conflict and the West ponders how the war will end. Putin on June 14 set out his terms for an end to the war: Ukraine would have to drop its NATO ambitions and withdraw all of its troops from all of the territory of four regions claimed by Russia. Russia controls Crimea, which it annexed from Ukraine in 2014, about 80% of the Donbas - a coal-and-steel zone comprising the Donetsk and Luhansk regions - and more than 70% of the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions. Speaking for several hours on Thursday, Putin railed against the "adventurism" of Western leaders whom he accused of pushing the world to a "dangerous line" by seeking to inflict a strategic defeat on Russia in Ukraine. "It is useless to put pressure

on us. But we are always ready to negotiate with full consideration of mutual legitimate interests," Putin said, just seconds after scolding the West for promising Ukraine and Georgia eventual NATO membership in 2008. He said that the West had never accepted Russia as an equal partner since the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union, treating it as a defeated power and enlarging the U.S.-led NATO military alliance eastwards towards Russia. Russia, Putin said, was ready to restore relations with the United States but the ball was in Washington's court. Putin also said that China was Russia's "ally". Asked about Kamala Harris' warning that Putin would eat Trump for lunch, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said with a chuckle: "Putin does not eat people."—Agencies

Huge Bangladesh rally warns ousted PM's allies plotting return

DHAKA: Allies of ousted Bangladeshi premier Sheikh Hasina were working to undermine the interim government that replaced her regime, two of her leading opponents warned Friday at a huge rally in the capital Dhaka. Hasina, 77, fled by helicopter to neighbouring India in August as a student-led uprising saw protesters flood streets of the capital Dhaka, bringing a dramatic end to her iron-fisted tenure. Since then a caretaker government led by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus has taken charge, tasked with implementing far-reaching democratic reforms and staging fresh elections. Hundreds of thousands of people attended Friday's demonstration, one of the biggest since Hasina's toppling, which was organised by her long-time opponents of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). "We have gathered here to protect the voting rights of the people and to prevent the re-emergence of fascists," Tariq Rahman, the BNP's exiled vice-chairman, told attendees via a videolink from his home in London. "We must be cautious. Though the autocrats are gone, ill forces are still active. We cannot afford for the interim government to fail." The BNP was subjected to repeated crackdowns under Hasina's government, which rights groups say was behind the extrajudicial killing of hundreds of political opponents and the unlawful abduction and disappearance of hundreds more. "Sheikh Hasina has fled, but the conspiracy continues," BNP general secretary Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told the rally. "Her associates are plotting to undermine the movement. We must be very careful." Rahman, the son of two-time Bangladeshi premier and Hasina's chief rival Khaleeda Zia, has lived in London since 2008 and was convicted in absentia of graft charges during Hasina's government. Thousands of BNP members were arrested in the months before January elections that returned Hasina to power, staged in the absence of credible opposition parties.—APP

Innovation key to staying competitive in today's fast-paced world: ICCI President

ISLAMABAD: Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), emphasized that in today's rapidly evolving, innovation-driven landscape, businesses must adopt creative, forward-thinking approaches to maintain competitiveness. He highlighted this era as one marked by innovation and ideas, urging the business community to break from conventional thinking and explore new methodologies. Qureshi stressed that embracing innovation enables entrepreneurs to drive their success and contributes significantly to Pakistan's economic growth, shaping a brighter future for the nation. Qureshi shared these insights while addressing a delegation from the Islamabad Guest House Association, which



visited ICCI to congratulate the President, Senior Vice President, Vice President, and Executive Members. He underscored the importance of unity among community members, stating that addressing common challenges requires a united platform, especially when dealing with critical entities like the Capital Develop-

ment Authority (CDA), the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI), and the Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO). Reflecting on ICCI's achievements, Qureshi noted the chamber's impressive network of over 10,000 registered members across diverse industries, which, he said, is a testament to ICCI's success in resolv-

ing issues with government agencies for the benefit of its members. He encouraged the members of the Islamabad Guest House Association to join ICCI, as it would enable them to leverage the Chamber's influence and resources to address their concerns effectively. Qureshi further highlighted that by collaborating,—

10 outlaws arrested

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police apprehended 10 outlaws involved in different criminal activities including drug peddling, and possessing illegal ammunition from their possession on Friday. A police spokesperson said that the ICT Police Karachi Company, Golra, Phulgran, Tarnol, and Shams Colony police stations teams took legal action against the accused involved in drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons. He said the police teams also arrested six accused namely Parvaiz, Shah Rukh, Amir Shahzad, Sardar Adnan, Aziz Islam and Farhan Ullah and recovered 1,773 liquor bottles, 900 gram hashish, 530 gram heroin and two 30 bore pistols with ammunition from their possession. DIG Raza said that, the ICT Police is actively working to ensure the safety of citizen's lives and property in the federal capital, emphasizing that no elements will be allowed to disrupt citizens' peace. Protecting citizens' lives, property, and dignity is the Islamabad Police's top priority, he added. The police have urged citizens to report any suspicious activities to the relevant police station, and emergency helpline "Pukar-15" to help make the city crime-free through cooperation between the police and the public.—APP

Nearly 70% of Gaza war dead women and children: UN

"It is essential that there is due reckoning with respect to the allegations of serious violations of international law through credible and impartial judicial bodies and that, in the meantime, all relevant information and evidence are collected and preserved," United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk said

GENEVA: The UN Human Rights Office said on Friday nearly 70% of the fatalities it has verified in the Gaza war were women and children, and condemned what it called a systematic violation of the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law. The UN count covers the first seven months of the Israel-Hamas conflict in the Gaza Strip that began more than a year ago. The 8,119 victims verified by the UN Rights Office in that seven-month period is considerably lower than the toll of over 43,000 provided

by Palestinian health authorities for the full 13 months of conflict. Israel strikes on Lebanon kill 40 people around Baalbek, health ministry says. But the UN breakdown of the victims' age and gender backs the Palestinian assertion that women and children represent a large portion of those killed in the war. This finding indicates "a systematic violation of the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law, including distinction and proportionality," the UN rights office said in a statement accompanying the 32-page re-

port. "It is essential that there is due reckoning with respect to the allegations of serious violations of international law through credible and impartial judicial bodies and that, in the meantime, all relevant information and evidence are collected and preserved," United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk said. Israel did not immediately comment on the report's findings. Israel's military, which began its offensive in response to the Oct. 7, 2023 attack in which Hamas fighters killed about 1,200 people in southern Israel and

seized more than 250 hostages, says it takes care to avoid harming civilians in Gaza. It has said approximately one civilian has been killed for every fighter, a ratio it blames on Hamas, saying the Palestinian group uses civilian facilities. Hamas has denied using civilians and civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, as human shields. The youngest victim whose death was verified by UN monitors was a one-day-old boy, and the oldest was a 97-year-old woman, the report said. Overall, children represented 44% of the victims, with children aged five-

nine representing the single biggest age category, followed by those aged 10-14, and then those aged up to and including four. This broadly reflects the enclave's demographics, which the report said reflected an apparent failure to take precautions to avoid civilian losses. It showed that in 88% of cases, five or more people were killed in the same attack, pointing to the Israeli military's use of weapons with an effect across a wide area, although it said some fatalities may have been the result of errant projectiles from Palestinian groups.—Agencies

Europe must remain strong, discuss how best to work with Trump: Scholz

BERLIN: European leaders will continue to work well with the US president in future, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Friday, adding that the European Union must remain strong in light of conflicts in Europe and the Middle East. "We will continue to work well with the future American president. And the question of how this can be achieved has been the subject of our discussion," Scholz said after talks with other leaders in Budapest. Scholz summons two ministers over rival plans to fix economy "One question is quite clear. Together as the European Union, as Europeans, we must do what is necessary for our security," the German leader said, after Republican Donald Trump was reelected to the White House.—APP

Indonesia's new leader heads to China as five-nation tour begins

JAKARTA: Indonesia's new president headed to China for a state visit on Friday, starting a five-nation tour that could include a meeting with US president-elect Donald Trump as he seeks to balance relations with major powers on his first foreign trip. Prabowo Subianto, a 73-year-old ex-general inaugurated last month, has pledged to position Jakarta more prominently on the world stage while sticking to its traditional non-aligned foreign policy. Before departing, Prabowo said he would first visit Beijing, where he is expected to hold talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping, then travel to Washington at the invitation of US President Joe Biden. The trip will include visits to Peru for the APEC summit and Brazil for the G20 summit of major economies, before ending in Britain, where he will meet Prime Minister Keir Starmer, he said. "I believe this demonstrates the high regard in which Indonesia is held and the importance of inviting Indonesia to participate in bilateral and multilateral meetings," Prabowo said, according to broadcaster Kompas TV. "This is an honour for us, and we will maintain good relations with all parties." He said he "may visit several Middle Eastern countries" on his way back to Indonesia at the end of the two-week tour. It is unclear if his Washington visit will include a meeting with Trump but Prabowo's presidential spokesman Hasan Nasbi told AFP Thursday that "there is a possibility" talks with him were on the table. Prabowo has promised to be bolder on foreign policy than his predecessor Joko Widodo, who focused more on domestic issues such as the economy.—APP

Briefs

Putin says China is Russia's ally

DNA

SOCHI: Russian President Vladimir Putin described China on Thursday as Russia's ally and threw his weight behind Beijing's claims over Taiwan, while stating that no countries had anything to fear from deepening Sino-Russian co-operation. The two countries have not declared a formal military alliance, but Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping signed a "no limits" partnership deal in 2022, less than three weeks before Putin sent his troops into Ukraine.

In May this year they agreed to deepen what they called their "comprehensive partnership and strategic cooperation" for a new era. "We do not believe that China is pursuing an aggressive policy in the region," Putin said at the Valdai discussion club in the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi. He suggested that Taiwan was trying to stir up a Ukraine-style crisis in Asia in order to attract outside support.

China views democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory, despite strong objections by the government in Taipei, and regularly holds wargames near the island. "A lot is going on around Taiwan," Putin said. "Everyone formally acknowledges, yes, Taiwan is part of China. But in reality? In reality, it is acting in a completely different direction. Provoking the situation toward escalation. We do support China. And because of this, we believe that (China) is conducting a completely reasonable policy. And also because it is our ally. We have a very large trade turnover, we co-operate in the security sector."

Quetta administration denies PTI permission

QUETTA/SWABI: The local administration of Quetta on Friday denied the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) permission to hold a public rally in the district, despite the "court order", owing to concerns related to the law and order situation. The PTI has announced to hold a protest at the Hockey Ground, Quetta, on Saturday. Requesting the PTI to postpone the rally, Quetta Deputy Commissioner Saad bin Asad said there were security concerns in the metropolis this month. Saad said examinations of public service commission were being held at the Ayub National Stadium. Whereas, he said, various games were being played in the Hockey Ground. The DC warned those who violated the orders would face the music. A PTI's provincial spokesperson said the court had obliged the local administration to provide a place for the rally. However, he said, the DC was employing delaying tactics in giving permission despite the court directive. On the other hand, the PTI is preparing to hold a public gathering in Service Area, near Swabi Interchange. - DNA

Malaysia positioned as gateway to ASEAN market for Pak businesses

Ambassador Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan affirmed the High Commission's commitment to fostering a conducive environment for business partnerships and highlighted the importance of leveraging the outcomes of the Malaysia's Prime Minister visit to boost economic cooperation

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: High Commission of Malaysia, Islamabad hosted an engagement attended by more than 50 prominent Pakistani industry leaders and stakeholders. The event was organized as a follow-up to the recent official visit of the Prime Minister of Malaysia to Pakistan in October 2024, with a particular focus on enhancing trade, investment, and business collaborations between the two countries. Event tickets The engagement provided a platform for industry leaders to discuss key issues, share insights, and explore opportunities in trade and investment. Discussions centred on the potential to strengthen bilateral economic ties and address challenges that may hinder collaboration.

In his remarks, H.E. Ambassador Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan affirmed the High Commission's commitment to fostering a conducive environment for business partnerships and highlighted the importance of leveraging the outcomes of the Malaysia's Prime Minister visit to boost economic cooperation. The Ambassador shared that the official visit was very fruitful, resulting in two (2) government-to-government and four (4) business-to-business MOUs. Additionally, Malaysia plans to import USD 200 million worth of halal meat and 100,000 tonnes of basmati rice from Pakistan. The High Commissioner also highlighted the recent opening of a MATRADE office in Karachi to further facilitate business engagement between both sides, and encouraged Pakistani business leaders to consider Malaysia as a



gateway to the ASEAN region, which has a market of 680 million people. During the event, attendees provided valuable feedback on the current landscape of trade and investment between Malaysia

and Pakistan, emphasizing the need for continued dialogue and collaboration to unlock potential for mutual benefits. In closing, Ambassador Dato' Azhar thanked all attendees for their ongoing support in

strengthening trade ties between Malaysia and Pakistan. The engagement underscored the shared commitment of both nations to foster and solidify cooperation in trade and investment to a higher level.

Fourth Anniversary of the Great Victory

VICTORY Day of Azerbaijan holds exceptional importance for the honor and future development of the nation of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan, since the first years of independence, while being subjected to the policy of military aggression, occupation, ethnic cleansing, and genocide by the neighboring country Armenia, and encountering the challenge of almost one million Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced persons, has always stated that it would never tolerate the fact of occupation despite the commitment to the peace process.

cluding its territorial integrity, sovereignty, and inviolability of borders, thus implementing 4 resolutions of the UN Security Council that had remained unimplemented for decades, and return its IDPs to their native lands and restore justice. On September 19-20, 2023, in order to put an end to the existence of illegal Armenian forces, as well as to restore full sovereignty over all its territories, Azerbaijan carried out counter-terrorism measures within 24 hours in the Garabagh region. Currently, after the existence of the remained Armenian armed forces and the puppet regime created by Armenia in Azer-

did not establish diplomatic relations with Armenia because of occupation. Azerbaijan's straightforward support on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir is Azerbaijan's commitment to our brotherhood and also Azerbaijan's respect to international law. United Nations Security Council resolutions clearly indicate how this issue must be resolved. Being committed to its obligations, Azerbaijan, launching the peace initiative immediately after the end of the war and conflict, began to actively promote the idea of normalization of relations between the two countries and the peace process, taking measures to carry out large-scale restoration and construction work in the liberated territories. The Azerbaijani government approved the Great Return Program, built villages based on the "smart village" and green energy concept to facilitate the relocation of internally displaced persons to their native lands. Azerbaijan places special emphasis on environmental protection and the mitigation of climate change, undertaking significant efforts to deliver on these goals. A clear example of this is the unanimous

PSX crosses 93,000-mark fuelled by energy rally in intra-day trade

KSE-100 index rises to 93,487 points after jumping 966 points

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Stocks on Friday hit an all-time intra-day high above the 93,000 points mark as investors are still celebrating the more-than-expected reduction in the policy rate, amid very strong hopes that the central bank would loosen its monetary stance further before the year-end. The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Shares Index jumped by 966 points, touching 93,487 points around noon, up from yesterday's close of 92,520.48 points. Khurram Schehzaad, CEO of Alpha Beta Core, said that investors were riding the wave of economic optimism triggered by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) by extending its hawkish monetary policy on November 4 as inflationary pressures were easing. "There are expectations of a policy rate cut of up to 400 basis points by December, as the room for easing exists," Schehzaad said, hinting that the SBP's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) could revise rates downward before the end of this year.

Debate on 'special status' triggers chaos in IIOJK assembly

BJP lawmakers scuffle with marshals of legislative body over fresh resolution for restoration of region's special status

NEW DELHI: The Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) assembly witnessed another day of turbulence on Thursday as the members of the legislative body moved a fresh resolution seeking the restoration of the region's special status as originally enshrined in the Indian Constitution. The second resolution moved by the Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Party (JKPDP) met with strong opposition from the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLAs, who continued to protest a similar resolution passed by the legislative a day earlier. The occupied Kashmir's newly-elected assembly passed the resolution seeking to restore the region's partial autonomy by a majority vote. - DNA



On 27 September 2020, Armenia's military fired on the civilian population of Azerbaijan and positions of Azerbaijan's Armed Forces from several directions using various types of weaponry, including heavy artillery. In response to yet another military provocation by Armenia, Azerbaijan launched a counter-offensive on 27 September 2020 to punish the aggressor and put an end to the occupation. That was the Patriotic War for the nation of Azerbaijan. As a result of President Ilham Aliyev's visionary and resolute policy, Azerbaijan achieved to ensure the norms and principles of international law, in-

bajan's territories were brought to an end, there are ample opportunities for peace and stability in the region. Azerbaijan calls on Armenia to demonstrate a constructive and just position in the peace process and to understand the realities in the region properly. It must be noted that Pakistan was one of several countries, which always stood side by side with us. During the Second Karabakh War, the Patriotic War, political support, and straightforward statements from high-ranking officials of Pakistan supporting Azerbaijan's just position gave us additional power and strength. Pakistan is the country, which

decision to have our country host the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29), considered one of the world's largest and most prestigious events. As noted by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, this is a testament to the international community's profound respect and trust in Azerbaijan. Once again, we honor the dearest memory of the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for Azerbaijan's independence, territorial integrity, and sovereignty with the deepest respect and gratitude!

Punjab struggles as smog spreads to other cities

LHC orders closure of markets by 8pm, complete suspension of trade activities on Sundays in Lahore

DNA

LAHORE: The smog crisis in Punjab has deteriorated as the toxic air spread to other cities in the province following Lahore's consistent position at the top of the global pollution charts. The air quality index (AQI) in the provincial capital reached 860 on IQAir's real-time list of most polluted cities today (Friday), which later dipped to 569 by 1pm but remained well within the hazardous zone. Meanwhile, Multan had the worst air quality at one point this morning with 1,635 AQI, a level extremely injurious to health. As per the Swiss air quality monitor, anything above the 300 mark on the AQI is considered "hazardous". As thick smog blanketed the southern city, visibility was badly affected, resulting in closure of M3 Motorway at the Rajana Interchange and M4 Motorway from Shorkot to Gojra. Despite efforts to bring down the pollution levels, the smog-laden air has moved to other cities, with Multan being worst-hit after Lahore, followed by Faisalabad, where the AQI was recorded at 356,

causing issues like difficulty in breathing among citizens. The environmental protection officials sealed multiple factories and mills contributing to the air pollution during ongoing anti-smog operations in Faisalabad, while slapping fines and registering a case against one of the factory owners.

Moreover, an eatery was also sealed and two individuals were arrested for the violation of smog-prevention guidelines. The M2 Motorway was closed for traffic from Lahore to Sheikhupura, the M3 Motorway from Lahore to Jarawal and Faizpur to Durkhana, Motorway M4 from Gojra to Abdul Hakeem. The situation was similar in Bahawalpur, Muzaffargarh, Khanewal and surrounding areas as visibility dropped to extremely low, causing traffic disruptions. A road accident was also reported near Hiran Minar, where five vehicles collided with each other due to low visibility. At least five people were injured, with three admitted at Sheikhupura District Headquarters Hospital in unstable condition. Motorway police advised the citizens to avoid traveling unnecessarily and prefer driving during the day-time only with headlights on. LHC orders markets closure by 8pm In a related development, the Lahore High Court (LHC) ordered the closure of markets by 8pm and the complete suspension of trade activities on Sunday in the provincial capital.

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